

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Evidence on green infrastructure, open space and biodiversity

Prepared by LUC
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Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

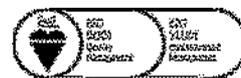
Evidence on Green Infrastructure, Open Space and Biodiversity

Final Report
Prepared by LUC
May 2017

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Contents

1	Executive Summary	1
	Study context	1
	Method	1
	Open space findings	1
	Metropolitan Open Land Review	4
	Urban Greening	4
	Biodiversity	5
2	Introduction	8
	Background	8
	Study aims and objectives	8
	National, regional and local framework	9
	The Royal Greenwich context	11
3	Methodology	28
	Steps 1 and 2: Understanding the context and consultation	29
	Step 3: Auditing provision	31
	Step 4: Analysis of findings	33
	Step 5: Development and application of standards	36
	Step 6: Understanding the GI network	37
	Step 7: Conclusions and recommendations	37
4	Open Space Evidence Base	41
	Current provision	41
	Characteristics of current provision	46
	Summary of findings from open space audit	66
	Summary of feedback from public consultation	66
	Summary of feedback from stakeholder consultation	69
	Development and application of standards	70
	Proposed standards	72
	Application of the proposed open space standards	75
5	Metropolitan Open Land Evidence Base	88
	Potential for amendments to land currently designated as MOL	88
6	Urban Greening Evidence Base	92
	Green roofs	92
	Street trees	94
	Private gardens	95
7	Biodiversity Evidence Base	100
	SINCs at Risk	100
	SINCs where management is required to maintain qualifying features	101
	Potential for upgrading or extending SINCs	103
	Potential new SINCs	107
	Unchanged SINCs	108
	SINCs that have not been assessed	109
	Summary of findings from biodiversity survey	109

8	The Royal Greenwich Green Infrastructure Network	114
9	Conclusions and recommendations	122
Appendix 1		125
	Review of planning policy	125
Appendix 2		126
	Results of online survey	126
Appendix 3		127
	Summary of open space standards in neighbouring boroughs	127
Appendix 4		128
	Summary of Quality and value scores	128
Appendix 5		129
	Metropolitan Open Land review assessment table	129
Appendix 6		130
	Results of SINC review	130
Appendix 7		131
	Site proformas	131
Appendix 8		132
	Map of open space typologies and site names	132

Tables

Table 1.1	Summary of current provision of all open space	1
Table 1.2	Quantity of publicly accessible open space by Committee Area	1
Table 1.3	Proposed standards for Royal Greenwich	2
Table 1.4	Quality and value matrix	3
Table 1.5	Application of open space quantity standard to identify shortfall/surplus	3
Table 1.6:	Summary table of types by committee area (square metres)	4
Table 1.7:	Summary of street trees by Committee Area	5
Table 2.1:	Current and projected population	11
Table 2.2:	Designated nature conservation sites	21
Table 3.1:	Open space typology	33
Table 4.1	Open space by hierarchy in Royal Greenwich	41
Table 4.2	Summary of current provision of all open space	42
Table 4.3	Summary of accessibility of audited sites	43
Table 4.4	Quantity of publicly accessible open space by Committee Area	46
Table 4.5:	Equipped play provision by primary typology	55
Table 4.6:	Characteristics of play provision in Royal Greenwich	57
Table 4.7	Number of equipped play facilities in each Committee Area	60
Table 4.8	Other play provision by primary typology	60
Table 4.9:	Actions for Eltham & Kidbrooke Planning Committee Area	62

Table 4.10: Actions for Greenwich Planning Committee Area	63
Table 4.11: Actions for Woolwich and Thamesmead Planning Committee Area	63
Table 4.12 Quality and value matrix	72
Table 4.13 Proposed open space standards for Royal Greenwich	73
Table 4.14 Proposed standards for allotment provision in Royal Greenwich	74
Table 4.15: Proposed standards for play provision in Royal Greenwich	74
Table 4.16 Application of open space quantity standard to identify shortfall/surplus	75
Table 4.17 Provision of allotments against the quantity standard	76
Table 4.18 Relative provision of playable spaces per Committee Area	76
Table 5.1: Summary of potential amendments to land currently designated as MOL	88
Table 6.1: Summary table of types by committee area (numbers)	92
Table 6.2: Summary table of types by committee area (square metres)	92
Table 6.3: Summary of street trees by Committee Area	94
Table 6.4: Broad tree categories with >1% of overall population	94
Table 6.5: Top ten broad species by Committee Area	95
Table 7.1: SINCs at risk with reasoning	100
Table 7.2: SINCs where management is required to maintain qualifying features	101
Table 7.3: SINCs with potential for upgrading or extending	103
Table 7.4: Sites with potential for designation as SINCs	107

Figures

Figure 1.1: Overview of study methodology	2
Figure 2.1 Current population density	12
Figure 2.2 Living Environment Deprivation	15
Figure 2.3 Health Deprivation and Disability Domain	16
Figure 2.4 Index of Multiple Deprivation	17
Figure 2.5 Residential dwelling mix	18
Figure 2.6 Planned housing development	19
Figure 2.7 Surface water flooding	22
Figure 2.8 Air quality	23
Figure 2.9 Cultural heritage	24
Figure 2.10: Biodiversity	25
Figure 3.1: Overview of study methodology	28
Figure 3.2: Analysis areas	30
Figure 3.3: Open space typologies	35
Figure 4.1 Open Spaces in Royal Greenwich	44
Figure 4.2 Accessibility of open space in Royal Greenwich	45
Figure 4.3 Scores for Question A1: A welcoming place	47
Figure 4.4 Scores for Question A2: Good and safe access	48

Figure 4.5 Scores for Question B6: Safe equipment and facilities	49
Figure 4.6 Scores for Question B10: Quality of facilities	50
Figure 4.7 Scores for Question C12: Grounds maintenance and horticulture	51
Figure 4.8 Scores for Question D14: Environmental sustainability	52
Figure 4.9 Scores for Question E17: Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora	53
Figure 4.10 Scores for Question E18: Conservation of landscape features	54
Figure 4.11 Equipped play provision	56
Figure 4.12 Sports provision	65
Figure 4.13: Residents' satisfaction with the overall quantity of open space in the Royal Borough	67
Figure 4.14: Residents' satisfaction with the overall quality of open space in the Royal Borough	68
Figure 4.15 Metropolitan site access	79
Figure 4.16 District site access	80
Figure 4.17 Local site access	81
Figure 4.18 Small local site access	82
Figure 4.19 Access to publicly accessible open space	83
Figure 4.20 Access to allotments	84
Figure 4.21 Access to equipped play	85
Figure 5.1: MOL review	89
Figure 6.1: Results of the green roof audit	93
Figure 6.2: Diversity of street tree network	96
Figure 6.3: Age/condition of street tree network	97
Figure 7.1: Missing pond at Twinkle Park	101
Figure 7.2: Phippenhall Meadows scrub encroachment	103
Figure 7.3: Upgrades at Sutcliffe Park	107
Figure 7.4: SINC Review recommendations	110
Figure 8.1 Royal Greenwich GI Network	116
Figure 8.2 GI in Greenwich Peninsula	117
Figure 8.3 GI in Woolwich and Thamesmead Area	118
Figure 8.4 GI in Eltham and Kidbrooke Area	119

1

Executive Summary

1 Executive Summary

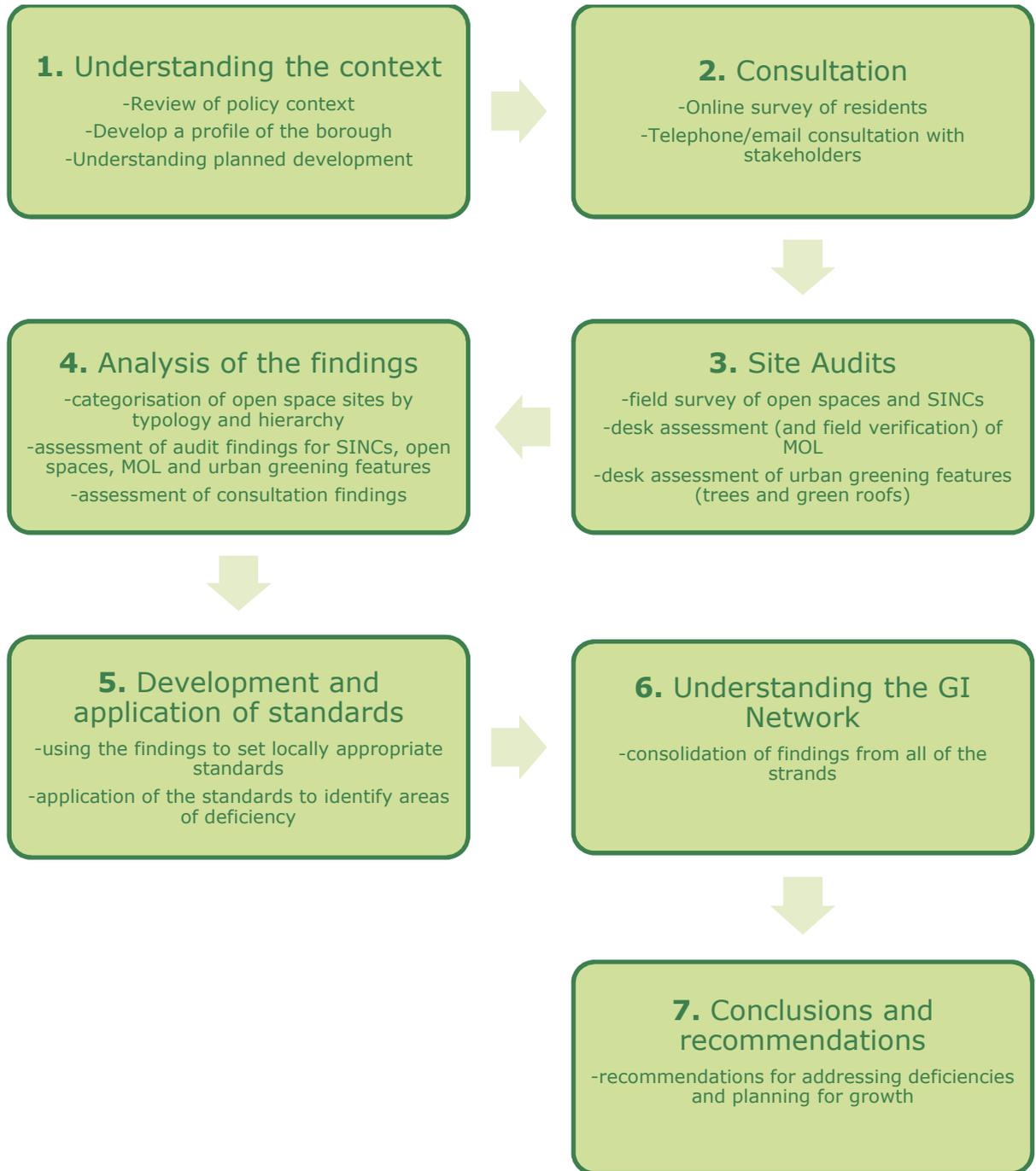
Study context

- 1.1 The Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) commissioned LUC to undertake a Green Infrastructure Study that will provide the evidence base for the preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Royal Borough. This study will also form part of the evidence base for the Council's Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and subsequent Local Plan updates.
- 1.2 The study assessed all forms of Green Infrastructure (GI) in a single, comprehensive study - collating and analysing information on parks and open spaces, urban greening features, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Metropolitan Open Land.
- 1.3 The overall aim of the Study was to provide an understanding of the specific needs and opportunities, including quantitative and/or qualitative deficits or surpluses of public parks and green spaces, children's outdoor play provision, allotments, and natural and semi-natural green spaces.
- 1.4 Approximately 30% of the Royal Borough is open space. However, open space is unevenly distributed throughout the Royal Borough, with some areas having inadequate open space provision. This can particularly affect less mobile people, older people and families with young children; especially those who don't have access to a private garden.
- 1.5 Royal Greenwich contains many valued areas of open space, including Greenwich Park, which is one of the largest green spaces in South East London and part of Blackheath. Both of these spaces are also part of the Green Chain which runs through Royal Greenwich and the adjoining boroughs of Bexley, Lewisham and Southwark. The open spaces which form the green chain are all designated as Metropolitan Open Land.
- 1.6 Socio-economic deprivation in the Royal Borough is generally higher than the average for both London and England. The bordering authority of Lewisham to the west also has very high levels of deprivation across a range of indicators. Therefore understanding where the Green Infrastructure can be strengthened or enhanced will be critical in supporting a healthier and more resilient community.

Method

- 1.7 **Figure 1.1** summarises the methodology used for this study. The method reflects the requirements of the NPPF. The integrated approach to assessing open space, green infrastructure, MOL and biodiversity has ensured that, while the strands of the study are independently robust, an holistic approach to Green Infrastructure planning is able to be supported.

Figure 1.1: Overview of study methodology



Open space findings

Audit and consultation

- 1.8 Following an assignment of a primary typology and hierarchy to each of the open spaces, **Table 1.1** summarises the provision by Committee Area.

Table 1.1 Summary of current provision of all open space

Primary typology	Eltham and Kidbrooke area (ha)	Greenwich area (ha)	Woolwich and Thamesmead area (ha)	All Royal Greenwich (ha)
Parks and gardens	145.62	88.39	157.62	391.64
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	179.77	31.19	167.61	378.57
Green corridor	14.23	5.07	17.68	36.98
Amenity greenspace	36.86	5.15	50.47	92.48
Allotments	13.49	0.41	5.31	19.21
Cemeteries and churchyards	21.23	0.75	32.45	54.43
Civic Space		7.14	0.69	7.83
Provision for children and young people (as a primary typology)	0.43		0.12	0.56
Outdoors sports facilities (as a primary typology)	295.03	7.39	40.94	343.36
Agricultural land	56.02			56.02
Other	4.01		2.06	6.07
All typologies	766.71	145.48	474.95	1387.14

Note: There is additional provision for children and young people as well as outdoor sports found within other primary typologies.

- 1.9 Of the above sites, not all of the provision is accessible to the public. **Table 1.2** shows how the publicly accessible open spaces are distributed between the three Committee Areas used for this assessment.

Table 1.2 Quantity of publicly accessible open space by Committee Area

Primary typology	Eltham and Kidbrooke area (ha)	Greenwich area (ha)	Woolwich and Thamesmead area (ha)	All Royal Greenwich (ha)
Parks and gardens	138.87	88.00	154.97	381.85
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	151.75	26.56	121.48	299.79
Green corridor	0.86	2.85	15.14	18.85
Amenity greenspace	27.45	1.51	30.27	59.23
Cemeteries and churchyards	21.23	0.75	32.45	54.43
Civic Space		7.14	0.69	7.83
Provision for children and young people (as a primary typology)			0.12	0.12
All typologies	340.16	126.81	355.13	822.10
<i>Allotments (restricted access)</i>	<i>13.49</i>	<i>0.41</i>	<i>5.31</i>	<i>19.21</i>

- 1.10 The audit of the publicly accessible open spaces in Royal Greenwich identified a number of issues and opportunities. A key output from this study is a set of detailed site proformas for each site that will be a valuable resource for those managing open space within the Royal Borough.
- 1.11 Public consultation was undertaken through online consultation via the Council’s website. 84% of respondents are very or fairly satisfied with the amount of parks and open space in Royal Greenwich. 78% of respondents are very or fairly satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in Royal Greenwich.
- 1.12 The majority of residents travel on foot to their local park or open space, with the majority doing so at least once a week.
- 1.13 A number of stakeholders contributed their views to the study, highlighting cross-boundary issues and opportunities as well as highlighting the value and commitment shown by park friends and other community groups in terms of maintaining and improving this valuable resource.

Setting open space standards

- 1.14 Through review of the existing provision of open space, alongside the comments received through public consultation, as well as consideration of nationally recognised provision standards, and those adopted by neighbouring boroughs, three types of open space standard have been proposed:
 - **Accessibility:** The maximum distance residents should be required to travel to use an open space of a specific typology
 - **Quantity:** The provision (measured in number of sites or hectares) of each open space typology which should be provided as a minimum per 1000 population
 - **Quality and Value:** The quality of the open space provided in each typology, assessed using the Green Flag criteria. The value of the open space provided in each typology.
- 1.15 The proposed **quantity and accessibility** standards for public open space, allotments and play provision are set out in **Table 1.3**.

Table 1.3 Proposed standards for Royal Greenwich

Type of standard	Public open space	Allotments	Play provision
Quantity	2.69ha/1000 people	0.125ha/1000 people	A minimum of 10 square metres of dedicated play space per child.
Accessibility	Metropolitan 3.2km District 1.2km Local 400m Small local and pocket spaces 280m	1.2km	Neighbourhood 800m Local 400m Doorstep 100m Youth 800m

- 1.16 As part of the site audit, each site was assessed for quality against the Green Flag criteria, and the condition of the various components of a site rated as good, fair or poor. The site audit included information to be evaluated as part of the value assessments such as the value of play spaces, the presence of community facilities and the biodiversity value of habitats.
- 1.17 Each site has been rated with a combined quality and value band using the format of +/- symbols to annotate each band (i.e. high quality/ high value is shown as ++, high quality/ low value is shown as +-). **Table 1.4** below suggests the future management approach to open spaces within each band. **Appendix 4** summarises the findings of the quality and value assessment.
- 1.18 As a general borough-wide theme, analysis of site benchmarking highlights the presence of several low value parks and amenity spaces across the Royal Borough that could benefit from investment to improve their functionality. This is particularly the case at the local and small-local level of the hierarchy. Larger sites are almost all high quality and high value.

Table 1.4 Quality and value matrix

High quality / high Value	High quality/ low value
++	+-
<p>These sites are considered to be best open spaces within the Royal Borough offering the greatest value and quality for the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Future management should seek to maintain the standard for these spaces and ensure they continue to meet the requirements of the communities they serve.</p> <p>Ideally all spaces should fit into this category.</p>	<p>These sites have been scored as being of high quality but of a low value.</p> <p>Wherever possible the preferred management approach to a space in the category should to enhance its value in terms of its present primary typology or purpose.</p> <p>If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose.</p>
Low quality/ high value	Low quality/ low value
-+	--
<p>These spaces meet or exceed the required value standard but fall below the required quality standard.</p> <p>Future management should therefore seek to enhance their quality to ensure that the open spaces are welcoming and safe for use by the local community.</p>	<p>These spaces are falling below the applicable value and quality standards and therefore their future enhancement should be considered to be the priority.</p>

- 1.19 **Table 1.5** shows how provision of open space reduces with an increase of population. Eltham and Kidbrooke area currently enjoys the highest levels of provision per 1000 population (3.40ha per 1000 people). Woolwich and Thamesmead and Greenwich area are currently below the standard, and this will be exacerbated by 2028. This is particularly the case in the Greenwich area, where provision per 1000 population in 2028 will be well below the expected level.

Table 1.5 Application of open space quantity standard to identify shortfall/surplus

Committee Area	Publicly accessible open space (ha)	Population 2016	Population 2028	Provision ha per 1000 people 2016	Provision ha per 1000 people 2028
Eltham and Kidbrooke area	318.07	93,681	100,424	3.40	3.17
Greenwich area	116.07	52,683	74,362	2.20	1.56
Woolwich and Thamesmead area	306.72	129,507	151,563	2.37	2.02
Royal Greenwich	740.87	275,871	326,349	2.69	2.27

- 1.20 Quantitative deficiency is not in itself a reason to preclude development in such areas though. Instead, it will be particularly important to secure new open spaces within these areas. Where new provision is not possible, alternative approaches to new open spaces such as small civic spaces, pocket parks and green corridors will therefore be needed alongside features such as balconies and green roofs; so that developments maximise opportunities for the provision of new open space.
- 1.21 The findings of the study indicate that there are existing deficiencies in both the number of allotments available for use, as well as the quality of allotments provided.
- 1.22 The standards help to form the basis for redressing the quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process by highlighting where investment in existing spaces to enhance their role, or the provision of new spaces, should be focussed.

- 1.23 The greatest deficiency in access to a range of open space hierarchies is within the following areas:
- Northern parts of Woolwich and Thamesmead
 - Greenwich peninsula
 - Kidbrooke
 - Eltham
 - Southern tip of the Royal Borough
- 1.24 Sections of communities in these areas do not have access to three or four levels of the open space hierarchy. A significant section of the Royal Borough's residents stretching from Kidbrooke to the River Thames are deficient in access to two levels of the hierarchy of open space. Residents living near to the open spaces which form the Green Chain from River Thames to Shooters Hill have access to all hierarchies of publicly accessible open space. Residents surrounding Greenwich Park and Blackheath Park are also able to access all hierarchies of open space.

Metropolitan Open Land Review

- 1.25 There are currently 1177.8ha of land designated as MOL within the Royal Borough. Of this, the study has found that 1.8ha could be considered for exclusion. A further 10.9ha could be considered as meeting the criteria for MOL, and could therefore be considered for inclusion.
- 1.26 This study recommends that the Royal Borough considers these potential amendments on a case by case basis and considers the advantages and disadvantages of making changes to the extent of the designation.

Urban Greening

- 1.27 **Table 1.6** shows the total additional area of 'greening' provided by green roofs in Royal Greenwich. Overall, more than 8ha of green roofs have been identified in Royal Greenwich. 78% of this is in the two northern Committee Areas. Extensive biodiverse roofs are the largest type in terms of area (and number), followed by intensive roofs. Although found in larger numbers, Extensive sedum roofs account for just under 1ha of green roofs. A small number of green roofs support solar installations as well.

Table 1.6: Summary table of types by committee area (square metres)

Type	Eltham and Kidbrooke area	Greenwich area	Woolwich and Thamesmead area	Royal Greenwich
Extensive biodiverse	10,118	27,482	11,802	49,402
Extensive biodiverse solar		186	661	847
Extensive sedum	1,782	4,365	3,387	9,534
Extensive sedum solar		92		92
Intensive	6,012	1,430	14,452	21,894
Total	17,911	33,555	30,302	81,769

- 1.28 There are over 150 species of street tree found in Royal Greenwich totalling almost 12,500 trees. 45% of these are found in the Eltham and Kidbrooke area as shown in **Table 1.7**.

Table 1.7: Summary of street trees by Committee Area

Committee Area	Number of street trees	% of overall street trees
Eltham and Kidbrooke area	5,634	45%
Greenwich area	2,134	17%
Woolwich and Thamesmead area	4,704	38%
Royal Greenwich	12,472	100%

- 1.29 The contribution to the GI network made by private gardens was taken into consideration. For this assessment, Ordnance Survey data was reviewed to identify the property classes that most likely contain private gardens.

Biodiversity

- 1.30 Royal Greenwich supports 55 SINC's across the Royal Borough. This is made up of seven sites of Metropolitan importance, 16 of Borough Grade I importance, 18 of Borough Grade II and 14 of Local importance. This study audited all of the SINC's that could be accessed and a further two potential SINC's.
- 1.31 The study found that the following SINC's should be **upgraded**:
- Royal Blackheath Golf Course South (from Grade II to Metropolitan)
 - Sutcliffe Park Flood Alleviation Scheme (from Grade II to Grade I)
 - Westcombe Woodlands (from Local to Grade II)
 - Eaglesfield Wood (from Local to Grade II)
- 1.32 The following sites require urgent intervention or **risk losing their designation**:
- Southwood Recreation Ground, New Eltham
 - East Wickham Open Space (Royal Greenwich section)
 - Twinkle Park
- 1.33 The following sites should be **newly designated** as SINC's
- Charlotte Turner Gardens (to Local)
 - Gallions Park, Thamesmead Canal and Gallions Hill (to Grade II)
- 1.34 The following sites should be **extended**:
- Plumstead Common (Winn's Common, Bleak Hill, and The Slade)
 - Eltham Palace Fields
 - Woolwich Common
 - Birchmere
 - Royal Blackheath Golf Course
 - Kidbrooke Green and Birdbrook Road Nature Reserves

2

Introduction

2 Introduction

Background

- 2.1 The Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) commissioned LUC to undertake a Green Infrastructure Study that will provide the evidence base for the preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Royal Borough. This study will form a key part of the evidence base for the Council's Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and subsequent Local Plan updates.
- 2.2 The study assessed all forms of Green Infrastructure (GI) in a single, comprehensive study - collating and analysing information on parks and open spaces, urban greening features, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Metropolitan Open Land.

Study aims and objectives

- 2.3 The overall aim of the Study was to provide an understanding of the specific needs and opportunities, including quantitative and/or qualitative deficits or surpluses of public parks and green spaces, children's outdoor play provision, allotments, and natural and semi-natural green spaces.
- 2.4 Specifically, the objectives of the study were to:
 - Provide an understanding and comprehensive audit of existing provision of all types of green infrastructure, excluding playing pitches and sports facilities.
 - Assess the distribution of, and access to, existing green infrastructure.
 - Provide an analysis that can be used to inform decisions on land to be "identified" and/or "designated" as open space, as well as to inform decisions on allocating land for other forms of development, such as for educational purposes.
 - Provide a comprehensive audit of all the Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SINCs) including a survey of all the existing and potential SINCs.
 - Assess the potential for features such as street trees and green roofs to complement and augment the core network.
 - Provide recommendations for the Royal Borough's green infrastructure that can feed into a Green Infrastructure Strategy and a Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - Incorporate the findings of the work already completed on the Royal Borough's playing pitches.
- 2.5 This report sets out the findings of the study and constitutes a technical evidence base that is capable of providing the evidence base for:
 - the preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy (as set out in Policy 7.18 of the London Plan);
 - an update of the Royal Borough's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (as set out in Policy 7.19 of the London Plan);
 - the preparation of a Biodiversity Action Plan;
 - recommending any boundary changes required to Metropolitan Open Land;
 - the Council's Site Specific Allocations DPD and any subsequent Local Plan updates, such as a review of the Core Strategy.

National, regional and local framework

- 2.6 This section outlines the key national, regional and local policies that have influenced the approach to this study. These should be considered when interpreting the study's findings for the purpose of the Site Allocations DPD. A summary of the relevant policy context is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Approach to open space assessment

- 2.7 The rationale for the Royal Greenwich GI Study is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraphs 73 and 74, 99 and 114) which outlines the relevance of GI to the development of a Local Plan:
- Paragraph 73 highlights that 'planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities'.
 - Paragraph 74 sets out the only circumstances in which an open space can be developed for different uses.
 - Paragraph 99 states that Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape... care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure.
 - Paragraph 114 explains how GI should be addressed in Local Plans and this in turn could inform this study on how it can best provide evidence for the Local Plan.
- 2.8 This study, combined with the findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy (2015), provides that evidence base for the purpose of the Royal Greenwich Local Plan.

Loss or replacement of open space

- 2.9 The NPPF (para. 74) sets out the only circumstances in which an open space can be developed for different uses. It clarifies that existing open space should not be built on unless:
- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements; or
 - the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- 2.10 Open spaces can only be lost if an equal or better open space can be provided elsewhere within the local catchment area (London Plan, policy 7.18), although this definition of the term 'local catchment area' is left for the boroughs to determine.

London-wide GI network

- 2.11 The recent report of the London Green Infrastructure Task Force¹ states that the London Boroughs are to plan and manage GI due to their roles in land use planning, management of public areas and implementation of measures to promote public health. The report calls for the boroughs to be placemakers in which GI is central to the agenda. This proposal is supported by the Design and Heritage sections of the 2014 Royal Greenwich Core Strategy, which calls for high quality of design that contributes to a high quality, safe environment, a sense of place – in particular for housing developments.

New development

- 2.12 The London Plan states that areas of open space deficiency should be identified, and new open space areas are to be provided in places that are likely to experience substantial development – however they must conform to Green Infrastructure (GI) strategies and deliver multiple benefits

¹ London Green Infrastructure Task Force (2015) [Natural Capital](#)

(Policy 7.18). The All London Green Grid (ALGG) provides guidance on the functions and benefits that well-managed open space can deliver, and defines the 'GGA6 South East London Green Chain Plus Partnership Area'. Where appropriate, the GI network within Royal Greenwich should join up with the proposed strategic links highlighted in the ALGG, including the Greenwich to Eltham Link, and the Kidbrook Link. The London Plan also supports development proposals that strengthen links between public spaces and parks (Policy 7.5).

- 2.13 The 2014 Core Strategy for Royal Greenwich includes an Environment and Climate Change section which contains many policies of relevance to GI and open space in the Royal Borough. This states that "New open spaces will be integrated with future developments, particularly on the waterfront, and the links between open spaces will be improved." Policy OS(c) aims to increase the provision of public open space including stating that new residential schemes of over 50 units in deficiency areas will be required incorporate public open space. The Study will identify these areas and could identify how these open spaces are best utilised using GI.

Protecting, maintaining and enhancing open space

- 2.14 The NPPF provides a mechanism by which local authorities can protect some open spaces under a 'Local Green Space' designation (paras.76-77), and provides high level criteria for such a designation. In addition, the London Plan states that Local Plan preparation should support the creation, protection and enhancement of GI and open spaces. GI and open spaces should be optimised for both their environmental and social qualities (Policy 2.18).
- 2.15 Policies OS1 and OS3 of the 2014 Core Strategy for Royal Greenwich encourage the safeguarding, enhancement and improving access to existing public and private open space, including Metropolitan Open Land, Green Belt, Green Chain and Community Open Space, as defined on the policies map, and other small open spaces such as Local Green Spaces. Policy CH2 highlights the link between open space and healthy communities and ensuring that all development should facilitate healthy and active lifestyles.

Biodiversity

- 2.16 Royal Greenwich has an adopted Biodiversity Action Plan, which dates from 2010. It states that: "Management of every SINC and other key sites should be subject to a management plan with ecological objectives", and that this should be achieved through negotiations with landowners and managers.

Metropolitan Open Land

- 2.17 The 2014 Core Strategy for Royal Greenwich outlines what are considered appropriate uses of Metropolitan Open Land, and these include:
- Allotments Open air recreational uses, sports grounds and playing fields;
 - Agriculture and woodlands;
 - Open water features;
 - Golf courses;
 - Allotments;
 - Large grounds attached to educational facilities and institutions;
 - Cemeteries and associated crematoria; and
 - Nature conservation.

Allotments

- 2.18 There is no specific policy document or strategy for allotments in Royal Greenwich. Policy CH2 of the 2014 Core Strategy defines the need to create and encourage healthy communities in Royal Greenwich. One of the commitments of this policy is to 'safeguard existing allotments and, for major developments in deficiency areas, include appropriately sited allotments or community gardens'.

Play

- 2.19 There is no specific policy document or strategy for play space in the Royal Greenwich Core Strategy. Policy CH2 of the 2014 Core Strategy states that new development should 'ensure that Royal Greenwich's parks, play areas, open spaces and leisure facilities are accessible to all and encourage increased provision where appropriate to meet the needs of the local community particularly in areas of deficiency'. The Royal Borough of Greenwich intends to apply the approach outlined in the GLA's Play and Informal Recreation Supplementary Planning Guidance² when creating and enhancing new areas of playable space.

The Royal Greenwich context

- 2.20 Approximately 30% of the Royal Borough is open space. Open space is unevenly distributed throughout the Royal Borough, with some areas having inadequate open space provision. This can particularly affect less mobile people, older people and families with young children; especially those who don't have access to a private garden.
- 2.21 Royal Greenwich contains many valued areas of open space, including Greenwich Park, which is one of the largest green spaces in South East London and part of Blackheath. Both of these spaces are also part of the Green Chain which runs through Royal Greenwich and the adjoining boroughs of Bexley, Lewisham and Southwark. The open spaces which form the green chain are all designated as Metropolitan Open Land.
- 2.22 Socio-economic deprivation in the Royal Borough is generally higher than the average for both London and England. The bordering authority of Lewisham to the west also has very high levels of deprivation across a range of indicators.

Current and future population

- 2.23 The population of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, as recorded in the 2011 Census, is shown in **Table 2.1**. This table additionally shows the projected population within each Committee Boundary in 2028, based on the GLA 2015 ward projections³. The sharp rise in population in the Greenwich area is a result of the large development currently taking place in the Peninsula ward. The GLA capped household size projections are linked to housing developments so any major housing scheme built in the Royal Borough will be reflected in the projection data. The three largest housing schemes are currently being built in Peninsula, Eltham West and Woolwich Riverside wards.

Table 2.1: Current and projected population

Committee Boundary area	Total population 2011	Total population 2028	% increase in total population	Child population 2011 (0-15 years)	Child population 2028 (0-15 years)	% increase in child population
Eltham and Kidbrooke area	89,759	100,424	12%	17,742	18,369	4%
Greenwich area	43,453	74,362	71%	7,355	13,950	90%
Woolwich and Thamesmead area	121,345	151,563	25%	30,297	38,060	26%
Royal Borough of Greenwich	254,557	326,349	28%	55,394	70,379	27%

- 2.24 **Figure 2.1** shows the population density of the Royal Borough as recorded in the 2011 census.

² Mayor of London (2012) [Play and Informal Recreation Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)

³ GLA 2015 round ward population projections - SHLAA-based; Capped Household Size model

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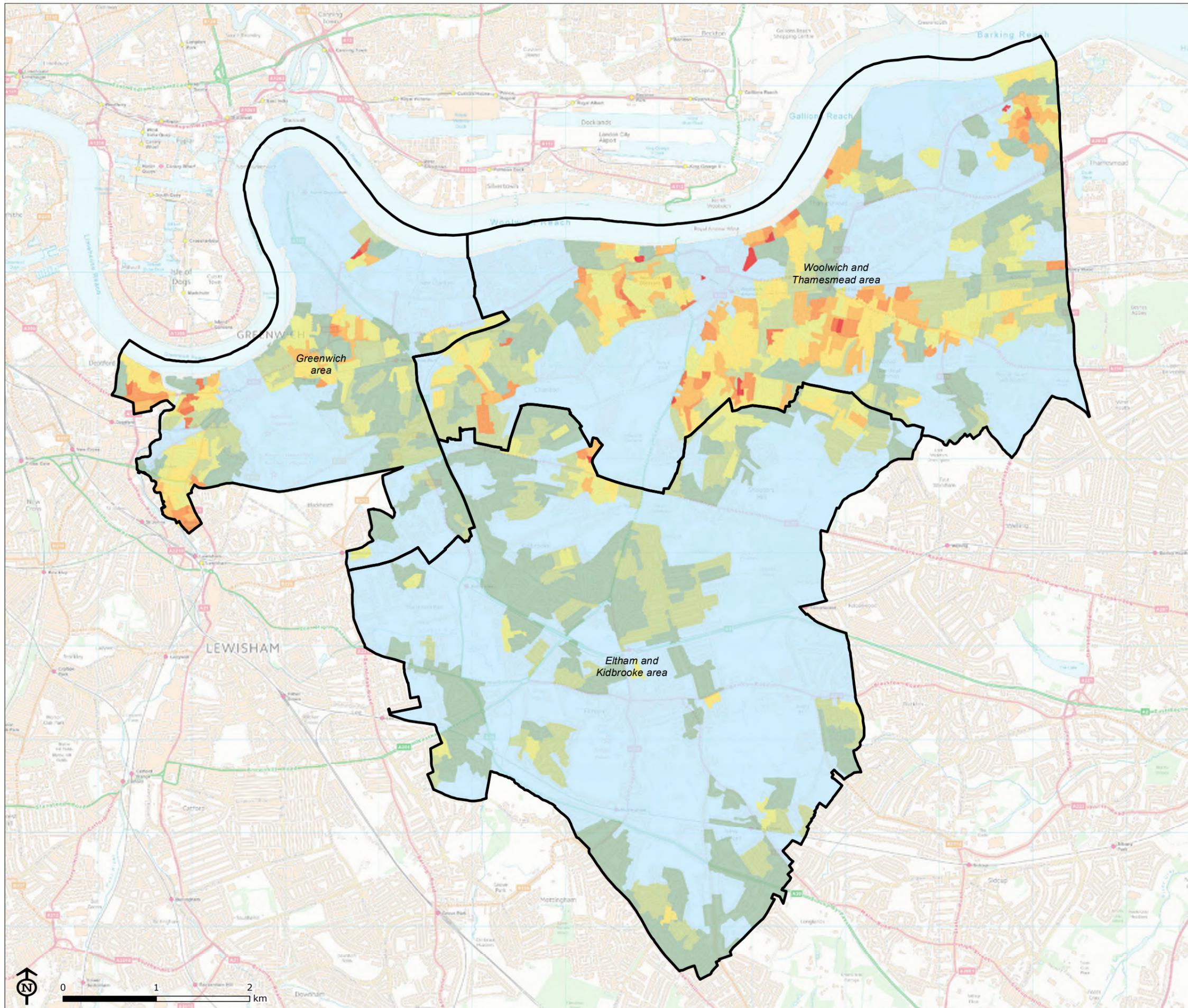
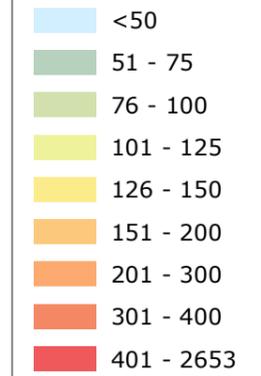
Figure 2.1

Population Density 2011

Committee area boundaries

Population density 2011

People per hectare



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Socio-economic deprivation

- 2.25 A review of the latest Indices of Deprivation (IMD)⁴ data reveal that most wards in Royal Greenwich contain areas which have an average to below average 'living environment', and also indicate a high level of variation in the levels of deprivation within the Royal Borough. Shown in **Figure 2.2**, this criterion measures both the indoor living environment (quality of housing) and the outdoor living environment (levels of road accidents and air quality). There are some pockets of very high living environment deprivation (amongst the worst in England), notably within the Greenwich West, Peninsula, Blackheath Westcombe and Woolwich Riverside wards.
- 2.26 Health is also varied in comparison to the national average but trends towards average/below average levels. Deprivation is higher in the north of the Royal Borough, particularly the wards of Woolwich Common, Woolwich Riverside, Peninsula, Charlton, Thamesmead Moorings and Abbey Wood. This indicator is measured through an assessment of the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through physical and mental illness, and is shown in **Figure 2.3**.
- 2.27 Public Health England note that about 26.8% of children in Royal Greenwich live in poverty. In Year 6, 25.4% of children are classified as obese, which is worse than the England average. Similarly, in 2012, 23.6% of adults were classified as obese. The percentage of physically active adults is slightly less than the England average.
- 2.28 The over-arching IMD scores take into account the health and living environment criteria listed above, alongside the following domains: income, employment, education, crime and barriers to housing and services. As illustrated in **Figure 2.4**, Royal Greenwich wards (and their component neighbourhoods) receive a wide range of overall deprivation scores. The most deprived wards in the Royal Borough include Abbey Wood, Middle Park and Sutcliffe, Eltham West and Woolwich Riverside. These contain some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England. The south eastern part of the Royal Borough is less deprived.

Housing profile

- 2.29 Census data from 2011 makes it possible to use housing type as a proxy for the proportion of households which are unlikely to have access to a private garden. For the purposes of this analysis, housing type is differentiated into the following three main categories:
- Whole house or bungalow (including detached, semi-detached and terraced);
 - Flat, maisonette or apartment (including purpose built flats, converted or shared houses and flats within commercial properties); and
 - Caravans or other mobile or temporary structure.
- 2.30 For the purpose of this assessment we have worked on the assumption that most whole houses and bungalows will have access to a private garden, with other housing types deemed not to have access to a private garden.
- 2.31 54% of all households in Royal Greenwich are either whole houses or bungalows⁵. 46% are flats, maisonettes, apartments, caravans or other mobile structures and by inference are less likely to have access to a private garden. When mapped at Output Area level, the map is misleading as some output areas have very low numbers of residential properties.
- 2.32 **Figure 2.5** shows the current profile of residential dwellings in Royal Greenwich based on an assessment of the current Land and Property Gazetteer data. Residential properties are classified as:
- More likely to have access to private gardens
 - RD02 – Detached
 - RD03 – Semi-detached
 - RD04 – Terraced

⁴ DCLG (2015) Indices of Multiple Deprivation

⁵ http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/downloads/file/67/royal_borough_of_greenwich_profile

- Less likely to have access to private gardens
 - RD01 – Caravans
 - RD06 – Self-contained flats
 - RD07-RD10 – Houseboats, sheltered accommodation, privately owned holiday caravans/chalets
- Unknown access to private gardens
 - RD – not classified as any of the above

2.33 Based on this rapid assessment of the housing mix, flats are more prevalent in the northern part of the Royal Borough as well as Middle Park and Sutcliffe Ward and around Eltham.

Planned housing development

2.34 Royal Greenwich has an annual target of 2,595 new homes to be built each year, until 2028⁶.

2.35 The locations in which the majority of this growth is planned to take place are listed below and shown on **Figure 2.6**:

- Greenwich Peninsula (14,000 new homes planned): The majority of new development over the plan period will be focused on the Greenwich Peninsula. Outline permission for much of these homes has been granted.
- Woolwich (4,671 new homes planned): This will form part of a wider redevelopment aimed at revitalising and enhancing the Town Centre. New homes will be focused at Love Lane and Royal Arsenal.
- Charlton Riverside (3,500 – 5,000 new homes planned): The Core Strategy states that *'redevelopment of Charlton Riverside will create new communities which require access to open space and children's play areas.'*
- Greenwich and Blackheath (1,625 new homes planned): Full permission for these homes at Greenwich Reach East and Heart of East Greenwich has been granted.
- Eltham and the south of the Royal Borough (4,800 new homes planned): The development in this area is focused in Kidbrooke. This will incorporate a variety of open spaces serving a range of recreational uses.
- Thamesmead (2,000 new homes planned): New development will be focused in the new Housing Zones in Thamesmead and Abbey Wood.

2.36 Open space has a range of different benefits, environmental, social and economic. When determining the social need for open space, this reflects the benefits that it delivers to the local community. Those benefits include providing a venue for a range of healthy physical activity, including running, walking and team sports. In addition, open spaces provide an oasis from urban areas, and this access to nature delivers a range of mental and physical health benefits. The recreational benefits of open space are most valuable to those who do not have the privilege of private outdoor spaces such as gardens. For this reason, we have analysed data on the type of housing and population density as an indicator of where the open space would be accessible to those which have the least access to private open space. It can be assumed that generally residents of detached and semi-detached and terraced houses have access to the most outdoor space, with those in apartments, flats and houses of multiple occupancy likely to have the least.

⁶ http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/downloads/download/718/core_strategy_with_detailed_policies

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Figure 2.2

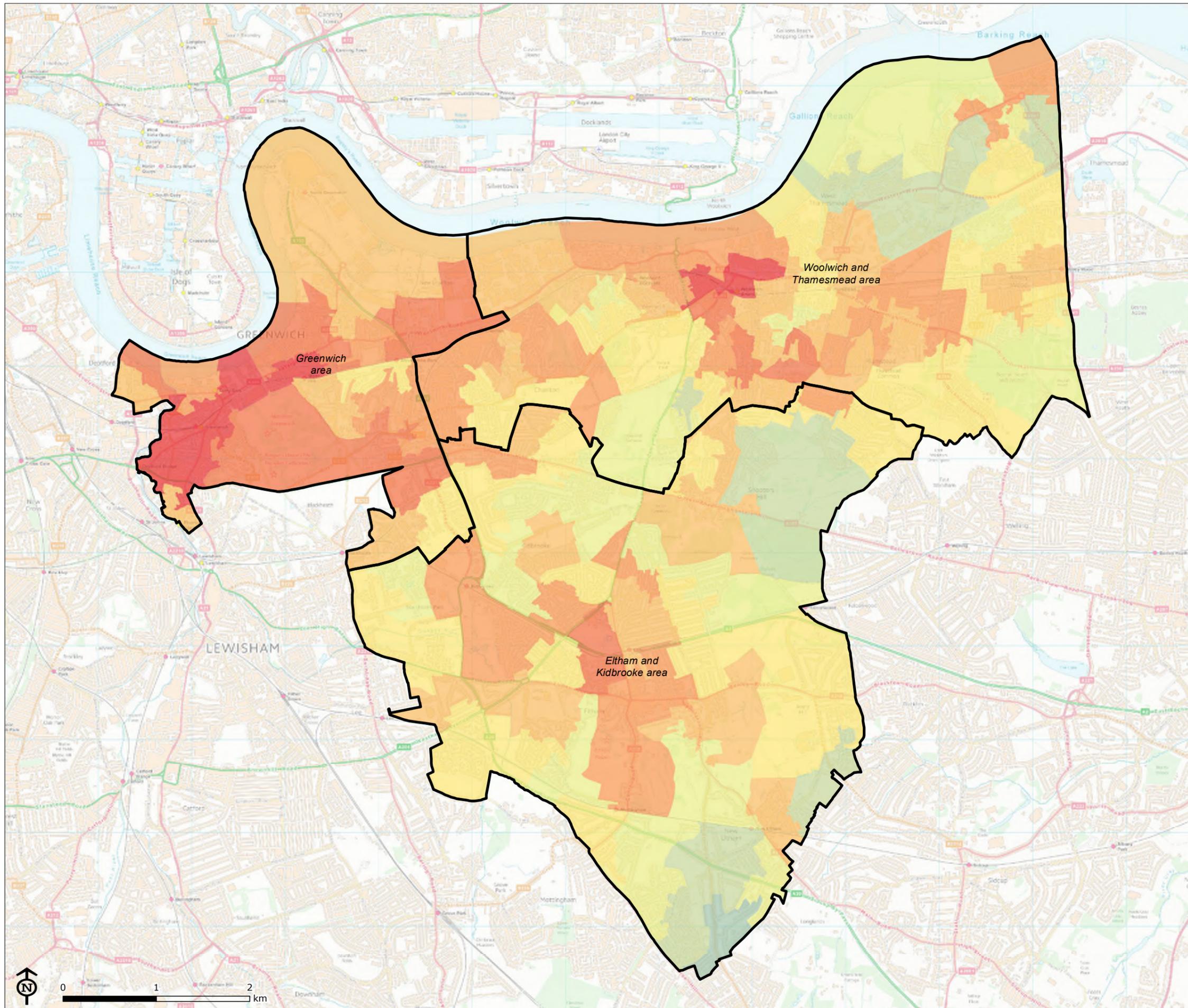
Living Environment

 Committee area boundaries

Living Environment Deprivation

Living Environment decile

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



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Figure 2.3

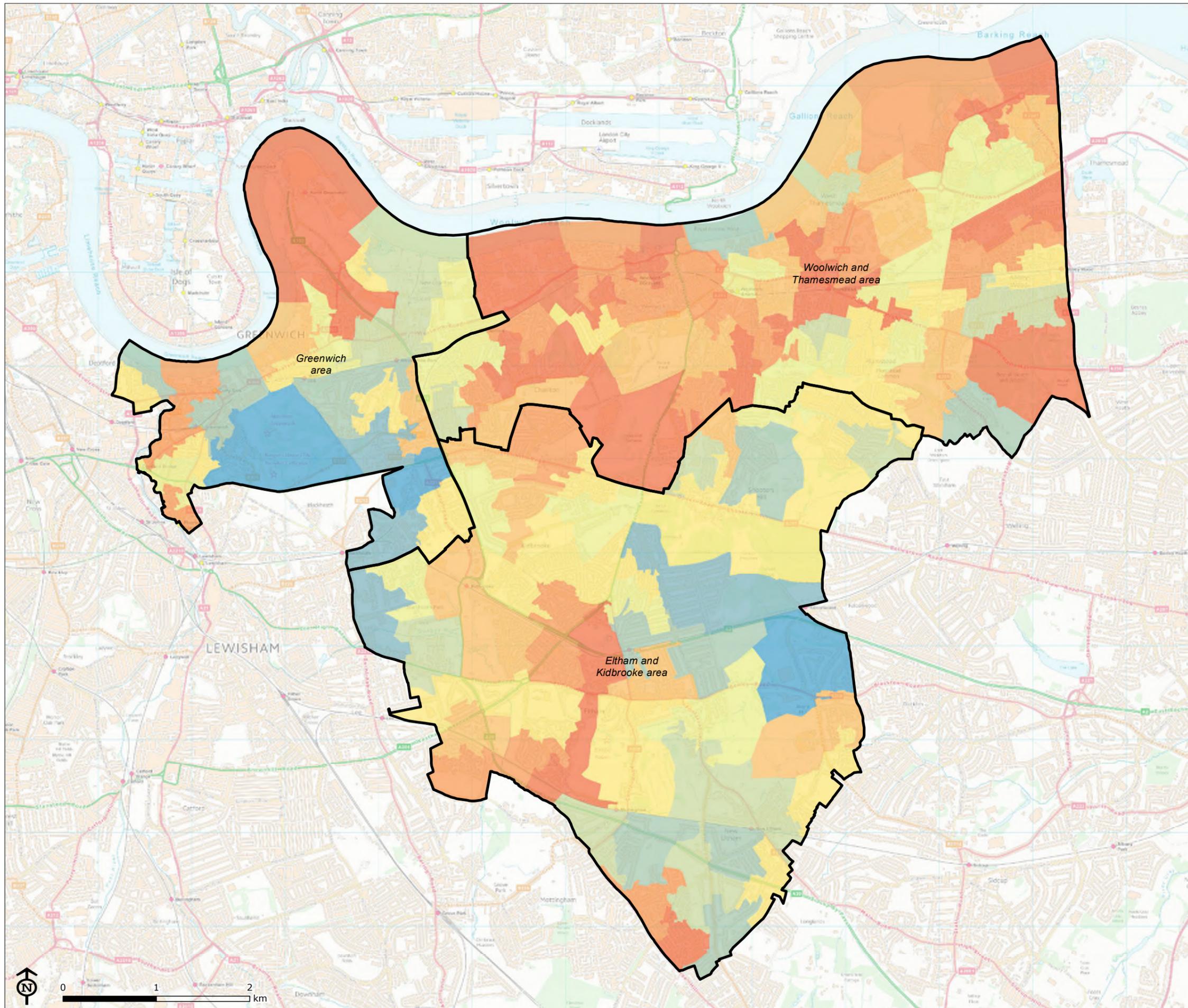
Health Deprivation and Disability Domain

Committee area boundaries

Health Deprivation

Health decile

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

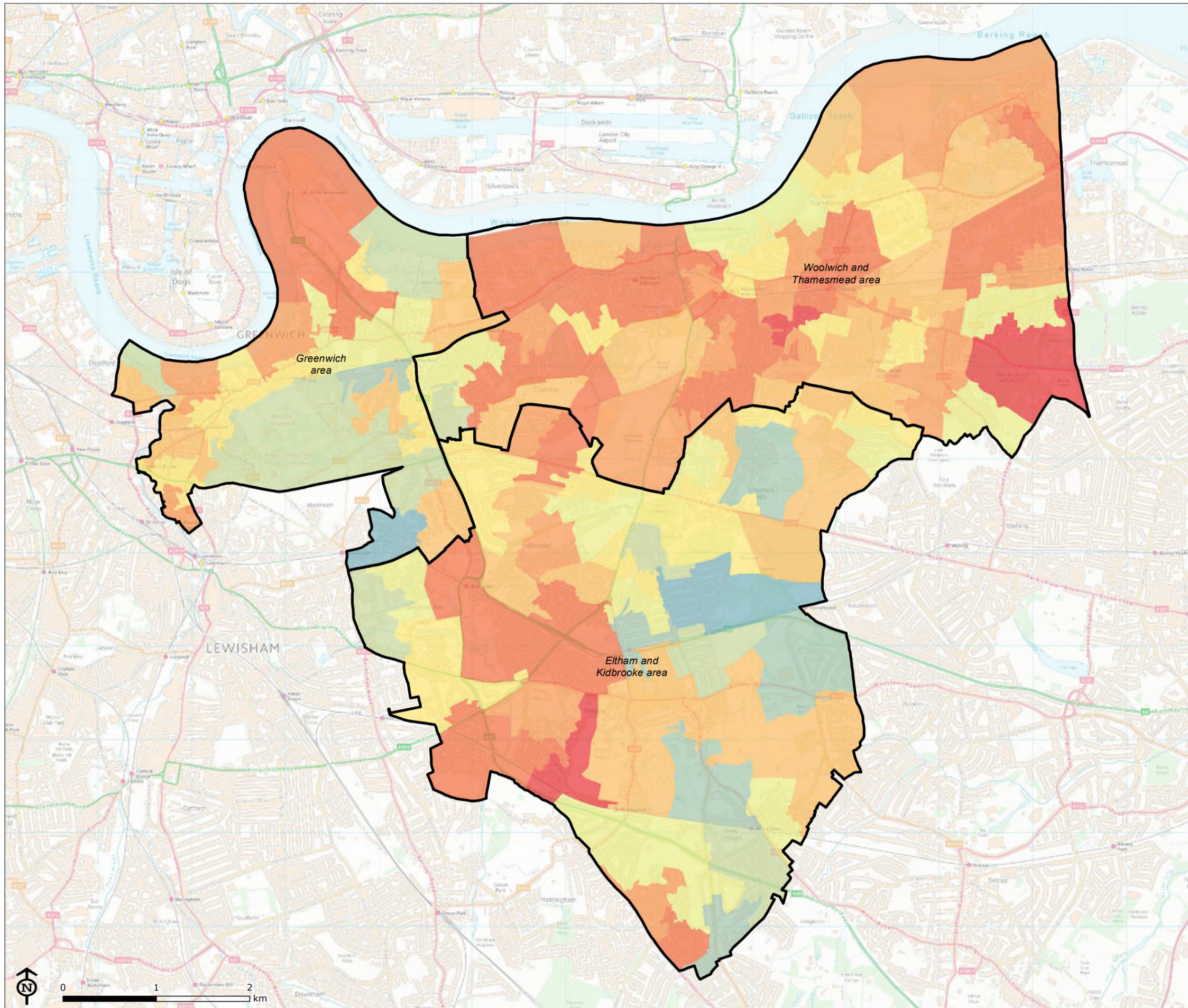
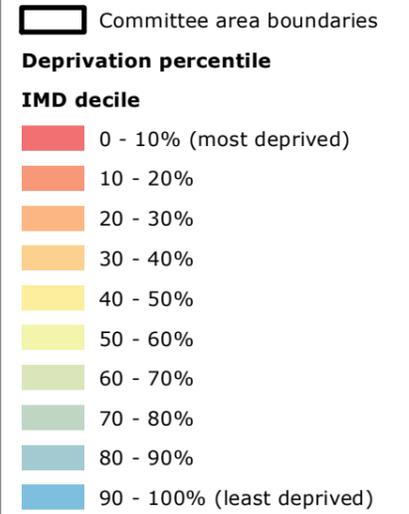


Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 2.4
Index of Multiple Deprivation



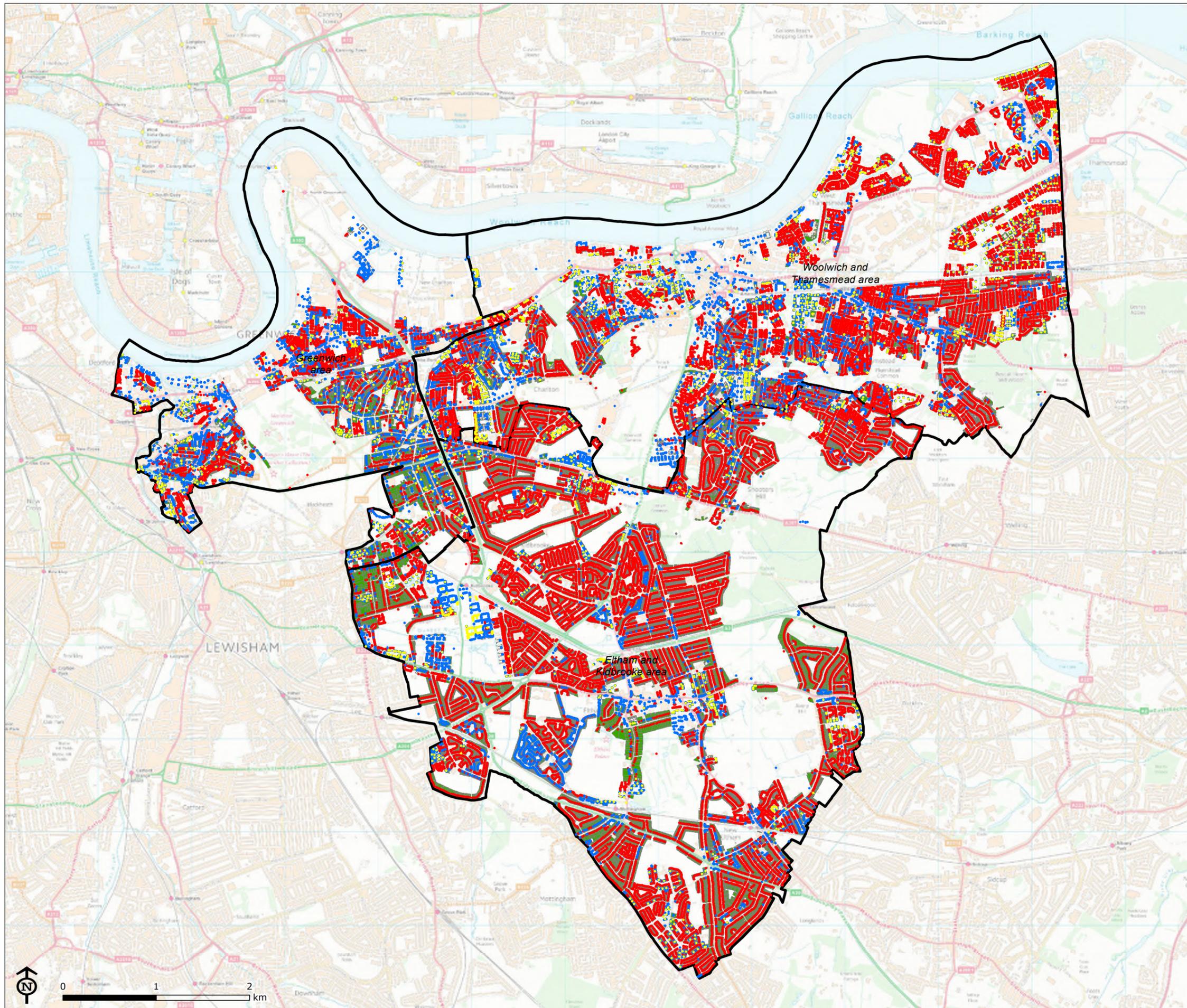
Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 2.5
Residential Dwelling Mix

-  Committee area boundaries
-  Unclassified residential dwellings
-  Caravans, flats, houseboats and sheltered accommodation
-  Detached, semi-detached, terraced houses
-  Approximate garden locations

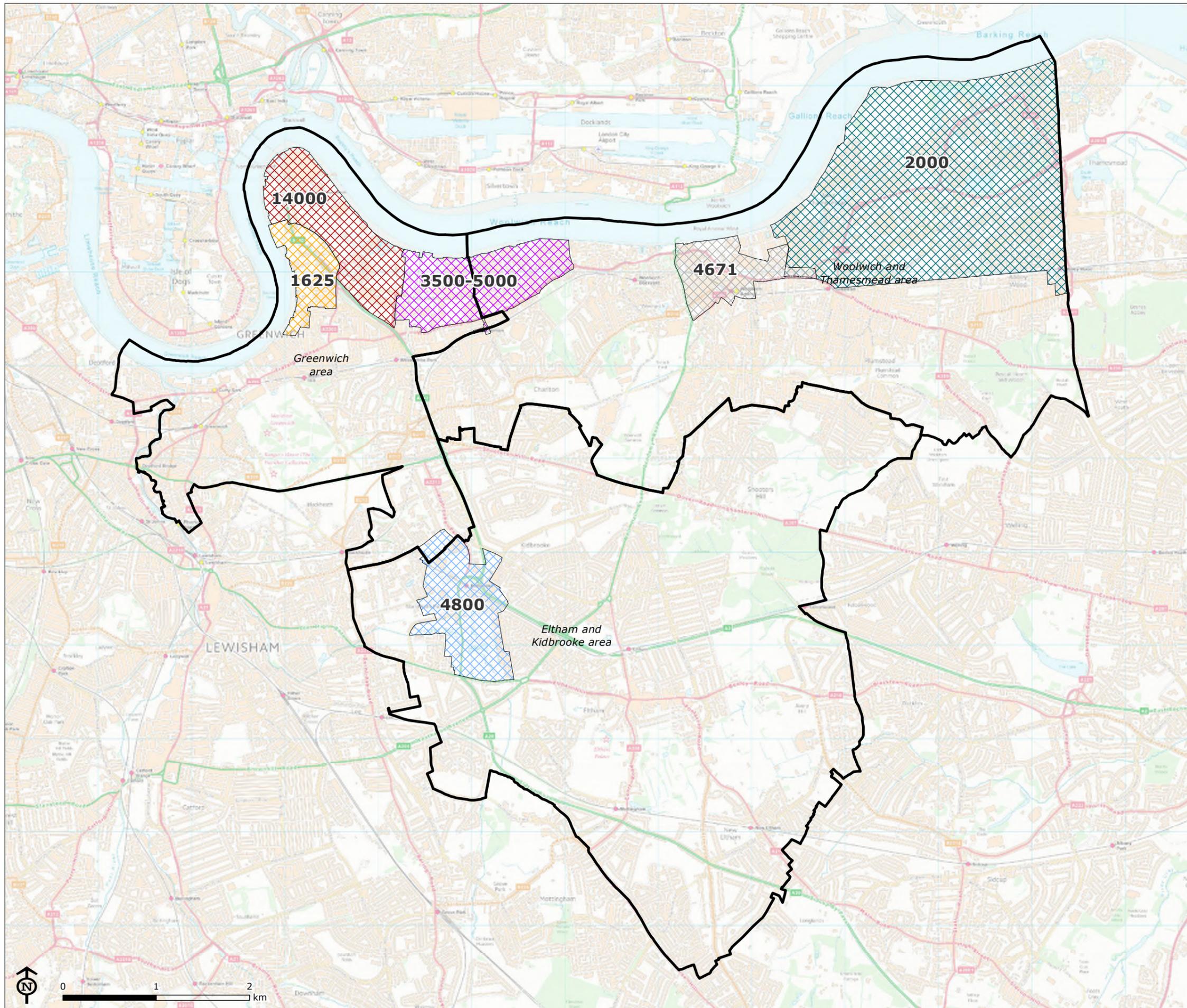


Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 2.6
Planned housing development



- Committee area boundaries
- Strategic Development Locations**
- Charlton Riverside
- Greenwich Peninsula
- Greenwich Peninsula West
- Kidbrooke
- Thamesmead
- Woolwich Town Centre

Labels indicate the number of planned houses.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Key issues

Flooding

- 2.37 In terms of flooding from rivers or the sea, large areas in the north of the Royal Borough (adjacent to the River Thames) are within Flood Zones 2 and 3. However, almost all of this is within an area benefitting from flood defences. The exception to this is the area to the east of Deptford Creek, around the Cutty Sark which is unprotected and within Zones 2 and 3.
- 2.38 Elsewhere in the Royal Borough, Middle Park and Sutcliffe Ward is at risk of flooding (fluvial or tidal), as are parts of Eltham West Ward.
- 2.39 The Updated Flood Map for Surface Water assesses flooding scenarios as a result of rainfall. **Figure 2.7** show the potential depth of flooding (in metres) for the 1 in 30 scenario (3.3% annual probability of flooding). This shows that parts of the road network are susceptible to surface water flooding as well as some of the Royal Boroughs parks and open spaces (Sutcliffe Park, Eltham Palace Allotments, Badgers Sports Ground, the area between Winchcombe Gardens and Rochester Way, the area to the west of Hervey Road Playing Fields, Charlton Athletic Football Club etc).

Air quality

- 2.40 Royal Greenwich will benefit from the Mayor's fund to create Low Emission Neighbourhoods across eight London Boroughs. Coming into effect in 2019, the Town Centre and Trafalgar Road Low Emissions Neighbourhood proposal includes a series of car-free days in the town centre, an incentive scheme to encourage walking and cycling and an extensive series of mini parks throughout the area.
- 2.41 The scheme is focused on improving air quality in the Greenwich West and Peninsula wards. It will use a mixture of 'smart technology' and tried-and-tested techniques to reduce transport emissions and make the area a more people-friendly neighbourhood.
- 2.42 **Figure 2.8** shows annual mean NO² air pollution for 2013, in microgrammes per metre cubed (ug/m³). The A2, South Circular, A206 and East Rochester Way have very high concentrations of NO².

Cultural heritage and landscape

- 2.43 Royal Greenwich is world famous as the location of the Prime Meridian, has a rich maritime history and boasts a number of large parks meaning that the Royal Borough is a major tourist destination. The Royal Borough is home to the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site and four Registered Parks and Gardens. In addition, there are 12 Scheduled Monuments and a large number of Listed Buildings. There are 20 Conservation Areas and a large proportion of the Royal Borough is designated as an Area of Special Character. There are additionally three areas designated as Historic Landscapes. Cultural Heritage assets are illustrated in **Figure 2.9**.
- 2.44 Royal Greenwich falls within two of the London Natural Areas – 14 Lower Thames Floodplain and 19 South London Pebbly Sands.

Biodiversity

- 2.45 Much of Royal Greenwich is densely developed, with residential areas across the Royal Borough and some industrial areas in the dockland areas associated with the River Thames. However, the Royal borough supports several habitats providing a range of opportunities for wildlife. The northern boundary of Royal Greenwich is the River Thames, providing riverine habitat and estuaries spanning the width of the Royal Borough which have many benefits for wildlife. Royal Greenwich supports several waterbodies; these comprise rivers, streams, water's edge habitat, pond, marsh and wetland habitats important for many species. As priority habitats in Royal Greenwich, the Royal Borough maintains many high quality examples. Riverine associated habitats are important for biodiversity and connectivity; in addition wetland areas often act to cleanse and improve water quality and alleviate flooding.
- 2.46 The Thames and tidal tributaries is a designated SINC of metropolitan importance. Sutcliffe Park is an exemplary site in Royal Greenwich which performs these natural services, also designated as a Local Nature Reserve. Other priority habitats in the Royal Borough include acid grassland and heathland, woodland, wasteland, parks and green spaces and gardens. Acid grassland and heathland are characteristic of soils in Royal Greenwich, and form part of its historical heritage.

These habitats are often in mosaic form, fine examples can found in Blackheath and Royal Greenwich Park and Woolwich Common. Woodland is an important habitat for biodiversity; the Royal Borough supports the Shooters Hill woodland complex which is one of the largest areas of ancient woodland in south London, and has several other smaller pockets of woodland. Parks, green spaces and gardens are particularly important in heavily residential and urbanised areas. Wasteland is also important, often associated with some of the industrial areas where it provides important opportunities in an otherwise barren environment.

- 2.47 Royal Greenwich has a coherent ecological network, particularly with the number of riverine habitats which perform this important connective role for a variety of wildlife. The Green Chain passes through Royal Greenwich, part of a green corridor across south London. Royal Greenwich has a large number of parks and green spaces, often forming part of this important feature. As well as the Green Chain and riparian habitats, railway embankments also serve this purpose. Royal Greenwich has several railway lines which provide important ecological links between green areas, essential for maintaining biodiversity in the Royal Borough.
- 2.48 In terms of designations, the Royal Borough supports two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and 55 SINCs which are protected through planning policy. The Royal Borough also supports three Local Nature Reserves, a Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site and two Locally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites. **Table 2.2** shows the level of designation for these sites. Biodiversity assets are illustrated in **Figure 2.10**.

Table 2.2: Designated nature conservation sites

Designation	Number of sites
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	2
SINC – Metropolitan grade	7
SINC – Borough grade I	16
SINC – Borough grade II	18
SINC – Local importance	14
Local Nature Reserves	3

- 2.49 It is important to note that during the course of this study, it was discovered that Oxleas Woodlands LNR has previously been shown incorrectly on proposals maps (wrong area). This boundary will be corrected in site allocations. The 1994 UDP proposals map shows the boundary of the LNR correctly.

Figure 2.7
Flood Risk



-  Committee area boundaries
-  Flood Storage Areas
- Surface water flooding depth (m)**
-  0.00 - 0.15
-  0.15 - 0.30
-  0.30 - 0.60
-  0.60 - 0.90
-  0.90 - 1.20
-  > 1.20
-  Areas benefiting from flood defences
-  Flood Zone 3
-  Flood Zone 2

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

Figure 2.8

Annual Mean NO₂ Air Pollution
(based on 2013 measurements)

Committee area boundaries

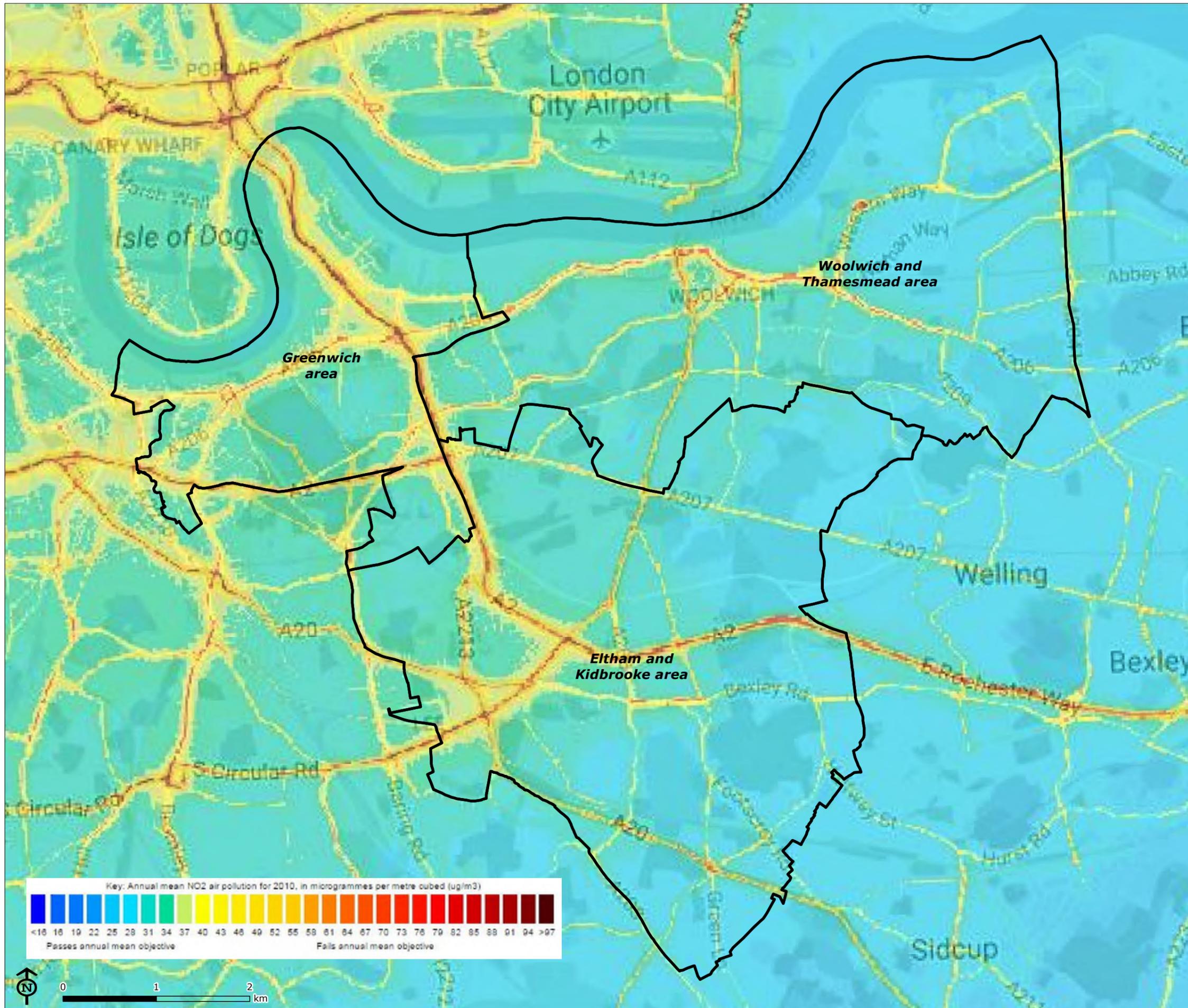
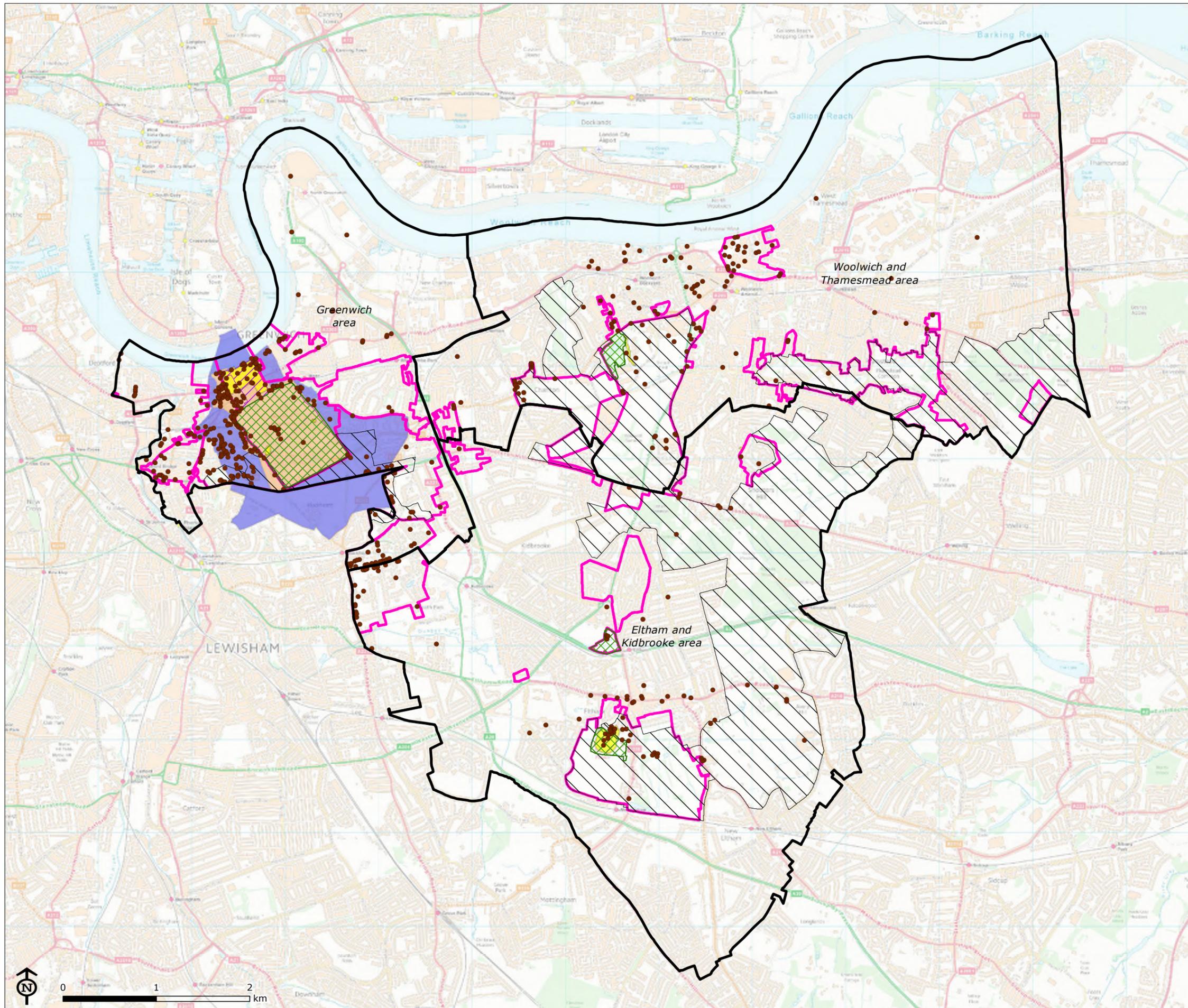


Figure 2.9
Cultural Heritage



-  Committee area boundaries
-  Listed buildings
-  Registered Parks and Gardens
-  Areas of special character
-  Conservation areas
-  Historic landscape
-  Scheduled monuments
- World Heritage Site**
-  Buffer Zone
-  Core Area

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

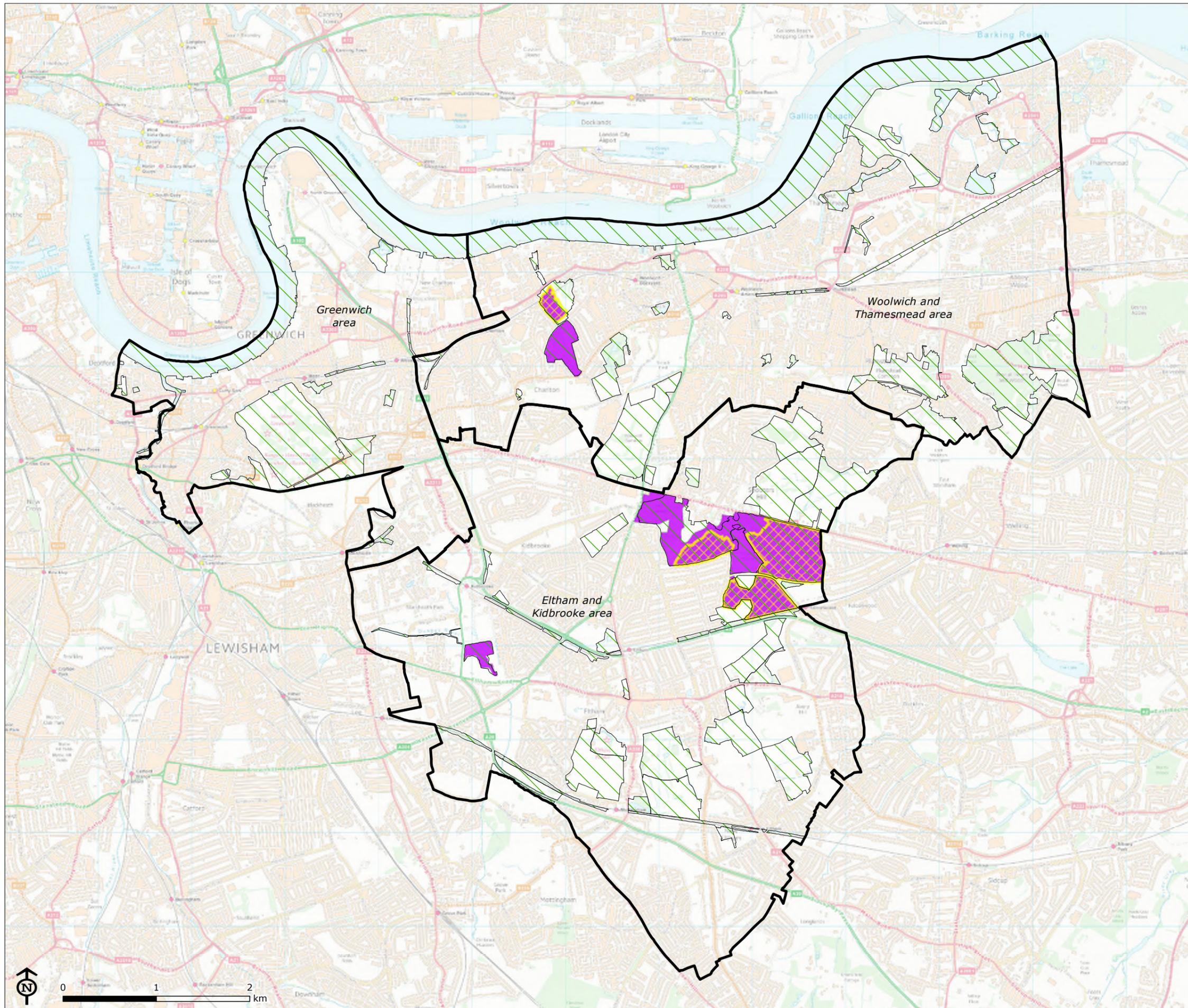


Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 2.10
Biodiversity

-  Committee area boundaries
-  Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Please note: During the course of this study, it was discovered that Oxleas Woodlands LNR has previously been shown incorrectly on proposals maps (wrong area). This boundary will be corrected in site allocations. The boundary of the 1994 UDP proposals map shows the site correctly. The boundary shown on this map is correct.



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

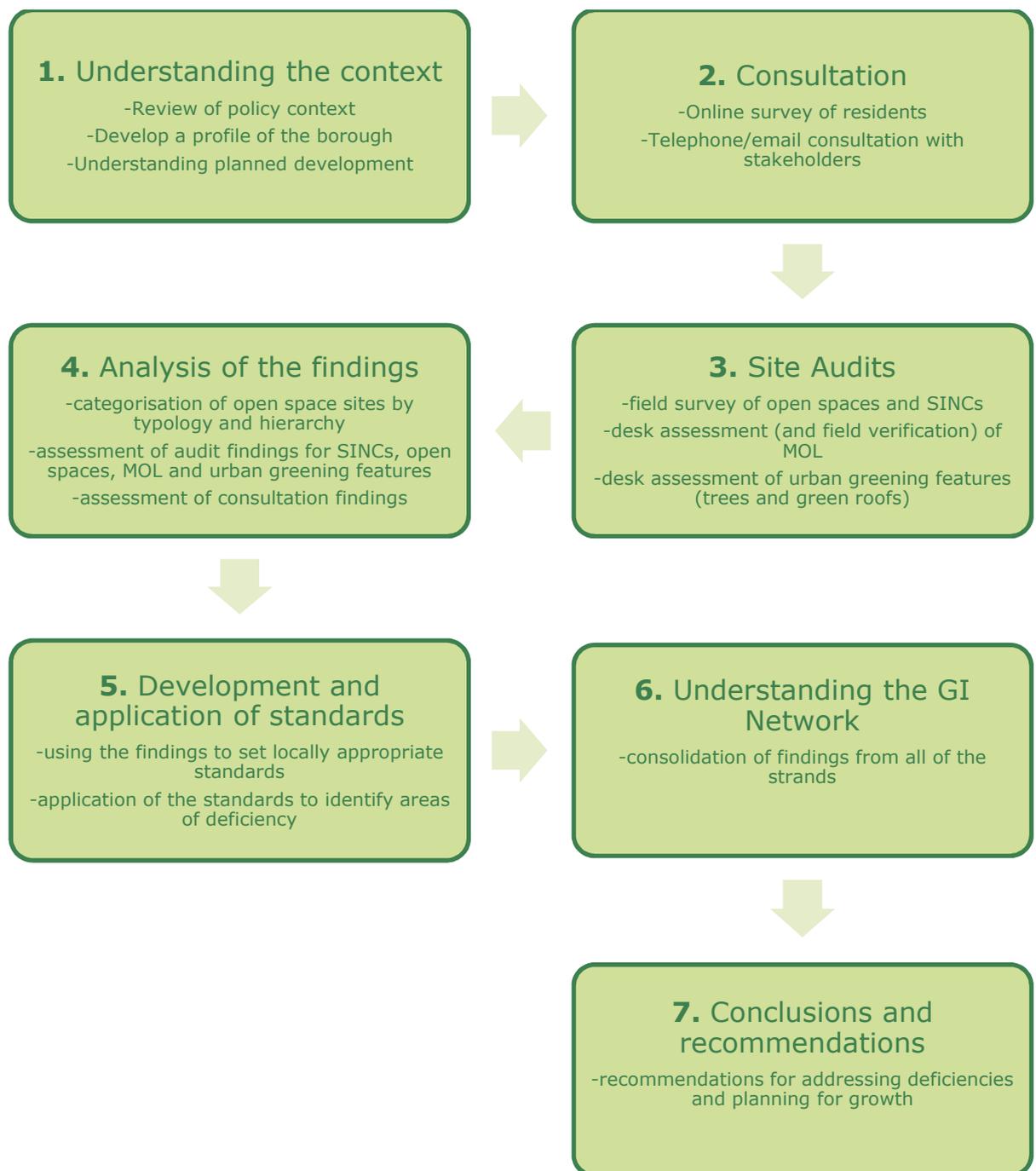


3 Methodology

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The method for this Study reflects the requirements of the NPPF. The integrated approach to assessing open space, green infrastructure, MOL and biodiversity has ensured that, while the strands of the study are independently robust, an holistic approach to Green Infrastructure planning is able to be supported.
- 3.2 This section sets out the methodology used for this study. The approach incorporates seven broad tasks which are outlined in **Figure 3.1** and described below.

Figure 3.1: Overview of study methodology

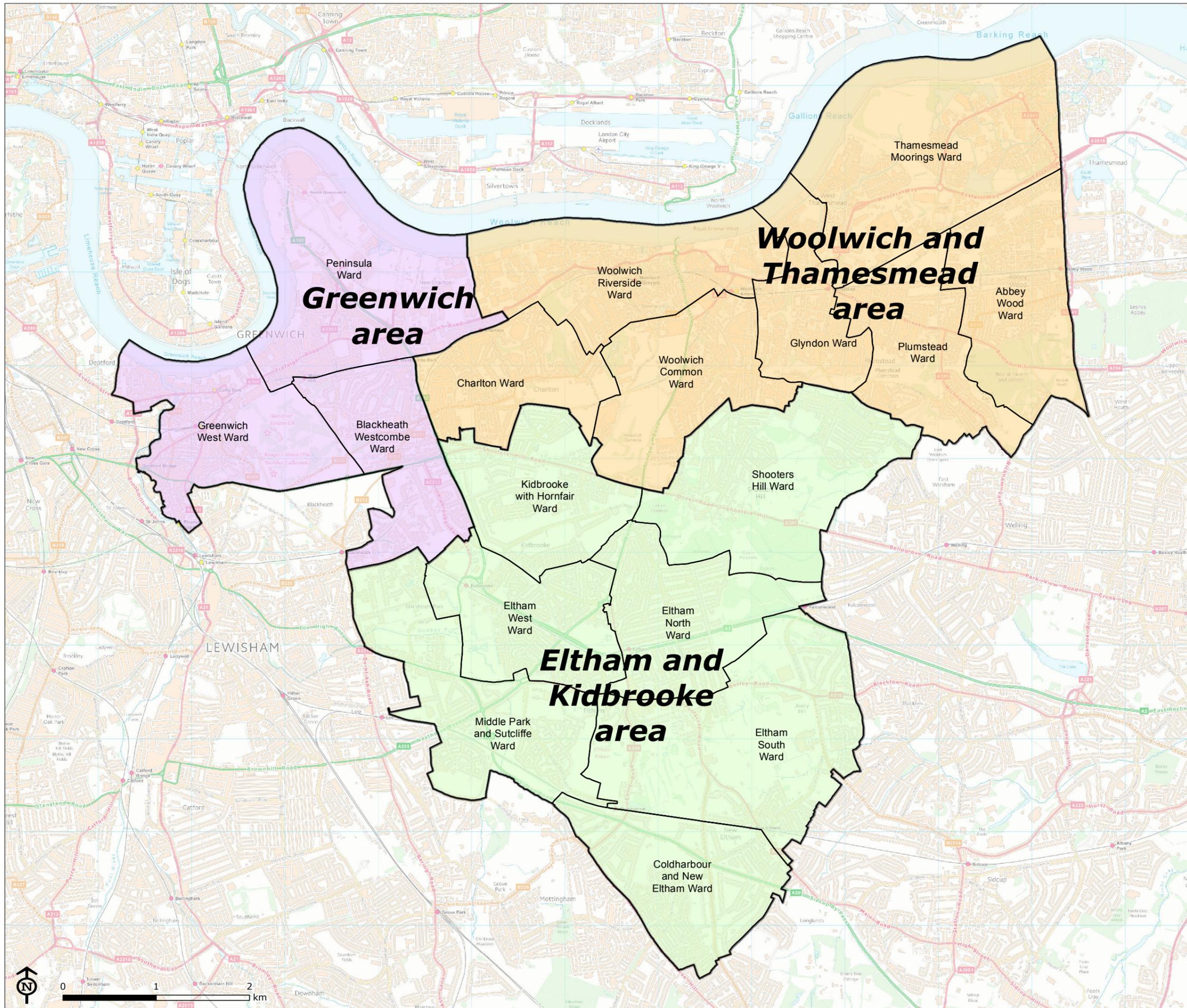


Steps 1 and 2: Understanding the context and consultation

- 3.3 The 'need' for open space and green infrastructure was assessed by reviewing current population patterns, the socio-economic deprivation index, demographic indicators, and future development and population forecasts.
- 3.4 Alongside a number of supporting/contextual data layers, baseline information the following formed the basis of this assessment:
- Open space data was obtained from RBG in GIS. This data was based on a previous Open Space Study undertaken by Atkins in 2008 with some revisions having been made by RBG in the intervening period.
 - Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the Royal Borough (and their citations) were obtained from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL).
 - MOL from the current Core Strategy Proposals maps.
 - Urban greening and trees from GIGL.
- 3.5 A review of national, regional and local policy and guidance was completed, and this has been interpreted in terms of the relevance to the study (See **Section 2**).
- 3.6 The Mayor's guidance on open space recommends taking an inclusive approach to understanding demand and need. Community consultation is a useful way to inform the evidence base on need and demand including:
- Local people's attitudes to existing provision.
 - Local expectations and needs which are currently 'invisible' because there is no current provision.
 - A qualitative 'vision' for the type of open space facilities communities want to see in their areas.
- 3.7 An online public survey was identified as the best approach to gathering the public's views (See **Section 5**). This covered topics such as parks used most frequently, users' satisfaction with current provision, modes of travel to parks and open spaces and distances travelled. Over 800 responses were gathered in the 4 week period that the survey was live. The survey is included as **Appendix 2**.
- 3.8 A number of internal and external stakeholders who are involved in the maintenance and management of elements of Royal Greenwich's open spaces were consulted (See **Section 5**). In order to comply with the Duty to Cooperate, consultation also included active engagement with neighbouring authorities. Information on the open space standards of neighbouring boroughs was gathered to understand the extent of provision in those boroughs.
- 3.9 Information gathered during the community consultation stage has been analysed to understand the community's demands and preferences.
- 3.10 As part of the SINC review, members of the Greenwich Wildlife Action Group (GWAG) were consulted for their views on the SINC audit findings. Members were asked to provide any further information on the:
- Ownership or management of the site
 - Key threats and disturbances
 - Key interest/opportunities for enhancement
 - Information on habitats of particular value
 - Information on protected or notable species (e.g. London Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats) known to be present on the site
 - Suggested boundary or designation status amendments

Figure 3.2
Analysis Areas

-  Ward boundaries
- Committee Area**
-  Eltham and Kidbrooke area
-  Greenwich area
-  Woolwich and Thamesmead area



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



- 3.11 For the purposes of this assessment, the Royal Borough of Greenwich has been divided into three Analysis Areas that align with the planning committees shown in **Figure 3.2**.

Step 3: Auditing provision

Open Space

- 3.12 An audit of current open space provision was undertaken gathering detailed information on all open spaces in Royal Greenwich with the exception of:
- Agricultural land
 - Outdoor sports facilities associated with educational facilities
 - Outdoor sports facilities that are private or restricted access
- 3.13 The audit was undertaken using GIS-enabled tablets for data collection. An audit form was agreed, based around the Green Flag Award Assessment criteria, which enables detailed data to be gathered on each site, which can then be scored for both quality and value. The form provided an effective way of gathering information about sites, enabling benchmarks to be established, and finally measuring the success of sites against those benchmarks. A GIS-linked database (a geodatabase) was created to capture and collate survey data.
- 3.14 Different open spaces provide a wide range of different functions and benefits to the people of Royal Greenwich. In line with the Lawton Principle⁷ it is important that this multi-functionality is protected and encouraged. The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011)⁸ provides a useful summary of the services that the environment can potentially provide in an urban setting, and these formed the basis for analysis of the functions and benefits that green space in Royal Greenwich can perform. A section of the audit form was dedicated to collecting information against these services to enable an assessment of the current and potential benefits and services provided by the network of green infrastructure in Royal Greenwich.
- 3.15 Wherever possible, natural and semi-natural green spaces, and any sites highlighted as having biodiversity potential were audited by ecologists. This included a review of abandoned sports sites highlighted as part of the playing pitch assessment. The remainder of the sites were audited by Landscape Managers and Landscape Architects.
- 3.16 The analysis presented in this report focuses on the **215 sites** that do not fall into the above categories (See **Section 4**).

Metropolitan Open Land

- 3.17 A desk-based review of MOL was undertaken using aerial photography, Ordnance Survey basemaps and photographs taken as part of the open space field survey. Additionally, a list of planning permissions within MOL was reviewed to identify where development may have occurred in recent years that may have a bearing on the current designation of land as MOL.
- 3.18 Each parcel of MOL was given a unique identifier and using GIS, was assessed against the criteria set out in Policy 7.17 of the London Plan, i.e. Does the site....
- Contribute to the physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area?
 - Include open air facilities, especially for leisure, recreation, sport, the arts and cultural activities, which serve either the whole or significant parts of London?
 - Contain features or landscapes (historic, recreational, biodiversity) of either national or metropolitan value?

⁷ Lawton, J.H., Brotherton, P.N.M., Brown, V.K., Elphick, C., Fitter, A.H., Forshaw, J., Haddow, R.W., Hilborne, S., Leafe, R.N., Mace, G.M., Southgate, M.P., Sutherland, W.A., Tew, T.E., Varley, J., & Wynne, G.R. (2010) *Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network*. Report to Defra.
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009s-pace-for-nature.pdf>

⁸ <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/resources/tabid/82/default.aspx>

- Form part of a Green Chain or a link in the network of green infrastructure and meet one of the above criteria?

Urban greening features

Existing green roofs

- 3.19 Existing green roofs were identified by the Green Infrastructure Consultancy (GIC) and Livingroofs.org using a method that has been used in London since the publication of the London Living Roofs Technical report in 2008. The same mapping technique has been used in numerous Green Infrastructure Audits for London and also for mapping the Central Activity Zone.
- 3.20 Using various online maps – Bing, Google and iMaps, the presence of green roofs on buildings was established. Depending on the source map the green roofs can be in various stages of growth. All roofs that appeared to be greened were mapped as polygons providing the area, location and type of green roof.
- 3.21 Using GIC’s knowledge and experience of mapping green roofs, a green roof is identified first by the colour green. Secondly where a green roof appears to be installed but is not yet vegetated (as is the case for many extensive biodiverse green roofs) then colour of the substrate compared to shingle roofs in the vicinity is used to identify these types of green roofs. This also allows for so-called ‘brown’ roofs to be mapped.
- 3.22 For intensive green roofs, a judgement is made as to whether the green roofed area constitutes vegetation and soil. There are examples of astro-turfed roofs that are not technically green roofs in London. These are relatively easy to identify with experience and are dismissed from the map.
- 3.23 Intensive green roofs are mapped where such roofs are judged to have 70% or more soil and vegetation (including water features). The whole roof is mapped as a single area. Where an intensive green roof is judged to have less than 70% soil and vegetation (including water features) the individual planted areas are mapped.
- 3.24 Roofs have been categorised as:
- Extensive Sedum
 - Extensive Biodiverse
 - Extensive Sedum Biosolar
 - Extensive Biodiverse Biosolar
 - Intensive

Tree cover

- 3.25 Data on street tree coverage was obtained from RBG and a desk-based assessment of the diversity, geographic spread and condition of the street tree network was undertaken in GIS.

SINCs

- 3.26 The SINC audit followed the Greater London Authority’s Open Space and Habitat Survey Methodology⁹ which has been specifically developed to enable the identification of SINCs. This approach involves collection of data relating to a range of site attributes ranging from land use, access and management to the habitats present and their percentage cover. Vegetation species are only recorded for particularly species rich or otherwise notable habitats as per the methodology.
- 3.27 Such data was collected for survey parcels which are identified as broadly homogenous areas of habitat, so that one site may comprise a single parcel (for example if the whole area supports woodland) or a number of parcels if different areas of habitat are identified. For particularly complex sites which comprise a mosaic, the site was mapped as a single parcel, based on land use or management, such as a golf course.
- 3.28 The GLA Open Space and Habitat Survey Methodology is a tried and tested approach and results are directly comparable with those previously undertaken in the Royal Borough and throughout

⁹ http://legacy.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/biodiversity/biodiversity_strategy.jsp

London. For those sites which cross in to neighbouring Boroughs, only the area within Royal Greenwich was surveyed. Surveys were undertaken by experienced ecologists.

Step 4: Analysis of findings

Open Space

- 3.29 An assessment of the existing quantity of provision has been provided for the whole of the Royal Borough and an assessment for each Committee Area. This was based on an amount of open space per 1,000 head of population.
- 3.30 The analysis differentiates between different levels of site access to enable an assessment of the levels of provision per head of publicly accessible open space. The provision per head was then compared to provision in surrounding boroughs (where current data is available).
- 3.31 Review of the consultation results then took place, to see if the local perception is that there is sufficient quantity of open space within the Royal Borough, or not.
- 3.32 The quantity figures are presented and analysed, alongside information on the existing and future population within the Royal Borough. This highlights the relative provision in each Committee Area and establishes whether there is a spatial variance in provision across the Royal Borough. Future population figures have been used to establish the net reduction in open space provision per head as a result of population growth. Information on the locations of planned housing growth has also informed this analysis (See **Section 2**).

Categorisation of sites

Open space typologies

- 3.33 Whilst many spaces will serve a variety of functions, it is helpful to categorise open spaces by their 'primary' typology, to enable assessment and analysis. The results of the open space audit will be used to develop provision standards by typology for Royal Greenwich.
- 3.34 The open space categories are set out in **Table 3.1** below, and shown on **Figure 3.3**. A larger version of this map with site names is included as **Appendix 8**. These reflect the Mayor of London's guidance on Open Space Strategies¹⁰. Within these typologies, there is potential for secondary typologies to exist. For example, many Parks and Gardens will contain play areas for children, or outdoor sports pitches. These secondary typologies have been identified and are taken into account when analysing each of the primary typologies.

Table 3.1: Open space typology

Type of open space	Primary purpose
A. Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. More multi-functional than other open space, offering space for quiet relaxation as well as a range of amenities and activities for visitors. In particular parks and gardens often include children's play, youth and/or outdoor sports facilities.
B. Natural and semi-natural green space	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness.
C. Green corridor	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
D. Amenity Green Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work. Amenity Green Spaces provide a less formal green space experience than parks and gardens, and

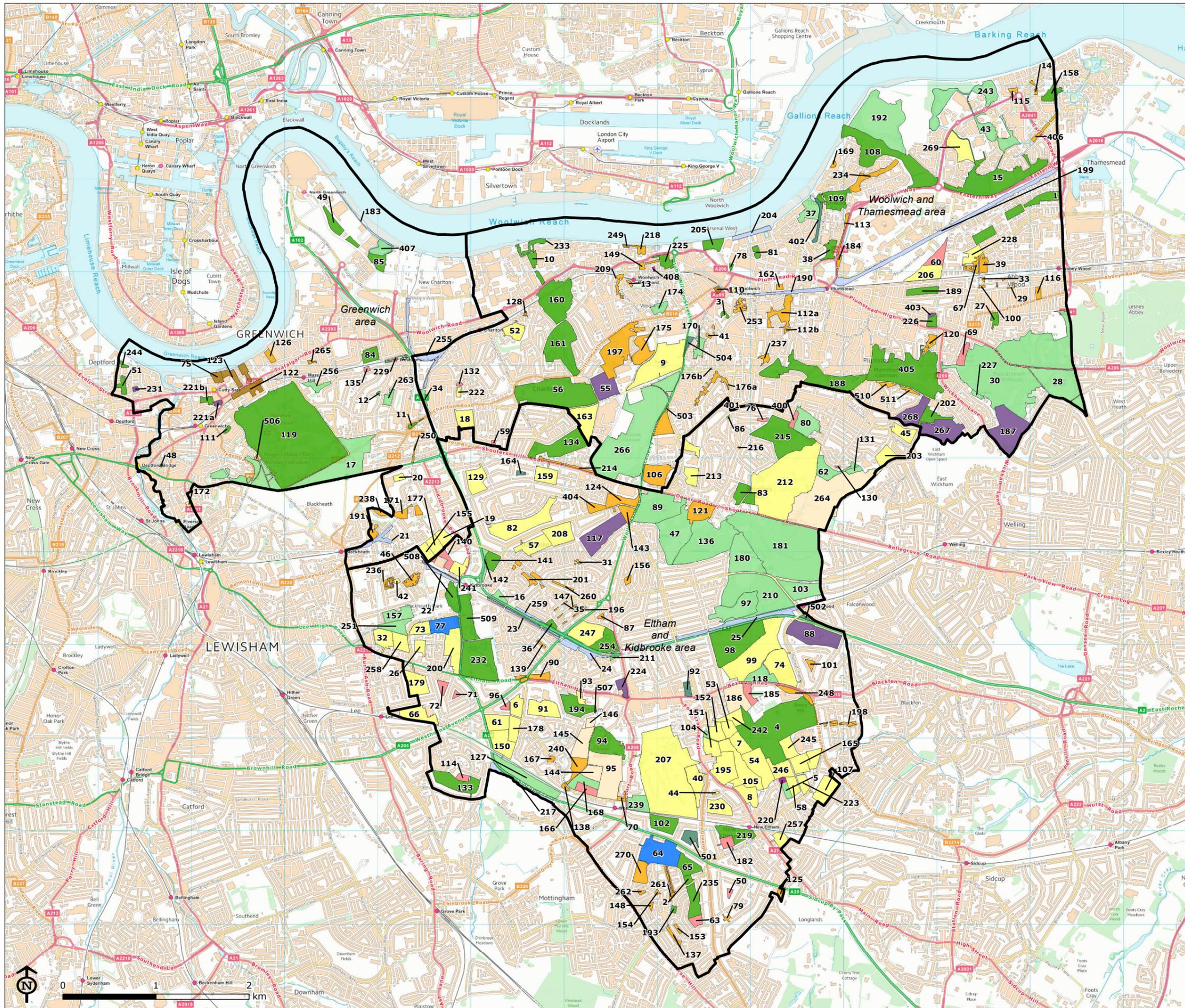
¹⁰ CABE Space/Mayor of London (2009) Open Space Strategies – Best Practice Guidance

Type of open space	Primary purpose
	generally provides fewer habitats
E. Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
F. Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
G. Civic Space	Providing a setting for civic buildings and community events.
H. Provision for Children/ Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
I. Outdoor Sports Provision	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics, or countryside and water sports.
J. Agricultural Land	Land in agricultural use.

- 3.35 There are a large number of sites which have provision for children/young people (category H) and outdoor sports provision (category I), they are considered to provide 'secondary' provision (e.g. within parks and gardens or within amenity spaces). One standalone facility for children and young people is included within the study although it is not publicly accessible.
- 3.36 This study includes brief descriptions of the types of sports facilities found within other open spaces. The findings of the 2015 Playing Pitch Assessment have also been taken into account in considering the recommendations arising from this study.

[The London open space hierarchy](#)

- 3.37 It is helpful to categorise open space by size, as this influences the functions it can provide to a community, as well as the distance that people are likely to travel to use it. Having reviewed the size and features of the open spaces in Royal Greenwich, it was considered that hierarchical levels identified in the London Mayor's Guidance for open space strategies are appropriate for the Royal Borough. Small sites and Pocket parks have been combined into a 'small local' level as shown below:
- 1 Metropolitan sites (60-400ha)
 - 2 District sites (20-60ha)
 - 3 Local sites (2-20ha)
 - 4 Small local sites (<2ha)



Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 3.3

Open Space Typologies

- Committee area boundaries
- Primary typology**
- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural greenspace
- Green corridor
- Amenity greenspace
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Civic Space
- Provision for children and young people
- Agricultural land
- Outdoors sports (Public)
- Outdoors sports (Private/Education)
- Other/Unclassified

See Appendix 8 for a larger version of this map with site names

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

Metropolitan Open Land

- 3.38 Following the review of the performance of each parcel of MOL, the results of the assessment were sense checked against the audit findings from the open space audit and checked on site by Royal Greenwich officers. A series of recommendations were made in terms of land that no longer meets the criteria and also where it may be possible to extend the current designation.

Urban greening features

- 3.39 The results of the audit were mapped and analysis by Committee Area was undertaken in GIS.

SINCS

- 3.40 The SINCS (and potential SINCS) surveyed were assessed against a consistent and well-established methodology and set of criteria. This followed the methodology established by the London Wildlife Sites Board as published in 2011:

(<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/environment/greening-london/biodiversity/sites-importance-nature-conservation>).

- 3.41 Criteria against which sites were assessed included:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representation• Habitat rarity• Species rarity• Habitat richness• Species richness• Size• Important populations of species• Ancient character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreatability• Typical urban character• Cultural or historic character• Geographic position• Access• Use• Potential• Aesthetic appeal
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- 3.42 The outputs of the assessment include a matrix with each SINC considered against these criteria. Where existing SINCS were deemed to have not changed compared to the existing description/designation, this was recorded. Changes were considered in detail, particularly where this results in a recommendation to amend the designation (such as site boundary or level of designation).
- 3.43 The information has been presented in a user friendly matrix format appropriate for consideration by a local Site Selection Panel. The assessment matrix is included as **Appendix 6**.

Step 5: Development and application of standards

- 3.44 This step, particularly focussed on open space, draws together the information from the site audits and the consultation to develop locally appropriate standards for the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of open space in Royal Greenwich (See **Section 4**).
- 3.45 In order to review the distribution and accessibility of sites, a set of maps was produced, to identify accessibility catchments, and potential areas of deficiency to open space. The catchment buffers are guided by the standards set out in the Mayor's guidance. This mapping exercise highlighted the extent to which parts of Royal Greenwich are deficient in access to public open space.
- 3.46 To assess the provision, each site was given a quality score and a value score, on the basis of the audits and agreed scoring methodology.

- 3.47 Using the ideal of a known 'good quality' and 'well valued' site within the Royal Borough, and an expectation of what facilities local residents may reasonably expect within a certain type of site, a 'quality benchmark score' and a 'value benchmark score' were proposed.
- 3.48 The range of scores was mapped so that it is possible to identify any areas of the Royal Borough that have pockets of relatively low scoring sites. The results were overlain with the catchment maps developed in the previous task to gain a better understanding of the quality of provision that is enjoyed by residents and visitors.
- 3.49 This reflects the approach recommended in "Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17" (the method of which is still utilised when assessing open space provision, in the absence of new national guidance) , and enables the assessment to identify:
- Spaces or facilities which should be given the highest level of protection.
 - Spaces which would benefit from enhancement.
 - Spaces which may no longer be needed for their present purpose.

Step 6: Understanding the GI network

- 3.50 This step brought together the findings from each of the assessments – open space, MOL, urban greening and SINC review. Using GIS to bring together the various layers of information, this task sought to identify deficiencies in the overall GI network and also identify opportunities to strengthen the network.
- 3.51 Information gathered throughout this study was used to provide an overview of the:
- Quantity of provision.
 - Distribution and accessibility of provision.
 - Quality and value of provision.
 - Multi-functionality of sites.
 - Contribution made by non-open space green infrastructure features (trees, green roofs, living walls etc.) to the wider green infrastructure network.

Step 7: Conclusions and recommendations

Open space and green infrastructure

- 3.52 This final stage involved the translation of the findings of the assessment into priorities and principles for future policy within the emerging the Local Plan and to inform the preparation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy (See **Section 9**).
- 3.53 The study provides robust justification for the policy approach to open space facilities. An understanding of deficiency and need generated by the study in terms of quantity, quality/value and accessibility is fundamental to informing policy.
- 3.54 The study outlines ways in which to maximise the benefits of green infrastructure in Royal Greenwich and ensure better alignment of all Council policies around green infrastructure.
- 3.55 Additionally, where scope to create new open spaces is limited, the study makes recommendations for the provision of other elements of green infrastructure which are more achievable.
- 3.56 The recommendations focus on:
- Priorities for management and investment
 - Delivery mechanisms

MOL review

- 3.57 Areas that could be considered for inclusion or exclusion to the land designated as MOL have been set out and mapped.

SINC review

- 3.58 Following the above assessment, recommendations regarding any changes to the SINC designations (which include boundary changes and changes to the level of designation for example) have been presented as a succinct discussion detailing any potential amendments required to SINC.

4

Open Space Evidence Base

4 Open Space Evidence Base

Current provision

- 4.1 Following the assignment of a primary typology and hierarchy to each of the sites, **Table 4.1** summarises the quantity of provision by typology and hierarchy within the Royal Borough. Where relevant, sites have been assigned to the various levels of the hierarchy based on their size as set out in Section 3 and below:
- Metropolitan sites (60-400ha)
 - District sites (20-60ha)
 - Local sites (2-20ha)
 - Small local sites (<2ha)
- 4.2 These size classifications match those used in the 2008 Atkins Study, although further distinction between typologies has now been used to differentiate between Parks and gardens and Natural and semi-natural greenspace at the various levels of the hierarchy. The Atkins Study allowed for smaller sites to be promoted up the hierarchy or larger sites to be demoted down the hierarchy based on the features present and functions performed. The classification shown below is based on size only. The number of features and functions available in each site is assessed through the value assessment covered in more detail later in this section.
- 4.3 As a result of a review of the site boundaries through GIS assessment and site audits, some site areas have changed, and some sites have been clustered or disaggregated into discrete parts.
- 4.4 **Table 4.2** summarises the provision by typology in each Committee Area (in hectares). **Figure 4.1** shows the sites that are managed/owned by the Royal Borough.

Table 4.1 Open space by hierarchy in Royal Greenwich

Primary typology	Hierarchy	Number	Area (ha)	Example sites
Parks and gardens	Metropolitan	1	76.83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenwich Park
Parks and gardens	District	3	78.52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlton Park • Winn's Common • Avery Hill Park
Parks and gardens	Local	30	220.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutcliffe Park • Eaglesfield Park • Well Hall Pleasaunce • Fairy Hill Park
Parks and gardens	Small local	19	16.56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Turner Gardens • Twinkle Park • Barrier Park • Batley Park
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Metropolitan	2	90.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackheath Park (although much of the Park is outside of the Borough) • Bostall Woods
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	District	4	132.99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woolwich Common • Shepherdleas Meadow & Wood • Oxleas Woods

Primary typology	Hierarchy	Number	Area (ha)	Example sites
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripcock Park
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Local	19	142.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxleas Meadows • Ecology Park • Castle Wood • Bostall Heath (including Clam Field Open Space)
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Small local	14	13.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland Dell • Birdbrook Road Nature Reserve • Westcombe Woodlands • Avery Hill Road
Green corridor	N/A	12	37.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ridgeway • Peninsula Riverside Walkway
Amenity greenspace	N/A	77	92.48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glyndon Open Space • Eltham Green
Allotments	N/A	17	19.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dothill Allotments • Coldharbour Allotments
Cemeteries and churchyards	N/A	10	54.44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eltham Cemetery • Plumstead Cemetery
Civic Space	N/A	5	7.83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Gordon Square • Cutty Sark Gardens
Provision for children and young people (as a primary typology)	N/A	2	0.56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunbury Street Playground • Sparrows Lane Scouts
Outdoors sports facilities (as a primary typology)	N/A	62	343.46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brooklands Park • Bromley Athletics FC
Agricultural land	N/A	6	57.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phippenhall Meadows
Other	N/A	6	6.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eltham High Street Reservoir • Broadwater Dock
Total		289	1389.37	<i>Note that these figures are different to those presented in the 2008 Study as a result of the factors listed in para 4.3.</i>

Table 4.2 Summary of current provision of all open space

Primary typology	Eltham and Kidbrooke area (ha)	Greenwich area (ha)	Woolwich and Thamesmead area (ha)	All Royal Greenwich (ha)
Parks and gardens	145.62	88.39	157.62	391.64
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	179.77	31.19	167.61	378.57
Green corridor	14.23	5.07	17.68	36.98
Amenity greenspace	36.86	5.15	50.47	92.48
Allotments	13.49	0.41	5.31	19.21
Cemeteries and churchyards	21.23	0.75	32.45	54.43
Civic Space		7.14	0.69	7.83
Provision for children and young people (as a primary typology)	0.43		0.12	0.56

Primary typology	Eltham and Kidbrooke area (ha)	Greenwich area (ha)	Woolwich and Thamesmead area (ha)	All Royal Greenwich (ha)
Outdoors sports facilities (as a primary typology)	295.03	7.39	40.94	343.36
Agricultural land	56.02			56.02
Other	4.01		2.06	6.07
All typologies	766.71	145.48	474.95	1387.14

Note: There is a minor discrepancy in total areas between Table 4.1 and 4.2 as there are small areas of sites that lie just outside the Royal Borough boundary which are excluded from Table 4.2.

- 4.5 There is additional provision for children and young people found within other primary typologies and this will be considered in detail later in this section. Similarly with outdoor sports, this table shows where an outdoor sport is the primary typology. There are additional sports facilities found within other typologies.
- 4.6 Of the above sites, not all of the provision is accessible to the public. For the purposes of this assessment, sites categorised as publicly accessible are those that are freely accessible or those that are accessible with opening hour's restrictions. Sites are considered to be 'not publicly accessible' if they have other restrictions on access or are completely closed to the public.
- 4.7 For the purposes of this assessment, sites that have been omitted from the audit process include:
- Agricultural land
 - Outdoor sports facilities associated with educational facilities
 - Outdoor sports facilities that are private or restricted access
- 4.8 **Table 4.3** shows the quantity of open space audited for this study and its accessibility. This information is shown in **Figure 4.2**.

Table 4.3 Summary of accessibility of audited sites

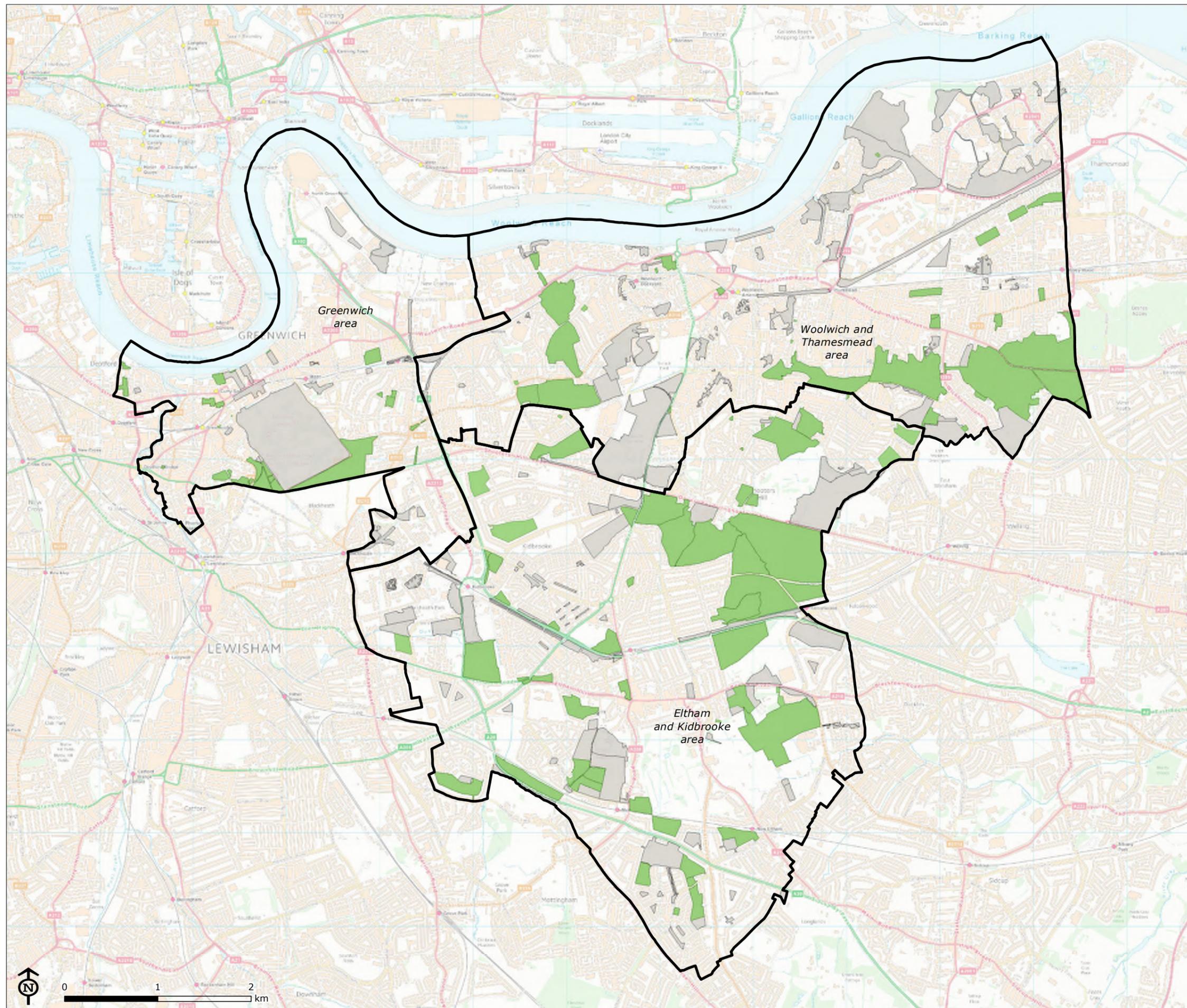
Typology	Publicly accessible (ha)	Not publicly accessible (ha)
Parks and gardens	381.85	9.79
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	299.79	78.78
Green corridor	18.85	18.13
Amenity greenspace	59.23	33.25
Allotments	0.00	19.21
Cemeteries and churchyards	54.43	0.00
Civic space	7.83	0.00
Provision for children and young people (as a primary typology)	0.12	0.43
Royal Greenwich	822.10	159.59

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 4.1

RBG Parks and Open Spaces

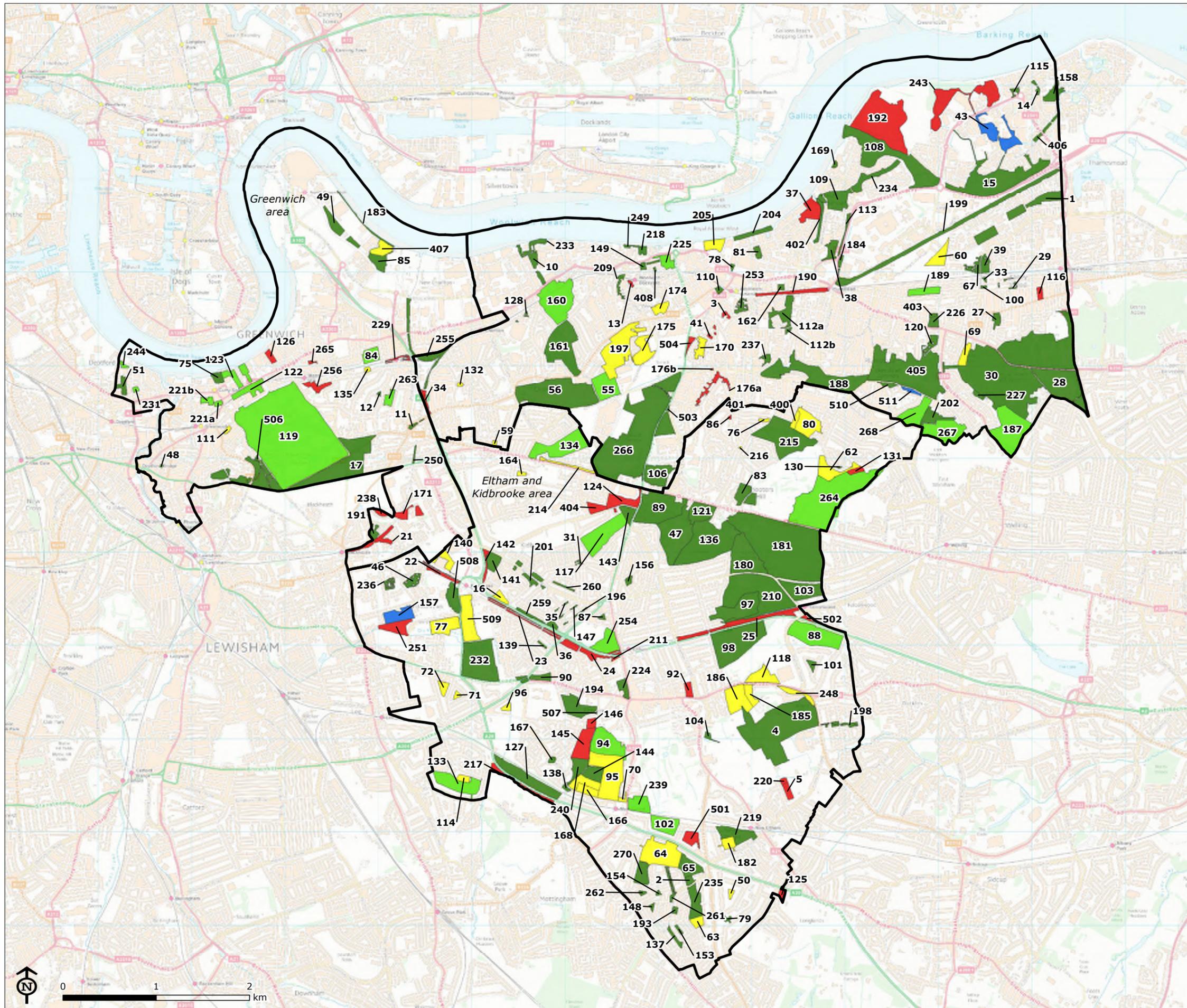
-  Committee area boundaries
-  RBG parks and open spaces
-  Open space under other management/ownership



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Figure 4.2
Accessibility of Open Space



Committee area boundaries

Site access

- Freely accessible
- Opening hours
- Restricted access
- No public access
- Other

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



4.9 **Table 4.4** shows how the publicly accessible open spaces are distributed between the three Committee Areas used for this assessment.

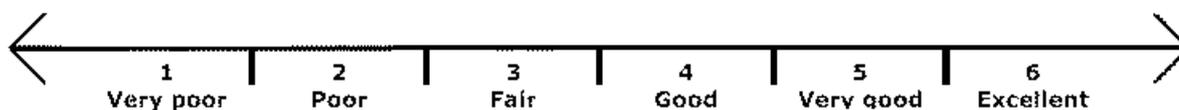
Table 4.4 Quantity of publicly accessible open space by Committee Area

Primary typology	Eltham and Kidbrooke area (ha)	Greenwich area (ha)	Woolwich and Thamesmead area (ha)	All Royal Greenwich (ha)
Parks and gardens	138.87	88.00	154.97	381.85
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	151.75	26.56	121.48	299.79
Green corridor	0.86	2.85	15.14	18.85
Amenity greenspace	27.45	1.51	30.27	59.23
Cemeteries and churchyards	21.23	0.75	32.45	54.43
Civic Space		7.14	0.69	7.83
Provision for children and young people (as a primary typology)			0.12	0.12
All typologies	340.16	126.81	355.13	822.10
<i>Allotments (restricted access)</i>	<i>13.49</i>	<i>0.41</i>	<i>5.31</i>	<i>19.21</i>

Characteristics of current provision

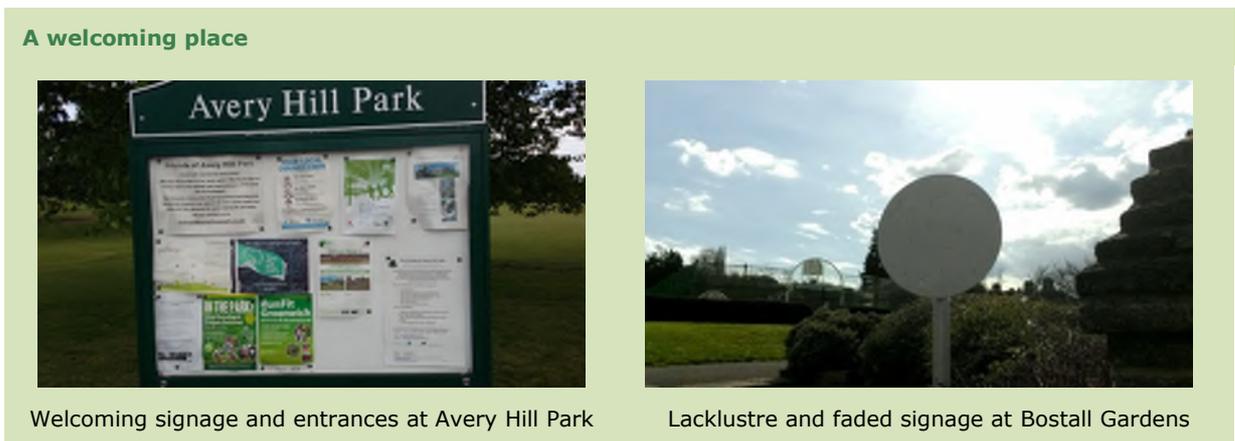
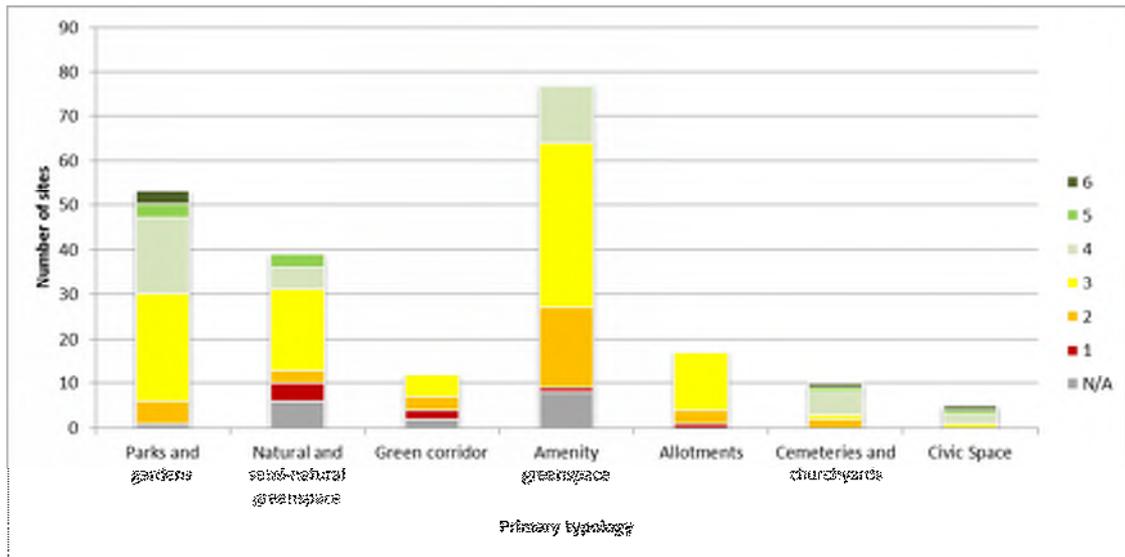
Open space and allotments

4.10 This section highlights key quality and value audit findings against the Green Flag Award themes. For each question in the audit, a score of 1 -6 was given by the assessor.



- 4.11 **Figure 4.3** shows the spread of scores for audit Question A1: A welcoming place.
- 4.12 Parks and gardens provide a wide range of amenities and features for the public and therefore are expected to provide appropriate welcoming information boards and supplementary advisory information. This supports the results below indicating higher scoring welcoming sites and a broad range of scores. For example Avery Hill Park represented good welcoming features; successfully considering the Green Flag Award criteria and achieving a Green Flag Award on an annual basis.
- 4.13 Notably, natural and semi-natural greenspaces and amenity greenspaces have a large proportion of 'fair' scores and this may be due to the presence of some signage, but it was found these lacked local and general information and were generally of a weathered appearance.

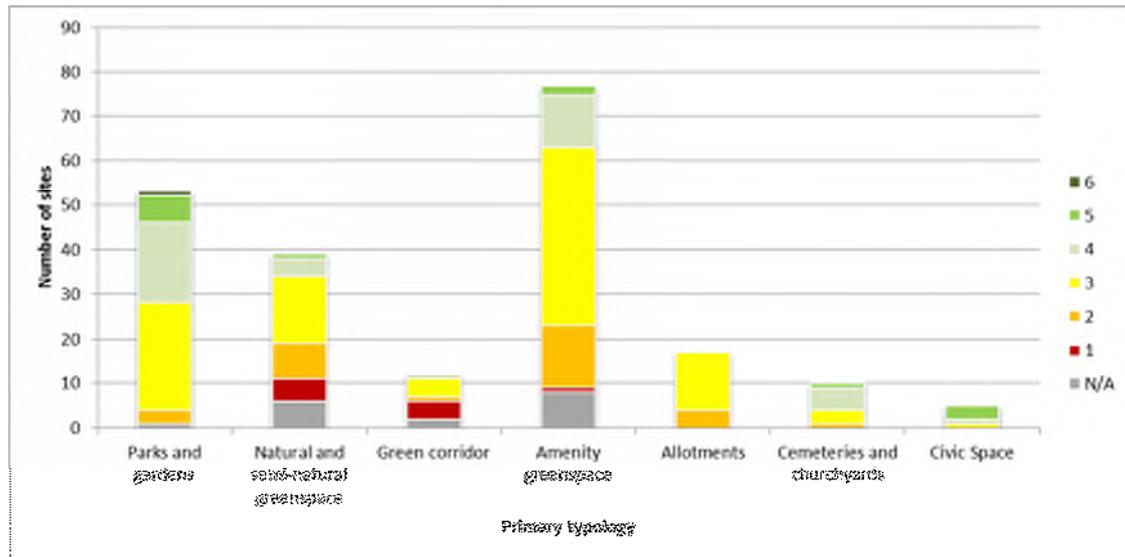
Figure 4.3 Scores for Question A1: A welcoming place



4.14 **Figure 4.4** shows the spread of scores for audit question A2: Good and safe access.

4.15 Parks and gardens due to their varied landscape and features require careful consideration and compliance with the Equality Act (2010). This therefore explains why a larger proportion of sites achieved a 'good' to 'excellent' score. Notably civic spaces achieved a proportion of 'very good' scores and amenity greenspace achieved a high proportion of 'fair' and 'good' scores as they would comprise important transitional spaces. Cemeteries and churchyards also achieved higher scores as by their nature they are required to have good safe access, including for elderly and disabled visitors. A proportion of 'poor' to 'very poor' scores were identified at natural and semi-natural greenspace, green corridors and amenity greenspace. This would be due in part to the lack of general public access and infrastructure maintenance for some areas given their potential primary uses for wildlife and transport.

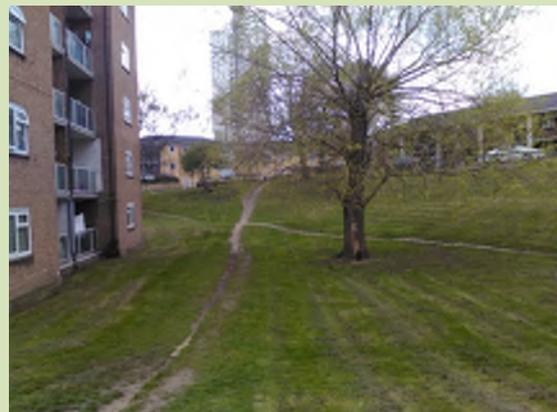
Figure 4.4 Scores for Question A2: Good and safe access



Good and safe access



Level and stable paths at Charlotte Turner Gardens

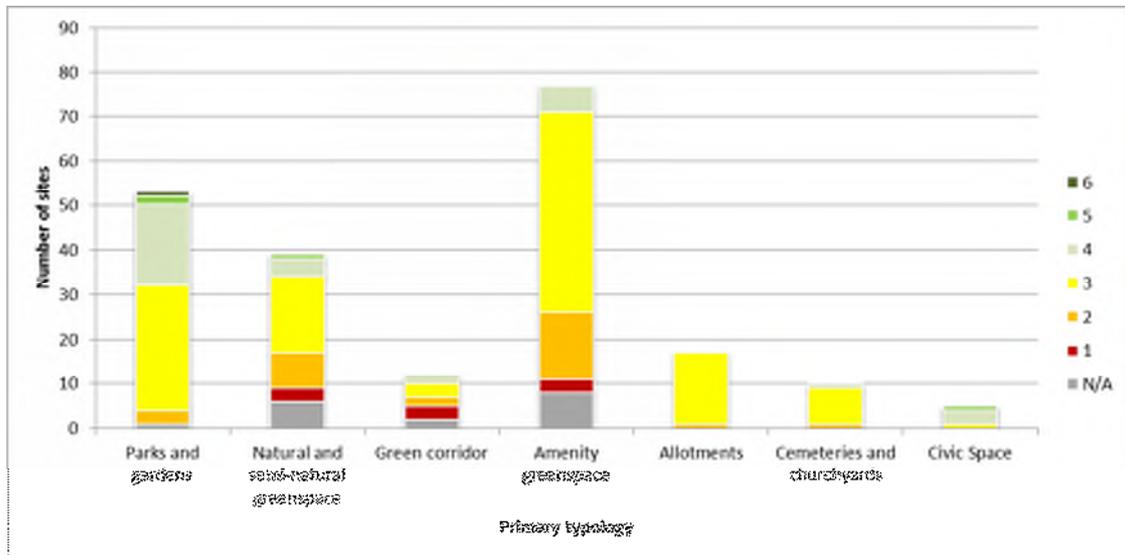


Difficult access and desire lines at Samuel Street

4.16 **Figure 4.5** shows the spread of scores for audit question B6: Safe equipment and facilities.

4.17 Most typologies achieved a large proportion of 'fair' scores and above for safe equipment and facilities; the exceptions being green corridors and civic space. There are higher levels of 'poor' to 'very poor' scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace, green corridors and amenity greenspace than other typologies. Only Greenwich Park achieved an 'excellent' score for this Green Flag theme. These results may be indicative of population pressures resulting in vandalism and budget cuts affecting site maintenance.

Figure 4.5 Scores for Question B6: Safe equipment and facilities



Safe equipment and facilities



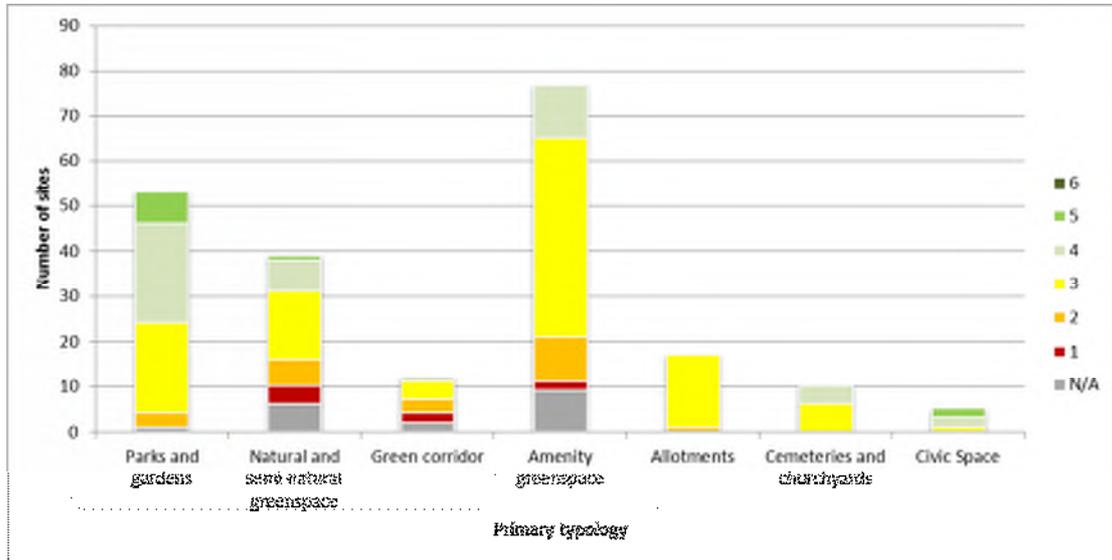
Play equipment in a good safe condition at Maryon Park



A lack of safety measures and equipment identified at Casterbridge Road

- 4.18 **Figure 4.6** shows the spread of scores for audit question B10: Quality of facilities.
- 4.19 Most typologies achieved a large proportion of 'fair' scores and above for quality of facilities. Similar to safe equipment and facilities there are higher levels of 'poor' to 'very poor' scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace, green corridors and amenity greenspace than other typologies. No sites achieved an 'excellent' score for this Green Flag Award theme. These results may be indicative of population pressures resulting in vandalism and budget cuts affecting the quality of site infrastructure maintenance.

Figure 4.6 Scores for Question B10: Quality of facilities



Quality of facilities



Green gym in good condition at Horn Park

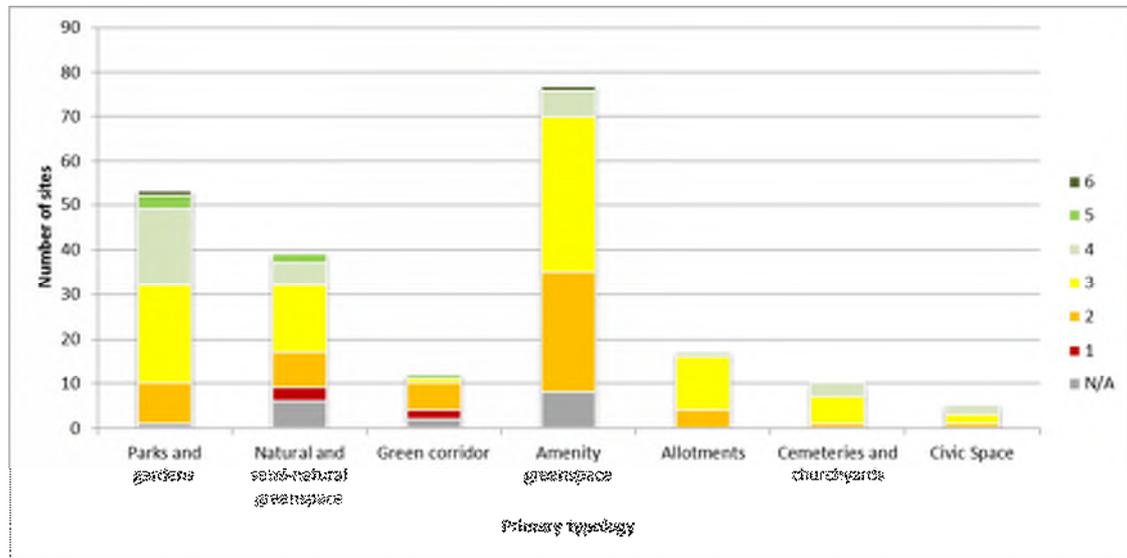


Degraded surfacing at Shrewsbury Park

4.20 **Figure 4.7** shows the spread of scores for audit question C12: Grounds maintenance and horticulture.

4.21 Grounds maintenance and horticulture largely achieved a score within the range of 'fair' to 'poor' for most sites. As would be expected parks and gardens and amenity greenspaces achieved a higher proportion of good scores attributed to the larger proportion of ornamental and display planting. It was evident that budget restrictions may have affected the quality of maintenance due to reduced frequency of visits and lack of new and replacement planting.

Figure 4.7 Scores for Question C12: Grounds maintenance and horticulture



Grounds maintenance and horticulture



Attractive seasonal planting at Hornfair Park

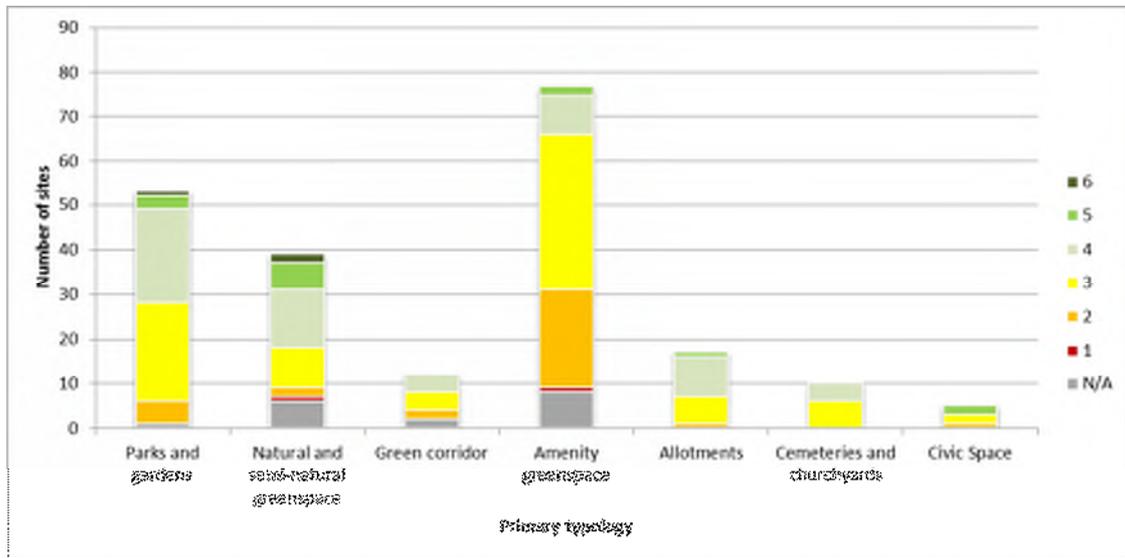


Localised heavy grass wear at East Greenwich Pleasaunce

4.22 **Figure 4.8** shows the spread of scores for audit question D14: Environmental sustainability.

4.23 Most typologies had a broad distribution of scores for environmental sustainability. It was identified that many of the open spaces provided an important role amongst development. Parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspace achieved a larger proportion of 'excellent' scores, possibly due to their buffering role and careful consideration of ecological issues at a proportion of sites. There is a greater proportion of 'poor' scores for amenity greenspace sites and this may be due to the lack of varied landscape structure, features and facilities.

Figure 4.8 Scores for Question D14: Environmental sustainability



Environmental sustainability



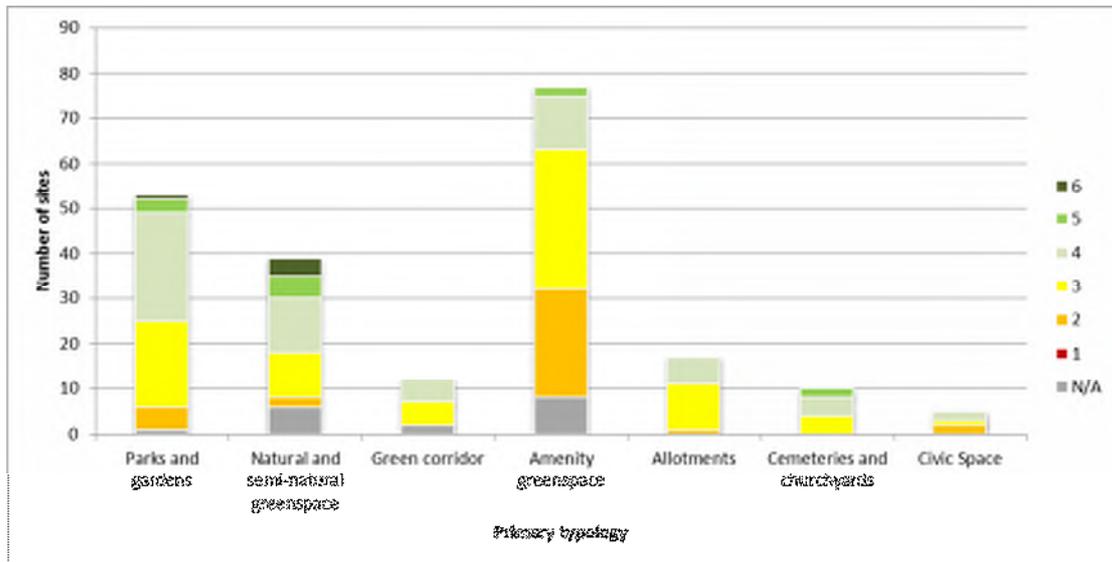
Green space provides a buffer to traffic at Bromholm Road



Lack of tree maintenance at Kingsholm Gardens

- 4.24 **Figure 4.9** shows the spread of scores for audit question E17: Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora.
- 4.25 There are 'excellent' scores within the parks and gardens and natural and semi natural greenspace for this Green Flag Award theme. This would be as expected due to their management with consideration of ecological issues. Most typologies achieved a large proportion of 'fair' scores and above for conservation of landscape features. Notably amenity greenspace had a high proportion of 'poor' scores.

Figure 4.9 Scores for Question E17: Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora



Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora



Utilising dead wood habitat at Greenwich Park

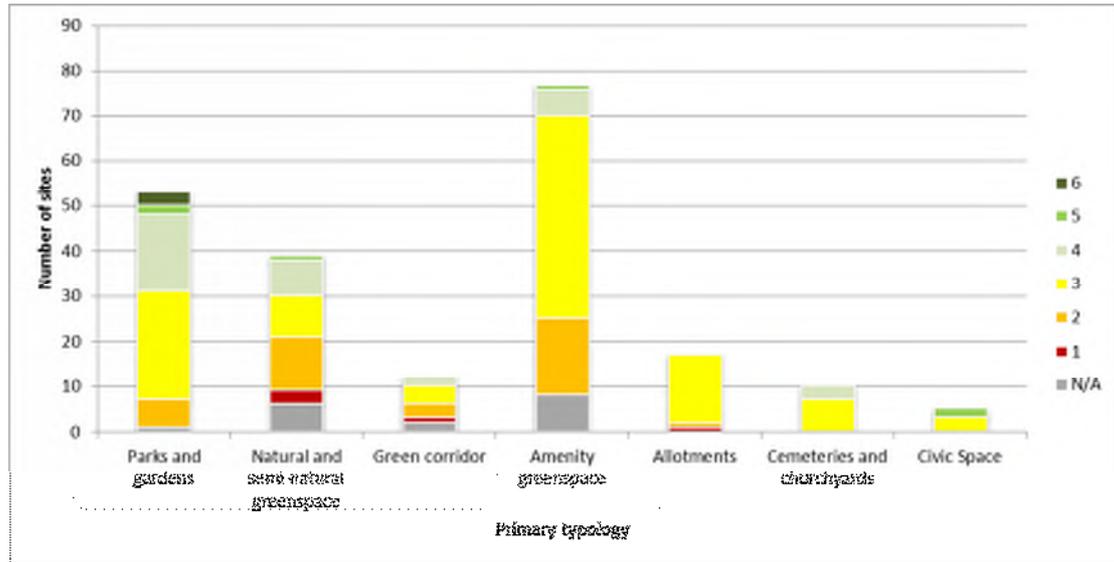


Example lack of vegetation diversity at Katherine Gardens

4.26 **Figure 4.10** shows the spread of scores for audit question E18: Conservation of landscape features.

4.27 There are 'excellent' scores within the parks and gardens. This would be as expected due to the presence of historic designed landscapes. Most typologies achieved a large proportion of 'fair' scores and above for conservation of landscape features. Scores of 'poor' and below are identified within the parks and gardens, natural and semi natural greenspace, green corridors, amenity green space and allotments typologies. These results may be indicative of budget cuts limiting recommended landscape conservation at some sites.

Figure 4.10 Scores for Question E18: Conservation of landscape features



4.28 A 'Friends of' group was identified for 30 of the audited sites. These are:

- Charlotte Turner Gardens
- Oxleas Woods
- Bostall Heath (incl Clam Field Open Space)
- Bostall Woods
- Oxleas Woodlands (Jack Wood)
- The Tarn
- Hervey Rd PF
- Avery Hill Park
- Charlton Park
- Fairy Hill Park
- Horn Park
- Hornfair Park
- Queenscroft Recreational Ground
- Rockliffe Gardens
- Shrewsbury Park
- Southwood Playing Field
- Sutcliffe Park
- Well Hall Pleasaunce

- Ecology Park
- Castle Wood
- Eltham Park North/Shepherds Woods
- Woodland Dell
- Kidbrooke Green Park
- Maryon Park
- Maryon Wilson Park
- Plumstead Common
- Eaglesfield Park
- East Greenwich Pleasaunce
- Eltham Park South
- Twinkle Park

Play provision

4.29 Of the sites that have been audited, 44 sites have play provision. 36 of these have play equipment. One further site (Plumstead Common) has an adventure playground, but has not been analysed alongside equipped play. Only one site has a primary typology of 'Provision for children and young people'. The rest of the equipped play provision is found with other typologies as shown in **Table 4.5** and shown on **Figure 4.11**. The majority are found in parks and gardens, which is to be expected.

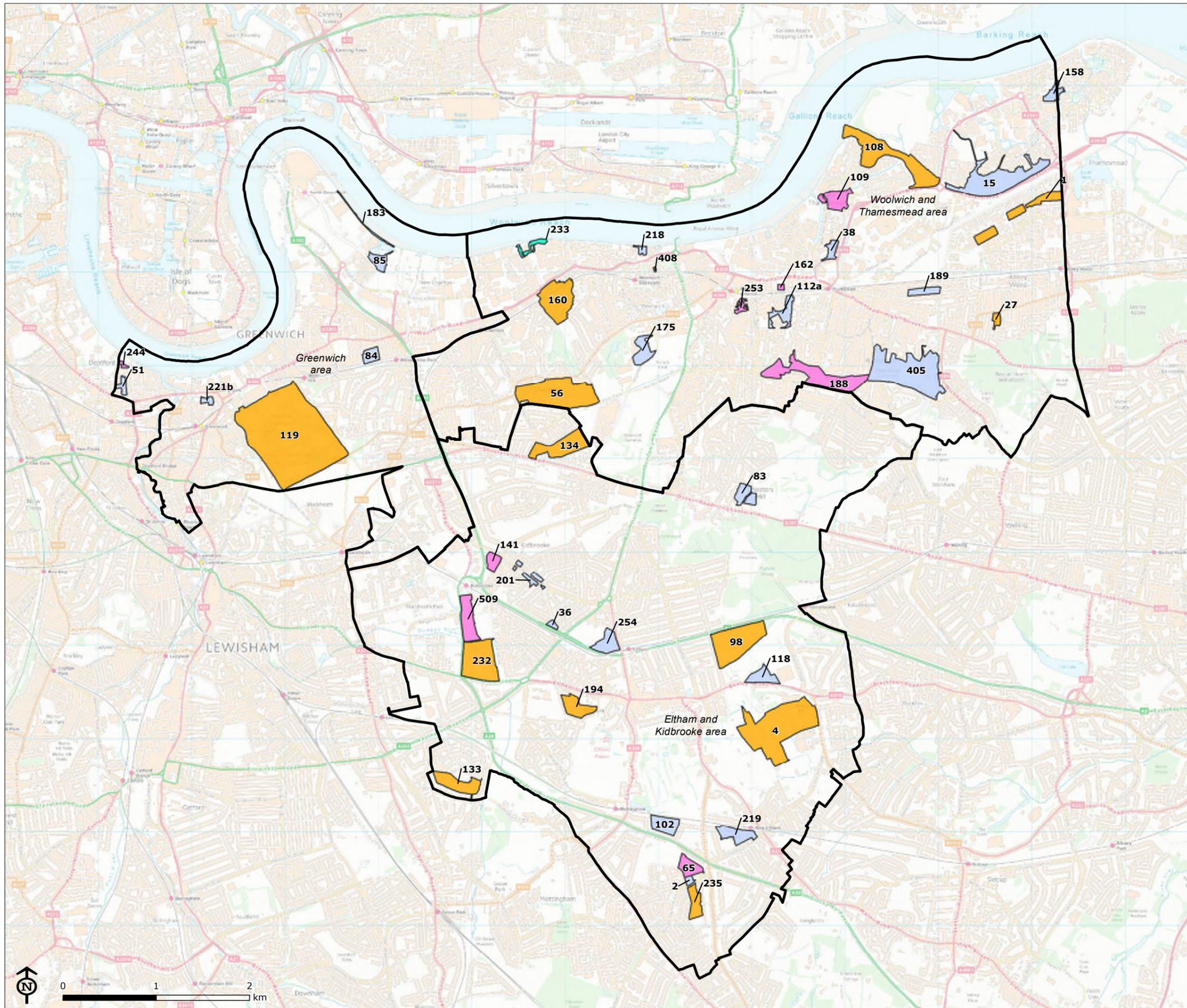
Table 4.5: Equipped play provision by primary typology

Typology		Number of sites with play provision
A	Parks and gardens	29
B	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	1
C	Green corridor	1
D	Amenity green space	4
H	Provision for children and young people	1
Total		36

4.30 Play provision was found to cater for children of all ages and offer a wide range of activities as set out in **Table 4.6**. All sites were deemed suitable for the age category 5-11 years, with 27 of them (75%) containing equipment suitable for under 5's. Only 12 sites (a third) had equipment suitable for over 11's. **Table 4.6** also shows how each of the sites has been categorised into the various types of Playable Space. The categories used are:

- Doorstep playable space - a landscaped space including engaging play features for young children under 5 that are close to their homes, and places for carers to sit and talk;
- Local playable space - a landscaped space with landscaping and equipment so that children aged 0 to 11 can play and be physically active and they and their carers can sit and talk; or
- Neighbourhood playable space - A varied natural space with secluded and open areas, landscaping and equipment so that children aged 0 to 11 can play and be physically active and they and their carers can sit and talk, with some youth facilities for young people over 11.
- Youth space - A social space for young people aged 12 + to congregate together, socialise and participate in informal recreation or physical activity are analysed with provision for older children.

Figure 4.11
Equipped Play Provision



- Committee area boundaries
- Play Area Typology**
- Neighbourhood playable space
- Local playable space
- Doorstep playable space
- Youth space

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Table 4.6: Characteristics of play provision in Royal Greenwich

Site ID	Primary typology	Playable space	Site name	Under 5's	5-11's	Over 11's	Balancing	Rocking	Climbing	Sliding	Social play	Swinging	Rotating	Jumping	Viewing	Counting	Touching
218	Amenity greenspace	Local playable space	South East London Aquatic Centre (Leda Road Play Area)		*		*		*	*	*				*		
112a	Amenity greenspace	Local playable space	Glyndon Open Space		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*		
175	Amenity greenspace	Local playable space	Napier Lines	*	*		*	*	*	*		*		*			
201	Amenity greenspace	Local playable space	Rochester Way	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
183	Green corridor	Local playable space	Peninsula Riverside Walkway	*	*		*		*		*		*		*		
118	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Local playable space	Wide Horizons Environment Centre		*		*		*			*					
233	Parks and gardens	Doorstep playable space	Thames Barrier Gardens		*				*	*							
84	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	East Greenwich Pleasance	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	
189	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Plumstead Gardens	*	*			*	*	*		*	*				
219	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Southwood Playing Field		*			*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*
15	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Birchmere Park	*	*		*		*			*		*			
83	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Eaglesfield Park	*	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	*			
158	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Manorway Green	*	*				*	*	*	*		*	*		
85	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Southern Park	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*

Site ID	Primary typology	Playable space	Site name	Under 5's	5-11's	Over 11's	Balancing	Rocking	Climbing	Sliding	Social play	Swinging	Rotating	Jumping	Viewing	Counting	Touching
2	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Altash Gardens	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*			
254	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Well Hall Pleasaunce	*	*		*		*			*					
102	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Fairy Hill Park		*			*	*	*	*		*				
36	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Briset Road Park		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*				
38	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Broadwater Green	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*			
405	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Winn's Common	*	*		*	*	*	*		*	*				
51	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	Charlotte Turner Gardens	*	*		*	*	*		*			*	*		
221b	Parks and gardens	Local playable space	St Alfeges Churchyard	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*		*		
108	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Gallions Hill	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			
119	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Greenwich Park	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
1	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Abbey Wood Park	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
134	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Hornfair Park		*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*
160	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Maryon Park		*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*		*
133	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Horn Park	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
56	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Charlton Park	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Site ID	Primary typology	Playable space	Site name	Under 5's	5-11's	Over 11's	Balancing	Rocking	Climbing	Sliding	Social play	Swinging	Rotating	Jumping	Viewing	Counting	Touching
98	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Eltham Park South	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
232	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Sutcliffe Park	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
235	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	The Course	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*
27	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Bostall Gardens	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Avery Hill Park	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
194	Parks and gardens	Neighbourhood playable space	Queenscroft Recreational Ground	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
408	Provision for children and young people	Local playable space	Sunbury Street Playground	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

4.32 **Table 4.7** shows how these playable spaces are distributed between the Committee Areas. As can be seen, this indicates that the majority are local playable spaces, and Woolwich and Thamesmead area has the largest overall quantity of play facilities.

Table 4.7 Number of equipped play facilities in each Committee Area

Committee Area	Neighbourhood playable space	Local playable space	Doorstep playable space	Youth space	Total
Eltham and Kidbrooke area	7	8		3	18
Greenwich area	1	5		1	7
Woolwich and Thamesmead area	5	9	1	4	19
Royal Greenwich	13	22	1	7	44

4.33 Further provision for play on site was found in 32 of the sites audited. **Table 4.8** shows the range of some of the other facilities available to children and young people in Royal Greenwich.

Table 4.8 Other play provision by primary typology

Typology	MUGA	Water play feature	Skateboarding ramp	Youth shelter	Other
A Parks and gardens	19	2	2	2	14
D Amenity greenspace	3				1
H Provision for children and young people					1
Total	22	2	2	2	14

4.34 As part of the audit, almost all of the play sites were noted as having scope for enhancement.

Sport

4.35 Over and above the sites with a primary typology of outdoor sports facilities, a number of sports facilities were found within other sites. Most of these facilities are located in parks and gardens and include:

- Athletics track (Sutcliffe Park)
- Football pitches (e.g. Avery Hill Park, Charlton Park, Horn Park, Hornfair Park, Sutcliffe Park)
- Junior football pitches (Hornfair Park)
- Rugby pitch (Sutcliffe Park, Avery Hill Park, Plumstead Common)
- Cricket pitch (e.g. Greenwich Park, Avery Hill Park)
- Outdoor bowls (e.g. Plumstead Common, Well Hall Pleasaunce)
- Tennis courts (e.g. Hornfair Park, Kidbrooke Green Park, Plumstead Common)
- Outdoor gyms (e.g. Kidbrooke Green Park, Fairy Hill Park, Plumstead Common)

4.36 All sites that have a primary typology of outdoor sports facilities or sites of another typology that have sporting provision are shown in **Figure 4.12**.

Greenwich Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 – 2028

- 4.37 The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) revealed the overall quality of sport pitches in Royal Greenwich is mixed and there are issues with security across the range of sites. Five football pitches and one cricket pitch are rated as poor. However the greatest issue is the imbalance of geographic provision of accessible sites and the uneven provision across the different wards.
- 4.38 The majority of marked out grass playing pitches are located in the central and southern areas (Eltham & Kidbrooke). There are far fewer marked out grass playing pitches in the most densely populated areas in the north - particularly Greenwich Peninsula and Greenwich Riverside in the west, which have no grass pitches for football or rugby and just one, in Greenwich Park, for cricket. This includes the limited provision of artificial grass pitches for hockey.
- 4.39 Of key concern is the high density of population and lack of open space suitable for pitch provision particularly in the north (close to the river) and western parts of the Royal Borough.

Quality of sport pitches

- Overall quality of pitches is mixed.
- Five football pitch sites with 'poor' ratings.
- One poor rating cricket pitch (AGP at Metrogas ASA Sports Club).
- Cricket demand currently meets supply but there is concern over access to pitches of a good standard.
- Lack of security of access is a concern at ten of the 44 football sites in the Royal Borough where league football is currently played resulting in 23 pitches serving approximately 25 community club teams.
- There is a concern as to the security of access to pitches for community hockey. The pitches used by the two community clubs active in Royal Greenwich are on independent school sites (Colfe's, Blackheath High in Royal Greenwich and Eltham College in Lewisham). Whilst neither club has identified an issue of continued access, it would appear security is limited to term-by-term block bookings in season.

Value of sport pitches

- Latent demand for playing pitch sports in Royal Greenwich is high relative to London and England.
- There is a need for more floodlit AGPs to meet demand. Sport England's facilities planning model highlights the need for at least two full size AGPs to meet demand.
- There is a concentration of playing pitch provision within the Eltham/Kidbrooke Committee Area.
- Projections for sport participation (based on increased population) suggests there is likely to be increased demand for the current sports facilities.

Accessibility of sport pitches

- There are many more marked out grass playing pitches in the central and southern areas (Eltham & Kidbrooke) and far fewer in the most densely populated areas in the north, particularly Greenwich Peninsula and Greenwich Riverside in the west, which have no grass pitches for football or rugby and just one, in Greenwich Park, for cricket.
- There are current supply issues in relation to access to sufficient junior football and rugby pitches – this is a particular issue for football, where teams aged 11-18 comprise over 46% of teams in Royal Greenwich.
- Demand is currently met for rugby; however, there is a need for more junior pitches.
- For football and rugby, there are supply issues in relation to access to sufficient youth and mini pitches. This is particularly an issue for football as evidenced by comparison of pitch supply (by pitch size) to teams (by age group) playing in the Royal Borough. Youth teams (aged U11 to U18) make up 46% of all existing football teams based in Royal Greenwich whilst youth pitches (9v9 and 11v11) make up just 15% of current pitch supply.

- Within the Royal Borough there is an imbalance in the availability of football pitches compared to cricket and rugby pitches. Football has the highest number of secured sites (34) followed by cricket (14) and Rugby (9).

Recommendations for sport provision within public open spaces

4.40 The following paragraphs set out the recommendations for conserving and enhancing play provision across the Royal Borough as contained within the Playing Pitch Strategy (Continuum, 2016). Recommendations are set out by committee area and relate to publicly accessible open spaces only.

Sub Area A: Eltham & Kidbrooke Planning Committee Area

4.41 Area specific actions include:

1. Protect playing field land and explore options for enhancing existing pitches and providing new pitches on closed sites to meet borough wide demand.
2. Pursue opportunities for investment in enhancement project on those priority sites in this Sub Area where actions are identified as a priority.

4.42 Priority sites for sport provision (publicly accessible open spaces only) include:

- Bostall Heath: informal facility for cricket
- Plumstead Gardens: informal facility for cricket
- Hornfair Park: football

4.43 **Table 4.9** sets out the actions identified for Eltham & Kidbrooke Planning Committee Area

Table 4.9: Actions for Eltham & Kidbrooke Planning Committee Area

Site	Issue(s)	Action	Cost/ resources	Priority
Avery Hill Park	Changing Pavilion replacement	Feasibility Study for new pavilion Implementation	Project Management & Fees Capital budget: c. £745,000 (Based on four team changing pavilion)	Short term
Colfeians, Horn Park	Pitch quality	Grant application for improvement works	Volunteer time Capital budget: c. £50,000 (Based on regrading 2 adult pitches)	Short Term
Eltham Park South	Lack of use of cricket pitch	Promote as free to use Feasibility of NTP Implementation	Officer time Project Management & Fees Capital budget: £15,000 (NTP)	Medium Term
Green Lanes Playing Field 'The Oaks'	- Changing pavilion - Pitch	Feasibility Planning application	Volunteer time Project management	Medium Term
Hornfair Park	- Goalposts fixed causing goalmouth wear and mounding	Replace with removable posts	Capital budget: c. £1,500 (Based on	Medium Term

Site	Issue(s)	Action	Cost/ resources	Priority
Long Lane Playing Fields	Split responsibilities (Club & LBG) causing pitch maintenance issues Lack of capacity of AGP for adult games and festivals	Review agreement in 2015/16 Feasibility of AGP extension Planning application	Project Management & Fees Capital budget: c. £350,000 (Based on resurfacing & extend to full size)	Medium Term
Southwood Park	- Pavilion changing improvements	Building survey Implementation	Project Management & Fees Capital budget: c.	Long Term

Sub Area B: Royal Greenwich Planning Committee Area

4.44 The area specific action is:

1. Identify opportunities to address lack of pitches, for example in the Opportunity Areas identified in the Local Plan (Greenwich Peninsula, Charlton Riverside, Thamesmead & Abbey Wood and Woolwich). Prioritise opportunities for pitch facilities capable of accommodating intensive use (i.e. AGPS, NTPS and cricket net systems) to maximise land use efficiency and address unmet demand in the north west of Royal Borough.

4.45 **Table 4.10** sets out the actions identified for Greenwich Planning Committee Area

Table 4.10: Actions for Greenwich Planning Committee Area

Site	Issue(s)	Action	Cost/ resources	Priority
Greenwich Park	Cricket square quality	Condition Survey Implementation	Project Management & Fees Capital budget: c. £60,000 (Based on drainage scheme)	Long Term

Sub Area C: Woolwich & Thamesmead Planning Committee Area

4.46 The area specific action is:

1. Pursue opportunities for investment in enhancement projects on those priority sites in this Sub Area where actions are identified as a priority.

4.47 The priority site for sport provision (publicly accessible open spaces only) include:

- Charlton Park: cricket (development hub site), football and rugby (secured club/ sport associated site)

4.48 **Table 4.11** sets out the actions identified for Woolwich and Thamesmead Planning Committee Area

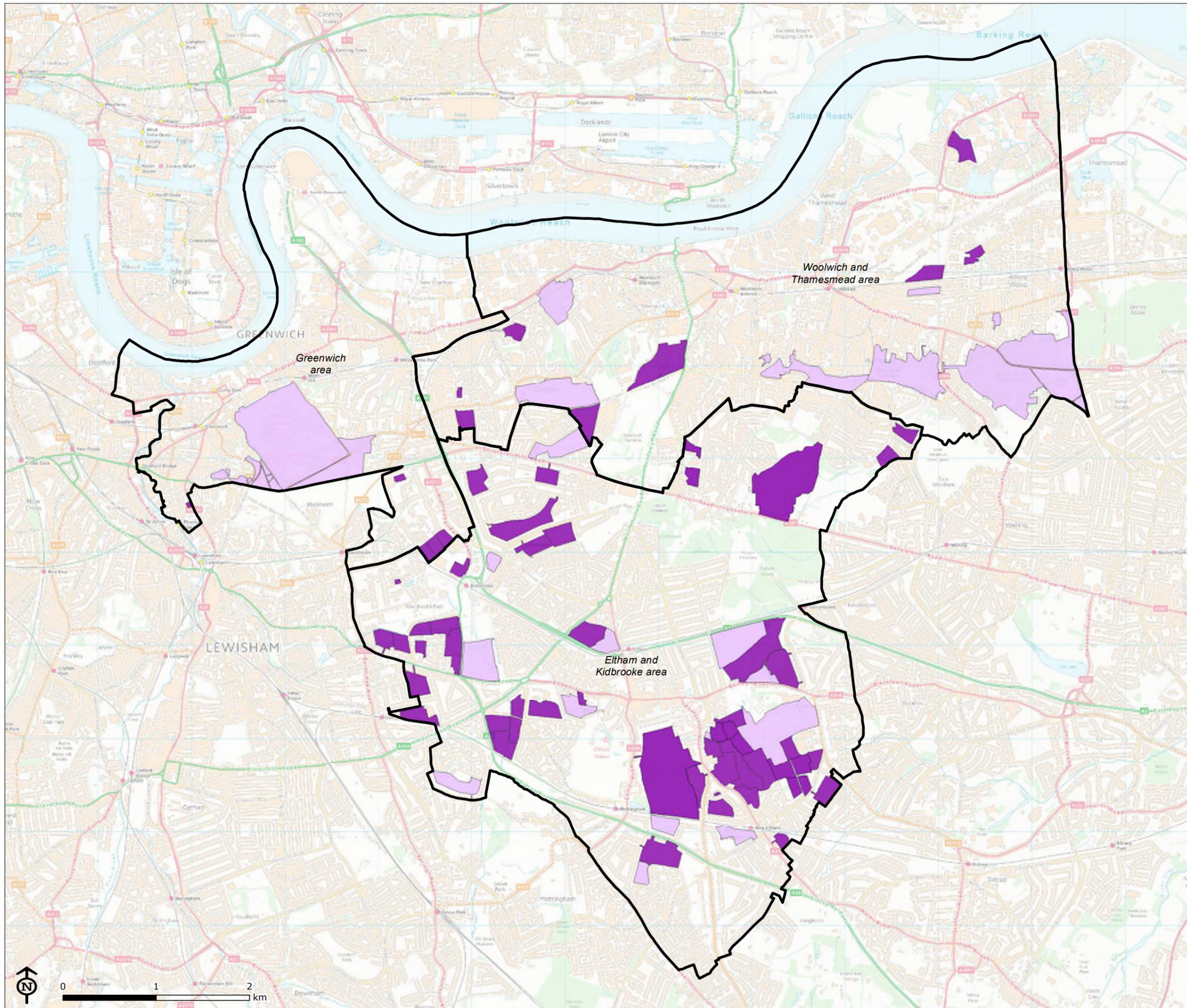
Table 4.11: Actions for Woolwich and Thamesmead Planning Committee Area

Site	Issue(s)	Action	Cost/ resources	Priority
Charlton Park	Poor Changing Pavilion Mounded and worn Goalmouths	Feasibility Study for replacement Remedial works to goalmouths Moveable goals Youth	Project Management & Fees Capital budget: c. £750,000 (Based on 4	Short Term

Site	Issue(s)	Action	Cost/ resources	Priority
	Under used floodlit training grids	markings on grids	team pavilion plus posts/markings)	
Plumstead Common	Lack of Training lighting for Greenwich RFC	Increase lighting for midweek training, fund raising as required	Volunteer time, Capital budget: c. £20,000	Medium Term
Swingate Lane Playing Fields (Camdale Road)	Stalled lease negotiations	Resolve M&E repairs responsibility issue		Short Term
Rose Cottage Playing Fields (Swingate Lane)	Pitch quality Opportunity for Small floodlit AGP on front of site to reduce over play of grass pitches	Ground Survey Feasibility study Implementation (has planning consent)	Project Management & Fees Volunteer time Capital budget: c. £125,000 (Based on drainage scheme)	Short Term

Figure 4.12
Sports Provision

- Committee area boundaries
- Primary typology Outdoor Sports
- Other typology containing sports facilities



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Summary of findings from open space audit

- 4.49 The audit of the publicly accessible open spaces in Royal Greenwich identified the following issues and opportunities:
- The greatest quantity of publicly accessible open space falls within the parks and gardens typology covering an area of 381.85 ha. This is followed by natural and semi-natural green spaces which cover an area of 299.79 ha.
 - Woolwich and Thamesmead Committee Area contains the greatest quantity of publicly accessible open space, closely followed by Eltham and Kidbrooke Committee Area with 355.13 ha and 340.16 ha respectively.
 - Parks and gardens are considered to have the greatest number of open spaces which achieve 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' scores for questions against the Green Flag Award's 'a welcoming place' criterion. However, a large proportion of natural and semi natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and allotment sites received 'fair' scores against this criterion.
 - Parks and gardens, civic spaces and cemeteries and churchyards have the largest proportion of sites which achieve a score of 'good' or higher when assessing against the Green Flag Criteria for good safe access. However natural and semi-natural green spaces, green corridors and amenity greenspace received the greatest number of sites which received scores of 'fair' to 'very poor' for good safe access.
 - Quality of facilities and grounds maintenance were identified as being an issue with a large proportion of sites across a number of typologies being scored as 'fair'.
 - In general, open spaces across all typologies achieved a reasonable proportion of scores of 'good' or higher for environmental sustainability with parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspace achieving a number of 'excellent' scores. A similar trend is identified for conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora and conservation of landscape features although no 'excellent' scores are achieved for natural and semi natural greenspace for the conservation of landscape features.
 - 19 play facilities are found within Woolwich and Thamesmead, 18 in Eltham and Kidbrooke Area and seven in the Greenwich Committee Area.

Summary of feedback from public consultation

- 4.50 Public consultation was undertaken through online consultation via the Council's website. The 'Future Management of Parks and Open Spaces' survey was primarily run as a survey for the Parks management team, but additional information was sought in order to inform this study. Paper copies were also made available if requested. The scope of this questionnaire covered the frequency of use, perceived value and satisfaction with the quality and quantity of open spaces in the Royal Borough. Questions on specialist open space provision such as allotments and play were also included. In addition, a confidential section on the profile of the respondent was included, to enable us to ensure that the survey captured responses from a reasonable sample of the Greenwich population. A full copy of the responses is included in **Appendix 2**.

Respondents

- The survey was live for 4 weeks (6 June 2016 – 3 July 2016) and there were 812 responses: 65% female and 35% male.
- 5% of respondents were under 30 years of age, with the majority of responses (40%) coming from the 46-64 year age category.
- The largest number of respondents were from postcode district SE9 (Eltham District) and SE18 (Woolwich District). SE3 (Blackheath District), SE7 (Charlton District), SE10 (Greenwich District) and SE12 (Lee District) were also well represented.

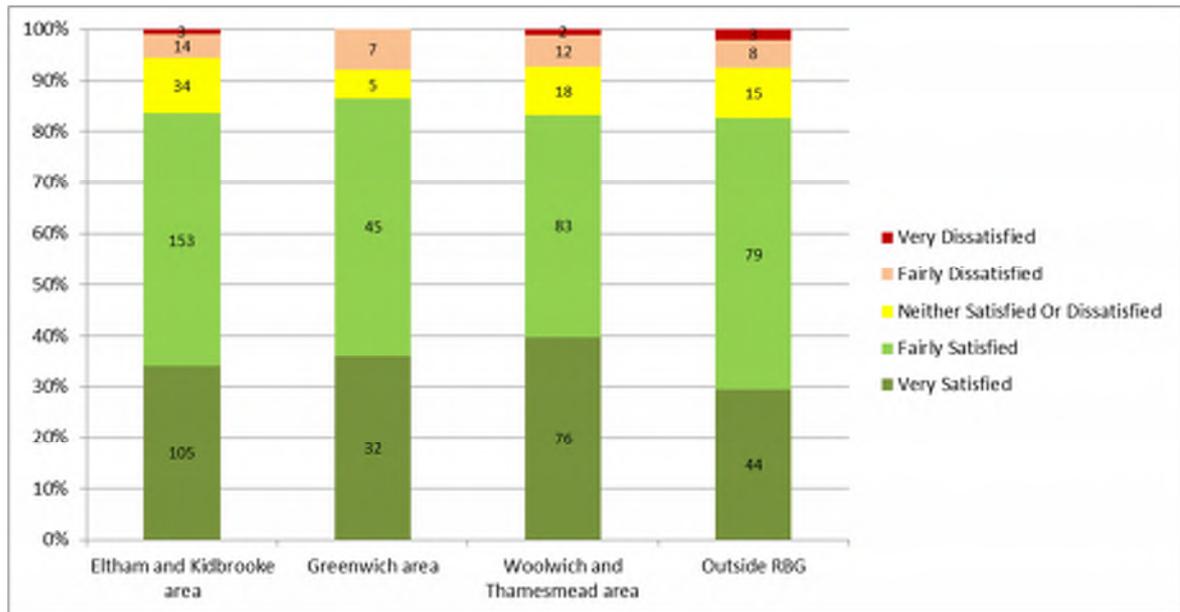
- Whilst there were responses from people of a number of ethnicities, the majority of those who responded consider themselves White British (67% of all responses), 7% consider themselves any other white background and 16% preferred not to say.

Headline findings

Amount of open space

- 84% of respondents are very (35%) or fairly (49%) satisfied with the amount of parks and open space in Royal Greenwich. 6% are very or fairly dissatisfied with the quantity. As shown in **Figure 4.13**, overall levels of satisfaction were similar in the three Committee Areas, with slightly higher levels of satisfaction in the Greenwich Area.

Figure 4.13: Residents' satisfaction with the overall quantity of open space in the Royal Borough

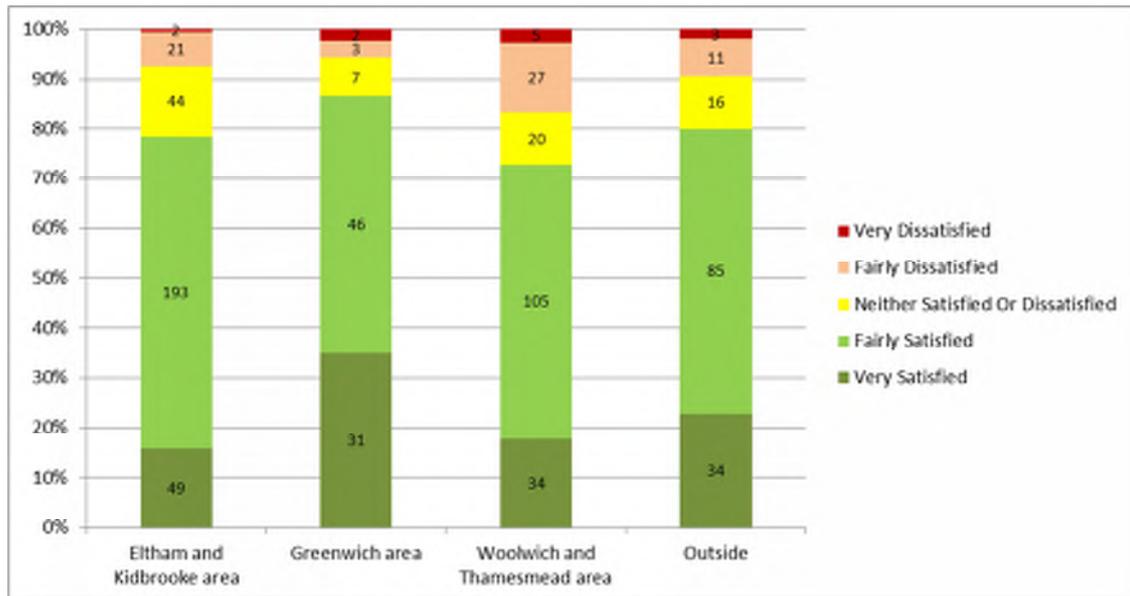


Note on data: It is important to note that a number of invalid postcodes were provided, and the data presented shows those responses that were able to be mapped.

Quality of open space

- 78% of respondents are very (20%) or fairly (58%) satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in Royal Greenwich. 10% are very or fairly satisfied with the quality. The findings are summarised in **Figure 4.14**.

Figure 4.14: Residents' satisfaction with the overall quality of open space in the Royal Borough



Note on data: It is important to note that a number of invalid postcodes were provided, and the data presented shows those responses that were able to be mapped.

- Sites are used for a number of different purposes, the majority of users listing access to nature as their main reason, followed by exercise and to rest and relax.
- A large number of respondents stated that the most important aspects for the Royal Borough to focus on in the future is maintaining cleaning standards (litter and bins). Repair and maintenance of facilities is also noted as important as well as increasing natural habitats.

Accessibility to open space

- The vast majority of respondents (84%) visit a park or open space at least once a week. Of those who don't use parks or open spaces, or use them very infrequently, concerns over safety was the most frequent reason given.
- The parks and open spaces owned or managed by The Royal Borough of Greenwich visited most often by respondents are Oxleas Wood, Shrewsbury Park, Avery Hill Park, Horn Park, Fairy Hill Park and Charlton Park.
- 76% of respondents travel on foot to their local park or open space for the majority of their journey. 14% travel by car or motorbike with smaller numbers travelling by public transport (6%) or by bicycle (4%).
- 41% are able to reach their local park or open space in under 5 minutes. 71% are able to reach their local park in less than 10 minutes and 85% are within 15 minutes of their local park or open space.
- 55% of respondents feel that the route they take to their local park or open space is green and pleasant.

Play

- 18% of respondents gave 'use of playgrounds' as their main reason for visiting a park or open space.
- Of those who expressed an opinion about the quantity of play provision for 0-5 year olds, the majority (58%) are fairly satisfied and a further 21% are very satisfied. 5% are very dissatisfied with provision for this age group.
- Of those who expressed an opinion about the quantity of play provision for 5-10 year olds, the majority (59%) are fairly satisfied and a further 17% are very satisfied. 17% are very dissatisfied with provision for this age group.

- Of those who expressed an opinion about the quantity of play provision for 11+ year olds, only 13% are very satisfied and 37% are fairly satisfied. 35% are fairly dissatisfied and a further 15% are very dissatisfied with provision for this age group.
- In terms of quality of play provision, of those who expressed an opinion, 60% are fairly satisfied and a further 17% very satisfied. 6% are very dissatisfied and 17% fairly dissatisfied.

Allotments

- A very small percentage of respondents are allotment users (23 respondents out of 812 surveys completed). Of those who expressed an opinion, 48% are fairly satisfied with the quality of allotments and 26% are very satisfied.

Increasing opportunities for people to experience nature

- Wildflower meadows and woodland areas were the most popular choices in terms of increasing biodiversity in parks.

Summary of feedback from stakeholder consultation

- 4.51 The stakeholder consultation exercise to inform this study comprised a mix of methods, including:
- A workshop with internal RBG stakeholders
 - A workshop with external stakeholders, including land management partners and voluntary groups
 - Telephone calls and emails with key external stakeholders
- 4.52 One or more representatives of the following teams and organisations were contacted through this study:

Royal Borough of Greenwich

- Parks and open space /Green Chain team
- Sustainability team
- Flooding team
- Voluntary groups: Greenwich Wildlife Action Group, Greenwich Parks Forum, Royal Parks, London Geodiversity Partnership, London Wildlife Forum.

Neighbouring authorities:

- Representatives of neighbouring London boroughs, particularly those where the River Thames is not a barrier to cross-boundary access:
 - London Borough of Bexley
 - London Borough of Bromley
 - London Borough of Lewisham

Scope of external stakeholder consultation

- 4.53 Representatives of the organisations listed above were consulted in person, or contacted via email or telephone. The focus of consultation with each of the groups outlined above was as follows:

Neighbouring Authorities

- The open spaces within neighbouring boroughs that are utilised by Royal Greenwich residents
- The open spaces within Royal Greenwich that residents of neighbouring boroughs also utilise
- Plans to create, enhance or reduce the amount or quality of open spaces
- Open space quality provision issues that require cross-boundary partnership

Headline findings

- 4.54 The headline findings from this consultation are outlined below:
- Residents of Royal Greenwich utilise a number of open spaces with Lewisham, including Blackheath, Farranti Park; Sue Godfrey LNR; Broadway Fields; Brookmill Park; Ladywell Park; Waterlink Way; Manor House Gardens; Manor Park; Green Chain Walk route: Chinbrook meadows; Grove Park Nature Reserve; Downham Woodland Walk & Beckenham Place Park.
 - Residents of Lewisham tend to utilise the following open spaces within Royal Greenwich: Greenwich Park; Sutcliffe Park; Oxleas Woods.
 - A number of sites are highlighted as requiring ongoing cross-boundary partnership to enhance and protect, including:
 - Blackheath;
 - the River Pool and associated open spaces, flood risk and surface water management issues;
 - the Green Chain Walk concept and designated Green Chain spaces (Lewisham).
 - It is unlikely that there are many cross boundary issues with the boroughs to the north (Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham and Newham), as the River Thames is a significant barrier to access of open space within these neighbouring boroughs.
 - Bexley and Bromley did not provide feedback.

Other external partners

- 4.55 The Environment Agency has highlighted areas which are at risk of becoming deficient in open space if adequate new space is not secured alongside planned development. Specifically, this includes the riverside areas where high rise developments are planned, including Thames Frontage and Deptford Creek. Increased clarity from the Royal Borough of Greenwich would aid the Environment Agency's engagement with the regeneration process in this area, by providing a clear steer on GI requirements, habitat quantity and overall provision.
- 4.56 Royal Parks did not comment.
- 4.57 Peabody is hoping to deliver two play space projects in Royal Greenwich towards the end of the year or early next year. There are additional plans (awaiting decision) to refurbish one play space and there are ambitions to deliver a new play space at Gallion's Park.

Development and application of standards

- 4.58 This section recommends open space provision standards. These were defined through review of the existing provision of open space, alongside the comments received through public consultation, as well as consideration of nationally recognised provision standards, and those adopted by neighbouring boroughs. There are three types of open space standard:
- **Accessibility:** The maximum distance residents should be required to travel to use an open space of a specific typology
 - **Quantity:** The provision (measured in number of sites or hectares) of each open space typology which should be provided as a minimum per 1000 population
 - **Quality and Value:** The quality of the open space provided in each typology, assessed using the Green Flag criteria. The value of the open space provided in each typology.
- 4.59 Benchmarking was undertaken as part of the analysis to ensure that the proposed open space standards for Royal Greenwich are feasible, and promote a similar approach to that applied elsewhere. A summary of the review of standards in neighbouring authorities can be found in **Appendix 3**.

- 4.60 There is some variation between London Boroughs, but the majority conform to the Mayor of London's Open Space Strategies: Best practice guidance¹¹ and suggested distance thresholds. There is greater variation between quantity and accessibility standards.
- 4.61 Rather than develop a quantity standard for each typology, it is considered appropriate to consider the following typologies together when setting a quantity standard for **public open space** provision:
- Typology A: Parks and gardens
 - Typology B: Natural and semi-natural green space
 - Typology D: Amenity green space
- 4.62 No quantity or accessibility standards have been proposed for cemeteries and churchyards. This reflects the fact that proximity is not considered to be a requirement of this open space type. Similarly, no quantity or accessibility standard is proposed for civic spaces or green corridors.
- 4.63 A quantity standard has been developed for allotments and play provision. A quantity standard has not been developed for outdoor sports facilities as these have been developed as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy in line with Sport England Guidance.
- 4.64 In order to assess the performance of open spaces in terms of quality and value, the following factors have informed the standards:
- Key characteristics expected of spaces within the different typologies and levels of the hierarchy.
 - High quality and/or high value sites within Royal Greenwich which provide a 'benchmark' against which to assess sites.
 - Ensuring standards are set at such a level to be aspirational, yet achievable based on existing quality and value.

Quality assessment

- 4.65 As part of the site audit, each site was assessed for quality against the Green Flag criteria, and the condition of the various components of a site rated as good, fair or poor. This assessment was then transposed through a scoring system into a quality score. In order to develop a quality standard which is appropriate for the type and function of open spaces in Royal Greenwich, the existing quality of provision was reviewed by typology and the associated hierarchy level. Through reviewing the range of quality scores it was possible to form a quality threshold score, i.e. a minimum level of quality which should be achieved at any open space. A threshold score has been defined for each level of the hierarchy reflecting the ideal score scenario for a good quality site.

Value assessment

- 4.66 Value is fundamentally different from quality; a space can be valued for a range of reasons even if it is of low quality. As set out in PPG17 Companion Guide, 'value' mainly relates to the following:
- **Context:** e.g. an easily accessible space is higher value than one that is inaccessible to potential users, equally the value of a space may diminish if it is immediately adjacent to several others which provides the same function.
 - **Level and type of use:** the primary purpose and associated use of a space can increase its value - well used spaces are of high value to people, similarly spaces with diverse habitats can be well used by wildlife and can be interpreted as having a higher value.
 - **Wider benefits:** i.e. the benefits a space generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment including the following –landscape, ecological, education, social inclusion and health benefit, cultural and heritage, amenity benefits, 'sense of place' and economic benefits.

¹¹ The Mayor of London/CABE Space, 2008. Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance. Greater London Authority: London

4.67 The site audit included information to be evaluated as part of the value assessments such as the value of play spaces, the presence of community facilities and the biodiversity value of habitats. The relevant audit information was reviewed to develop a value threshold score specific to the different types of open space in Royal Greenwich. A list of key characteristics was developed which could be expected of sites of a particular typology and at a particular level of the hierarchy.

Setting benchmark standards for quality and value

- 4.68 In order to assess the sites consistently the audit forms were scored. The scores for each site were separated into factors that relate to quality and value. As set out in the PPG17 Companion Guide “quality and value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated”. For example, an open space may be of high quality but if it is not accessible it is of little value, while if an open space is poor quality but has a wide range of facilities it is potentially of high value.
- 4.69 When assessing scored sites, it should be noted that the scoring varies according to the complexity of the site as well as the condition of the site which limits the extent to which one should directly compare scores across different types of space. In essence this means that the quality score for a good quality park or garden will differ from that of a good quality amenity green space, reflecting the different provision that can be expected within each.
- 4.70 The value and quality scoring can be reviewed by total score or by the audit themes (linked to the Green Flag criteria). Each site was audited using a standard form with scores allocated to relevant criteria. A full list of the open space audited through this study is contained within **Appendix 4**.
- 4.71 Each site has therefore been rated with a combined quality and value band using the format of +/- symbols to annotate each band (i.e. high quality/ high value is shown as ++, high quality/ low value is shown as +-). **Table 4.12** below suggests the future management approach to open spaces within each band.

Table 4.12 Quality and value matrix

High quality / high Value	High quality/ low value
++	+-
<p>These sites are considered to be best open spaces within the Royal Borough offering the greatest value and quality for the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Future management should seek to maintain the standard for these spaces and ensure they continue to meet the requirements of the communities they serve.</p> <p>Ideally all spaces should fit into this category.</p>	<p>These sites have been scored as being of high quality but of a low value.</p> <p>Wherever possible the preferred management approach to a space in the category should to enhance its value in terms of its present primary typology or purpose.</p> <p>If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose.</p>
Low quality/ high value	Low quality/ low value
-+	--
<p>These spaces meet or exceed the required value standard but fall below the required quality standard.</p> <p>Future management should therefore seek to enhance their quality to ensure that the open spaces are welcoming and safe for use by the local community.</p>	<p>These spaces are falling below the applicable value and quality standards and therefore their future enhancement should be considered to be the priority.</p>

Proposed standards

Open space

4.72 The proposed standards for **public open space** are set out in **Table 4.13**.

Table 4.13 Proposed open space standards for Royal Greenwich

Type of standard	Proposed standard		Justification
Quantity	2.69ha/1000 people		<p>This is the current provision of publicly accessible open space in Royal Greenwich as a whole based on 2016 population data.</p> <p>For the purposes of this calculation the following typologies contribute to public open space (as described in paragraph 4.61):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typology A: Parks and gardens • Typology B: Natural and semi-natural green space • Typology D: Amenity green space <p>Sites that are not available for informal recreation (e.g. sports pitches only available for private use/hire), have not been included within this calculation.</p> <p>The majority of Royal Greenwich residents felt that the quantity of open space in the Royal Borough was adequate.</p> <p>Setting the standard at this level of provision will ensure that provision should not fall below the existing quantity per 1000 population as the population grows.</p>
Accessibility	Metropolitan 3.2km District 1.2km Local 400m Small local and pocket spaces 280m		<p>Guided by GLA guidance</p> <p>Consistent with surrounding boroughs</p> <p>41% are able to reach their local park or open space in under 5 minutes. 71% are able to reach their local park in less than 10 minutes and 85% are within 15 minutes of their local park or open space.</p>
Quality	Metropolitan parks and gardens	140	Example of good quality site: Greenwich Park
	District parks and gardens	81	Example of good quality site: Winn's Common
	Local parks and gardens	71	Example of good quality site: Eaglesfield Park
	Small local/pocket parks and gardens	73	Example of good quality site: Charlotte Turner Gardens
	Metropolitan natural and semi-natural green space	74	Example of good quality site: Blackheath Park
	District natural and semi-natural green space	57	Example of good quality site: Woolwich Common
	Local natural and semi-natural green space	74	Example of good quality site: The Tarn
	Small local/pocket natural and semi-natural green space	63	Example of good quality site: Woodland Dell
	Green corridors	73	Example of good quality site: Peninsula Riverside Walkway
	Amenity greenspace	54	Example of good quality site: Greenhaven Drive
	Cemeteries and churchyards	68	Example of good quality site: Greenwich Cemetery
	Civic space	73	Example of good quality site: General Gordon Square
	Value	Metropolitan parks and gardens	129
District parks and gardens		90	Example of a good value site: Winn's Common
Local parks and gardens		76	Example of a good value site: Fairy Hill Park

Type of standard	Proposed standard	Justification	
	Small local/pocket parks and gardens	40	Example of a good value site: Twinkle Park
	Metropolitan natural and semi-natural green space	67	Example of a good value site: Blackheath Park
	District natural and semi-natural green space	45	Example of a good value site: Woolwich Common
	Local natural and semi-natural green space	51	Example of a good value site: Eltham Park North/Shepherds Woods
	Small local/pocket natural and semi-natural green space	38	Example of a good value site: Woodland Dell
	Green corridors	55	Example of a good value site: Peninsula Riverside Walkway
	Amenity greenspace	39	Example of a good value site: Eltham Green
	Cemeteries and churchyards	41	Example of a good value site: Woolwich Old Cemetery
	Civic space	40	Example of a good value site: General Gordon Square

Allotments

4.73 The proposed standards for **allotments** are set out in **Table 4.14**.

Table 4.14 Proposed standards for allotment provision in Royal Greenwich

Type of standard	Proposed standard	Justification
Quantity	0.125ha/1000 people	There is no current national standard for the quantity of allotment provision. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) have suggested a national standard of 0.125 ha per 1000 population based on an average plot size of 250 square metres, however this is not referred to on the NSALG website. In 2006 the University of Derby completed a study on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister which indicated that the average provision of allotments was then 13 plots per 1000 households. The existing provision in Royal Greenwich is 0.07 ha/1000 population.
Accessibility	1.2km	Of the respondents who are allotment users, the majority are within 10 minutes travel of their plot with an equal split between those who travel by car and those on foot.
Quality	49	Example of good quality site: Gavestone Crescent Allotments
Value	31	Example of a good value site: Gavestone Crescent Allotments

4.74 The proposed standards for **play provision** are set out in **Table 4.15**.

Table 4.15: Proposed standards for play provision in Royal Greenwich

Type of standard	Proposed standard	Justification
Quantity	A minimum of 10 square metres of dedicated play space per child.	Guided by the Mayor of London's Supplementary Planning Guidance <i>Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation</i>
Accessibility	Neighbourhood 800m Local 400m Doorstep 100m Youth 800m	Guided by the Mayor of London's Supplementary Planning Guidance <i>Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation</i>

Type of standard	Proposed standard	Justification
Quality	Neighbourhood 6 Local 3 Doorstep 3 Youth 3	Expected score for a good quality site
Value	Neighbourhood 30 Local 21 Doorstep 6 Youth 1	Expected score for a good value site

Application of the proposed open space standards

4.75 The standards proposed in **Table 4.10 to 4.12** have been applied to sites in Royal Greenwich to get an understanding of the extent to which standards are being achieved and also to determine where there are deficiencies that need to be addressed.

Quantity

4.76 **Table 4.16** shows how provision of open space reduces with an increase of population. Eltham and Kidbrooke area currently enjoys the highest levels of provision per 1000 population (3.40ha per 1000 people). Woolwich and Thamesmead and Greenwich area are currently below the standard, and this will be exacerbated by 2028. This is particularly the case in the Greenwich area, where provision per 1000 population in 2028 will be well below the expected level.

4.77 This is not in itself a reason to preclude development in such areas though. Instead, it will be particularly important to secure new open spaces within these areas. Where new provision is not possible, alternative approaches to new open spaces such as small civic spaces, pocket parks and green corridors will therefore be needed alongside features such as balconies and green roofs; so that developments maximise opportunities for the provision of new open space. **Section 6** of this report identifies the extent to which other urban greening features are found in these areas.

4.78 The standards adopted by nearby London Boroughs are detailed in **Appendix 3**. Boroughs can express their quantity standards in a number of ways making direct comparison difficult, but the proposed quantity standard is similar to Newham and lower than Lewisham.

Table 4.16 Application of open space quantity standard to identify shortfall/surplus

Committee Area	Publicly accessible open space (ha)	Population 2016	Population 2028	Provision ha per 1000 people 2016	Provision ha per 1000 people 2028
Eltham and Kidbrooke area	318.07	93,681	100,424	3.40	3.17
Greenwich area	116.07	52,683	74,362	2.20	1.56
Woolwich and Thamesmead area	306.72	129,507	151,563	2.37	2.02
Royal Greenwich	740.87	275,871	326,349	2.69	2.27

4.79 The findings of the study indicate that there are existing deficiencies in both the number of allotments available for use, as well as the quality of allotments provided. Of the 17 allotments in the Royal Borough, 12 were rated as high quality. Feedback from public consultation supports the need for more provision.

4.80 **Table 4.17** shows the provision of allotments in the Royal Borough compared to the proposed standard.

- 4.81 This study has also identified open spaces with the capacity to accommodate community food growing, and may provide an opportunity to help address this deficiency.

Table 4.17 Provision of allotments against the quantity standard

Analysis Area	Area of allotments (ha)	Population 2016	Population 2028	Provision ha per 1000 people 2016	Provision ha per 1000 people 2028
Eltham and Kidbrooke area	13.49	93,681	100,424	0.14	0.13
Greenwich area	0.41	52,683	74,362	0.01	0.01
Woolwich and Thamesmead area	5.31	129,507	151,563	0.04	0.04
Royal Greenwich	19.21	275,871	326,349	0.07	0.06

- 4.82 Provision of playable spaces in Royal Greenwich varies within each Committee Area. **Table 4.18** shows how provision of play spaces reduces with an increase in the child population. These figures show the number of sites per 1,000 children at 2011 and at 2028 should the number of sites stay the same. Whilst the standard refers to areas of sites, this study has not identified the overall land area of play within open spaces, and notably, has not included a full audit of play spaces that sit outside of Royal Greenwich parks and open spaces (such as provision on housing estates).

Table 4.18 Relative provision of playable spaces per Committee Area

Committee Area	Playable spaces (excl youth only spaces)	Child population 2011 (0-15 years)	Child population 2028 (0-15 years)	Playable spaces per 1,000 children 2011	Playable spaces per 1,000 children 2028
Eltham and Kidbrooke area	15	17,742	18,369	0.85	0.82
Greenwich area	6	7,355	13,950	0.82	0.43
Woolwich and Thamesmead area	15	30,297	38,060	0.50	0.39
Royal Greenwich	36	55,394	70,379	0.65	0.51

Quality, value and accessibility

- 4.83 **Appendix 4** shows the full list of sites with their quality and value ratings. Application of the proposed quality, value and accessibility standards is explored at the Borough level below and for each Committee Area. The analysis is supported by **Figure 4.15 to 4.21** which show deficiencies in access to open space, play and allotment provision in the Royal Borough as well as the quality and value ratings for the sites.
- 4.84 The standards help to form the basis for redressing the quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process by highlighting where investment in existing spaces to enhance their role, or the provision of new spaces, should be focussed.
- 4.85 As a general borough-wide theme, analysis of site benchmarking highlights the presence of several low value parks and amenity spaces across the Royal Borough that could benefit from investment to improve their functionality. This is particularly the case at the local and small-local level of the hierarchy. Larger sites are almost all high quality and high value. An exception to this is Shepherdleas Meadow & Wood which has been rated as low quality when compared to other natural and semi-natural greenspaces within this same category.

- 4.86 As shown in **Figure 4.15**, at a metropolitan level, Greenwich Park and Blackheath Park serve the western half of the Royal Borough as well as large parts of Lewisham. Quality and value of both of these sites is high. The western half of the Royal Borough is served by Bostall Woods which has been rated as high quality, but below value. The south of the Royal Borough is outside of the catchment of sites of this size.
- 4.87 As shown in **Figure 4.16**, at a district level, there are some gaps in provision in Eltham and Kidbrooke as well as the northern parts of the Royal Borough along the Thames. Made up of a mix of parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspace, all sites at this level of the hierarchy have been rated as high quality and high value – with the exception of Tripcock Park in the north which is not accessible to the public.
- 4.88 As shown in **Figure 4.17**, at a local level, there are gaps in provision in all three Committee Areas. There are large areas without access to local level provision in wards along the River Thames. Of the five wards that lie along the Thames, Thamesmead Moorings Ward has the best access to open space at this level of the hierarchy. Of particular concern is the lack of access to open space in Peninsula Ward. Coupled with this, some sites within this ward are low quality and low value. This is a ward that has high existing levels of deprivation. Whilst the southern tip of the Royal Borough (Coldharbour and New Eltham Ward) has relatively good access to open space at this level of the hierarchy, the quality and value of some of the sites within this ward is relatively low.
- 4.89 **Figure 4.18** shows access to small local provision. This includes catchments around amenity spaces, some of which are relatively large, but are unlikely to draw users beyond a small local level catchment. Again, at this level of the hierarchy, Peninsula Ward has large gaps in provision. Coupled with the low quality and value of some of the existing sites, this is a concern given the projected population increase in this area. Low levels of access continue into parts of Charlton Ward, Kidbrooke and Hornfair Ward and parts of Blackheath Westcombe Ward.
- 4.90 There are gaps in provision of small local open space in Eltham North, parts of Eltham South and Middle Park and Sutcliffe Wards. There are some gaps in provision in lower parts of Thamesmead Moorings and northern parts of Plumstead Wards. Again, whilst there is relatively good access in Coldharbour and New Eltham Ward, the quality and/or value of some sites is below standard.
- 4.91 **Figure 4.19** shows areas of the Royal Borough that are deficient in access to more than one level of the open space hierarchy. As can be seen in this figure, the greatest deficiency in access to a range of open space hierarchies is within the following areas:
- Northern parts of Woolwich and Thamesmead
 - Greenwich peninsula
 - Kidbrooke
 - Eltham
 - Southern tip of the Royal Borough
- 4.92 Sections of communities in these areas do not have access to three or four levels of the open space hierarchy. A significant section of the Royal Borough's residents stretching from Kidbrooke to the River Thames are deficient in access to two levels of the hierarchy of open space. Residents living near to the open spaces which form the Green Chain from River Thames to Shooters Hill have access to all hierarchies of publicly accessible open space. Residents surrounding Greenwich Park and Blackheath Park are also able to access all hierarchies of open space.
- 4.93 **Figure 4.20** shows that the south of the Royal Borough has good access to allotments when compared to the north. Areas adjacent to the River Thames do not have good access, and this is also the case in the northern parts of Eltham and Kidbrooke Committee Area.
- 4.94 There is a good spread of playable space across the Royal Borough, but not all residents enjoy access to play spaces. **Figure 4.21** shows where there are gaps in provision, but also, importantly, where residents have access to play provision, but the quality or value is below the proposed standard.

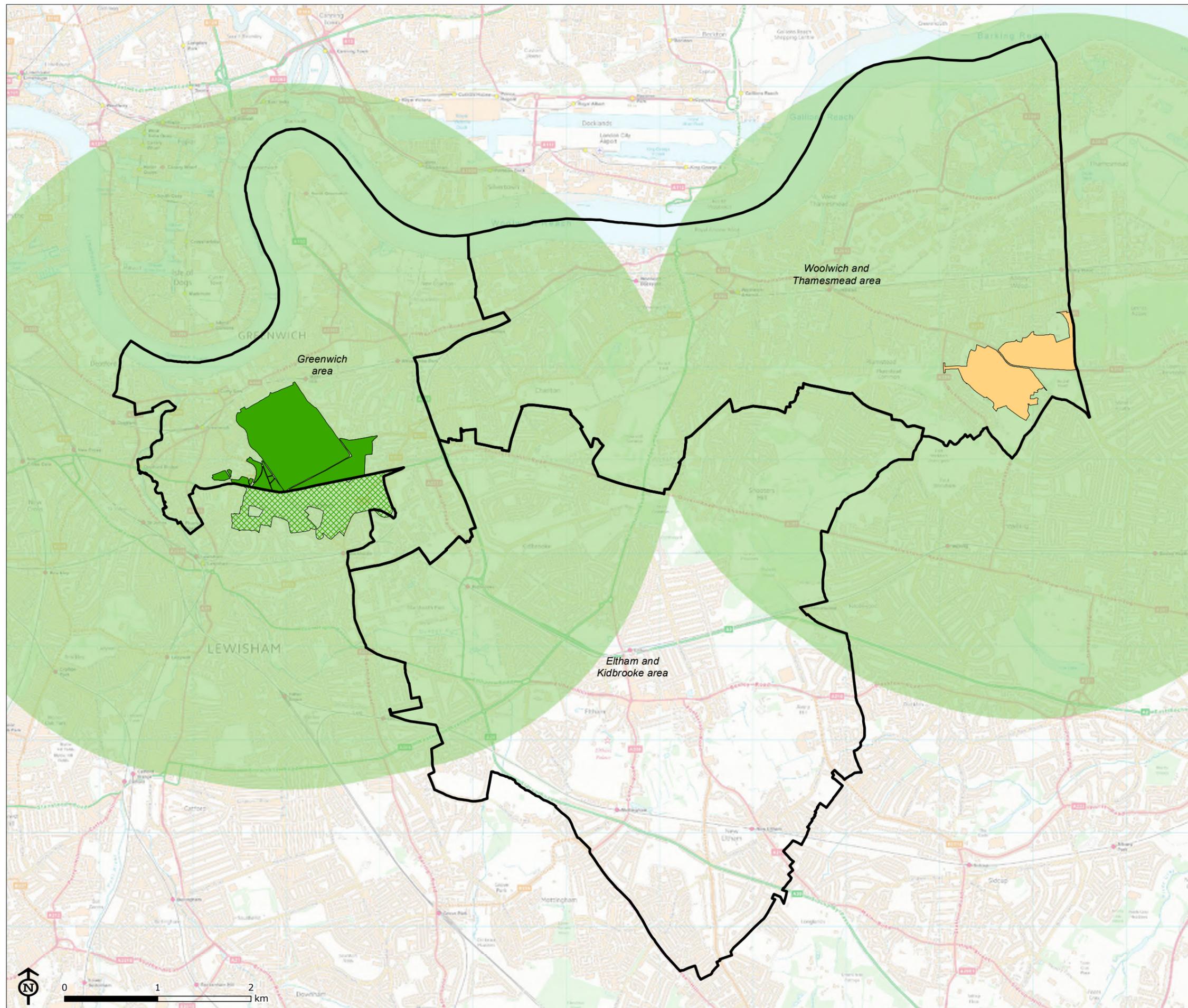
- 4.95 It is important to note that additional play facilities may exist within housing estates, but these have not been audited as part of this study.
- 4.96 The assessment on the provision of open spaces accessible to residents of Royal Greenwich should not be constrained to the borough boundary. Significant open spaces in neighbouring boroughs such as the full extent of Blackheath in Lewisham and Lesnes Abbey Wood in Bexley are likely to contribute greatly to health and wellbeing of residents providing valuable opportunities for formal and informal recreation.

Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 4.15

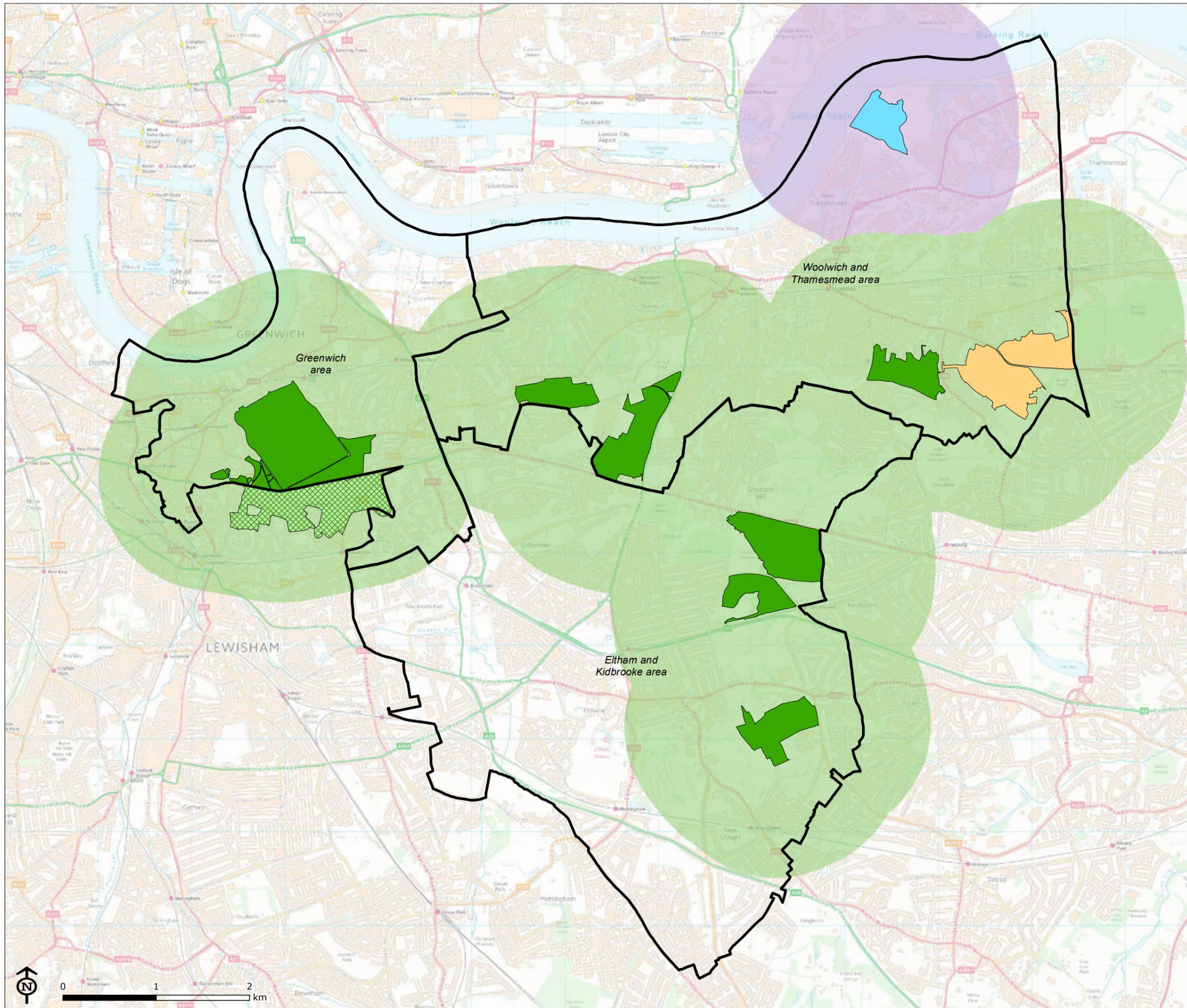
Metropolitan site access

-  Committee area boundaries
- Accessibility catchment (3.2km)**
-  Accessible
- Quality/Value Rating**
-  High quality/High value
-  High quality/Low value
-  Low quality/High value
-  Low quality/Low value
-  Blackheath Park outside of the Borough



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000





Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 4.16

District site access

- Committee area boundaries
- Accessibility catchment (1.2km)**
- Accessible
- Not accessible
- Quality/Value Rating**
- High quality/High value
- High quality/Low value
- Low quality/High value
- Low quality/Low value
- Blackheath Park outside of the Borough

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 4.17

Local site access

Committee area boundaries

Quality/Value Rating

High quality/High value

High quality/Low value

Low quality/High value

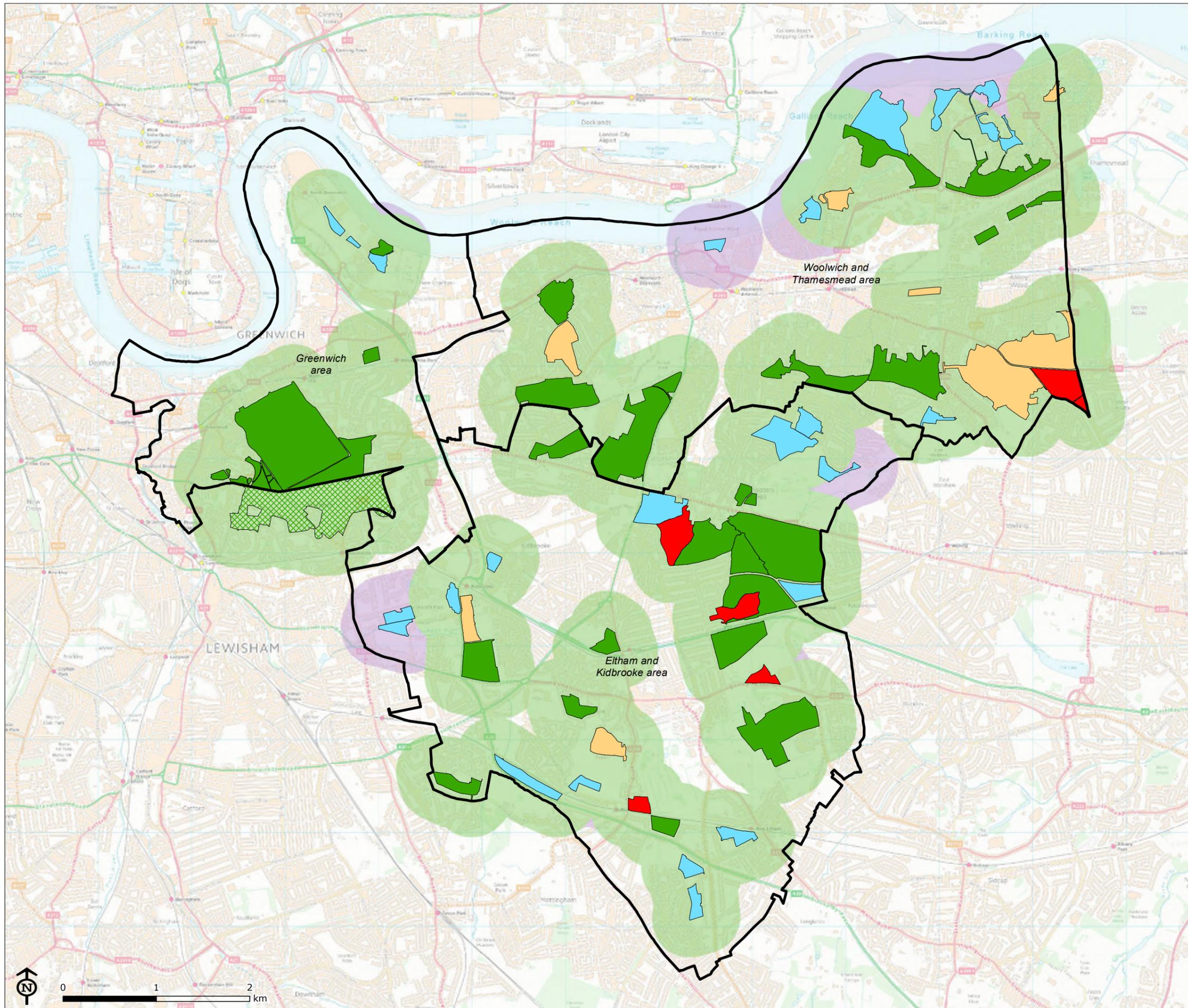
Low quality/Low value

Blackheath Park outside of the Borough

Accessibility catchment (400m)

Accessible

Not accessible



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 4.18

Small local site access

-  Committee area boundaries
-  Other sites contributing to small local level access to open space*

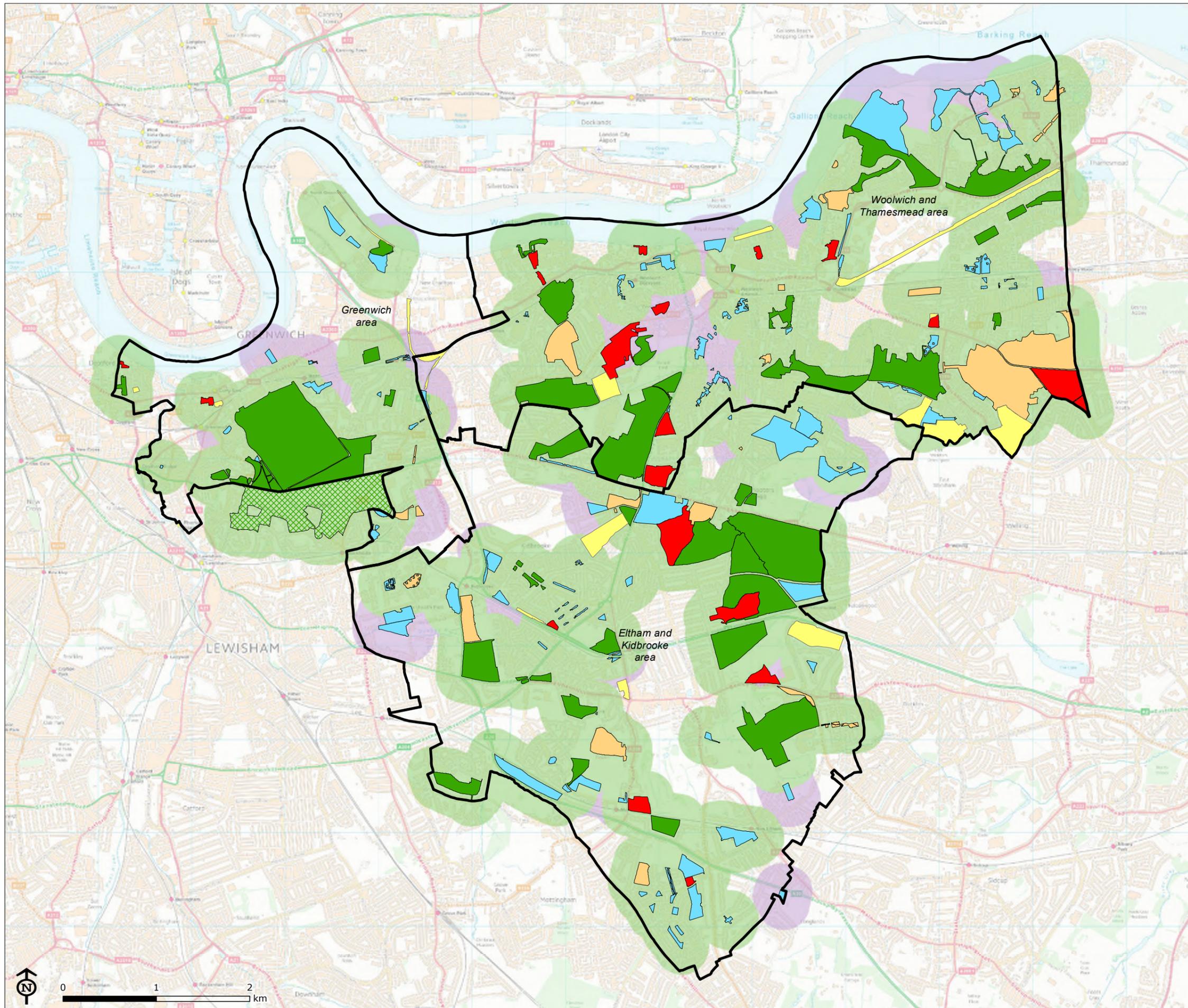
Quality/Value Rating

-  High quality/High value
-  High quality/Low value
-  Low quality/High value
-  Low quality/Low value
-  Blackheath Park outside of the Borough

Accessibility catchment (280m)

-  Accessible
-  Not accessible

*Includes accessible cemeteries and churchyards and green corridors



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

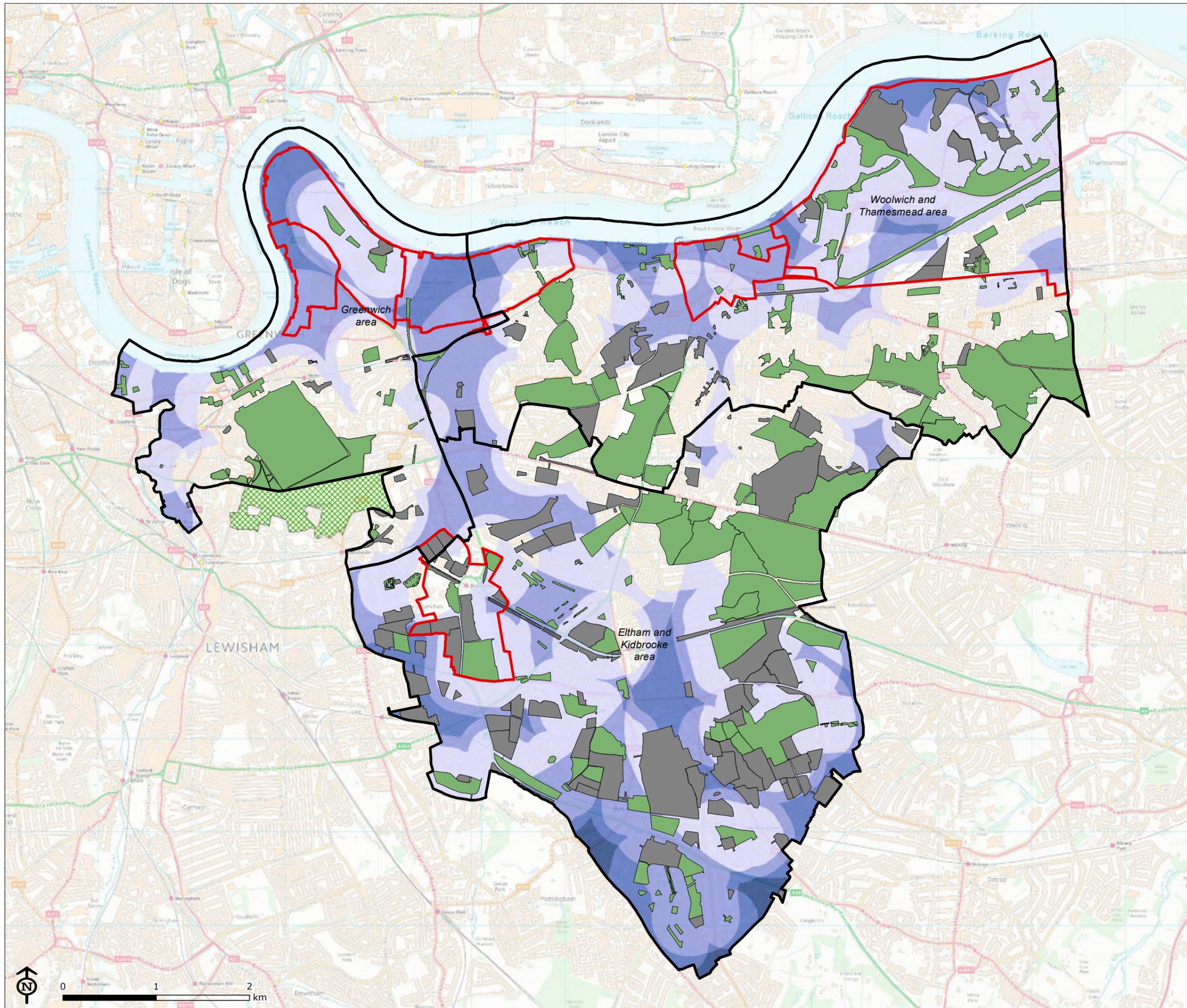
Figure 4.19

Deficiency in access to publicly accessible open space

-  Committee area boundaries
-  Strategic Development Locations
-  Not accessible/restricted access
-  Publicly accessible open space
-  Blackheath Park outside of the Borough

Deficient in access to:

-  One level of the hierarchy
-  Two levels of the hierarchy
-  Three levels of the hierarchy
-  All levels of the hierarchy



Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

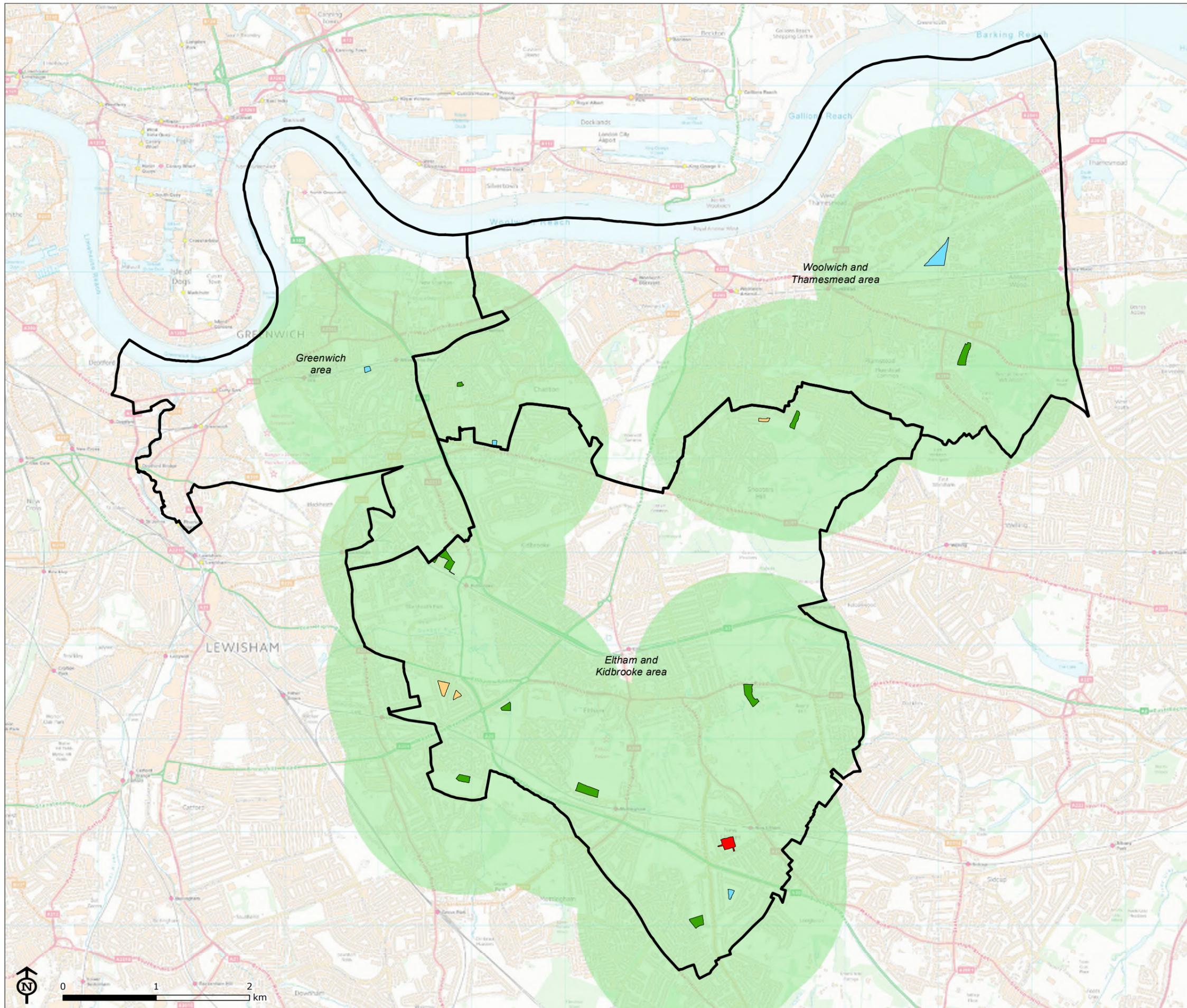


Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 4.20

Allotment access

-  Committee area boundaries
- Accessibility catchment (1.2km)**
-  Catchment
- Quality/Value Rating**
-  High quality/High value
-  High quality/Low value
-  Low quality/High value
-  Low quality/Low value

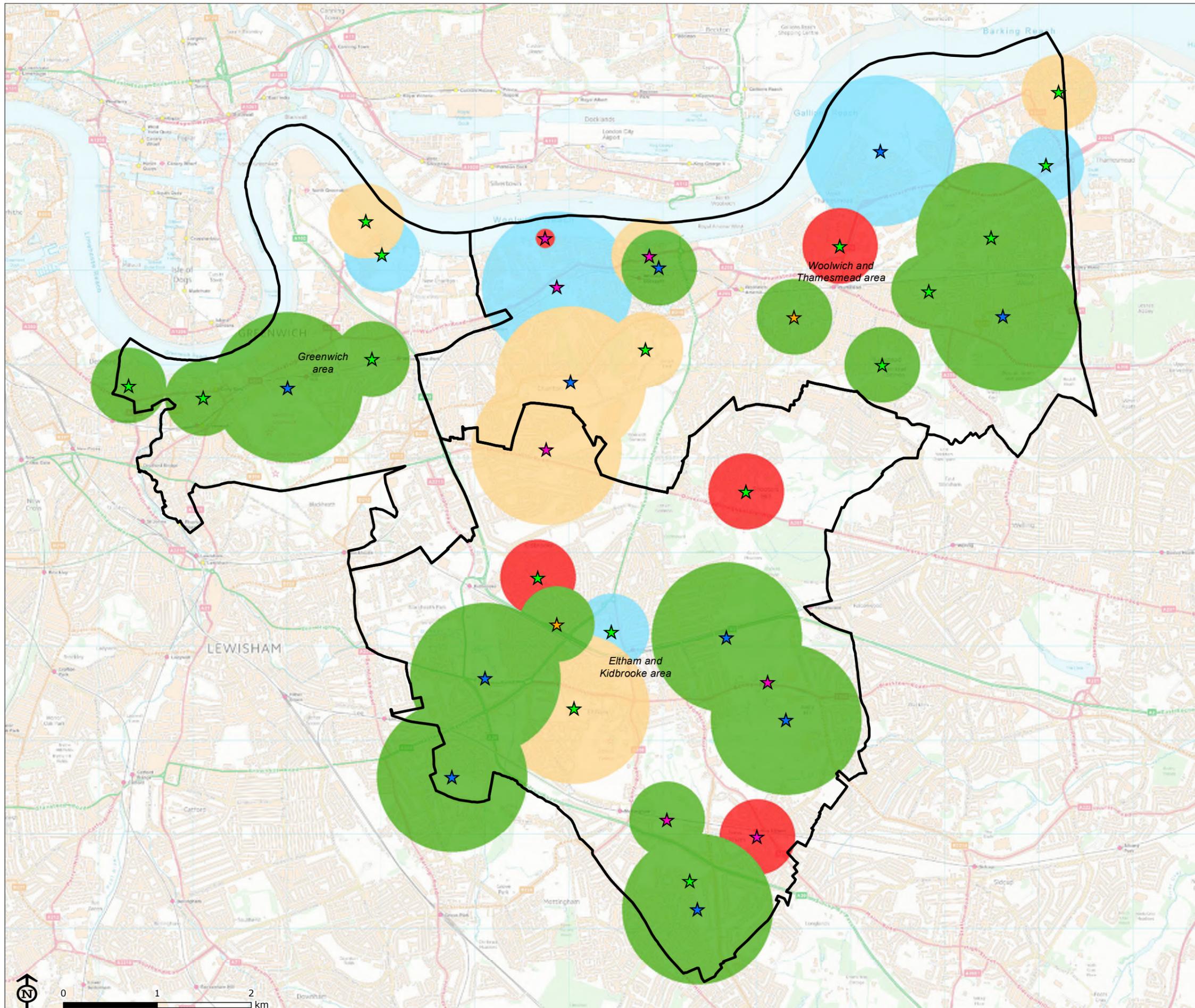


Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000



Towards a Greener Royal Greenwich

Figure 4.21
Access to Equipped Play



Committee area boundaries

Age ranges

- ★ 0-11
- ★ 5-11
- ★ 5-11+
- ★ 0 - 11+

Quality/Value Rating

Extent of buffer relates to type of playable space*

- High quality/High value
- High quality/Low value
- Low quality/High value
- Low quality/Low value

*Doorstep playable space: 100m
Local playable space: 400m
Neighbourhood playable space: 800m

Map Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

