



## South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study

*Executive Summary*

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# Executive Summary

TEP was commissioned by South Kesteven District Council in November 2022 to produce an Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study for the District.

This Study provides an evidence base for review of the South Kesteven Local Plan.

## Introduction

Open space is important due to its valuable contribution to quality of life, health, and the economy. Provision of a range of open space facilities in our towns and villages is important in planning for a sustainable future and is embedded in national planning policy.

The evidence in this Study comprises an assessment of the quantity, accessibility, quality and value of open spaces within South Kesteven and for each of the 3 sub-areas. The Study has been completed using the below methodology:

- Define the context, purpose and scope of the Assessment (Chapter 1);
- Review of national and local policy (Chapter 2);
- Methodology and best practice guidance (Chapter 3);
- Identify local needs including consultation with key stakeholders and the community (Chapter 4);
- Assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of each open space (Chapter 5);
- Develop local standards for open space provision (Chapter 6);
- Review of current and future provision of each sub-area (Chapter 7); and
- Provide recommendations and strategy based on the findings of the Study (Chapter 8).

## Methodology

This Study is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for Open Space, which have replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its companion guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002).

Indoor sports facilities are not included in this review. They are considered as part of the recently updated Playing Pitch Strategy.

Open Spaces in the District are shown on in Figure 1 below.

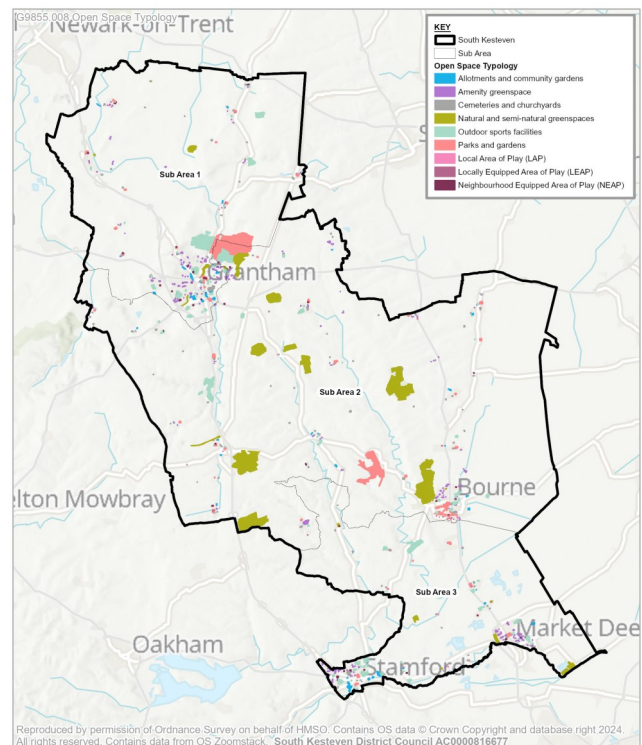


Figure 1: Open Spaces in South Kesteven



# Executive Summary

## Open Space Provision

### Current Provision

The current open space provision in the District is shown in Table 1 below. **734 sites are designated as open space, totalling 2,670.92 hectares.**

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace accounts for 47.30% of the District's open space provision at 1,264.31 ha. The total open space within the District equates to 18.63 ha per 1,000 population



Image 1: St. Guthlac's Church and grounds in Market Deeping

Table 1: A table showing the current provision of Open Space in South Kesteven

Open Space Typology	No. Sites	Current Provision (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	45	50.35
Amenity Greenspace	218	71.34
Churchyards and Cemeteries	129	64.45
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	27	1,264.31
Outdoor Sports Facilities	136	594.55
Parks and Gardens	60	615.56
Provision for Children and Young People	119	10.37
<b>Final Total</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>2,670.92 [*rounded]</b>

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## Quantity Assessment and Standards

The proposed quantity standards are shown in Table 2 below. Allotments and Community Gardens and Churchyards and Cemeteries have no quantity standard because there is no National Benchmark standard (Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, 2020)<sup>[1]</sup>.

As of 2021 the population for the District was 143,419. Using the proposed standard, there is a current, and future forecasted surplus of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens.

There is a current deficit of Amenity Greenspace (-0.10) and Provision for

Children and Young People (-0.08).

The future population of South Kesteven is projected to be 154,893 by 2041. When compared to the current provision of open space, this increase in population would result in a deficiency in the Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People Typologies.

It is important to note that a surplus in any typology does not mean sites are surplus to requirement, rather the current provision exceeds the minimum standard.

<sup>(1)</sup>(Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, 2020).

Table 2: A table showing the South Kesteven Open Space Provision by Typology

Open Space Typology	Proposed Standard (ha per 1,000)	2021 ha per 1,000	2021 Surplus/Deficiency	2041 ha Per 1,000	2041 Surplus/Deficiency
Allotments and Community Gardens	None Set	0.40	-	0.37	-
Amenity Greenspace	0.60	0.47	-0.10	0.44	-0.14
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	None Set	0.41	-	0.38	-
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	2.0	0.66	6.86	0.61	6.16
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.60	4.43	2.55	4.10	2.24
Parks and Gardens	0.50	0.54	3.79	0.50	3.47
Provision for Children and Young People	0.15	0.07	-0.08	0.07	-0.08

# Executive Summary

## Quality Assessment

267 open spaces were audited for Quality and Value, selected for their geographical location or typology.

The proposed quality standard is based on the Green Flag Award National Benchmark:

- Excellent - 90% to 100%
- Very Good - 80% to 89%
- Good - 70% to 79%
- Fair - 50% to 69%
- Poor - 0% to 49%

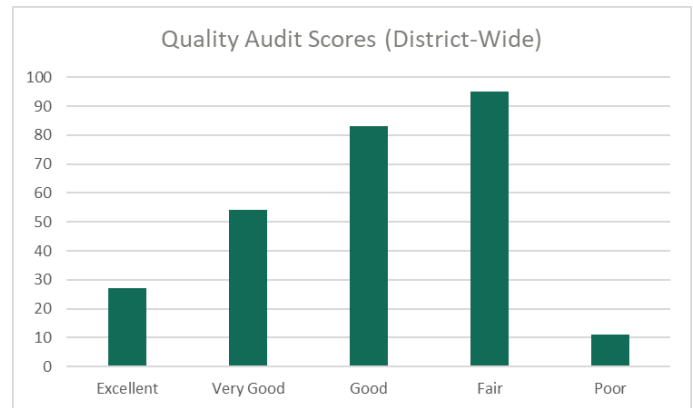


Figure 2: Open Space Audit Scores District-Wide

Figure 2 to the right shows the current quality scores for the 267 audited sites.

Figure 3 below shows the quality scores per typology.

The recommended Quality standard is for **all sites to achieve a Good Quality Score** (70% or above, using the Green Flag Award benchmark).

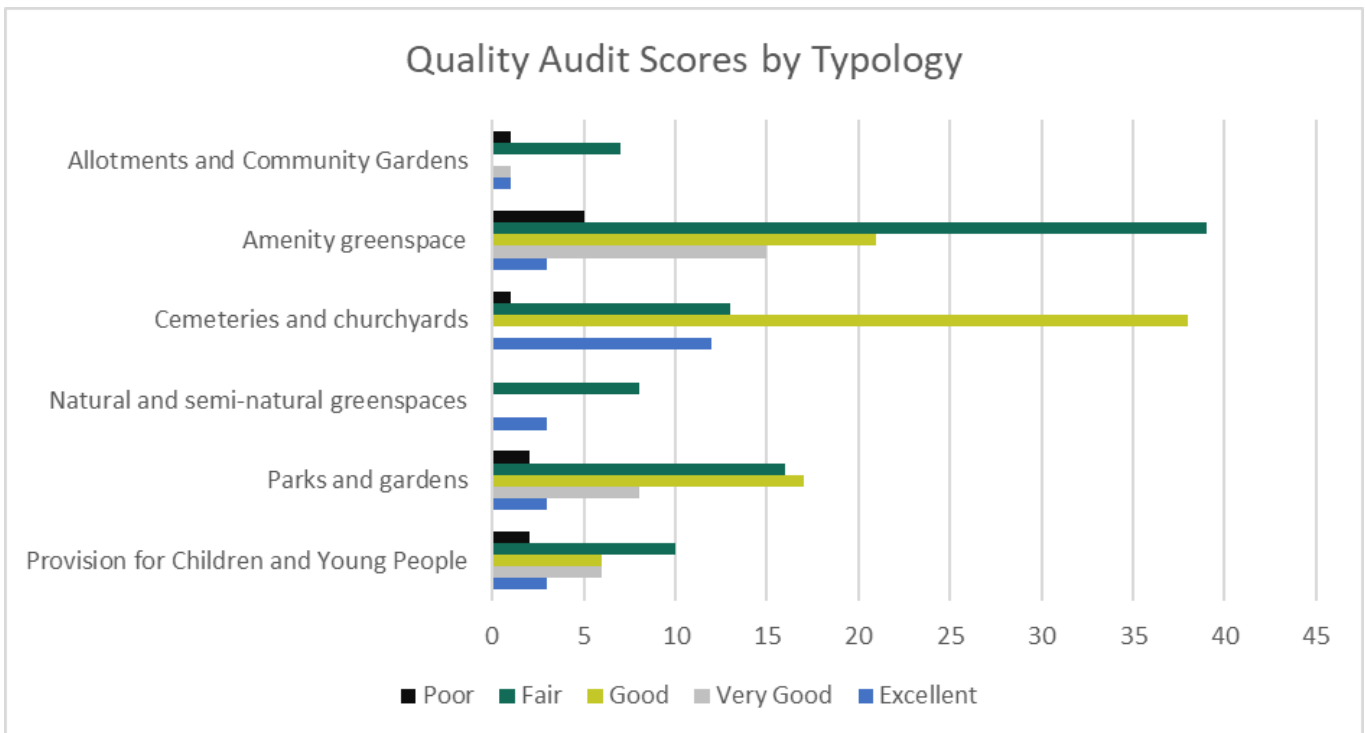


Figure 3: Open Space Quality Audit Scores by Typology



# Executive Summary

## Value Assessment

The value standard is based on ‘Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17’. This allows a balanced assessment of each site. The value standard bandings are:

- High - 60 to 100%;
- Medium - 40 to 59%; and
- Low - 0 to 39%

Figure 4 to the right show the current value of the 267 audited sites. The graph below shows the current value audit scores by typology.

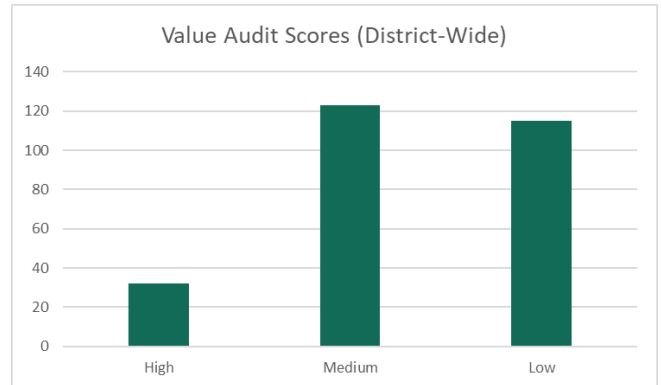


Figure 4: Value Audit Scores District-Wide

The proposed value standard is that all sites obtain a Value Score of **40% or above**, classed as "Medium Value".

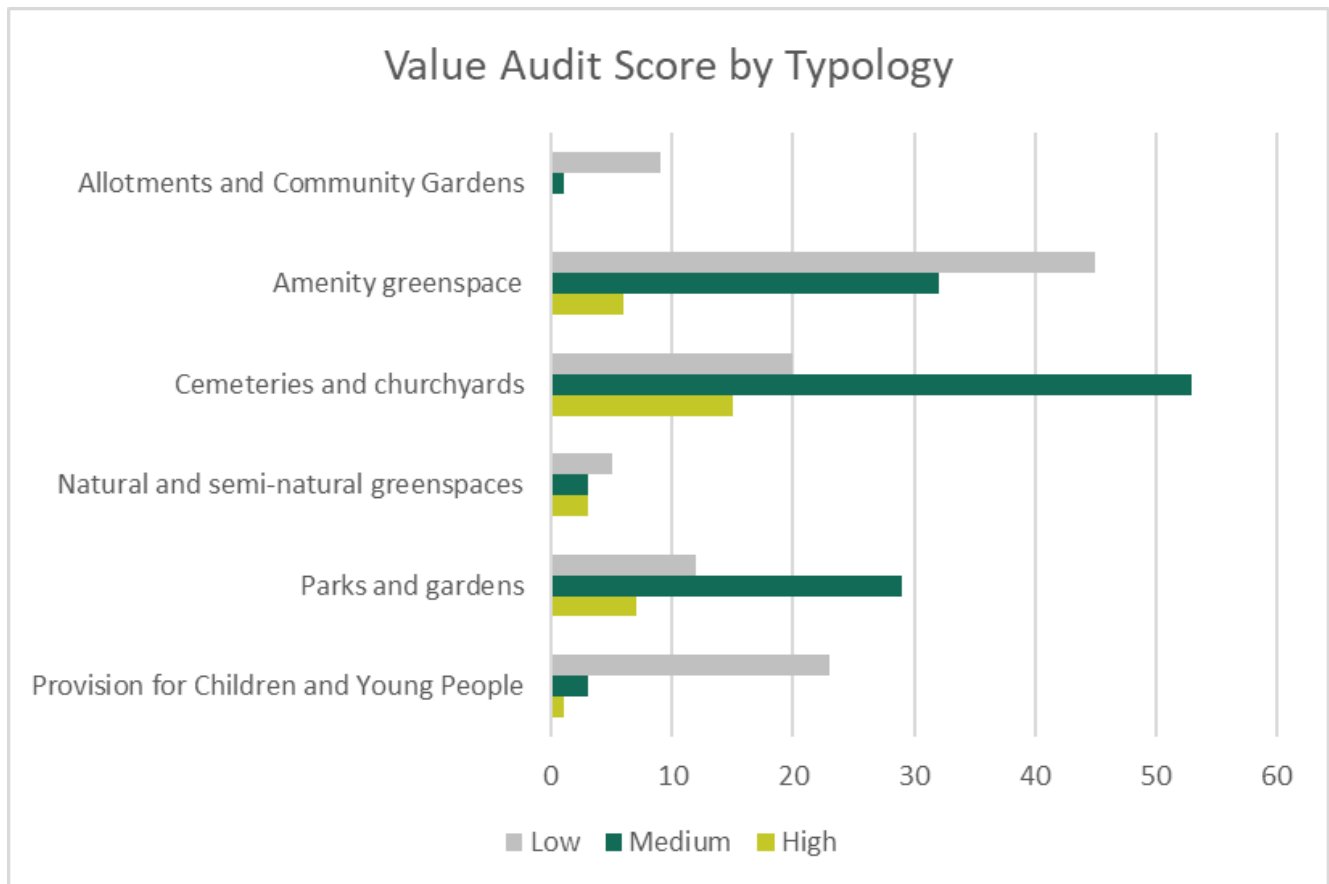


Figure 5: Value Audit Scores by Typology

# Executive Summary

## Accessibility Assessment

Allotments and Community Gardens, Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People have been assigned an accessibility standard. There is no accessibility standard for Civic Spaces and Churchyards and Cemeteries as there is no accessibility National Benchmark (Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, 2020) for these typologies.

The proposed accessibility standards are shown 'as the crow flies' (straight line) from an open space. The accessibility standards are shown in Table 3 below.

Accessibility maps show buffer catchments for each open space typology (Figures 6—10)

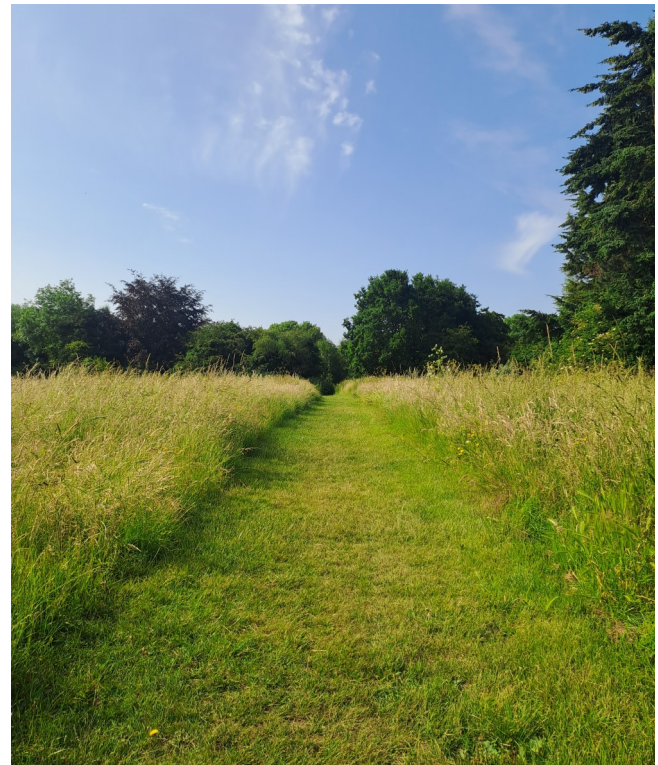


Image 2: Queen Elizabeth Park, Grantham

Table 3: Accessibility Standards

Open Space Typology	Walking Threshold
Allotments and Community Gardens	None Set
Amenity Greenspace	480m
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	None Set
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	720m
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1,200m
Parks and Gardens	710m
Provision for Children and Young People	LAP - 100 metres LEAP - 400 metres NEAP - 1000 metres

# Executive Summary

## Accessibility Assessment

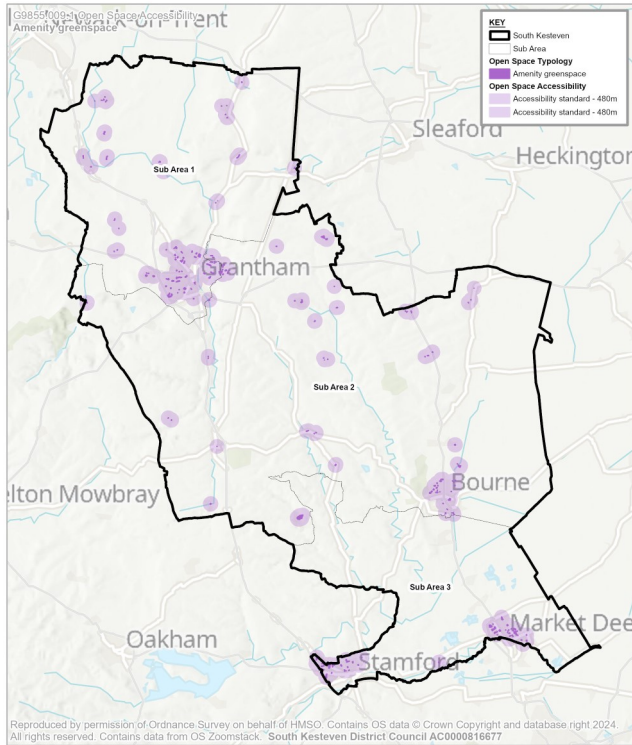


Figure 6: Amenity Greenspace accessibility in South Kesteven

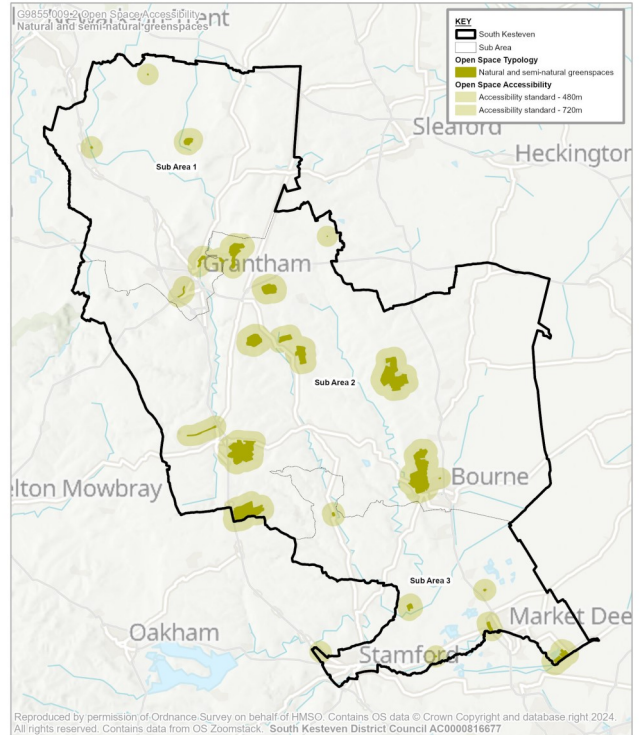


Figure 7: Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace accessibility in South Kesteven

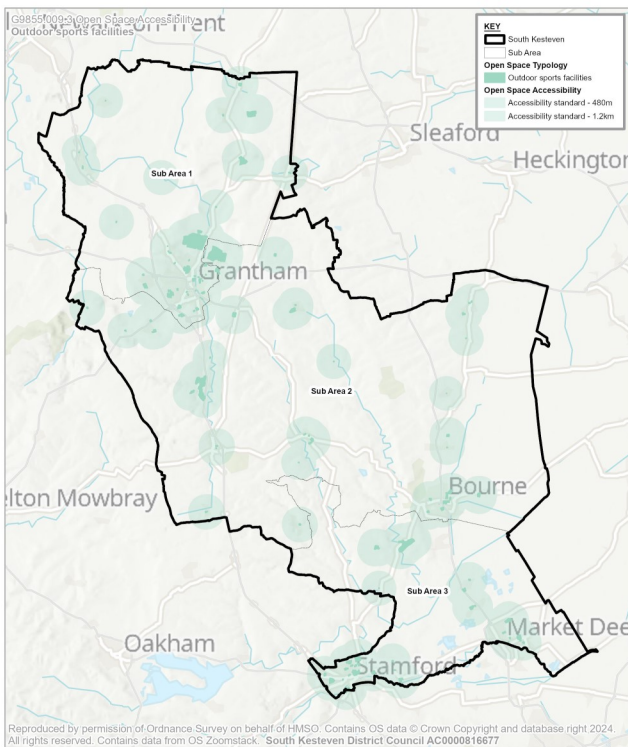


Figure 8: Outdoor Sports Facilities accessibility in South Kesteven

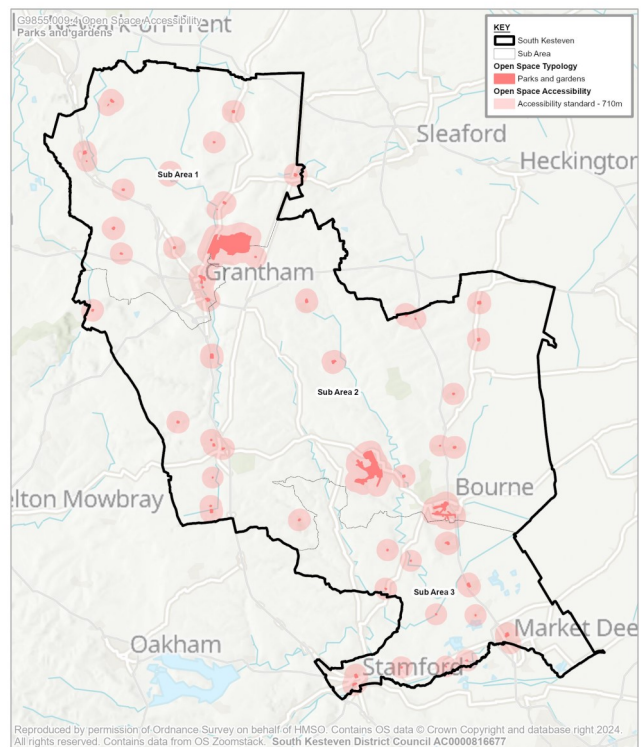


Figure 9: Parks & Gardens accessibility in South Kesteven



# Executive Summary

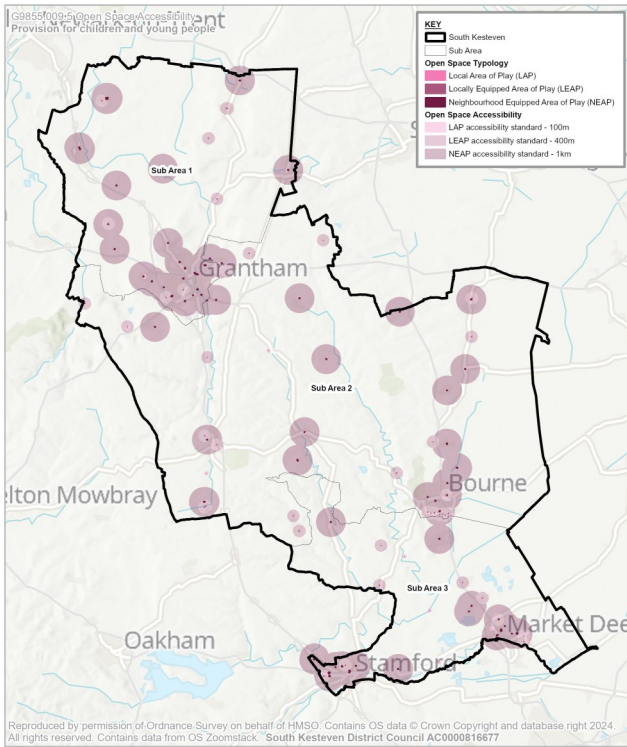


Figure 10: Provision for Children and Young People accessibility in South Kesteven

## Recommendations

Recommendations have been made in Chapter 8 Recommendations. The recommendations include:

- Adopt the recommended standards (Chapter 7);
- Increase the multi-functionality open spaces where possible, including increasing green travel routes, improving aesthetic, increasing habitat for wildlife and the cultural offering;
- Production of a supplementary planning document to outline open space requirements in new developments;
- Seek funding opportunities including Section 106 Agreement, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and developer contributions; and
- Long term management of open spaces should be encouraged through management plans for open spaces.



Image 3: Town Meadows, Stamford



Image 4: East End Recreation Ground, Langtoft



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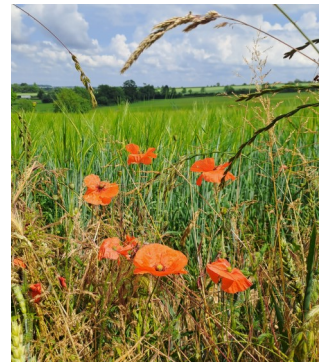
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## South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study

*South Kesteven District Council*

February 2024  
9855.001

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## 1.0 Introduction

### Context

- 1.1 Open space is important because of its valuable contribution to quality of life, health and the economy. Furthermore, open spaces provide green infrastructure (GI) benefits such as mitigating climate change, flood alleviation, and ecosystem services. The provision of these facilities in our cities, towns and villages is of high importance to a sustainable future and is embedded in national planning policy.
- 1.2 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in December 2023, recognises the opportunities that appropriately located and well-designed open spaces can provide. Paragraph 102 states:

*Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.*

- 1.3 Open space provision crosses many other aspects of the NPPF including:
- Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities;
  - Achieving Sustainable Development;
  - Supporting a Prosperous Rural Economy;
  - Promoting Sustainable Transport;
  - Achieving Well-Designed and Beautiful Places;
  - Conserving and Enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment; and
  - Meeting the Challenges of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change.

### Purpose and Scope

- 1.4 This Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (hereby referred to as the 'Study') replaces the South Kesteven Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2009, which was updated in 2017, and will form part of the evidence base for South Kesteven District Council's (hereby referred to as 'the Council') emerging Local Plan.
- 1.5 The Study provides robust and up to date information concerning the demand and use of open space throughout the District irrespective of ownership up to the Local Plan end date of 2041. It will support the Council's corporate vision to be "*the best district in which to live, work and visit*". The vision will be achieved through five key areas, those relevant to this Study are:
- *Housing that meets the needs of residents* - the Council wants to ensure that major developments in South Kesteven are high quality, with sustainable and good design;
  - *Healthy and Strong Communities* - the Council aims to support healthy communities including investment in leisure provisions and building on the rich heritage and culture of the District;

- *Clean and Sustainable Environments* - the Council aims to protect and improve the environment by tackling climate change, ensuring the District is a clean and pleasant place to live and improve parks and open space. Furthermore, the Council aims to maintain and enhance the Council's green area across the District and aim to secure Green Flag Award status for Queen Elizabeth Park, Dysart Park and other relevant areas.

- 1.6 This Study will ensure that the Council can prioritise development of open space, ensure that poor quality open spaces receive investment and improvement, and that open space receives sufficient developer contributions to provide for new communities.
- 1.7 A proportion of open spaces in the District were subject to a full quality and value audit. The criteria for these sites are set out in the Methodology at Chapter 3.

### **Analysis Area**

- 1.8 The Study looks at the overall provision of the District and across three sub-areas which are consistent with the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), which was undertaken concurrently with this Study in 2023. The sub-areas are based on amalgamated Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) boundaries. Sub-areas are shown in Figure 2 below. Where an open space falls across two or more sub-areas, the open space has been counted within the sub-area in which the largest proportion of the space falls.

#### North Sub-Area

The North Sub-Area is characterised by rural villages and countryside to the north, and Grantham to the south. The North Sub-Area includes all open space typologies (see full list in Table 1). The smaller villages to the north generally include open space typologies such as Churchyards and Cemeteries, Allotments and Amenity Greenspace. Provision for Children and Young People such as Local Areas of Play (LAP) are also common, however provision of Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA) is only in larger villages, or Grantham.

- 1.9 The North Sub-Area has the largest population across South Kesteven. The South Kesteven Local Plan (2011-2036) states that most of all planned housing development (53% across the District) will be focused upon growing Grantham to support and indeed strengthen its role as a Sub-Regional Centre.
- 1.10 Grantham also has some of the most deprived areas within the District and wider Lincolnshire County. According to the State of the District Report (2023) the areas of Earlesfield and Harrowby in Grantham are the most deprived in South Kesteven. Parts of Earlesfield are amongst the 10% most deprived areas in England and most deprived in Lincolnshire.
- 1.11 Grantham is the largest town in the District and a sub-regional centre. Grantham is a key location for new development including plans for a sustainable urban extension (SUE) to the south of Grantham at Spitalgate.
- 1.12 Grantham has a range of open space typologies including three Green Flag Award sites at Dysart Park, Queen Elizabeth Park and Wyndham Park.

### Central Sub-Area

- 1.13 The Central Sub-Area comprises mainly of rural villages and countryside to the east, and the town of Bourne to the west. Villages are predominantly clustered along roads which provide access to larger towns and villages.
- 1.14 The Central Sub-Area has the smallest current population across the District. The South Kesteven Local Plan (2011-2036) states that 7% of new residential development will be within Bourne, which is less than the North and South Sub-Areas.
- 1.15 The Central Sub-Area includes all open space typologies, however villages typically include open space typologies such as Churchyards and Cemeteries, Allotments, Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People.
- 1.16 Bourne is one of the largest towns in the District providing a range of facilities for the surrounding areas. Bourne has a wide range of existing open space typologies and new open spaces are being implemented within the new Elsa Park development to the south of Bourne.
- 1.17 The Central Sub-Area also has large areas of Natural and Semi-Natural open space including woodlands such as Temple Wood, Twyford Wood, Bourne Wood and Morkery Wood, which are accessible via a network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

### South Sub-Area

- 1.18 The South Sub-Area predominately comprises of Stamford and The Deepings (which includes Market Deeping and Deeping St. James) , with smaller villages surrounding these. Stamford and The Deepings are two of the three main Market Towns identified for new development across the District, including a new SUE to the north of the Stamford (Stamford North SUE).
- 1.19 The South Sub-Area has the second highest population due to the market towns of Stamford and The Deepings. The South Kesteven Local Plan (2011-2036) states that 18% of residential development across the District will be in created in Stamford and 8% in The Deepings (total of 26% for the South Sub-Area).
- 1.20 The South Sub-Area includes all open space typologies (see full list in Table 1). Stamford and The Deepings have a wide variety of open spaces which contribute to the historic setting and character of the towns.



*Figure 1: Town Meadows, Stamford*



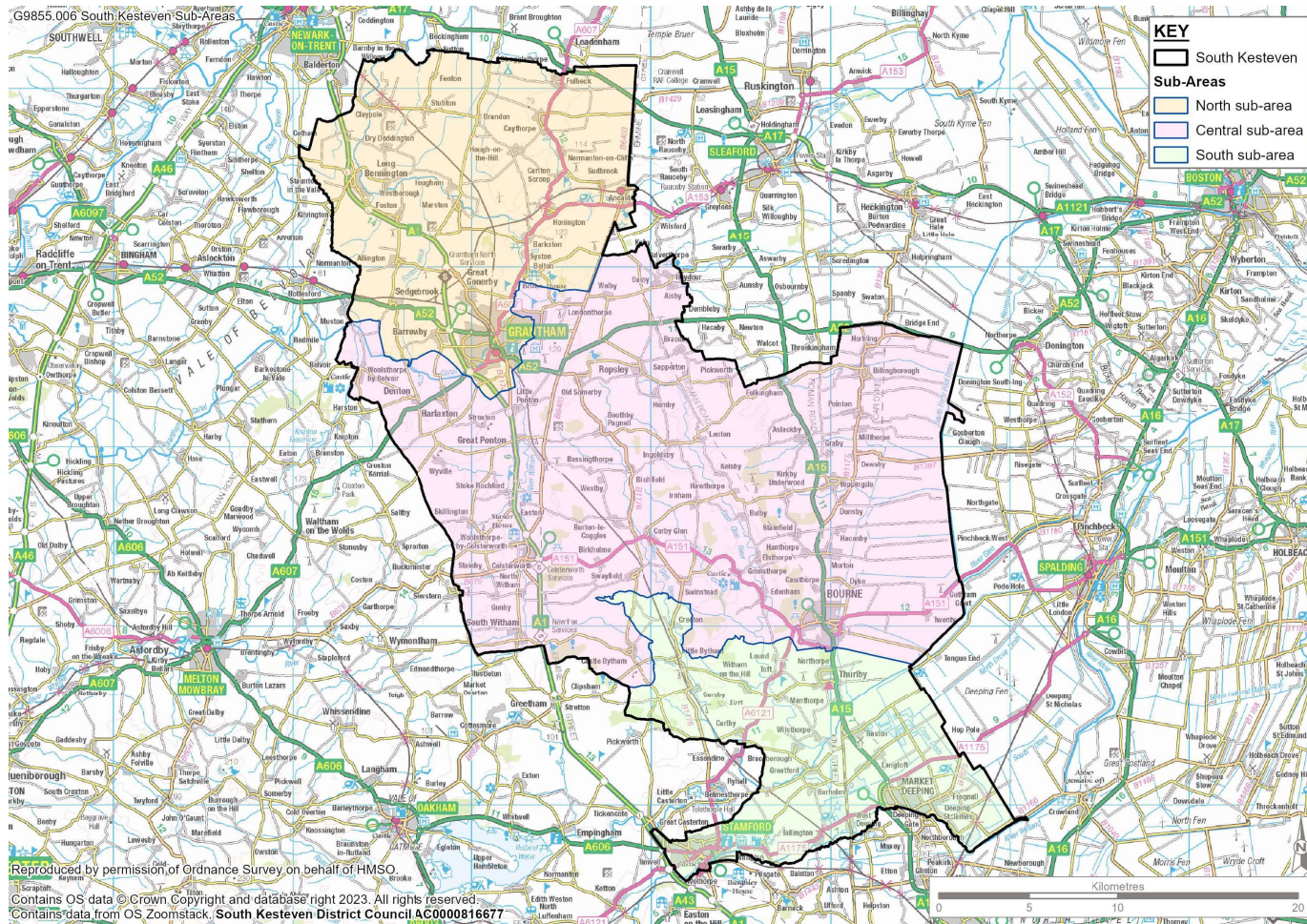


Figure 2: South Kesteven Sub-Areas Map

## 2.0 Planning Policy and Strategy Context

2.1 This chapter summarises how open spaces feature in national and local planning policy and strategies.

### National and Local Planning Policy

2.2 Figure 3 illustrates the hierarchy of planning policy within South Kesteven.

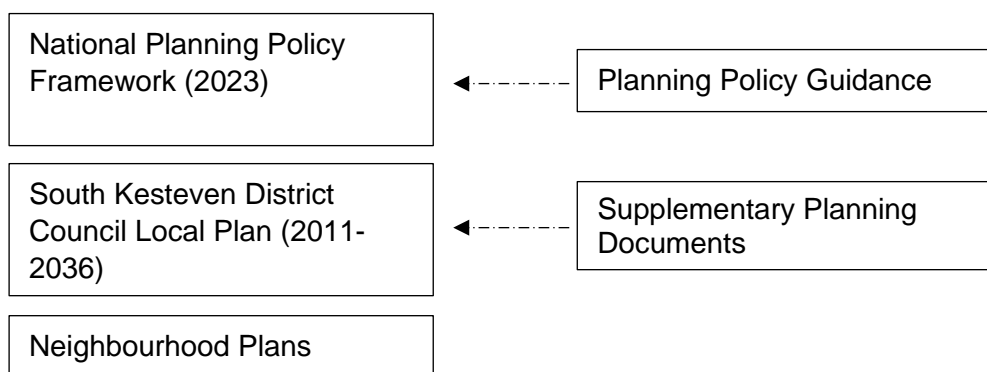


Figure 3: Hierarchy of Existing Planning Policy in 2023

2.3 The following national and local planning policy documents provide an overview of the Council's strategic context and actions in relation to open space:

#### National Planning Policy

- National Planning Policy Framework - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2023);
- Planning Practice Guidance - Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities; Public Rights of Way and Local Green Space (March 2014);
- Planning Practice Guidance - Healthy and Safe Communities (August 2022);
- Planning Practice Guidance - Climate Change (March 2019);
- Planning Practice Guidance - Natural Environment (updated July 2019);
- Planning Practice Guidance - Flood Risk and Coastal Change (August 2022);
- A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (January 2018 updated February 2023); and
- Environmental Improvement Plan (January 2023 updated February 2023).

#### Local Planning Policy

- South Kesteven District Council Local Plan (2011-2036);
- Neighbourhood Plans;
- Planning Obligations (June 2012);
- Rectory Farm SPD (November 2021);
- Design Guidelines for Rutland and South Kesteven (November 2021); and

- South Kesteven District Council Infrastructure Funding Statement (2021/2022).

2.4 This Study will form part of the evidence base for the Council's emerging Local Plan. When the emerging Local Plan is adopted, it will supersede the existing South Kesteven Local Plan (2011-2036).

2.5 A full review of local and national planning policy documents is provided in Appendix A. These have been considered in producing the recommendations provided in this Study.

### **National and Local Strategy Documents**

2.6 To support the national and local planning policies set by the Council, a series of Strategy documents have also been published to achieve the vision for the District.

2.7 The following national and local strategy documents provide an overview of the Council's strategic context and actions in relation to open space:

#### National Strategies

- Promoting Healthy Cities (Town Planning Institute, 2014);
- Green Infrastructure Framework (Natural England, 2023);
- The Natural Environment White Paper, The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (HM Government, 2011); and
- Everybody Active, Every Day (Public Health England, 2014).

#### Local Strategies

- Corporate Plan (2020-2023);
- Sports and Physical Activity Strategy (2021-2026);
- South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy (2023);
- South Kesteven Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (April 2009)
- South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Report (2017);
- South Kesteven Green Infrastructure Strategy (March 2011); and
- Grantham Green Infrastructure Strategy (March 2011).

2.8 A full review of local and national strategy documents is provided in Appendix A. These have been considered in producing the recommendations provided in this Study.



## 3.0 Method

### Guidance and Best Practice

- 3.1 This Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study is in line with the NPPF (2023) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for Open Space, which have replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002).
- 3.2 Whilst the Companion Guide to PPG Note 17 has been superseded, it is acknowledged that the principals and approach within the guidance have not been replaced and it is still relevant to apply the methodology to assess needs for open space provision.

### Stages of the Study

- 3.3 This Study process follows five stages as illustrated in Figure 4: Open Spaces Study Process.

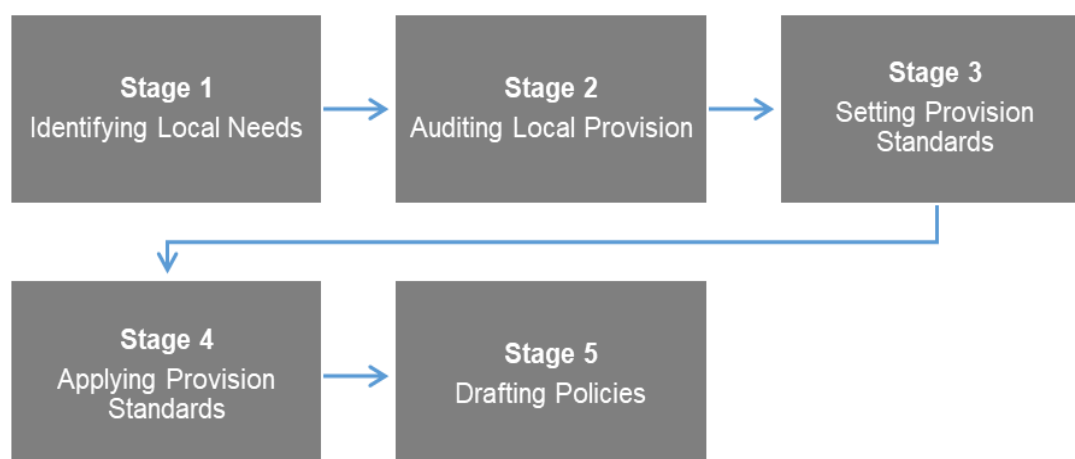


Figure 4: Open Space Study Process

- 3.4 The Study provides robust and up to date information concerning the demand and use of open space throughout the District irrespective of ownership up to the emerging Local Plan end date of 2041.

### Typologies

- 3.5 Table 1 provides a description of each of the open space typologies included in this Study.

Table 1 Open Space Typologies included in the Study

Open Space Typology	Description
Allotments and Community Gardens	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.
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.
Churchyards and Cemeteries	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sports and recreation that are owned and managed by local authorities, town and parish councils, sports associations, companies and individual sports clubs. This typology includes golf courses.
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one or more of the other types of open space within them.
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction specifically designed as equipped play facilities for children and young people.

### Local Green Space

- 3.6 Open space designated as 'Local Green Space' has special protection against development because it has been identified as having particular importance to local communities (as set out in the NPPF and Open Space, Sports, Recreation Facilities, Public Rights of Way and Local Green Space Planning Practice Guidance).
- 3.7 Paragraph 105 of the NPPF states:

*The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.*

3.8 Paragraph 106 of the NPPF states:

*The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the greenspace is:*

*a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*

*b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*

*c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

3.9 Local Green Space (LGS) is a designation for use in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans, and LGS is often designated where open space has a special connection to the local community whether in a village or in a neighbourhood, town or city.

3.10 Local Green Space is not linked to a specific open space typology. Any open space typology can be designated if it meets the criteria set out in NPPF (2023), Paragraphs 105 and 106. There is also no size restriction, however the space should not be an extensive tract of land or large areas of open countryside.

### **Quantity**

3.11 The quantity assessment is carried out through a desk based GIS exercise, using open space data provided by the Council. Analysis in this Study is based on a snapshot in time. Open spaces are mapped which provides the total area in hectares of each site. Each site is assigned an open space typology so that a total area of sites by typology can be calculated.

3.12 The quantity provision of sites is based on the Council's existing open space dataset. Further updates to the open space data have been captured during the site audits undertaken in 2023. The boundaries of all sites were checked either through the site audits or through a review of GIS data against aerial base mapping. This is to ensure open space areas are correct and where applicable boundaries are amended to reflect open spaces which have increased in size, decreased in size or changed use.

3.13 When combined with population figures, quantity can be expressed in terms of a hectare per 1,000 population figure. This is the way that local authorities express their quantity of open space, and is how quantity standards for open space are expressed.

3.14 The total area of an open space has been used to calculate the current quantity provision for the District and each sub-area. Current, and future forecast population figures have been used to calculate the hectare per 1,000 population figures for each typology on a District wide and sub-area basis.

### Quality

3.15 A sample of open spaces have been audited as part of the Study. Outdoor Sports Facilities were excluded from the quality assessment as they have been audited as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) being undertaken at the same time as this Study.

3.16 307 open spaces were identified to audit including a full Green Flag Award style quality audit.

3.17 The Green Flag Award is widely recognised as a quality benchmark for parks and green spaces, is advocated by Fields in Trust (FiT) and used by many other local authorities as part of their open space studies.

3.18 The quality assessment for site audits adapts the Green Flag Award criteria (described in Table 2) based on those that can be applied to all typologies of open space. This allows a quality benchmark to be applied to the District's open spaces.

*Table 2 Green Flag Award Criteria*

Green Flag Award Criteria	Description
Welcoming Place	Signage
	Entrances
	Safe Access
	Access for All Abilities
	Boundaries
	Car parking/Cycling Provision
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Facilities and Activities
	Clear Sightlines
	Shelter
	Lighting
Well Maintained and Clean	Bins, Dog Bins and Recycling
	Overall Site Cleanliness
	Hard Landscape Features

Green Flag Award Criteria	Description
	Buildings
	Soft Landscape Features
	Site Furniture

3.19 The quality assessment does not attempt to 'judge' all sites as to whether they would pass or fail the Green Flag Award. This would not be appropriate to do as part of an Open Space Study due to the types and nature of the sites; the proportionate amount of time needed to spend assessing each site in full; and the information available to undertake the assessment. The full Green Flag Award process involves reviewing a management plan for each site, and undertaking a site visit with the site managers, key stakeholders and the local community.

3.20 The bandings for the open space quality audits are as follows:

- Excellent - 90% to 100%;
- Very good - 80% to 89%;
- Good - 70% to 79%;
- Fair - 50% to 69%; and
- Poor - 0% to 49%.

3.21 The full site audit results are included as Appendix B. Full details of audit results including accompanying notes have been provided to the Council.

### Value

3.22 The open space value assessment is based on 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17<sup>1</sup> (September 2002). Although PPG17 has been superseded by the NPPF 2023, there has been no supporting guidance published to supersede 'Assessing needs and opportunity: a companion guide to PPG17'. This is the most up to date guidance for value assessment for open spaces.

3.23 Table 3 details the value criteria used for this Study.

*Table 3 Value Criteria*

Value	Value Criteria
Context Value	Value as a cycle or pedestrian route
	Value in terms of a linked series of green or hard spaces
	Value in terms of a linked openness in a densely developed area

<sup>1</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7660/156780.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7660/156780.pdf)



Value	Value Criteria
	Value in terms of providing a setting for buildings (e.g. Georgian square)
Historical/Heritage Value	Value as a designed landscape
	Value of historic buildings within the space
	Value of other historical features (e.g. statues, fountains, headstones)
Contribution to Local Amenity, Vitality and Sense of Place	Contribution to the appearance of the neighbourhood
	Evidence of use for events
	Value as a noise buffer
	Value as a visual screen or buffer
	Value in terms of 'sense of place'
	Value in terms of 'business' for social interaction
	Value in terms of local air quality and amelioration of pollution
	Visual attractiveness
	Proximity to hospital/health centre/school/other community hub
Recreation Value	Value for community events
	Value in terms of health benefits (e.g. jogging, health walks)
	Value of informal recreation opportunities (e.g. walking, relaxation)
Play Value	Value in terms of variety of finishes and experiences
	Value of space for adventure play
	Value of space for kickabout
	Value of space for seeing birds and animals
Ecological/ Biodiversity Value	Nature conservation designation
	Value as a green corridor for wildlife

Value	Value Criteria
	Value for public enjoyment of nature
	Value of habitats within the space (including water)
	Value of trees to the neighbourhood
	Buildings have potential for green roofs/walls
	Buildings have potential for rain water harvesting

3.24 The bandings for the open space value audits are as follows:

- High - 60 to 100%;
- Medium - 40 to 59%; and
- Low - 0 to 39%.

### Quality and Value Matrix

3.25 The Value of a site, in conjunction with the Quality, can be used to guide planning decisions about the future of the sites as shown in Table 4.

*Table 4 Quality and Value Matrix*

<b>Poor Quality High Value</b> High value sites that are poor quality should look to be enhanced in terms of their quality	<b>Good Quality High Value</b> Ideally all spaces should fall into this category, and decisions focused on protection of the best sites
<b>Poor Quality Low Value</b> Where possible look to enhance quality and value, or review if sites are surplus to requirements	<b>Good Quality Low Value</b> Where possible look to enhance value in terms of the functions the sites provide, or consider if value could increase by a change of use

### Accessibility

3.26 The accessibility assessment applies a straight line Walking Threshold ('as the crow flies') buffers to open spaces, as per 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17<sup>2</sup> (September 2002)'.

<sup>2</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7660/156780.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7660/156780.pdf)

3.27 The benchmark accessibility standards are set out in the FiT Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard. The existing District accessibility standards that are set out in the South Kesteven Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (April 2009) and South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Report (2017) are shown in Table 5.

*Table 5: Existing Accessibility Standards*

<b>Open Space Typology</b>	<b>Existing Accessibility Standard</b>
Allotments and Community Gardens	No Standard
Amenity Greenspace	480m
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	480m
Outdoor Sports Facilities	480m
Parks and Gardens	No Standard
Provision for Children and Young People	No Standard

## 4.0 Identifying Local Needs

### Population

#### Current Population

- 4.1 Population data in this study is based Office for National Statistics Census estimates that classify usual residents in England and Wales by single year of age (source: ONS population released 2021). ONS estimates the current population of South Kesteven as 143,419 in 2021.
- 4.2 Table 6 shows the current population across the three sub-areas which aligns with MSOA boundaries.

#### Future Population

- 4.3 The projected future population for South Kesteven District in 2041 is 154,893. This is based on ONS MSOA 2021 population figures and an estimated percentage forecast change from ONS of 8% between 2021 and 2041.

*Table 6: Current and Projected Future Population by Sub-Area*

Sub-Area	Current (2021) Population	Future (2041) Population
North Sub-Area	55,858	60,327
Central Sub-Area	42,658	46,071
South Sub-Area	44,903	48,495
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,419</b>	<b>154,893</b>

#### State of District (2023)<sup>3</sup>

- 4.4 The State of the District (2023) report is an annual review by the Council of performance within the District against key social-economic indicators.
- 4.5 The 2023 report found that the District's population has increased from 2011-2021 by 7.2%, however the rate of growth was slightly lower than the East Midlands (7.7%) but higher than the national average in England (6.6%). This is mainly due to migration from other parts of the UK into the area. The report found that 65% of residents live within the four main towns of Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and The Deepings.
- 4.6 Residents have the highest life expectancy within Lincolnshire and slightly higher than regional and national averages. The average age of the populations is 46, which is in line with neighbouring authorities. 23% of the population is aged 65+ and there are now more residents aged over 65 than under 20, leading to an aging population.

<sup>3</sup> [State of the District 2023.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/state-of-the-district-2023.pdf)



- 4.7 The report considers community health, wellbeing and safety. The District is ranked the second healthiest in Lincolnshire and is amongst the top 40% healthiest Districts in England. The rate of adults aged over 18 classified as overweight or obese is higher than the national average at 68.9% compared to the national rate of 66.6%.
- 4.8 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019, ranked South Kesteven 234th out of 317 local authorities. This was an improvement of eleven places on its 2015 ranking and means South Kesteven is the second least deprived district in Lincolnshire. The North and South Sub-Areas were generally ranked lower for deprivation than the Central Sub-Area, however higher levels of deprivation are observed within Grantham, eastern Bourne, central north Stamford and The Deepings.

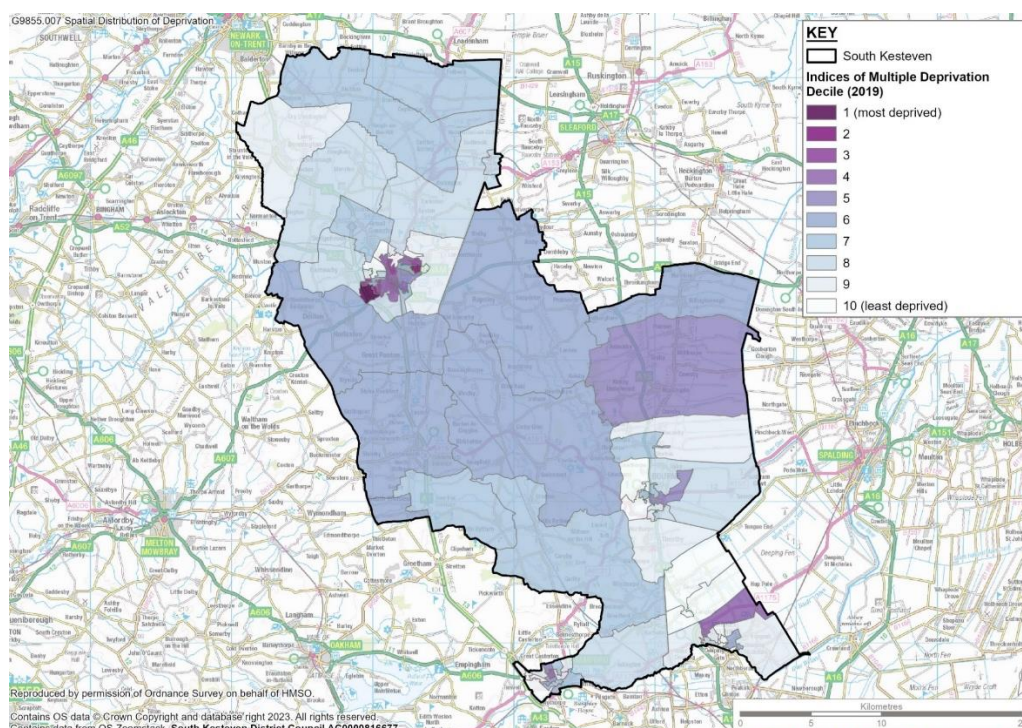


Figure 5: Spatial Distribution of Deprivation Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

## Consultation

- 4.9 In August and September 2023, TEP and South Kesteven District Council undertook a five-week online consultation event with key stakeholders and the community as part of this Study.
- 4.10 Each group was invited to answer a set of bespoke targeted questions related to management, use and perception of open space in the District. A summary of responses is outlined in Appendix C.
- 4.11 The aims of the stakeholder and community consultations were to:
- Provide consultees across the District with information about the Study;
  - Allow consultees to comment on the vision and approach to managing and developing open spaces within the District;

- Gather information about the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces in the District; and
  - Consider feedback received as a result of the consultation process.
- 4.12 The Key Stakeholder questionnaire was issued via email link for participants to respond on. Community consultation was advertised on social media channels and posters were included on notice boards locally.

#### Key Stakeholder Consultation Summary

- 4.13 Key stakeholders comprised a wide group of consultees including Town Councils, Parish Councils, Elected Members, local conservation groups, charities and community interest groups from across the District. 23 responses were received from key stakeholders.
- 4.14 Key stakeholders were asked to complete 12 questions via an online questionnaire, which covered usage, accessibility, quality, quantity, and improvement opportunities. Key stakeholders were also asked additional targeted questions related to open spaces they manage. A summary of responses has been provided below:

#### *Quantity*

- Key stakeholders manage a wide range of open space across the District. The most common typologies are Amenity Greenspace (47.83%), Provision for Children and Young People (47.83%) and Parks and Gardens (43.48%); and
- The consultation highlighted a below average quantity of Allotments and Community Gardens (21.74%), however all other open space typologies were Average or above.

#### *Quality*

- Key stakeholders thought the quality of open spaces across the District were mainly Good (34.78%) or Average (26.09%); and
- Key stakeholders identified key improvements to the quality of open spaces are better access including improvements in footpaths, especially for disabled users (52.17%), better facilities (39.13%) including equipment for the young and old, bins and benches, and better maintenance (39.13%).

#### *Accessibility*

- Key stakeholders considered sites they manage have excellent access on walking (47.83%), excellent/good cycling opportunities (39.13%), good driving/parking access (34.78%) and average public transport accessibility (30.43%); and
- Improvements to accessibility include better maintenance and more footpaths, better safety on walking and cycling routes, more signage and parking for drivers and increased public transport links.

### *Opportunities and Challenges*

- The Deepings was highlighted as an area expanding and recreational facilities are not keeping up with the increase in residents. Mill Field is an informal space to the west of Market Deeping which was mentioned as a space currently used to access the open countryside and used for walking by residents, but could be improved to create a new open space for Market Deeping. Further improvements highlighted across open spaces more generally include footpath repairs, surfacing and access for all abilities;
- Funding was the most perceived threat to open space provision within the District (95.65%), followed by planning (79.17%) and lack of consultation (78.26%). This was consistent with the responses for potential opportunities for provision, with perceived opportunities for open spaces being through grants and funding (100%), community engagement (95.65%), engagement with developers (9.65%) and engagement with stakeholders (95.65%).

### Community Consultation Summary

- 4.15 The community consultation was hosted via an online survey platform to make the consultation accessible, quick, and easy for residents respond. There were 106 responses submitted by the community.
- 4.16 Demographic information was gathered as part of the consultation to provide additional context to the responses. Most respondents were 65+ (41.90%), white (84.76%) and retired (43.40%), with full time or part time working residents making up a further combined 41.51%.
- 4.17 10 respondents were under 44 years old, with no respondents under 24. There was an even split of respondents between male and female, and most respondents do not consider themselves to have a disability or neurodiverse condition (65.69%), however 15 respondents did identify as having a disability (14.71%) or a neurodiverse condition (6.86%).
- 4.18 Respondents were asked to complete 21 questions, results are summarised below:

#### *Quantity*

- Respondents used open spaces within the North (43.40%) and Central (41.51%) Sub-Areas the most, with the South Sub-Areas (23.30%) least used;
- The open spaces most used are Parks and Gardens (83.02%), Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces (70.75%) and Amenity Greenspace (53.77%). The least visited open spaces were Allotments and Community Gardens (16.98%);
- Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (45.28%), Parks and Gardens (42.45%) and Amenity Greenspace (36.79%) were the most visited open spaces on a weekly basis. Allotments and Community Gardens (63.21%) were identified as not applicable, due to the restrictions on use; and
- Across the District, residents consider there to be below average/poor (12.26%) quantity of Outdoor Sports Facilities, whilst Parks and Gardens

are considered to have a good quantity across the District (43.40%). A common theme within the comments is the need to provide more areas and activities for children and young people.

### *Quality*

- Overall, the quality of open spaces is mostly rated as excellent (23.68%) or good (38.60%) by respondents;
- Walking (87.74%), relaxation (66.98%) and enjoyment of nature (59.43%) were the most common reasons for use of open space, but there are a range of other uses;
- There were 59 comments suggesting additions to open spaces within the District, including additional provision of open spaces, equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and improvements to accessibility;
- Respondents highlighted infrastructure, facilities, and provision as areas for improvement. Footpaths, bus routes and parking costs/availability were a common theme in requiring improvement.

### *Accessibility*

- Walking is the most popular way to access open spaces in the District, with driving and cycling also popular. Public transport was rated the least likely way to access an open spaces (36.79%) due to limited services and affordability;
- Very few respondents stated that they would be willing to travel over 30 minutes to any type of open space and several people stated they would not use Allotments and Community Gardens (37.74%) or Provision for Children and Young People (45.28%). However this may be due to the demographic of the respondents, or nature of use for these typologies;
- Respondents suggested that improvements in signage, footpath/cycle lane maintenance, lighting and benches would encourage more walking and cycling to open spaces. Dedicated cycle lanes would also make it safer for walkers, cyclists and car users by taking cyclist off roads and pedestrian routes.

### *Opportunities and Challenges*

- Barriers to using open spaces vary by typology. Allotments were mostly either prevented by a lack of knowledge or availability. Generally, accessibility, availability, lack of information, anti-social behaviour/security and poor facilities were highlighted as barriers to using open spaces;
- The greatest perceived barriers to adequate provision are funding (83.67%) and antisocial behaviour (79.21%); and
- Engagement with the community (93.40%) and more effective use of S106 (90.57%) were identified as the greatest opportunities for open space, with marketing/social media (71.70%) being the least opportunistic.

4.19 A full breakdown of the stakeholder and community consultations response including the questions is provided in Appendix C.

## 5.0 Auditing Local Provision

### Introduction

- 5.1 This section presents the results of the Study for the District as a whole, each of the three sub-areas and across all typologies.

### District Overview

#### Quantity

- 5.2 The number, area (in hectares) and percentage of each type of open space typology within the District is shown in Table 7. The highest proportion of open space (47.3%) is provided by Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (total area of 1,264.31 hectares) this is due to the rural nature of the District.
- 5.3 Provision for Children and Young People provides the least provision across the District (0.4%). This open space typology is usually within another typology such as Parks and Gardens or Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.

*Table 7: Open Spaces by Typology, Number and Area*

Open Space Typology	No.	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Allotments and Community Gardens	45	50.35	1.90%
Amenity Greenspace	218	71.34	2.70%
Cemeteries and Churchyards	129	64.45	2.40%
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	27	1,264.31	47.30%
Outdoor Sports Facilities	136	594.55	22.30%
Parks and Gardens	60	615.56	23.00%
Provision for Children and Young People	119	10.37	0.40%



Open Space Typology	No.	Area (ha)	Area (%)
<b>Final Total</b> <i>Rounded to two decimal places</i>	<b>734</b>	<b>2,670.92</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

5.4 Table 8 shows the quantity of each typology by sub-area in hectares.

*Table 8: Open Space Typologies by Sub-Area*

Open Space Typology	North Sub-Area	Central Sub-Area	South Sub-Area
Allotments and Community Gardens	22.33	7.87	20.14
Amenity Greenspace	26.37	25.31	19.66
Cemeteries and Churchyards	22.73	25.17	16.54
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	37.02	1,164.77	62.52
Outdoor Sports Facilities	247.64	211.87	135.04
Parks and Gardens	30.10	566.28	19.18
Provision for Children and Young People	4.09	2.65	3.62
<b>Total</b> <i>Rounded to two decimal places</i>	<b>390.29</b>	<b>2,003.92</b>	<b>276.71</b>

#### *Quantity by Population*

5.5 The current (2021) population of South Kesteven is 143,419, the total amount of open space is 2,670.92 ha which equates to **18.63 ha per 1,000 population**.

- 5.6 An 8% increase, based on ONS projections has been applied to the current population to calculate the future population in 2041. The future population is estimated at 154,893 which equates to a future open space provision of **17.25 ha per 1,000 population**.
- 5.7 The current (2021), and future (2041) hectareage per 1,000 population is shown in Table 9.

*Table 9: Open Space by Hectare per 1,000*

Open Space Typology	2021 ha/ 1,000	2041 ha/ 1,000
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.35	0.33
Amenity Greenspace	0.50	0.46
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.45	0.42
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	8.82	8.16
Outdoor Sports Facilities	4.15	3.84
Parks and Gardens	4.29	3.97
Provision for Children and Young People	0.07	0.07
<b>Total</b> Rounded to two decimal places	<b>18.63</b>	<b>17.25</b>

#### Accessibility

- 5.8 The existing and benchmark accessibility standards are shown in Table 30 and Table 34. A review of accessibility for each typology is included in Chapter 7.
- 5.9 Open Space Accessibility Plans - existing Plans include Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces, and Outdoor Sports Facilities (G9855.005.1-3) show the District's current standard for accessibility to these typologies.

#### Quality

- 5.10 Initial data provided by the Council at the outset of the project included 734 sites. For auditing quality and value, open space sites were selected based on the criteria set out in PPG17, which recommend auditing all open spaces irrespective of ownership and extent of public access, because all forms of provision can contribute to meeting local needs.

- 5.11 Following a desk-based exercise to consolidate data a total of 307 open spaces were taken forward to audit, which included all open space typologies except Outdoor Sports Facilities, which were audited as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy. Sites were selected based on spatial distribution ensuring a selection of each typology was audited across the three sub-areas.
- 5.12 Of the 307 sites identified for auditing, 267 sites were accessible and had full quality audits, 40 open spaces were not accessible however typology and site boundaries were confirmed. Results are shown on Open Space Quality Audit Plan (ref: G9855.003.1-4).
- 5.13 The range of quality audit scores are provided in Table 10 and the quality score split by each typology is in Table 11.
- 5.14 61% of sites achieved a Quality score of Good or above.

*Table 10: Quality Audit Scores per Banding*

Quality Banding	No. of Open Space Sites	Percentage of Sites
Excellent	27	10%
Very Good	54	20%
Good	82	31%
Fair	93	35%
Poor	11	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 11: Quality Audit Scores per Typology*

Open Space Typology	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Allotments and Community Gardens	1	1	0	7	1
Amenity Greenspace	3	15	21	39	5
Cemeteries and Churchyards	12	24	38	13	1

Open Space Typology	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	3	0	0	8	0
Parks and Gardens	5	8	17	16	2
Provision for Children and Young People	3	6	6	10	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>11</b>

### Value

- 5.15 The range of value audit scores is shown at a District and sub-area level on Open Space Value Audit Plan (G9855.004.1-4) and results are broken down in Appendix B.
- 5.16 The range of value scores from the audits of open spaces are provided in Table 12 and the value scores for each typology are in Table 13.

*Table 12: Value Audit Scores per Banding*

Value Banding	No. of Open Space Sites	Percentage of Sites
High	32	12%
Medium	121	45%
Low	114	43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 13: Value Audit Scores Per Typology*

Open Space Typology	High	Medium	Low
Allotments and Community Gardens	0	1	9
Amenity Greenspace	6	32	45

Open Space Typology	High	Medium	Low
Cemeteries and Churchyards	15	53	20
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	3	3	5
Parks and Gardens	7	29	12
Provision for Children and Young People	1	3	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>114</b>

#### Key Findings on Quality and Value

- 5.17 Table 14 provides an overview of the range of quality and value scores achieved in the sites audits, and results are presented in Appendix B.
- 5.18 There are 11 sites that had a Poor Quality score including Allotments and Community Gardens, Amenity Greenspace, Cemeteries and Churchyards, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People. The greatest range of scores is within Parks and Gardens typology for both Quality and Value.

*Table 14: Range of Quality and Value Score by Typology*

Open Space Typology	Sites Audited	Range of Quality Scores	Range of Value Scores
Allotments and Community Gardens	10	35 - 95	6 - 42
Amenity Greenspace	83	39 - 98	13 - 81
Cemeteries and Churchyards	88	33 - 96	12 - 82
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	11	55 - 99	21 - 100
Parks and Gardens	48	25 - 98	19 - 93



Open Space Typology	Sites Audited	Range of Quality Scores	Range of Value Scores
Provision for Children and Young People	25	40 - 92	6 - 63
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	-	-

## Allotments and Community Gardens

- 5.19 Allotments and community gardens provide 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.

### Quantity

- 5.20 There are 45 Allotment and Community Garden sites which provides 50.35 ha of provision across the District, this equates to 0.35 ha per 1,000 population (2021).

### Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.21 Quality and Value scores for audited Allotments and Community Gardens are summarised in Appendix B in order of their quality audit score and the results are also shown on Open Space Quality Audit Plan (ref: G9855.003.1-4). Value scores are shown on Open Space Value Audit Plan (ref: G9855.004.1-4).

*10 Allotments and Community Gardens sites received a full quality audit. The average quality score for Allotments and Community Gardens is 61 which falls under the Fair banding as shown in*

- 5.22 Table 15.

- 5.23 The Empingham Road Community Garden achieved an Excellent (95%) quality score and is shown in Figure 6. The site is a walled cottage style garden, which is well maintained and used as a community garden with residential gardens leading into the space.



Figure 6: Empingham Road Community Garden

Table 15: Quality Range for Allotment and Community Gardens

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
61	Fair	1	7	0	1	1

5.24 The average value score for Allotments and Community Gardens is 28 which equates to Low value as shown in Table 16. The 10 Allotment and Community Garden sites achieved a Low or Medium value score.

Table 16: Value Range for Allotments and Community Gardens

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split		
		Low	Medium	High
28	Low	9	1	0

### Accessibility Assessment

5.25 Allotment and Community Gardens have not been assigned an accessibility threshold under the current standards.

- 5.26 There are Allotment and Community Gardens present in the larger towns of Grantham, Stamford, The Deepings and Bourne, as well as some provision scattered across rural villages. In Stamford several allotments (Water Furlong, Priory Road and Priory Road South Allotments) are positioned along the River Welland and its tributary Mill Stream, which forms part of the river corridor through Stamford.

### **Amenity Greenspace**

- 5.27 Amenity Greenspaces are informal green spaces providing opportunities for informal recreation for residents and workers whilst enhancing the appearance of the area.

#### Quantity Assessment

- 5.28 There are 218 sites providing 71.34 ha of Amenity Greenspace in the District, this equates to 0.50 ha per 1,000 population (2021).

#### Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.29 Quality and Value scores for audited Amenity Greenspaces are summarised in Appendix B in order of their quality audit score and the results are also shown on Open Space Quality Audit Plan (ref: G9855.003.1-4). Value scores are shown on Open Space Value Audit Plan (ref: G9855.004.1-4).
- 5.30 83 Amenity Greenspace sites received a full quality audit. The average quality score for Amenity Greenspaces is 69 which falls under the Fair banding as shown in Table 17.
- 5.31 There are examples of quality Amenity Greenspace being delivered through new development, including the area of new Amenity Greenspace to the west of Stamford, south of Empingham Road, which was scored Very Good (86%). This new area of Amenity Greenspace included good quality footpaths, bins, benches, signage and includes areas of formal and informal play (Figure 7).



*Figure 7: New amenity greenspace in new development south of Empingham Road*

Table 17: Quality Range for Amenity Greenspace

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
69	Fair	5	39	21	15	3

- 5.32 The average value score for Amenity Greenspace is 41 which equates to Medium value. The greatest number of sites fall into the Low banding, with being the next highest scoring banding.

Table 18: Value Range for Amenity Greenspace

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split		
		Low	Medium	High
41	Medium	45	32	6

#### Accessibility Assessment

- 5.33 Amenity Greenspace has been assigned an accessibility threshold of 480m under the current standards.
- 5.34 Open Space Accessibility - Existing Amenity Greenspace Plan (ref: G9855.005.1) shows that there is good coverage in the built-up areas of Grantham, Stamford, The Deepings and Bourne when applying the current standard. Amenity Greenspaces are present within many villages.
- 5.35 There is limited accessibility to Amenity Greenspace in south Stamford, however other typologies including Allotments and Community Gardens, Parks and Garden and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace provide accessible open space provision.

#### **Cemeteries and Churchyards**

- 5.36 Cemeteries and Churchyards include disused churchyards and other burial and religious grounds.

#### Quantity Assessment

- 5.37 There are 129 sites providing 64.45 ha of Cemeteries and Churchyards in the District, this equates to 0.45 ha per 1,000 population (2021).

#### Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.38 Quality and Value scores for audited Cemeteries and Churchyards are summarised in Appendix B in order of their quality audit score and the results are also shown on Open Space Quality Audit Plan (ref: G9855.003.1-4) and Open Space Value Audit Plan (ref: G9855.004.1-4).

5.39 88 Cemeteries and Churchyards sites received a full quality audit. The average quality score for Cemeteries and Churchyards is 78 which falls under the Good banding as shown in Table 19. The greatest number of sites fall into the Good banding, with Very Good being the next highest scoring banding.

Table 19: Quality Range for Cemeteries and Churchyards

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
78	Good	1	13	38	24	12

5.40 The average value score for Cemeteries and Churchyards is 49 which equates to Medium value.

Table 20: Value Range for Cemeteries and Churchyards

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split		
		Low	Medium	High
49	Medium	20	53	15

#### Accessibility Assessment

5.41 Cemeteries and Churchyards have not been assigned an accessibility threshold under the current standards.

5.42 There are Cemeteries and Churchyards present throughout the District including the larger towns of Grantham, Stamford, The Deepings and Bourne. However many villages throughout the District also have Cemeteries and Churchyards, which form an important part of the character of a settlement and provide multifunctional community facilities.

#### **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace**

5.43 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.

#### Quantity Assessment

5.44 There are 27 sites providing 1,264.31 ha of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in the District, which equates to 8.82 ha per 1,000 population.



### Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.45 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces which have been audited are listed in Appendix B in order of their quality, value scores are also shown. Quality audit scores are shown on Open Space Quality Audit Plan (ref: G9855.003.1-4) and value scores on the Open Space Value Audit Plan (ref: G9855.004.1-4).
- 5.46 11 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace sites received a full quality audit. The average quality score for Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space is 71 which is categorised as Good, as shown in Table 21. The greatest number of sites fall into the Fair banding and rest scored Excellent.

*Table 21: Quality Range for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace*

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
71	Good	0	8	0	0	3

- 5.47 The average value score for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace is 47 which equates to Medium value. Audited Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace sites achieved highest number of Medium value scores.

*Table 22: Value Range for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace*

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split		
		Low	Medium	High
47	Medium	20	53	15

### Accessibility Assessment

- 5.48 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace has been assigned an accessibility threshold of 480m under the current standards.
- 5.49 Open Space Accessibility - Existing Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Plan (G9855.005.2) illustrates that there is limited accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace around the urban areas in the District, however there is Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace in rural areas including accessible woodland at Deeping Lakes and Loveden Hill.

### **Outdoor Sports Facilities**

- 5.50 Outdoor Sports Facilities include both natural and artificial surfaces for sports and recreation that are owned and managed by local authorities, town and parish councils, sports associations, companies and individual sports clubs. This typology includes golf courses.

- 5.51 An updated Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been produced concurrently with this Study. This Study aligns with the PPS and provides a high level overview of Outdoor Sports Facilities as a part of the District's open space provision. Further analysis of sport specific demand is provided in the PPS.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.52 There are 136 sites providing 594.55 ha of Outdoor Sports Facilities in the District, which equates to 4.15 ha per 1,000 population.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.53 Outdoor Sports Facilities were not audited as part of this Study because they were audited as part of the PPS. The PPS should be referred to for a breakdown of specific sports provision.

Accessibility Assessment

- 5.54 Outdoor Sports Facilities have been assigned an accessibility threshold of 480m under the current standards.
- 5.55 Open Space Accessibility - Existing Outdoor Sports Facilities Plan (G9855.005.3) illustrates that there is good accessibility of Outdoor Sports Facilities around the urban areas in the District, including Grantham, Stamford, The Deepings and Bourne. Outdoor Sports Facilities including playing fields are common within more rural villages.

**Parks and Gardens**

- 5.56 Parks and Gardens are generally multi-functional spaces, providing a range of facilities including landscaped gardens, playing fields, play areas and facilities for outdoor sport provision.

Quantity Assessment

- 5.57 There are 60 sites providing 615.56 ha of Parks and Gardens in the District, which equates to 4.29 ha per 1,000 population.

Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.58 48 Parks and Gardens were audited and the sites are listed in Appendix B in order of their quality, value scores are also shown. The quality and value score is shown on Open Space Quality Audit Plan (ref: G9855.003.1-4) and Open Space Value Audit Plan (ref: G9855.004.1-4).
- 5.59 The average quality score for Parks and Gardens is 72 which is categorised as Good, as shown in Table 23.

Table 23: Quality Score for Parks and Gardens

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
72	Good	2	16	17	8	5

5.60 The average value score for Parks and Gardens is 48 which equates to Medium value. Audited Parks and Gardens sites achieved highest amount of Medium value score.

Table 24: Value Range for Parks and Gardens

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split		
		Low	Medium	High
48	Medium	12	29	7

#### Accessibility Assessment

- 5.61 Parks and Gardens have not been assigned an accessibility threshold under the current standards.
- 5.62 There are several Parks and Gardens mainly within the urban areas of Grantham, Stamford, The Deepings and Bourne.

#### **Provision for Children and Young People**

- 5.63 Provision for Children and Young People are areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, multi-use games areas and skateboard parks.

#### Quantity Assessment

- 5.64 There are 119 Provision for Children and Young People sites, providing 10.37 ha of Provision of Children and Young People which equates to 0.07 ha per 1,000 population.

#### Quality and Value Assessment

- 5.65 27 Provision for Children and Young People sites were audited and their quality scores are shown on Open Space Quality Audit Plan (ref: G9855.003.1-4). Value scores are shown on Plan Open Space Value Audit Plan (ref: G9855.004.1-4).
- 5.66 Quality scores for audited Provision for Children and Young People are summarised in Appendix B in order of their quality audit score. Value scores are also shown.

5.67 Table 25 shows that the average score for Provision for Children and Young People based on the site audits is 71 which falls into the Good banding. The greatest number of sites falls into the Fair banding.

*Table 25: Quality range for Provision for Children and Young People*

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
71	Good	2	10	6	6	3

5.68 The average value score for Provision for Children and Young People is 27 which equates to Low value.

*Table 26: Value Range for Provision for Children and Young People*

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split		
		Low	Medium	High
27	Low	23	3	1

Accessibility Assessment

5.69 Provision for Children and Young People has not been assigned an accessibility threshold under the current standards.

5.70 There are several Provision for Children and Young People sites within the urban areas of Grantham, Stamford, The Deepings and Bourne, and across the villages.

## 6.0 Setting Standards

- 6.1 This Study is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for Open Space, which have replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002).
- 6.2 Whilst the Companion Guide to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 has been superseded, it is acknowledged that the principals and approach within the guidance have not been replaced and it is still relevant to apply the methodology to assess needs for open space provision.
- 6.3 Recommended standards of provision are based on local assessment and analysis, and may be the same as a national recommended standard, if appropriate. Where current levels of provision do not meet a national recommended standard, this should be viewed as a minimum. Equally, the existing provision may already meet the future recommended standard and to lose it would significantly change the natural character of the area. By combining the existing level of provision with local views on its adequacy, it is possible to develop a range of new provision standards.

### Benchmark Standards

Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) (Fields in Trust)<sup>4</sup>

- 6.4 National Benchmark Standards are from Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2020) which replaces FiT's 2008 guidance Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play. Beyond the Six Acre Standard guidance reflects the NPPF, The Localism Act 2011 and the phased introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The guidance draws out new recommendations for accessibility and, alongside formal open space such as sports pitches and play areas, introduces benchmarking for informal open space (e.g. Amenity Green Space and Natural Green Space sites). The latest guidance has been informed by a survey commissioned by FiT in 2014 resulting in a response from 119 local authorities in England and Wales, representing a total response rate of 33%.
- 6.5 FiT National Benchmark Standards have been provided in Table 27 below.

*Table 27: Benchmark Standards from FiT*

Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard
Allotments and Community Gardens	No Standard
Amenity Greenspace	0.60
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	1.80

<sup>4</sup> [Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf \(fieldsintrust.org\)](https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf)



Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.60
Parks and Gardens	0.80
Provision for Children and Young People	0.25

### Natural England Green Infrastructure (GI) Framework (2023)

6.6 In January 2023, Natural England launched the Green Infrastructure Framework as a tool to help planners and developers turn towns and cities greener. The Framework provides a structure to analyse where greenspace in urban areas is needed the most, ensuring everyone can access good quality greenspace.

6.7 The Framework combines GI tools, standards and principles as well as design guidance, and covers five key standards:

- Urban Recovery Standard - aiming to boost nature recovery, integrate nature based solutions and building resilience to climate change.
- Urban Greening Factor - to improve GI provision and increase level of greening in urban areas, the standard is set at 0.4 for residential development.
- Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard - promotes an increase in tree canopy cover for urban environments.
- Accessible Greenspace Standards - promote access to good quality greenspace within 15 minutes' walk from home.
- Green Infrastructure Strategy - supports the NPPF's policy that local authorities should develop strategies and policies for GI.

### *Accessible Natural Green Space (Natural England)*

6.8 In 1996, English Nature (now Natural England) produced recommendations for the provision of accessible natural green space, this is often referred to as the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards model (ANGSt). This was updated through the publication of Natural England's GI Standards for England (2023), Appendix 2<sup>5</sup>. ANGSt was changed to the 'Accessible Greenspace Standard' with an initial focus on access to green and blue spaces within 15 minutes' walk from home.

6.9 The Accessible Greenspace Standard defines good provision based on different size, proximity, capacity and quality criteria as set out below:

6.10 Within 15 minutes' walk:

- Doorstep Greenspace - At least 0.5ha within 200m walk; or
- Local Natural Greenspace - At least 2ha within 300m walk.

AND

<sup>5</sup> [Green Infrastructure Standards for England Summary \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

- Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace - Medium sized open space (10ha) within 1km.

6.11 Beyond 15 minutes' walk:

- Wider Neighbourhood Natural Greenspace - A medium/large open space (20ha) within 2km; and
- District Natural Greenspace - A large open space (100ha) within 5km; and
- Sub-Regional Greenspace - A very large open space (500ha) within 10km.

6.12 The quality criteria for the Accessible Greenspace Standards aligns with the Green Flag Award Criteria.

#### Woodland Access Standard (Woodland Trust)

6.13 The Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard aspires to the following guidelines:

- no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 ha in size; and
- there should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes.

#### Additional Information on Allotment Standards

6.14 There is no legal national minimum quantity provision standard for allotments<sup>6</sup>.

6.15 The 1969 Thorpe Report recommended a minimum provision equivalent to 15 plots per 1,000 households<sup>7</sup>, which equates to 6.5 plots per 1,000 population or 0.16 ha per 1,000 population.

6.16 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommends a minimum level of provision of 20 allotment plots<sup>8</sup> per 1,000 households, which equates to 8.7 plots per 1,000 population or 0.21 ha per 1,000 population. NSALG advises that the standard plot size is 250 sq. metres.

6.17 A Review of Allotment Provision for Cambridge City Council<sup>9</sup>, stated that there is difficulty in considering a standard of provision based on household given the trend of falling household size since the 1950s. The report referenced the Survey of Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms, carried out by the University of Derby on behalf of Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in 2006, which showed that the national average provision was 7 plots per 1,000 population, which equates to 0.175 ha per 1,000 population.

6.18 In the FiT Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play Review, Phase 2 Survey Findings for England and Wales (2014), the median level of provision for allotments, community gardens and urban farms was 0.3 ha per 1,000 population.

6.19 A summary of national benchmark standards for allotments is provided in Table 28.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.allotmoreallotments.org.uk/legislation.html>

<sup>7</sup> Average Household size in England & Wales is 2.3 (2011 Census)

<sup>8</sup> Based on a standard plot of 250 m<sup>2</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Review of Allotment Provision for Cambridge City Council (Ashley Godfrey Associates, January 2010)

Table 28: Summary of National Benchmark Standards for Allotments

	No. of households	No. of Allotment plots per 1,000 household	Population (based on household size of 2.3)	Hectare (based on pilot size of 250m <sup>2</sup> )
Thorpe Report 1969	1,000	15	2,300	0.375
	-	6.5	1,000	0.16
NSALG	1,000	20	2,300	0.5
	-	8.7	1,000	0.21
University of Derby	-	7	1,000	0.175
	-	-	1,000	0.3

### South Kesteven District Existing Standards

- 6.20 The District's existing standards are set out in South Kesteven Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (April 2009) and South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Report (2017). These have been summarised below.

#### Quantity

- 6.21 Table 29 presents the existing District standards for each open space typology.

Table 29: Existing Quantity Standards (ha per 1,000 Population)

Open Space Typology	Existing Standard
Allotments and Community Gardens	No Standard
Amenity Greenspace	2.0 (combined standard with Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace)
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	2.0 (combined standard with Amenity Greenspace)
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.0
Parks and Gardens	0.3
Provision for Children and Young People	0.15

### Quality and Value

- 6.22 Standards in the South Kesteven Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (April 2009) and South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Report (2017) are not derived from the Green Flag Award scoring bands. Quality standards were identified through a series of principles for each typology and consultation feedback.

### Accessibility

- 6.23 Existing accessibility thresholds were based on a straight line-walking buffer as shown in Table 30.

*Table 30: Existing Accessibility Standards*

<b>Open Space Typology</b>	<b>Existing Accessibility Standard</b>
Allotments and Community Gardens	No Standard
Amenity Greenspace	480m
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	480m
Outdoor Sports Facilities	480m
Parks and Gardens	No Standard
Provision for Children and Young People	No Standard

## **Proposed Standards**

### Quantity

- 6.24 The proposed quantity standards are based on a review of the existing quantity provision in the District. The context of open space provision in the District is a strong consideration in setting standards since the standards should be locally derived based on supply and demand; as well as a consideration towards the differing nature of the sub-areas across District.
- 6.25 These considerations include protecting the existing amount of open space but also proposing new standards, where they align to information received through the consultation process, to meet national benchmark standards.

### *Allotments and Community Gardens*

- 6.26 There is currently no quantity standard for Allotments and Community Gardens and there is no FiT benchmark standard for Allotments. Provision should be based on demand for plots instead of an area per 1,000 population. Therefore this Study does not propose a quantity standard for Allotments and Community Gardens.

### *Amenity Greenspace*

- 6.27 There is currently no standalone standard for Amenity Greenspace, there is a combined standard (2.00 ha per 1,000 population) for Amenity Greenspace and Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace under 'Informal Greenspace'. This Study separates the two typologies to ensure a specific and achievable standard for each typology.
- 6.28 It is proposed to align the Amenity Greenspace standard to meet the FiT national benchmark standard of 0.6 ha per 1,000 population. Although this proposal does lead to a deficiency now and in 2041, Amenity Greenspace is easily integrated into new development. Furthermore respondents from the consultation considered there to be currently an 'Average' amount of Amenity Greenspace in the District.

### *Cemeteries and Churchyards*

- 6.29 There is no FiT benchmark standard for Cemeteries and Churchyards because the provision is based on need, which is determined through a Cemetery and Burial Strategy<sup>10</sup>, rather than this Study. However improvements can be made through quality and accessibility standards (see below).

### *Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace*

- 6.30 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace makes up the largest typology in the District with 1,264.31 ha. Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace is mainly within a few large sites in rural locations, rather than an even spread across the District or within villages.
- 6.31 There is currently no standalone standard for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, there is a combined standard (2.00 ha per 1,000 population) for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Amenity Greenspace under 'Informal Greenspace'. This Study separates the two typologies to ensure a specific and achievable standard for each typology.
- 6.32 It is proposed to retain the existing standard 2.0 ha per 1,000 population. This is higher than the FiT national benchmark of 1.8 ha per 1,000 population, however due to consultation feedback that identified a 'Good' amount of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (48.11%) and a surplus in provision currently within the District, this is appropriate.
- 6.33 When considering new areas of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, the north and south sub-areas should be prioritised as the central sub-area currently has a disproportionately higher amount of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace compared to the north and south sub-areas (see sub-area breakdown in Chapter 7.0).

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<sup>10</sup> South Kesteven District Council do not have one of these studies.



### *Outdoor Sports Facilities*

- 6.34 Respondents to the consultation believe there is a 'Good' provision of Outdoor Sports Facilities across the District and residents are happy to travel up to 30 mins to access facilities. Therefore it is proposed to increase the current standard of 1 ha per 1,000 population for Outdoors Sports Facilities standard to align with the FiT national benchmark of 1.6 ha per 1000 population. The proposed quantity standard is 1.60 ha per 1,000 population.
- 6.35 This is a high level standard for all Outdoor Sports Facilities. This standard should be used alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy, which breaks down Outdoor Sports Facilities by specific sport and demand.

### *Parks and Gardens*

- 6.36 Parks and Gardens provide the second largest amount of open space provision in the District (615.56ha). There is a higher proportion of Parks and Gardens in the central sub-area, due to Grimsthorpe Park to the north west of Bourne, Wellhead Park in Bourne and new open space provision being provided at Elsea Park in Bourne (see sub-area breakdown in Chapter 7.0).
- 6.37 The consultation respondents stated that there is currently a 'Good' provision of Parks and Gardens within the District. The current standard (0.30 ha per 1,000 population) for Parks and Gardens is below the FiT national benchmark and therefore it is proposed that the standard is increased.
- 6.38 It is proposed to set a new standard higher than the current standard at 0.50 ha per 1,000 population, this is slightly below the FiT national benchmark of 0.8 ha per 1,000 population. Provision across the District is not evenly spread, and new Park and Gardens provision can be challenging to deliver due to their formal nature, funding and practical delivery.

### *Provision for Children and Young People*

- 6.39 It is proposed to retain the quantity standard of 0.15 ha per 1,000 population which equates to a small deficiency now and in 2041. This standard is below the FiT National Benchmark of 0.25 ha per 1,000 population, however respondents from the consultation stated that they believe there is an 'Average' provision currently and it's important to ensure the standard is achievable.
- 6.40 Additional provision should be delivered through new development and quality and multi-functionality should be improved to the existing provision where possible.

Table 31: Proposed Quantity Standards for the District

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	National Benchmark	Existing Standard (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.35	No Standard	No Standard	No Standard
Amenity Greenspace	0.50	0.60	2.00	0.60
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.45	No Standard	No Standard	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	8.82	1.80	2.00	2.00
Outdoor Sports Facilities	4.15	1.60	1.00	1.60
Parks and Gardens	4.29	0.80	0.30	0.50
Provision for Children and Young People	0.07	0.25	0.15	0.15

### Surplus and Deficiencies by Quantity Standard

#### *Current Surplus and Deficiencies*

- 6.41 Table 32 compares the existing quantity provision against the proposed quantity standards for the District to show the surplus and deficiency for the current population (figures from ONS MSOA 2021) as detailed in Chapter 4.

Table 32: Existing Quantity Provision against the Proposed Quantity Standard

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.35	No Standard	-
Amenity Greenspace	0.50	0.60	-0.10

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.45	No Standard	-
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	8.82	2.0	6.82
Outdoor Sports Facilities	4.15	1.60	2.55
Parks and Gardens	4.29	0.50	3.79
Provision for Children and Young People	0.07	0.15	-0.08
<b>Total</b> Rounded to two decimal places	<b>18.63</b>	-	-

#### Future Surplus and Deficiencies

6.42 Table 33 compares the future quantity provision against the proposed quantity standards for District to show surplus and deficiency for the future projected population by 2041.

Table 33: Future Quantity Provision against the proposed standard

Open Space Typology	Future Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.33	No Standard	-
Amenity Greenspace	0.46	0.6	-0.14
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.42	No Standard	-
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	8.16	2.0	6.16
Outdoors Sports Facilities	3.84	1.60	2.24

Open Space Typology	Future Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Parks and Gardens	3.97	0.50	3.47
Provision for Children and Young People	0.07	0.15	-0.08
<b>Total</b> Rounded to two decimal places	<b>17.25</b>	-	-

### Accessibility

6.43 The accessibility standards in South Kesteven Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (April 2009) and South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Report (2017) are to be retained or updated to meet FiT National Benchmark guidance. These are summarised below and in

6.44 Table 34.

#### *Allotments and Community Gardens*

6.45 There is no existing or benchmark accessibility standards for allotments. Like the quantity standard, it is not appropriate to set an accessibility standard due to their usage being restricted.

#### *Amenity Greenspace*

6.46 The current accessibility standard of 480m is combined with Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace under 'informal outdoor space'. An accessibility standard of 480m aligns with the FiT National Benchmark and responses from the community consultation (Chapter 4). Therefore it is proposed to retain the current accessibility standard.

#### *Cemeteries and Churchyards*

6.47 There is no existing or benchmark accessibility standard for Cemeteries and Churchyards due to provision being based on a burial strategy<sup>11</sup>.

#### *Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace*

<sup>11</sup> South Kesteven District Council currently do not have a Burial Strategy.

6.48 The current accessibility standard of 480m is combined with Amenity Greenspace under 'informal outdoor space'. Although a 480m distance is reasonable to Amenity Greenspace, it is generally acceptable to walk, cycle or drive further to areas of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, which was supported by the community consultation (Chapter 4). The proposed accessibility standard for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace is 720m which aligns to the National Benchmark.

*Outdoors Sports Facilities*

6.49 According to the Open Space Accessibility - Existing - Outdoor Sports Facilities Plan (G9855.005.3) there is good accessibility to Outdoor Sports Facilities in the main towns of Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and The Deepings and the community consultation respondents were willing to travel up to 30 minutes to access Outdoor Sports Facilities. The current standard of 480m is lower than the FiT National Benchmark of 1,200m and therefore it is proposed to update the standard to 1,200m so that it aligns with the FiT National Benchmark.

*Parks and Gardens*

6.50 There is no current adopted accessibility standard for Parks and Gardens for the District. The respondents from the community consultation stated that they wanted to be able to walk to a Park and Gardens within 15-20 minutes. This aligns with the FiT National Benchmark guidance of 710m. The proposed accessibility standard for Parks and Gardens is 710m.

*Provision for Children and Young People*

6.51 There is no current adopted accessibility standard for Provision for Children and Young People. The community consultation concluded that provision should be within 10-30 minutes' walk, which aligns with the FiT National Benchmark for walking distances to LAPs (100m), LEAPs (400m) and NEAPs (1,000m).

*Table 34: Accessibility Standards*

<b>Open Space Typology</b>	<b>National Benchmark Standard</b>	<b>Adopted Accessibility Standard</b>	<b>Proposed Accessibility Standard</b>
Allotments and Community Gardens	No Standard	No Standard	No Standard
Amenity Greenspace	480 metres	480m	480m
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No Standard	No Standard	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	720 metres	480m	720m



Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard	Adopted Accessibility Standard	Proposed Accessibility Standard
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1,200m	480m	1,200m
Parks and Gardens	710 metres	No Standard	710m
Provision for Children and Young People	LAP - 100m LEAP - 400m NEAP - 1000m	No Standard	LAP - 100m LEAP - 400m NEAP - 1000m

### Quality

6.52 There is no existing quality assessment or benchmarking in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2009) or Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Report (2017). The 2009 Study recommends the following approach to improving the quality of an open space where additional open space cannot be provided including:

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

6.53 The new proposed quality standard for open space across District is based on the Green Flag Award criteria, which is considered best practice guidance for open space quality. A Green Flag Award would be awarded to a site which passes a full assessment award criteria which is based on official standards set and recognised in the United Kingdom and internationally.

6.54 The Green Flag Award Raising the Standard Manual<sup>12</sup> has eight sections of assessment, however for the purposes of is Study, Section 1: A Welcoming Place, Section 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure and Section 3: Well Maintained, were used to audit each site and assess each open space typology. The assessment criteria selected is appropriate to apply to all typologies of open space. Section 1 assesses the signage, accessibility for a wide range of visitors, entrance presentation and the maintenance and definition of boundaries. Section 2 takes into consideration the safety and security of facilities, shelter from the weather, lighting and clear sightlines. Section 3 considers the overall cleanliness of the site and the soft and hard landscaping features present.

6.55 The bandings for the quality audits are as follows:

- Excellent - 90% to 100%
- Very Good - 80% to 89%
- Good - 70% to 79%
- Fair - 50% to 69%
- Poor - 0% to 49%

6.56 A summary of the quality audit scores is provided in Chapter 5, which has been considered as part of the proposed quality standards.

**The proposed quality standard of 70% ensures that all sites achieve at least a Good quality score.**

6.57 The national benchmark standards and proposed standards for the District are set out in Table 35.

*Table 35: Benchmark and Proposed Quality Standard*

Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard	Proposed Standard
Parks and Gardens	Parks to be of Green Flag status. Appropriately landscaped. Positive management.	The national benchmark based on the Green Flag Award should be applied so that sites obtain a Quality Score of <b>70%</b> or above to achieve a <b>Good Quality Score</b> .
Amenity Greenspace	Provision of footpaths. Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.	

<sup>12</sup> [green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf \(greenflagaward.org\)](https://www.greenflagaward.org/guidelines)

Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard	Proposed Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace		
Allotments and Community Gardens	No standard in the guidance, but it can be assumed the same standards as above apply to other types of green space.	
Cemeteries and Churchyards		
Provision for Children and Young People	Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards. Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.	

### Value

- 6.58 The proposed value standard for open spaces in the District is based on 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17<sup>11</sup> (September 2002).
- 6.59 A summary of the site audit value scores is provided in Chapter 5, which has been considered as part of the proposed value standards.
- 6.60 The bandings for the open space value audits are as follows:
- High - 60 to 100%
  - Medium - 40 to 59%
  - Low - 0 to 39%

**The proposed Value Standard of 40% ensures that all sites achieve a Medium value score.**

- 6.61 Adding value to open space is very important as it enables them to provide more ecosystem services and the benefits that can be derived from them. Value can be added in a multitude of ways to draw out their context, heritage, local amenity/ sense of place, recreation, play and ecological value.

*Table 36: Value Standards for the District by Open Space Typology*

Open Space Typology	Proposed Standard
Allotments and Community Gardens	Sites obtain a Value score of <b>40%</b> and above to ensure all sites achieve a <b>Medium</b> Value score.

Open Space Typology	Proposed Standard
Amenity Greenspace	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	
Civic Space	
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	
Outdoor Sports Facilities	
Parks and Gardens	
Provision for Children and Young People	

## 7.0 Applying Standards

- 7.1 This Chapter analyses the open space provision in each of the 3 sub-areas across the District. This includes details on each open space typology, including quantity, quality and accessibility. Considering the existing provision against the individual characteristics of each sub-area, including the socio-economic factors, will help inform the most appropriate means of future open space provision. Whilst analysis at a sub-area level provides a level of detail to help decision making, it is not the intention that each sub-area should have equal provision due to differences in population.
- 7.2 Tables in each section provide a breakdown of open space provision by sub-area as well as where the proposed open space quantity standards are being met. Additional commentary is provided about whether there is access to open space, as quantity should not be considered as the only measure of provision, particularly at a sub-area level as people access open spaces regardless of the geographical sub-area boundaries used in this Study.

### 1. North Sub-Area

#### Sub-Area Analysis

- 7.3 The North Sub-Area is characterised by rural villages and countryside to the north, and Grantham to the south. Grantham is the largest town in the District and a sub-regional centre. Grantham is a key location for new development including plans for a sustainable urban extension (SUE) to the south of Grantham at Spitalgate.
- 7.4 Grantham has a range of open space typologies including three Green Flag Award Parks - Dysart Park, Queen Elizabeth Park and Wyndham Park.
- 7.5 The villages to the north of the sub-area, generally include Churchyards and Cemeteries, Allotments and Amenity Greenspace. Provision for Children and Young People such as Local Areas Play (LAP) are also common, however residents are likely to travel to neighbouring settlements or Grantham to access larger play provision such as Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) or Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA).
- 7.6 The current population (2021) of the North Sub-Area is 55,858 and the estimated future population is projected to be 60,327 up to 2041. The North Sub-Area has the largest population across South Kesteven.
- 7.7 There are 241 sites in the sub-area which provide 390.29 hectares of open space.
- 7.8 Table 37 shows a breakdown of current and future provision by typology in the North Sub-Area. Open Space Typologies - North Sub-Area Plan (ref: G9855.002.2) shows open space typologies across the North Sub-Area

Table 37: North Sub-Area Existing and Future Standards and Provision by Typology

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	2041 Provision (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	22.33	No Standard	0.40	0.37
Amenity Greenspace	26.37	0.60	0.47	0.44
Cemeteries and Churchyards	22.73	No Standard	0.41	0.38
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	37.02	2.00	0.66	0.61
Outdoor Sports Facilities	247.64	1.60	4.43	4.10
Parks and Gardens	30.10	0.50	0.54	0.50
Provision for Children and Young People	4.09	0.15	0.07	0.07

### Accessibility Analysis

- 7.9 The North Sub-Area has good accessibility to open space, as shown on Open Space Accessibility - Existing Plan (G9855.005.1-3).
- 7.10 Grantham has the widest range of open space and has larger open space sites compared to the villages which is expected in an urban area. In Grantham there is good access to Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People.
- 7.11 The villages to the north of Grantham have limited accessibility to open space, however several larger villages including Allington, Long Bennington, Marston, Ancaster, Caythorpe and Fulbeck have good accessibility to open space typologies such as Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People.



- 7.12 The River Witham and Grantham Canal run through the centre of Grantham and there are several accessible open spaces which provide connectivity from the north of Grantham to the south. Sites include Queen Elizabeth Park (Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace), Wyndham Park (Park and Gardens) and Dysart Park (Park and Gardens). This area has potential to be developed further for open space and connectivity along the river.
- 7.13 There is limited accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace due to the provision mainly being within a few large sites. Londonthorpe Wood and Londonthorpe Scrubs (Natural Semi-Natural Greenspace), Belton Park (Park and Garden), Belton Park Golf Club (Outdoor Sports Facilities) and Belton Woods Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort (Outdoors Sports Facilities) are all to the north east of Grantham. These sites are not all accessible to the public, only Londonthorpe Woods and Londonthorpe Scrubs are accessible without an entrance fee.

#### Quality Analysis

- 7.14 Open Space Quality Audit - North Sub-Area Plan (ref: G9855.003.2) shows the quality banding for each of the audited sites within the North Sub-Area.
- 7.15 85 open spaces were audited in the North Sub-Area, of these 10 open spaces scored Excellent and 32 Very Good. The highest quality sites comprise of Parks and Gardens, Cemeteries and Churchyards and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, including Dysart Park (92%), Wyndham Park (98%) and Queen Elizabeth Park (98%).
- 7.16 A summary of the quality audit results for the sub-areas can be found in Appendix B.

#### Value Analysis

- 7.17 Open Space Value Audit - North Sub-Area Plan (ref: G9855.004.2) shows the Value score from for each of the audited sites.
- 7.18 20 sites achieved a High value score, and 42 Medium score.
- 7.19 The highest Value site was Queen Elizabeth Park, followed by Wyndham Park and Dysart Park.
- 7.20 A summary of the quality audit results for the sub-areas can be found in Appendix B.

#### Future Provision

- 7.21 Table 38 below shows the current and future surplus and deficiency for each open space typology within the North Sub-Area when applying the proposed standards. There is a population trajectory for the North Sub-Area of **60,327 people by 2041**.

*Table 38: North Sub-Area Open Space Provision Current and Future*

Open Space Typology	Current (2021) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2041) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a

Open Space Typology	Current (2021) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2041) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Amenity Greenspace	-0.13	-0.16
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-1.34	-1.39
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.83	2.50
Parks and Gardens	0.04	0.00
Provision for Children and Young People	-0.08	-0.08

## 2. Central Sub-Area

### Sub-Area Analysis

- 7.22 The Central Sub-Area comprises of rural villages and countryside to the east of the District and the town of Bourne to the south west. Villages are predominantly clustered along the road network which provides access to larger towns and villages. Villages generally include open space typologies such as Churchyards and Cemeteries, Allotments, Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People.
- 7.23 Bourne is one of the largest settlements in the District providing a range of facilities for the surrounding villages. Bourne has a wide range of existing open space typologies and new open spaces are being created within the new Elsa Park development to the south of Bourne.
- 7.24 The Central Sub-Area features large areas of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace including woodlands such as Temple Wood, Twyford Wood, Bourne Wood and Morkery Wood, which are accessible via a network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW).
- 7.25 The current population (2021) of the Central Sub-Area is 42,658 and **the estimated future population is projected to be 46,071**. The Central Sub-Area has the smallest current population across the District.
- 7.26 There are 287 open space sites which provide 2,003.92 hectares equating to 46.97 ha per 1,000 population (2021). Table 39 shows a breakdown of current and future provision by typology in the Central Sub-Area. Open Space Typology Plan (ref: G9855.002.3) shows open space typologies across the Central Sub-Area.

*Table 39: Central Open Space Provision by Typology*

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	2041 Provision (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	7.87	No Standard	0.18	0.17
Amenity Greenspace	25.31	0.60	0.59	0.55
Cemeteries and Churchyards	25.17	No Standard	0.59	0.55
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	1,164.77	2.00	27.30	25.28
Outdoor Sports Facilities	211.87	1.60	4.97	4.60
Parks and Gardens	566.28	0.50	13.27	12.29
Provision for Children and Young People	2.65	0.15	0.06	0.06

### Accessibility Analysis

- 7.27 As the largest settlement with the Central Sub-Area, Bourne has good accessibility to all typologies, apart from Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace which is limited to Bourne Wood to the north west.
- 7.28 New development to the south west of Bourne has introduced new Park and Garden, Amenity Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Provision for Children and Young People typologies.
- 7.29 Most villages within the Central Sub-Area have at least one open space typology. Several larger villages such as Rippingale, Billingborough, Folkingham, Ingoldsby, Ropsley, Great Ponton, Colsterworth, Corby Glen and Castle Bytham have a variety of open space which means good accessibility to a range of typologies.
- 7.30 Rural villages generally have good accessibility to the open countryside via the PRow network.

### Quality Analysis

- 7.31 The quality banding for audited sites is shown on the Open Space Quality Audit - Central Sub-Area Plan (ref: G9855.003.3).
- 7.32 There were 105 open spaces audited within the Central Sub-Area including 4 sites which achieved an Excellent quality score and 12 which scored Very Good. The highest quality sites comprise of Amenity Greenspace and Cemeteries and Churchyards, including Aisby Village Green (98%), Welby Parish Church (95%) and Kenilworth Road Amenity Greenspace (91%).
- 7.33 There were 4 open spaces audited as Poor quality which comprised of Provision for Children and Young People, Cemeteries and Churchyards and Parks and Gardens.
- 7.34 A summary of the quality audit results for the sub-areas can be found in Appendix B.

### Value Analysis

- 7.35 Open Space Value Audit - Central Sub-Area Plan (ref: G9855.004.3) shows each open space and the Value score from the open space audits.
- 7.36 There were 9 open spaces audited which scored a High value and 60 Medium. High value open space included Amenity Greenspace, Cemeteries and Churchyards and Parks and Gardens. The highest scoring open spaces include Welby Parish Church (73%), Aisby Village Green (69%) and Kenilworth Road Amenity Greenspace (64%).
- 7.37 A summary of the quality audit results for the sub-areas can be found in Appendix B.

### Future Provision

- 7.38 Table 40 below shows the current and future surplus and deficiency for each open space typology within the Central Sub-Area when applying the proposed standards. **There is a population trajectory for the Central Sub-Area of 46,071 people by 2041.**

*Table 40: Central Sub-Area Open Space Provision Current and Future*

Open Space Typology	Current (2021) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2041) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.01	-0.05
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	25.30	23.28
Outdoor Sports Facilities	3.37	3.00

Open Space Typology	Current (2021) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2041) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Parks and Gardens	12.77	11.79
Provision for Children and Young People	-0.09	-0.09

### 3. South Sub-Area

#### Sub-Area Analysis

- 7.39 The South Sub-Area includes the towns of Stamford and The Deepings and a number of villages. Stamford is one of the three main Market Towns identified for new development, including a new SUE to the north of the town (Stamford North SUE).
- 7.40 Stamford and The Deepings both have a wide variety of open spaces typologies which contribute to the historic setting and character of the towns.
- 7.41 The current population (2021) of the South Sub-Area is 44,903 and **the estimated future population is projected to be 48,495.**
- 7.42 There are 206 sites which provide 276.71ha of open space provision across the sub-area. This equates to 6.16ha per 1,000 population (2021).
- 7.43 Table 41 shows a breakdown of current and future provision by typology in the South Sub-Area. .Open Space Typology - South Sub-Area Plan (ref: G9855.002.4) shows open space typologies across the South Sub-Area.

*Table 41: South Sub-Area Open Space Provision by Typology*

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	2041 Provision (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	20.14	No Standard	0.45	0.42
Amenity Greenspace	19.66	0.60	0.44	0.41
Cemeteries and Churchyards	16.54	No Standard	0.37	0.34
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	62.52	2.00	1.39	1.29



Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	2041 Provision (ha/1,000)
Outdoor Sports Facilities	135.04	1.60	3.01	2.78
Parks and Gardens	19.18	0.50	0.43	0.40
Provision for Children and Young People	3.62	0.15	0.08	0.07

#### Accessibility Analysis

- 7.44 The main towns of Stamford and The Deepings generally have good accessibility to all typologies except Natural and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.
- 7.45 There is no access to Amenity Greenspace in the southern part of Stamford, however there is access to a large Park and Garden (Town Meadows).
- 7.46 The villages around Stamford and The Deepings have good access to Provision for Children and Young People and Parks and Gardens. Several villages do not have access to Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace or Outdoor Sports Facilities.

#### Quality Analysis

- 7.47 Open Space Quality Audit - South Sub-Area Plan (ref: G9855.003.4) shows each open space and the Quality score from the open space audits.
- 7.48 There were 74 open spaces audited within the South Sub-Area including 13 sites which achieved an Excellent quality score, and 10 a Very Good score. A range of open space typologies achieved an Excellent score including Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Cemeteries and Churchyards, Parks and Gardens and Allotments and Community Gardens. The highest scored open spaces included East End Recreation Ground in Langtoft (99%), Shillingthorpe Hall Grounds (97%), Stowe Road Recreation Ground (96%) and Empingham Road Community Garden (95%).
- 7.49 There were 3 open spaces which received a Poor quality scores including those in the Provision for Children and Young People and Amenity Greenspace typologies.
- 7.50 A summary of the quality audit results for the sub-areas can be found in Appendix B.

#### Value Analysis

- 7.51 Open Space Value Audit - South Sub-Area Plan (ref: G9855.004.4) shows each open space and the Value score from the open space audits.

7.52 There were 3 open spaces which achieved a High value score including Glebe Park (62%) and 18 a Medium value score including Town Meadows in Stamford (57%).

7.53 A summary of the quality audit results for the sub-areas can be found in Appendix B.

Future Provision

7.54 Table 42 below shows the current and future surplus and deficiency for each open space typology within the South Sub-Area when applying the proposed standards. There is a population trajectory for the South Sub-Area of **48,495 people by 2041**.

*Table 42: South Sub-Area Open Space Provision Current and Future*

Open Space Typology	Current (2021) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2041) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	n/a	n/a
Amenity Greenspace	-0.16	-0.19
Cemeteries and Churchyards	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	-0.61	-0.71
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.41	1.18
Parks and Gardens	-0.07	-0.10
Provision for Children and Young People	-0.07	-0.08

## 8.0 Recommendations

### Adopt the Recommended Standards

- 8.1 This Study is in line with the NPPF (2023) and PPG for Open Space, which have replaced PPG 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to PPG 17 (2002).
- 8.2 This Study has reviewed open space provision within the District and by sub-area including an analysis of quantity, accessibility, quality and value.
- 8.3 This Study has resulted in recommendations for standards which are robust and can form a basis for addressing any deficiencies resulting from proposed development and projected population increases.
- 8.4 It is recommended that the proposed standards are adopted by the Council to support the delivery and implementation of Local Plan policies to 2041.

### Standards and New Development

#### Open Space Assessment for New Development

- 8.5 Under the NPPF (paragraph 103) existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment is undertaken clearly showing land or buildings are surplus to requirement or the loss will be replaced or the development is for an alternative sport and recreational provision, which benefits outweigh the former use.
- 8.6 Any assessment should consider quantity, quality, accessibility, as well as the surplus and deficiencies of open space provision. When assessing individual sites, accessibility should consider physical barriers such as rivers, main roads and railway lines to alternative open spaces.

#### New Development

- 8.7 There is a growing emphasis on open space to help tackle climate change, create flood risk resilience, reverse biodiversity decline and provide many health and wellbeing benefits for the immediate and wider community.
- 8.8 This Study demonstrates that the community and stakeholders use Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Parks and Gardens the most frequently and these typologies should be prioritised. When applying current and future proposed standards, there is a deficiency District wide in Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People.
- 8.9 The results of this Study should be used to identify which typology(ies) to include as part of new development. Under the NPPF (paragraph 185) and the Natural Environment PPG measurable net gain should be sought for biodiversity (Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)) on-site or where this is not possible off-site. This requirement will become mandatory for new development in February 2024<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Timescales up to date at the time of writing the Study.

- 8.10 Open space should be considered from the outset of new development, especially for large scale development that may contain several open space typologies and connections to existing open space.
- 8.11 Funding through planning obligations should be used to improve the quality of existing open space, as well as improving walking and cycling accessibility to open spaces through provision of improved connectivity. A developer contributions calculator could assist with the open space requirements associated with new development.

### **Open Space Guidance Documents**

#### Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

- 8.12 SPD's cover a wide range of issues giving detailed guidance on how policies or proposals in development plan documents will be implemented. An SPD can take the form of a design guide, development brief, masterplan or an issue-based document.
- 8.13 An SPD could be published to outline the open space requirements of new developments to:
- protect, replace or enhance open spaces impacted by development proposals;
  - Implement standards proposed in this Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study; and
  - Review local open space provision in regard to the increase in population.

### **Multi-functional Open Space**

- 8.14 Wherever possible, the Council should look to open spaces to deliver multiple functions, which in turn will increase their quality and value including:
- Recreation;
  - Green travel route;
  - Aesthetic;
  - Shading from the sun;
  - Evaporative cooling;
  - Trapping air pollutants;
  - Noise absorption;
  - Habitat for wildlife;
  - Connectivity for wildlife;
  - Heritage;
  - Cultural;
  - Carbon storage;
  - Food production;
  - Wind shelter;
  - Education;
  - Water storage;
  - Water infiltration; and
  - Water interception.

## Long-Term Management of Open Spaces for New Development

### Application of Standards

- 8.15 It is recommended that the proposed standards are adopted as policy, as part of the emerging Local Plan review. New development should use the standards outlined in this document to integrate well designed, quality open space which are accessible for all communities, taking into consideration different age groups, abilities, ethnicities and gender.

### Management of Open Space

- 8.16 Once development has been granted planning permission, implemented on the site and practical completion has been achieved, the open space on site is usually either transferred to the District Council, Parish Council or managing organisation (e.g. third party Management Company, or resident led Management Company).
- 8.17 A Landscape Management Plan is essential for the long-term management of open space and should be produced prior to the transfer of open space. Furthermore from early 2024 it will be mandatory that every new development which has BNG, will be accompanied by a 30 year Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan to ensure BNG commitments are achieved.
- 8.18 All Landscape (or Habitat) Management Plans should provide the following minimum information:
- Desktop review of the site including context, designations and history;
  - Site specific information including ecology, arboriculture and public rights of way;
  - Aims and objective for the management of the Site;
  - Management organisation who will be responsible for the open space post-practical completion;
  - Funding of long term maintenance of the Site;
  - Specific management intentions and maintenance prescriptions to achieve the BNG target conditions for each habitat, and to ensure open space functions as intended; and
  - Procedure of review and monitoring of the open space and the Landscape Management Plan.
- 8.19 It is the developer's responsibility to inform buyers of new properties of the requirement to pay for an annual maintenance contribution (Service Charge/Estate Fee).
- 8.20 Once open space has been transferred to a management organisation, the Council or other organisation, it is no longer the developer's responsibility to manage the open space. Any costs or other resident commitments in relation to the management of open space on new developments (e.g. service charge) should be flagged by the appointed solicitor during the conveyancing process to residents.
- 8.21 The Council will not routinely adopt open space provided as part of new development. The Council may adopt open space which has strategic value within the District, e.g. those which draw visitors from further afield.

- 8.22 Where the management organisation or other managing body does not adhere to the maintenance objectives and operations outlined in the Landscape or Habitat Management Plan, the issues should be escalated with the relevant organisation.



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## **APPENDIX A: PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY REVIEW**

# 1.0 Planning Policy

## National Policy Context

### National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), December 2023)

1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in December 2023 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. The NPPF is a material consideration in decision and Local Plan making. The NPPF requirements in relation to open space are outlined in the following paragraphs.

1.2 The NPPF defines 'open space' 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".*

#### *Plan-Making*

1.3 Paragraph 20 outlines that Strategic Policies as set by local authorities should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of places, making specific provision for the '*conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation*'.

#### *Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities*

1.4 Paragraph 96 states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, safe and accessible places which promote social interaction and enable and support healthy lifestyles.

1.5 Paragraph 102 states that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.

1.6 Paragraph 103 states that existing open space, including sports and recreational buildings and playing fields, should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space is surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision.

#### *Local Green Space Designation*

1.7 Paragraphs 105 to 107 in the NPPF set out the Local Green Space designation as a way for communities to identify and protect green space of particular importance to them through local and neighbourhood plans. In order for the Local Green Space designation to be used the green space must be:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community, it serves;
- demonstrably special to the local community with a particular local significance (aesthetically, historical, recreational or environmental); and
- local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

1.8 The NPPF states that local policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

*Achieving Well-Designed and Beautiful Places*

1.9 Paragraph 136 states that trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined and that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments and that appropriate measures are put in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly planted trees, and that existing are retained where possible.

*Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change*

1.10 The NPPF emphasises that responding to climate change is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

1.11 Paragraph 158 states that plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, considering the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts.

1.12 Furthermore paragraph 159 states that new development should be planned to avoid increased impacts from climate change. In areas which are vulnerable from impacts of climate change these should be mitigated against and managed through suitable adaption measures, such as green infrastructure.

*Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment*

1.13 Paragraph 180 states that the planning system has a role to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. Valued landscapes and ecosystems should be protected, with development prevented from adversely affecting soil, air or water, or from causing noise pollution and land instability.

1.14 The NPPF states in Paragraph 185 that local planning authorities should plan to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity. This should be achieved through identifying and mapping local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them. Furthermore, plans should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

- 1.15 Paragraph 186 states when determining planning applications consideration should be made to promote opportunities for biodiversity improvement in and around developments. Biodiversity should also be integrated as part of a developments design, especially where this can be secured through measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.
- 1.16 With regards to green infrastructure (GI), paragraph 187 states that the following designated sites should be given the same protection as habitat sites:
- potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Area of Conservation;
  - listed or proposed Ramsar Sites; and
  - sites identified as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitat sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Area of Conservation and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.
- 1.17 With regards to green infrastructure (GI), paragraph 192 states that there are opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts through the provision and enhancement of GI.
- Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities; Public Rights of Way; and Local Green Space<sup>1</sup> (DLUHC, March 2014)
- 1.18 This planning practice guidance (PPG) provides advice on open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way (PRoW) and the Local Green Space designation. The guidance states that it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. It describes the Local Green Space designation in further detail than the NPPF.
- Healthy and Safe Communities<sup>2</sup> (DLUHC, March 2014 updated August 2022)
- 1.19 The Healthy and Safe Communities PPG sets out key advice on the how to account for health and wellbeing in the planning process in two ways:
- Creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles; and
  - Identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care and the wider health and care system.
- 1.20 This PPG states how planning can influence the built environment to improve health, and reduce levels of obesity in local communities.
- 1.21 The PPG also covers the promotion of the benefits of estate regeneration and supporting safe communities.
- Climate Change<sup>3</sup> (DLUHC, June 2014 updated March 2019)
- 1.22 The Climate Change PPG advises how to identify suitable mitigation and adaptation measures in the planning process to address the impacts of climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> [Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [Healthy and safe communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>3</sup> [Climate change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

1.23 The PPG states that the impact of climate change needs to be considered in a realistic way and, as part of this, local planning authorities should identify no or low cost responses to climate risks that deliver a multitude of benefits, for example, GI that improves adaption, biodiversity and amenity.

1.24 Furthermore, the Climate Change PPG states that when Local Authorities are preparing Local Plans and taking planning decisions, they should pay particular attention to integrating adaptation and mitigation approaches and looking for 'win-win' solutions. For example, the provision of multi-functional GI can reduce urban heat islands, manage flooding and help species adapt to climate change whilst also contributing to a pleasant environment that encourages people to walk and cycle.

Natural Environment<sup>4</sup> (DLUHC, January 2016 updated July 2019)

1.25 The Natural Environment PPG advises on land of environmental value, GI, biodiversity and ecosystems and landscape.

1.26 The PPG highlights the importance of GI as a natural capital asset. These include community benefits such as enhancing wellbeing, outdoor recreation, food and energy production and mitigating the effects of climate change, such as urban cooling and flood risk management.

1.27 The PPG also identifies the benefits of wider environmental net gain to reduce pressure on and achieve overall improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefit they deliver.

Flood Risk and Coastal Change<sup>5</sup> (DLUHC, March 2014 updated August 2022)

1.28 The Flood Risk and Coastal Change PPG advises how to take account of, and address the risks associated with flooding and coastal change in the planning process.

1.29 The PPG highlights that open spaces provide opportunities to reduce overall flood risk in a development area and beyond. Sustainable drainage systems provide opportunities such as combining water management with green space with associated benefits for amenity, recreation and wildlife.

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment<sup>6</sup> (January 2018 updated February 2023)

1.30 The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) sets out government actions to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats.

1.31 Policies are divided into key areas to focus actions:

- Using and managing land sustainability;
- 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;

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<sup>4</sup> [Natural environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>5</sup> [Flood risk and coastal change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>6</sup> [25-year-environment-plan.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
- Protecting and improving the global environment.

1.32 In 2023 an Environment Improvement Plan (EIP)<sup>7</sup> was published. This is the first revision of the 25YEP with a new plan setting out how the Government will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help the Government to restore nature, reduce environmental pollution and increase prosperity.

## Local Policy Context

### South Kesteven District Council Local Plan<sup>8</sup> (2011-2036)

1.33 The South Kesteven District Council Local Plan was adopted in January 2020. The Local Plan sets out the Council's long-term vision, objectives, spatial strategy and planning policies for District for the period up until 2036.

#### *Vision*

1.34 The vision for the District is:

*"To maximise the potential of the District, through supporting the delivery of jobs, growing the economy, enhancing the role of the town centres, and enabling villages and smaller settlements to deliver appropriate forms of sustainable growth. Together these will aim to provide a high quality of life to residents throughout the District, making South Kesteven a place where people want to live, work, invest and visit".*

#### *Objectives*

1.35 To achieve this vision, several strategic objectives have been set out within the Local Plan, the following relate to open space:

- Objective 5 - To facilitate and sustain a network of sustainable communities which offer a sense of place that are safe, inclusive and can respond to the needs of local people;
- Objective 11 - Support new and existing community infrastructure, to ensure that relevant community and other infrastructure needs such as facilities for leisure, new or enhanced open space provision and green infrastructure, arises from new developments and will be delivered through on and off-site contributions;
- Objective 12 - To protect and promote the enhancement, sensitive use and management of the District's natural, historic, cultural assets, green infrastructure (including trees and woodland) and the built environment through good design and improved networks;
- Objective 13 - To plan for and reduce the impacts of climate change by ensuring that new development is not exposed unnecessarily to the risk of flooding nor the risk of flooding elsewhere. The opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure (including trees and woodland), and the adaptation for wildlife as a response to the increase in flood risk are properly investigated; and

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<sup>7</sup> [Environmental Improvement Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>8</sup> [Local Plan 2011-2036 \(Final inc covers\) \(1\).pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](https://southkesteven.gov.uk)



- Objective 15 - To minimise pollution which affects health and wellbeing.

*Sustainable Development*

- 1.36 Policy SD1 The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven, states that new development will be expected to minimise the impact on climate change and contribute towards creating a strong, stable and diverse economy.
- 1.37 Development proposals should consider how they can proactively avoid:
- Developing on land which is at risk of flooding or where development would exasperate the risk of flooding elsewhere; and
  - The pollution of air, land, water, noise and light.
- 1.38 Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively enhance the District's character, natural environment, cultural and heritage assets and services and infrastructure, as needed to support development and growth proposals.

*Spatial Strategy:*

- 1.39 Policy SP1 The Spatial Strategy, aims to deliver sustainable growth, which will create strong, sustainable, cohesive and inclusive communities.
- 1.40 Policy SP2 Settlement Hierarchy, identifies Grantham, Stamford, The Deepings (including Market Deeping and Deeping St. James), Bourne and larger villages as a focus for development.

*Grantham*

- 1.41 Grantham is the largest town in the District and is in the north of the District. The vision highlights Grantham for new development to ensure it is located within a sustainable location, this will enable Grantham to enhance its role as a sub-regional centre. Development is proposed in Grantham to provide significant housing and employment growth over the plan period.
- 1.42 A Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) to the south of Grantham at Spitalgate, is nationally designated as a Garden Village. In addition, further housing allocations are proposed for Prince William of Gloucester Barracks.

*Stamford*

- 1.43 Stamford is in the south west of the District and is one of three main market towns (this also includes The Deepings and Bourne). A SUE is planned to the north of Stamford (Stamford North SUE). This extension is intended to deliver an innovative, integrated and high quality extension to the town of Stamford. Stamford North SUE aims to deliver a locally distinctive, sustainable and thriving new community that will integrate with, and has strong connections to, the existing town and its surroundings.
- 1.44 Stamford North SUE aims to deliver, homes, foot, cycle and transport links as well as a new Country Park, multi-functional centres and new education provision.

*Bourne, The Deepings and Larger Villages*

- 1.45 The towns of Bourne and The Deepings, as well as larger villages will also provide new housing, however growth will be in keeping with the existing historical assets and settings of the area including green spaces.

*Protecting and Enhancing the Natural and Built Environment:*

- 1.46 Policy EN1 Landscape Character, states that developments must be appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated and contribute to its conservation enhancement or restoration.
- 1.47 Policy EN2 - Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity, states that all developments will seek to provide a net gain to the environment and biodiversity of the District, in particular the District's Priority Habitats. This will ensure that the wider benefits of the natural environment can be appreciated by all.
- 1.48 Policy EN3 - Green infrastructure (GI), states the GI network across the District will be maintained and improved, by enhancing, creating and managing green space within and around settlements that are well connected to each other in the wider countryside.
- 1.49 The Local Plan states that GI should provide for multi-functional uses for example wildlife, recreational and cultural experience, as well as delivering ecological benefits, flood protection and microclimate control. Areas of GI include habitats, rivers and their floodplains, greenspaces and civic areas, which should operate at all spatial scales from urban centres through to open countryside. The Council will work to ensure the promotion of GI, prioritising proposals that contribute to net gain and enhancement of GI.
- 1.50 Development proposals should ensure that existing and new GI is considered through design and integrated into development. Development which results in recreational and visitor pressure on designated areas will be expected to provide GI. Proposals that cause loss or harm to the GI network will not be permitted unless the need for, and benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts on GI are unavoidable, development will only be permitted if suitable mitigation measures for the network are provided.
- 1.51 Policy EN4 Pollution Control highlights a requirement for development to seek to minimise pollution and where possible contribute to the protection and improvement of the quality of air, land and water.
- 1.52 Policy EN5 Water Environment and Flood Risk Management, states that surface water should be managed effectively on site by using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs), unless it is demonstrated to be technically unfeasible. All planning applications should be accompanied by a statement of how surface water is to be managed and where it is to be discharged.
- 1.53 The Local Plan states that there are 13 historic park and gardens within the District. Policy EN6 - The Historic Environment, states that heritage assets (including historic gardens) will be improved, protected and enhanced. Developments will only be granted permission if public benefits outweigh the harm.
- 1.54 The Grantham Canal is recognised for its nationally and regionally significant landscape, wildlife and heritage features. Policy EN7 Protecting and Enhancing Grantham Canal, states that the Grantham Canal is to be safeguarded to be re-established as a navigable waterway.

*Promoting Good Quality Design:*

- 1.55 Policy DE1 Promoting Good Quality Design, will be achieved by ensuring development makes a positive contribution to local distinctiveness and character and provide sufficient amenity space. Furthermore development should seek to retain and incorporate existing important features i.e. trees and hedgerows, and should effectively incorporate on-site GI.

*Open Space*

- 1.56 The Local Plan highlights that open space<sup>9</sup> is important and the existing provision of open space should be protected and increased, to meet the future needs associated with development. New development should provide new and/or improved existing open spaces, either on and/or off-site depending on the scale and nature of the development.
- 1.57 Policy OS1 Open Space sets standards (see table below), which will be used to ensure the availability of adequate open space for all areas in the District. This will be achieved by protecting existing open space and through opportunities to deliver additional open space where it is required.

*Policy OS1 - Existing open space standards*

Typology	Standard	Component Parts	
Informal/ Natural green space	2.0 ha per 1000 population within 480m (10mins walk time)	Informal open space, natural green space, e.g. woodland, wetland, meadow and heath, green infrastructure, routeways and corridors	
Outdoor sports space	1.0 ha per 1000 population within 480m (10mins walk time)	Dedicated outdoor sports pitch provision (includes grass pitch provision and sometimes hard/synthetic surfaces)	
Other open space	0.8ha per 1000 population within 480m (10mins walk time)	Play equipped space	0.15ha
		Young Persons spaces	0.15ha
		Allotments	0.20ha
		Parks	0.30ha

- 1.58 New development of 10 or more dwellings should provide sufficient new (or improved) open space to meet the needs of the development in line with standards in the table above. New open space provision should form an integral part of the development layout, meaning it is accessible and designed to ensure it is clearly visible to the public.

<sup>9</sup> The Local Plan, Policy OS1 states that open space includes allotments, parks, equipped play space, sports pitches and informal natural open space, routeways and corridors.

- 1.59 Where open space cannot be provided on-site as part of the development an off-site financial contribution for the provision of a new open space, or to improve the quality of existing open space within the locality of the proposal, will be expected.
- 1.60 All existing open space including allotments, parks, equipped play space, sport pitches and informal natural open space, route ways and corridors will be protected.
- 1.61 Development proposals for existing open spaces will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that:
- the proposal will provide increased or improved open space and/or recreational facilities; or
  - the site is not required to meet the local standard set out above; or
  - equivalent (or better) replacement provision is to be made within the locality; and
  - the site does not support important or protected habitats or species.

#### Neighbourhood Plans

- 1.62 Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. The Localism Act (2011) introduced new provisions where parish and town councils and community groups from across the District can prepare Neighbourhood Plan(s).
- 1.63 There are fifteen 'made' Neighbourhood Development Plans in the District:
- Carlby;
  - Caythorpe and Frieston;
  - Claypole;
  - Colsterworth;
  - Foston;
  - Hough on the Hill;
  - Long Bennington;
  - Old Somerby;
  - Rippingale;
  - Ropsley and District;
  - Skillington;
  - Stamford;
  - Stubton;
  - Thurlby; and
  - The Deepings.
- 1.64 These form a statutory part of the decision-making process for planning applications in the District. Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plans was being prepared when writing the Open Space Study and went to referendum on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

*Carlby Neighbourhood Development Plan (2018-2036)*

1.65 The village of Carlby is approx. 3km west of the River Glen and approx. 2.5km south of Witham on the Hill. The vision for Carlby aims to “*give clear, precise guidance and direction so that Carlby Parish will retain its character and identity as consisting of a largely residential village, set in an agricultural landscape. Only limited small scale development will take place, and only when it contributes to, and does not detract from the look, character and needs of the parish*”.

1.66 Policies relating to open space include:

- Objective 1 - Development should take the form of limited, small scale and mixed developments which, equally, are not detrimental to the valued rural features of the village (large gardens, open spaces, stone walls etc.);
  - Policy V.0 - Village rural character and appearance:
    - V.2 Developments which would have a negative impact, which impedes or changes the views and greenspaces on the entrance to the west of the village will not be supported.

*Caythorpe and Frieston Neighbourhood Plan (2023-2036)*

1.67 The villages of Caythorpe and Frieston are approx. 12km north of Grantham and is situated alongside the A607. The vision for Caythorpe and Frieston aims to “*Keep its open, rural character. The villages will prosper to benefit residents of all ages and will preserve the historic conservation areas and the many facilities it has. This will benefit the villages itself and the nearby villages*”.

1.68 Policies relating to open space includes:

- Policy 7 – Existing Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities – Development proposals which enhance or improve the identified open spaces and recreational facilities will be supported. Development proposals which would reduce the quality or quantity of an identified open space or recreational facility will only be supported if the existing facility is replaced at an equivalent or better quality and quantity, and in a suitable and accessible location. Enhancement proposals and the planting of additional trees in the smaller amenity green spaces will be supported.
- Policy 9 – Village Centre and Community Infrastructure - Development proposals which would improve and/or extend an important community facility will be supported where their design and layout are appropriate to their surroundings. Development proposals for new community facilities will be supported where they are accessible to the community and their designs and layouts are appropriate to their surroundings. Insofar as planning permission is required, proposals that would result in the loss of an important community facility will not be supported unless:
  - (A) alternative provision is made for equivalent or better facilities; or
  - (B) it can be demonstrated the service or facility is no longer economically viable; or
  - (C) it can be demonstrated that the facility concerned is no longer being used by the local community.

*Claypole Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2036)*

- 1.69 The village of Claypole is in the north west of the District, approx. 3.16km south east of Newick-on-Trent and 13.25km north of Grantham. The vision for Claypole aims to provide *“To provide a planning framework and policies that will result in proportionate and sustainable growth for the local community, ensuring that appropriate services, facilities and infrastructure are provided whilst also conserving the village countryside environment”*.
- 1.70 Claypole is bounded to the north west by Newark and Sherwood District Council and a proposed Fernwood Urban Extension. Although the Fernwood Urban Extension does not overlap with the Claypole Neighbourhood Plan designated area, it will bring new residents into the area, using facilities, services and potentially open spaces.
- 1.71 Policies relating to open spaces includes:
- 1.72 Policy 8 Local Green Space – There are six areas designated as Local Green Space, which are protected at the same level as Green Belt.
- Wickliffe Park (West/Central/East);
  - Moore Close;
  - Swallow Drive;
  - Western Gateway on Main Street;
  - Claypole Bridge Common Area & Sheepwash; and
  - Hough Lane.
- 1.73 Policy 11 Heritage Assets and Policy 12 Non-Designated Heritage Assets – There are several designated and non-designated heritage assets in Claypole, which are an important part of the village’s character. Any development should consider the impact on these assets and their setting.
- 1.74 Policy 15 Community Facilities – Land at Rectory Lane is proposed to create a new or enhanced community facility relating to Claypole Community Park.

*Colsterworth and District Neighbourhood Development Plan (2016-2026)*

- 1.75 The village of Colsterworth is approx. 3.5km south east of Skillington and is situated alongside the River Witham. The vision for Colsterworth and District aims to provide *“a flourishing, diverse community in an economically sustainable rural environment, that conserves its natural and historic heritage and quality of life”*.
- 1.76 Policies relating to open space includes:
- Policy 8 - Conservation Area - Development within the Woolsthorpe Conservation Area, including proposals that involve the alteration or extension of a building within or adjacent to the boundary, will generally be supported providing that:
    - b) the siting respects any important open spaces and significant trees; and
    - c) it does not impact adversely on the character, openness or amenity of any open space that makes a significant contribution to the essential character and appearance of the Conservation Area.



- Policy 12 - Local Green Space and Other Open Space - The development of Local Green Spaces will not be permitted other than in very special circumstances where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh any harm. Development on other areas of open space will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that:
  - 1. it would support the existing function by improving overall quality or accessibility;
  - 2. a replacement facility of equal or better quality is provided in a suitable location;
  - 3. the proposal will bring about community benefits that outweigh the loss of the facility; or
  - 4. the open space is surplus to requirements or is little used.

*Foston Neighbourhood Development Plan (2016-2026)*

- 1.77 The parish of Foston is approx. 3km west of Marston and approx. 2.5km north of Allington. The vision for Foston aims to “ensure that Foston remains a successful and vibrant rural village that values its past but looks to the future”.
- 1.78 Policies relating to open space include, Policy FNP17 – New Sport and Outdoor Recreation Facilities, which states that planning permission for new or enhanced sport and outdoor recreation facilities will be supported.

*Hough on the Hill Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2014-2026)*

- 1.79 Hough on the Hill is a small parish approx. 2km south west of Frieston. The vision for Hough on the Hill aims for “the evolution and long-term sustainability of the Parish’s historic and built environment, protecting its rural landscape character and guiding appropriate and sensitive future development”.
- 1.80 There are several objectives to support the Plan, including protecting greenspace and supporting nature conservation and biodiversity. Policy HoH9 designates the area at and above the 50M contour line of Loveden Hill as a Local Green Space.

*Long Bennington Neighbourhood Development Plan (2016-2026)*

- 1.81 The village of Long Bennington is located approx. 6km south of Fernwood and is bound by the River Witham to the east of the village. The vision for Long Bennington aims to provide “a Parish where the quality of life and sustainability is steadily improved over the timeframe of the Plan, so Long Bennington becomes a place where, despite changes, our history and heritage are sustained, and where our rural setting, character and natural environment are preserved and enhanced for both residents and visitors”.
- 1.82 Policy LB4 - Protection of Green Spaces, states that new development should, wherever possible:
- Maintain existing habitats such as (but not limited to) hedgerows, meadows, grassland, trees and woodland and encourage the planting of new trees and hedgerows;
  - Provide biodiversity gains through the creation of new habitats or other features within developments such as bat and bird boxes;
  - Where new trees are proposed, these should, wherever possible, be appropriate disease resistant native species; and

- Should not negatively impact on existing neighbouring uses through noise, traffic, light and pollution impacts.

*Old Somerby Neighbourhood Development Plan (2018-2036)*

- 1.83 Old Somerby is a small village located approx. 5km south east of Grantham and approx. 4km east of the River Witham. The vision for Old Somerby aims to *“in 2036 Old Somerby will be a distinct, sustainable and vibrant rural village surrounded by attractive open countryside. It will contain a community that values and looks after its historic buildings and the natural environment. Whilst physically separate from Grantham there will be good links to the employment opportunities, services, and facilities that the town offers”*.
- 1.84 There are several objectives to support the Plan, including to protect and enhance the character of the village and the surrounding rural landscape.
- 1.85 Policies relating to open space include:
- Policy 5 - Local Green Space - The Well Head is designated as a Local Green Space. Proposals for development within Well Head Local Green Space will only be supported in very special circumstances;
  - Policy 8 - Trees and Hedgerows - Proposals should take account of important habitats and incorporate them sensitively into new developments; and
  - Policy 11 - Footpaths - A proposal for development will be supported if it improves or extends the existing network of public footpaths in and around the village, especially where it allows greater access to services and facilities or the surrounding open countryside.

*Rippingale Neighbourhood Plan (2023-2036)*

- 1.86 The village of Rippingale is approximately 6.25km north of Bourne. The Plan’s vision states that by 2036 the village will be:
- Predominantly rural with mainly open farmland;
  - The village will be a thriving and diverse community of families, individuals and rural businesses;
  - The historic heritage of Rippingale will be preserved and protected and promoted for interpretation and enjoyment; and
  - Development will be sensitive to the overall character of the village, buildings and land of historical interest; open spaces; rights of way and important views.
- 1.87 To achieve the vision several objectives have been set out. Objective 5 states that the Neighbourhood Plan aims to *“preserve and maintain adequate access for all to the countryside and green open spaces, and to contribute to the health and well-being of residents and wildlife by properly equipping community spaces for users of different ages”*.
- 1.88 Policies relating to open space include:

- Policy EP1 Environmental Protection (Obligations) – Habitats listed under Policy EP1 are particularly important for protection and retention. Development proposals will only be supported where they avoid or mitigate any negative impact on GI, local habitats or points of geological importance, identify and protect specific assets and features of the natural environment and meet statutory environmental protection regulations.
- Policy EP2 Environmental Protection (Mitigation) – Development proposals that result in an unacceptable impact on green infrastructure, irreplaceable habitats and species, including the loss, deterioration or fragmentation of them, will only be supported where they demonstrate that the detrimental impact is unavoidable and outweighed by the benefits and provide for creation of compensatory footpaths or increasing connectivity and accessibility.
- Policy LGS 1 – Local Green Spaces - Development on Local Green Spaces will only be supported where such development does not cause detriment or harm to the Local Green Space (listed in the Neighbourhood Plan). Development will only be supported in very special circumstances.

*Ropsley & District Neighbourhood Plan (2020-2036)*

- 1.89 The village of Ropsley is approx. 8km east of Grantham. The Plan’s vision states that by “2036 Ropsley & District (comprising Ropsley, Braceby, Sapperton, Little Humby and Great Humby) will be five distinct, sustainable and vibrant rural settlements, surrounded by attractive open countryside. Ropsley & District will contain communities that value and look after their historic buildings and the natural environment. Whilst physically separate from Grantham there will be good links to the employment, services and facilities that the town offers”.
- 1.90 There are several policy objectives to support the Plan, including Objective 2 which aims to define, protect and enhance the distinctive landscape of Ropsley and District and Objective 3 to protect and enhance built environment (heritage) assets, archaeological sites and natural environment assets, including biodiversity.
- 1.91 Policies relating to open space include:
- R&D 3 - New Housing (and other development) in other locations - The need to retain the gardens, open spaces, trees, hedges and water bodies which contribute to the character of each hamlet;
  - R&D 10 - Existing open space and recreation facilities - Existing open spaces, recreation facilities and school playing fields should be protected from development. Development proposals which enhance or improve existing sites will be supported;
  - R&D 11 - Proposed Local Green Spaces – Proposals for development on a Local Green Space will not be supported except in very special circumstances; and
  - R&D 13 - Nature conservation and biodiversity - Development proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on local wildlife sites, habitats and species networks has been considered;

*Skillington Neighbourhood Plan (2017-2031)*

- 1.92 Skillington is a small village located approx. 10km south of Grantham and approx. 4km east of Saltby. The vision for Skillington states that *“in 2031 Skillington will be an attractive and tranquil village, which has a strong and balanced community that looks after its historical buildings and surroundings”*.
- 1.93 In Skillington there is no allotment, park or play provision meaning that younger children are restricted in their outdoor play activities to private gardens or small public open spaces within the heart of the village known as The Square and The Green. These two open spaces are both important for their cultural and historic associations, and provide opportunities for social interaction.
- 1.94 Policies relating to open space includes:
- Policy 5 - Local Green Space, states that The Green and The Square are designated as Local Green Space and development on these spaces will not be permitted other than in very special circumstances;
  - Policy 7 - Conservation Area, states that development should seek to promote or reinforce the local distinctiveness of the village and create a sense of place, ensuring there are no adverse impacts on important areas of open space.

*Stamford Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2036)*

- 1.95 Stamford is located approximately 2km west of Market Deeping and 31km south of Grantham.
- 1.96 The neighbourhood plan’s vision will *“enable the towns’ residents to shape the development of Stamford over the next two decades without loss of its special and distinctive character. The Plan will seek to ensure that Stamford’s defining assets as an historic and vibrant rural market town and tourist destination are retained and enhanced and that Stamford’s important heritage assets and precious greenspaces are protected. In order to harness the town’s growth potential, the plan will ensure appropriate improvements to infrastructure and services and enable all sections of the community to enjoy a sustainable way of life.”*
- 1.97 There are several objectives to support the Plan, including Objective 6 which aims to ensure Stamford retains and enhances its open green access on all approaches to the town through the improvement of the identified Green Wheel network and through the designations of the important Green Spaces around the town. The creation of new attractive, well designed and connected open spaces on all development are welcomed and are vitally important to the continued development and connection of GI within the town.
- 1.98 Policy 1: New Residential Allocations (Stamford North), Greenspace and landscaping - Development which adjoins public open spaces and important gaps should enhance the character of these spaces by either providing a positive interface (properties facing onto them to improve the natural surveillance) or a soft landscaped edge.

- 1.99 Through the development of this Plan, a community consultation was raised to address issues within the community. This identified specific community aspirations relating directly to open space. The community want to promote improvement of public open spaces including greenspaces and they want to improve the quality of public open space provision including the quality of children's play equipment, signage and other public furniture.

*Stubton Neighbourhood Plan (2014-2026)*

- 1.100 The village of Stubton is in the north of the District, approx. 5km south east of Fernwood and approx. 8km south east of Newark-on-Trent. The vision for Stubton aims to *“improve, protect and enhance the character and facilities within the village, enabling full use of the surrounding natural environment by improved accessibility to the countryside for residents and the general public”*.

- 1.101 Policies relating to open space includes:

- Policy NE3 - Development proposals where the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity and other features of the local environment or landscape should be permitted; and
- Policy R1 - Links to existing footpaths and rights of way as well as improvements to footpath signage will be sought in connection with new development for appropriate uses where feasible, in order to maintain and enhance access to the countryside.

*The Deepings Neighbourhood Plan (2020-2036)*

- 1.102 The Deepings is the collective name given to Market Deeping, Deeping St James, Deeping Gate, West Deeping and Deeping St Nicholas. The area is approx. 9.6km east of Stamford in the south east of the District. The vision for The Deepings is *“by 2036, Market Deeping and Deeping St James will have grown as a vibrant community embracing local characteristics”*.

- 1.103 Policies relating to open space include:

- Policy DNP2 - Providing Guidelines for Additional Residential Development - Proposed development does not involve the loss of open spaces or Local Green Spaces designated in The Deepings Neighbourhood Plan;
- Policy DNP12 - Developing and Enhancing the Local Green Infrastructure - Where appropriate, new proposals should preserve, and where practicable, enhance the existing local GI network. The provision of new on-site public open space should be well-designed, safe, overlooked, located within an easily accessible part of the development and well-defined in terms of the typology of open space proposed;
- Policy DNP13 - Designating and Protecting Important Open Spaces - Provides a list of designated Important Open Spaces; and
- Policy DNP14 - Designating and Protecting Local Green Spaces - Provides a list of designated Local Green Spaces.

*Thurlby Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (2018-2036)*

- 1.104 Thurlby is a small village located approx. 2km south of Bourne, the Thurlby Plan also includes an area of fen to the east. The vision for Thurlby aims to *“ensure that Thurlby Parish remains a successful and vibrant rural village that values its past but looks to the future”*.

1.105 There are several policy objectives to support the Plan, with regards to open space, including PO10 which aims to promote the wellbeing of the community through retention and enhancement of recreational, social and sporting amenities.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

*Grantham Rectory Farm SPD<sup>10</sup> (October 2021)*

1.106 Rectory Farm is a key allocation in the South Kesteven Local Plan, forming an urban extension to Grantham to meet South Kesteven's housing requirements up to 2036. It forms Phase 2 of Grantham's North West Quadrant (NWQ) development to provide an indicative 1,150 dwellings, the adjoining Poplar Farm site to its east forming Phase 1 of the NWQ.

1.107 The development should encourage biodiversity including green and brown roofs and walls, native species planting and landscaping, integrated bird/bat boxes and SuDS.

1.108 Supporting infrastructure will include:

- Access network – Encourage sustainable transport modes (i.e. walking, cycling, public transport);
- Other open space – Plans should include sufficient land for recreational use, informal play space, allotment land and children's play areas. A commuted sum will be negotiated with the developer for maintenance in the event that the developer(s) seeks to transfer maintenance responsibilities for open space either to the local Parish Council(s) or South Kesteven District Council.

*Design Guidelines for Rutland & South Kesteven<sup>11</sup> (November 2021)*

1.109 The Design Guidelines for Rutland and South Kesteven aims to improve the design quality of new build development.

1.110 The Design Guidelines aim to:

- Establish the expectations for a high level of design and build quality in all development proposals in Rutland and South Kesteven;
- Set out the design steps and considerations that planning applicants are expected to undertake; and
- Provide applicants with a clear understanding of good quality design at any scale or type of development, from a new community to an individual home extension.

1.111 The Council would expect to see the following in planning applications:

- Understanding the context;
- Response to context;
- Broad structure of layout;
  - Retained and new landscape;
  - SuDS areas integrated;
  - Green spaces interlinked with green and blue corridors;
  - Key movement routes for pedestrians and cyclists;

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<sup>10</sup> [https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-08/Rectory\\_Farm\\_SPD\\_Final\\_.pdf](https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-08/Rectory_Farm_SPD_Final_.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [R\\_SK\\_Final\\_Design\\_SPD\\_GS\\_221208\\_high\\_resolutionpdf.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)



- Connections;
- Feature areas/spaces;
- Main routes through the site; and
- Notable frontages.

#### Rutland & South Kesteven's Special Character

- 1.112 One of the main objectives of the Guidance is to encourage new development which responds to the setting and unique character of an area. Designs should take inspiration from local vernacular architecture, integrate into existing settlements and contribute to a sense of place including the natural environment.

#### Strategic Design

- 1.113 The Guidance provides several 'Design Principles' which relate to open space including:
- 5B - Responding to the climate emergency - the UK's legally binding climate change targets and the Council (South Kesteven District Council) has declared a 'climate emergency' and has an ambition to reduce its carbon footprint between now and 2030 and become net zero carbon by 2050.
  - 5C - Encouraging healthy lifestyles - The Council will expect development proposals to protect, promote, support and enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing.
  - 5D - A strong landscape structure - There are multiple benefits to incorporating landscape features into proposals, and as such, landscape design should be considered at the very start of the design process. This ensures that sufficient space is given to landscape and drainage within a layout - before streets and buildings get added - and that parks, ecological corridors and other 'green infrastructure' are positioned in the optimum locations within the site, rather than areas left over. In addition, the impact of lighting on landscape and biodiversity should be carefully considered in any scheme.
  - 5E - Continuous green corridors and circuits - A development with a strong and attractive landscape and movement structure that interconnects key destinations, spaces and places has many benefits.
  - 5F - Trees in the public realm - SKDC has signed up to the Charter for Trees, Woods and People, which promotes greener local landscapes. It is essential that street trees are planted within appropriate tree pits that will allow them to flourish and become healthy tree specimens. It is essential that street trees are planted within appropriate tree pits that will allow them to flourish and become healthy tree specimens.
  - 5G - Sustainable drainage systems - Sustainable drainage should be fully integrated into the design. Sometimes these will include multi-use open spaces that also have a drainage and flood storage function. This is part of the landscape-led approach to major development that is required.

South Kesteven District Council Infrastructure Funding Statement<sup>12</sup> 2022/2023

- 1.114 This funding statement covers the financial year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 and is updated every financial year.
- 1.115 The Statement provides information of the monetary (and non-monetary) contribution sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development in the District.
- 1.116 The Council seeks developer contributions through S106 agreements (also known as 'planning obligations'). Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) are legal agreements which make a proposed development acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable. This includes monies towards new or improved local GI and open space.

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<sup>12</sup> [Infrastructure funding statement 2022-2023.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)

## 2.0 Strategy Documents

### National Strategy Documents

#### Promoting Healthy Cities (Royal Town Planning Institute)<sup>13</sup>

- 2.1 The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) published Promoting Healthy Cities, a document tackling the role of planning in creating healthy cities in October 2014.
- 2.2 The report calls for the UK to develop more integrated strategies for healthy place making, gather greater intelligence on the social and economic determinants of health and reform and strengthen institutions to ensure integration of health policies. This process should involve a range of professions and community stakeholders.

#### Green Infrastructure Framework (Natural England, 2023)<sup>14</sup>

- 2.3 Green Infrastructure Framework (Natural England, January 2023) comprises:
- GI Principles (what and how of good GI);
  - GI Standards (national standards for GI quantity and quality);
  - GI mapping including environmental and socio-economic datasets;
  - GI Planning and Design Guide; and
  - Process journeys.
- 2.4 Natural England states that GI:
- "Good quality GI has an important role to play in our urban and rural environments for improving health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery and resilience to and mitigation of climate change, along with addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline."*
- 2.5 The guidance states that *"GI strategies and policies can be used to support aspirations for a Nature Recovery Network (NRN), connecting across urban, urban-fringe, coastal and rural areas and enhancing landscape character"*.
- 2.6 Natural England has developed a set of 15 GI Principles which underpin the GI Framework. The principles aim to provide a baseline for organisations to develop stronger GI policy and delivery. Principles cover why, what and how GI is achieved.

#### The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (HM Government, 2011)<sup>15</sup>

- 2.7 The NEWP states that *"People cannot flourish without the benefits and services our natural environment provide. Nature is a complex, interconnected system. A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing"*.
- 2.8 The Government wants to put the value of nature at the heart of decision-making, in Government, local communities and businesses. To achieve this the NEWP focuses on 4 key areas:

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/policy/2014/february/promoting-healthy-cities/>

<sup>14</sup> [Green Infrastructure Home \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Green-Infrastructure/Home)

<sup>15</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228842/8082.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf)

- Protecting and improving our natural environment - Achieve a better quality natural environment by taking and promoting actions across farmed land, woodlands and forests, towns and cities, and rivers and water bodies;
- Growing the green economy - Economic growth and the natural environment are mutually compatible. Sustainable economic growth relies on services provided by the natural environment, often referred to as 'ecosystem services';
- Reconnecting people and nature - High-quality natural environments foster healthy neighbourhoods; green spaces encourage social activity and reduce crime. The natural environment can help children's learning; and
- International and EU leadership - Environmental leadership should be demonstrable internationally and within the EU, to protect and enhance natural assets globally, promoting environmentally and socially sustainable growth.

Everybody Active, Every Day<sup>16</sup> (Public Health England, 2014)

2.9 Everybody Active, Every Day is the national physical activity framework for England. The aim of the framework is to bring about real and long lasting change using a long-term, evidence based approach to embed physical activity into the fabric of daily life, making it an easy, cost-effective and 'normal' choice in every community in England. The priorities of the framework are:

- Active society - Making physical activity part of the daily routine;
- Moving professionals - Thoughtful urban design, understanding land use patterns and creating transportation systems that promote walking and cycling will help to create active, healthier and more liveable communities; and
- Active environment - Creating the right spaces, including healthy environments to support health, recreation and wellbeing and encouraging people to use green space, playground and cycle lanes.

Everybody Active, Every Day: 5 years on<sup>17</sup> (Public Health England, 2021)

2.10 The 5 year review demonstrates that stakeholders received the Everybody Active, Every Day (EAED) framework positively. There was agreement from stakeholders that cross-sector and cross-departmental collaboration is crucial for continuing to embed the messaging on the importance of physical activity at a population level.

2.11 The review also highlighted some ongoing challenges including limited and uneven resources and local of time required to develop strong partnerships.

2.12 Next stages include further conversations with stakeholders and collaboration to help shape and design a refresh of EAED.

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<sup>16</sup> [Framework\\_13.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Everybody active, every day: 5 years on - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Local Strategies

### Corporate Plan<sup>18</sup> 2020-2023

- 2.13 The Council's Corporate Plan for the period of 2020-2023 sets out a vision to be "*the best district in which to live, work and visit*". The Council aims to continue developing a clean and green future, working with others to ensure that how we live and work respects and protects the environment and reduces the district carbon footprint.
- 2.14 The Plan includes five key areas to deliver this vision. The areas that are relevant to this OSA include:
- *Housing that meets the needs of residents* - the Council wants to ensure that major developments in South Kesteven are high quality, with sustainable and good design;
  - *Healthy and Strong Communities* - the Council aims to support healthy communities including investment in leisure provisions and building on the rich heritage and culture of the District;
  - *Clean and Sustainable Environments* - the Council aims to protect and improve the environment by tackling climate change, ensuring the District is a clean and pleasant place to live and improve parks and open space. Furthermore the Council aims to maintain and enhance the Council's green area across the District and aim to secure Green Flag Award status for Queen Elizabeth Park, Dysart Park and other relevant areas.

### Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2021-2026<sup>19</sup> (November 2021)

- 2.15 The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy outlines some of the key health challenges faced by the District including:
- 41.1% of adults living in South Kesteven are physically inactive;
  - 46.7% of children in South Kesteven are considered physically inactive;
  - 66.3% of adults in South Kesteven are classified as overweight or obese;
  - 69% of deaths from cardiovascular disease are considered preventable; and
  - 1 in 4 people suffer with mental health issues in any given year.
- 2.16 The Strategy states that the District has a wealth of community assets, leisure facilities, parks, countryside paths and open spaces to provide opportunities to be active. However opportunities need to be focused in areas that will make the most difference to local people, especially areas identified with health inequalities.
- 2.17 The Strategy states that the vision is "*inspiring everyone to live a more active lifestyle*" with a mission "*providing opportunities for people to be more active, more often*". To achieve the vision and mission, the Council has set out an Action Plan which includes:
- **Active Society** - Encourage participation and accessibility to the whole community, as well as encouraging a holistic approach to physical activity and wellbeing;

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<sup>18</sup> [Appendix A - Council Strategy.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> <https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s31892/Appendix 1 - Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.pdf>

- Active Place - Invest in leisure facilities to meet needs of the District and explore opportunities to use parks and open spaces within the District. Green spaces will be maintained and enhanced including improvements to parks in Grantham;
- Active People - Support a broad range of sport and physical activity opportunities and work with leisure providers and partners to support residents and deliver outreach activities; and
- Active System - Recognise that physical activity is more than participation in sport and collaborations should be encouraged.

South Kesteven Climate Action Strategy (2023)<sup>20</sup>

- 2.18 The Climate Action Strategy seeks to set out how the Council can respond to the global issue of climate change at a local level, and it aims to provide a clear place-based vision for District's approach to climate adaptation to living in a warmer world.
- 2.19 The aspiration is to "*ensure opportunities to reduce carbon emissions are pursued at every single stage, securing the wider benefits to society, economy and the environment*".
- 2.20 The Climate Action Strategy provides a framework for the District to reduce carbon emissions and safety adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The following key co-benefits relate directly to open space:
- Improving health and wellbeing;
  - Improving air quality;
  - Boosting biodiversity; and
  - Ensuring a fairer society.

*Key ambitions*

- 2.21 Natural Environment (Boosting biodiversity and Improving health and wellbeing):
- Engage with partners to support projects boosting biodiversity and tree planting in South Kesteven;
  - Manage Council owned green spaces to boost biodiversity; and
  - Embed Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) principles into new developments.
- 2.22 Transport (improving air quality):
- Support opportunities to reduce the need to travel and unlock near term carbon reductions; and
  - Work to embed public transport and active travel options for urban journeys.

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<sup>20</sup> [Climate Action Strategy \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk)



South Kesteven Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (April 2009)<sup>21</sup>

2.23 In 2009, the Council appointed Leisure and the Environment to undertake an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study. The study provided a set of standards for the provision of open space in the District, considering guidance and best practice. It identified the gaps in provision at the town and parish level and recommends priorities for investment.

*Quantity and Accessibility*

2.24 The open space typologies included in this assessment were:

- Informal and Natural Greenspace;
- Outdoor Sports Space;
- Other Sports Space; Play, Allotments, Parks and Recreational Grounds; and
- Built Facilities: Sports Halls, Swimming Pools, STPs and Small Community Halls.

*2009 Open Space Assessment Standard Summary*

<b>Typologies</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Quality/Value</b>
Informal and Natural Greenspace	2.0ha per 1,000 population	480m	N/A
Outdoor Sports Space	1.0ha per 1,00 population	480m	N/A
Other Open Spaces	0.8ha per 1,000 population	480m	N/A

*Quality*

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

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

<sup>21</sup> Available on request from South Kesteven District Council

South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Report<sup>22</sup> (2017)

- 2.26 In 2017, South Kesteven District Council refreshed the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2009) to update their Open Space Policy (OS1). The Study provided an updated set of standards for the provision of open space in South Kesteven, considering guidance and best practice.
- 2.27 The outcome of this report was to produce a draft report as evidence for developing the local plan. This report therefore forms the basis of updated open space policy (OS1: Open Space) included within the local plan.
- 2.28 The accessibility and quality standards remained the same as per the 2009 study and quantity standards were updated for the amended open space typology list (see table below).

*2017 Open Space Assessment Standard Summary*

Typologies	Quantity (Ha per 1,000)	Accessibility
Informal/Natural Green Space	2.00	480m
Outdoor Sports Space	1.00	480m
Other Open Space	0.80	480m
Allotments	0.20	N/A
Parks and Recreational Grounds	0.30	N/A
Play Equipped Space	0.15	N/A
Play Young Persons	0.15	N/A

South Kesteven Grantham Green Infrastructure Strategy<sup>23</sup>

- 2.29 The Grantham Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy has been prepared to support a wider action plan for the area and recommendations on priorities for GI.
- 2.30 The strategic aims of the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Grantham are to:
- inspire business and decision makers to support investment in GI;
  - promote deeper understanding of the economic, environmental and social benefits of GI;
  - Provide a co-ordinated, strategic approach to delivery and management of a multi-functional, high quality GI network that reflects local needs.

<sup>22</sup> [ENV4 Open Space Review 2017.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> [South Kesteven Grantham Green Infrastructure Strategy \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)

- 2.31 Key needs and opportunities for safeguarding and enhancing access links and connectivity in the Grantham urban area are listed below:
- Increase provision for dedicated cycleways;
  - Increase accessibility from Grantham to the open countryside;
  - Develop connectivity and accessibility along the River Witham;
  - Promote new equestrian routes utilising bridleways;
  - Promote safe cycling and walking routes along road networks; and
  - Improve quality, signage and accessibility along the Grantham canal towpath.
- 2.32 With investment over time, the GI network will offer more diverse uses, experiences and functions to deliver increased economic, environmental and social benefits for the Grantham areas. These include:
- Linking housing, schools and the bus/train station to the access network and connecting with accessible green spaces in the wider countryside;
  - Providing an improved image, experience and sense of place through investment in an improved environmental quality for the public realm;
  - Contributing to health improvements and well-being through schools, hospitals and health centres, promoting opportunities to access green spaces for exercise;
  - Opportunities to provide environmental education and well-being through parks, nature reserves and farm-based activities;
  - Recognising the role of farmland for food production, processing local produce and farmshops;
  - Increasing awareness of, and celebrating, historic features in urban fringe landscape and how they contribute to the sense of place;
  - Ensure future urban extensions link with towns
  - Providing opportunities for local community involvement through volunteering and gaining new skills; and
  - Strengthening biodiversity conservation management for sites in and around Grantham.

Grantham Canal Park Strategy for Canal Restoration & Economic Development (2017)<sup>24</sup>

- 2.33 The Canal & River Trust (the Trust) commissioned Peter Brett Associates on behalf of the Grantham Canal Partnership to develop a Sustainability Plan and Delivery Strategy for the restoration of the 33-mile Grantham Canal. The emerging strategy provides a structure for the Grantham Canal corridor's development as a regional asset, the Grantham Canal Park: the canal being the backbone for clear and natural movement, maintenance of the corridors environmental assets, reinforcing and stimulating the continuing development of the visitor sector, at the same time helping to meet the needs of those who live there.
- 2.34 The Grantham Canal is located in the south western part of Grantham and leads west out of Grantham towards Nottingham. The area within the Council's administrative boundary is from Grantham to Muston on the boundary with Melton District Council.

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<sup>24</sup> [ENV4 Open Space Review 2017.pdf \(southkesteven.gov.uk\)](#)

2.35 The Grantham Canal Park Vision is that in 2035:

*“The Grantham Canal Park links the Trent, Nottingham and Grantham, celebrating the living environment, heritage and beauty of the East Midlands. It is the backbone of a vibrant tourism and recreation corridor, providing investment, employment, training and participation opportunities across the sub-region. It is everyone’s resource, a major contributor to the area’s economy and its quality of life.”*

2.36 The outcomes of the Grantham Canal Park will be:

- Restoration of navigation: Grantham Canal integrated with Nottinghamshire boating markets;
- Reconnection of canal to main urban areas in Grantham;
- Sustainable canal management & development secured;
- Canal recognised as local & sub-regional leisure and recreation resource;
- Corridor positioned as visitor destination;
- Health outcomes (morbidity and perception) improved through accessibility of canal for active pursuits and travel;
- Improved active management and appreciation of the local environment;
- Development of sub-regional profile for the corridor;
- Grantham Canal Park integrated as part of the regional visitor and business profile;
- Enhanced profile for existing visitor facilities;
- Quality of life improvements in corridor settlements through improved access to facilities and infrastructure;
- Canal viewed as enabler of development;
- Opportunities for potential medium to long term settlement growth in sustainable canalside locations; and
- Improved sub regional tourism & economic development co-ordination.

## **APPENDIX B: SITE AUDIT RESULTS**

ID	Site Name	Typology	Quality Score	Quality Banding	Value Score	Value Banding
<b>Sub-Area 1</b>						
413	Queen Elizabeth Park	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	98	Excellent	100	High
399	Wyndham Park	Parks and gardens	98	Excellent	93	High
333	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	93	Excellent	79	High
306	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	93	Excellent	72	High
575	Dysart Park	Parks and gardens	92	Excellent	91	High
136	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	91	Excellent	72	High
638	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	91	Excellent	54	Medium
307	Hough Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	90	Excellent	71	High
644	<Null>	Parks and gardens	90	Excellent	56	Medium
377	Claypole Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	90	Excellent	45	Medium
412	Glaisdale/Ryedale Close	Amenity greenspace	89	Very Good	71	High
181	Ancaster Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	89	Very Good	43	Medium
308	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	88	Very Good	69	High
624	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	88	Very Good	59	Medium
384	Allington Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	88	Very Good	56	Medium
323	Barrowby Parish Church	Cemeteries and Churchyards	88	Very Good	53	Medium
622	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	88	Very Good	49	Medium
147	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	88	Very Good	16	Low
411	Borrowdale Way	Amenity greenspace	87	Very Good	71	High
523	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	87	Very Good	61	High
313	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	87	Very Good	60	High
284	Melbourne Ave/Canberra Crescent	Amenity greenspace	87	Very Good	50	Medium
58	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	87	Very Good	44	Medium
382	Caythorpe Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	86	Very Good	56	Medium
16	Main Street	Amenity greenspace	86	Very Good	28	Low
305	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	85	Very Good	59	Medium
196	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	85	Very Good	47	Medium
315	Village Green, Westborough	Amenity greenspace	85	Very Good	26	Low
645	Park off St. Peters Hill	Amenity greenspace	84	Very Good	56	Medium
588	Claypole Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	84	Very Good	55	Medium
318	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	84	Very Good	40	Medium
641	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	83	Very Good	63	High
618	<Null>	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	83	Very Good	36	Low
317	Hougham Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	82	Very Good	63	High
178	Hougham Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	82	Very Good	62	High
416	Long Bennington Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	82	Very Good	46	Medium
133	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	82	Very Good	44	Medium
314	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	81	Very Good	60	High
215	Caythorpe Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	81	Very Good	6	Low
316	Village Green	Amenity greenspace	80	Very Good	50	Medium
310	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	80	Very Good	50	Medium
15	Main Street	Amenity greenspace	80	Very Good	24	Low
563	Foston Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	79	Good	29	Low
195	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	79	Good	26	Low
222	SE Rosetti Court	Amenity greenspace	78	Good	55	Medium
331	Main Street	Amenity greenspace	78	Good	28	Low
97	Claypole Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	77	Good	63	High
405	Hereford Way	Amenity greenspace	77	Good	56	Medium
344	Uplands Drive	Amenity greenspace	76	Good	44	Medium
474	Adamstiles Play Area	Provision for children and young people	76	Good	33	Low
167	Barkston Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	76	Good	31	Low
125	Belton Lane	Parks and gardens	75	Good	60	High
612		Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	47	Medium
396	Princess Drive	Amenity greenspace	74	Good	59	Medium
166	Stephenson Ave	Amenity greenspace	73	Good	44	Medium
524	Hough Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	73	Good	35	Low
415	Off Church Lane	Parks and gardens	72	Good	36	Low
647	St. Johns Church, Grantham	Cemeteries and churchyards	71	Good	45	Medium
386	Princess Drive	Provision for children and young people	70	Good	43	Medium
341	Orchard Close	Amenity greenspace	70	Good	34	Low
321	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	69	Fair	57	Medium
132	Off Back Lane	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	67	Fair	49	Medium
414	Trent Road/Shaw Road	Amenity greenspace	66	Fair	57	Medium
177	Stonebridge Close	Parks and gardens	64	Fair	59	Medium
560	Barrowby Village Green Play Area	Amenity greenspace	64	Fair	56	Medium
410	Durham Close/York Way	Amenity greenspace	64	Fair	54	Medium
407	South Wroxhall Drive	Amenity greenspace	64	Fair	46	Medium
397	Turner Crescent	Amenity greenspace	64	Fair	38	Low
169	Hazelwood Close	Amenity greenspace	63	Fair	52	Medium
342	Balmoral Drive	Amenity greenspace	63	Fair	50	Medium
576	Alongside Canal/Earlesfield Lane	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	62	Fair	61	High
466	Voices Community Play Area	Provision for children and young people	62	Fair	44	Medium
520	Gonerby Hill Foot Play Area	Amenity greenspace	59	Fair	45	Medium
175	Hudson Way (End)	Amenity greenspace	57	Fair	39	Low



403	South of Winchester Road	Amenity greenspace	56	Fair	58	Medium
301	Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	56	Fair	23	Low
558	Campbell Close/Tyndal Road	Amenity greenspace	55	Fair	57	Medium
88	Hough Road	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	55	Fair	9	Low
325	Pastures Road Playground	Amenity greenspace	53	Fair	38	Low
334	South of Brittain Drive	Amenity greenspace	52	Fair	47	Medium
230	Pennine Way	Amenity greenspace	51	Fair	31	Low
142	Grantham Meres Leisure Centre	Amenity greenspace	48	Poor	29	Low
168	Beechcroft Road/Oakleigh Road	Amenity greenspace	44	Poor	35	Low
182	Holden Way	Amenity greenspace	40	Poor	61	High
185	Hough Road	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	35	Poor	6	Low
<b>Sub-Area 2</b>						
596	Aisby Village Green	Amenity greenspace	98	Excellent	69	High
154	Welby Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	95	Excellent	73	High
634	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	95	Excellent	82	High
392	Kenilworth Road	Amenity greenspace	91	Excellent	64	High
143	Alma Park	Amenity greenspace	88	Very Good	40	Medium
654	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	87	Very Good	76	High
346	Former Recreation Ground?	Amenity greenspace	87	Very Good	81	High
161	Third Avenue	Amenity greenspace	85	Very Good	58	Medium
71	Folkingham Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	83	Very Good	52	Medium
551	Water Lane Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	82	Very Good	23	Low
438	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	82	Very Good	50	Medium
468		Provision for children and young people	82	Very Good	58	Medium
345	Fifth Avenue (South)	Amenity greenspace	81	Very Good	45	Medium
223	Great Ponton Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	81	Very Good	51	Medium
129	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	81	Very Good	52	Medium
297	The Belfry	Amenity greenspace	81	Very Good	59	Medium
614		Cemeteries and churchyards	79	Good	52	Medium
146	Skillington Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	79	Good	53	Medium
248	Castle Bytham Playing Field	Parks and gardens	79	Good	56	Medium
57	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	78	Good	43	Medium
252	Colster Way	Provision for children and young people	77	Good	17	Low
441	Corby Glen Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	77	Good	44	Medium
82	Milleniun Gardens	Parks and gardens	77	Good	56	Medium
716	<Null>	Amenity greenspace	76	Good	34	Low
229	Ninth Avenue (North)	Amenity greenspace	76	Good	38	Low
669	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	76	Good	40	Medium
148	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	76	Good	55	Medium
14	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	76	Good	56	Medium
107	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	39	Low
656	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	48	Medium
149	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	50	Medium
667	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	52	Medium
585	Billingham Parish Church and Glebeland	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	54	Medium
440	Castle Bytham Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	55	Medium
481	Water Lane Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	75	Good	62	High
430	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	67	High
682	<Null>	Parks and gardens	75	Good	72	High
194	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	74	Good	32	Low
562	The Green	Amenity greenspace	74	Good	42	Medium
253	Colster Way	Parks and gardens	74	Good	44	Medium
206	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	74	Good	45	Medium
29		Amenity greenspace	74	Good	49	Medium
122	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	74	Good	55	Medium
60	New Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	73	Good	33	Low
150	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	73	Good	52	Medium
38		Amenity greenspace	72	Good	30	Low
62	Burton Coggles Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	72	Good	50	Medium
610		Amenity greenspace	72	Good	50	Medium
583	Horbling Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	72	Good	52	Medium
39	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	72	Good	57	Medium
714	<Null>	Provision for children and young people	71	Good	21	Low
508	Aykroft	Provision for children and young people	71	Good	24	Low
671	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	71	Good	49	Medium
434	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	71	Good	52	Medium
23	New Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	70	Good	30	Low
364	Old Post Lane	Parks and gardens	70	Good	44	Medium
202	Folkingham Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	70	Good	45	Medium
574	Bridge End Grove	Amenity greenspace	70	Good	56	Medium
140	Waterside Close	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	69	Fair	27	Low
369	Ropsley Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	69	Fair	44	Medium
30	Dowsby Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	69	Fair	48	Medium
522	Manor Drive	Provision for children and young people	68	Fair	31	Low
328	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	68	Fair	47	Medium
680	<Null>	Parks and gardens	68	Fair	47	Medium
137		Amenity greenspace	67	Fair	22	Low

268	The Green	Provision for children and young people	67	Fair	29	Low
356	Horbaling Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	67	Fair	30	Low
439	North Witham Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	67	Fair	48	Medium
144	Great Ponton Playing Fields	Parks and gardens	67	Fair	48	Medium
662	<Null>	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	66	Fair	36	Low
41	Abbey Lawn	Amenity greenspace	66	Fair	40	Medium
670	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	66	Fair	49	Medium
221	Hazelwood Drive	Amenity greenspace	65	Fair	34	Low
205	Ropsley Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	64	Fair	51	Medium
367	Taragon Way	Amenity greenspace	63	Fair	35	Low
349	Woodlands Avenue	Amenity greenspace	63	Fair	43	Medium
358	Edenham Playing Field	Parks and gardens	63	Fair	45	Medium
660	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	63	Fair	52	Medium
339	Oak Crescent	Amenity greenspace	62	Fair	26	Low
53	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	62	Fair	46	Medium
360	High Street Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	62	Fair	49	Medium
209	Poplar Crescent	Amenity greenspace	61	Fair	26	Low
366	Ash Grove	Amenity greenspace	61	Fair	28	Low
68	Finn Close	Amenity greenspace	61	Fair	40	Medium
600	Pinfold Close Recreation Ground Tennis	Parks and gardens	61	Fair	39	Low
219	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	61	Fair	40	Medium
579	Horbaling Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	60	Fair	21	Low
338	Beaufort Drive	Amenity greenspace	60	Fair	37	Low
713	<Null>	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	60	Fair	56	Medium
429	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	59	Fair	33	Low
165	South Fen Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	59	Fair	33	Low
336	Woolsthorpe Road	Parks and gardens	59	Fair	41	Medium
24	Off Cobleas	Cemeteries and churchyards	58	Fair	24	Low
564	Inoldsbys Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	58	Fair	47	Medium
348	Finn Close	Provision for children and young people	56	Fair	14	Low
335	Rochester Court	Amenity greenspace	56	Fair	26	Low
552	Great Close Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	56	Fair	36	Low
250	North Witham Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	56	Fair	39	Low
730	Castle Bytham Earthworks	Amenity greenspace	56	Fair	48	Medium
482	Water Lane Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	55	Fair	19	Low
420	Spalding Road/Meadow Drove	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	55	Fair	42	Medium
433	Station Road Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	54	Fair	49	Medium
717	<Null>	Amenity greenspace	53	Fair	28	Low
626	<Null>	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	52	Fair	26	Low
578	Great Close Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	49	Poor	33	Low
532	The Crescent Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	43	Poor	35	Low
192	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	33	Poor	31	Low
601	Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	25	Poor	40	Medium
<b>Sub-Area 3</b>						
233	East End Recreation Ground	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	99	Excellent	30	Low
731	Shillingthorpe Hall Grounds	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	97	Excellent	31	Low
227	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	96	Excellent	23	Low
238	Stowe Road Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	96	Excellent	28	Low
444	St Guthlac's Church Yard	Cemeteries and churchyards	95	Excellent	20	Low
104	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	95	Excellent	36	Low
279	R/O Empingham Road	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	95	Excellent	34	Low
608		Cemeteries and churchyards	93	Excellent	40	Medium
353	Foxglove Road	Provision for children and young people	92	Excellent	23	Low
471	Stamford Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	91	Excellent	26	Low
428	Cemetery Little Casterton Road	Cemeteries and churchyards	91	Excellent	32	Low
239	Stowe Road Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	90	Excellent	12	Low
531	Foxglove Road	Amenity greenspace	90	Excellent	38	Low
106	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	89	Very Good	39	Low
243	Greatford Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	88	Very Good	24	Low
130	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	88	Very Good	29	Low
697	<Null>	Amenity greenspace	86	Very Good	36	Low
234	East End Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	84	Very Good	28	Low
477	Between The Avenue and Church Street	Provision for children and young people	83	Very Good	39	Low
372	East of Church Street	Amenity greenspace	82	Very Good	31	Low
570	Stamford Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	82	Very Good	56	Medium
118	Manor Close Recreation Ground	Provision for children and young people	81	Very Good	9	Low
390	Town Meadows	Parks and gardens	81	Very Good	57	Medium
19	King Street Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	79	Good	27	Low
688	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	79	Good	52	Medium
445	Towngate West/Millfield Road	Amenity greenspace	79	Good	58	Medium
380	Chatsworth Road/Rockingham Road	Amenity greenspace	78	Good	23	Low
376	Glebe Park	Parks and gardens	78	Good	62	High
183	New Cemetary	Cemeteries and churchyards	77	Good	12	Low
702	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	77	Good	35	Low
46	St James Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	77	Good	57	Medium
708	<Null>	Amenity greenspace	76	Good	34	Low
506	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	76	Good	50	Medium

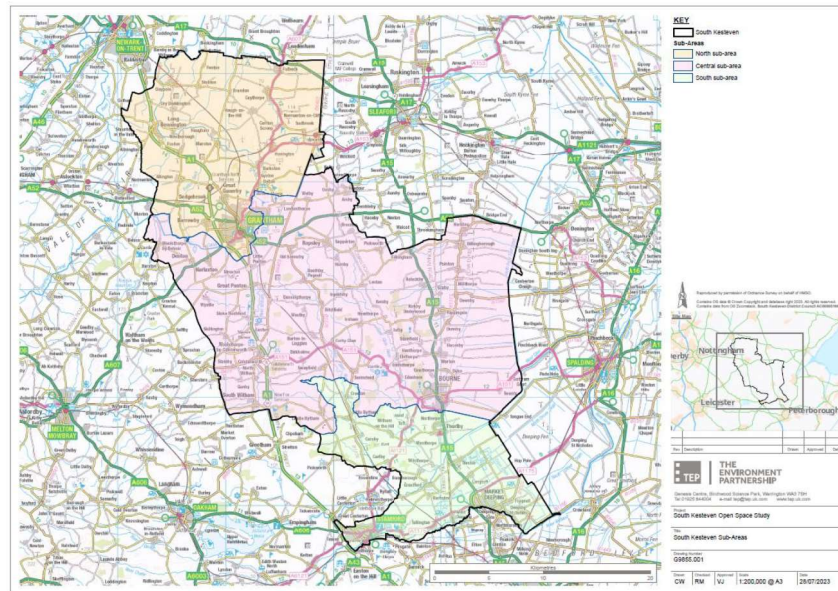
354	Village Green	Parks and gardens	76	Good	56	Medium
370	West of Knight Close	Amenity greenspace	76	Good	59	Medium
217	Cedar Road	Amenity greenspace	75	Good	29	Low
435	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	46	Medium
352	Crown Lane Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	75	Good	49	Medium
565	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	53	Medium
179	Thurlby Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	75	Good	59	Medium
543	South of Hereward Way	Amenity greenspace	72	Good	31	Low
226	Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	72	Good	38	Low
26	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	71	Good	53	Medium
436	Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	71	Good	60	High
509	Towngate West/Tattershall Drive	Amenity greenspace	70	Good	36	Low
449	Perth Road/Old Gt North Road	Amenity greenspace	69	Fair	22	Low
374	Tattershall Drive	Amenity greenspace	69	Fair	33	Low
172	New Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	69	Fair	35	Low
447	Charnock Drive	Amenity greenspace	68	Fair	28	Low
470	Linchfield Road	Provision for children and young people	68	Fair	31	Low
694	<Null>	Cemeteries and churchyards	68	Fair	37	Low
507	Manthorpe Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	67	Fair	45	Medium
359	Baston Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	67	Fair	56	Medium
121		Amenity greenspace	66	Fair	28	Low
198	Lambeth Walk	Amenity greenspace	65	Fair	24	Low
375	Tattershall Drive/Sandringham Way	Amenity greenspace	64	Fair	29	Low
9	Glebe Park	Provision for children and young people	63	Fair	20	Low
446	Old Great North Road	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	63	Fair	30	Low
501	West of Towing Close	Amenity greenspace	63	Fair	34	Low
550	Carlby Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	63	Fair	44	Medium
114	Greatford Road Recreation Ground	Parks and gardens	62	Fair	19	Low
210	Fraser Close	Amenity greenspace	61	Fair	27	Low
128		Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	60	Fair	66	High
460	Empingham Road/Sutherland Road	Provision for children and young people	59	Fair	23	Low
568	Rear of Lancaster Way	Amenity greenspace	57	Fair	33	Low
126		Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	55	Fair	21	Low
526	Rear of Kesteven Drive	Amenity greenspace	55	Fair	30	Low
218	Worcester Crescent	Amenity greenspace	54	Fair	28	Low
389	Drift Avenue	Amenity greenspace	53	Fair	13	Low
5	Thetford Avenue	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	52	Fair	32	Low
734	Millfield Road Informal Open Space	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	52	Fair	47	Medium
383	Selwyn Road/Downing Crescent	Amenity greenspace	42	Poor	31	Low
145	Lonsdale Road	Provision for children and young people	40	Poor	14	Low
156	Kesteven Road	Amenity greenspace	39	Poor	27	Low










## **APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION SUMMARY**

## South Kesteven Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study














### Community Consultation Summary

Which area are you most likely to use open spaces?			Response Percent	Response Total
1	North Sub-Area	<div style="width: 43.40%;"></div>	43.40%	46
2	Central Sub-Area	<div style="width: 41.51%;"></div>	41.51%	44
3	South Sub-Area	<div style="width: 28.30%;"></div>	28.30%	30
			answered	106





What type(s) of open space do you use most often? Select all that apply.				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Allotments and Community Gardens		16.98%	18
2	Amenity Greenspace		53.77%	57
3	Churchyards and Cemeteries		27.36%	29
4	Civic Spaces		30.19%	32
5	Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace		70.75%	75
6	Outdoor Sports Facilities		31.13%	33
7	Parks and Gardens		83.02%	88
8	Provision for Children and Young		32.08%	34
9	Other (please specify):		8.49%	9
			answered	106
<p>Other (please specify)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One person mentioned a large recreational field maintained by South Witham Parish Council with football field, child play area and a dilapidated skate park and basketball hoop</li> <li>• One person used the streets for walking</li> <li>• Five people highlighted footpaths including river/canal paths</li> <li>• One person used cycle routes</li> <li>• One person was waiting for an allotment</li> <li>• One person would like to use outside sporting facilities as coach of a football team, but none are currently available in Market Deeping</li> </ul>				



How do you use open spaces across the District? Select all that apply.				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Walking		87.74%	93
2	Running		10.38%	11
3	Dog walking		41.51%	44
4	Relaxation		66.98%	71
5	Formal play (use of playground equipment or outdoor gym equipment)		29.25%	31
6	Informal play		28.30%	30
7	Sports or other classes		15.09%	16
8	Education		7.55%	8
9	Other recreation		14.15%	15
10	Socialisation		41.51%	44
11	Food growing		12.26%	13
12	Equine sports (i.e. horse riding)		0.00%	0
13	Enjoyment of nature		59.43%	63
15	Other (please specify):		8.49%	9
			answered	106
Other (Please specify): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• St Peters Hill, Dysart Park and Wyndham park are used for public events</li> <li>• Health benefits</li> <li>• Outdoor events eg. Open air theatre</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>•</li> </ul>				

**How do you use open spaces across the District? Select all that apply.**

**Is there anything additional you would like to be provided in open spaces? If Yes, please provide further information.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		55.66%	59
2	No		44.34%	47
			answered	106

Comments: (59)

Comments:

- Car parks/ Access 2
- Green space, trees, informal recreation areas 8
- Walking/running/cycling routes 8
- Allotments 3
- Nature conservation areas/ Better provision or maintenance for biodiversity 5
- Lighting 2
- Staff supervision/CCTV 2
- Children & teen play equipment 4

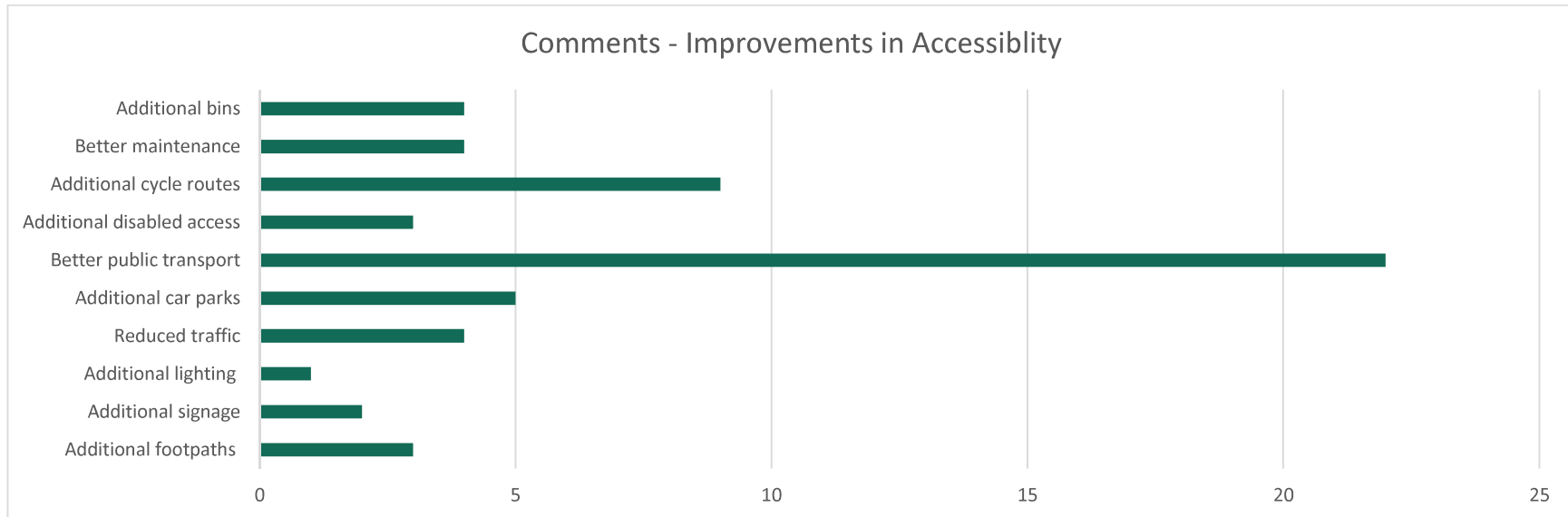
- Disabled access/Equipment 1
- Bins, benches, toilets 19
- Dog walking/ areas/ activities 2
- Outdoor sports equipment/ facilities 15
- Culture/Social opportunities 5
- More information boards 2
- Policy changes 3
- More cafes 2
- More events 1

**What open space(s) do you use the most in the District?**

<p>Answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and gardens 58</li> <li>• Cemetery 3</li> <li>• Sport facility/provision/playing field 14</li> <li>• Childrens play area 7</li> <li>• Waterways/River/Canal (inc. paths) 20</li> <li>• Grassland/ fields 9</li> <li>• Woodland 15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PROW</li> <li>• Wellhead 2</li> <li>• Footpaths/Walking trails 16</li> <li>• Countryside 4</li> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• Allotments/Community garden 10</li> <li>• Green space 3</li> <li>• Nature reserve 3</li> </ul>
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How often do you visit each type of space?						
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Annually	NA (not used)	Response Total
Allotments and Community Gardens	12.26% 13	16.98% 18	6.60% 7	0.94% 1	63.21% 67	106
Amenity Greenspace	26.42% 28	36.79% 39	16.04% 17	1.89% 2	18.87% 20	106
Churchyards and Cemeteries	1.89% 2	16.98% 18	31.13% 33	18.87% 20	31.13% 33	106
Civic Spaces	7.55% 8	32.08% 34	22.64% 24	10.38% 11	27.36% 29	106
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	26.42% 28	45.28% 48	19.81% 21	2.83% 3	5.66% 6	106
Outdoor Sports Facilities	7.55% 8	24.53% 26	12.26% 13	5.66% 6	50.00% 53	106
Parks and Gardens	32.08% 34	42.45% 45	18.87% 20	0.94% 1	5.66% 6	106
Provision for Children and Young People	11.32% 12	16.98% 18	14.15% 15	2.83% 3	54.72% 58	106
					answered	106

How accessible do you think open spaces in the District are? Are there any areas for improvement in terms of accessibility?							
Answer Choices	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A	Response Total
Walking	19.81% 21	46.23% 49	18.87% 20	9.43% 10	2.83% 3	2.83% 3	106
Cycling	8.49% 9	30.19% 32	18.87% 20	10.38% 11	9.43% 10	22.64% 24	106
Driving	12.26% 13	31.13% 33	34.91% 37	9.43% 10	4.72% 5	7.55% 8	106
Public Transport	1.89% 2	9.43% 10	18.87% 20	16.04% 17	36.79% 39	16.98% 18	106
						answered	106

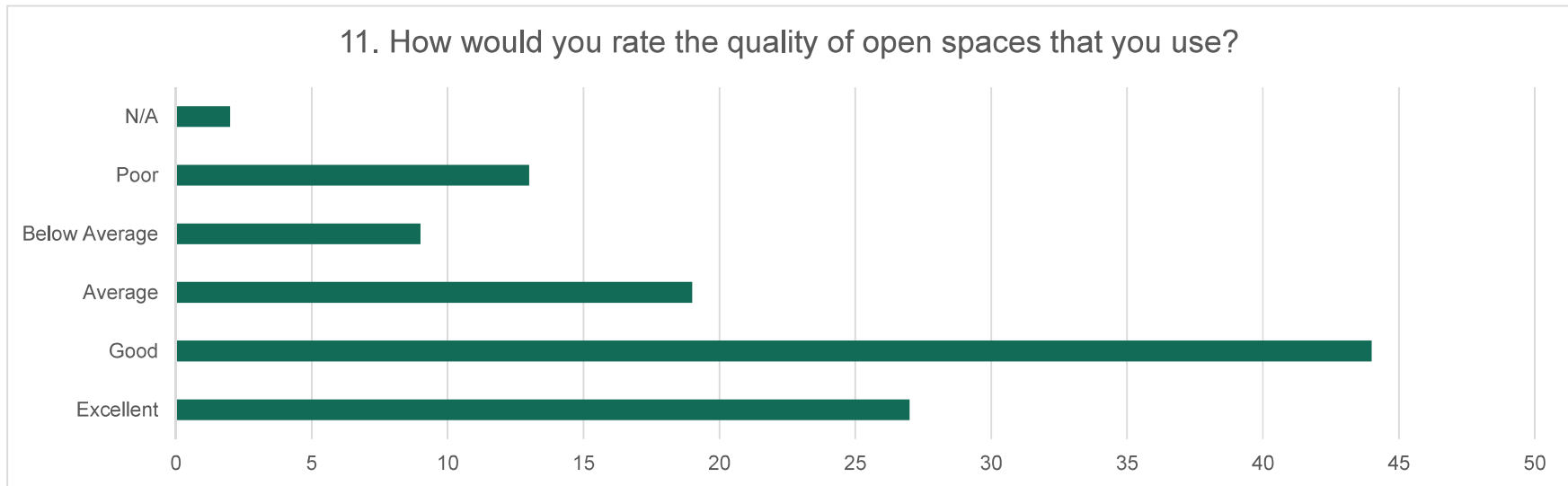


What is the length of time you would be willing to travel to access each type of open space? Tick all that apply.							
Answer Choices	Up to 10 minutes	Up to 15 minutes	Up to 30 minutes	Up to an hour	More than an hour	N/A not visited	Response Total
Allotments and Community Gardens	24.53% 26	21.70% 23	12.26% 13	2.83% 3	0.94% 1	37.74% 40	106
Amenity Greenspace	29.25% 31	21.70% 23	28.30% 30	4.72% 5	1.89% 2	14.15% 15	106
Churchyards and Cemeteries	19.81% 21	23.58% 25	25.47% 27	1.89% 2	0.94% 1	28.30% 30	106
Civic Spaces	16.04% 17	25.47% 27	33.02% 35	7.55% 8	0.00% 0	17.92% 19	106
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	13.21% 14	25.47% 27	37.74% 40	13.21% 14	2.83% 3	7.55% 8	106
Outdoor Sports Facilities	16.04% 17	19.81% 21	26.42% 28	3.77% 4	1.89% 2	32.08% 34	106
Parks and Gardens	18.87% 20	33.96% 36	33.02% 35	6.60% 7	2.83% 3	4.72% 5	106
Provision for Children and Young People	17.92% 19	15.09% 16	16.98% 18	3.77% 4	0.94% 1	45.28% 48	106
						answered	106

Are there any areas for improvement in terms of accessibility?		
Answer Choices	Comments on improvement	
Walking	24.07% 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of information in all towns</li> <li>• More footpath maintenance needed</li> <li>• More lighting</li> <li>• More benches</li> <li>• More provision needed</li> <li>• Too many bikes</li> <li>• Speed limit for cars is too high, need safer paths</li> </ul>
Cycling	29.41% 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More signage/designations</li> <li>• Keep free of other users</li> <li>• Roads not safe</li> <li>• More provision</li> <li>• Cyclists too fast/ not safe</li> </ul>
Driving	27.45% 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too much traffic</li> <li>• More signposting</li> <li>• More parking</li> <li>• Speed limits needed</li> <li>• Roads need repair</li> <li>• Driving too expensive</li> <li>• Cyclists are dangerous</li> </ul>
Public Transport	28.89% 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More provision (including late night, less erratic)</li> <li>• More affordable</li> </ul>
Other	26.67% 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled access is limited</li> <li>• Shuttle bus to attractions and countryside</li> <li>• Investment</li> <li>• Pavements need improving</li> </ul>
How would you rate the quality of open spaces that you use?		

Are there any areas for improvement in terms of accessibility?		
Answer Choices		Response Total
Excellent		27
Good		44
Average		19
Below Average		9
Poor		13
N/A		2
		answered
		84
		skipped
		22

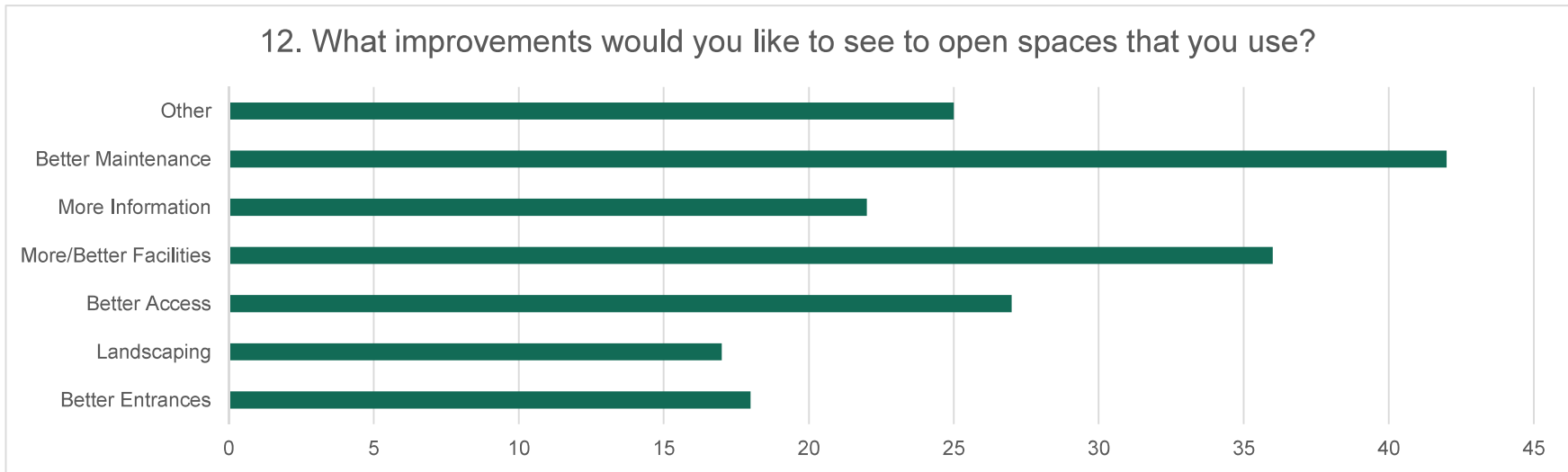




What improvements would you like to see to open spaces that you use?		
Answer Choices		Response Total
Better Entrances		18
Landscaping		17
Better Access (footpaths, etc.)		27
More or better Facilities (seating, etc.)		36
More Information (boards, etc.)		22
Better Maintenance (litter, etc.)		42
Other improvements		25
answered		69

**What improvements would you like to see to open spaces that you use?**

skipped 37



**How would you rate each typology across the District as a whole in terms of quantity (amount)?**

Answer Choices	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A	Response Total
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.94% 1	12.26% 13	18.87% 20	10.38% 11	9.43% 10	48.11% 51	106
Amenity Greenspace	5.66% 6	24.53% 26	36.79% 39	8.49% 9	6.60% 7	17.92% 19	106
Churchyards and Cemeteries	5.66% 6	29.25% 31	33.02% 35	2.83% 3	2.83% 3	26.42% 28	106
Civic Spaces	1.89% 2	24.53% 26	34.91% 37	16.04% 17	4.72% 5	17.92% 19	106

How would you rate each typology across the District as a whole in terms of quantity (amount)?							
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	3.77% 4	48.11% 51	25.47% 27	11.32% 12	3.77% 4	7.55% 8	106
Outdoor Sports Facilities	0.94% 1	19.81% 21	24.53% 26	12.26% 13	12.26% 13	30.19% 32	106
Parks and Gardens	11.32% 12	43.40% 46	27.36% 29	8.49% 9	5.66% 6	3.77% 4	106
Provision for Children and Young People	1.89% 2	16.98% 18	22.64% 24	14.15% 15	8.49% 9	35.85% 38	106
						answered	106
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More cultural/heritage spaces</li> <li>• No sense of community</li> <li>• Not enough provision of any typology</li> <li>• More outdoor facilities</li> <li>• More children/youth play areas</li> <li>• More natural/semi natural areas</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More community gardens</li> <li>• More trees and hedgerows</li> <li>• Dog park</li> <li>• More landscape maintenance</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• More cycle paths</li> <li>• Facilities are needed for a girls football team, so they have to travel to neighbouring settlements</li> </ul>			

14. Do you perceive any potential threats or barriers to the adequate provision of open space in the District as a whole? Select all that apply and please provide comments.			
Answer Choices	Yes	No	Response Total
Funding	83.67% 82	16.33% 16	98
Antisocial behaviour	79.21% 80	20.79% 21	101

**14. Do you perceive any potential threats or barriers to the adequate provision of open space in the District as a whole? Select all that apply and please provide comments.**

Community engagement	57.29% 55	42.71% 41	96
Infrastructure requirements	69.47% 66	30.53% 29	95
Planning	72.34% 68	27.66% 26	94
Lack of consultation	74.74% 71	25.26% 24	95
Poor design of the spaces	67.71% 65	32.29% 31	96
		answered	103
		skipped	3







Comments: (32)







- No ambition/not enough care taken to attract visitors
- Funding difficult to obtain
- Reduce police presence/ More antisocial behaviour
- Lack of community engagement
- Lack of maintenance
- Lack of accessibility/ safety
- Too much development

**15. What do you perceive as potential opportunities for open space in the District as a whole? Select all that apply and please provide comments.**






Answer Choices	Yes	No	Response Total
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15. What do you perceive as potential opportunities for open space in the District as a whole? Select all that apply and please provide comments.			
Grants and Funding	88.68% 94	11.32% 12	106
More effective use of S106[*]	90.57% 96	9.43% 10	106
Community engagement	88.68% 94	11.32% 12	106
Improved management of the spaces	83.96% 89	16.04% 17	106
Increased community events	82.08% 87	17.92% 19	106
Marketing / Social Media	71.70% 76	28.30% 30	106
Engagement with developers	86.79% 92	13.21% 14	106
Engagement with the community and stakeholders	93.40% 99	6.60% 7	106
		answered	106
		skipped	0
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S106 funds/ Developer should contribute</li> <li>• More information/Advertising</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> <li>• More environmentally friendly approached to landscaping/planning</li> <li>• Reduce number of new developments</li> </ul>			








16. What is your age?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Under 18		0.00%	0
2	18-24		0.00%	0
3	25-34		3.81%	4
4	35-44		5.71%	6
5	45-54		20.00%	21
6	55-64		23.81%	25
7	65 and over		41.90%	44
8	Prefer not to say		4.76%	5
			answered	105
			skipped	1

17. How would you describe your ethnic origin?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Asian or Asian British		0.95%	1
2	African		0.95%	1
3	Black or Black British		0.00%	0
4	Caribbean		0.00%	0
5	Mixed		0.95%	1
6	Multiple		0.00%	0
7	White		84.76%	89
8	Other		0.95%	1
9	Prefer not to say		11.43%	12
			answered	105
			skipped	1



18. Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability or neurodiverse condition?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Person with a disability		14.71%	15
2	Neurodiverse condition		6.86%	7
3	None of the above		65.69%	67
4	Prefer not to say		8.82%	9
5	Other (please specify):		3.92%	4
			answered	102
			skipped	4
Other (please specify): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety disorder</li> <li>• Disabled partner</li> <li>• Arthritis</li> </ul>				







19. What gender do you identify as?					
Answer Choices				Response Percent	Response Total
1	Woman			51.43%	54
2	Man			40.95%	43
3	Transgender			0.00%	0
4	Non-binary/non-conforming			0.00%	0
5	All other gender identities			0.00%	0
6	Prefer not to say			7.62%	8
				answered	105
				skipped	1

20. What type of household do you live in?					
Answer Choices				Response Percent	Response Total
1	Single occupant			11.43%	12
2	Couple (18-34)			2.86%	3
3	Couple (35+)			50.48%	53
4	Adults with children (0-10)			7.62%	8
5	Adults with children (11+)			16.19%	17
6	Prefer not to say			7.62%	8
7	Other (please specify):			3.81%	4
				answered	105
				skipped	1

**20. What type of household do you live in?**

- Other (please specify):
- Family household
  - Divorced father
  - Single parent

**21. What is your employment status?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Full time employed		21.70%	23
2	Part time employed		19.81%	21
3	Unemployed		0.94%	1
4	Retired		43.40%	46
5	Prefer not to say		8.49%	9
6	Other (please specify):		5.66%	6
			answered	106

- Other (please specify):
- Self employed

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

Please state what type(s) of organisation you work for, or if you are responding to this consultation on behalf of e.g. parish council, South Kesteven District Council, community interest group etc.		
Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Open-Ended Question <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parish Council</li><li>• Community Group</li><li>• Charity</li><li>• Natural England</li><li>• Sustrans</li><li>• Town Council</li><li>• Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board</li></ul>	100.00%	23

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

What type(s) of open space, if any, is your organisation involved in managing or using in the District? Select all that apply.				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Parks and Gardens		43.48%	10
2	Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace		39.13%	9
3	Amenity Greenspace		47.83%	11
4	Provision for Children and Young People (Play space youth and children)		47.83%	11
5	Outdoor Sports Facilities		47.83%	11
6	Allotments and Community Gardens		21.74%	5
7	Churchyards and Cemeteries		21.74%	5
8	Civic Spaces		4.35%	1
9	N/A		4.35%	1
10	Other (please specify):		47.83%	11
			answered	23
			skipped	0
Other (please specify): (11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burial ground</li> <li>• Cycling network</li> <li>• Protected Sites (Natural England)</li> <li>• Unsuccessful bid for recognition as Informal open Space</li> <li>• Local Sites</li> <li>• Public footpaths</li> <li>• Unsure of correct typology (parish fields)</li> <li>• Community orchard</li> <li>• Watercourses 2</li> </ul>				

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

How accessible are the open spaces that your organisation manage or use in relation to walking, cycling, driving and public transport?							
Answer Choices	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A	Response Total
Walking	47.83% 11	30.43% 7	4.35% 1	4.35% 1	4.35% 1	8.70% 2	23
Cycling	39.13% 9	39.13% 9	4.35% 1	4.35% 1	4.35% 1	8.70% 2	23
Driving	30.43% 7	34.78% 8	8.70% 2	0.00% 0	4.35% 1	21.74% 5	23
Public Transport	4.35% 1	8.70% 2	30.43% 7	4.35% 1	17.39% 4	34.78% 8	23
						answered	23

Are there any areas for improvement in terms of accessibility? Please use the comments box to identify any areas for improvement in terms of accessibility and identify which area in the District or site is being referred to?			
Answer Choices	Comments on improvement		Response Total
Walking	50.00% 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More footpaths 5</li> <li>• Better maintenance</li> <li>• Safety (traffic lights etc.) 2</li> <li>• Disabled access</li> <li>• Signposting</li> </ul>	46
Cycling	50.00% 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More provision 3</li> <li>• Better planning</li> <li>• Safety</li> </ul>	46






**Key Stakeholder Consultation**

Are there any areas for improvement in terms of accessibility? Please use the comments box to identify any areas for improvement in terms of accessibility and identify which area in the District or site is being referred to?			
Driving	50.00% 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better signage</li> <li>More maintenance</li> <li>More parking 2</li> </ul>	46
Public Transport	50.00% 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More/better provision 11</li> </ul>	46
Other	50.00% 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lighting on roads</li> <li>Improved active travel links</li> </ul>	46









## Key Stakeholder Consultation

How would you rate the quality of open spaces that your organisation use and manage? Please use the comments box to identify which site you are referring to and provide examples where possible.






Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Excellent		4.35%	1
2	Good		4.35%	1
3	Average		0.00%	0
4	Below Average		8.70%	2
5	Poor		0.00%	0
6	N/A		8.70%	2
7	Comments: Successful open spaces		73.91%	17
			answered	23
			skipped	0
<p>Comments: Successful open spaces (17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burial Ground</li> <li>Grantham needs more open spaces and connectivity due to large expansions in population</li> <li>Wyndham and Elizabeth parks are good 2</li> <li>Long Bennington Playing Fields maintained well using volunteers</li> <li>Well head and Abbey lawn memorial gardens</li> <li>Land taken over from council for football pitches needs more security and bins to allow improvement</li> <li>Sports and recreation fields, children's parks used extensively</li> <li>Withambrook Play Area, The Belfry, Fifth Ave, Hills &amp; Hollows, jubilee Mount</li> <li>Deeping St James Cemetery and Priory Churchyard, Allotments on Hall Meadow Road Millennium Wood on Spalding Road (next to no. 101), Hereward Way play area, Woody Heights skatepark and MUGA on Linchfield Road, Jubilee Park play area and open space between Thackers Way and Crowson Way</li> </ul>				
<p>Comments: Open spaces which require improvement (16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connectivity and travel routes</li> <li>More volunteers needed</li> <li>Not enough landscape maintenance</li> <li>Mill Field, Sunningdale Estate, Blessed Hughe More, park enar Wickes/DFS, Play areas at Hereward Way and Jubilee Park</li> </ul>				

## Key Stakeholder Consultation








What improvements would you like to see to open spaces that your organisation use and manage? Please use the comments box to identify the specific site you are referring to and provide examples of both successful spaces and projects as well as those you feel require improvement.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Better Entrances		30.43%	7
2	Landscaping		34.78%	8
3	Better Access (footpaths, etc.)		56.52%	13
4	More or better Facilities (seating, etc.)		47.83%	11
5	More Information (boards, etc.)		17.39%	4
6	Better Maintenance (litter, etc.)		30.43%	7
			answered	23
			skipped	0
<p>Comments, please consider successful spaces and spaces that require improvement. (18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath from village to cycle path</li> <li>• Cycling infrastructure in Grantham</li> <li>• Transport in Willows area</li> <li>• Footpaths to nature reserves</li> <li>• Antisocial behaviour in several parts</li> <li>• More management for biodiversity improvements</li> <li>• Disabled access</li> </ul>				

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

How would you rate the quality of open space across the District as a whole?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Excellent		8.70%	2
2	Good		34.78%	8
3	Average		26.09%	6
4	Below Average		0.00%	0
5	Poor		4.35%	1
6	N/A		26.09%	6
			answered	23
			skipped	0
<p>Comments: Any specific typologies which require improvement? Respondents should refer to the Supporting Typology list provided. (6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for Children and Young People (Play space youth and children)</li> <li>• Allotments and community gardens</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural greenspace</li> <li>• Parks and gardens</li> <li>• Amenity greenspace</li> <li>• Outdoor sports facilities</li> </ul>				

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

What improvements would you like to see to open space across the District as a whole?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Better Entrances		13.04%	3
2	Landscaping		26.09%	6
3	Better Access (footpaths, etc.)		52.17%	12
4	More or better Facilities (seating, etc.)		39.13%	9
5	More Information (boards, etc.)		4.35%	1
6	Better Maintenance (litter, etc.)		39.13%	9
7	Other (please specify):		60.87%	14
			answered	23
			skipped	0
<p>Other (please specify): (14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public footpath maintenance 2</li> <li>• More bins 2</li> <li>• More and better connected transport/travel infrastructure</li> <li>• More biodiversity and green connections 2</li> <li>• More provision of open space 2</li> <li>• More/improved young/old facilities</li> <li>• More information</li> <li>• Equipment/facility maintenance 2</li> </ul>				

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

How would you rate the adequacy of open space you manage and use in terms of quantity (amount)? Please provide a response only where the specific typology is used and/or managed.							
Answer Choices	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A	Response Total
Allotments and Community Gardens	8.70% 2	21.74% 5	0.00% 0	4.35% 1	4.35% 1	60.87% 14	23
Amenity Greenspace	30.43% 7	17.39% 4	13.04% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	39.13% 9	23
Churchyards and Cemeteries	21.74% 5	17.39% 4	4.35% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	56.52% 13	23
Civic Spaces	4.35% 1	8.70% 2	17.39% 4	0.00% 0	4.35% 1	65.22% 15	23
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	21.74% 5	17.39% 4	17.39% 4	0.00% 0	4.35% 1	39.13% 9	23
Parks and Gardens	30.43% 7	17.39% 4	17.39% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34.78% 8	23
Provision for Children Young People	39.13% 9	13.04% 3	13.04% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34.78% 8	23
						answered	23
						skipped	0
Comments e.g. is there a clear demand for a specific typology? Is there a specific typology which is in excess? (11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of cycle parking</li> <li>• Play equipment needs replacing</li> <li>• Natural and Semi-natural greenspace</li> <li>• Provision for children/young people 2</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>							

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

How would you rate the adequacy of each typology across the District as a whole in terms of quantity (amount)?							
Answer Choices	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A	Response Total
Allotments and Community Gardens	4.35% 1	0.00% 0	17.39% 4	21.74% 5	0.00% 0	56.52% 13	23
Amenity Greenspace	0.00% 0	34.78% 8	17.39% 4	4.35% 1	0.00% 0	43.48% 10	23
Churchyards and Cemeteries	4.35% 1	17.39% 4	17.39% 4	4.35% 1	0.00% 0	56.52% 13	23
Civic Spaces	0.00% 0	21.74% 5	30.43% 7	0.00% 0	4.35% 1	43.48% 10	23
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	4.35% 1	26.09% 6	21.74% 5	4.35% 1	8.70% 2	34.78% 8	23
Parks and Gardens	8.70% 2	30.43% 7	21.74% 5	4.35% 1	0.00% 0	34.78% 8	23
Provision for Children Young People	4.35% 1	8.70% 2	30.43% 7	13.04% 3	0.00% 0	43.48% 10	23
						answered	23
						skipped	0
Comments e.g. is there a clear demand for a specific typology? Is there a specific typology which is in excess? (11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the above</li> <li>• Natural and semi-natural greenspace</li> <li>• Provision for Children and Young People 2</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Parks and gardens</li> <li>• Amenity greenspace</li> </ul>							

## Key Stakeholder Consultation

What do you perceive as potential threats or barriers to the adequate provision of open space in the District? Select all that apply and please provide comments.			
Answer Choices	Yes	No	Response Total
Funding	95.65% 22	4.35% 1	23
Antisocial behaviour	73.91% 17	26.09% 6	23
Community engagement	69.57% 16	30.43% 7	23
Infrastructure requirements	73.91% 17	26.09% 6	23
Planning	79.17% 19	20.83% 5	24
Lack of consultation	78.26% 18	21.74% 5	23
Poor design of the spaces	60.87% 14	39.13% 9	23
		answered	23
		skipped	0
Comments: (13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding x 5</li> <li>• Antisocial behaviour x 3</li> <li>• Planning x 3</li> <li>• Section 106 x 3</li> <li>• Too much development (on green sites)</li> <li>• Lack of consultation</li> <li>• Poor design</li> </ul>			



## Key Stakeholder Consultation

What do you perceive as potential opportunities to the adequate provision of open space in the District? Select all that apply and please provide comments.			
Answer Choices	Yes	No	Response Total
Grants and Funding	100.00% 23	0.00% 0	23
More effective use of S106	91.67% 22	8.33% 2	24
Community engagement	95.65% 22	4.35% 1	23
Improved management of the spaces	91.30% 21	8.70% 2	23
Increased community events	78.26% 18	21.74% 5	23
Marketing / Social Media	78.26% 18	21.74% 5	23
Engagement with developers	95.65% 22	4.35% 1	23
Engagement with the community and stakeholders	95.65% 22	4.35% 1	23
		answered	23
		skipped	0
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 person replied Policy and enforcement</li> <li>• 2 people replied More engagement with community and stakeholders</li> <li>• 1 person replied Biodiversity Net Gain</li> <li>• 2 people replied Grants and funds</li> <li>• 2 people replied S106</li> </ul>			



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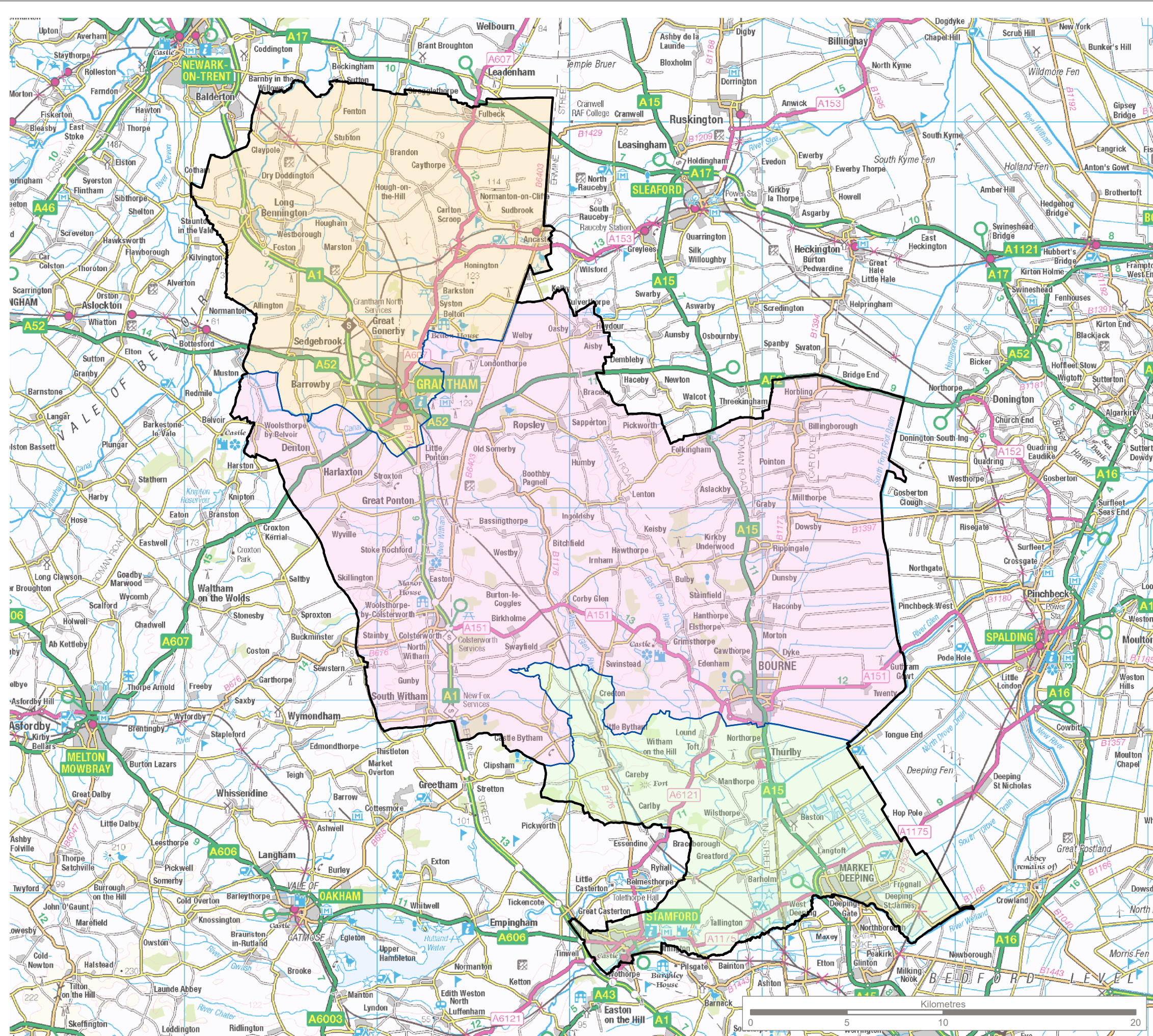
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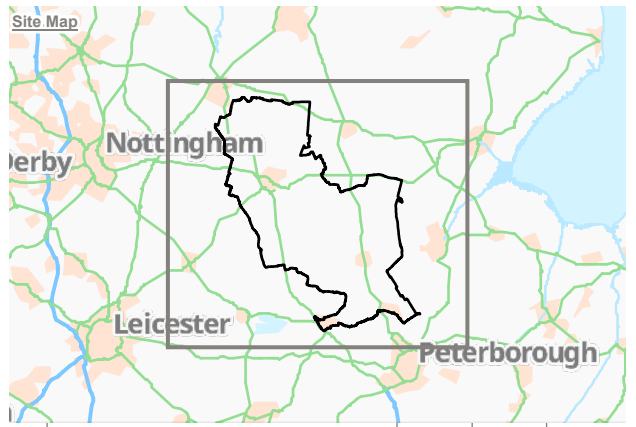




**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub-Areas**
  - North sub-area
  - Central sub-area
  - South sub-area

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

**TEP** | THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

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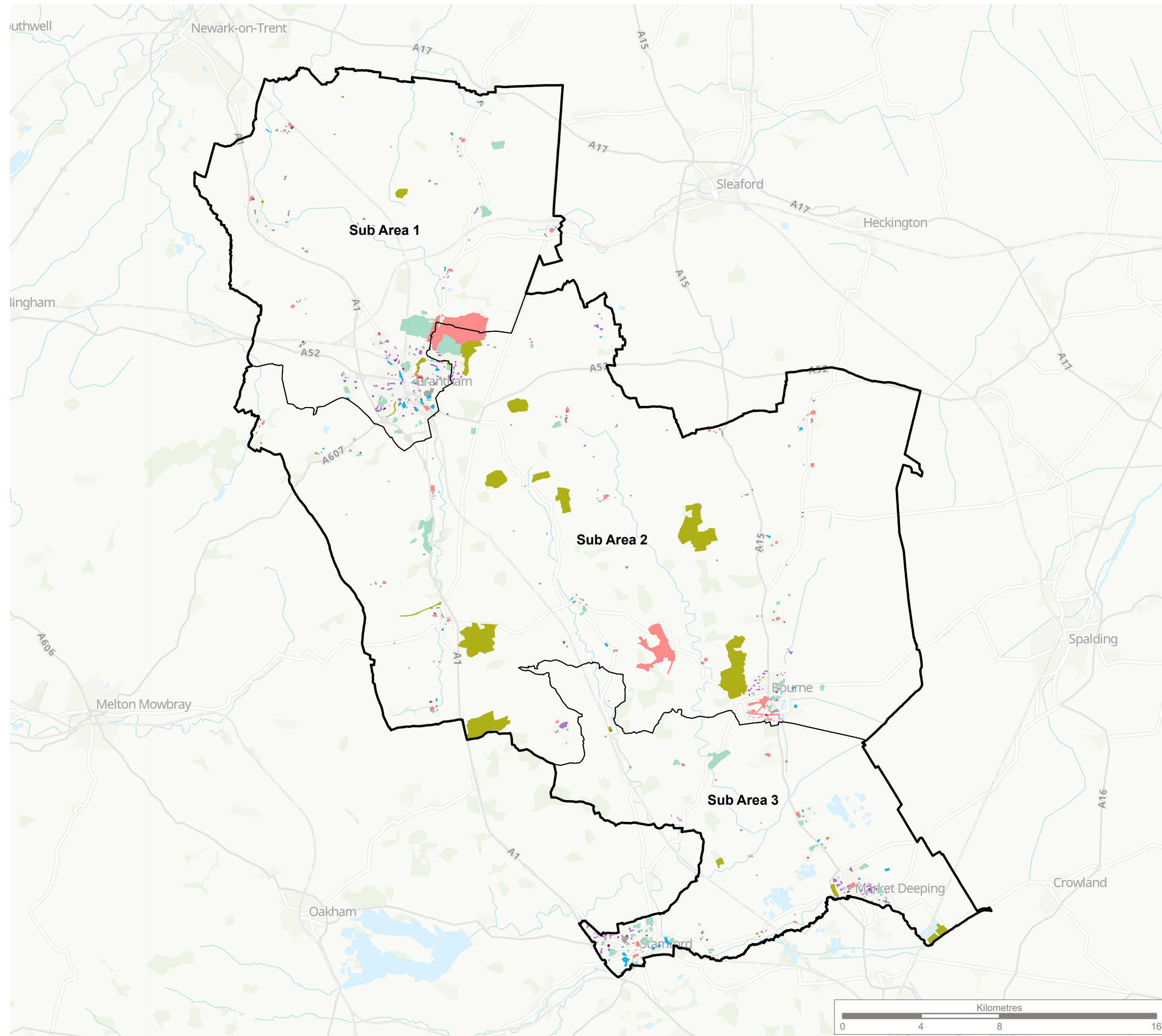
Project: South Kesteven Open Space Study

Title: South Kesteven Sub-Areas

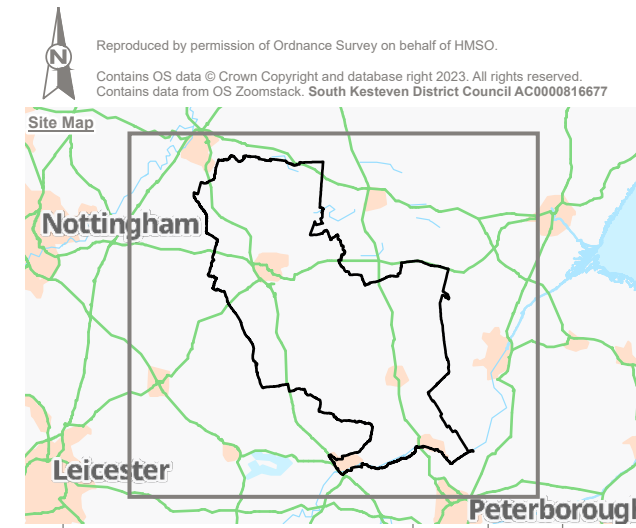
Drawing Number: G9855.001

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	RM	VJ	1:200,000 @ A3	28/07/2023





- KEY**
- South Kesteven
  - Sub Area
- Open Space Typology**
- Allotments and community gardens
  - Amenity greenspace
  - Cemeteries and churchyards
  - Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
  - Outdoor sports facilities
  - Parks and gardens
  - Local Area of Play (LAP)
  - Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)
  - Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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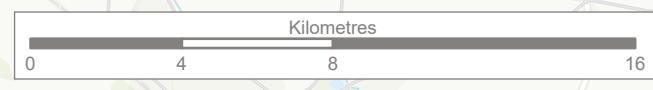
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Project  
**South Kesteven Open Space Study**

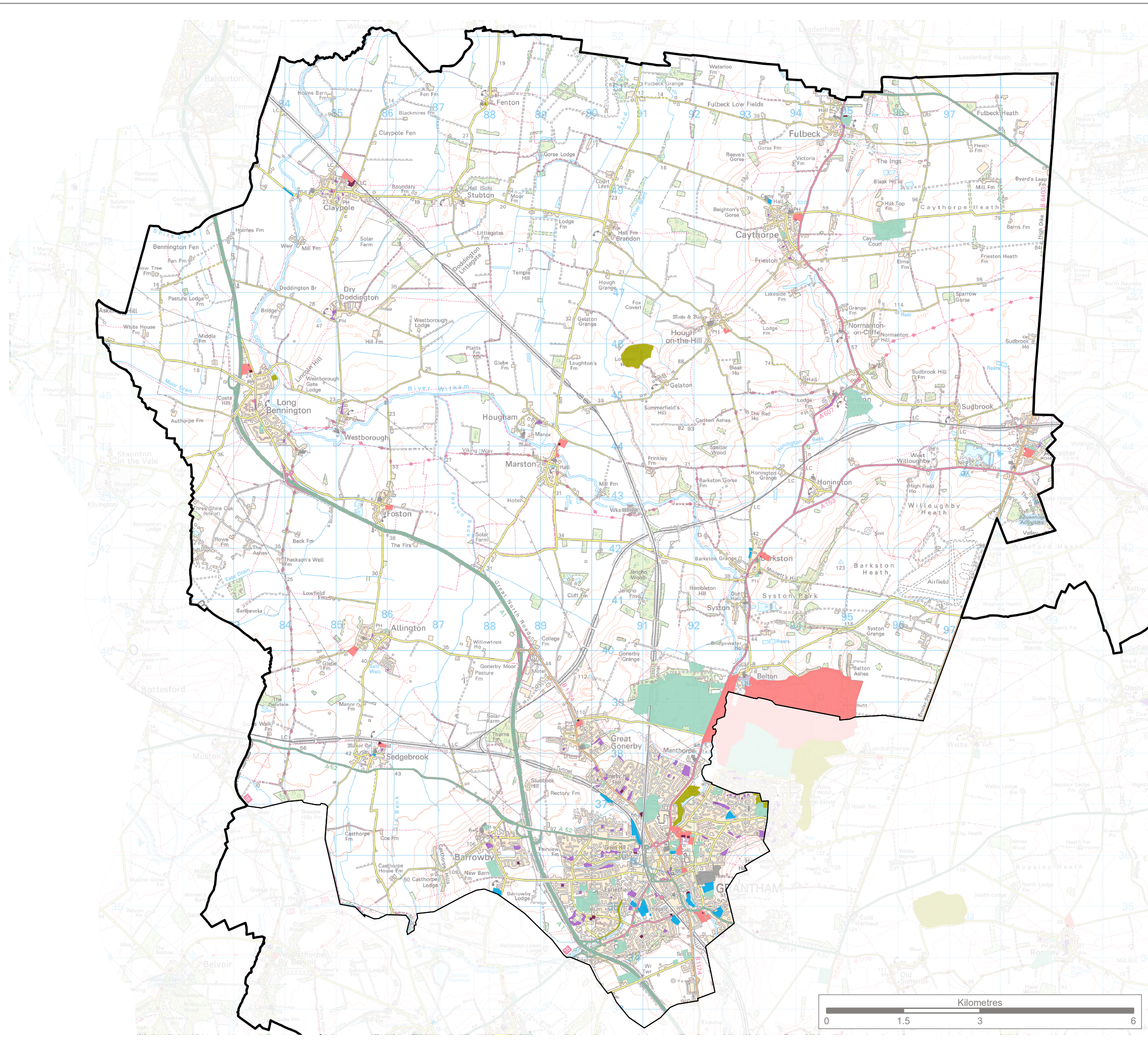
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Drawing Number  
**G9855.002.1** Page 1 of 4

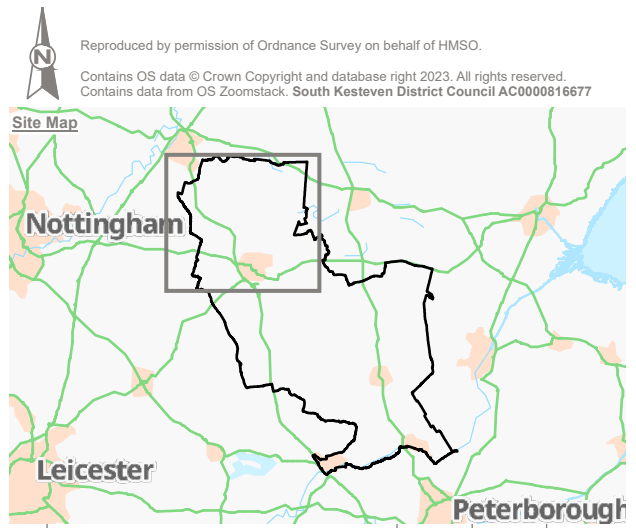
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CW	CB	VJ	1:200,000 @ A3	20/10/2023







- KEY**
- South Kesteven
  - Sub Area
- Open Space Typology**
- Allotments and community gardens
  - Amenity greenspace
  - Cemeteries and churchyards
  - Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
  - Outdoor sports facilities
  - Parks and gardens
  - Local Area of Play (LAP)
  - Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)
  - Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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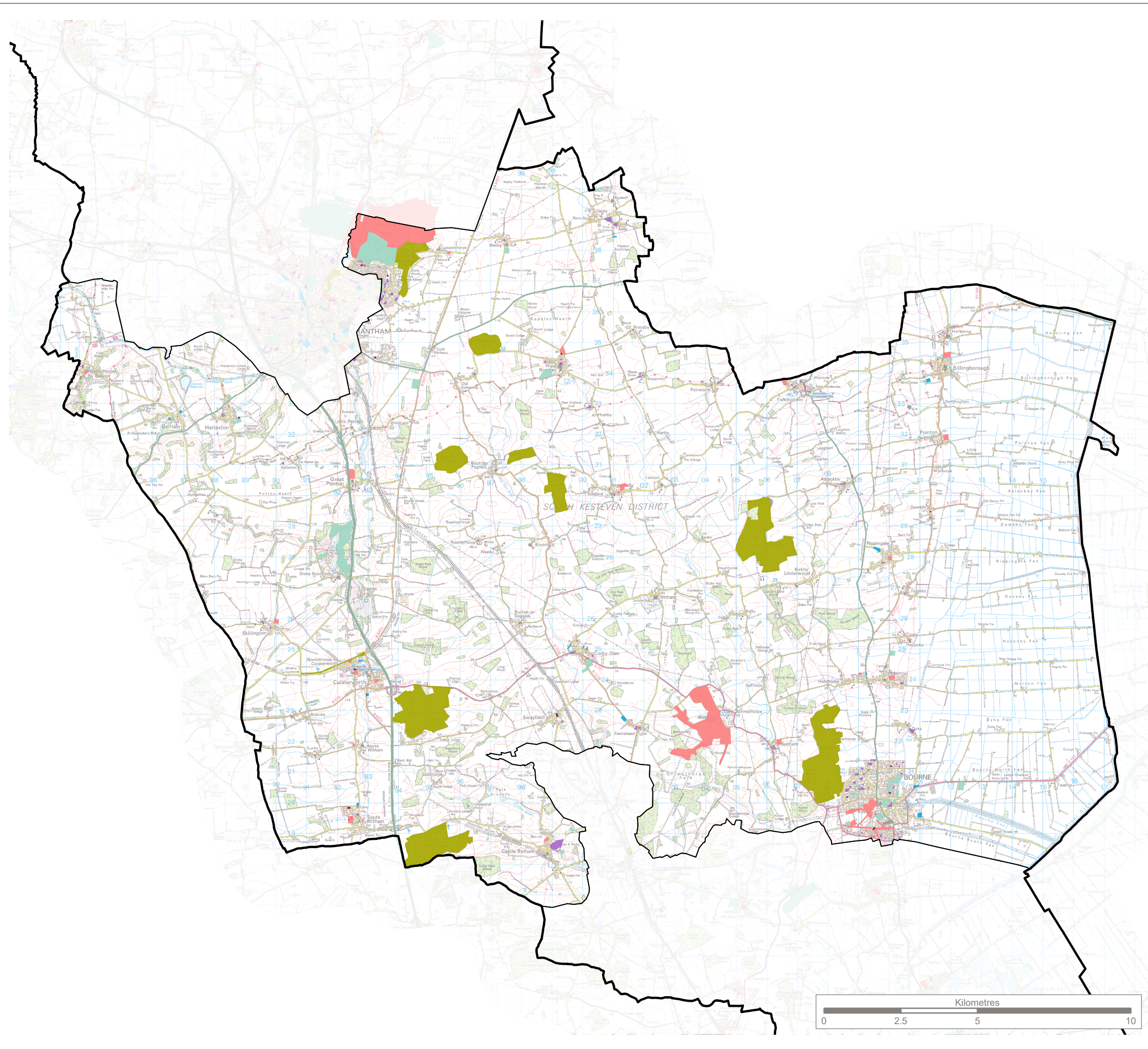
Project  
 South Kesteven Open Space Study

Title  
 Open Space Typology  
 North Sub-Area

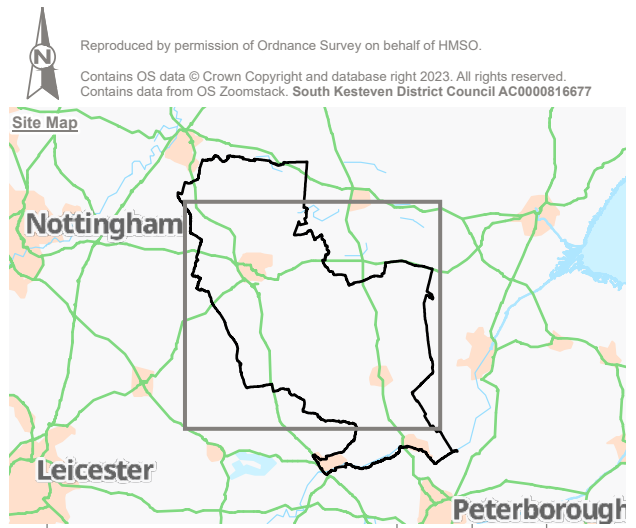
Drawing Number  
 G9855.002.2 Page 2 of 4

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:75,000 @ A3	20/10/2023





- KEY**
- South Kesteven
  - Sub Area
- Open Space Typology**
- Allotments and community gardens
  - Amenity greenspace
  - Cemeteries and churchyards
  - Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
  - Outdoor sports facilities
  - Parks and gardens
  - Local Area of Play (LAP)
  - Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)
  - Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)



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Project  
 South Kesteven Open Space Study

Title  
 Open Space Typology  
 Central Sub-Area

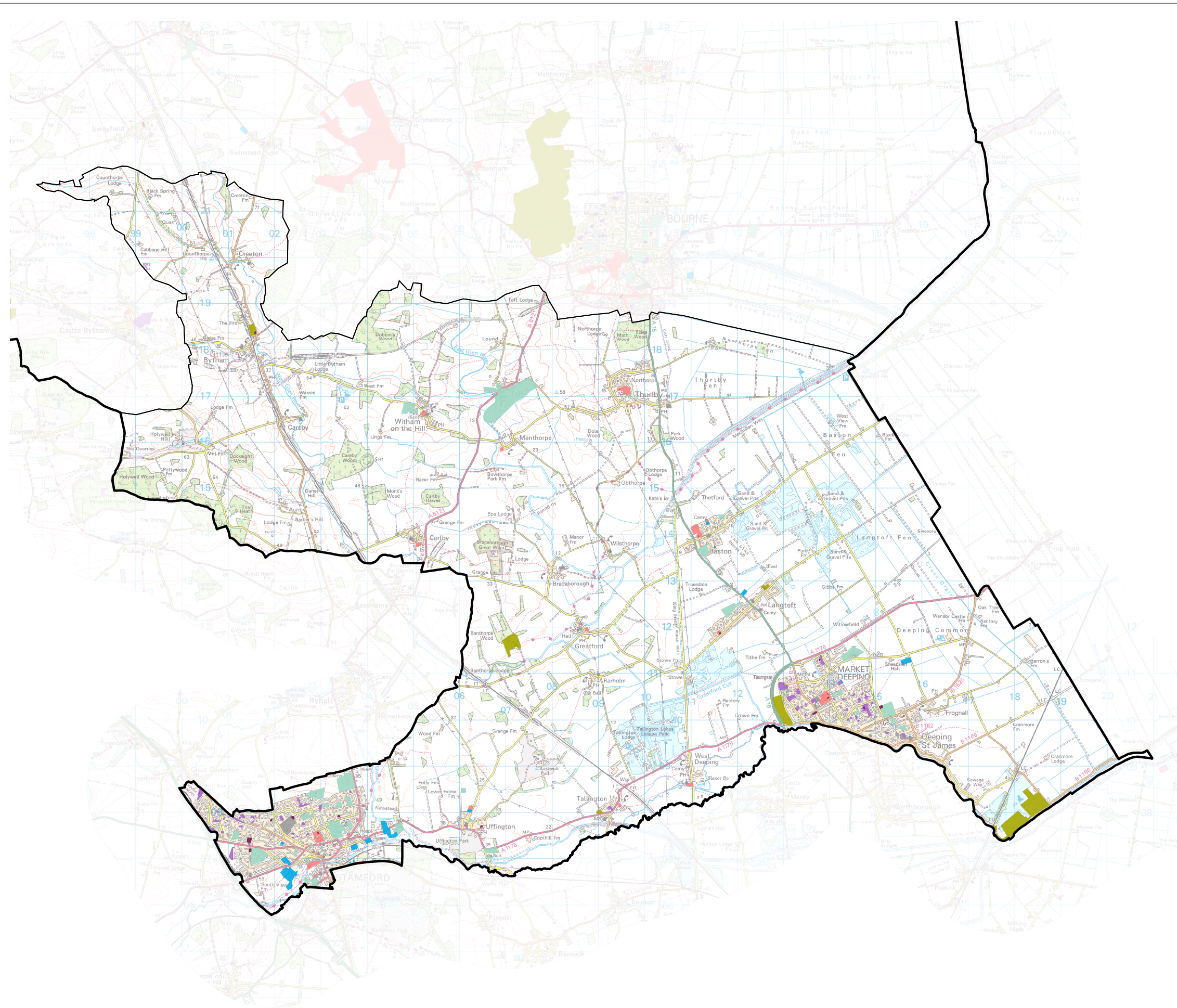
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Page 3 of 4



Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:125,000 @ A3	20/10/2023







**KEY**

-  South Kesteven
-  Sub Area

**Open Space Typology**

-  Allotments and community gardens
-  Amenity greenspace
-  Cemeteries and churchyards
-  Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
-  Outdoor sports facilities
-  Parks and gardens
-  Local Area of Play (LAP)
-  Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)
-  Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)

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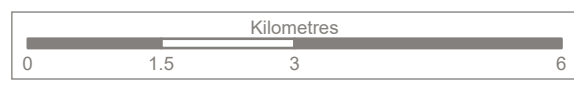
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Project  
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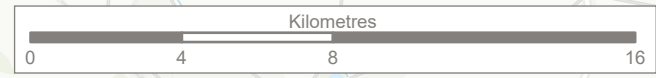
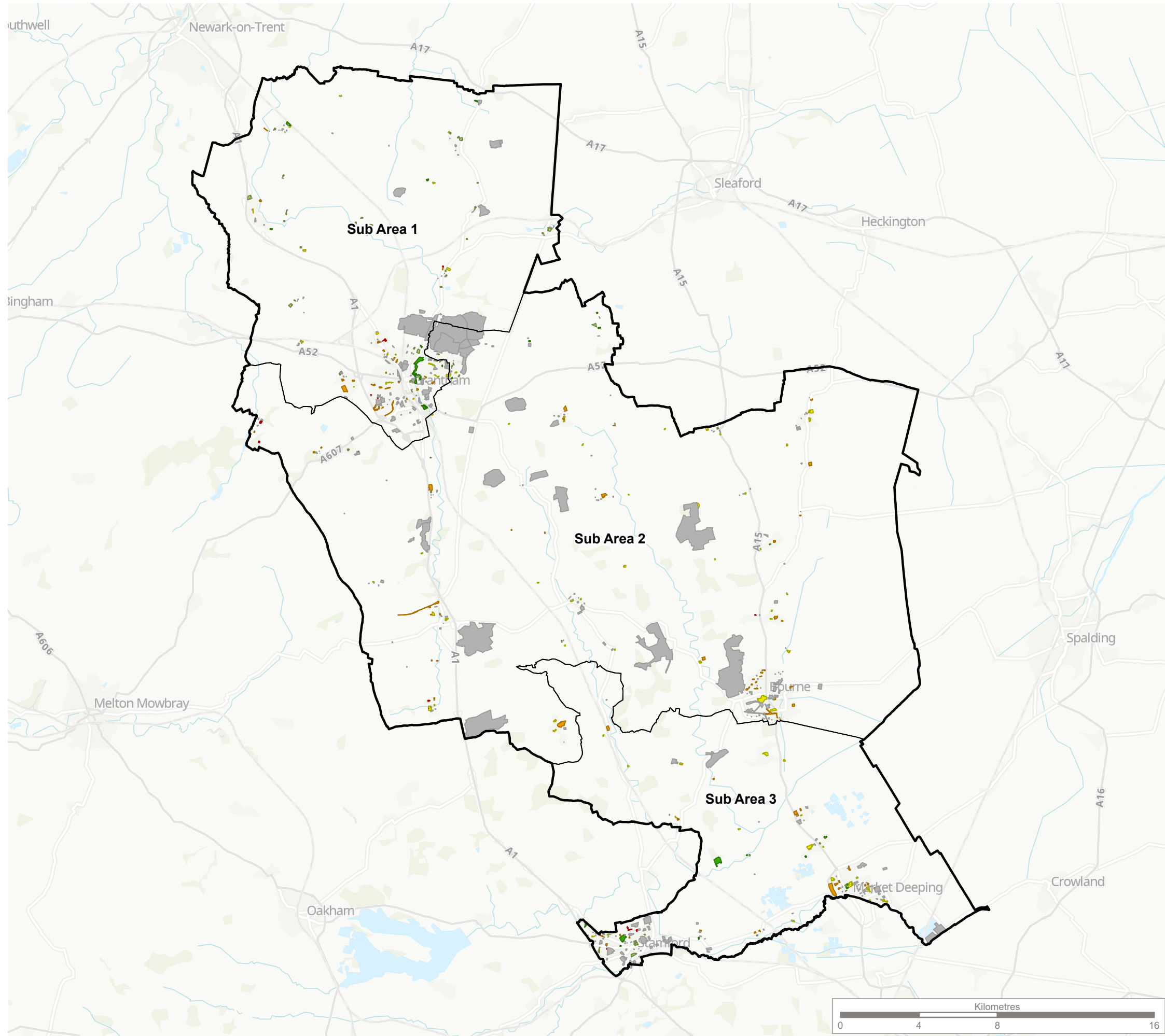
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Drawing Number  
**G9855.002.4** Page 4 of 4

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:85,000 @ A3	20/10/2023







**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area
- Open Space Quality Banding**
- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- No audit

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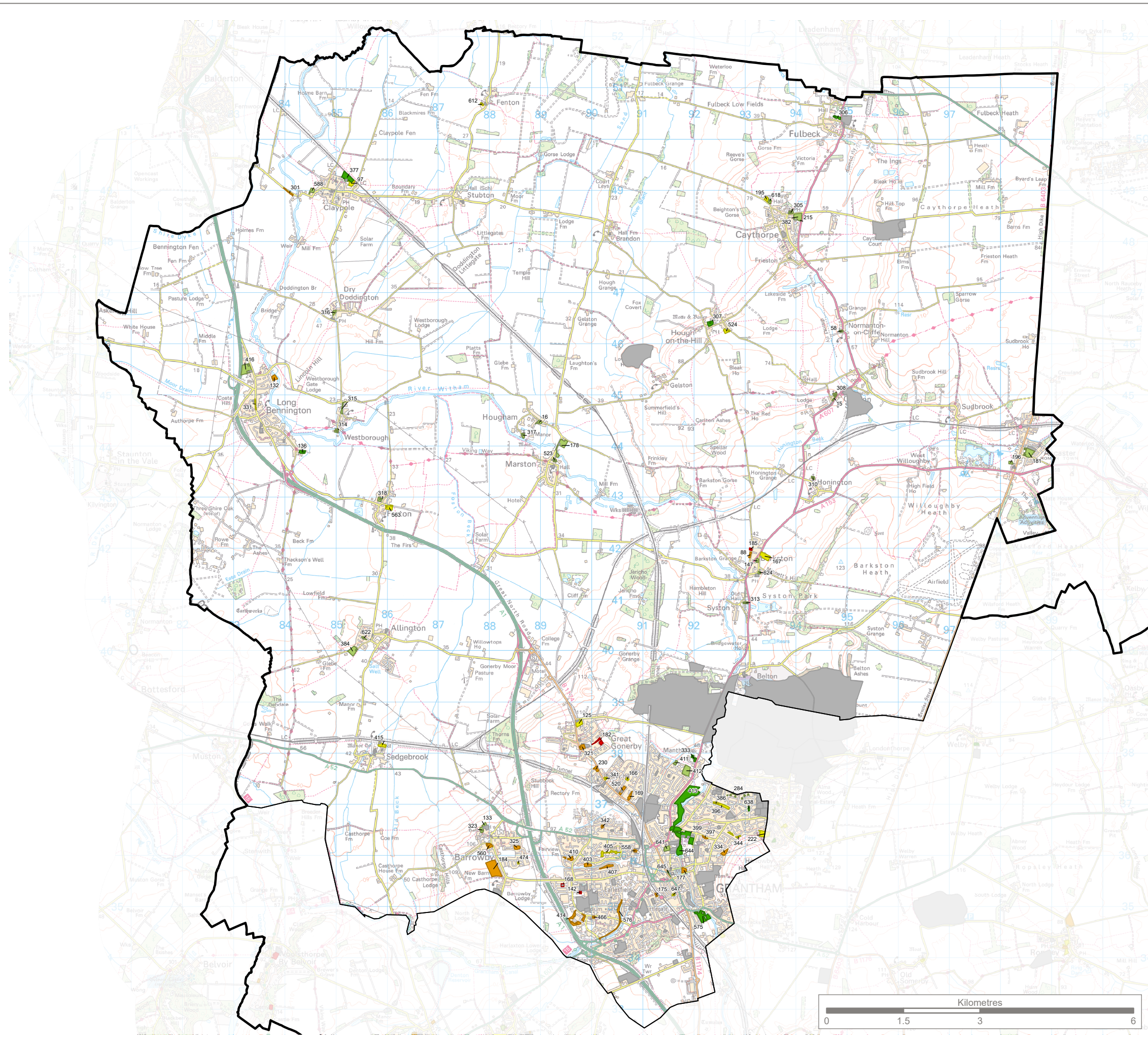
Project  
**South Kesteven Open Space Study**

Title  
**Open Space - Quality Audit Overview**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.003.1** Page 1 of 4

Drawn CW	Checked CB	Approved VJ	Scale 1:200,000 @ A3	Date 20/10/2023
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**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Quality Banding**

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- No audit

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Project  
 South Kesteven Open Space Study

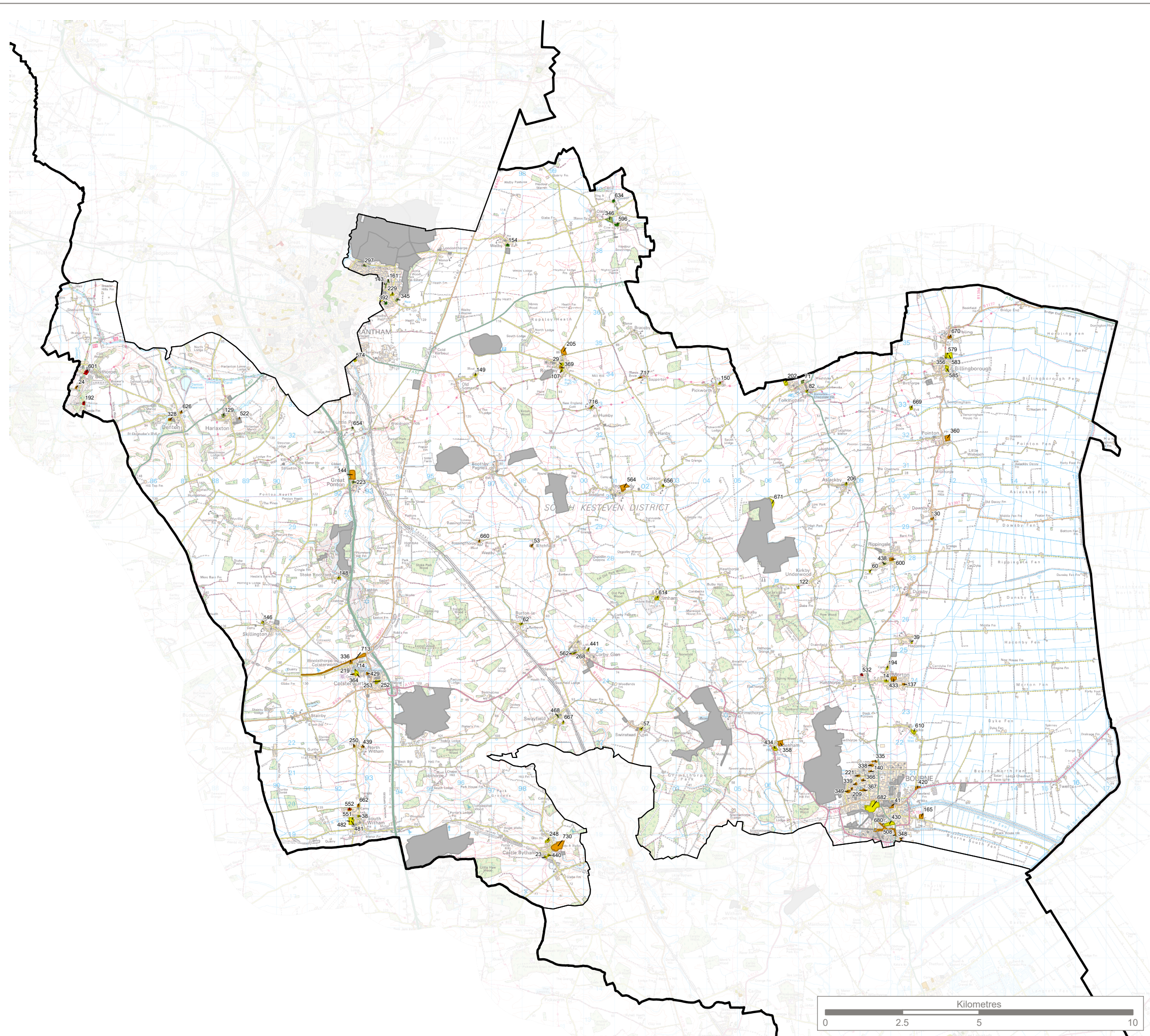
Title  
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 North Sub-Area

Drawing Number  
 G9855.003.2

Page 2 of 4

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:75,000 @ A3	20/10/2023





**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Quality Banding**

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- No audit

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Project  
**South Kesteven Open Space Study**

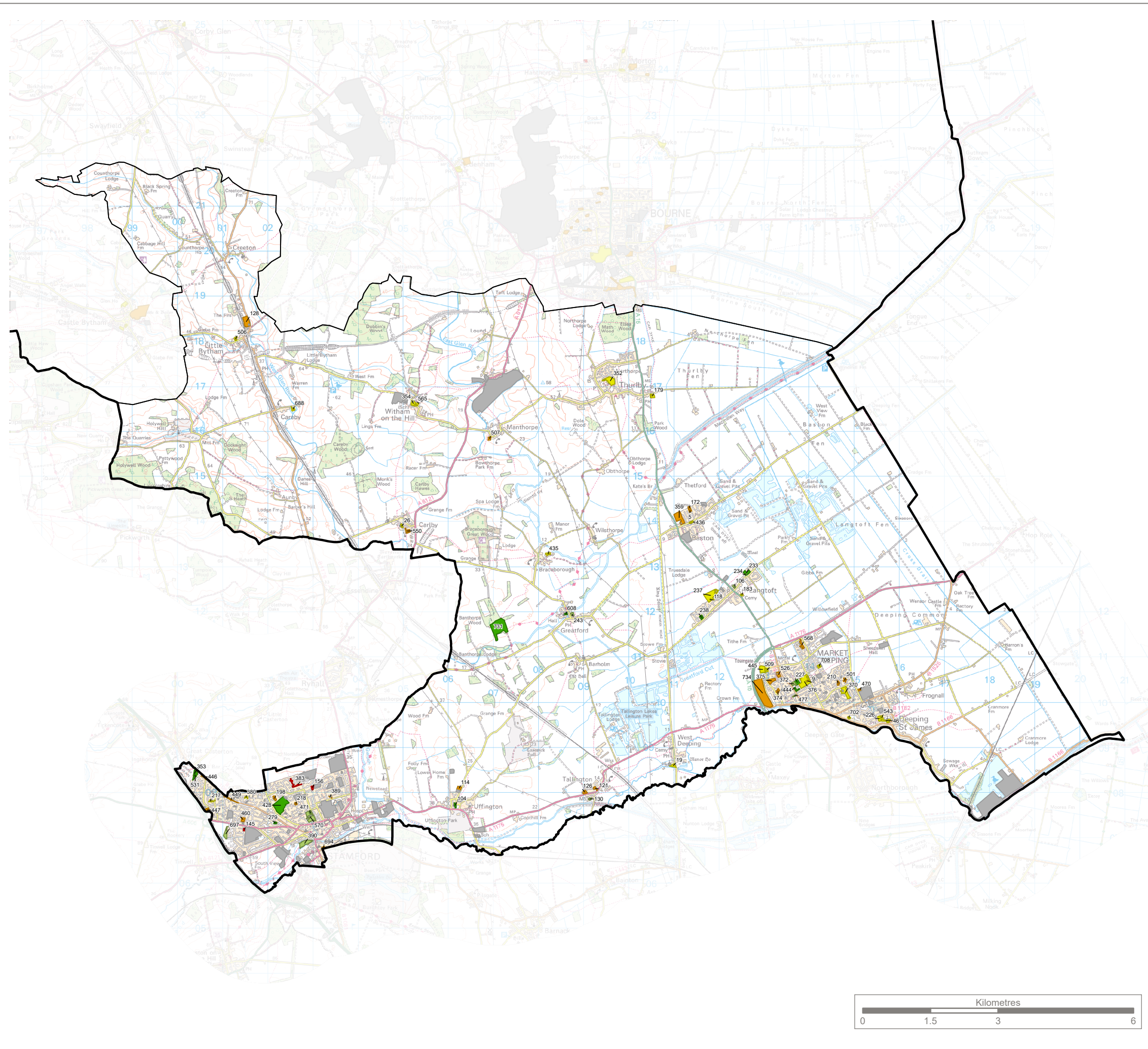
Title  
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 Central Sub-Area**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.003.3** Page 3 of 4

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:125,000 @ A3	20/10/2023







**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Quality Banding**

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- No audit

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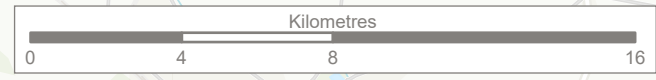
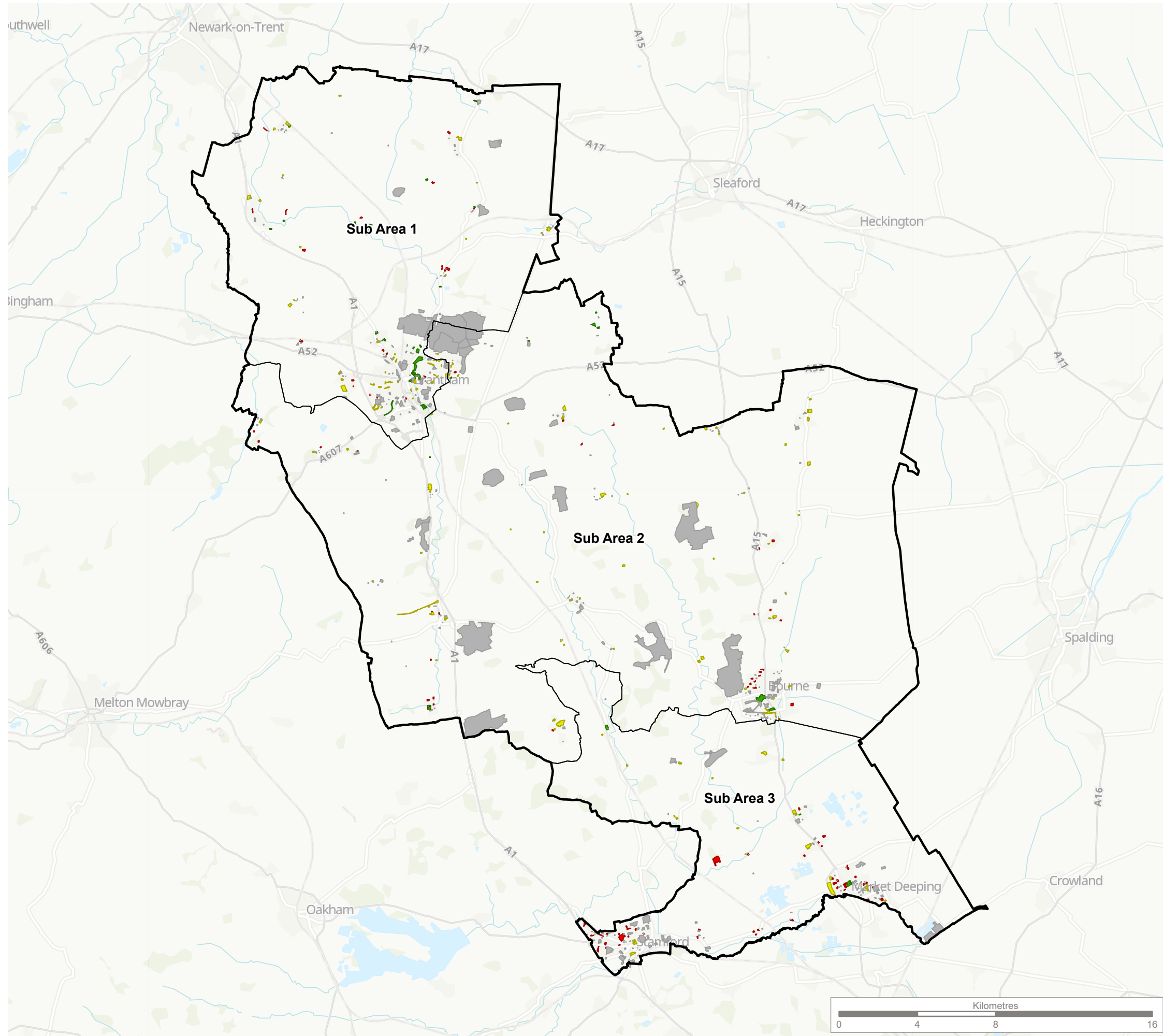
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Project  
 South Kesteven Open Space Study

Title Open Space - Quality Audit South Sub-Area				
Drawing Number G9855.003.4				Page 4 of 4
Drawn CW	Checked CB	Approved VJ	Scale 1:85,000 @ A3	Date 20/10/2023







**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Value Banding**

- High
- Medium
- Low
- No audit

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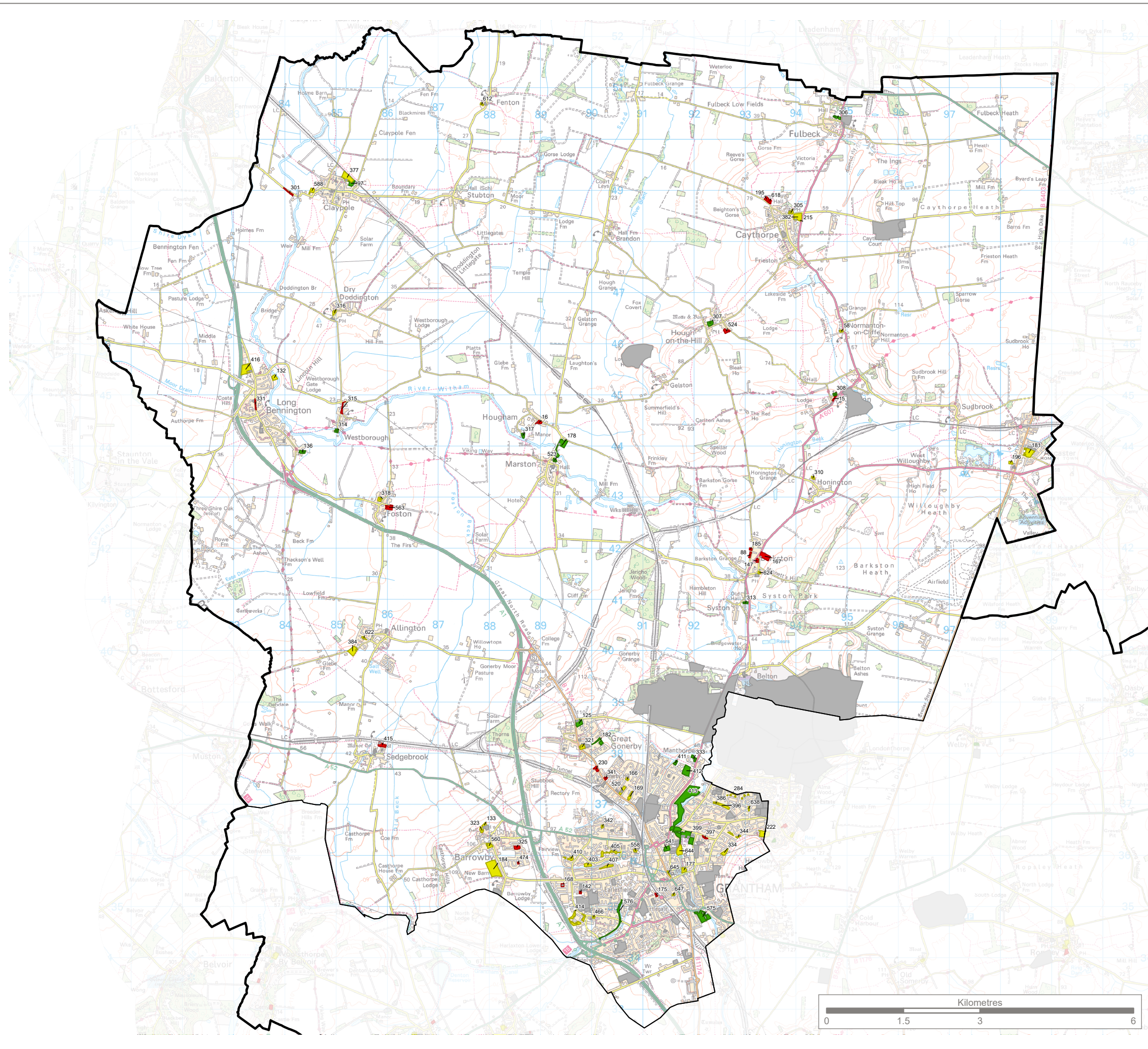
Project  
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Title  
**Open Space - Value Audit Overview**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.004.1** Page 1 of 4

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:200,000 @ A3	20/10/2023





**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Value Banding**

- High
- Medium
- Low
- No audit

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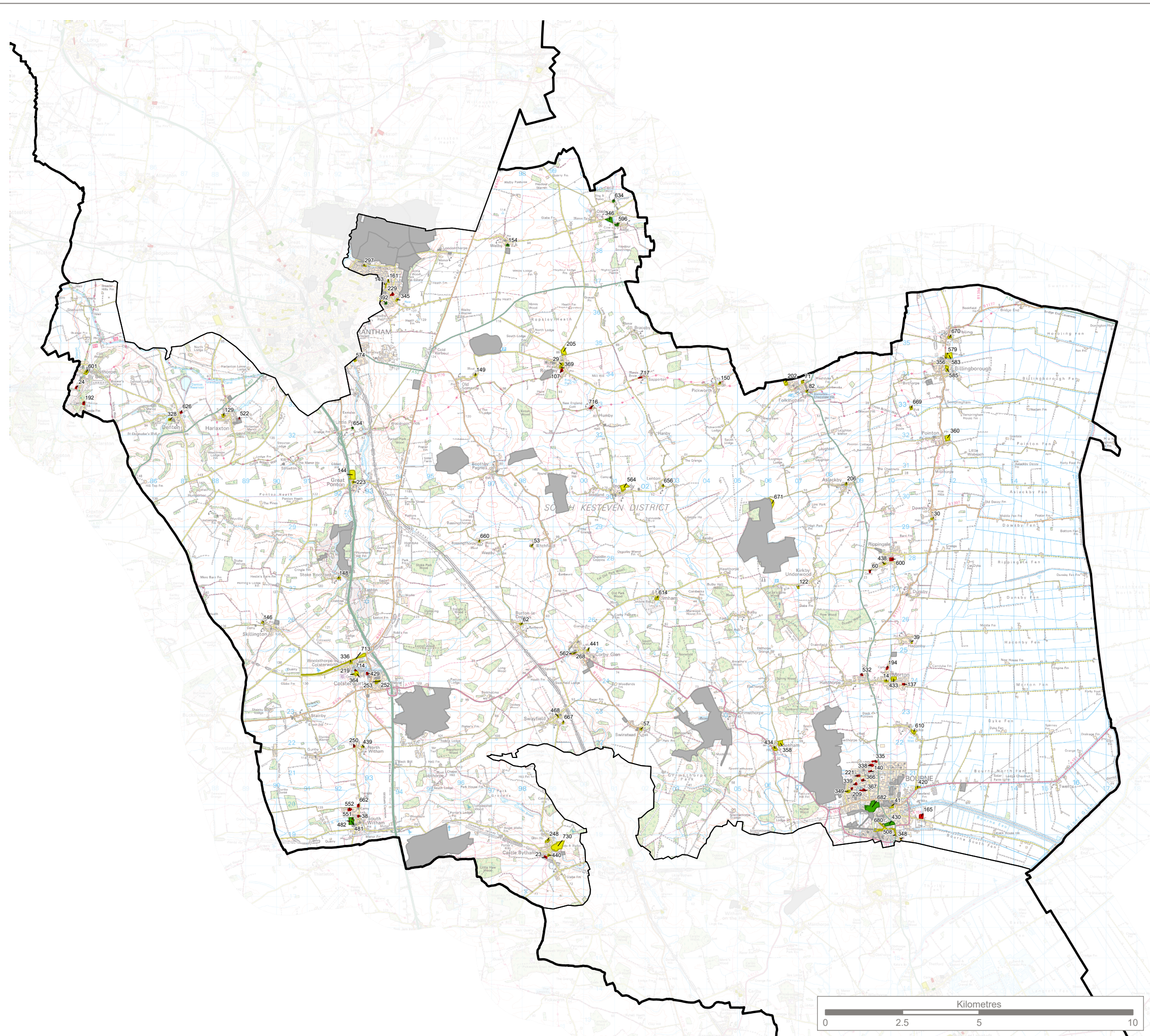
Project  
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Title  
 Open Space - Value Audit  
 North Sub-Area

Drawing Number  
 G9855.004.2 Page 2 of 4

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:75,000 @ A3	20/10/2023





**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Value Banding**

- High
- Medium
- Low
- No audit

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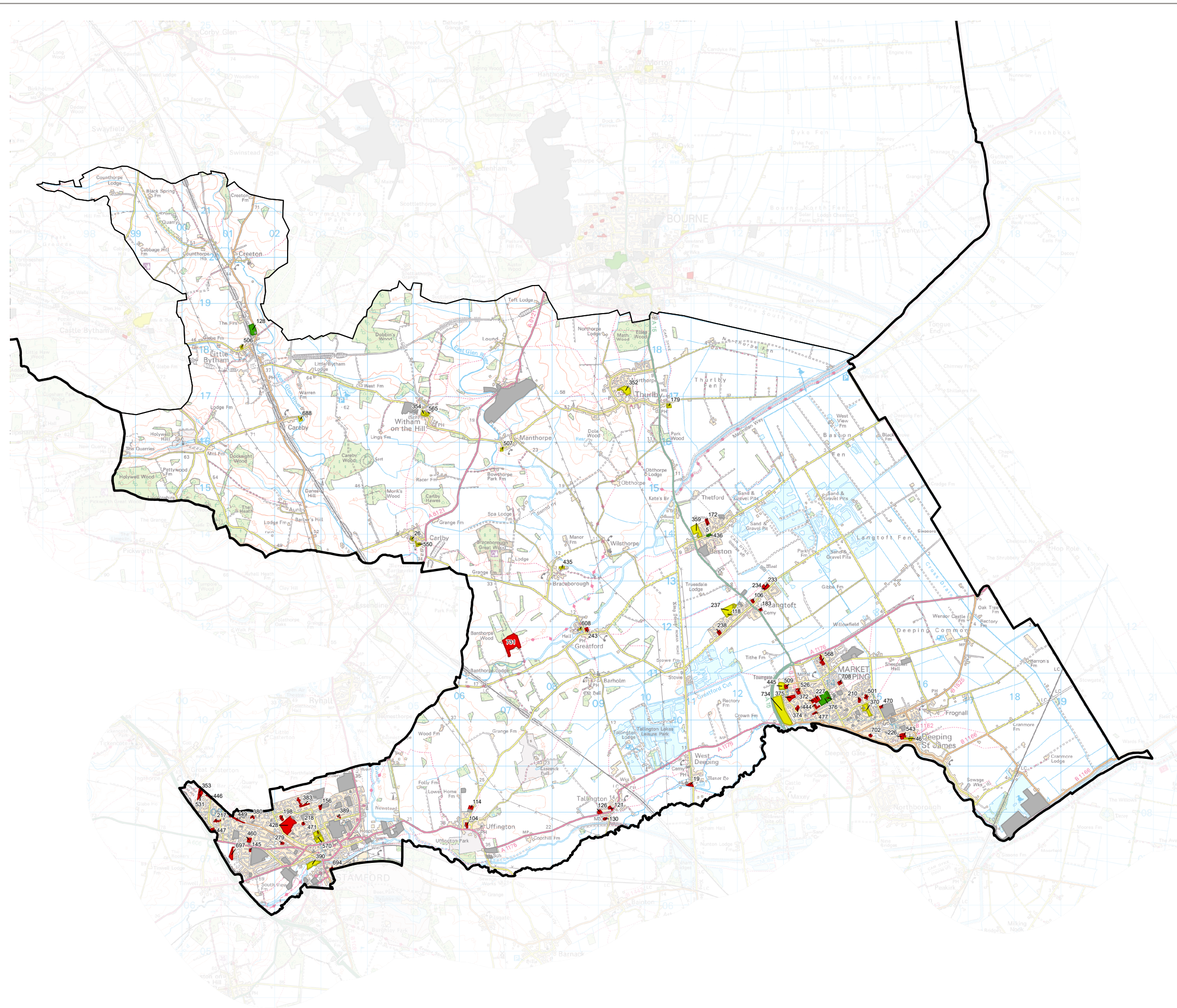
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Title  
**Open Space - Value Audit  
 Central Sub-Area**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.004.3** Page 3 of 4

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:125,000 @ A3	20/10/2023





**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Value Banding**

- High
- Medium
- Low
- No audit

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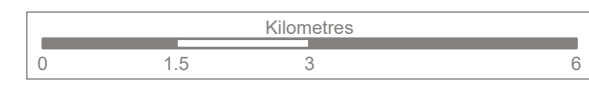
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Project  
**South Kesteven Open Space Study**

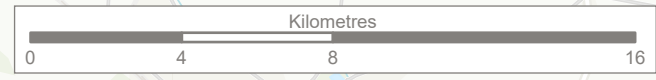
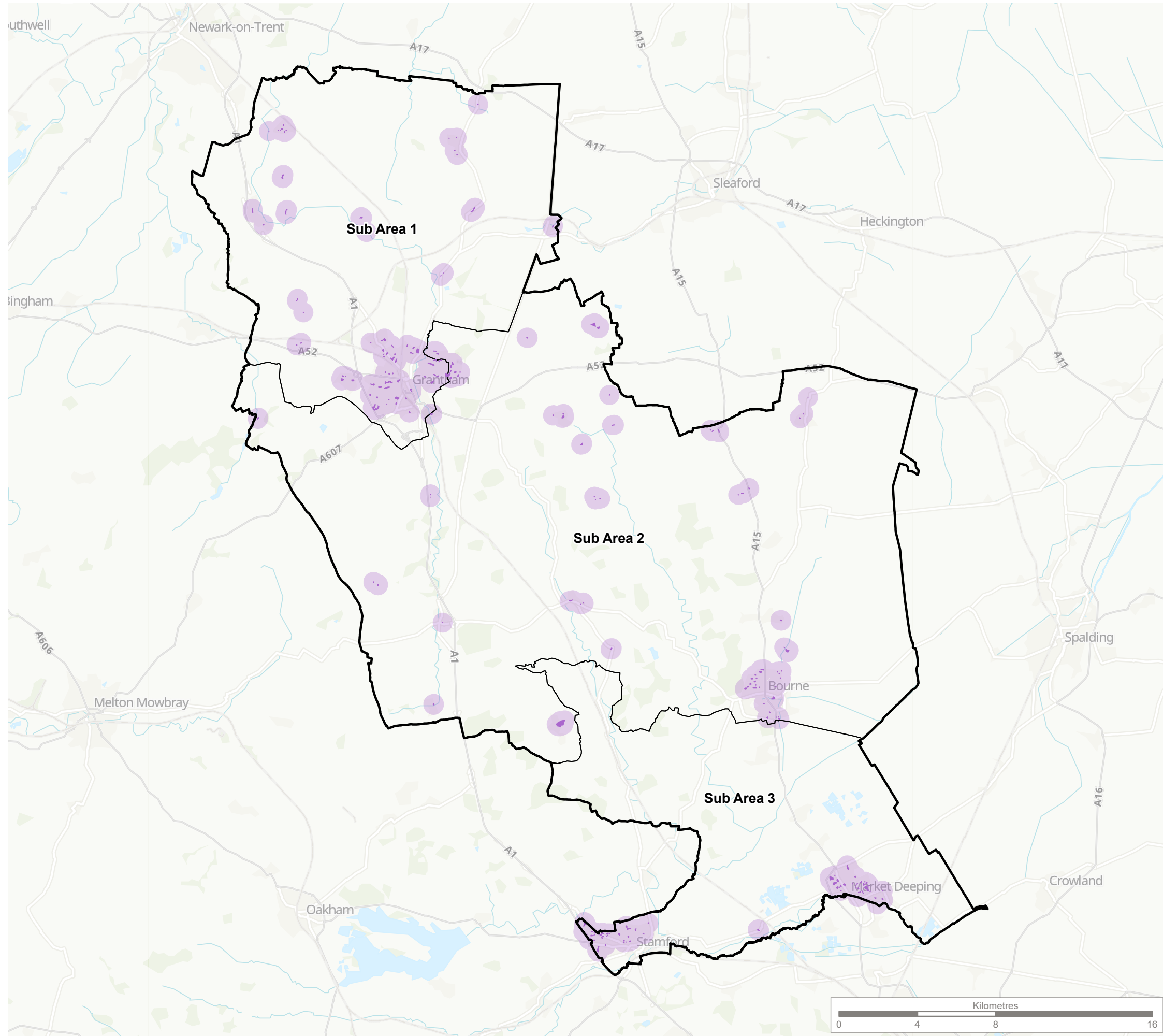
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 South Sub-Area**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.004.4** Page 4 of 4

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CW	CB	VJ	1:85,000 @ A3	20/10/2023







**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area
- Open Space Typology**
- Amenity greenspace
- Open Space Accessibility**
- Accessibility standard - 480m

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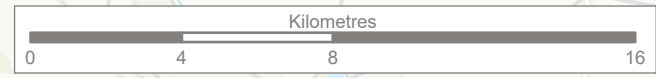
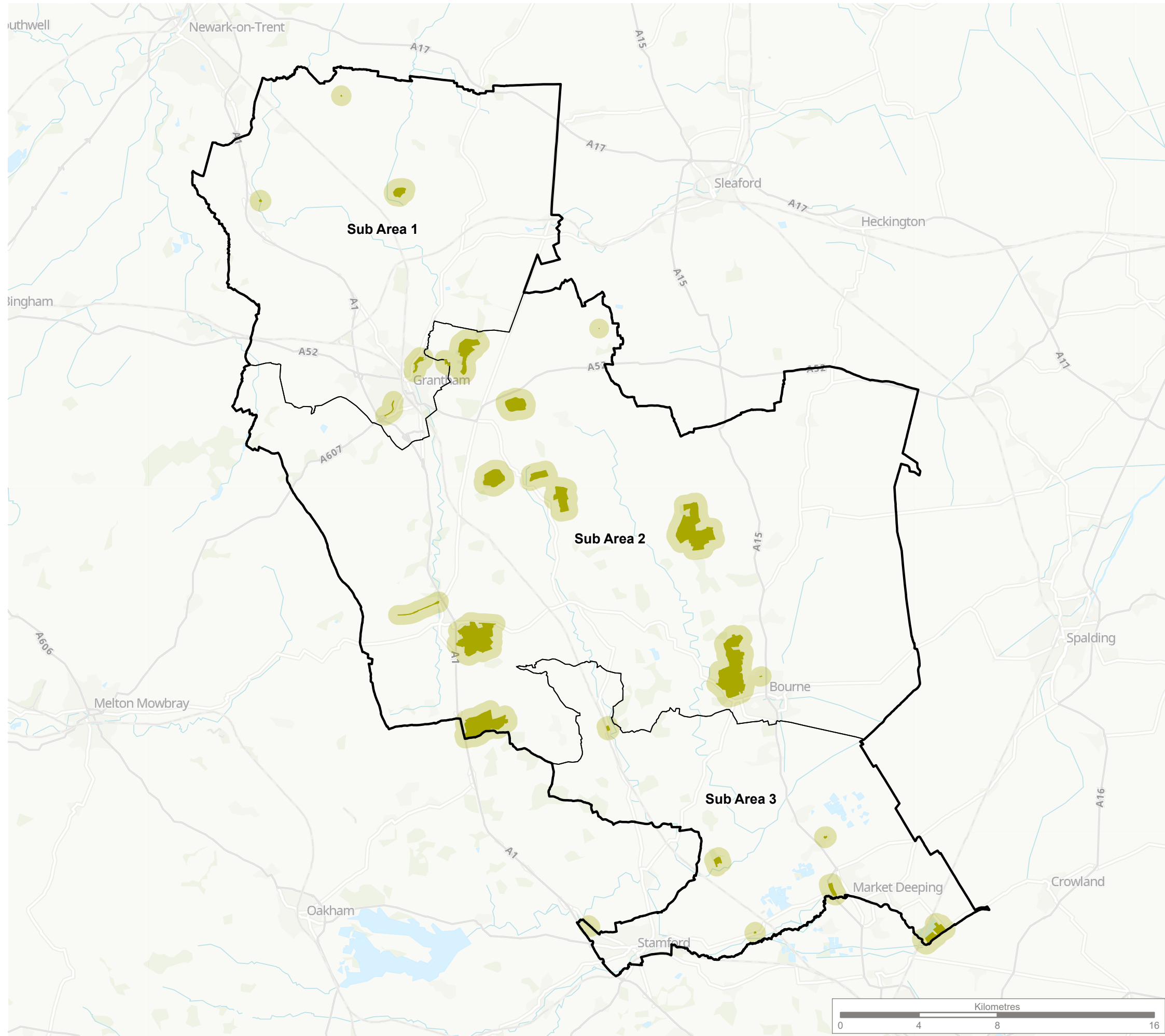
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Project  
**South Kesteven Open Space Study**

Title  
**Open Space Accessibility - Existing Amenity greenspace**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.005.1** Page 1 of 8

Drawn CW	Checked CB	Approved VJ	Scale 1:200,000 @ A3	Date 20/10/2023
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**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Typology**

- Natural and semi-natural greenspaces

**Open Space Accessibility**

- Accessibility standard - 480m



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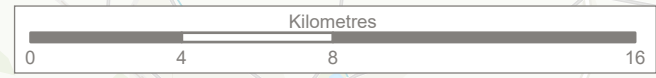
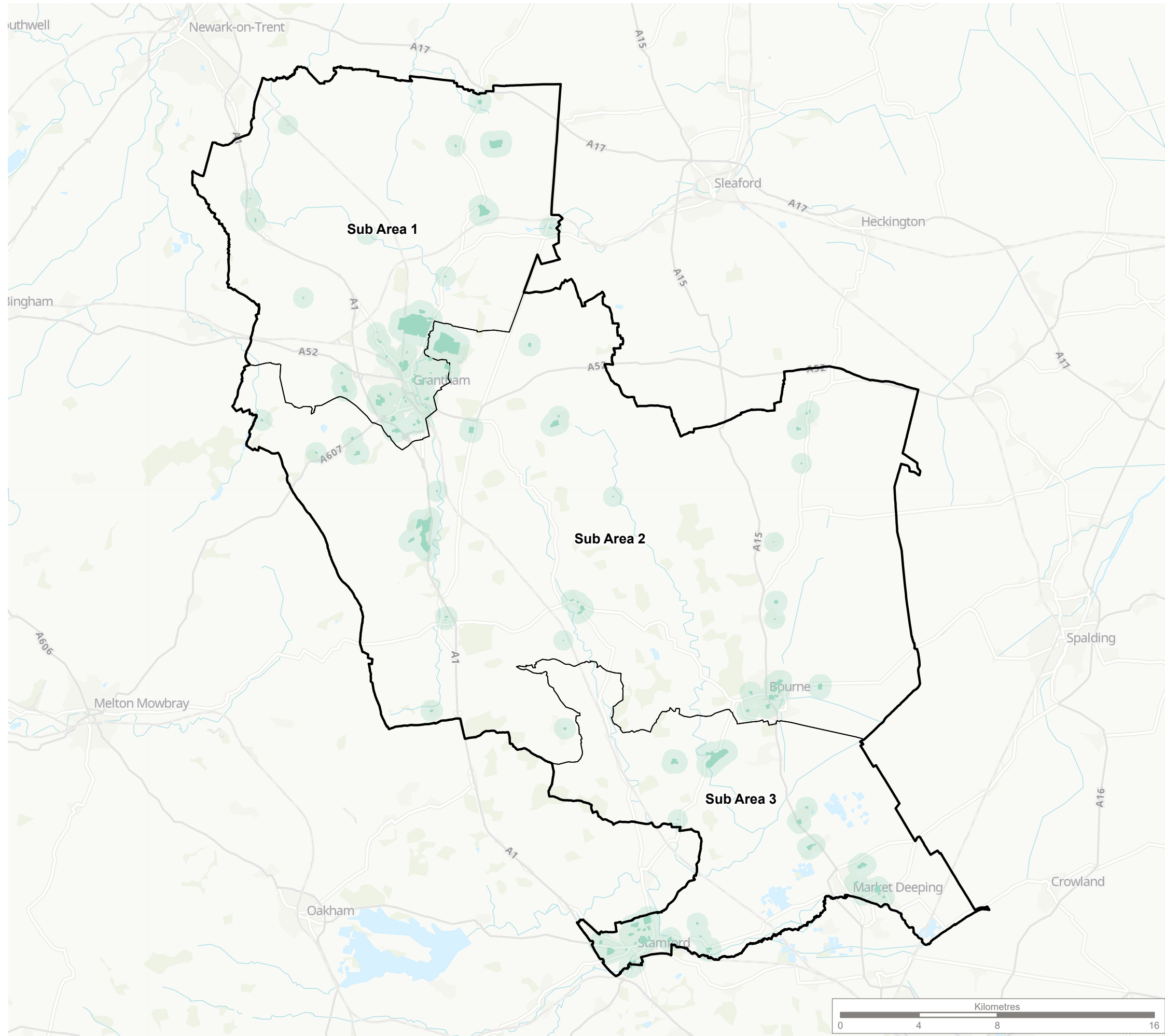
Project  
 South Kesteven Open Space Study

Title  
 Open Space Accessibility - Existing  
 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces

Drawing Number  
 G9855.005.2 Page 2 of 8

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:200,000 @ A3	20/10/2023





**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

- Open Space Typology**
- Outdoor sports facilities

- Open Space Accessibility**
- Accessibility standard - 480m



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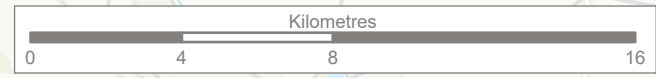
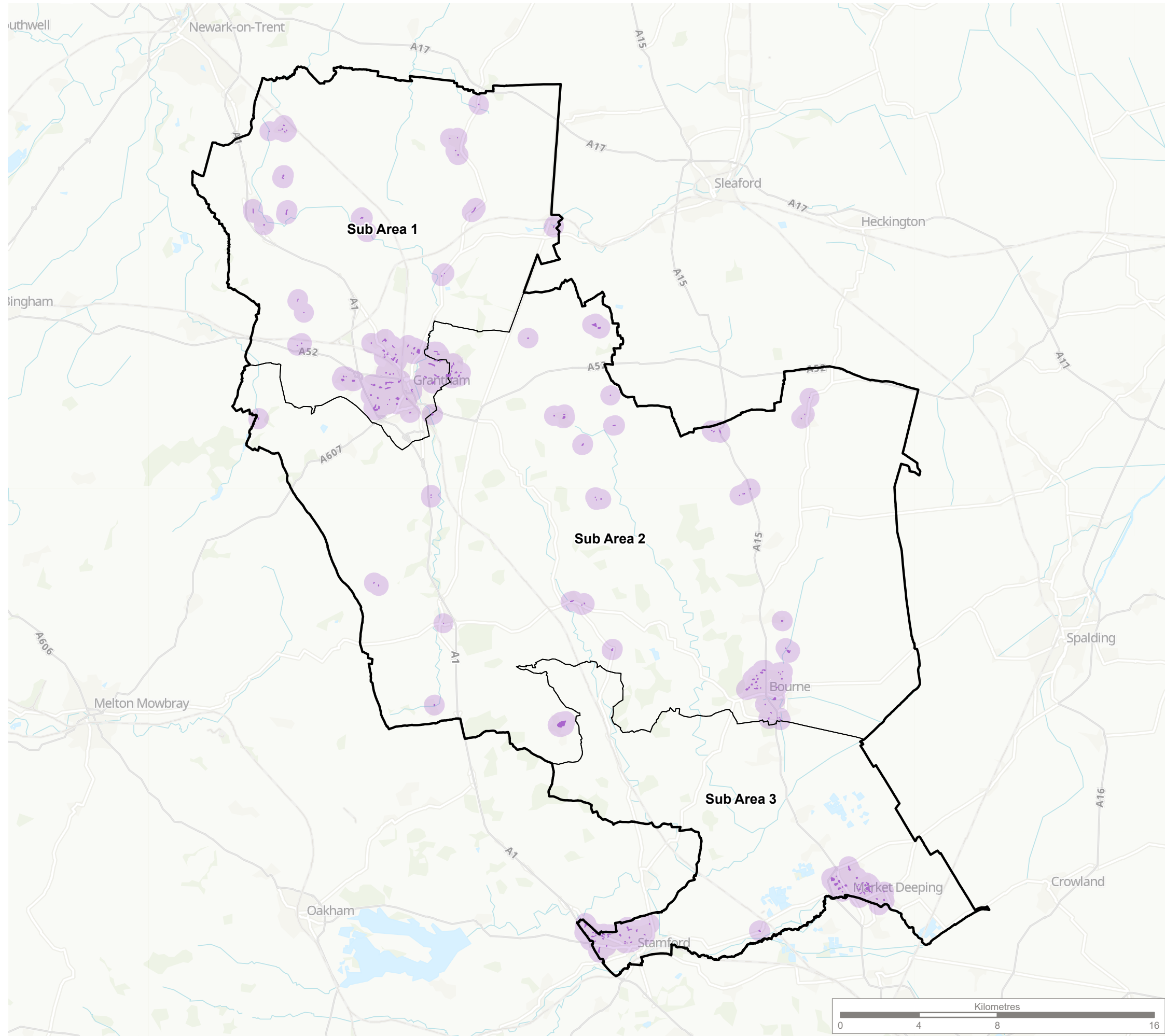
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Project  
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Title  
 Open Space Accessibility - Existing  
 Outdoor sports facilities

Drawing Number G9855.005.3	Page 3 of 8
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Drawn CW	Checked CB	Approved VJ	Scale 1:200,000 @ A3	Date 20/10/2023
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**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area
- Open Space Typology**
- Amenity greenspace
- Open Space Accessibility**
- Accessibility standard - 480m

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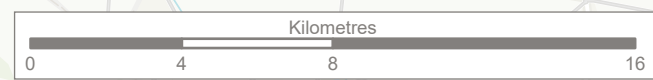
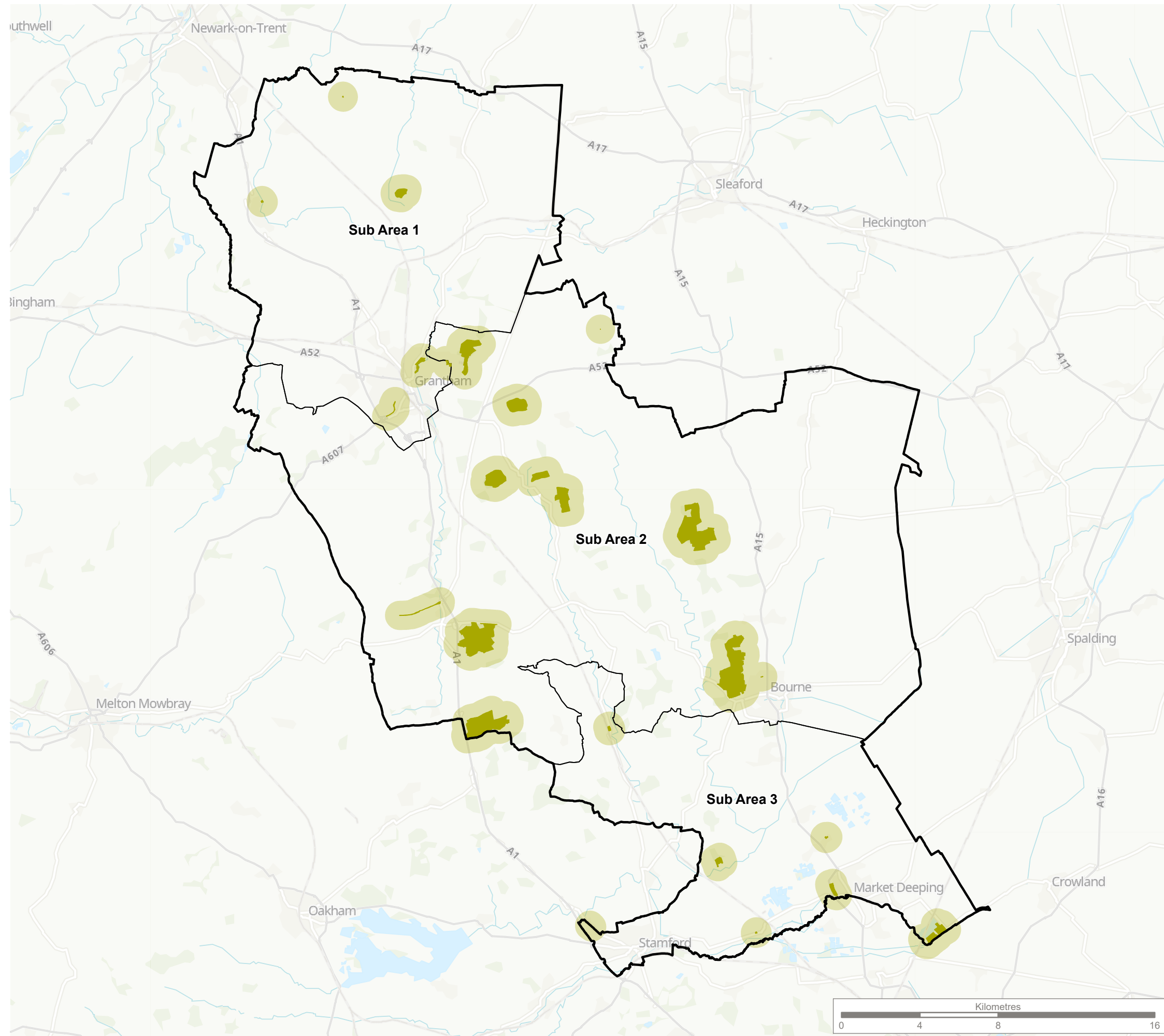
Project  
**South Kesteven Open Space Study**

Title  
**Open Space Accessibility - Proposed Amenity greenspace**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.005.4** Page 4 of 8

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CW	CB	VJ	1:200,000 @ A3	20/10/2023





**KEY**

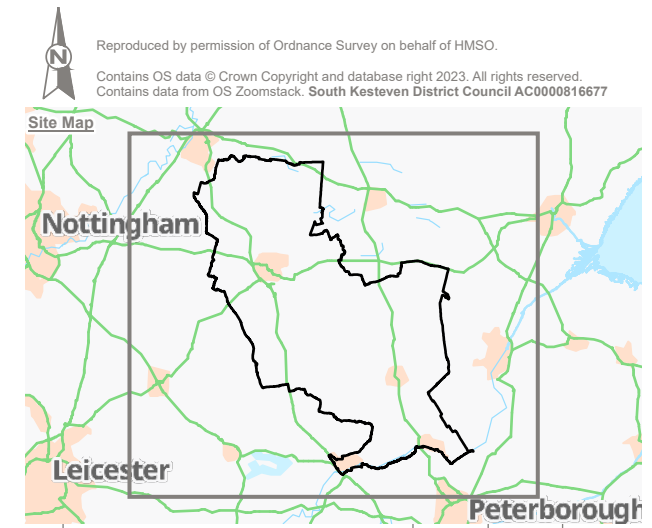
- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Typology**

- Natural and semi-natural greenspaces

**Open Space Accessibility**

- Accessibility standard - 720m



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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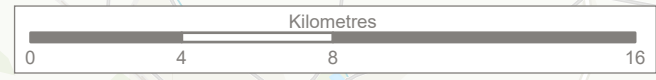
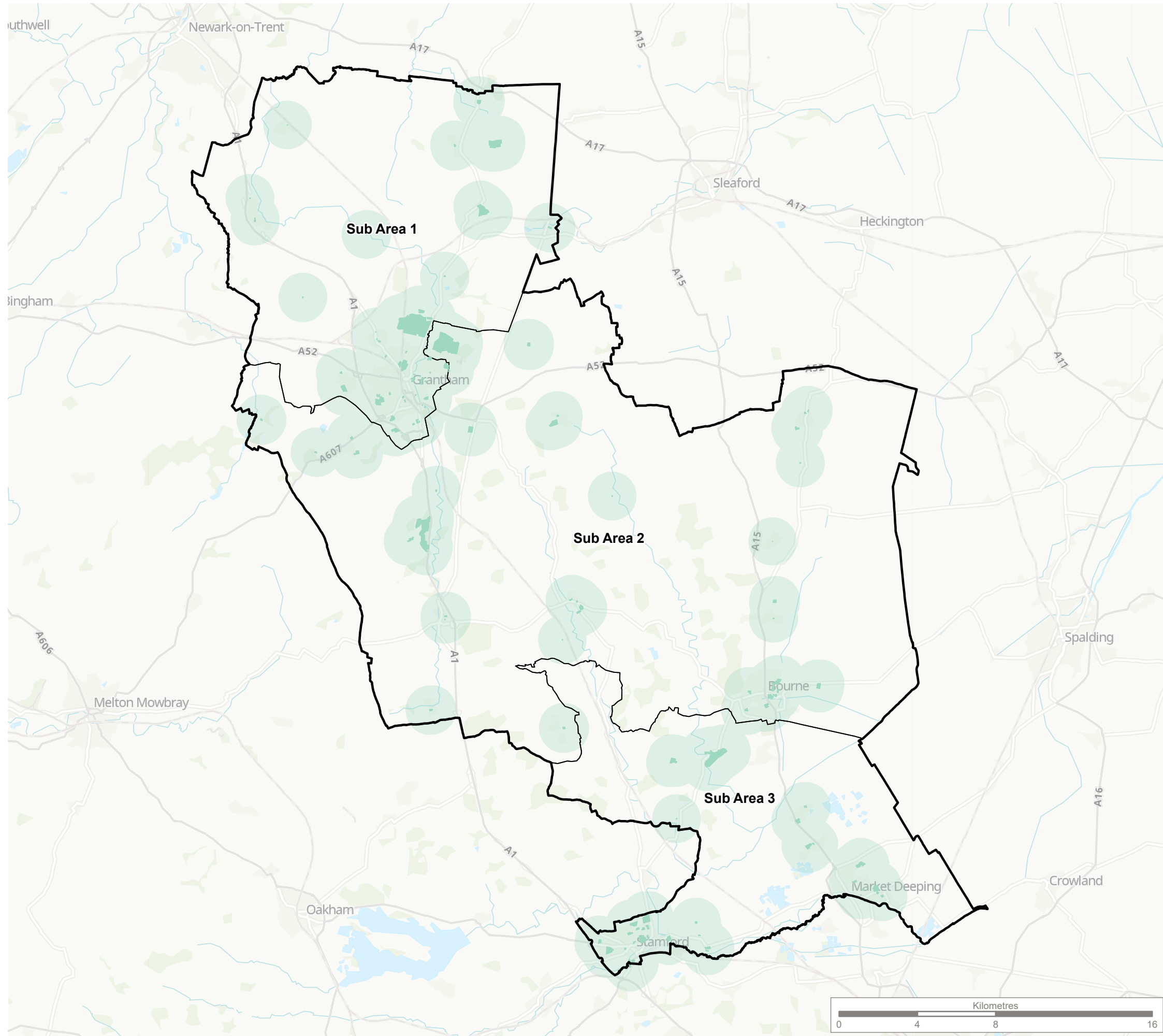
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Project  
**South Kesteven Open Space Study**



Title  
**Open Space Accessibility - Proposed Natural and semi-natural greenspaces**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.005.5** Page 5 of 8


Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:200,000 @ A3	20/10/2023




**KEY**

-  South Kesteven
-  Sub Area

**Open Space Typology**

-  Outdoor sports facilities

**Open Space Accessibility**

-  Accessibility standard - 1.2km



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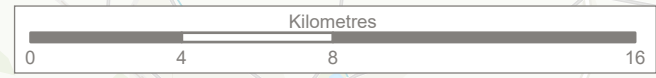
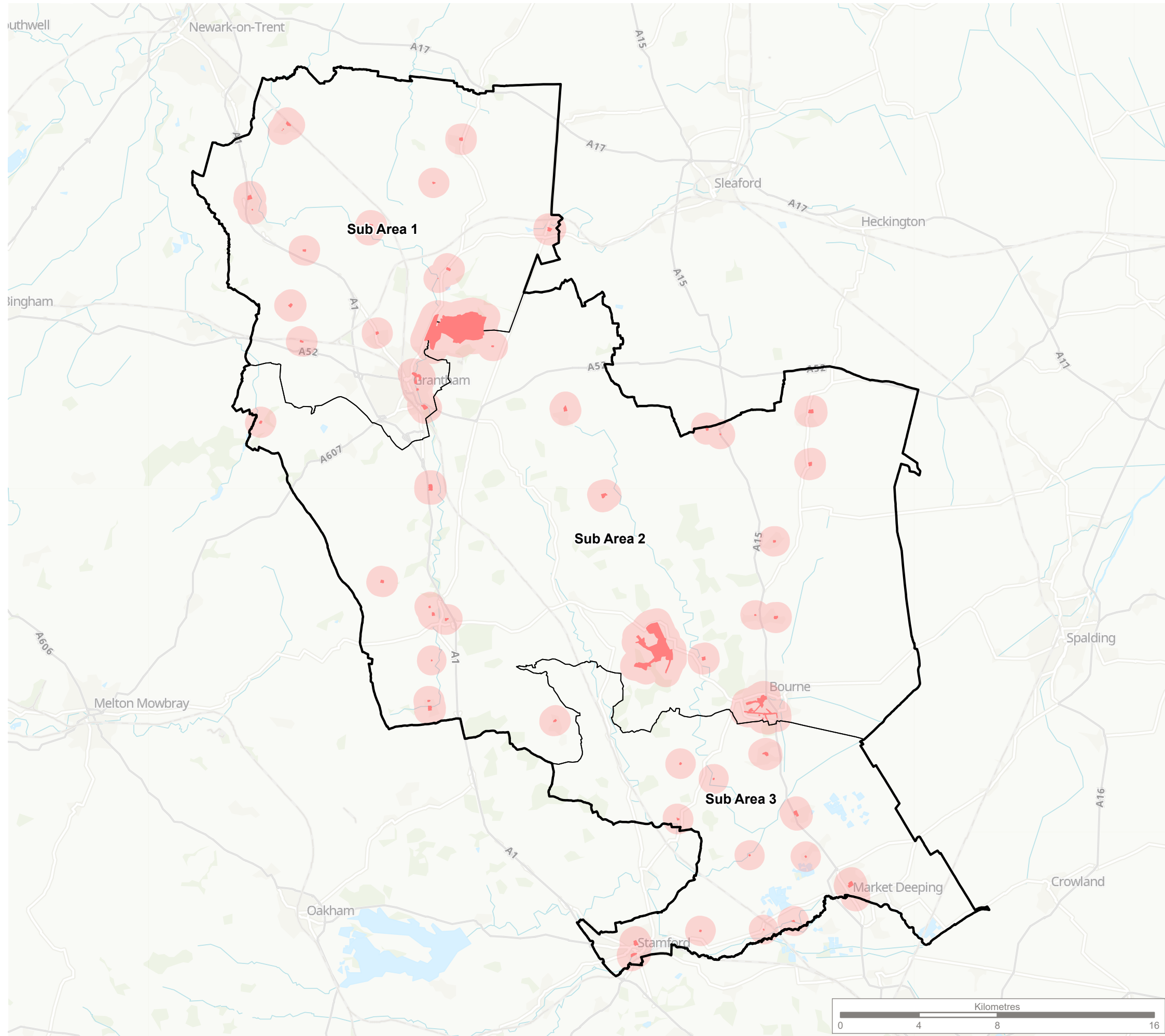
Project  
 South Kesteven Open Space Study

Title  
 Open Space Accessibility - Proposed  
 Outdoor sports facilities

Drawing Number G9855.005.6	Page 6 of 8
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Drawn CW	Checked CB	Approved VJ	Scale 1:200,000 @ A3	Date 20/10/2023
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**KEY**

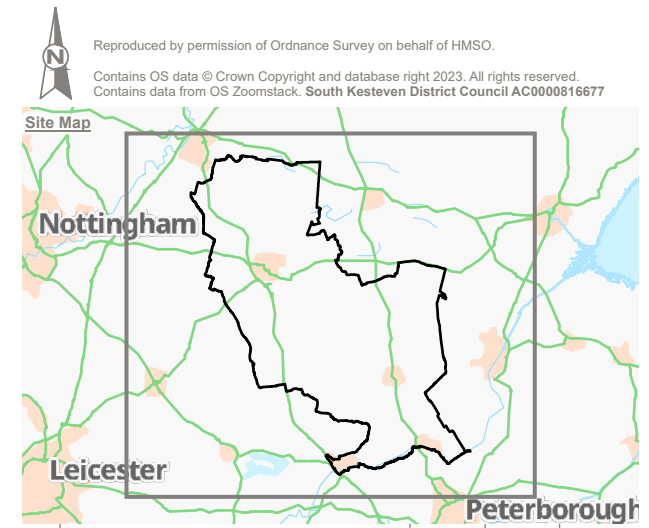
- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Typology**

- Parks and gardens

**Open Space Accessibility**

- Accessibility standard - 710m



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

**TEP** | **THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP**

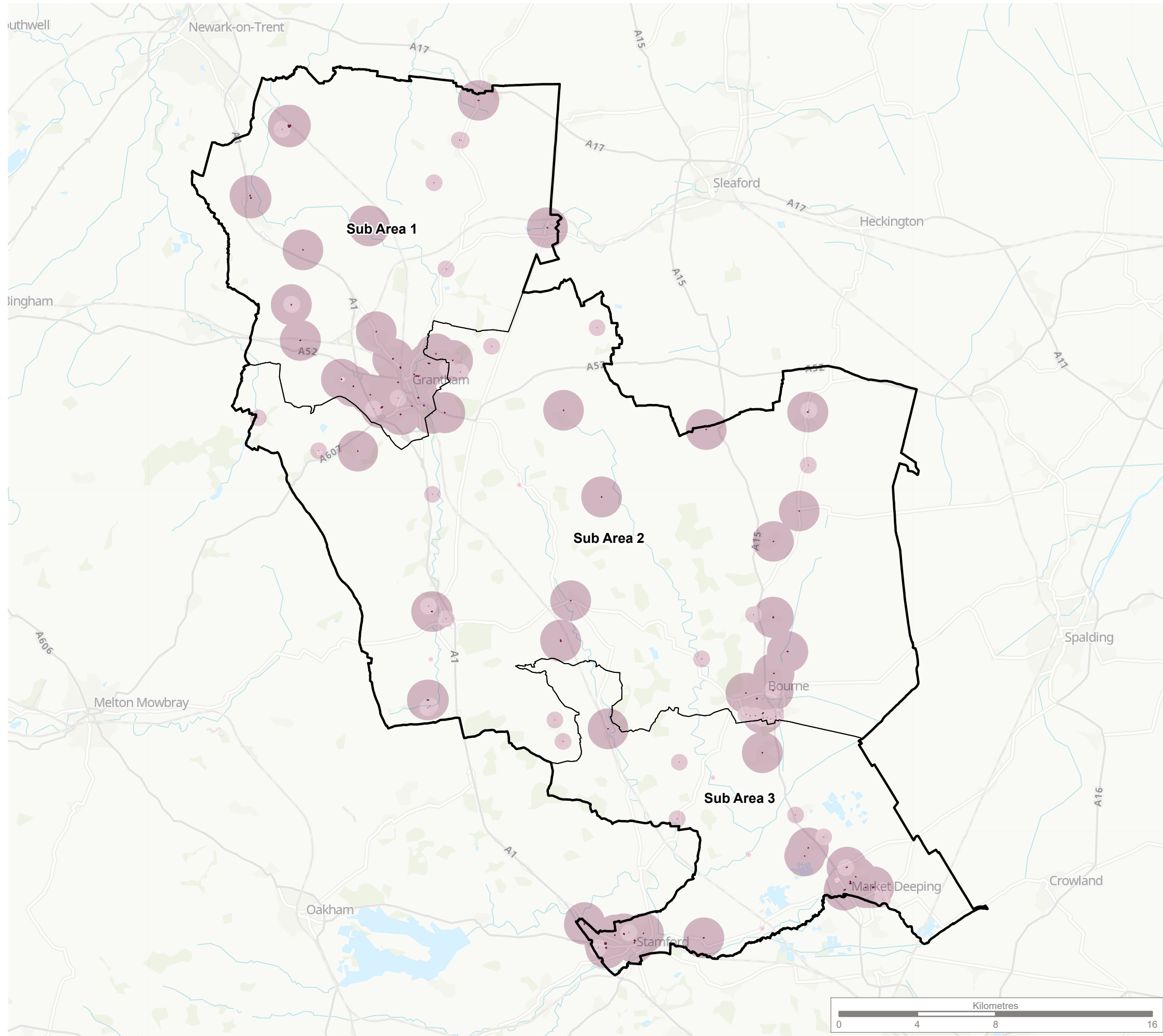
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH  
 Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project  
**South Kesteven Open Space Study**

Title  
**Open Space Accessibility - Proposed Parks and gardens**

Drawing Number  
**G9855.005.7** Page 7 of 8

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:200,000 @ A3	20/10/2023



**KEY**

- South Kesteven
- Sub Area

**Open Space Typology**

- Local Area of Play (LAP)
- Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)
- Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)

**Open Space Accessibility**

- LAP accessibility standard - 100m
- LEAP accessibility standard - 400m
- NEAP accessibility standard - 1km

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Site Map

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

**TEP** | **THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP**

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Project  
 South Kesteven Open Space Study

Title  
 Open Space Accessibility - Proposed Provision for children and young people

Drawing Number  
 G9855.005.8 Page 8 of 8

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	CB	VJ	1:200,000 @ A3	20/10/2023