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# Waltham Forest

## Open Space Needs Assessment and Review

Final Report

Prepared by LUC

June 2018

**Project Title:** Waltham Forest Open Space Needs Assessment and Review

**Client:** Waltham Forest Council

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# Background





# 1 Background

- 1.1 LUC was commissioned in August 2017 to provide a comprehensive open space needs assessment for London Borough of Waltham Forest and to develop locally-derived open space standards to underpin the development of open space policy for the Borough Council's emerging Local Plan.
- 1.2 This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with relevant national, regional and local policy and guidance. The study has also considered information that has been gathered as part of the extensive range of evidence base documents already prepared by the borough. Whilst the study has not involved consultation with neighbouring boroughs, the evidence review includes an assessment of cross-boundary considerations in terms of access to open space. The study incorporates the findings of the Sport and Recreation Assessment currently being undertaken.
- 1.3 The main objectives of the work were to provide a sufficiently detailed and robust evidence base to enable the Council to:
- Plan positively, creatively and effectively to identify priority areas for improvement and to target the appropriate types of open space required;
  - Plan for the adequate provision of high quality, accessible open spaces to meet the needs of the local community, including the needs of future communities;
  - Ensure any accessible funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need;
  - Provide evidence to support on-site provision of facilities and/or developer contributions towards new facilities or the enhancement of existing facilities;
  - Outline and justify required open space facilities infrastructure and associated costings;
  - Review existing planning policies and provision standards;
  - Set new, locally derived open space, sport and recreation standards (which are mindful of the current and future population of the Borough) to be included in the Local Plan and to guide future S106/CIL/development management negotiations; and
  - Develop an Open Space Management Strategy for the parks service, based on updated evidence in relation to investment needs and sustaining service quality.

## National Planning Policy Context and Best Practice Guidance

- 1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March 2012, sets out in paragraph 73 that:

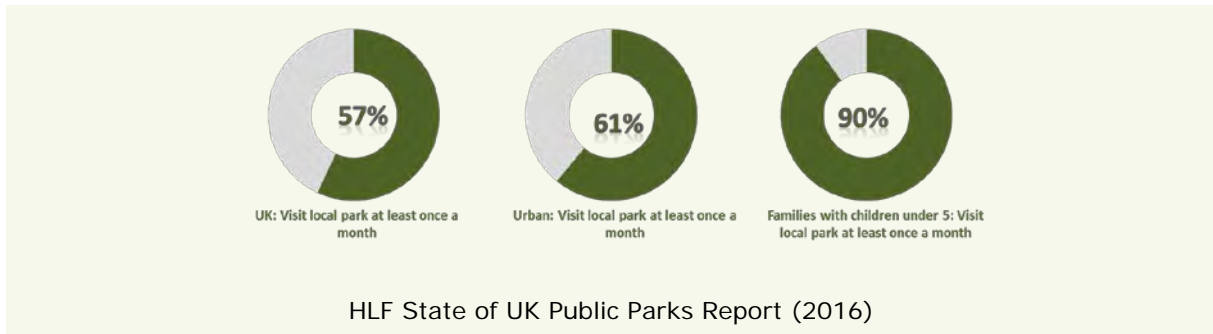
*"Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities, and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area."*

- 1.5 Although the NPPF has replaced PPG17, the PPG17 Companion Guide (Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17, ODPM, 2002) still provides a valuable and useful framework upon which to base assessments and subsequently local planning policies.

- 1.6 The National Planning Practice Guidance sets out that:

*"Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. Open space can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development."*

- 1.7 As the population increases, open spaces will come under increasing pressure, both for recreation and for other uses. This increases the significance of this study, especially as Council budgets come under increasing pressure affecting their ability to provide and maintain existing and new facilities.
- 1.8 Changing social and economic circumstances, changing work and leisure practices, more sophisticated consumer tastes and higher public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces. They have to serve more diverse communities and face competition from other land uses such as housing. Open spaces can promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector.



- 1.9 The provision of open spaces and recreation facilities is central to a sustainable and thriving community. It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality public realm can help promote an area as an attractive place to live, and can result in a number of wider benefits.

## Green Infrastructure and Open Spaces in London

- 1.10 There is increasing recognition of the value of green infrastructure and open spaces in delivering a range of benefits e.g. health, water quality, flood management, air quality, climate regulation and biodiversity. In 2014, the RTPI published 'Promoting Healthy Cities', which highlights the importance of green spaces in healthy cities.
- 1.11 However green infrastructure and open spaces are at risk from ongoing public funding cuts, which have significantly reduced funding for parks and open spaces management. There is therefore a risk to quality and quantity of the London open space network. In response, organisations are seeking more diverse and a wider range of partners to fund and deliver green infrastructure.
- 1.12 The recent (July 2017) Park Life report from the London Assembly Environment Committee has once again drawn attention to the importance of green spaces to Londoners<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.13 Key documents which promote the provision of green infrastructure in London include:
- New London Plan (Consultation Draft December 2017).
  - Natural Capital Account for London.
  - London Environment Strategy.
  - The London Infrastructure Plan 2050.
  - Enabling Infrastructure: Green Energy, Water and Waste Infrastructure to 2050.
  - All London Green Grid (ALGG) - Supplementary Guidance to the London Plan. Waltham Forest falls into two Green Grid Areas (GGAs): 1. Lee Valley and Finchley Ridge and 2. River Roding and Epping Forest.
- 1.14 Key planning guidance and best practice documents that have been considered in this study include:
- Mayor of London's Supplementary Planning Guidance Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation, 2012.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/environment\\_committee\\_-\\_park\\_life\\_report.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/environment_committee_-_park_life_report.pdf)

- Mayor of London (in association with CABI) GLA open space strategies best practice guidance, 2008.

1.15 Additional documents referred to include:

- Natural England: 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, 2010.
- Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard, 2015.
- National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.

## Waltham Forest Open Space Context

- 1.16 Waltham Forest is one of the Olympic Boroughs and sits within the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area identified within the London Plan. Part of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is in the south west of the borough; the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games provided unrivalled prospects for sport, culture, employment and business growth for the borough's residents and businesses.
- 1.17 The population of Waltham Forest has grown by 13,000 since the 2011 census (ONS, 2011). A trend of population growth is expected to continue.
- 1.18 31% of land in Waltham Forest is open space, largely due to significant areas of Epping Forest and Lee Valley Regional Park that fall within the borough. In addition, large areas of the borough are designated as either Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land.
- 1.19 The *Open Spaces Strategy 2010* (London Borough of Waltham Forest, 2010) identified 223 open spaces; 117 of which had unrestricted public access. The Strategy noted the dominance of natural and semi-natural green space as a result of Lee Valley Regional Park and Epping Forest as well as the absence of any Metropolitan or District Parks.
- 1.20 In the Strategy, six parks were identified as Premier Parks, benefiting from the presence of park keepers based on site during opening hours. The six Premier Parks are:
- Abbots Park
  - Coronation gardens
  - Langthorne Park
  - Lloyd & Aveling Park
  - Memorial Park
  - Ridgeway Park
- 1.21 It was decided in 2015 that due to a shortage of Premier Parks in the area, Leyton Jubilee should be added to the list of Premier Parks.
- 1.22 In 2010, Waltham Forest had two Green Flag Award winning open spaces; Coronation Park and Langthorne Park. Today Waltham Forest has three Green Flag Award winning open spaces; Lloyd Park, Leyton Jubilee Park, Ridgeway Park. Leyton Jubilee Park and Ridgeway Park won Green Flag Awards in 2017. Lloyd Park has won a Green Flag Award every year since restoration was completed in 2012 after funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund (Green Flag Award, 2016). Epping Forest also holds a Green Flag Award.
- 1.23 Waltham Forest Council's Authority Monitoring Report, assesses the performance and effect of policies in the Waltham Forest Local Plan. The Council's 2015 AMR states that just one open space was entered and awarded a Green Flag Award due to a 'lack of resources' in that year. However this trend was reversed in 2017 with three successful entries.
- 1.24 In 2010, the open space provision standard in Waltham Forest was 1.6 ha per 1000 population (London Borough of Waltham Forest, 2010). In 2010, the borough achieved this standard, however at ward level there were deficiencies in some high density areas such as Cann Hall, Cathall, Grove Green, Leyton, Leytonstone, Hoe Street and William Morris, and even some less densely populated areas including Chapel End, Valley and Endlebury (Waltham Forest Council, 2010).

- 1.25 The Waltham Forest Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted March 2012. Policy CS5 on 'Enhancing Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity' indicates that the Council will endeavour to protect and enhance green infrastructure and biodiversity and to maximise access:
- to open spaces across the Borough by improving the quality of, and access to, open spaces especially in areas of deficiency; and
  - ensuring the adequate provision and efficient use of allotments and other spaces on which to grow food and plants.
- 1.26 Policy CS13 on 'Promoting Health and Well-Being' outlines the Council's aim to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities by:
- improving both pedestrian and cycle access to green and open spaces, particularly the Olympic Park, Lee Valley Regional Park and Epping Forest; and
  - improving access to the Borough's health facilities and services, leisure and sports and recreation facilities whilst ensuring they are accessible by all.
- 1.27 The Lee Valley *Park Plan* (Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, 2000) and the Lee Valley *Park Development Framework* (Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, 2010) contain the current plan proposals for Lee Valley Regional Park including maintaining a high quality space for sports and recreation facilities and encouraging use by the local community. The *Lower Lea Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework* (Greater London Authority, 2007) provides strategic planning guidance for the Lower Lea Valley.
- 1.28 Epping Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is partially within the London Borough of Waltham Forest; it also falls within Epping Forest District and the London Borough of Redbridge.
- 1.29 Open spaces and the Green Belt within Waltham Forest contribute significantly to its unique identity, social and economic well-being and quality of life. People's perception and use of open space often depends not only on it being available, but about whether it meets their needs and expectations.
- 1.30 The Borough's rich cultural heritage has resulted in the Borough been named the London Borough of Culture 2019; resulting £1.35 million in funding.
- 1.31 Between 2010 and 2017, the borough has seen significant investment in open spaces including the restoration of Lloyd and Aveling Park in 2012, the creation of a new sport complex at Ive Farm in Leyton and the delivery of a series of play area improvement projects across the borough.
- 1.32 A thorough and up-to-date understanding of the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space in the borough is essential to plan positively for the future provision of a high quality open space network in Waltham Forest.

## Structure of this report

- 1.33 The remainder of this report is set out as follows:
- **Chapter 2** Understanding the need for open space: this section identifies the key issues and opportunities for the borough relating to current population patterns, the socio-economic deprivation index, demographic indicators, and future development and population forecasts. This section also examines the Council in terms of air quality, biodiversity, flood risk, cultural heritage and access to private gardens.
  - **Chapter 3** Methodology: this section describes the approach taken to undertake this assessment.
  - **Chapter 4** Quantity and accessibility assessment: this section describes the process undertaken to update the existing baseline open space dataset; including the approach to mapping multi-functional spaces. This section goes on to present detailed quantitative analysis of the current provision of open space, play, allotment and sports provision in the Borough.

- **Chapter 5** Quality and value assessment: presents the findings of the quality and value audit undertaken in Autumn 2017. The findings are structured according to the Green Flag Award themes to present a picture of the overall condition of publicly accessible open space in the Borough.
- **Chapter 6** Developing open space standards: this section sets out the proposed local open space standards derived from the evidence presented in earlier sections.
- **Chapter 7** Neighbourhood area profiles: this section considers the growth scenarios being considered by the Council at Neighbourhood Area level, identifying priority areas of concern with respect to open space provision now and in the future.
- **Chapter 8** Conclusions and recommendations: sets out the main findings from this study and makes recommendations for the development of a parks and open spaces strategy.





A gravel path lined with young trees in a park setting. The path is made of light-colored gravel and runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the center right. On the left side of the path, there is a row of young, green trees supported by stakes. On the right side, there is a larger, mature tree with dense green foliage. In the foreground on the right, there is a small, cylindrical, light-colored trash can. The background shows a grassy area and more trees, suggesting a park or campus environment. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast on the path and grass.

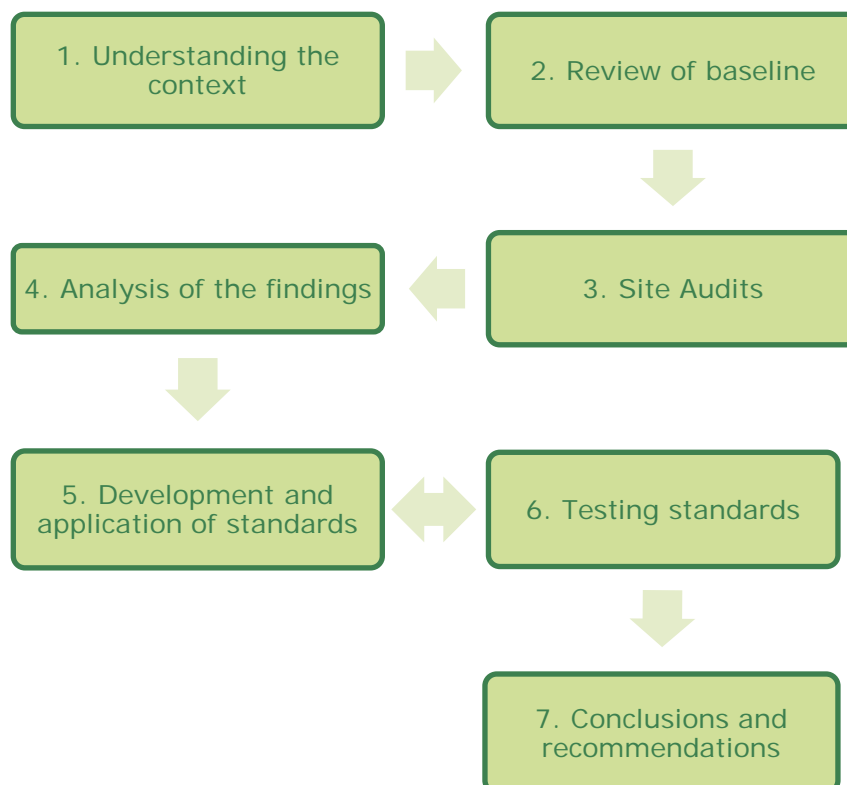
2

# Methodology



## 2 Methodology

- 2.1 The method for this assessment reflects the requirements of the NPPF and draws on the quality evaluation guidelines developed through the Green Flag Award initiative. The method is informed by the Mayor's Guidance on the preparation of open space studies. The approach to this work incorporates seven steps, which are outlined in the diagram below. Public consultation has not been undertaken to inform this study, but this is planned for later in the local plan update process.

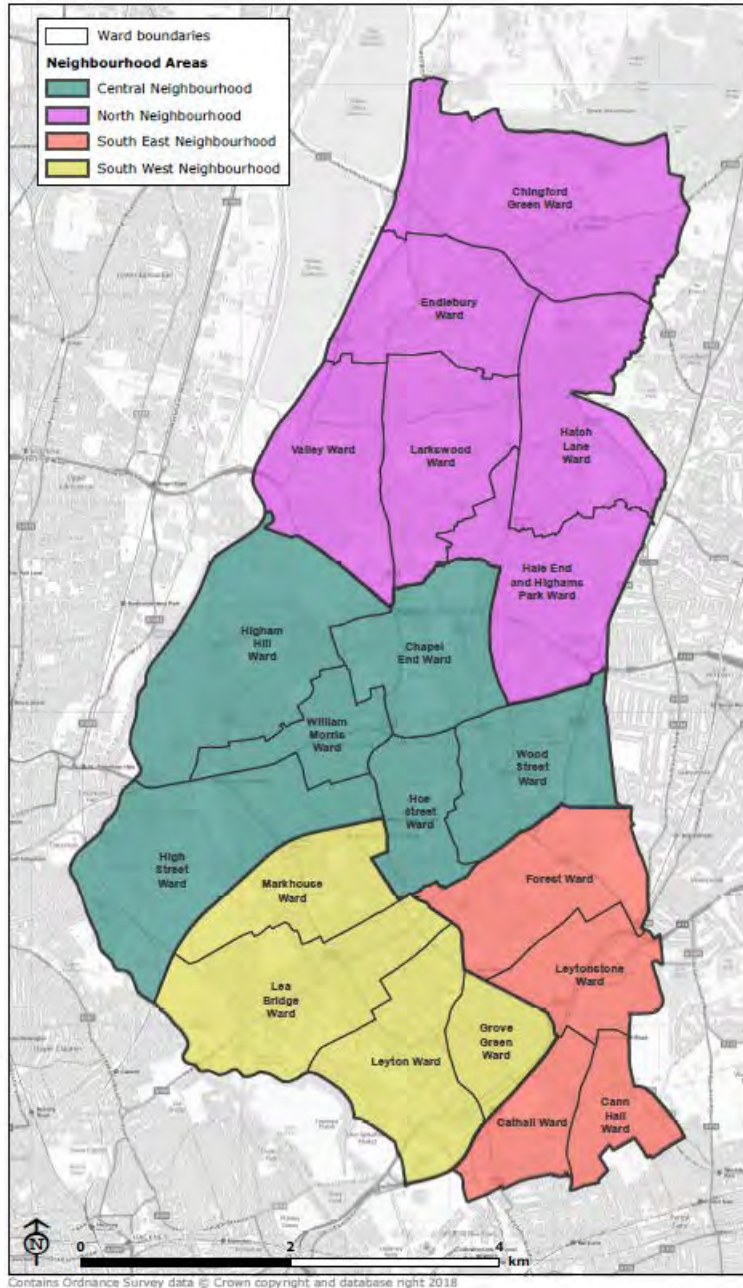


### Step 1: Understanding the context

- 2.2 The 'need' for open space was assessed by reviewing current population patterns, the socio-economic deprivation index, demographic indicators, and future development and population forecasts.
- 2.3 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 1**).
- 2.4 In addition to the indicators above, a range of contextual data sources have been reviewed in order to gain a better understanding of the borough in terms of:
- Flooding
  - Air quality
  - Cultural heritage and landscape
  - Biodiversity
  - Gardens and street trees

- 2.5 The Mayor’s guidance 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, and a recommendation from this study will be to consult on the proposed standards.
- 2.6 For the purposes of this assessment, the Borough has been divided into four Neighbourhood Areas as shown in **Figure 2.1**.

**Figure 2.1: Neighbourhood Areas used for analysis**



## Step 2: Review of baseline

- 2.7 Data from the 2010 Open Space Strategy was made available as a GIS layer. However, the dataset has not been maintained since the 2010 strategy was undertaken. In order to ensure that the review of the Local Plan is based on up-to-date evidence, a full review of this GIS dataset was required. The review included an assessment of the existing data against aerial photography and MasterMap data, comparison with OS MasterMap Greenspace data and a meeting with

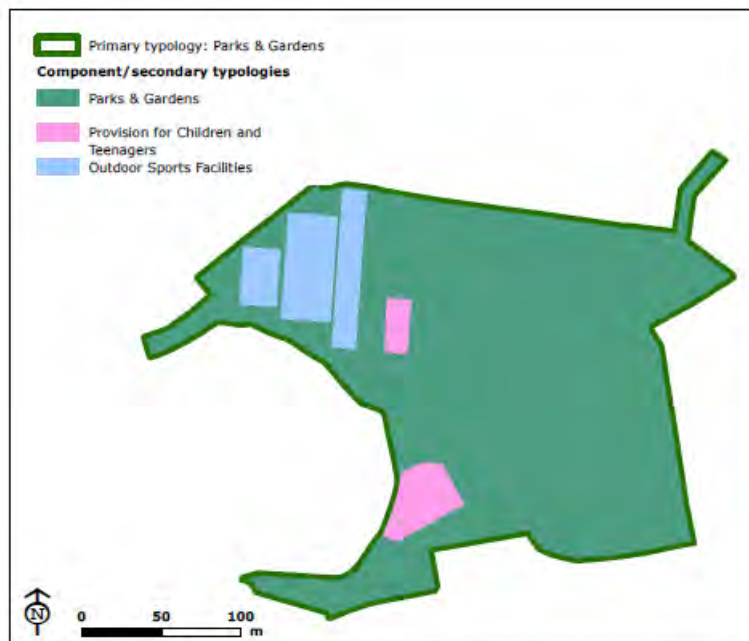
Waltham Forest Parks' Management team members. Typologies were reviewed based on aerial photography and local knowledge.

2.8 As part of the review, consideration was given to the multifunctional nature of open spaces. Although each site has been assigned a primary typology (see Step 4), sites have been 'broken up' into secondary typologies where relevant. This includes identifying (in the mapping), parts of sites that have the following functions:

- provision for children and teenagers (including Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs));
- outdoor sports facilities (such as playing pitches, courts etc);
- large areas of natural and semi-natural green space; and
- allotments and community gardens.

2.9 An example of this approach to mapping is illustrated in **Figure 2.2** for Ridgeway Park.

**Figure 2.2: Approach to mapping multi-functional spaces**



### Step 3: Site audits

2.10 An audit of current provision was undertaken gathering detailed information on all publicly accessible open spaces in Waltham Forest. In order to prioritise audit efforts, the following typologies were not audited:

- Outdoor sports facilities as these have recently been evaluated as part of the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy;
- Allotments, community gardens and city farms as access is usually restricted to members, and the priority for the audit was publicly accessible open space; and
- Regional parks (Lee Valley Regional Park and Epping Forest).

2.11 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 standards to be established, and finally measuring the success of sites against those standards. A GIS-linked database (a geodatabase) was created to capture and collate survey data.

- 2.12 The analysis presented in this report focuses on **102 sites** that do not fall into the above categories (See **Section 4**). The audit form and associated scoring system can be found in **Appendix 1** and detailed audit forms can be found in **Appendix 2**.

## Step 4: Analysis of findings

- 2.13 An assessment of the existing quantity of provision has been provided for the whole of the borough as well as an assessment for each Neighbourhood Area. This was based on an amount of open space per 1,000 head of population.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 The quantity figures are presented and analysed, alongside information on the existing and future population within the borough. This highlights the relative provision in each Neighbourhood Area and establishes whether there is a spatial variance in provision across the 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 4**).

### Categorisation of sites

#### *Open space typologies*

- 2.16 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 have been used to develop provision standards by typology for Waltham Forest.
- 2.17 The open space categories are set out in **Table 2.1** below, and shown on **Figure 3.1**. These reflect the Mayor of London's guidance on Open Space Strategies<sup>2</sup>. 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 mapped (see Step 2) and are taken into account when analysing each of the primary typologies.

**Table 2.1: 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 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.

<sup>2</sup> CABE Space/Mayor of London (2009) Open Space Strategies – Best Practice Guidance

Type of open space	Primary purpose
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 and Teenagers	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.

- 2.18 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).
- 2.19 This study includes brief descriptions of the types of sports facilities found within other open spaces. The findings of the Playing Pitch Assessment have also been taken into account in considering the recommendations arising from this study.

#### *The London open space hierarchy*

- 2.20 It is also 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 Waltham Forest, it was considered that hierarchical levels identified in the London Mayor's Guidance for open space strategies (and the New London Plan Consultation draft) are appropriate for the Borough. Small sites and Pocket parks have been combined into a 'small local sites' level as shown below:
- 1 Regional Parks (400ha+)
  - 2 Metropolitan sites (60-400ha)
  - 3 District sites (20-60ha)
  - 4 Local sites (2-20ha)
  - 5 Small local sites (<2ha)
  - 6 Linear open spaces (variable size)<sup>3</sup>

## Step 5: Development and application of standards

- 2.21 This step analysed the information from the site audits to develop locally appropriate standards for the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of open space in Waltham Forest (See **Sections 5 and 6**).
- 2.22 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 of London's Open Space Strategies: Best practice guidance<sup>4</sup> (and the New London Plan Consultation draft). This mapping exercise highlighted the extent to which parts of Waltham Forest are deficient in access to public open space. Consideration was given to major barriers that might influence the catchments and sites beyond the boundary that are being used by residents.
- 2.23 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.

<sup>3</sup> Linear open spaces are the same as those identified as the Green Corridor typology in this study.

<sup>4</sup> The Mayor of London/CABE Space, 2008. Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance. Greater London Authority: London

- 2.24 For each typology and level of the hierarchy, an audit form was completed for a theoretical open space, setting out the range of features that should be expected in a good value site and the expected condition for a good quality site.
- 2.25 Using the ideal of a known 'good quality' and 'well valued' site within the borough, and an expectation of what facilities local residents may reasonably expect within a certain type of site, a 'quality standard' and a 'value standard' were proposed.
- 2.26 The two scores were compared and this formed the basis of a locally appropriate quality and value standard.
- 2.27 The range of scores was mapped so that it is possible to identify any areas of the 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.
- 2.28 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.
- 2.29 As an additional layer of information to inform the prioritisation exercise, sites were assessed in terms of the levels of deprivation experienced in their 'catchment'. The following indicators were assessed for each site:
- Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation.
  - Living Environment Deprivation.
  - Income Deprivation.
  - Health and disability deprivation.

## Step 6: Testing standards

- 2.30 In order to test the emerging standards and develop recommendations for a future strategy, the findings were assessed against the areas identified for growth in the emerging Local Plan (See **Section 7**).

## Step 7: Conclusions and recommendations

- 2.31 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 (See **Section 8**).
- 2.32 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

# Understanding the need for open space





### 3 Understanding the need for open space

3.1 This section highlights a number of indicators and key issues of relevance for this assessment.

#### Current and future population

3.2 **Table 3.1** shows the current and future population projections for Waltham Forest up to 2033 based on the GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017). As can be seen in the table, the borough is expecting significant population growth over this period.

**Table 3.1: Current and future population (GLA Interim 2015-based projections)**

Neighbourhood area	2011 population	2017 population projection (rounded)	2033 population projection (rounded)	% increase 2017 to 2033
Central Neighbourhood	82,666	90,800	107,900	30%
North Neighbourhood	66,730	70,700	71,900	8%
South East Neighbourhood	52,403	53,900	61,100	17%
South West Neighbourhood	58,597	63,500	80,400	37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>260,397</b>	<b>278,800</b>	<b>321,200</b>	<b>23%</b>

3.3 During the preparation of this study, further population projections were released by the GLA in November 2017. These revised figures are shown in **Table 3.2**.

**Table 3.2: Current and future population (GLA 2016-based ward population projections)**

Neighbourhood area	2011 population	2017 population projection (rounded)	2033 population projection (rounded)	% increase 2017 to 2033
Central Neighbourhood	82,667	91,500	101,000	10%
North Neighbourhood	66,730	70,700	74,900	6%
South East Neighbourhood	52,404	54,200	57,900	7%
South West Neighbourhood	58,597	63,700	75,000	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>260,398</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>308,800</b>	<b>10%</b>

3.4 It is clear that there are discrepancies between the population forecasts. The outputs of the latest housing-led scenario (as shown in **Table 3.2**) are highly conservative in the context of the emerging requirements of the Draft London Plan, and are reflective of the Council not yet having identified all of the required housing sites. An Urban Capacity study has been commissioned to address this, and it is anticipated that once sites have been identified, the GLA population modelling will revert to the higher forecast numbers.

3.5 This assessment has considered both the 2015 and 2016 projections in order to identify the future levels of provision at each end of the spectrum.

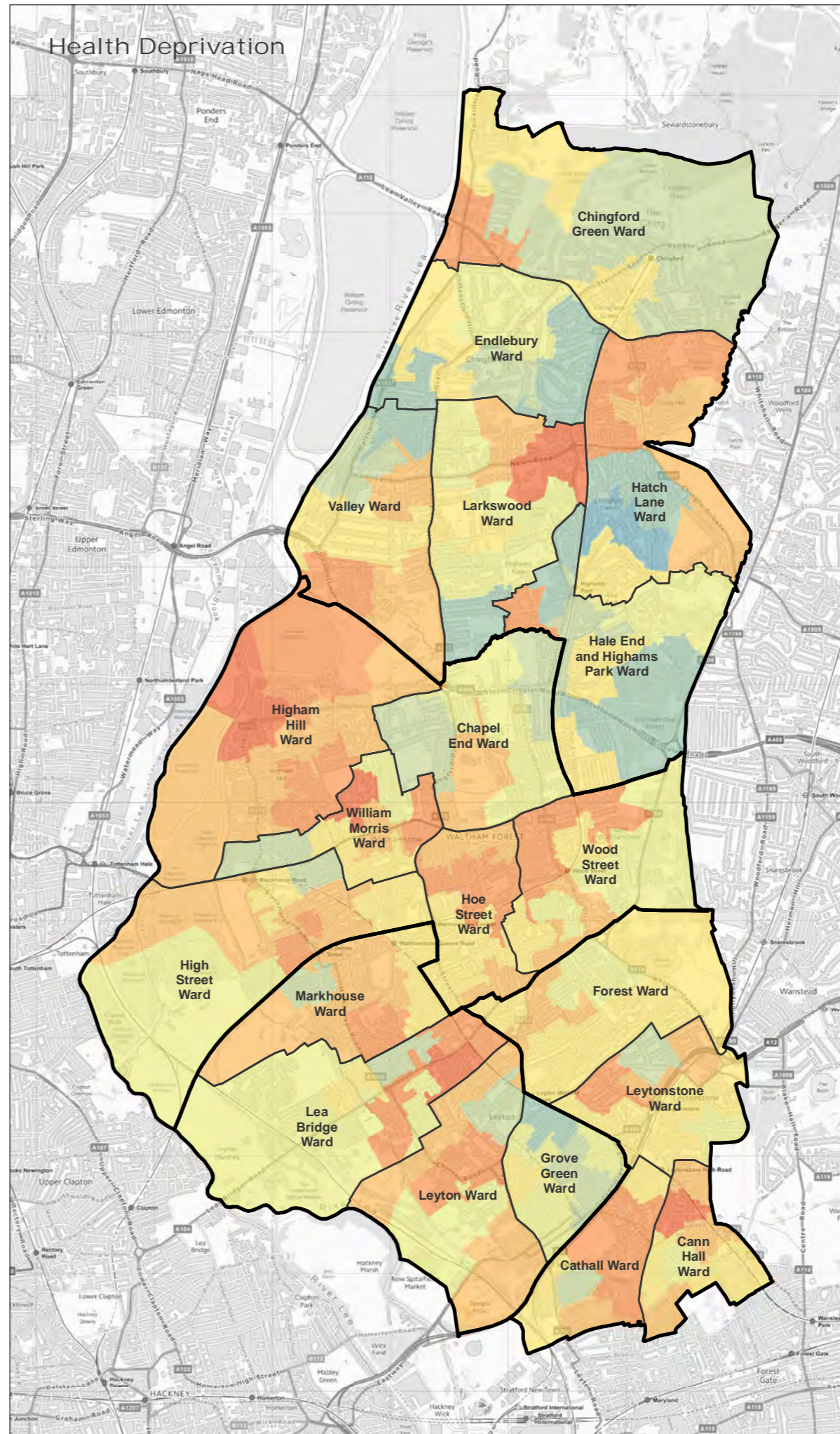
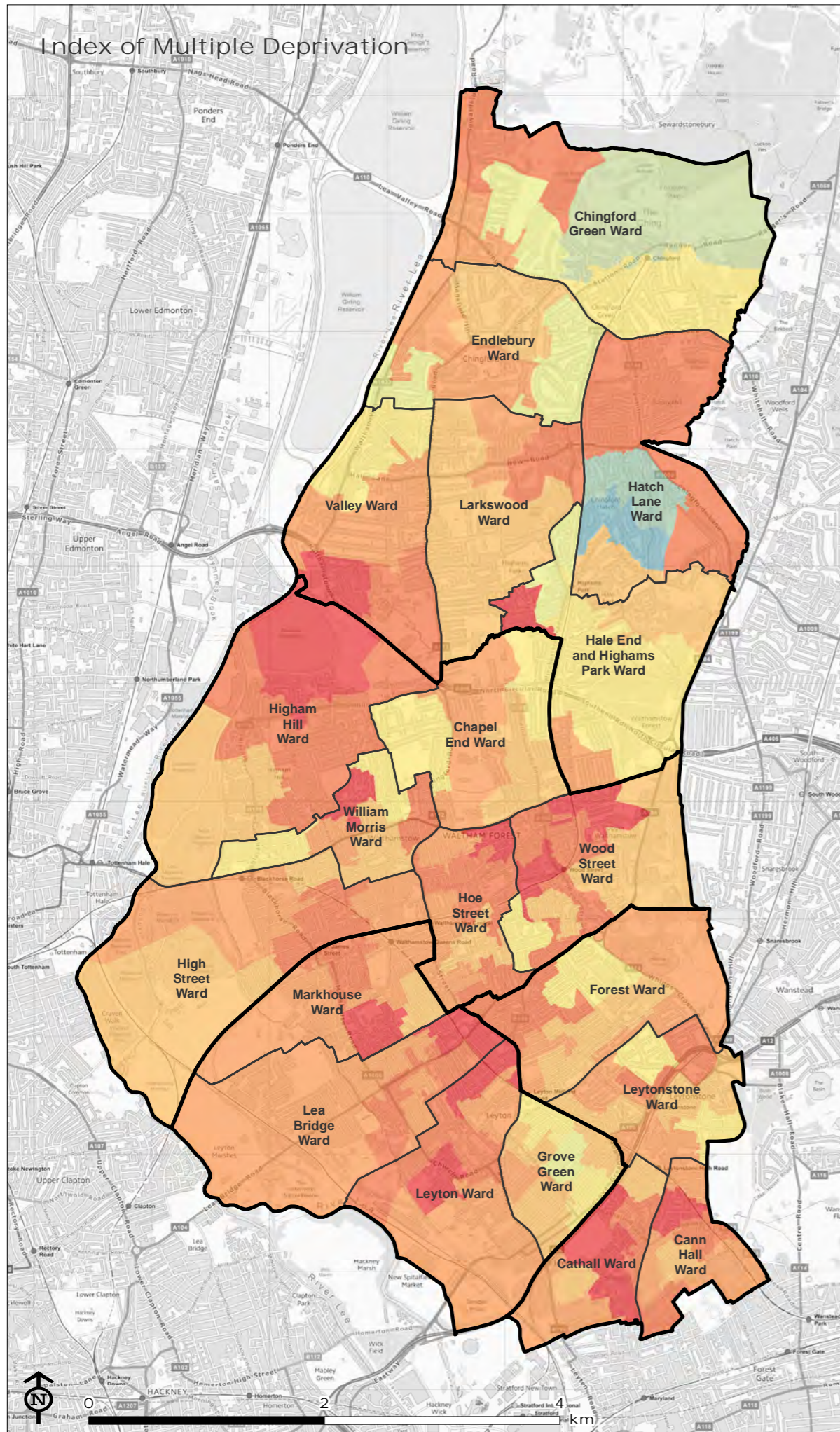
- 3.6 The borough is one of the most diverse in the country with 48% of residents coming from a minority ethnic background. The median age of residents is 34 years compared to the UK average of 40 years.<sup>5</sup>

### Socio-economic deprivation

- 3.7 The Indices of Deprivation 2015 provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven different domains of deprivation. The Index of Multiple Deprivation, commonly known as the IMD, is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in England, combining information from seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. **Figures 3.1 and 3.2** show IMD data for the borough as well as the following domains: Health and Disability, Living Environment and Barriers to Housing and Services.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://walthamforest.gov.uk/content/statistics-about-borough>



**Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review**

Figure 3.1: IMD and health deprivation

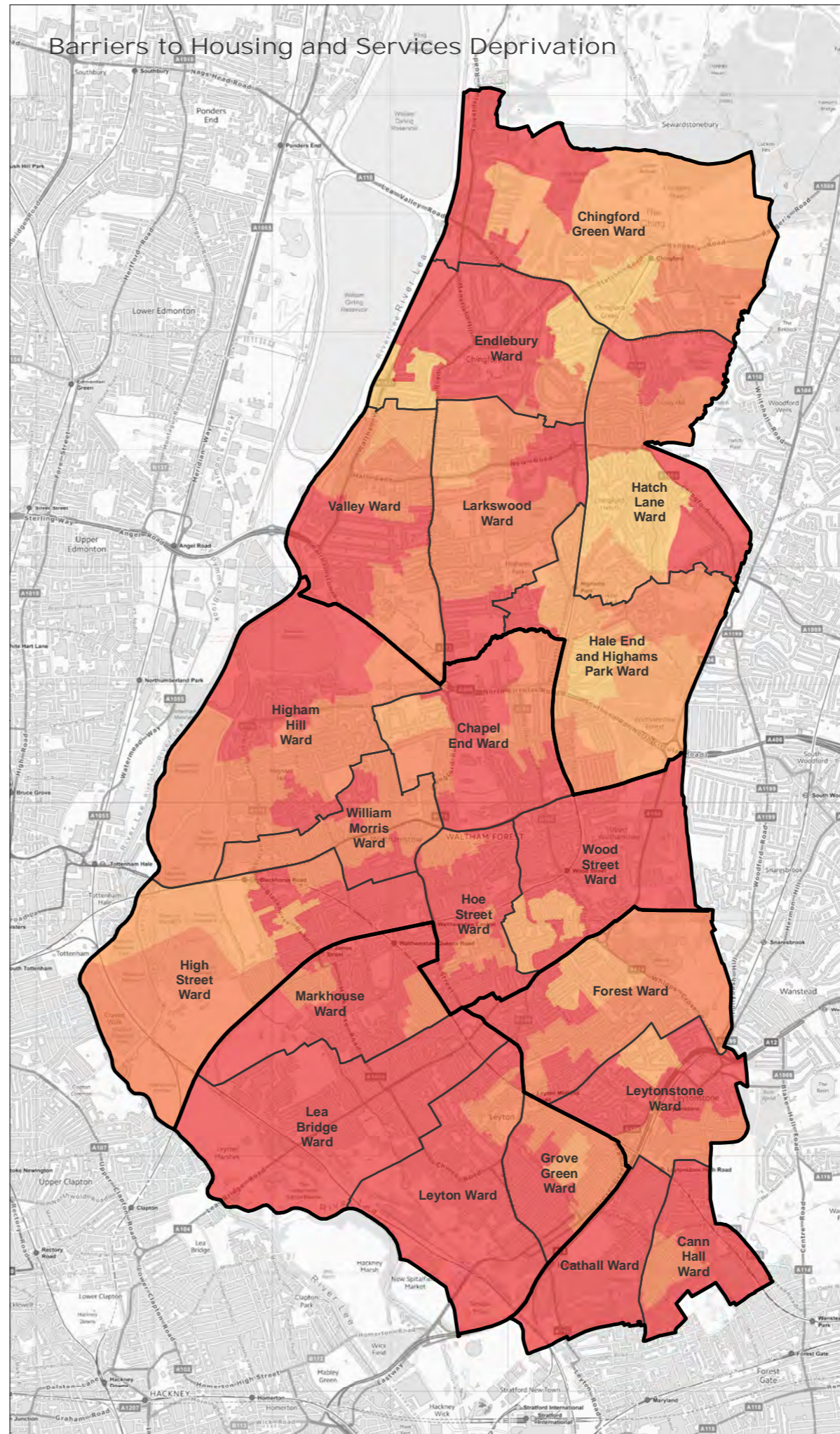
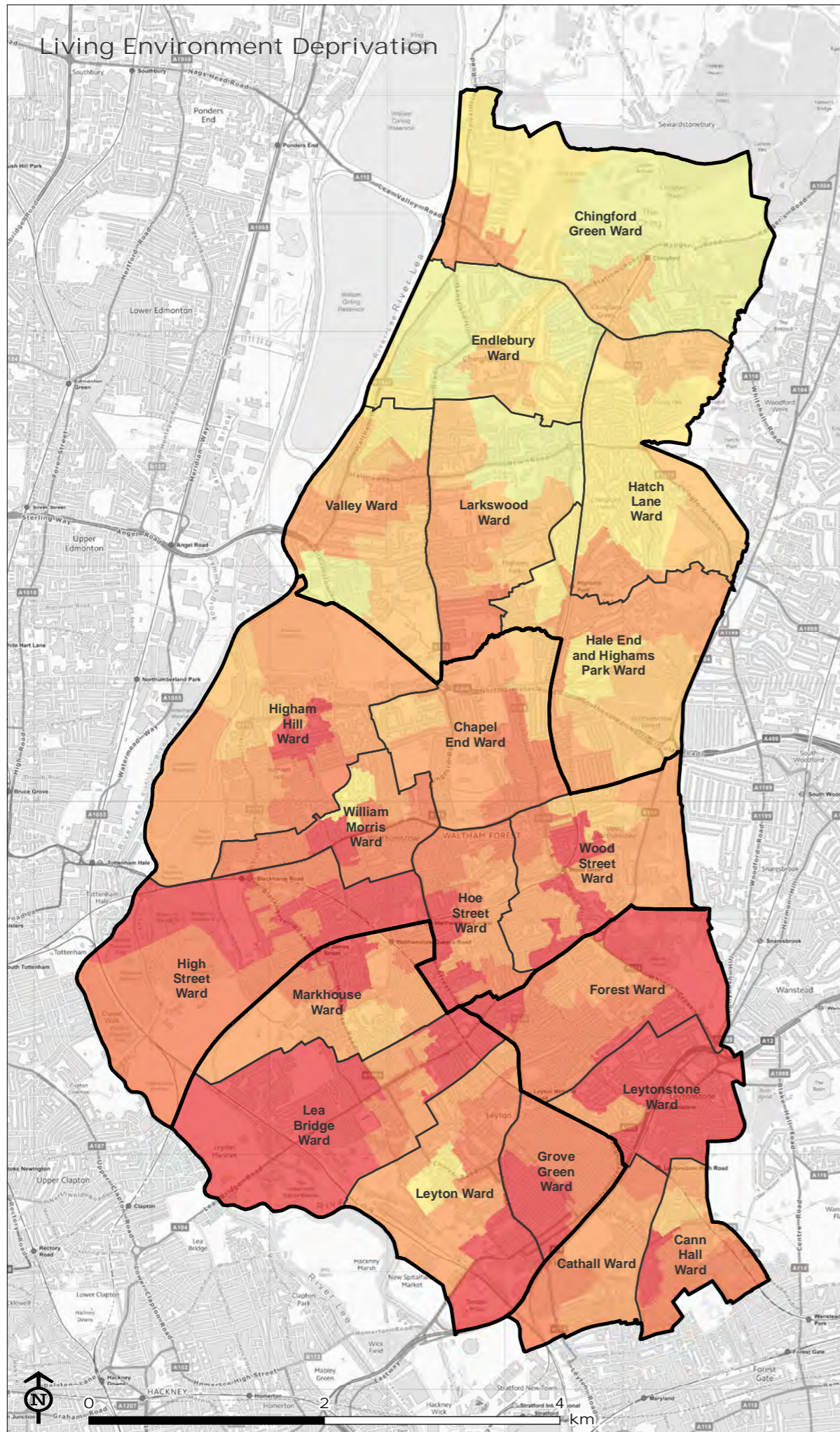
Analysis Areas  
 Ward boundaries

Deprivation 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: 1:45,000





**Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review**

Figure 3.2: Living environment deprivation and barriers to housing and services

Analysis Areas  
 Ward boundaries

Deprivation 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: 1:45,000



3.8 Key issues of relevance highlighted by the Borough's Resident Insight & Performance Team include:

- Waltham Forest has improved its relative ranking as 15th most deprived local authority out of 326 in England in 2010 to 35th most deprived in 2015.
- Relative to other London boroughs, the improvement has been less noticeable, from 6th most deprived to 7th most deprived out of 33 London Boroughs.
- The borough has become less polarised in terms of the North/South divide.
- Waltham Forest is highly deprived (among 10% most deprived nationally) on three of the seven domains of deprivation: Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services; and Living Environment.
- The majority of the borough faces significant barriers due to issues with overcrowding and housing affordability.
- The high levels of deprivation in the borough related to living environment are mainly to do with the outdoors factors such as air quality and road traffic accidents.
- 95% of Waltham Forest residents live in areas that are ranked as the most deprived half of the country, while only 5% live in the least deprived half.

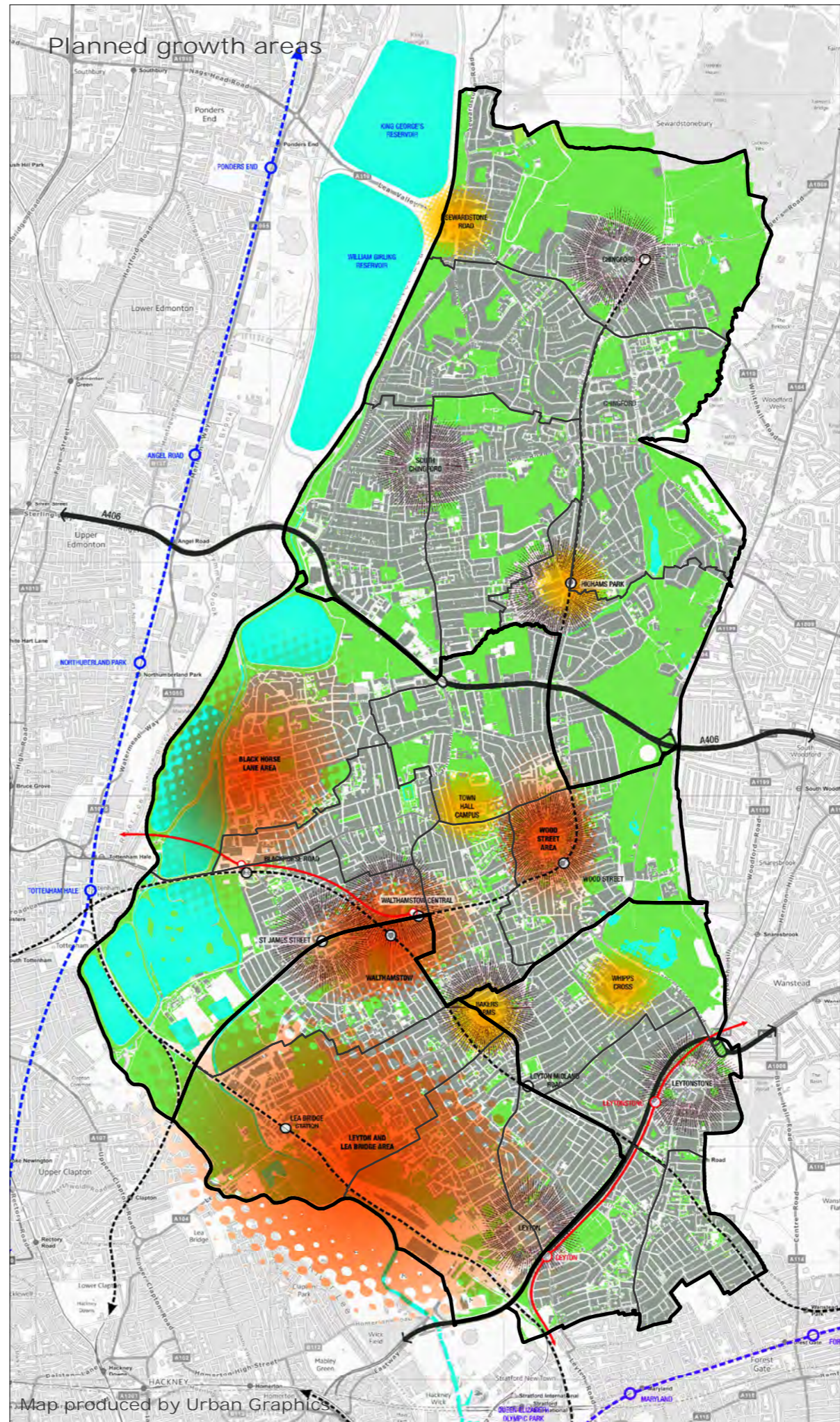
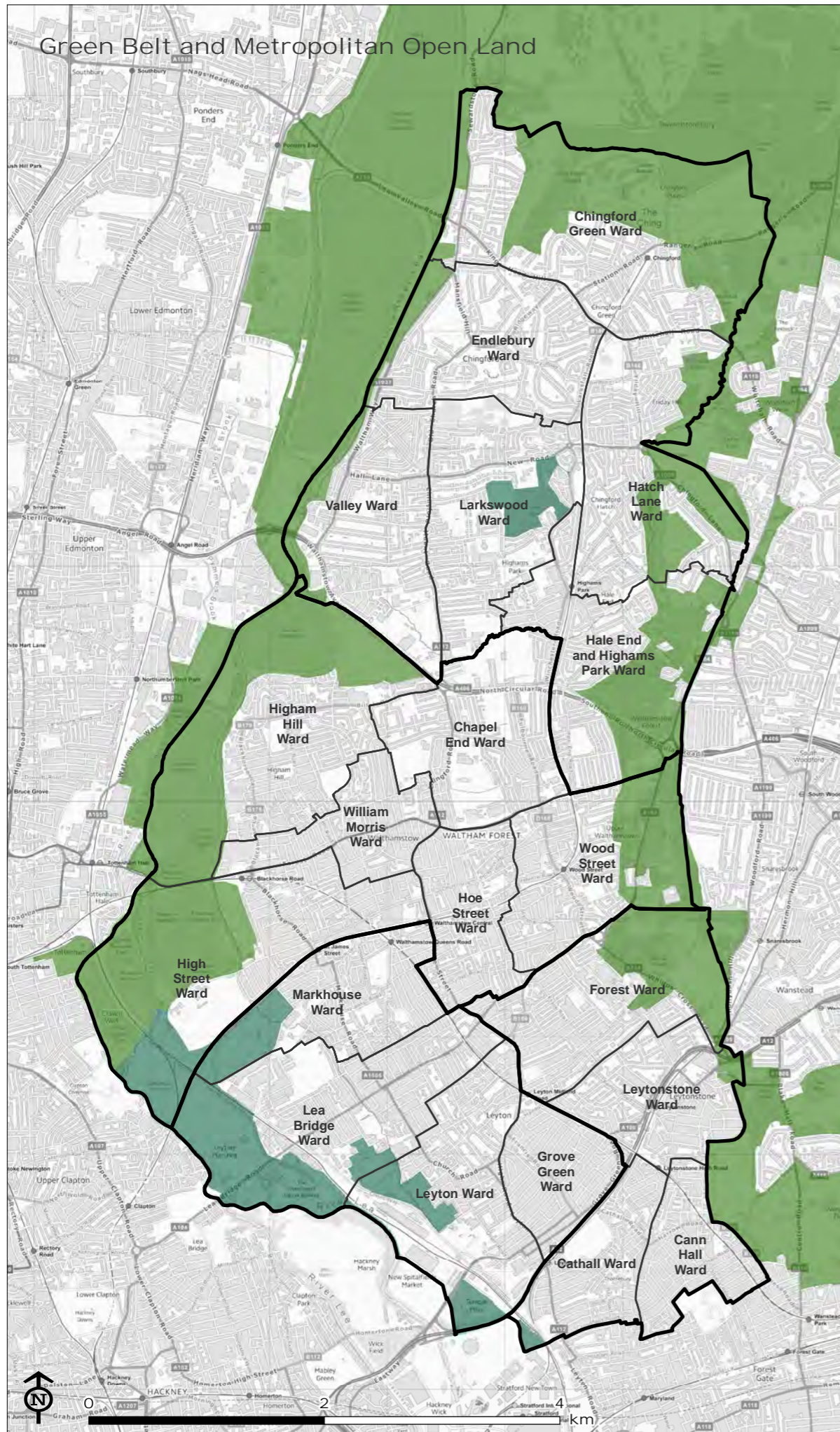
#### Planning designations and planned growth

3.9 As shown in **Figure 3.3**, large areas of the borough are designated as Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land. **Figure 3.3** additionally shows the current growth strategy for the borough. This combined approach to deliver growth encompasses the retention of Key Growth Areas and consideration of where further growth can be accommodated in Town Centres and new Growth Hubs.

3.10 This approach is intended to allow wider distribution of development areas across the borough. Linkages between Key Growth Areas, Town Centres and Growth Hubs would be enhanced, leading to a less fragmentary pattern of development.











**Waltham Forest  
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Figure 3.3: Planning designations and planned growth

-  Analysis Areas
-  Ward boundaries
-  Metropolitan Open Land
-  Green Belt

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000

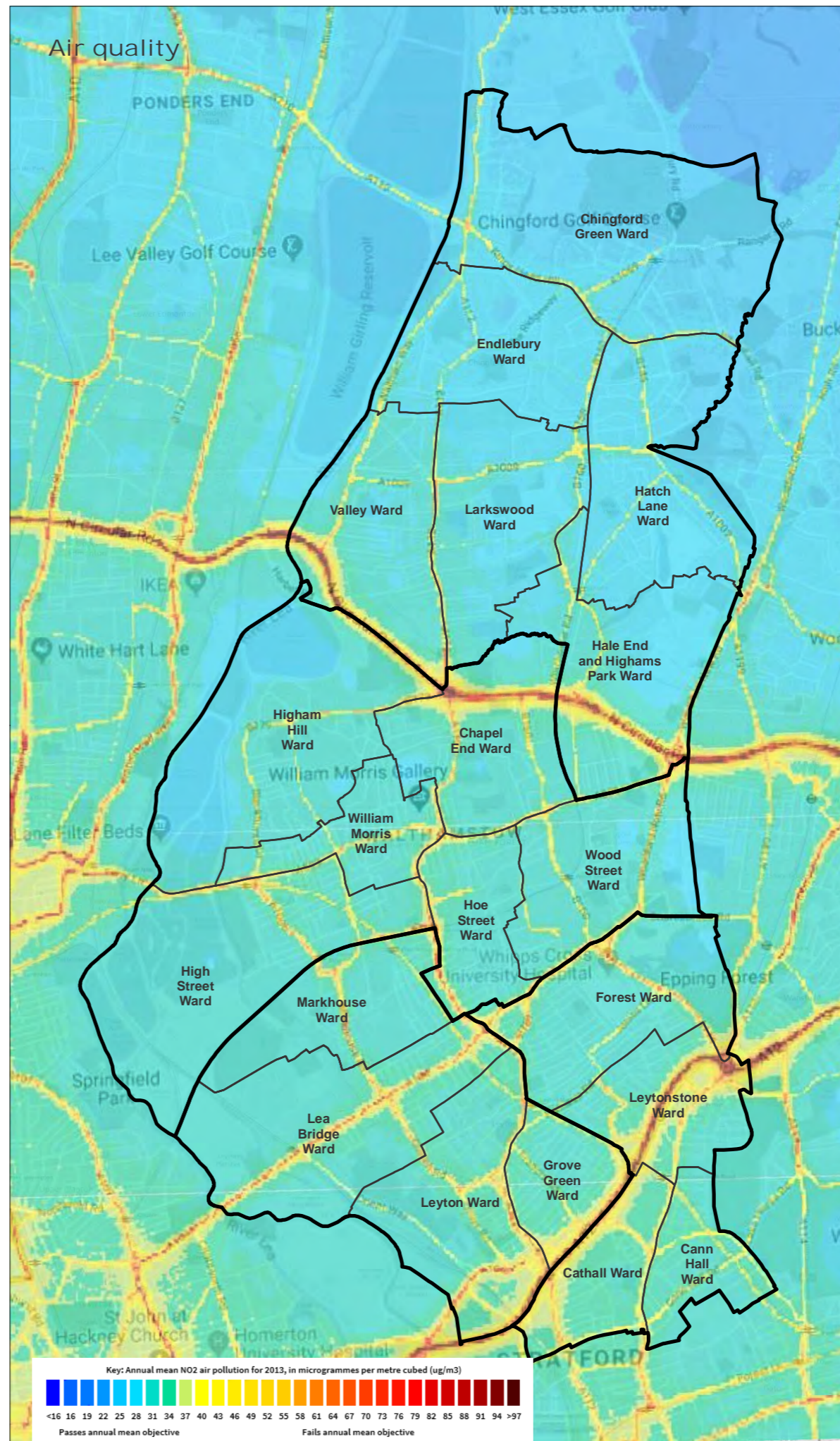
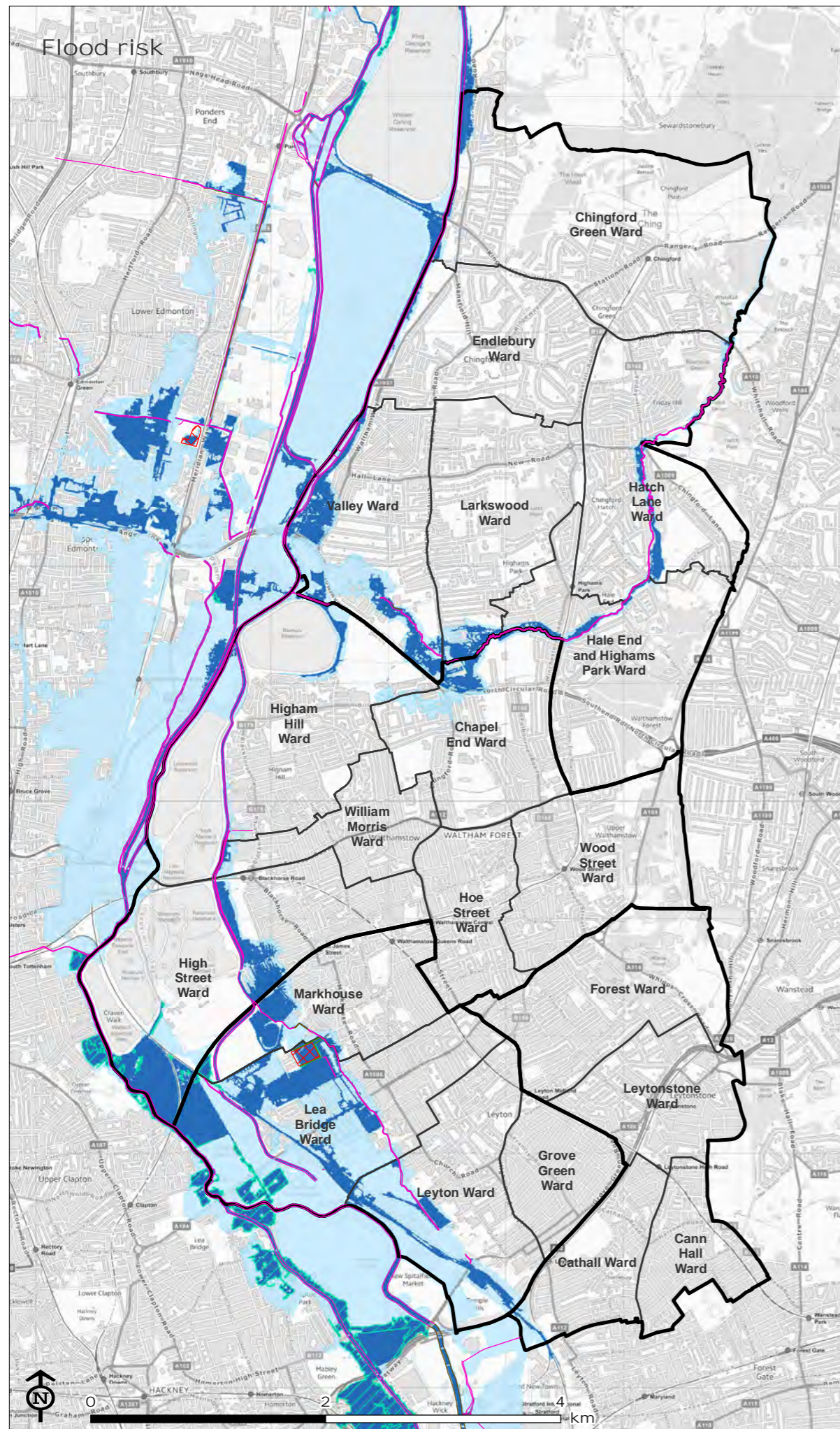




### Flooding and air quality

- 3.11 **Figure 3.4** shows areas of the borough at risk of flooding as well as the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) air pollution for the borough (in 2013).
- 3.12 The River Lea, the Lee Navigation as well as multiple tributaries which connect to these more sizeable waterbodies (including Pymmes Brook and Dagenham Brook) are located on the western edge of Waltham Forest. This western edge is also defined by the presence of a number of reservoirs including King George's Reservoir, William Girling Reservoir, Banbury Reservoir and the Walthamstow Reservoirs. The western edge of the borough is therefore bounded by areas of flood zone 2 and flood zone 3.
- 3.13 Areas of flood zone 2 and flood zone 3 are found within the borough itself around Banbury Reservoir, spreading to the east following the course of the River Ching. Some sections of the North Circular are at risk of flooding.
- 3.14 More significant areas of flood zone 2 and flood zone 3 are located in the south west of the borough, particularly Lea Bridge and Leyton wards. Much of the railway line through the west of Waltham Forest is within this larger area of flood risk. This area also takes in Walthamstow Marshes and Leyton Marshes along the route of the River Lea as well as parts of Leyton Jubilee Park.
- 3.15 Areas of higher ground have been established at many areas of higher flood risk to the west in particular as well as along the route of much of the Ching. Enfield Montagu Recreation Ground which is immediately west of the borough is identified as a flood storage area. Within the south west of the borough, Lee Valley Park has also been identified as a flood storage area.
- 3.16 The entire borough has been declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for the pollutants of NO<sub>2</sub> and respirable particles (PM10). These pollutants originate predominantly from road traffic. As such, the areas which display the highest concentrations of poor quality air are found along the busiest routes in Waltham Forest. The North Circular Road which cuts through the central portion of the borough from west to east as well as the A12 which is located towards the south eastern corner of the borough, have the poorest air quality in the borough.
- 3.17 The southern portion of the borough is more developed and contains more A-roads than the north of the borough, and as a result, the southern part of the borough has larger areas of poor air quality. The north eastern corner of Waltham Forest (around Epping Forest) benefits from better air quality than the rest of the borough due to less dense road infrastructure and the presence of Epping Forest.





Waltham Forest  
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Figure 3.4: Flood risk and air quality

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Flood risk**
- Flood zone 3
- Flood zone 2
- Areas benefitting from flood defences
- Flood storage areas
- Spatial Flood Defences**
- Embankment
- Flood gate
- High ground
- Wall

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





### Cultural heritage and biodiversity

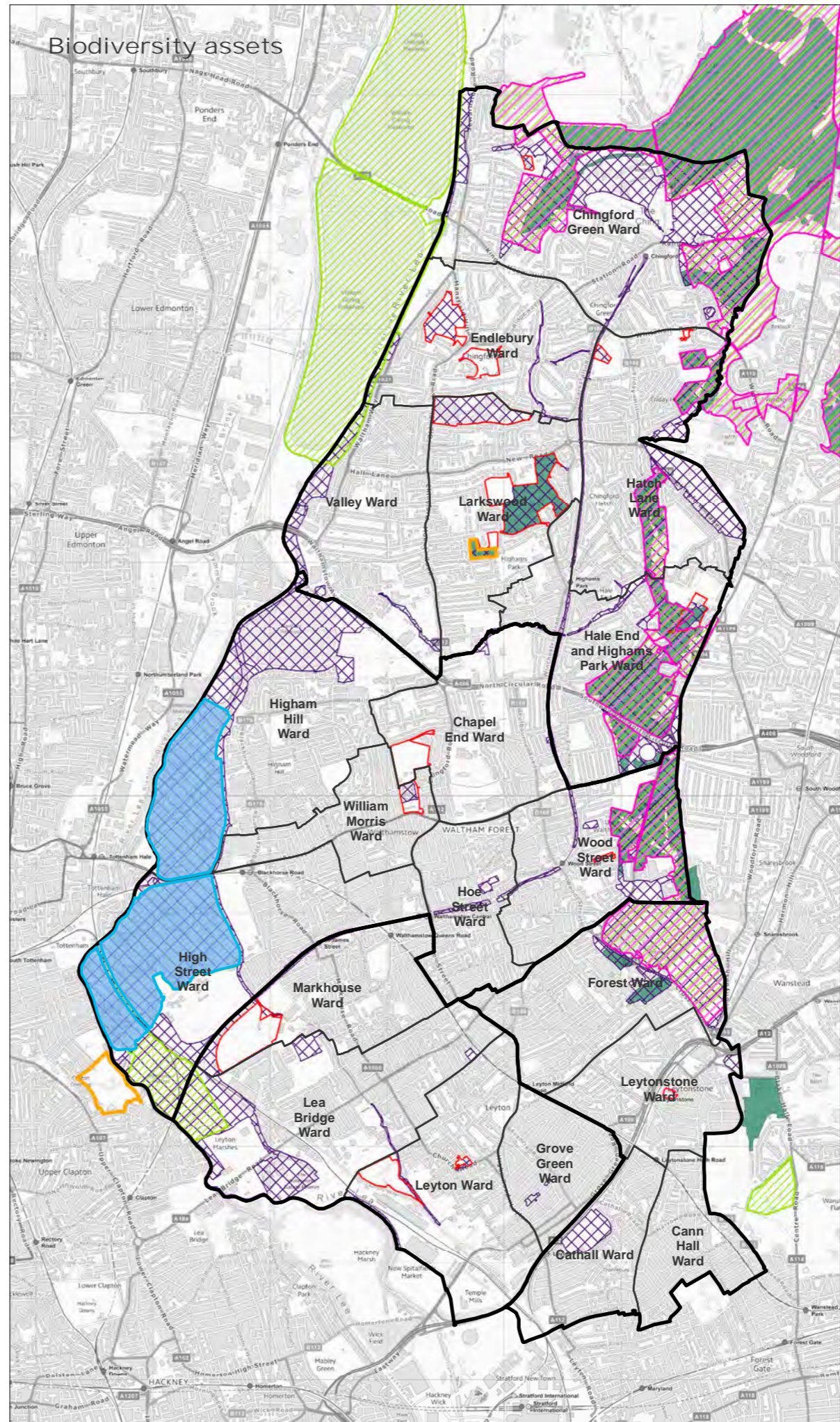
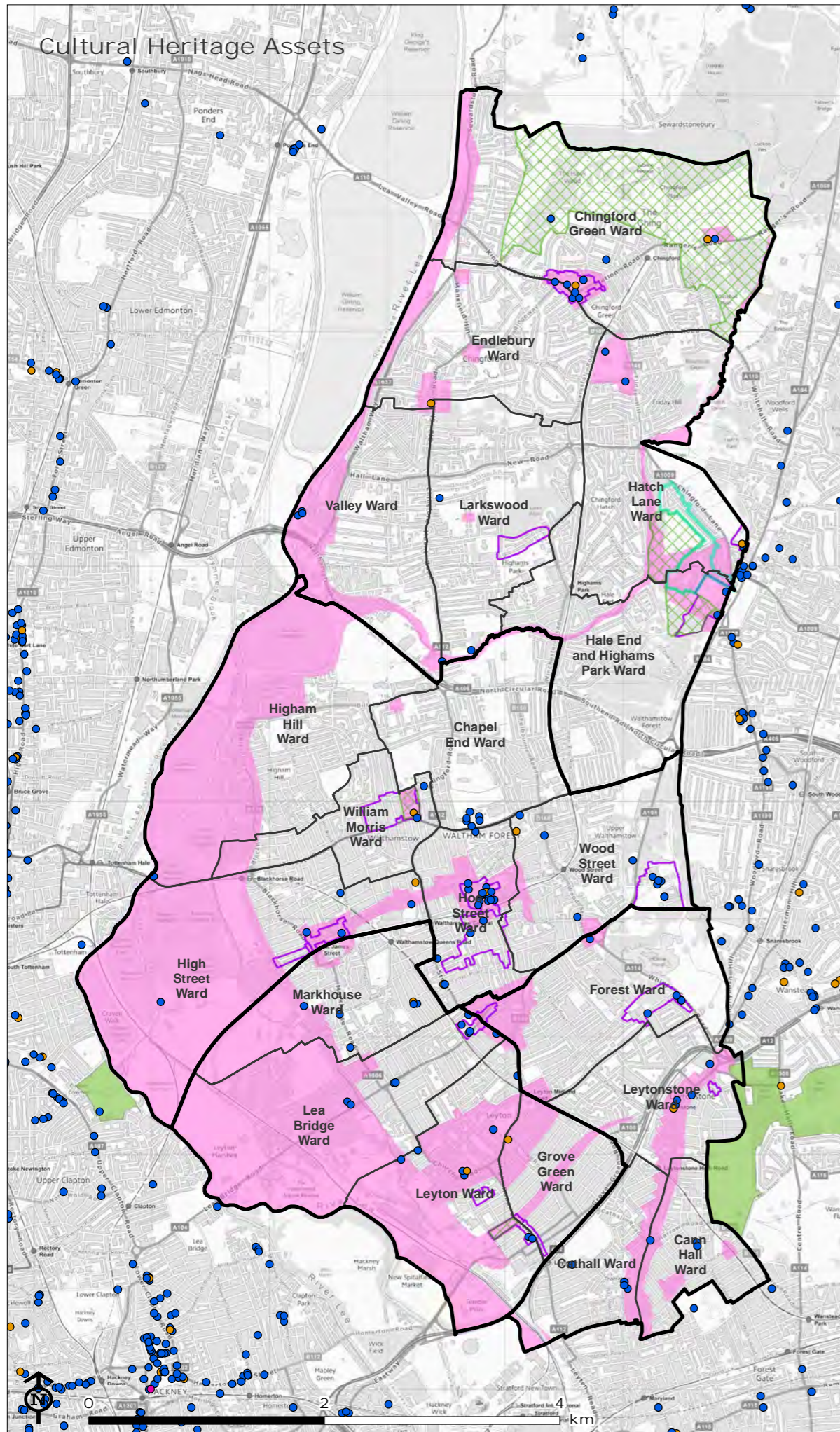
- 3.18 **Figure 3.5** shows a selection of cultural heritage and biodiversity assets in the borough. Listed Buildings in the borough are mainly concentrated around the town and district centres of Waltham Forest particularly at Walthamstow, Chingford North and Leytonstone as well as towards Leyton (to a lesser extent).
- 3.19 There are a number of Listed Buildings in close proximity to Walthamstow Town Centre including Grade II\* Parish Church of St Mary's and Grade II properties Walthamstow Museum, Walthamstow High School for Girls and Monoux Almshouses. To the north of the town centre a number of Grade II Listed buildings are centred around Walthamstow Town Hall.
- 3.20 At Chingford North district centre, the Church of St Peter and St Paul is a Grade II\* Listed Building by Station Road. Further Grade II Listed Buildings including Cabris Cottage, the Bull and Crown Public House and Chingford War Memorial are located in close proximity to this heritage asset.
- 3.21 Leyton district centre contains a small number of Grade II Listed Buildings (Leyton Public Library and Leyton Town Hall) along the High Street. Two Grade II\* Listed Buildings are within close proximity of the centre at the Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin on Church Road and Walnut Tree House on Jesse Road.
- 3.22 Away from these centres, notable Listed Buildings include Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, the Church of All Saints, United Free Church, Walthamstow House and the Water House at Lloyd Park all of which are Grade II\* Listed Buildings.
- 3.23 Two registered parks and gardens are located at the edges of the borough. To the south west of the borough by the River Lea, Springfield Park (Grade II Listed) falls within the London Borough of Hackney. Wanstead Park (Grade II\* Listed) to the south east of the borough is located mostly within Redbridge. A small portion of the north western corner of Wanstead Park falls within Waltham Forest.
- 3.24 The borough has 14 Conservation Areas and The Higham's Estate in the north of the borough is designated an Area of Special Character. Large portions of the west of the borough (focussed on Lee Valley Regional Park) are Archaeology Priority Areas.
- 3.25 Large areas of ancient woodland extend from the north east into the borough along its eastern boundary forming part of Epping Forest. Much of this area has been designated as the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Epping Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Towards the centre of the borough, further areas of ancient woodland are present at Larks Wood and Ainslie Wood. Ainslie Wood has also been designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Much of Lee Valley Regional Park is covered by international (Ramsar and Special Protection Area), national (SSSI) and local (SINC) designations.
- 3.26 The borough has 27 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) covering almost 900 hectares. Over 80% of this area is designated Metropolitan Grade SINC (Epping Forest North and South and Lea Valley) with four borough grade 1 SINCs, 6 borough grade 2 SINCs and 14 local grade SINCs.

### Gardens and street trees

- 3.27 **Figure 3.6** shows the distribution of street trees and private gardens across the borough. The borough has almost 42,500 street trees, with large numbers of maple, cherry, ash, birch, lime and planes.







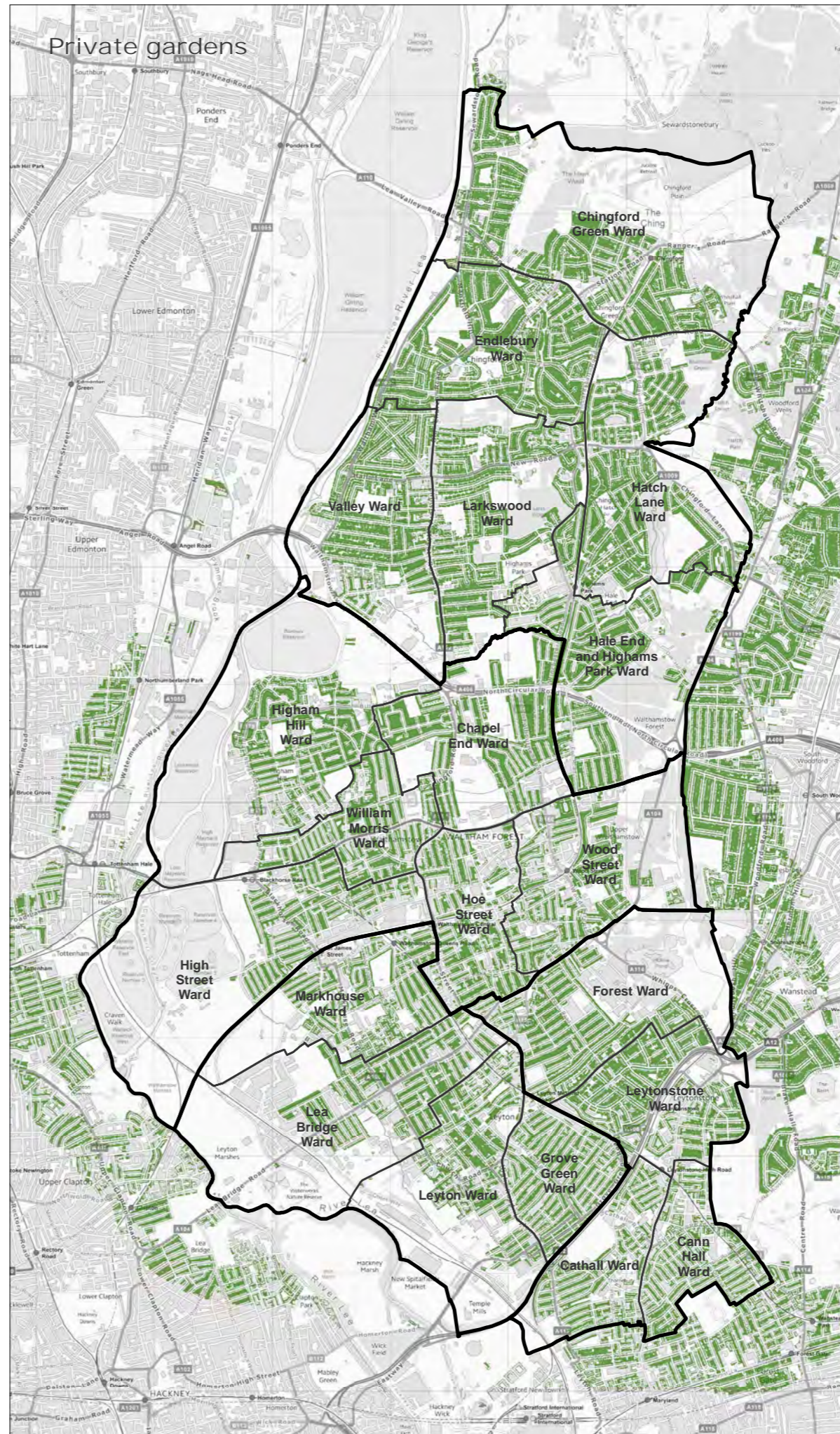
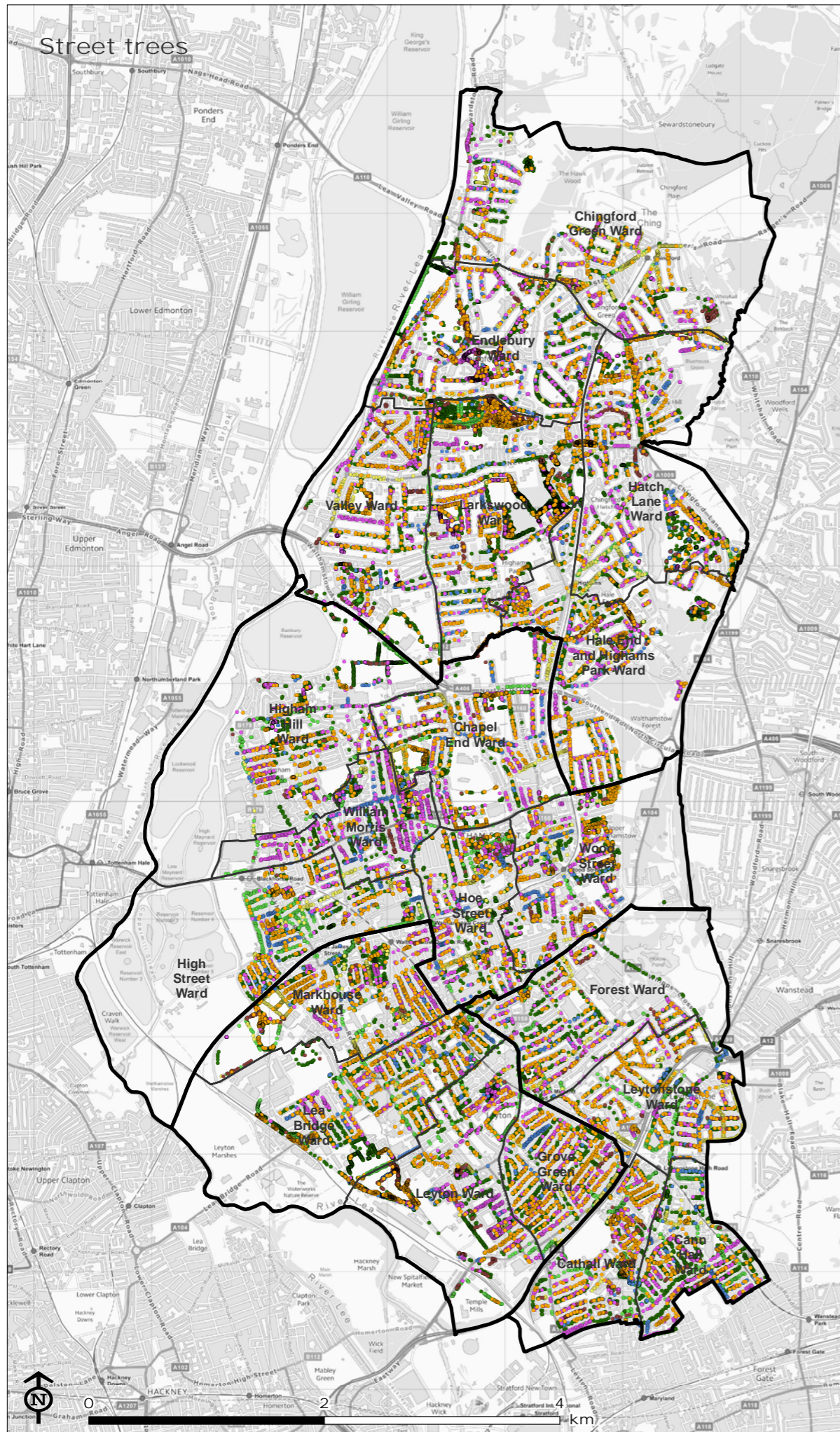
**Waltham Forest  
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Figure 3.5: Cultural heritage and biodiversity

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Cultural Heritage Assets**
- Registered park and garden
- Listed Building Grade**
- I
- II
- II\*
- Conservation Areas
- Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest
- Archaeological Priority Areas
- Areas of Special Character
- Biodiversity Assets**
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Ramsar site
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Nature Reserve
- Biodiversity Enhancement Sites
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Ancient woodland

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





Waltham Forest  
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Figure 3.6: Gardens and street trees

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Street trees
- Species
  - Maple (8,022)
  - Cherry (6,312)
  - Ash (2,629)
  - Birch (2,530)
  - Lime (2,450)
  - Plane (2,259)
  - Other (18,200)
- Private gardens (OS)

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000



A photograph of a pond surrounded by dense green trees, with tall green reeds and purple flowers in the foreground. The text '4' is positioned in the upper right corner of the image.

4

# Quantity and accessibility assessment



## 4 Quantity and accessibility assessment

### Updating the baseline

- 4.1 The study brief highlighted that the 2010 open space GIS layer has not been maintained since the previous strategy was developed. This has meant that some sites that may have been lost are still included, and some new sites are not included. Fundamental to the establishment of quantity and accessibility standards is a robust and up-to-date baseline dataset.

### Verifying and updating site boundaries

- 4.2 Early desk-based work was undertaken to update this layer. The following data sources were used to refine the baseline dataset:

- Ordnance Survey MasterMap Greenspace.
- Ordnance Survey Public Greenspace.
- Ordnance Survey MasterMap.
- Aerial photography (Bing, Google, ESRI).
- Internet searches for information on particular sites.
- Council officer knowledge.
- Site visits.

- 4.3 The layer was checked by members of the Waltham Forest Parks and Planning teams, and verified on site during the quality audits.

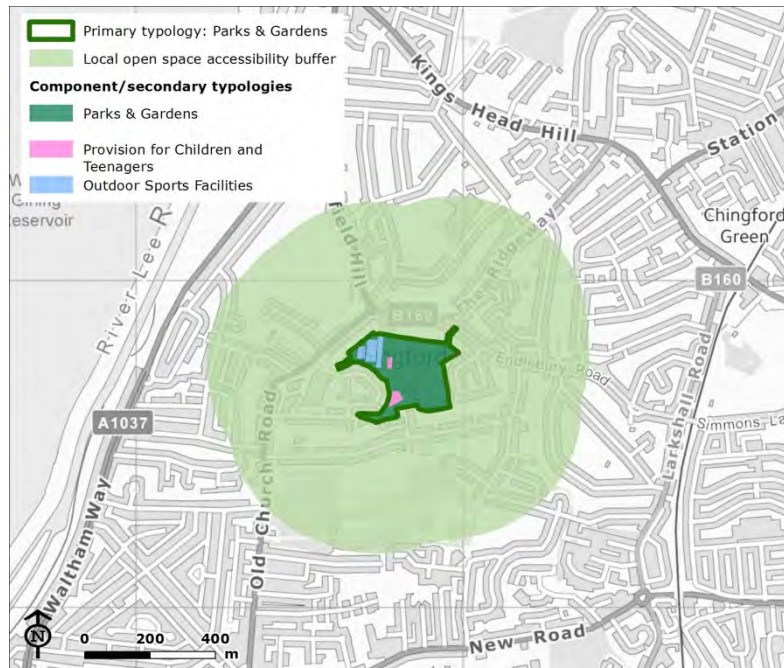
### Categorisation of sites by typology

- 4.4 Sites were assigned a draft typology based on information gleaned from the sources listed in paragraph 4.2. The range of typologies used is shown in **Table 2.1**. As a result of this review, some site typologies were changed (from their 2010 classification). Similarly, some site typologies were updated following verification on site.

### Approach to mapping multi-functional sites

- 4.5 Due to the multi-functional nature of the open spaces in Waltham Forest, some facilities (e.g. play spaces and sports pitches) are often located within other types of space, such as a park and garden. In order to ensure that sites falling within wider spaces are taken into account in the analysis, these sites were given a 'secondary' typology. When calculating total quantities of provision of, say, parks and gardens, the area of playspace or pitches within them was excluded. This ensured no double counting across typologies. However, when applying accessibility catchments, it is considered that it is the 'total site' that defines the catchment. So for example, a football pitch and playground within a park are likely to enhance its popularity. Therefore when accessibility catchments have been applied the total area has been used to calculate the appropriate buffer. This is illustrated in **Figure 4.1**.

**Figure 4.1: Approach to calculating quantity of provision by typology**



**Categorisation of sites by hierarchy**

4.6 Site areas were calculated for each site (based on whole sites rather than individual components). Sites were categorised according to the London hierarchy as shown in paragraph 2.19. There are no Metropolitan level sites in the borough and only one District level site.

**Current provision**

4.7 Following the assignment of a primary typology and hierarchy to each of the sites, **Table 4.1** summarises the quantity of provision by typology within the Borough. This considers whole sites (or sites by their primary typology). **Table 4.2** summarises the provision by primary typology in each Neighbourhood Area (in hectares). **Figure 4.2** shows the sites in terms of their primary typology as well as their secondary typologies.

**Table 4.1: Open space by typology in Waltham Forest**

Primary typology	Area (ha)	Number of sites	Example sites
Parks & Gardens	83.8	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lloyd and Aveling Park</li> <li>St James Park</li> <li>Leyton Jubilee Park</li> <li>Mansfield Park</li> <li>Ridgeway Park</li> </ul>
Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	786.3	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Copse</li> <li>Greenway Avenue Nature Reserve</li> <li>Low Hall Conservation Area</li> <li>Newport School Nature Area</li> <li>Pimp Hall Nature Reserve</li> </ul>
Green Corridors	2.9	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Linear Park</li> <li>River Ching</li> <li>The Ching and Brookfield</li> </ul>

Primary typology	Area (ha)	Number of sites	Example sites
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meadow</li> <li>Ching Walkway</li> <li>River Ching</li> </ul>
Amenity Green Space	6.1	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knotts Green</li> <li>Leyton Green</li> <li>Leyton Relief</li> <li>Chingford War Memorial</li> <li>Cathall Road</li> </ul>
Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms	51.4	38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auckland Road Allotment Site</li> <li>Bateman Road Allotments</li> <li>Beechwood Allotments</li> <li>Brookfield Allotment Site</li> </ul>
Cemeteries and Churchyards	36.5	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Peters &amp; St Paul Churchyard</li> <li>St Mary's Churchyard</li> <li>St Peters in the Forest Churchyard</li> <li>Queens Road Cemetery</li> <li>All Saints Churchyard</li> </ul>
Civic Spaces	0.4	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walthamstow Town Square</li> </ul>
Provision for Children and Teenagers	2.3	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harrow Road Park</li> <li>Greenleaf Road Playground</li> <li>Priory Court Playground</li> <li>Coppermill Park</li> <li>Nursery play area</li> <li>Queens Road Playground</li> </ul>
Outdoor Sports Facilities	225.3	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parmiters and Cavendish Sports Ground</li> <li>Peter May Sports Centre</li> <li>Rolls Sports Ground</li> <li>Royal Epping Forest Golf Club</li> </ul>
<i>Disused Outdoor Sports Facilities</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Chingford Football Ground</i></li> </ul>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>1198.1</b>	<b>194</b>	

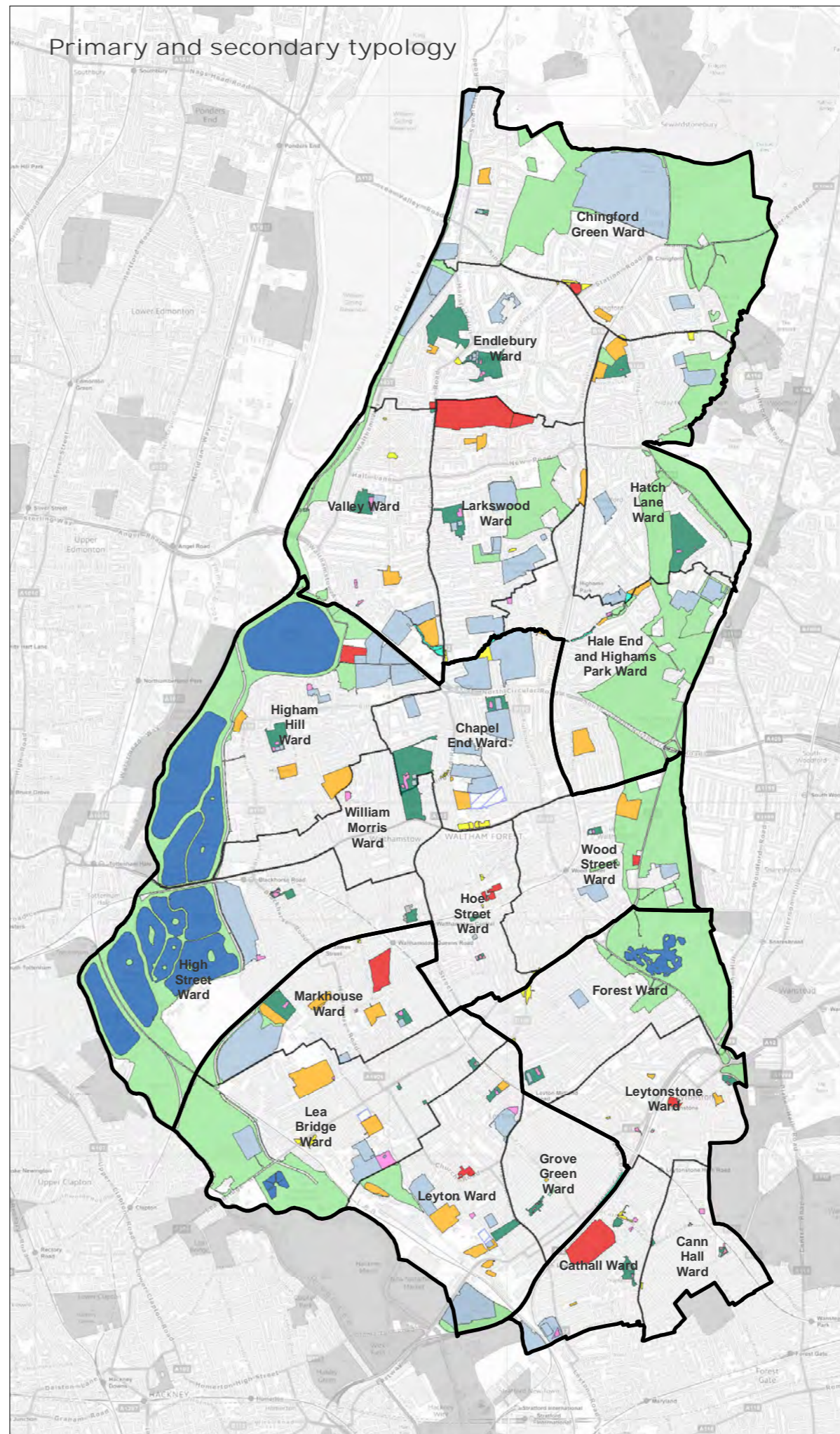
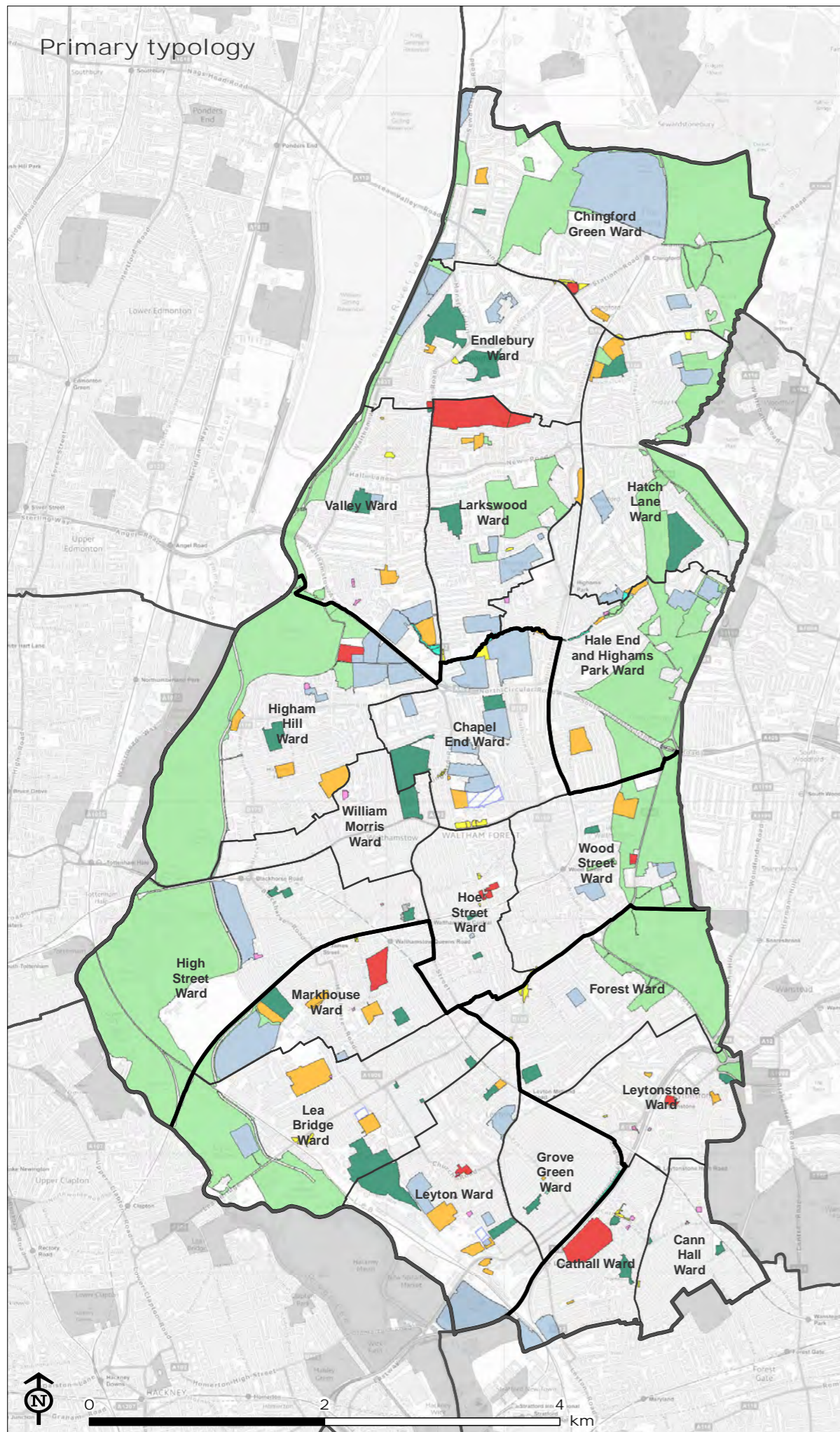
**Table 4.2: Quantity (ha) of open space by primary typology in each Neighbourhood Area**

Primary typology (whole sites)	Central Neighbourhood	North Neighbourhood	South East Neighbourhood	South West Neighbourhood	Waltham Forest
Parks & Gardens	21.0	33.2	5.2	24.4	<b>83.8</b>
Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	336.3	318.4	74.4	57.1	<b>786.3</b>
Green Corridors	0.4	2.0		0.5	<b>2.9</b>
Amenity Green	2.4	2.0	1.1	0.6	<b>6.1</b>

Primary typology (whole sites)	Central Neighbourhood	North Neighbourhood	South East Neighbourhood	South West Neighbourhood	Waltham Forest
Space					
Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms	12.3	17.5	0.9	20.8	<b>51.4</b>
Cemeteries and Churchyards	3.7	17.5	10.0	5.3	<b>36.5</b>
Civic Spaces	0.4				<b>0.4</b>
Provision for Children and Teenagers	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.3	<b>2.3</b>
Outdoor Sports Facilities	69.8	95.0	7.2	53.4	<b>225.3</b>
<i>Disused Outdoor Sports Facilities</i>		3.0			<b>3.0</b>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>447.0</b>	<b>489.2</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>162.4</b>	<b>1198.1</b>

- 4.8 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.





Waltham Forest  
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Figure 4.2: Open space by primary and secondary typology

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Typology**
- Parks & Gardens
- Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Green Corridors
- Amenity Green Space
- Civic Spaces
- Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Provision for Children and Teenagers
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Green Gym/MUGA/Other Play
- Disused Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Large waterbodies
- Open spaces in surrounding authorities\*

\*May not be comprehensive

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





4.9 **Table 4.3** shows the breakdown when considering the contribution that secondary typologies make to the overall provision of each type of open space. For example, this presents the area of parks and gardens once areas of play, outdoor sports facilities and natural and semi-natural green spaces are removed and added to their own relevant typology. In addition, this table also identifies the relative proportion of natural and semi-natural green space that is inland water (reservoirs in Lee Valley and large waterbodies in Epping Forest).

**Table 4.3: Quantity (ha) of open space by secondary typology**

Site Components (primary and secondary typology)	Central Neighbourhood	North Neighbourhood	South East Neighbourhood	South West Neighbourhood	Waltham Forest
Parks & Gardens	18.5	31.0	4.2	7.9	<b>61.6</b>
Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	162.8	313.7	66.6	65.8	<b>608.9</b>
<i>Large waterbodies</i>	173.3		7.8	2.3	<b>183.4</b>
Green Corridors	0.4	2.0		0.5	<b>2.9</b>
Amenity Green Space	2.4	2.0	1.1	0.6	<b>6.1</b>
Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms	12.3	17.5	0.9	21.9	<b>52.6</b>
Cemeteries and Churchyards	3.7	17.5	10.0	5.3	<b>36.5</b>
Civic Spaces	0.4				<b>0.4</b>
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2.4	1.6	1.3	2.7	<b>8.0</b>
Provision for Children and Teenagers	70.9	100.9	7.5	55.4	<b>234.7</b>
<i>Disused Outdoor Sports Facilities</i>		3.0			<b>3.0</b>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>447.0</b>	<b>489.2</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>162.4</b>	<b>1198.1</b>

4.10 As can be seen in the table above, water in Lee Valley and Epping Forest makes up over 20% of the natural and semi-natural urban green space provision. Whilst integral to the site as a whole, consideration needs to be given to the role that these waterbodies play in terms of publicly accessible open space when developing quantity standards. This is considered in later sections of this report. Around 25% of parks and gardens are supporting uses such as play and sport.

4.11 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 hours restrictions. Sites are considered to be 'not publicly accessible' if they have other restrictions on access, or are completely closed to the public.

4.12 For the purposes of this assessment, sites that have been omitted from the audit process include:

- Outdoor sports facilities as these have recently been evaluated as part of the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Sites that are not publicly accessible.

- Allotments, community gardens and city farms as access is usually restricted to members, and the priority for the audit was publicly accessible open space.
- Regional Parks.

4.13 **Table 4.4** shows the accessibility of open spaces audited for this study. This is illustrated in **Figure 4.3**. The main type of restriction for sites with 'restricted public access' is opening hours. In the case of allotments and community gardens, these are usually restricted to tenants/members.

**Table 4.4: Summary of accessibility of sites (by primary typology)**

Primary typology	Freely accessible to public	Majority freely accessible with some restricted areas	Restricted public access	No public access	Accessibility not assessed	Total
Parks & Gardens	53.2	3.3	27.4			<b>83.8</b>
Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	777.3	0.7	8.1	0.2		<b>786.3</b>
Green Corridors	2.1	0.4	0.5			<b>2.9</b>
Amenity Green Space	6.1					<b>6.1</b>
Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms					51.4	<b>51.4</b>
Cemeteries and Churchyards	2.2		34.3			<b>36.5</b>
Civic Spaces	0.4					<b>0.4</b>
Provision for Children and Teenagers	1.0		1.1	0.2		<b>2.3</b>
Outdoor Sports Facilities					225.3	<b>225.3</b>
Disused Outdoor Sports Facilities					3.0	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>842.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>122.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>228.3</b>	<b>1198.1</b>

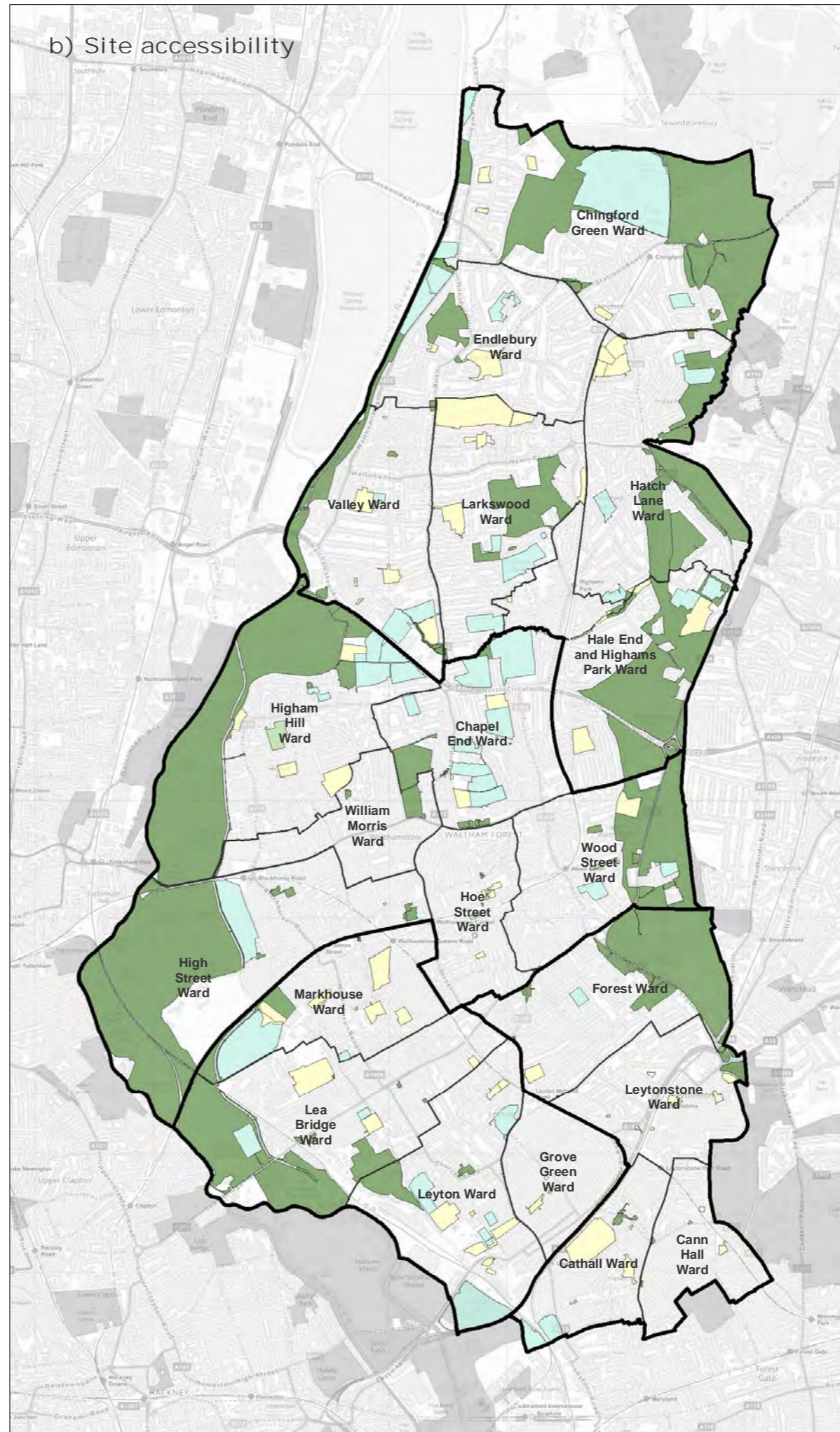
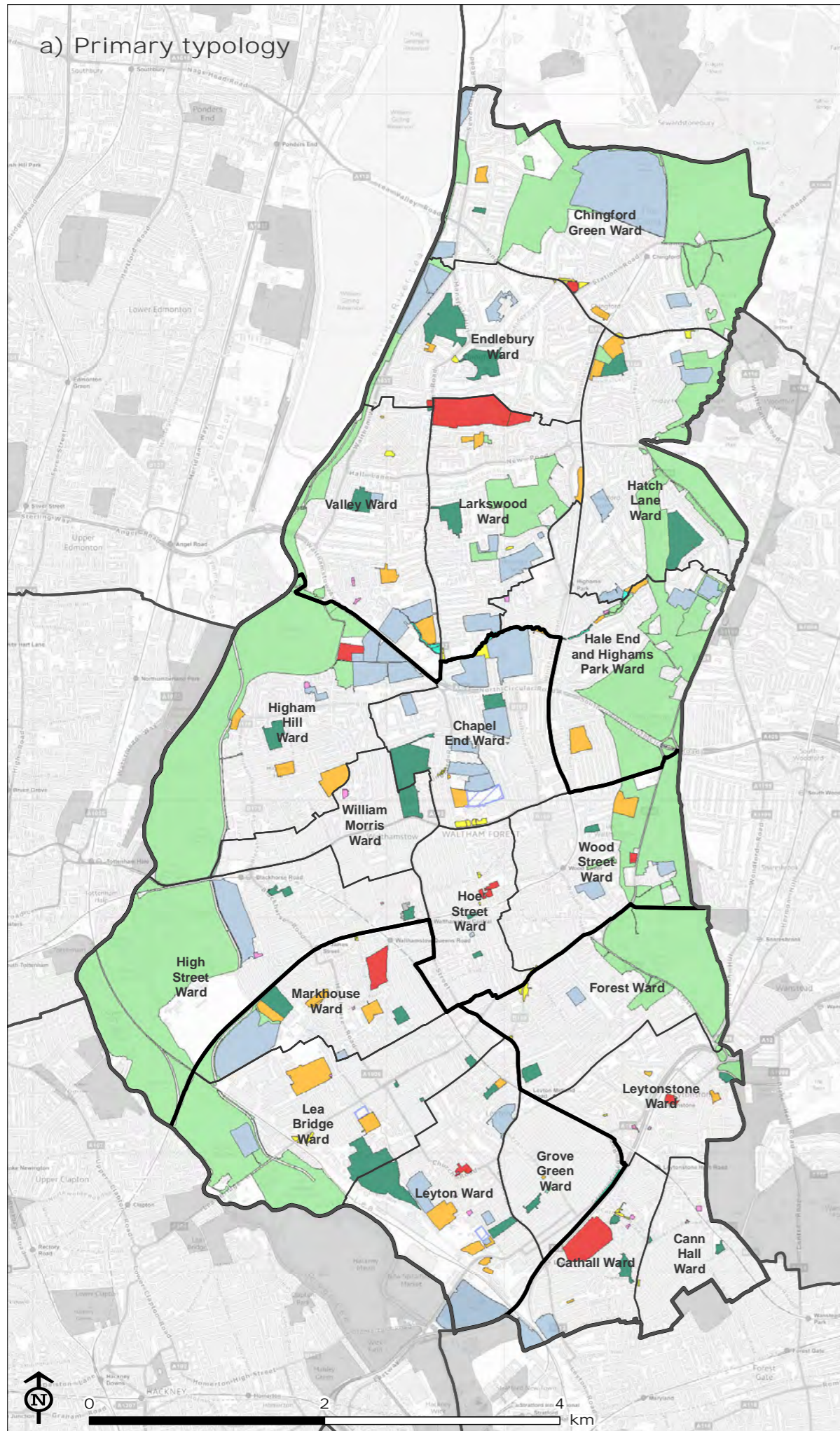
4.14 **Table 4.5** shows how the publicly accessible open spaces are distributed between the four Neighbourhood Areas used for this assessment. For this assessment, only sites that are not publicly accessible or where accessibility was not assessed (outdoor sports facilities) have been excluded.

**Table 4.5: Quantity of publicly accessible open space by Neighbourhood Area**

Primary typology	Central Neighbourhood	North Neighbourhood	South East Neighbourhood	South West Neighbourhood	Waltham Forest
Parks and gardens	21.0	33.2	5.2	24.4	<b>83.8</b>
Natural and semi-	336.3	318.4	74.4	57.0	<b>786.1</b>

Primary typology	Central Neighbourhood	North Neighbourhood	South East Neighbourhood	South West Neighbourhood	Waltham Forest
natural greenspace					
Green corridor	0.4	2.0		0.5	<b>2.9</b>
Amenity greenspace	2.4	2.0	1.1	0.6	<b>6.1</b>
<i>Allotments (not audited, but included)</i>	12.3	17.5	0.9	20.8	<b>51.4</b>
Cemeteries and churchyards	3.7	17.5	10.0	5.3	<b>36.5</b>
Civic space	0.4				<b>0.4</b>
Provision for children and young people	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.1	<b>2.1</b>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>377.3</b>	<b>391.1</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>108.7</b>	<b>969.4</b>





Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review

Figure 4.3: Audited sites and their accessibility

Key for map a)

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Typology**
- Parks & Gardens
- Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Green Corridors
- Amenity Green Space
- Civic Spaces
- Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Provision for Children and Teenagers
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Disused Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Open spaces in surrounding authorities\*

Key for map b)

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Accessibility**
- Freely accessible to public
- Majority freely accessible with some restricted areas
- Restricted public access
- No public access
- Accessibility not assessed
- Open spaces in surrounding authorities\*

\*May not be comprehensive  
Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000







## Play and sports provision

4.15 As well as sites with primary play or sports typologies, play and sports provision was found in a large number of open spaces that have another primary typology. These sites are shown in **Figure 4.4**.

### Play provision

4.16 Of the sites that have been audited, 48 sites have play provision. The large majority of these have play equipment. 21 sites have a primary typology of 'Provision for children and teenagers'. The rest of the equipped play provision is found with other typologies. The vast majority within parks and gardens (which is to be expected), with other provision found in natural and semi-natural urban green spaces and outdoor sports facilities.

4.17 Play provision was found to cater for children of all ages and offer a wide range of activities. The Mayor of London's Supplementary Planning Guidance *Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation* provides a framework for categorising play sites in London. Both standalone play provision (primary typology) and play provision within other sites (secondary typology) have 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.

4.18 The majority of playspaces in the borough are neighbourhood playable spaces. In some cases, there are multiple play areas within one open space. Hierarchies used reflect the overall provision within an open space taking all play provision into account.

4.19 Further provision for play on site was found in a number of the sites audited. **Table 4.6** shows the range of some of the other facilities available to children and young people in Waltham Forest.

**Table 4.6 Other play provision by primary typology**

Facility	Number of sites
MUGA	14
Skatepark	3
BMX	1
Other (including green gyms, basketball, outdoor table tennis, youth shelters)	20

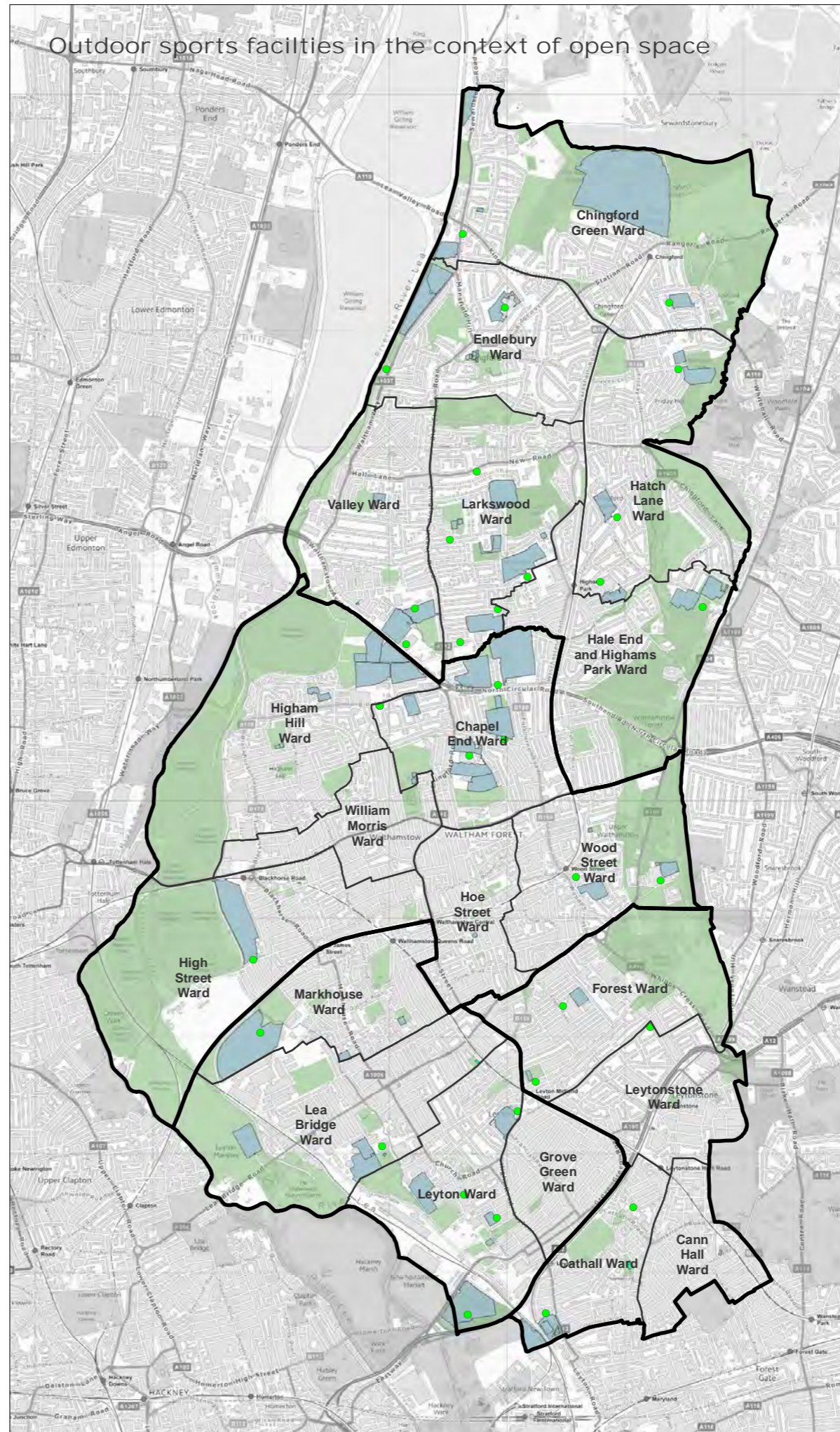
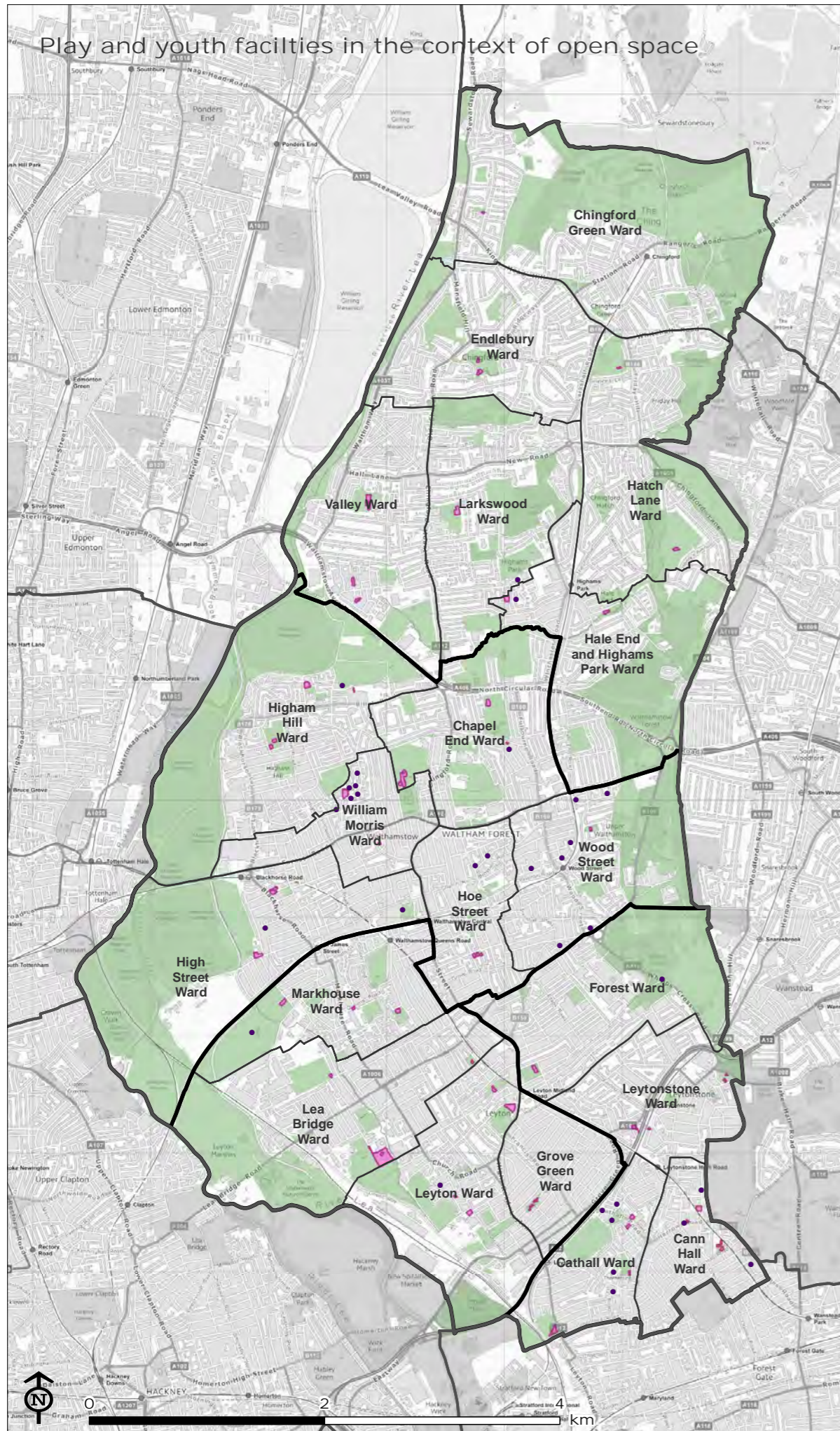
### Sports provision

4.20 A detailed Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is being developed in parallel to this open space needs assessment. The assessment focuses on:

- Rugby Union
- Hockey
- Football
- Cricket
- Baseball

4.21 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:

- Grass pitches.
- Artificial pitches.
- Tennis courts.
- Bowling greens.
- Basketball courts.
- Putting green.
- Table tennis.
- Outdoor gyms.



**Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review**

Figure 4.4: Play and sports provision

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Sites with primary or secondary typology of play and youth facilities
  - Provision for Children and Teenagers
  - Potential additional play sites not audited
- Sites with primary or secondary typology of outdoor sports facilities
  - Outdoor Sports Facilities
  - Green Gym/MUGA/Other Play
  - Sites included in Playing Pitch Strategy
- Other open space
  - Waltham Forest
  - Surrounding authorities\*

\*May not be comprehensive

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





## Allotments

- 4.22 Whilst allotments have not been audited for this assessment, they have been identified and mapped as part of the data review in earlier stages. 39 allotments have been identified in the borough covering a total area of 53 hectares. This includes 38 sites with a primary typology of allotments, community gardens and city farms and one further allotment within Lloyd and Aveling Park. In terms of total area, the largest area is found in South West Neighbourhood Area with only two sites in the South East Neighbourhood Area covering 0.9ha. The distribution of allotments in the borough is shown in **Figure 4.2**.
- 4.23 As the sites have not been subject to an audit as part of this study, data on each site in Council ownership was sought from the council, and has been collated for this study to get a strategic view of the number and availability of plots across the borough. The information has been tabulated and is shown in **Table 4.7** below.
- 4.24 There is a discrepancy between the data mapped as part of this review and the council held records below and whilst outside the scope of this study to reconcile the two via a site audit, it is recommended that this is done in order to maximise opportunities for food growing in the borough.

**Table 4.7 Information held on allotments**

Site ID	Site name	Management	Area (ha)	No. plots	Avg plot size (m <sup>2</sup> )
107	Wickham Road	Council Managed	0.29	6	483
64	Suffield Hatch	Council Managed	0.83	53	157
89	Sinnott Road	Council Managed	1.12	48	233
36	Simmons Lane	Council Managed	2.77	60	462
163	Seymour Road	Society Managed	0.80	119	67
177	Ruckholt Road	Leyton Allotment Society	0.47	27	174
33	Pimp Hall	Council Managed	2.20	89	247
	Oliver Road	Leyton Allotment Society	3.90	245	159
22	Mulberry Close	Council Managed	0.43	31	139
58	Mount Avenue	Council Managed	0.46	27	170
	Marsh Lane	Association Managed			
	Low Hall	Council Managed	0.21	9	233
7	Kings Road	Council Managed	0.86	45	191
191	Kings Passage	Society Managed	0.18	12	150
69	Hollywood Way	Council Managed	0.23	6	383
83	Higham Hill Common	Council Managed	4.25	150	283

Site ID	Site name	Management	Area (ha)	No. plots	Avg plot size (m <sup>2</sup> )
5	Hawkwood	Allotment Officers	1.18	60	197
197	Downsell Road	Leyton Allotment Society	0.12	6	193
181	Dawlish Road	Leyton Allotment Society	0.07	6	117
44	Cherrydown Close	Council Managed	0.35	3	1167
186	Browning Road	Society Managed	0.54	36	150
53	Beechwood	Council Managed	1.35	68	199
40	Bateman Road	Society Managed	1.58	71	223
165	Auckland Road	Leyton Allotment Society	1.17	75	156
<b>Total</b>			<b>25.36</b>	<b>1252</b>	<b>203</b>



5

# Quality and value assessment





## 5 Quality and value assessment

- 5.1 This section highlights key quality and value audit findings against the Green Flag Award themes. For each question in the audit, a score of 1-3 was given by the assessor representing Poor, Fair and Good quality/condition respectively. A selection of questions have been analysed in detail in this section. The audit scoring system is included in **Appendix 1**. Full audit forms are included as **Appendix 2**.
- 5.2 The Green Flag themes and a brief description of each are set out in **Box 1** below.

### **Box 1: Green Flag Award Assessment themes**

#### **1. A Welcoming Place**

Welcoming, good & safe access, signage, equal access for all

#### **2. Healthy, Safe and Secure**

Safe equipment & facilities, personal security, dog fouling, appropriate provision of facilities, quality of facilities

#### **3. Clean and Well Maintained**

Litter & waste management, grounds maintenance & horticulture, building & infrastructure maintenance, equipment maintenance

#### **4. Environmental Management (*was Sustainability*)**

Environmental sustainability, pesticides, peat use, waste minimisation, arboriculture & woodland management

#### **5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage (*was Conservation and Heritage*)**

Conservation of nature features, wild flora & fauna, conservation of landscape features, conservation of buildings & structures

#### **6. Community Involvement**

Community involvement in management & development including outreach work, appropriate provision for the community

#### **7. Marketing and Communication (*was Marketing*)**

Marketing & promotion, provision of appropriate information, provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information

#### **8. Management**

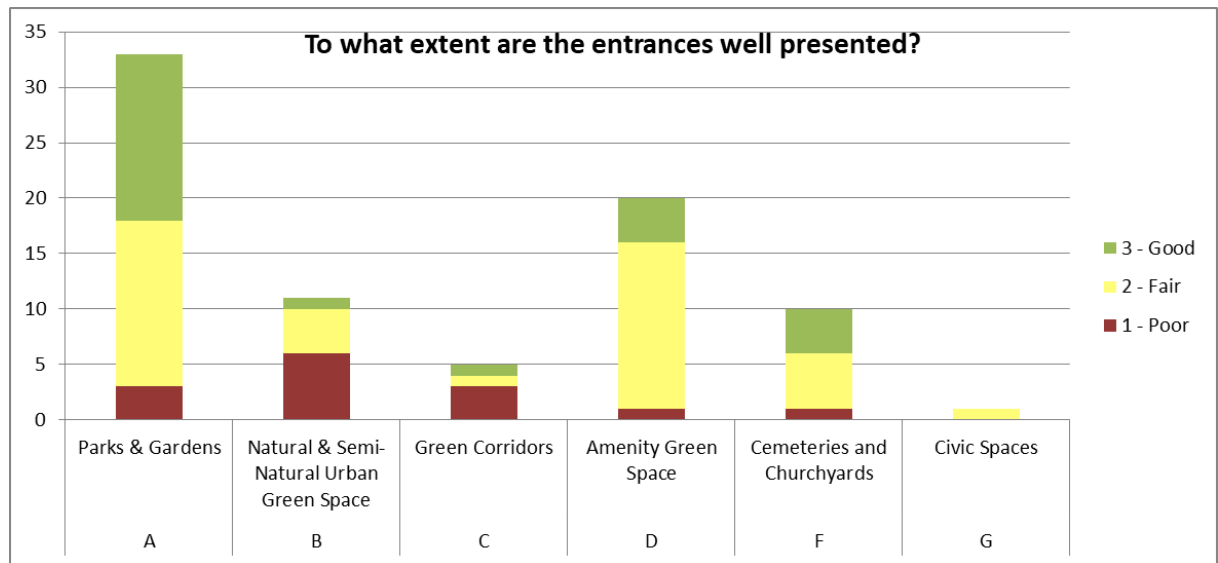
Implementation of management plan

## A welcoming place

### Entrances

- 5.3 **Figure 5.1** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *To what extent are the entrances well presented?*
- 5.4 Parks and gardens provide a wide range of amenities and features for the public and therefore are expected to provide welcoming entrances which are easy to find, with a welcome/advisory sign, an appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting. The results below support this, with parks and gardens scoring well in this category compared to other typologies. For example Lloyd and Aveling Park provided good welcoming features; this may be attributed to the Heritage Lottery Funded restoration project of the site. Notably, natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, green corridors and amenity green spaces have a large proportion of 'poor' or 'fair' scores.

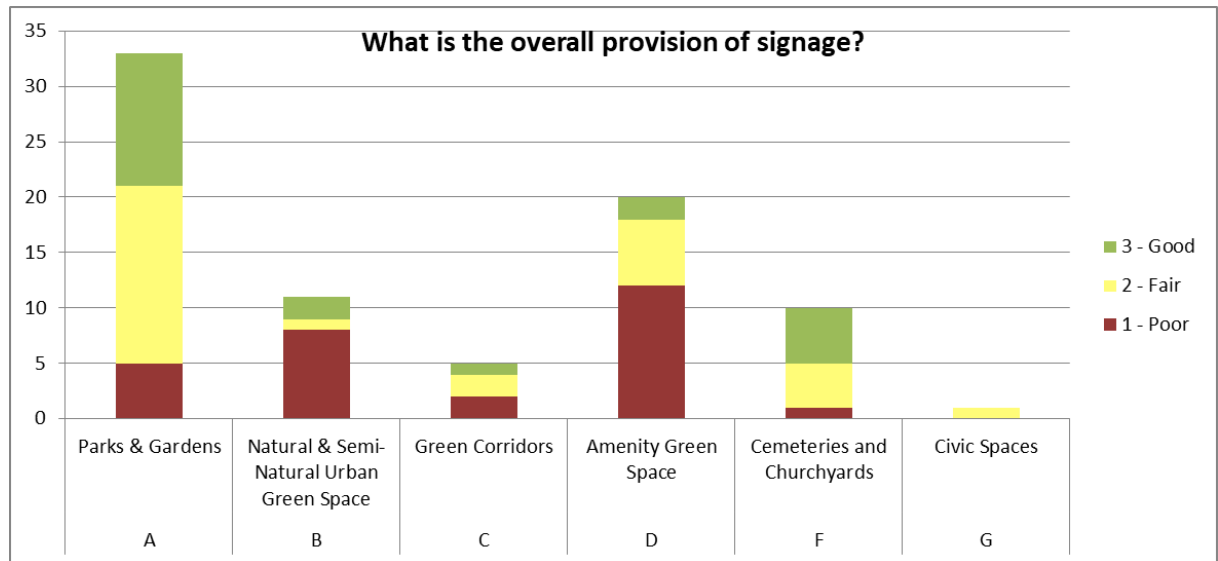
**Figure 5.1: To what extent are the entrances well presented?**



### Signage

- 5.5 **Figure 5.2** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *What is the overall provision of signage?*
- 5.6 The vast majority of parks and gardens, and cemeteries and churchyards score 'good' or 'fair' for provision of signage. However open spaces within the typologies of natural and semi-natural urban green space, amenity green space and green corridors were found to have mainly 'poor' provision of signage.

**Figure 5.2: What is the overall provision of signage?**

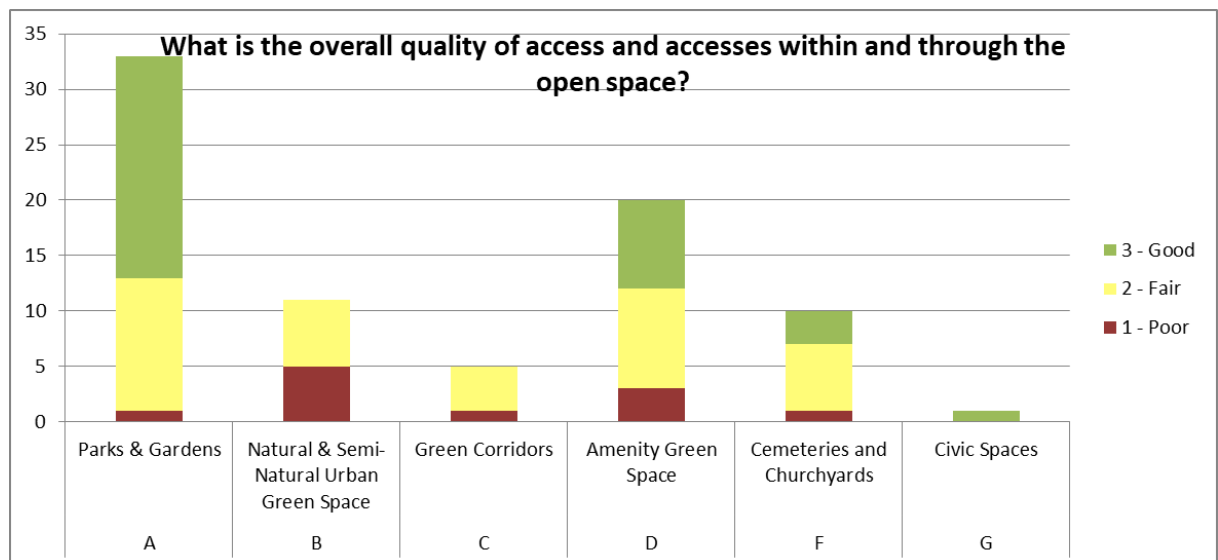


**Quality of access**

5.7 **Figure 5.3** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *What is the overall quality of access and accesses within and through the open space?*

5.8 Parks and gardens, due to their varied landscape and features require careful consideration and compliance with the Equality Act (2010). Cemeteries and churchyards are required to have good safe access, including for elderly and disabled visitors. This explains why parks and gardens and cemeteries and churchyards scored well under this question, with only a small percentage found to have poor quality access/accesses within the open space. Amenity green space also scored relatively well under this question. No natural and semi-natural urban green spaces or green corridors achieved a good score for this question.

**Figure 5.3: What is the overall quality of access and accesses within and through the open space?**



5.9 **Figure 5.4** provides a snapshot of some of the audit findings against this Green Flag Award theme.

**Figure 5.4: A Welcoming place – summary of audit results**



Entrances at Mansfield Park are in a poor condition and are unwelcoming



Interpretation panel at Mansfield Park provides points of interest for park users. However the panel is in poor condition.

Print has been worn away on signage at Harrow Green.



Directional signage at Leyton Jubilee Park connects the open space to surrounding features and local transport hubs.

Recently installed signage at Leyton Jubilee Park



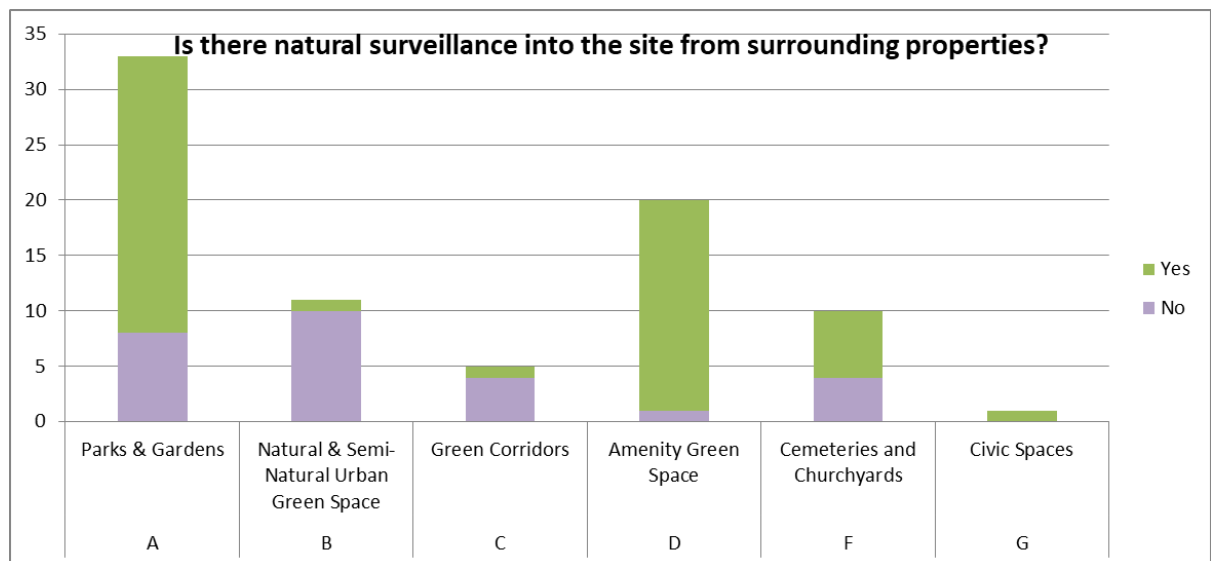
Footpath at Mansfield Park in poor condition restricting access.

Footpaths at Ridgeway Park are broad, level and in a good condition.

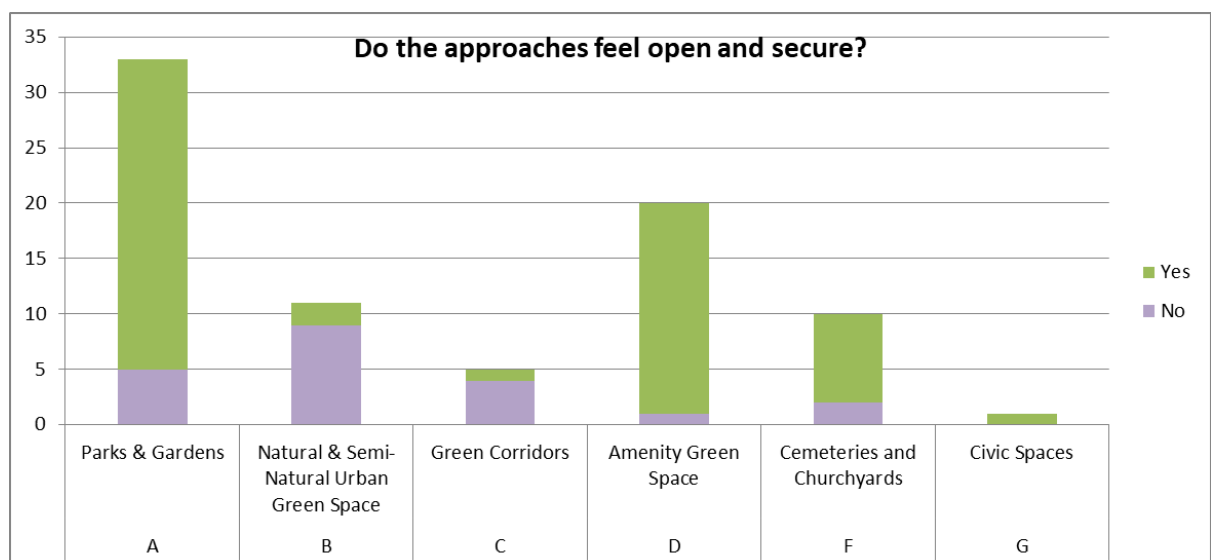
## Healthy, safe and secure

- 5.10 **Figures 5.5 to 5.7** show the spread of scores for audit questions relating to understanding how the open spaces are performing in terms of being healthy, safe and secure. Consideration is given to levels of natural surveillance, whether approaches to the open space feel safe and whether there is adequate self-surveillance within the open space. The results of the audit revealed that open spaces performed similarly across all three elements. Parks and gardens, together with amenity green spaces and cemeteries and churchyards, performed well against all three elements with the vast majority considered to have natural surveillance into the open space from surrounding properties and approaches to the open space feeling safe. They were also considered to have a frequent flow of people within the open space to offer self-surveillance. However the majority of open spaces within the typologies of natural and semi natural urban green space and green corridors did not perform well against these elements.

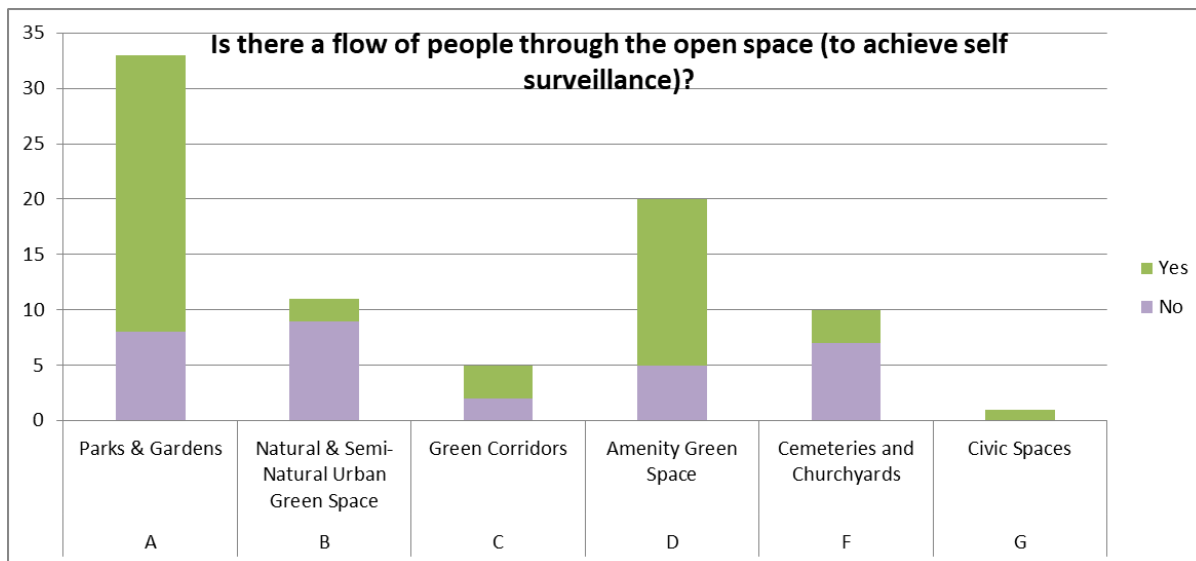
**Figure 5.5: Is there natural surveillance into the site from surrounding properties?**



**Figure 5.6: Do the approaches feel open and secure?**



**Figure 5.7: Is there a flow of people through the open space (to achieve self-surveillance)?**



5.11 **Figure 5.8** provides a snapshot of some of the audit findings against this Green Flag Award theme.

**Figure 5.8: Healthy, safe and secure – summary of audit results**

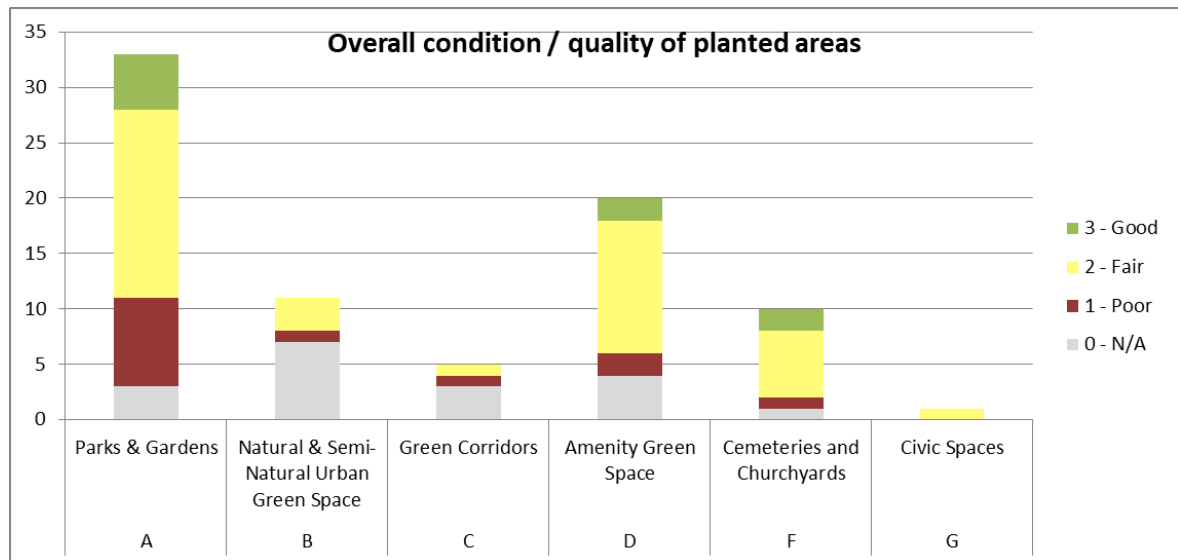


## Clean and well-maintained

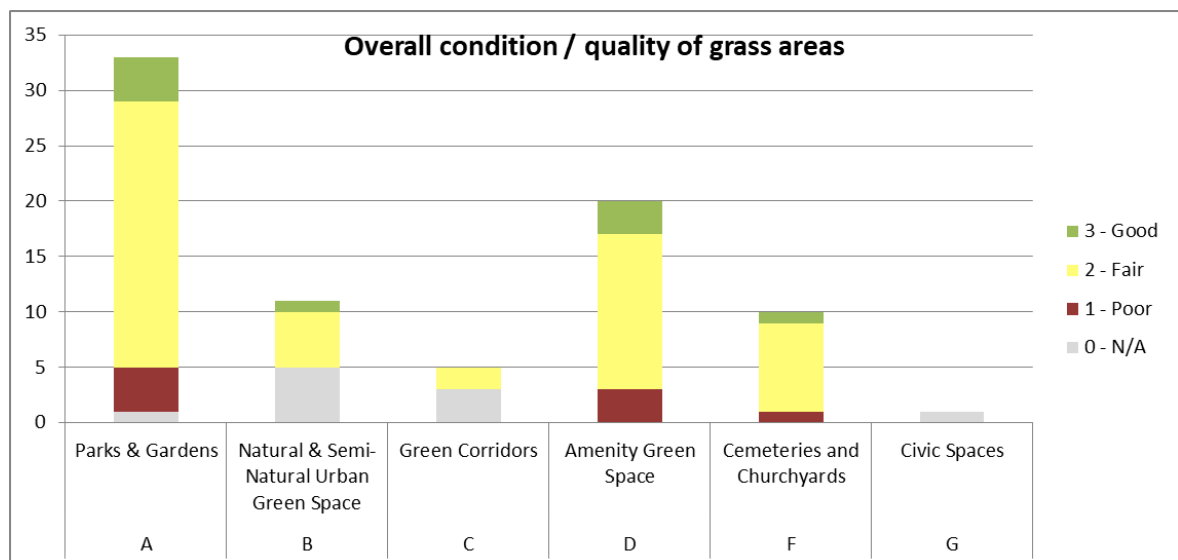
### Planted and grass areas

- 5.12 **Figures 5.9 and 5.10** show the spread of scores for audit questions: *Overall condition/ quality of planted areas and overall condition/ quality of grass areas.*
- 5.13 The vast majority of open spaces within the typologies of parks and gardens, and amenity green spaces contain planted and grass areas are in a 'fair' condition. Very few open spaces contain planted areas and grass areas in a 'good' condition. A number of parks and gardens contain features which are considered to be in a 'poor' condition.

**Figure 5.9: Overall condition/quality of planted areas**



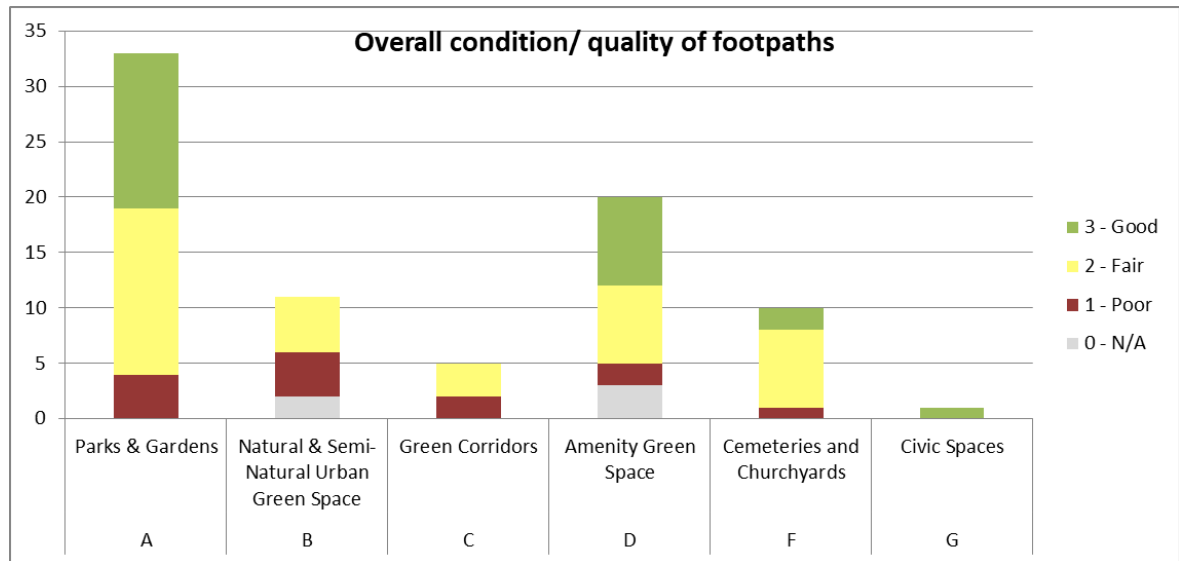
**Figure 5.10: Overall condition/quality of grass areas**



### Footpaths

- 5.14 **Figure 5.11** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *Overall condition/ quality of footpaths.*
- 5.15 Overall, footpaths across all open spaces are considered to be in a 'fair' condition. Footpaths within the typologies of natural and semi-natural green space and green corridors are considered to be in 'fair' or 'poor' condition. The condition of footpaths in these open spaces may restrict access.

**Figure 5.11: Overall condition/quality of footpaths**

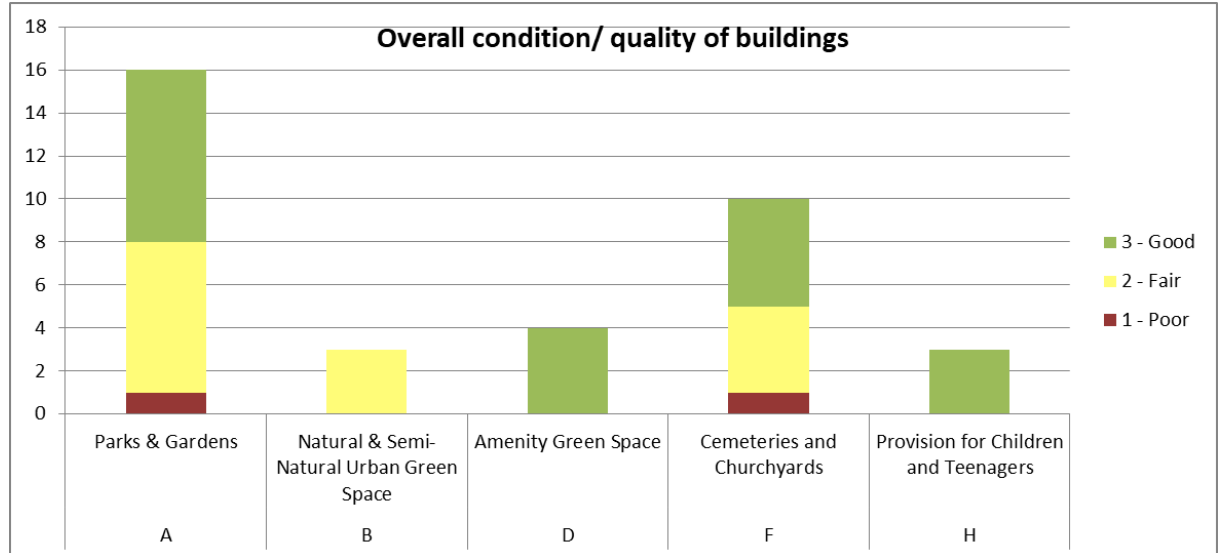


### Buildings

5.16 **Figure 5.12** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *Overall condition/ quality of buildings*.

5.17 Buildings located within the borough's open spaces are considered to be in a 'good' or 'fair' condition. All the buildings located within natural and semi-natural urban green spaces are considered to be in a 'fair' condition. The condition and functionality of buildings in open spaces can have a significant impact on how people perceive the safety of an open space. It is therefore vital that all park buildings are well-maintained and actively used.

**Figure 5.12: Overall condition/quality of buildings**



5.18 **Figure 5.13** provides a snapshot of some of the audit findings against this Green Flag Award theme.



Figure 5.13: Clean and well-maintained – summary of audit results



Operative replacing seasonal planting at Coronation Gardens.



Weeds are evident within rose beds at Harrow Green.



Weeds in lawns at Harrow Green.



Grass heavily worn at Lloyd and Aveling Park



Paving in poor condition at Chingford Road open space.



Paving in good condition at Walthamstow Town Square Gardens.



Graffiti on wall at Linear Park.

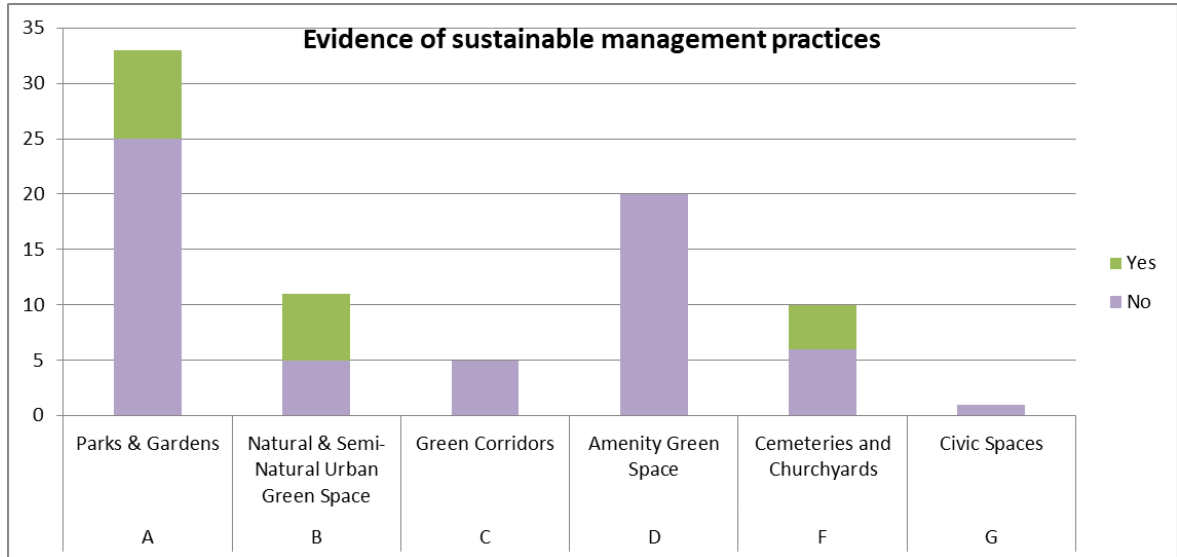


Building at Highams Park is being refurbished.

## Environmental management

- 5.19 **Figure 5.14** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *Evidence of sustainable management practices.*
- 5.20 The audit revealed that there is very little evidence of sustainable management practices within the borough's open spaces. Recycling bins are located within some of the parks and gardens. Some noticeboards within the open spaces contain information on the importance of limiting the use of peat and pesticides in park management.

**Figure 5.14: Evidence of sustainable management practices**

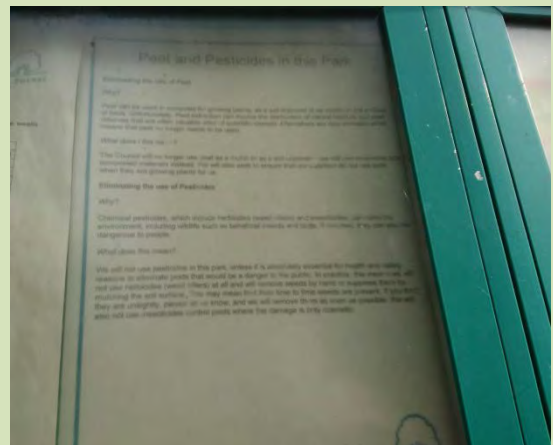


- 5.21 **Figure 5.15** provides a snapshot of some of the audit findings against this Green Flag Award theme.

**Figure 5.15: Environmental management – summary of audit results**



Recycling bins at Friendship Gardens



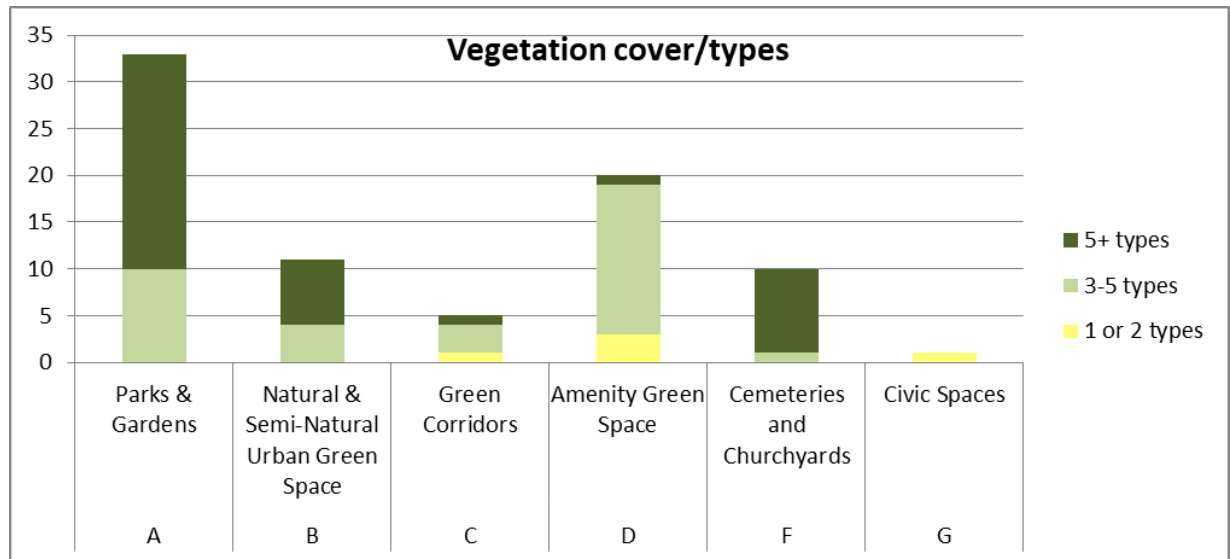
Notice at Langthorne Park outlining restricted use of peat and pesticides in the open space.

## Biodiversity, landscape and heritage

5.22 **Figure 5.16** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *Vegetation cover/ types*.

5.23 Open spaces within the parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban green spaces and cemeteries and churchyards typologies contain at least three types of vegetation (see **Appendix 1**, section 5 for the full list of options), with the vast majority of these open spaces containing over five types of vegetation. Amenity green spaces tend to contain three to five types of vegetation. There are open spaces within the typologies of green corridors, amenity green spaces and civic spaces which contain just one or two vegetation types.

**Figure 5.16: Vegetation cover/types**



5.24 **Figure 5.17** provides a snapshot of some of the audit findings against this Green Flag Award theme.

**Figure 5.17: Biodiversity, landscape and heritage – summary of audit results**

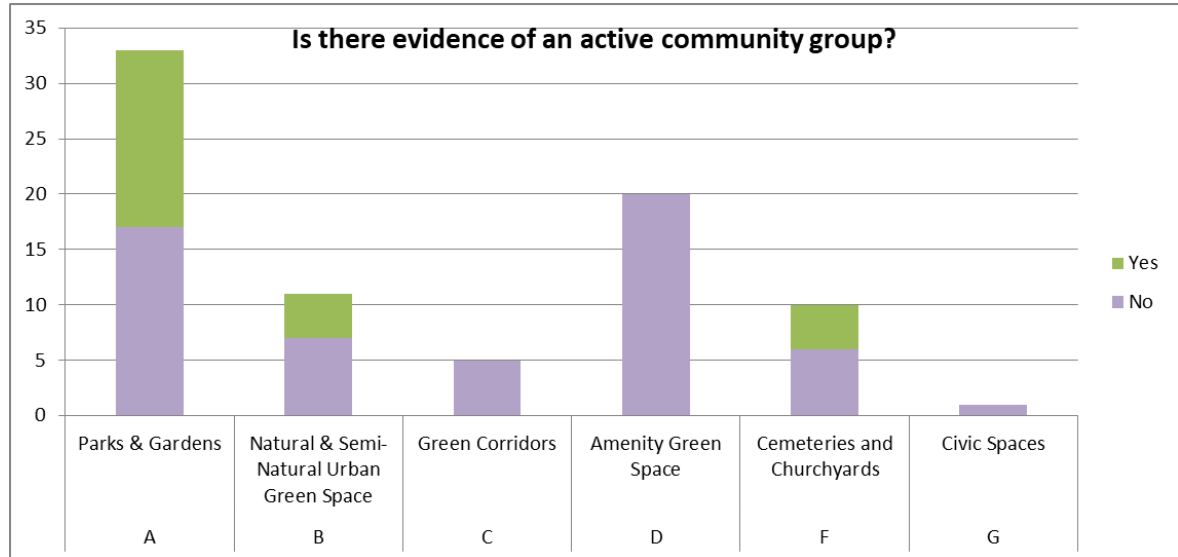


## Community involvement

5.25 **Figure 5.18** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *Is there evidence of an active community group?*

5.26 The audit found evidence of 27 active community groups in the borough's open spaces. The majority of community groups are associated with parks and gardens. Smaller numbers of natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces and cemeteries and churchyards support a community group.

**Figure 5.18: Is there evidence of an active community group?**



5.27 There is online evidence of Friends groups in the following open spaces :

- Abbots Park
- Highams Park
- Pimp Hall Park
- Ainslie and Larks Wood
- Langthorne Park
- Stoneydown Park
- Hawkwood Nature Reserve
- Lloyd and Aveling Park
- St Mary's Nature Reserve

### Noticeboards

5.28 **Figure 5.19** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *Is there a public noticeboard on site?*

5.29 The majority of parks and gardens have noticeboards, with smaller numbers found in cemeteries and churchyards, natural and semi-natural urban green space and green corridors. Of the 30 sites that were found to have permanent noticeboards, only 17 displayed up to date information.

5.30 **Figure 5.20** provides a snapshot of some of the audit findings against this Green Flag Award theme.

Figure 5.19: Is there a permanent public noticeboard on site?

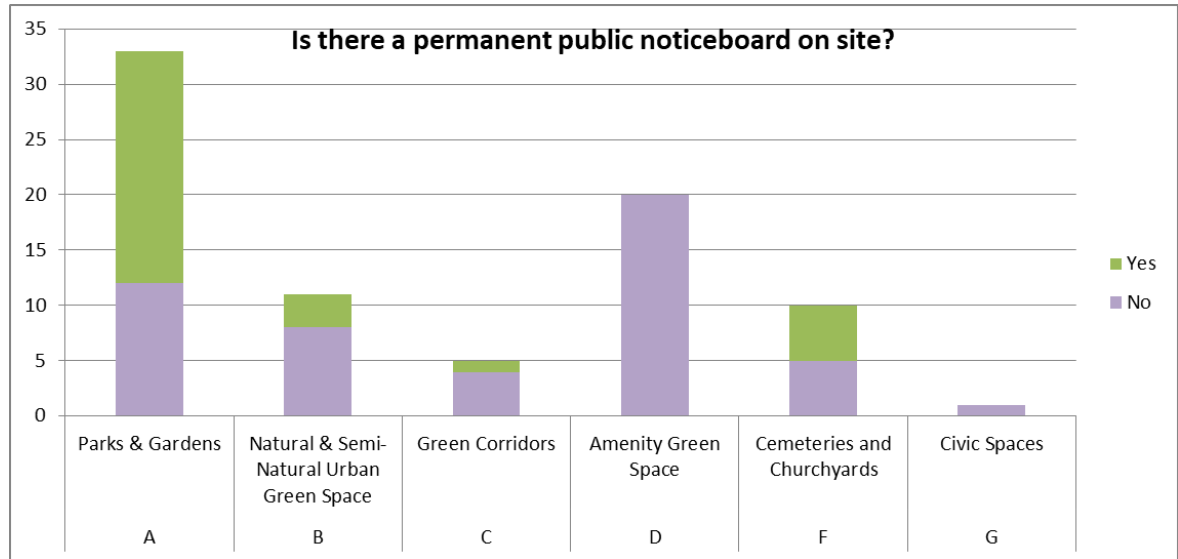


Figure 5.20: Community involvement – summary of audit results



Community garden at Church Lane



Community members are encouraged to support the management of open spaces e.g. adopt a flower bed scheme at Leyton Green



Where there are noticeboards in the borough's open spaces, many are in a poor condition and do not contain information.



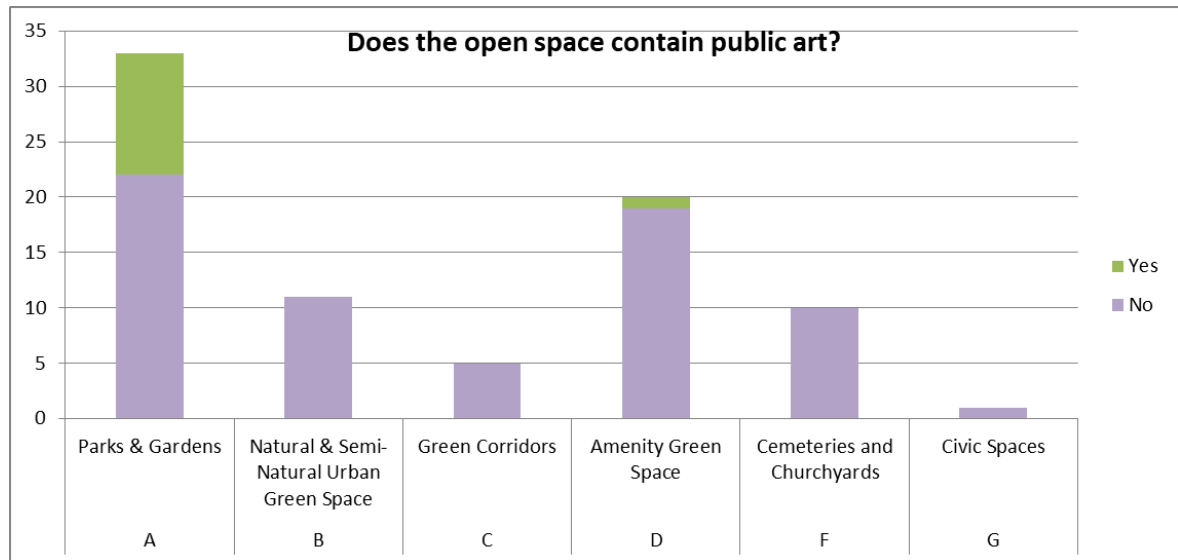
Noticeboard at Langthorne Park being used to highlight wildlife recorded in the open space.

## Marketing, communication and culture

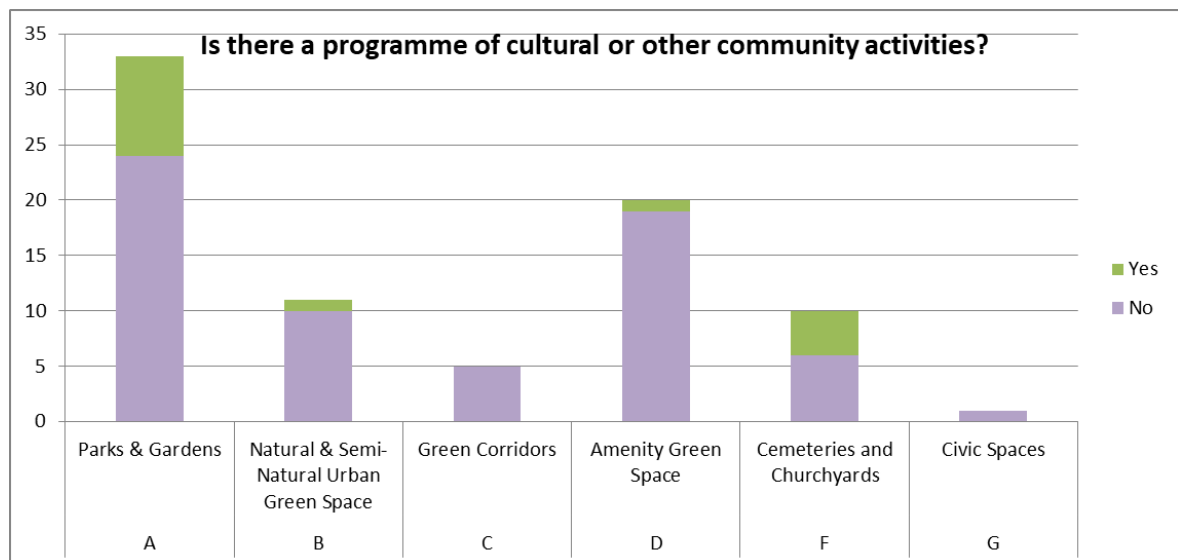
5.31 **Figure 5.21** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *Does the open space contain public art?* **Figure 5.22** shows the spread of scores for audit question: *Is there a programme of cultural or other community activities?*

5.32 Few of the borough's open spaces contain public art and there is little evidence of there being a programme of cultural or other community activities. Public art is contained primarily within the parks and gardens and amenity green spaces which is to be expected.

**Figure 5.21: Does the open space contain public art?**



**Figure 5.22: Is there a programme of cultural or other community activities?**



5.33 **Figure 5.23** provides a snapshot of some of the audit findings against this Green Flag Award theme.

Figure 5.23: Marketing and culture



Poster for a Vintage Tea event at St John's Church.



Sculpture at Lloyd and Aveling Park.



Sculpture at Acacia Park.

## Play facilities

- 5.34 Play provision at all levels of the hierarchy can be found in Waltham Forest. Overall, the majority of play areas achieved a 'good' rating for the overall condition of play equipment. On average, there are around 10 pieces of play equipment per play area, with some having up to 26. 85% of play areas audited had impact absorbing surfaces around the equipment. 90% had benches within the enclosure. 84% had litter bins within the enclosure. 71% had notice boards at the entrance stating that they were dog free, children only and provided emergency contact numbers. The vast majority had space, separate from the equipped area for informal play/general runabout.

Figure 5.24 Play sites in Waltham Forest



Pirate ship at Leyton Jubilee Park.



Climbing structures at Sidmouth Park.



Play equipment at Langthorne Park.



Play equipment at Higham Hill Recreation Ground.

5.35 Of the 14 MUGAs, ten were in 'good' condition, two in 'fair' and two in 'poor' condition. Of the three skateparks, two were in 'good' condition, with the remaining site in 'fair' condition. All other facilities were found to be in 'good' or 'fair' condition.

Figure 5.25: Teen provision in Waltham Forest



Green gym at Lloyd and Aveling Park.



Skate park at Cann Hall Park.





Basketball hoop at Henry Reynolds Gardens.



MUGA at Vestry Road Playground.



# 6 Developing open space standards





## 6 Developing open space standards

6.1 This section recommends open space provision standards. These were defined through review of the existing provision of open space 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 m<sup>2</sup> 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.

### Developing accessibility standards

6.2 There is some variation between London Boroughs, but the majority conform to the Mayor of London's Open Space Strategies: Best practice guidance<sup>6</sup> and suggested distance thresholds. The proposed accessibility standards have been guided by these standards.

6.3 The proposed accessibility standards are set out in **Table 6.1**.

**Table 6.1: Proposed accessibility standards for Waltham Forest**

Hierarchy level	Size (ha)	Proposed accessibility buffer (m)	Justification
Public Open Space			
Regional	400+	8,000	Reflects London open space hierarchy
Metropolitan	60-400	(3,200)	No sites at this level of the hierarchy
District	20-60	1,200	Reflects London open space hierarchy
Local	2-20	400	Reflects London open space hierarchy. The Mayor's guidance on open space assessments notes that this can be adjusted to account for local barriers, but as the majority of sites by number) in the borough are at this level, it is expected that users would be willing to travel this distance.
Small local	<2	280	Reflects London open space hierarchy. The Mayor's guidance on open space assessments notes that this can be adjusted to account for local barriers, and in this case, it is seen as necessary, so the smaller catchment of 280m has been applied.
Allotments			

<sup>6</sup> The Mayor of London/CABE Space, 2008. Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance. Greater London Authority: London

Hierarchy level	Size (ha)	Proposed accessibility buffer (m)	Justification
n/a	All sizes	1000m	Based on a 15 minute walking time
<b>Play and youth facilities</b>			
Neighbourhood	various	800	Guided by the Mayor of London's Supplementary Planning Guidance <i>Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation</i>
Local	Various	400	
Doorstep	Various	100	
Youth	Various	800	

6.4 Public open space standards apply to sites in the following typologies:

- Typology A: Parks and gardens.
- Typology B: Natural and semi-natural urban green space.
- Typology D: Amenity green space.

### Developing a public open space quantity standard

6.5 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 urban green space.
- Typology D: Amenity green space.

6.6 **Table 6.2** shows the quantity of open space by typology when considering accessibility. This table excludes typologies for which standalone quantity standards will be developed such as play, outdoor sports and allotments. Large waterbodies have also been excluded.

**Table 6.2: Summary of publicly accessible sites (ha) considered for public open space standard**

Typology (including secondary typology components found within other typologies)	Area (ha)
Parks & Gardens	61.6
Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	605.1
Amenity Green Space	6.1
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>672.7</b>

6.7 **Table 6.3** shows how the publicly accessible open spaces are distributed between the four Neighbourhood Areas used for this assessment.

**Table 6.3: Quantity of public open space by Neighbourhood Area**

Primary typology	Central Neighbourhood	North Neighbourhood	South East Neighbourhood	South West Neighbourhood	Total
Parks and gardens	18.5	31.0	4.2	7.9	<b>61.6</b>
Natural and semi-natural urban greenspace	162.8	313.7	66.6	62.0	<b>605.1</b>
Amenity greenspace	2.4	2.0	1.1	0.6	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>183.7</b>	<b>346.6</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>672.7</b>

- 6.8 **Table 6.4** shows this provision alongside current and future population figures (based on GLA 2015 figures) to understand what the relative provision per 1000 people is across the borough and at Neighbourhood Area level. At borough level, current provision (across these three key typologies) is 2.5 ha per 1000 people. Whilst provision per 1000 people in the North Neighbourhood Area is significantly higher than the borough average, the three remaining Neighbourhood Areas fall below this figure. The effect of a growing population to 2033 will have the effect of reducing the overall quantity (at borough level) to 2.1ha per 1000 people (if no further open space is added), with the three Neighbourhood Areas already below the borough average falling further below current provision.

**Table 6.4: Provision of public open space per 1000 people (GLA Interim 2015-based projections)**

Neighbourhood Area	Public Open Space (ha)	2017 population (rounded)	2033 population (rounded)	POS ha/1000 2017	POS ha/1000 2033
Central Neighbourhood	183.7	90,800	107,900	2.0	1.7
North Neighbourhood	349.6	70,700	71,900	4.9	4.9
South East Neighbourhood	71.9	53,900	61,100	1.3	1.2
South West Neighbourhood	82.0	63,500	80,400	1.3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>687.2</b>	<b>278,800</b>	<b>321,200</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>

- 6.9 **Table 6.5** shows the same analysis using the GLA 2016 housing-led projections. Results are similar, with a slightly higher level of provision per 1000 population figure at 2033 as expected due to the lower 2033 population forecast. There are small variations at Neighbourhood Area level at 2033 as well.

**Table 6.5: Provision of public open space per 1000 people (GLA 2016-based projections)**

Neighbourhood Area	Public Open Space (ha)	2017 population (rounded)	2033 population (rounded)	POS ha/1000 2017	POS ha/1000 2033
Central Neighbourhood	183.7	91,500	101,000	2.0	1.8
North Neighbourhood	349.6	70,700	74,900	4.9	4.7
South East Neighbourhood	71.9	54,200	57,900	1.3	1.2
South West Neighbourhood	82.0	63,700	75,000	1.3	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>687.2</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>308,800</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>

- 6.10 The regional parks are 'propping' this borough average up. When these two large natural and semi-natural urban green spaces are excluded from the above, the borough average provision levels fall to 0.4ha per 1000 people.
- 6.11 Whilst a Public Open Space standard of 2.5 ha per 1000 people would ensure that the current levels of public open space provision are protected, it is clear that the levels of provision enjoyed in the North Neighbourhood Area are far above the levels experienced in other parts of the borough, and consideration should be given to a scenario where the standard is generated from the average provision in the other three neighbourhood areas. **Tables 6.6 and 6.7** offer an alternative Public Open Space Standard of **1.6 ha/1000 people**.

**Table 6.6: Provision of public open space per 1000 people when North Neighbourhood Area is excluded from the average (GLA Interim 2015-based projections)**

Neighbourhood Area	Public Open Space (ha)	2017 population (rounded)	2033 population (rounded)	POS ha/1000 2017	POS ha/1000 2033
Central Neighbourhood	183.7	90,800	107,900	2.0	1.7
South East Neighbourhood	71.9	53,900	61,100	1.3	1.2
South West Neighbourhood	82.0	63,500	80,400	1.3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>337.6</b>	<b>208,200</b>	<b>249,400</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<i>North Neighbourhood</i>	<i>346.6</i>	<i>70,700</i>	<i>71,900</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>4.9</i>

**Table 6.7: Provision of public open space per 1000 people when North Neighbourhood Area is excluded from the average (GLA 2016-based projections)**

Neighbourhood Area	Public Open Space (ha)	2017 population (rounded)	2033 population (rounded)	POS ha/1000 2017	POS ha/1000 2033
Central Neighbourhood	183.7	91,500	101,000	2.0	1.7
South East Neighbourhood	71.9	54,200	57,900	1.3	1.2
South West Neighbourhood	82.0	63,700	75,000	1.3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>337.6</b>	<b>209,400</b>	<b>233,900</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<i>North Neighbourhood</i>	<i>346.6</i>	<i>70,700</i>	<i>74,900</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>4.9</i>

- 6.12 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.
- 6.13 A quantity standard has not been developed for allotments given the discrepancy in the mapped assessment and the councils own records. 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.
- 6.14 The proposed quantity standards for Waltham Forest are set out in **Table 6.8**.

**Table 6.8 Proposed quantity standards for Waltham Forest**

Typology	Proposed standard	Justification
<b>Public Open Space</b>	1.6ha/1000 people	Based on an assessment of the current levels of provision, adjusted to reflect the much higher levels of provision in the North Neighbourhood compared to the other three Neighbourhood areas. Comparable to existing standard.
<b>Allotments</b>	Mapped data does not match Councils own records, so it is difficult to establish a standard.	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.
<b>Play</b>	10 sqm/child	Guided by the Mayor of London's Supplementary Planning Guidance <i>Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and</i>



Typology	Proposed standard	Justification
		<i>Informal Recreation</i>

### Quality assessment

- 6.15 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.
  - Higher quality and/or higher value sites within Waltham Forest which provide a ‘standard’ against which to assess sites.
  - Ensuring standards are set at such a level to be aspirational, yet achievable based on existing quality and value.
- 6.16 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. 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 Waltham Forest, 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 standard score, i.e. a minimum level of quality which should be achieved at any open space. A standard score has been defined for each level of the hierarchy reflecting the ideal score scenario for a good quality site.

### Value assessment

- 6.17 Value is fundamentally different from quality; a space can be valued for a range of reasons even 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.
- 6.18 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 standard score specific to the different types of open space in Waltham Forest. 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 standards for quality and value

- 6.19 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.
- 6.20 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.

- 6.21 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 spaces audited through this study is contained within **Appendix 3**.
- 6.22 Each site has therefore been given a quality rating and a value rating, showing how they are performing against the proposed quality and value standards. Sites that are within 5 'points' of their respective quality and value standards have been noted in order to identify those sites that are close to meeting the proposed standards.
- 6.23 The proposed quality and value standards for are set out in **Table 6.9**. The standards have been developed through reviewing the range of scores for each open space by type and hierarchy, with consideration given to the minimum level of quality and value which should be achieved at any open space. **Appendix 4** shows how each of these standards has been derived.

**Table 6.9: Proposed quality and value standards for Waltham Forest**

Type/hierarchy	Quality standard	Value standard
<b>Parks and gardens</b>		
Local	44	44
Small local	37	34
<b>Natural and semi-natural urban green space</b>		
District	31	21
Local	26	16
Small local	24	16
<b>Green corridors</b>		
Green corridors	17	11
<b>Amenity green space</b>		
Amenity green space	22	9
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		
Cemeteries and churchyards	27	17
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		
Neighbourhood	4	30
Local	4	18
Doorstep	4	16
Youth	3*	n/a**

\*Due to the variable nature of youth provision, each item should be of good quality.

\*\* Although a value standard has not been proposed, facilities should be of sufficient interest for this age group.

## Application of the proposed public open space standards

- 6.24 The standards proposed in the previous section have been applied to sites in Waltham Forest 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. 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.

### Quantity

- 6.25 **Tables 6.10 and 6.11** show how each Neighbourhood Area performs against the proposed quantity standard of 1.6ha/1000 people now and in the future using the two GLA population

projection scenarios. Neighbourhood Areas highlighted in green meet or exceed the standard and those in orange fall below the standard.

**Table 6.10: Provision of public open space per 1000 people against proposed standard of 1.6ha/1000 people (GLA Interim 2015-based projections)**

Neighbourhood Area	Public Open Space (ha)	2017 population (rounded)	2033 population (rounded)	POS (ha)/1000 2017	POS (ha)/1000 2033
Central Neighbourhood	183.7	90,800	107,900	2.0	1.7
North Neighbourhood	349.6	70,700	71,900	4.9	4.9
South East Neighbourhood	71.9	53,900	61,100	1.3	1.2
South West Neighbourhood	80.2	63,500	80,400	1.3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>687.2</b>	<b>278,800</b>	<b>321,200</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>

**Table 6.11: Provision of public open space per 1000 people against proposed standard of 1.6ha/1000 people (GLA 2016-based projections)**

Neighbourhood Area	Public Open Space (ha)	2017 population (rounded)	2033 population (rounded)	POS (ha)/1000 2017	POS (ha)/1000 2033
Central Neighbourhood	183.7	91,500	101,000	2.0	1.8
North Neighbourhood	349.6	70,700	74,900	4.9	4.7
South East Neighbourhood	71.9	54,200	57,900	1.3	1.2
South West Neighbourhood	82.0	63,700	75,000	1.3	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>687.2</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>308,800</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>

- 6.26 It is clear from the above that at borough level, current provision exceeds the proposed standard of 1.6ha/1000 people. There is however, spatial variation across the borough with the Central and North Neighbourhood Areas exceeding the quantity standards and the South East and South West Neighbourhood Areas falling below the quantity standard.
- 6.27 It is unlikely that new open space will be able to be created to achieve a 1.6ha/1000 people standard in all neighbourhood areas, and it is also important to note that exceeding any quantity standard in the Northern Neighbourhood Area does not imply that open space in this part of the borough is surplus to requirement. Similarly, being below the quantity standard is not in itself a reason to preclude development in such areas. Instead, it will be particularly important to secure new open spaces within these areas, despite likely limited opportunities given the densely populated urban context. Innovative 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.

### Quality, value and accessibility

- 6.28 Application of the proposed quality, value and accessibility standards is explored at the borough level below and for each Neighbourhood Area in more detail in **Chapter 7**.
- 6.29 **Appendix 5** shows the full list of sites with their quality and value scores. **Figure 6.1** shows how audited sites are performing against the proposed quality standards. **Figure 6.2** shows how audited sites are performing against the proposed value standards. The left hand panel of each figure shows all sites in the borough (and significant sites beyond) by their primary typology for easy reference.

### *Quality*

- 6.30 **Figure 6.1** shows that at the borough level, audited sites in the south of the borough are more consistently meeting or exceeding the quality standards for their respective typologies. Several larger spaces in the north of the borough are falling below the proposed standards. Overall, more than half of the sites that have been audited are meeting or exceeding the quality standard, with a further 16% close to meeting it.
- 6.31 Looking across the various typologies, a little over half of the parks and gardens in the borough are meeting or exceeding the quality standard. This includes all seven premier parks. 15% of parks and gardens are close to meeting the standard (within 5 points of meeting it).
- 6.32 Whilst the two regional parks have both been awarded Green Flag Award status, the quality audit of smaller spaces in the borough has identified that only a quarter of natural and semi-natural urban green spaces in the borough are meeting or exceeding the standard for this typology. Two thirds are falling below the standard.
- 6.33 Of the five audited green corridors, only one meets the quality standard. Three sites are within reach of the standard, with one falling below.
- 6.34 The audit found that amenity spaces in the borough are performing well against the proposed standard, with 70% meeting the standard and a further 20% within reach of the standard.
- 6.35 Similarly, the vast majority of cemeteries and churchyards are meeting the standard with only two sites falling below.

### *Value*

- 6.36 **Figure 6.2** shows that at borough level, the vast majority of audited sites are meeting or exceeding the proposed value standards. Only 10% of audited sites are not meeting the value standard. Six of the seven Premier Parks are meeting or exceeding the standard, but Coronation Gardens has been assessed as falling below the value standard.
- 6.37 Looking across the various typologies, almost three quarters of audited parks and gardens meet or exceed the value standard. Eight sites fall below the standard and seven of these are small local sites. The majority of these lower value sites are in the south of the borough, although Mansfield Park is a large site below the value standard in the north of the borough.
- 6.38 All but one of the natural and semi-natural urban green spaces meet or exceed the value standard, with one site close to meeting it.
- 6.39 All green corridors and amenity spaces meet or exceed the value standard. Only two churchyards and cemeteries fall below the value standard, but both are within reach of it.

### *Quality and value*

- 6.40 **Figure 6.3** shows the quality and value ratings alongside one another. Quality will be most significant in the Open Space Strategy in guiding future investment in Waltham Forest's open spaces to meet the needs of visitors. Value shows how individuals and the wider Waltham Forest community value Waltham Forest's open spaces and is most significant in protecting them for future generations.

### *Accessibility*

- 6.41 The assessment on the provision of open spaces accessible to residents of Waltham Forest should not be constrained to the borough boundary. Significant open spaces in neighbouring boroughs such as Hackney and Redbridge are likely to contribute greatly to the health and wellbeing of residents providing valuable opportunities for formal and informal recreation. Significant spaces outside of the borough have been included in the assessment below.
- 6.42 **Figure 6.4** demonstrates that at the regional and metropolitan level, the proposed accessibility standard is achieved throughout the borough as a result of Lee Valley Regional Park in the west of the borough and Epping Forest in the east. Both of these are at the regional level of the hierarchy, but they will equally perform the role of metropolitan sites. At these levels of the hierarchy, access to natural and semi-natural urban green space is enjoyed by all residents.

6.43 **Figure 6.5** shows the application of district level standards. There are no parks and gardens in the borough at this level of the hierarchy, but immediately south of the borough boundary, there are three parks and gardens at this level of the hierarchy in Hackney:

- Millfields.
- Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- Hackney Marshes.

6.44 These spaces provide important access to sizeable formal open spaces for the residents in the south of the borough.

6.45 **Figure 6.5** also shows the application of district level standards for natural and semi-natural urban green space. The vast majority of the borough enjoys access to sites of this typology and level of the hierarchy. The exception being a small corridor running through the centre of the borough from the south of the borough to just north of Forest Road.

6.46 **Figures 6.6 to 6.7** explore the results of applying the proposed local and small local level accessibility standards by typology.

#### *Parks and gardens*

6.47 **Figure 6.6** shows that at the **local level**, there are large areas of the borough that do not have access to formal parks and gardens. There are some wards that have no provision of this typology at all. Sites outside of the borough make a meaningful contribution to Waltham Forest residents. Notably, the South East Neighbourhood Area has no provision at this level of the hierarchy. In the absence of parks and gardens, it is possible that some of the boroughs cemeteries and churchyards are being used as a substitute for the types of experiences people seek in parks and gardens – quiet contemplation and enjoyment.

6.48 At the **small local level**, **Figure 6.6** shows that there is more provision. In the south of the borough, with the notable exception of Lloyd and Aveling Park, parks and gardens are smaller than in the north of the borough, but they provide reasonably good coverage overall.

#### *Natural and semi-natural urban green space*

6.49 **Figure 6.7** shows that at the **local level** residents around the edges of the borough enjoy good access to natural and semi-natural urban green space. There are fewer opportunities for residents living away from the borough edges to enjoy access to nature close to their doorstep. The exception is Larkswood and Larkswood Playing Fields in Larkswood Ward. This sizeable site provides an important link between Lee Valley and Epping Forest and access to nature for residents in Larkswood Ward. In the south east, Wanstead Flats in Redbridge contributes to local access for Waltham Forest residents. **Figure 6.7** shows that at the **small local level** of the hierarchy, a similar pattern emerges.

#### *Amenity green space*

6.50 **Figure 6.8a** shows accessibility to amenity green spaces in the borough. These spaces are all relatively small. It is reasonable to assume that in the absence of amenity green space, parks and gardens would be used as a higher value equivalent. The central band enjoys reasonable access to opportunities for informal activities close to home or work.

#### *Allotments*

6.51 As shown on **Figure 6.8b**, the majority of Waltham Forest residents are within the catchment of an allotment. There are small areas of deficiency in parts of the wards of Wood Street, Forest, Hoe Street and Cann Hall. Quality of provision has not been assessed as part of this study.

#### *Public open space*

6.52 **Figure 6.9a** takes a combined view of local level public open space in the borough; showing the combined catchments of parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural urban green space to identify where residents may be deficient in all types of public open space at this level of the hierarchy. In the North Neighbourhood Areas, some deficiencies exist in all of the wards. There are more significant deficiencies apparent in the Central Neighbourhood Area, particularly Hoe Street and Chapel End Wards. In the South West Neighbourhood Area, Grove Green Ward has no access to public open space at this level of the hierarchy. Leyton, Lea Bridge and Markhouse

wards are well served on their western edges, less so to the east. In the South East Neighbourhood Area, Cathall ward is most deficient with Forest, Leytonstone and Cann Hall Wards better served on their eastern edges.

- 6.53 **Figure 6.9b** takes a combined view of small local level public open space in the borough; showing the combined catchments of parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban green space and amenity green space to identify where residents may be deficient in all types of public open space at this level of the hierarchy. At this level of the hierarchy, there is better access in the central north-south axis of the borough. Although there are areas of deficiency across the borough, there are no wards without any access to public open space.

## Application of the proposed allotment accessibility standard

- 6.54 Whilst it is recommended that the Council's own records on areas of allotments are reconciled against the mapped data generated as part of this review to establish a quantity standard, **Figure 6.8b** shows the level of accessibility of allotments once the proposed accessibility standard is applied.
- 6.55 As can be seen in **Figure 6.8b**, the majority of the borough's residents are within 1km of an allotment. Parts of Hoe Street, Forest and Wood Street wards are deficient in access to allotments.

## Application of the proposed play standards

### Quantity

- 6.56 Provision of playable spaces in Waltham Forest varies across Neighbourhood Areas. **Table 6.12** shows how provision of play spaces reduces with an increase population. Only the GLA 2016 housing-led data has ward level/age data to allow the estimation of the number of children (0-17 years) per neighbourhood area at 2033, so the limitations of this data described in earlier sections should be borne in mind. As can be seen in **Table 6.12**, provision falls far below the 10m<sup>2</sup> proposed standard. The overall play figure does not fully account for play provision in housing estates, schools and private sites. The 10 square metre standard also includes areas of informal play space.

**Table 6.12: Application of play provision quantity standard to identify shortfall/surplus**

Neighbourhood Area	Play Space (m <sup>2</sup> )	Child population 2017 (rounded)	Child population 2033 (rounded)	Playspace per child 2017 (m <sup>2</sup> )	Playspace per child 2033 (m <sup>2</sup> )
Central Neighbourhood	23,621	23,900	24,900	1.0	0.9
North Neighbourhood	15,984	16,100	15,300	1.0	1.0
South East Neighbourhood	13,083	11,500	11,400	1.1	1.2
South West Neighbourhood	27,478	16,300	17,800	1.7	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,165</b>	<b>67,800</b>	<b>69,400</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>

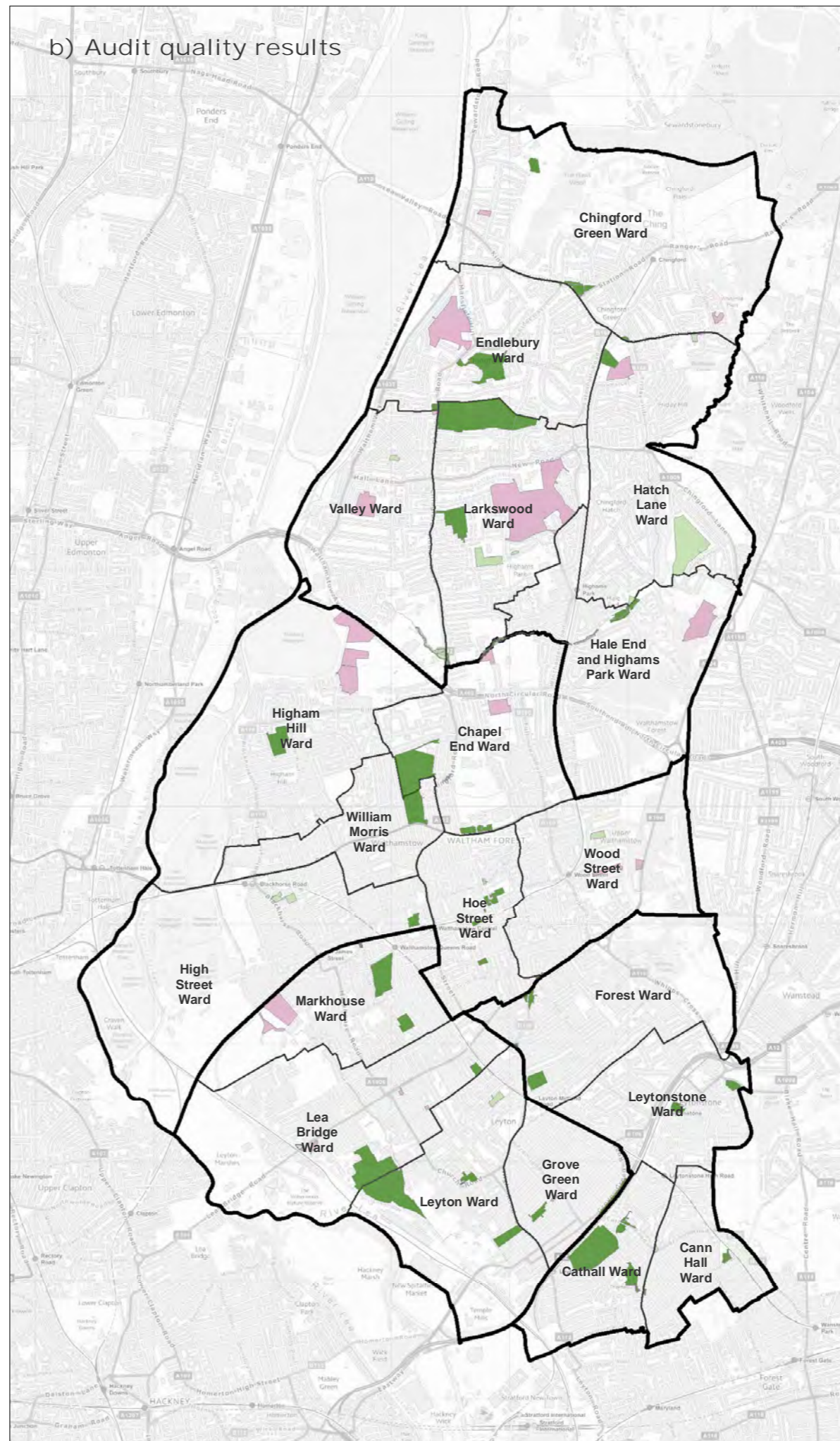
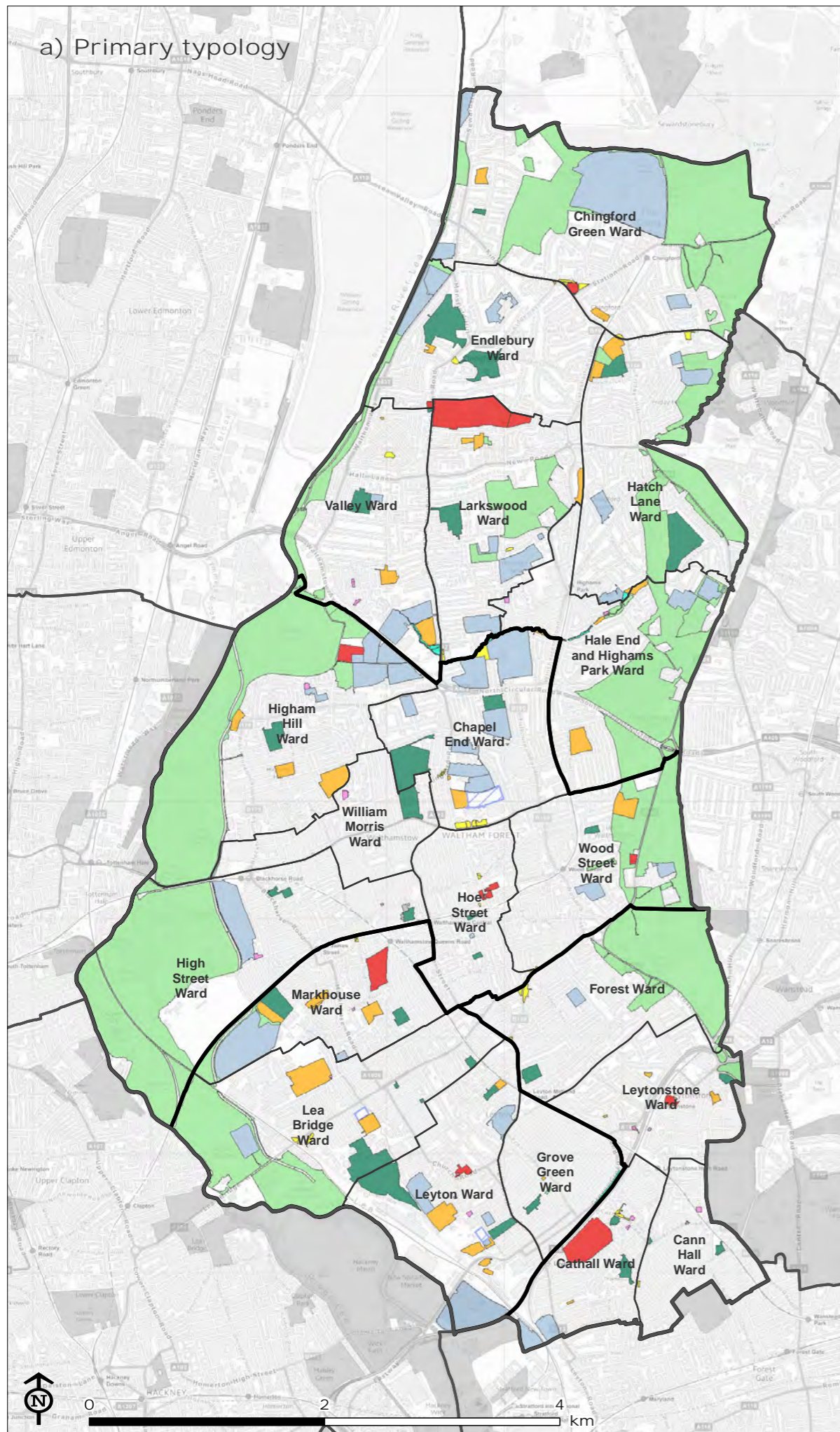
### Quality, value and accessibility

- 6.57 **Figure 6.10** shows the results of assessing the play provision quality and value of audited sites against the proposed play standards. As can be seen in the figure, the vast majority of play provision has met or exceeded the quality standard. A slightly higher proportion of play sites do not meet the value standard, but the majority do meet or exceed the standard.

- 6.58 **Figure 6.11** shows the results of applying the accessibility standards for doorstep and local play provision. Doorstep sites typically only have provision for 0-5 year olds. Local play sites typically have play for 6-11 year olds. As can be seen in the figure, very few sites cater for 0-5 year olds only. These sites are found in the Central Neighbourhood Area and have very limited catchments.
- 6.59 There are larger numbers of sites that cater for 6-11 year olds. The north of the borough has relatively fewer such sites.
- 6.60 **Figure 6.12a** shows the distribution and catchments for sites with neighbourhood play provision. These sites cater for multiple age groups. It should be noted that in this assessment, because play results have been presented at overall site level, provision can be found across multiple play areas within one overall site. The north eastern corner of the borough has limited provision at all levels of the hierarchy as shown in **Figure 6.12b**. The same is true for eastern parts of Wood Street Ward.







Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review

Figure 6.1: Quality of audited sites

Key for map a)

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Open spaces in surrounding authorities\*

Typology

- Parks & Gardens
- Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Green Corridors
- Amenity Green Space
- Civic Spaces
- Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Provision for Children and Teenagers
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Disused Outdoor Sports Facilities

Key for map b)

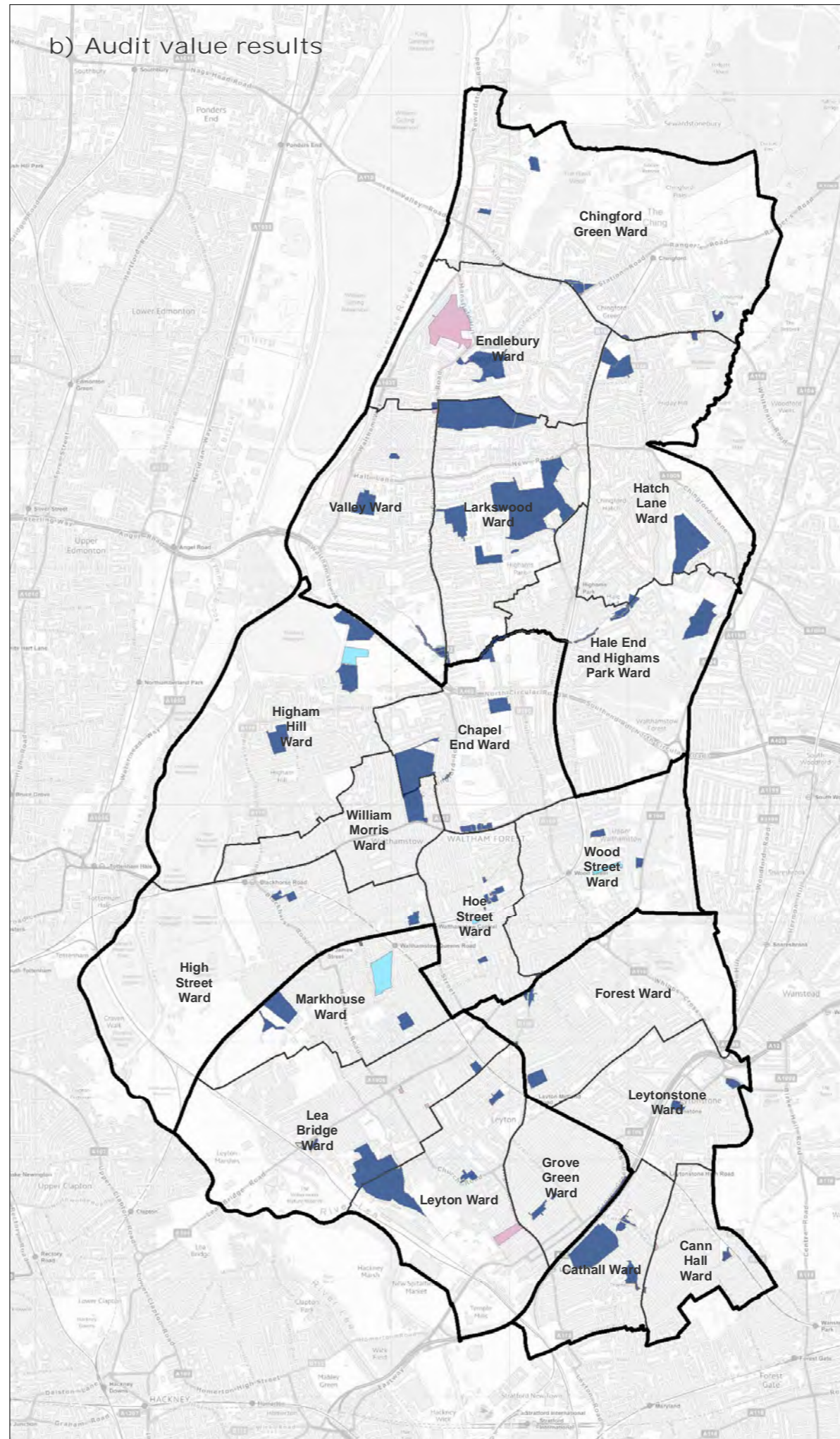
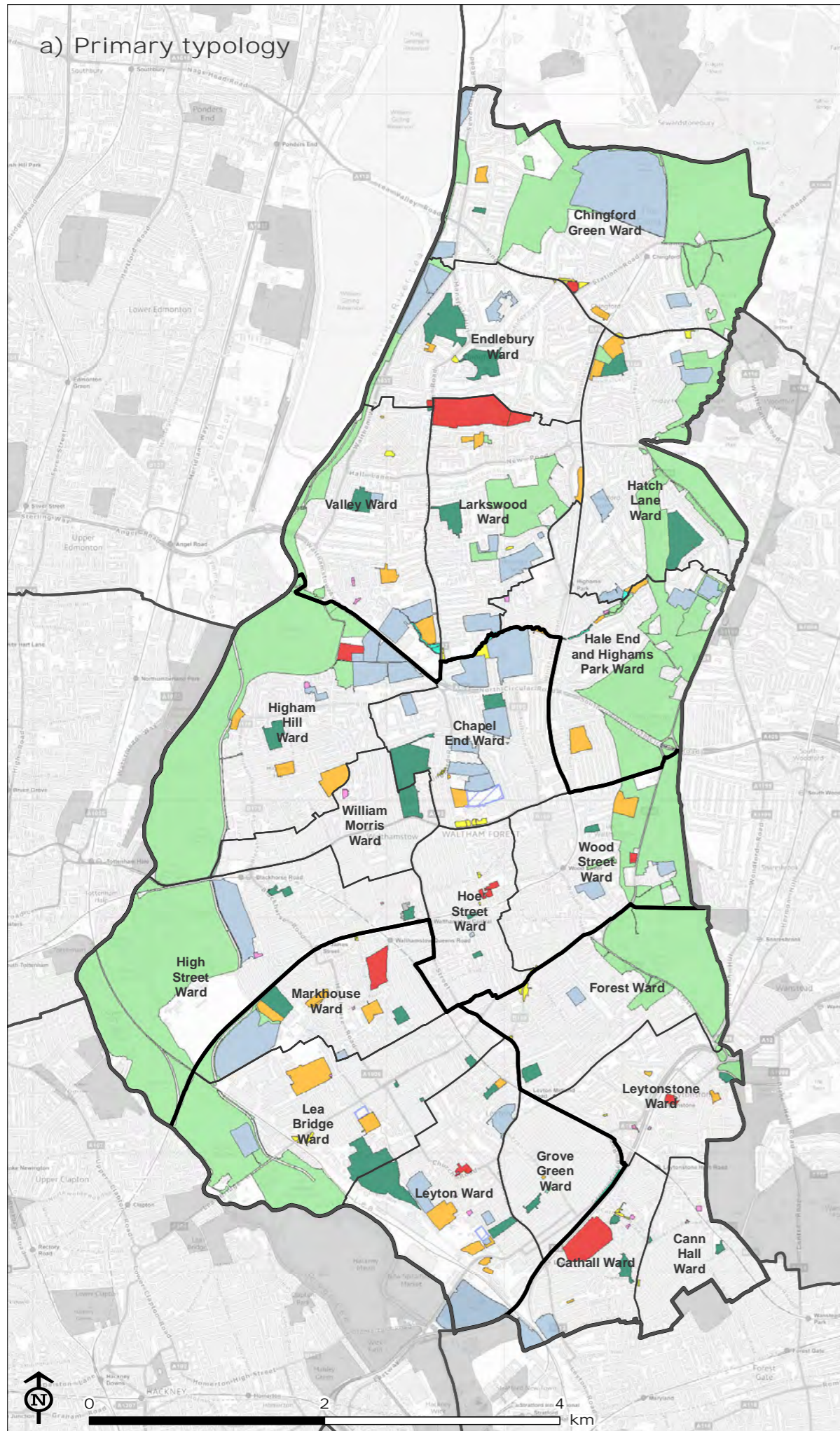
- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries

Quality assessment

- Meets or exceeds standard (42)
- Close to meeting standard (13)
- Doesn't meet standard (26)
- Currently closed (1)

\*May not be comprehensive  
Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review

Figure 6.2: Value of audited sites

Key for map a)

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Open spaces in surrounding authorities\*

Typology

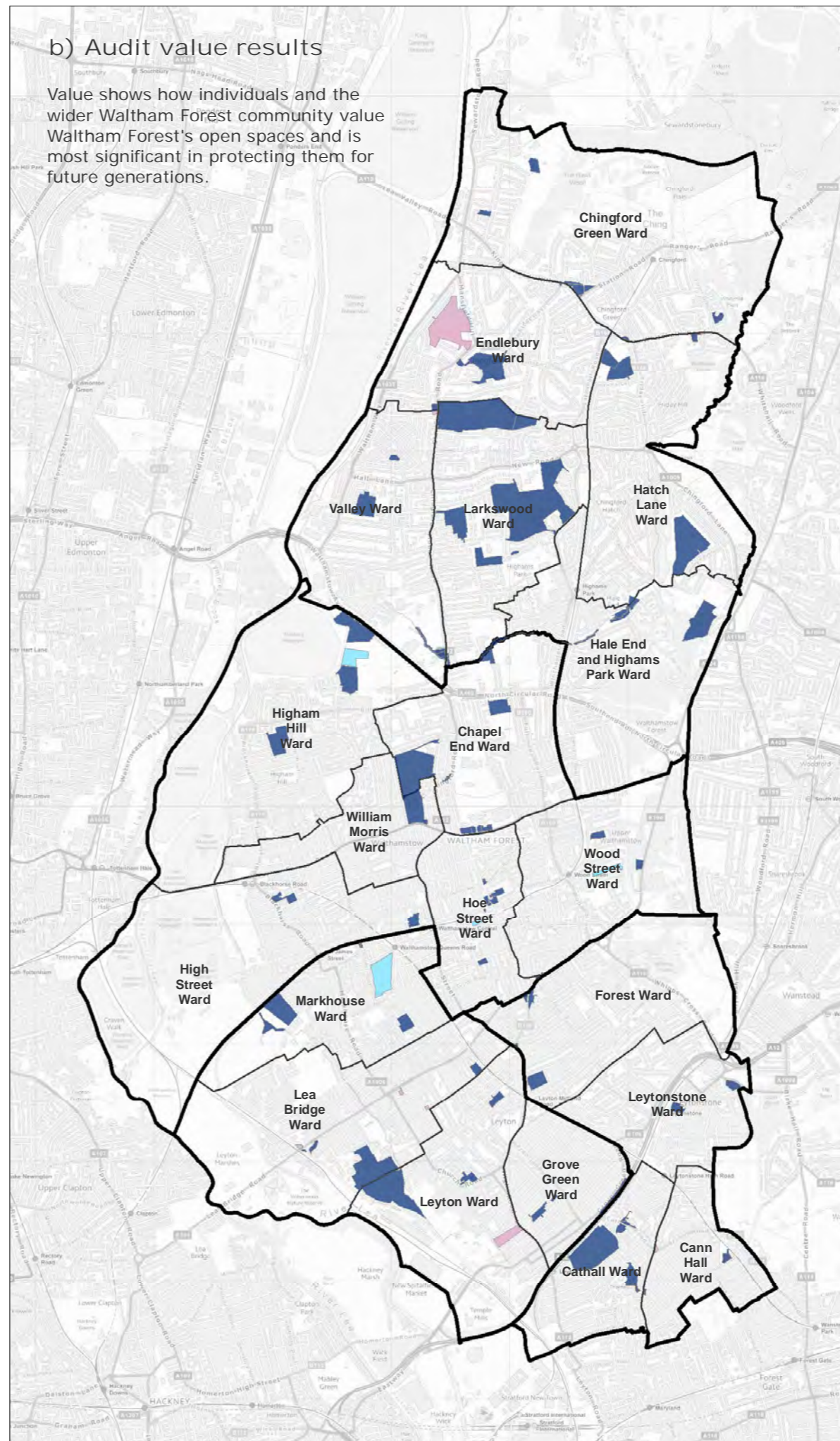
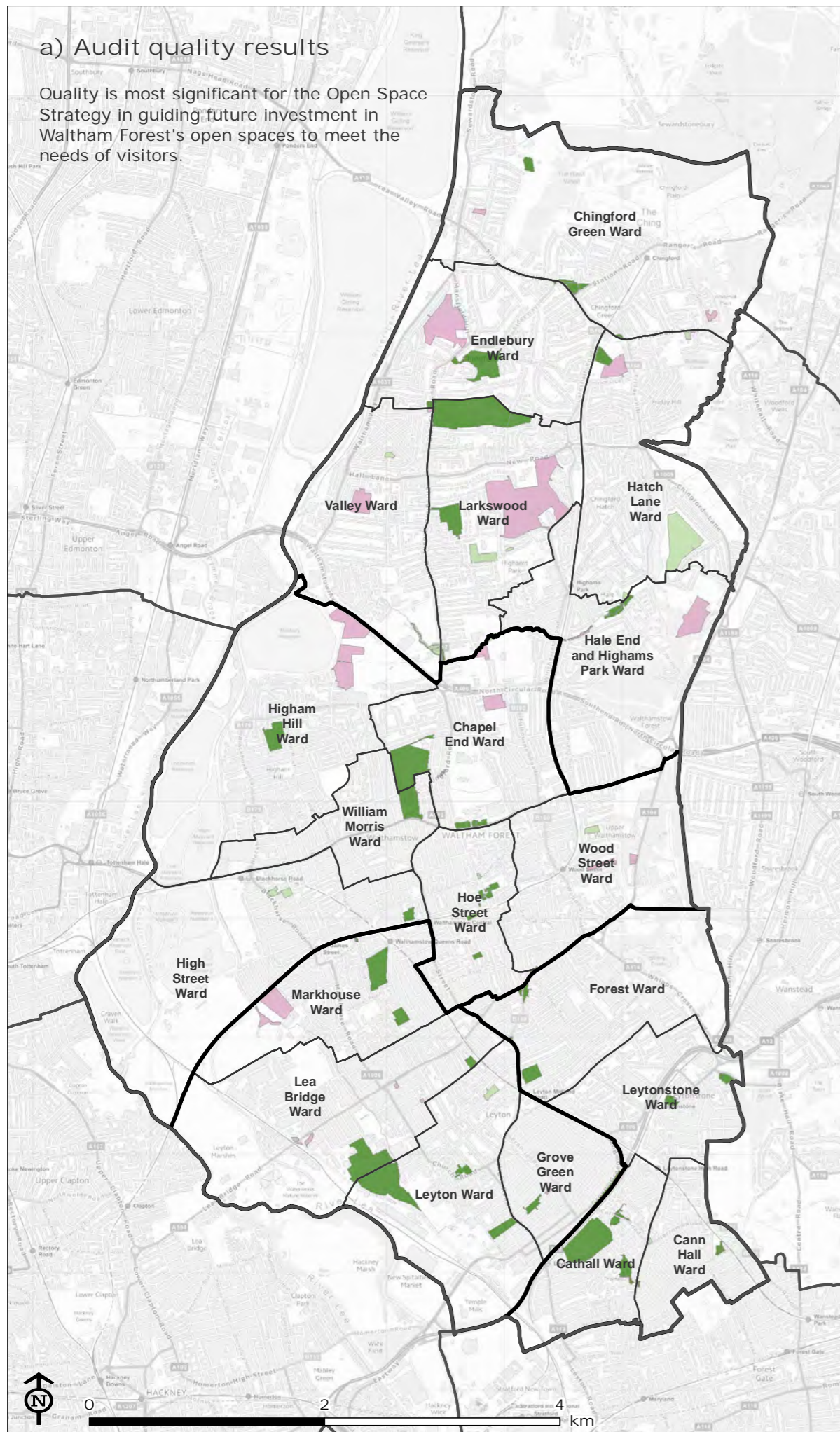
- Parks & Gardens
- Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Green Corridors
- Amenity Green Space
- Civic Spaces
- Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Provision for Children and Teenagers
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Disused Outdoor Sports Facilities

Key for map b)

- Analysis Areas
  - Ward boundaries
- Value assessment
- Meets or exceeds standard (69)
  - Close to meeting standard (4)
  - Doesn't meet standard (8)
  - Site currently closed (1)

\*May not be comprehensive  
Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





## Waltham Forest Open Space Review

Figure 6.3: Quality and value of audited sites

Key for map a)

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries

Quality assessment

- Meets or exceeds standard (42)
- Close to meeting standard (13)
- Doesn't meet standard (26)
- Currently closed (1)

Key for map b)

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries

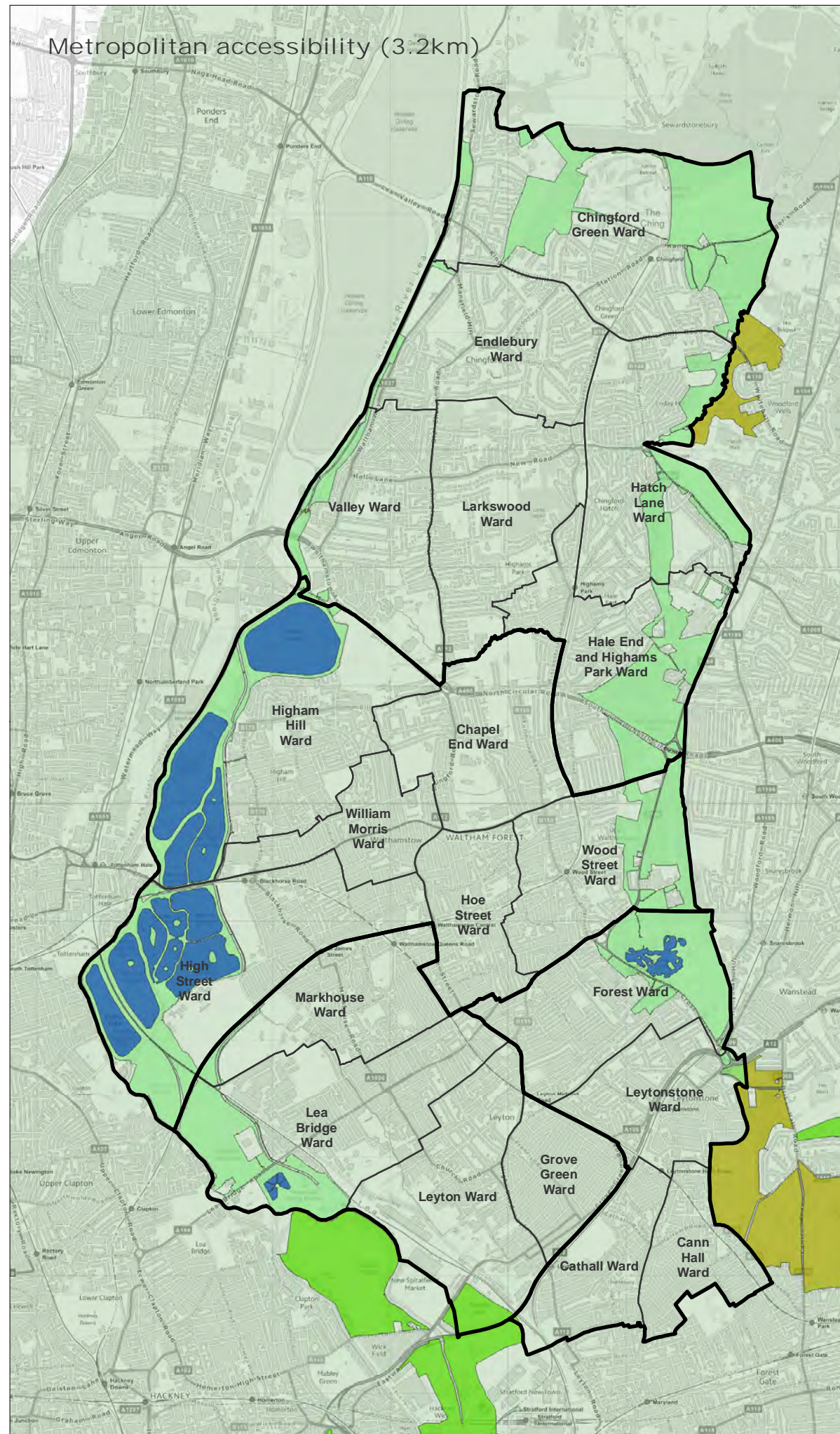
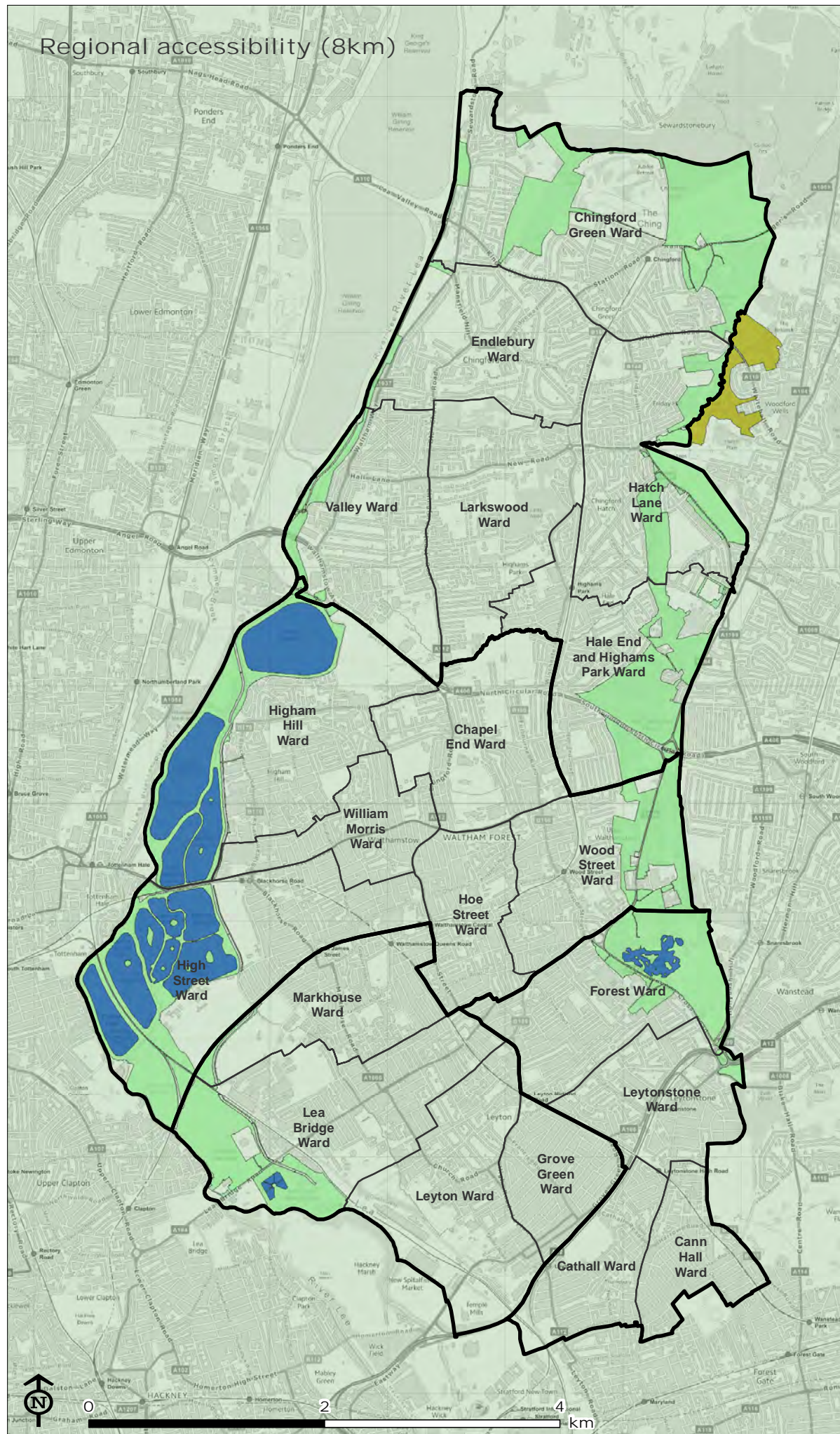
Value assessment

- Meets or exceeds standard (69)
- Close to meeting standard (4)
- Doesn't meet standard (8)
- Currently closed (1)

Type/hierarchy	Quality standard	Value standard
<b>Parks and gardens</b>		
Local	44	44
Small local	37	34
<b>Natural and semi-natural urban green space</b>		
District	31	21
Local	26	16
Small local	24	14
<b>Green corridors</b>		
Green corridors	17	11
<b>Amenity green space</b>		
Amenity green space	22	9
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>		
Cemeteries and churchyards	27	17

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





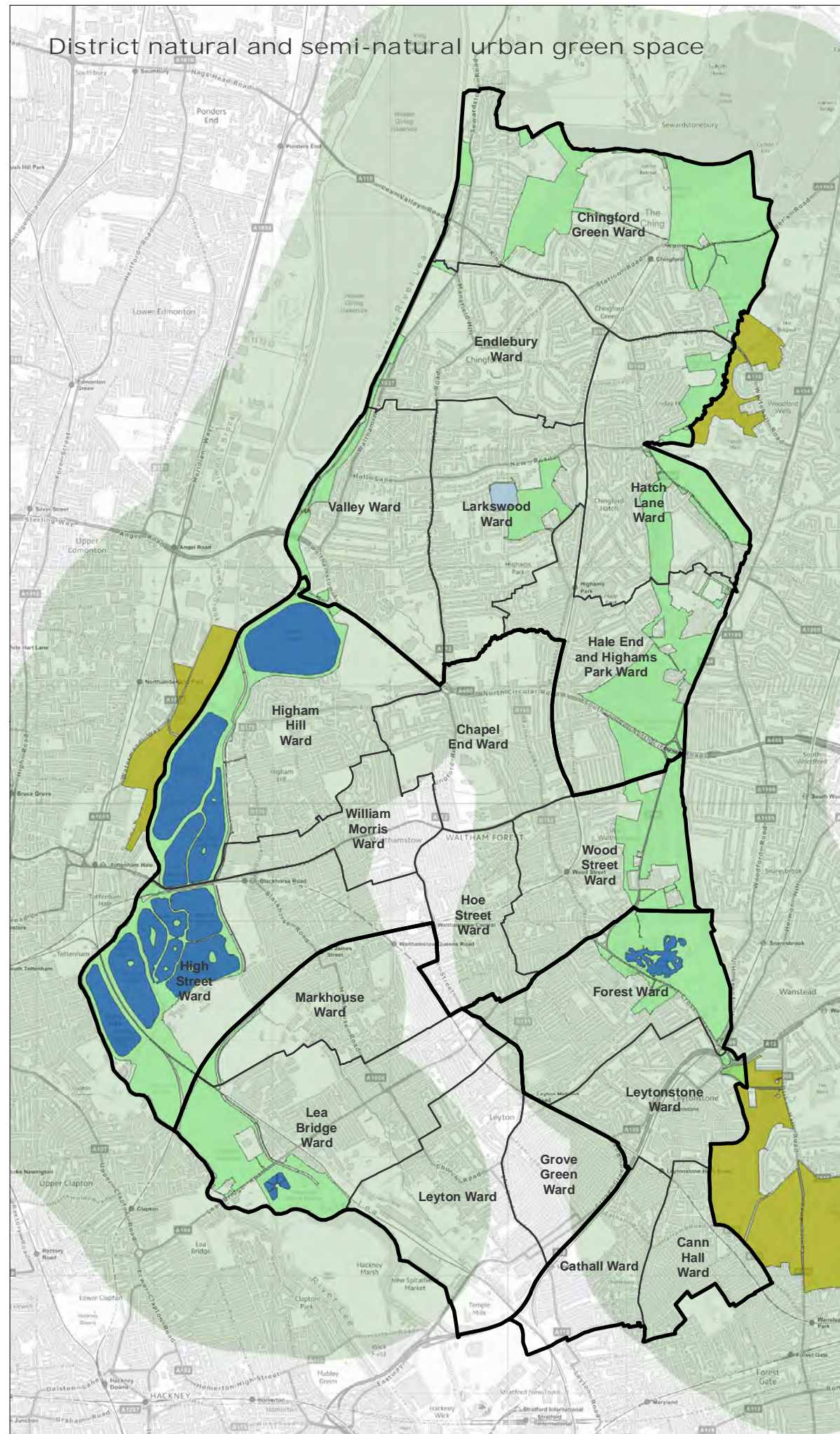
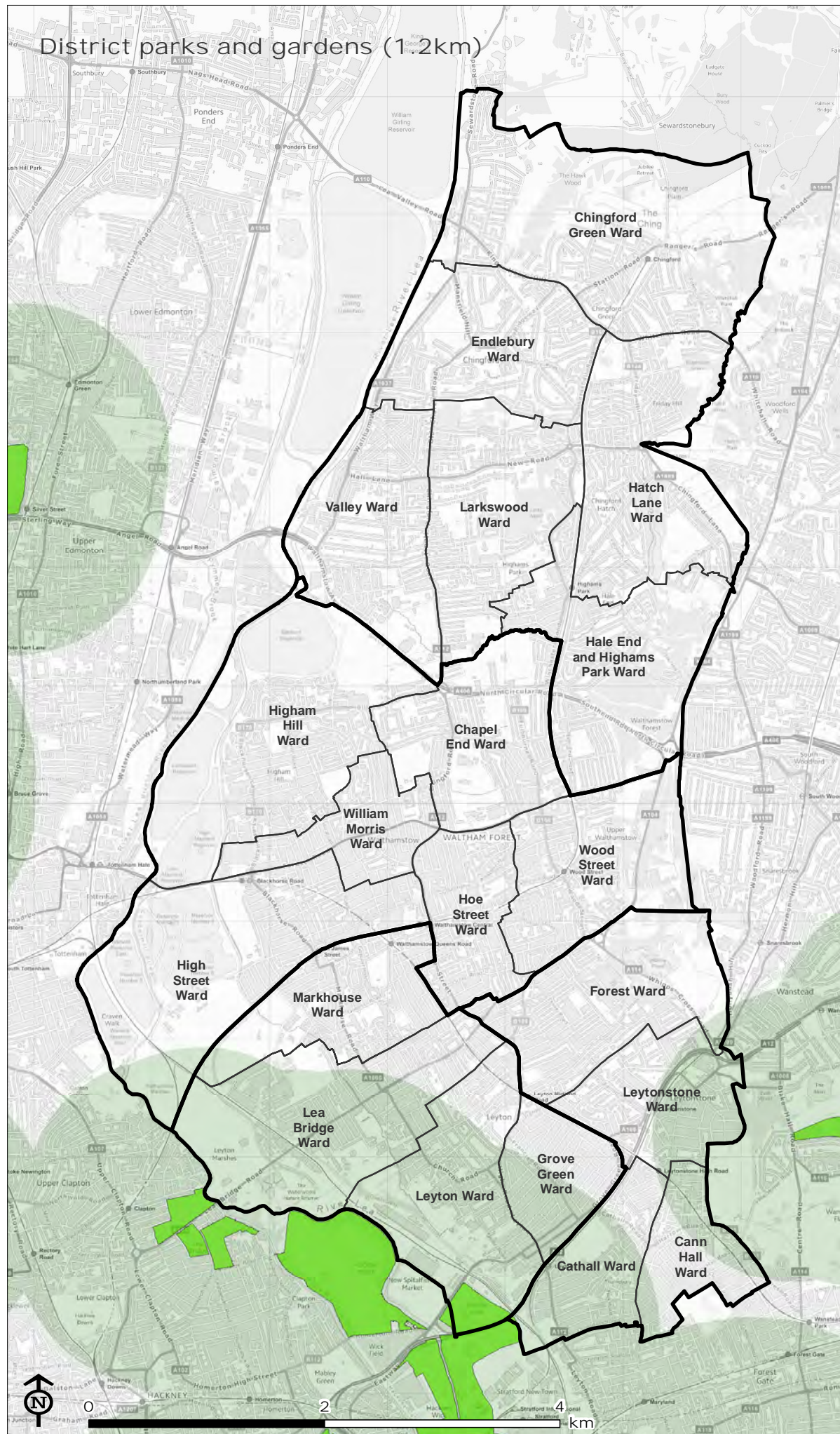
## Waltham Forest Open Space Review

Figure 6.4: Regional and metropolitan accessibility

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Sites in Waltham Forest
  - Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
  - Large waterbodies
- Relevant sites in surrounding authorities
  - Parks & Gardens
  - Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Accessibility buffers
  - Site catchments

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





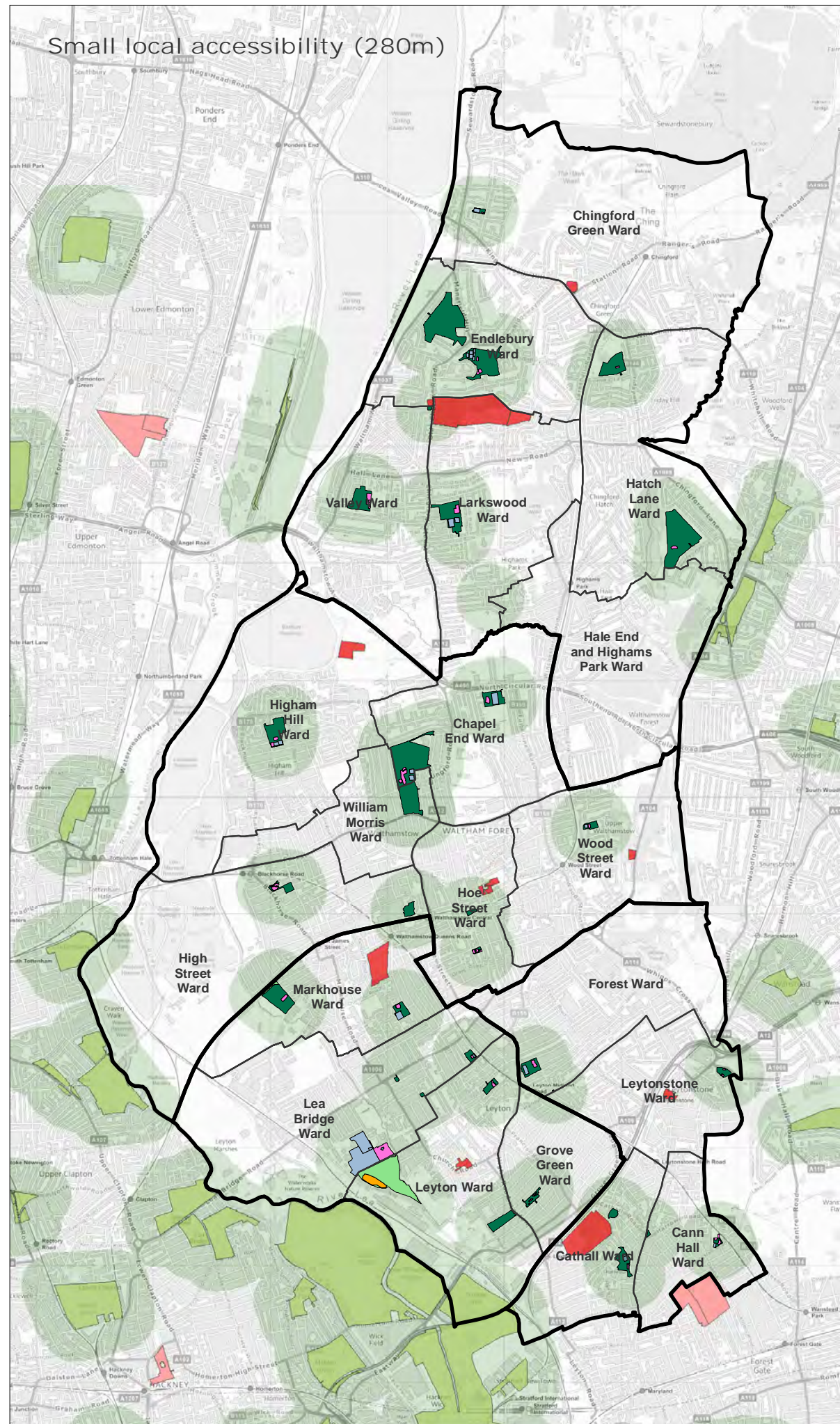
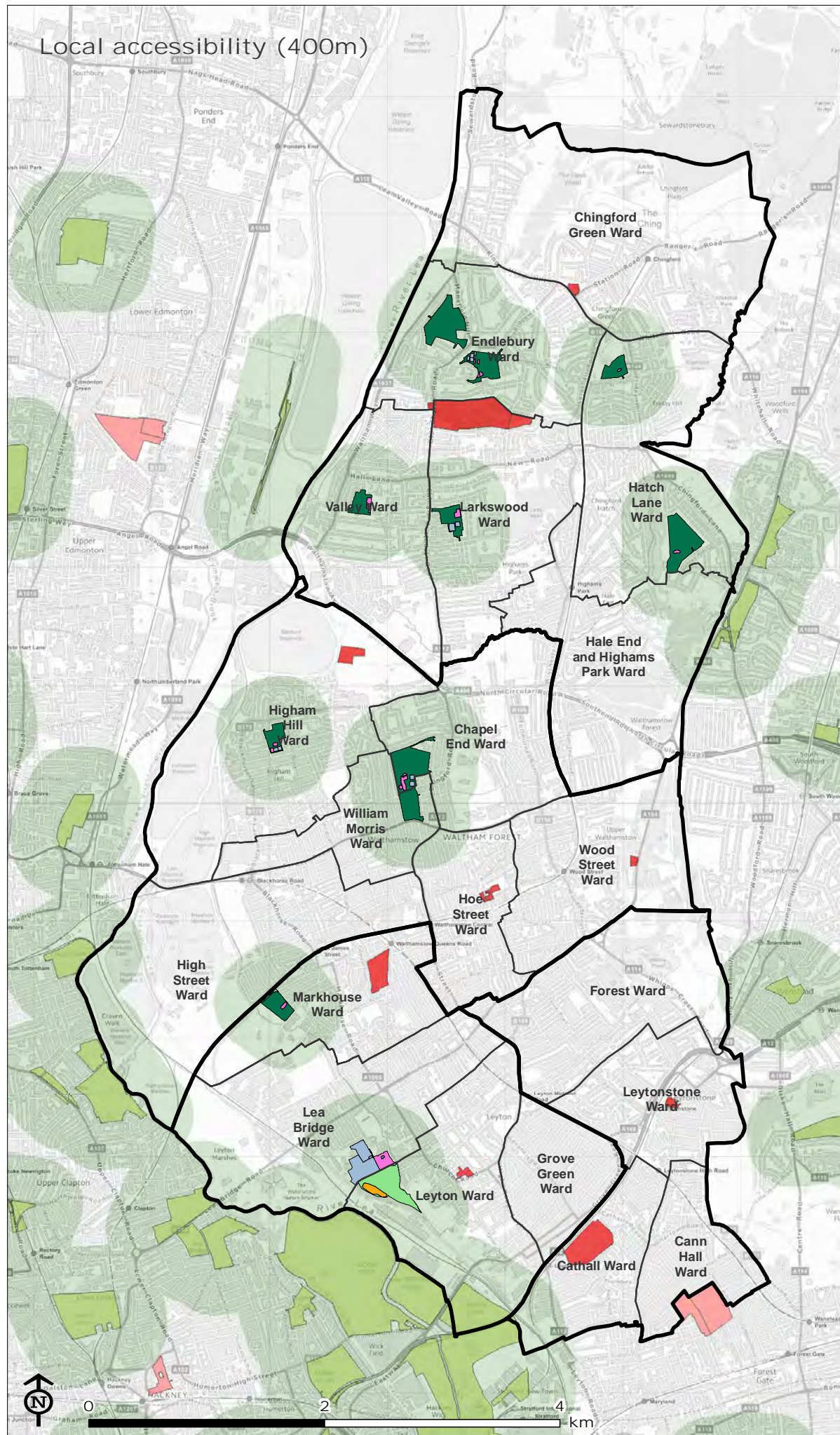
Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review

Figure 6.5: District accessibility

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Sites in waltham Forest  
(showing secondary typologies)
  - Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
  - Outdoor Sports Facilities
  - Large waterbodies
- Relevant sites in surrounding authorities
  - Parks & Gardens
  - Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Accessibility buffers
  - Site catchments

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





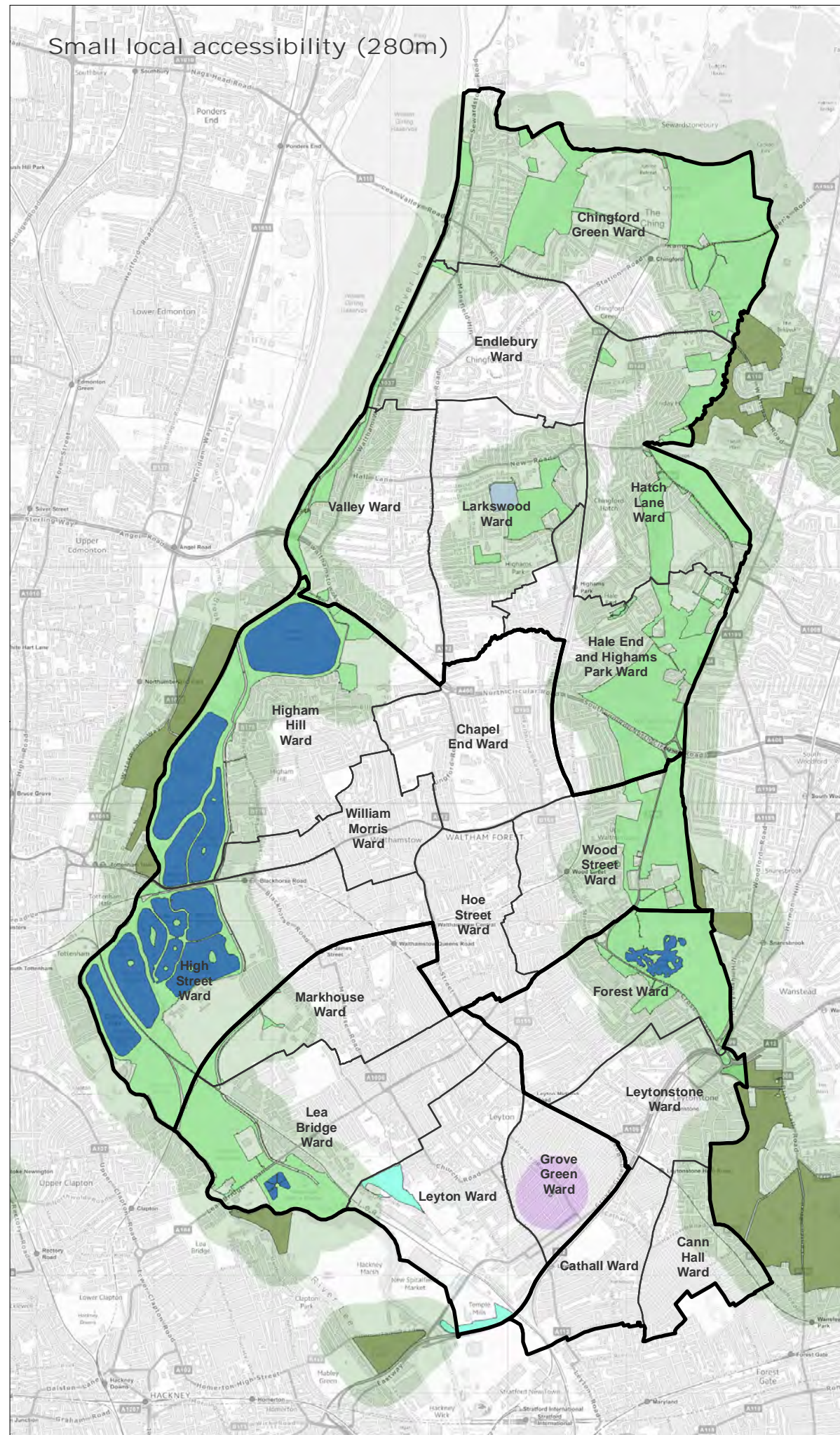
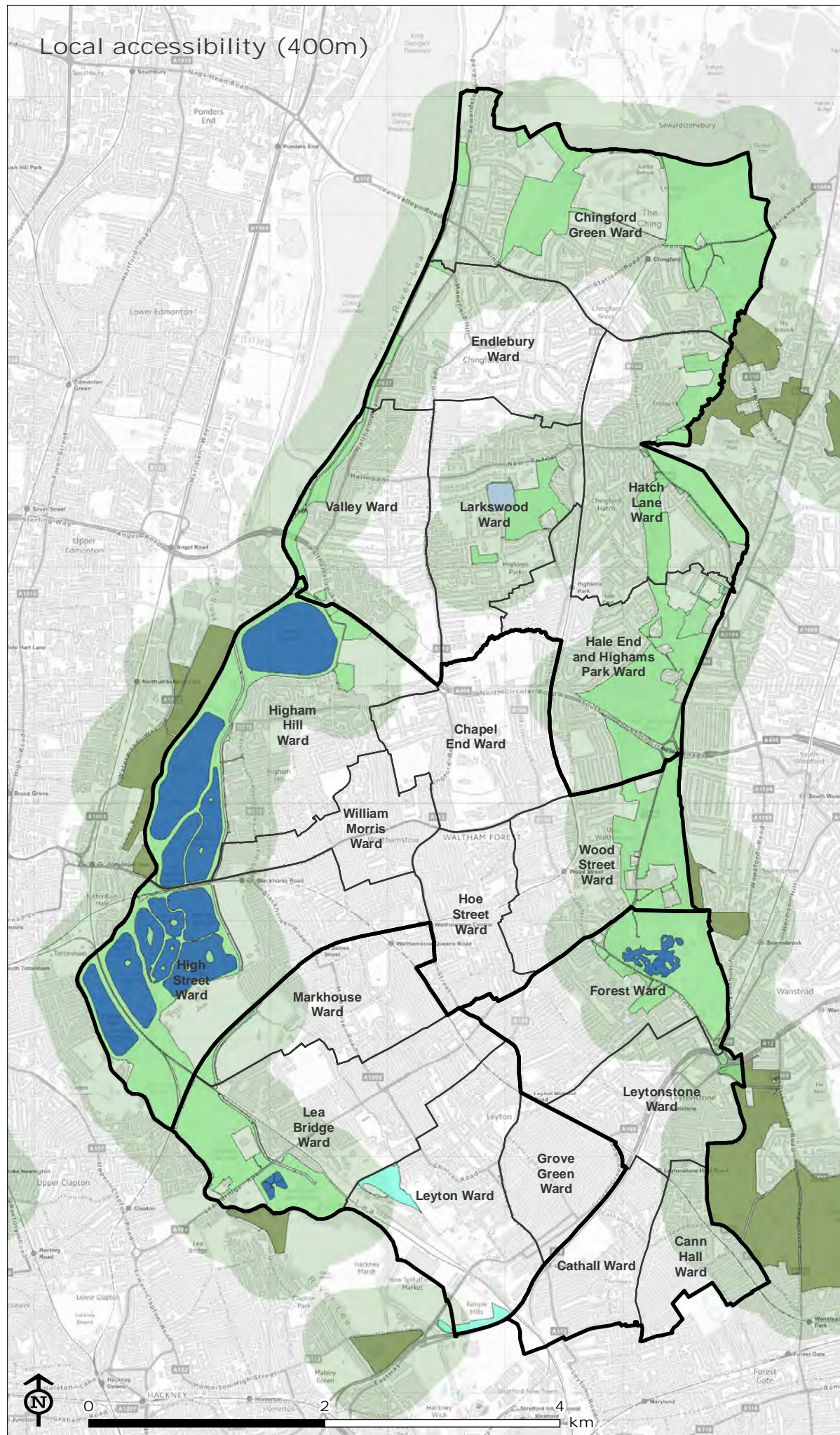
**Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review**

Figure 6.6: Parks and gardens accessibility

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Parks and gardens  
(showing secondary typologies)
- Parks & Gardens
- Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms
- Provision for Children and Teenagers
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Green Gym/MUGA/Other Play
- Sites providing similar provision
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Relevant sites in surrounding authorities
- Parks and gardens
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Accessibility buffers
- Site catchments

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





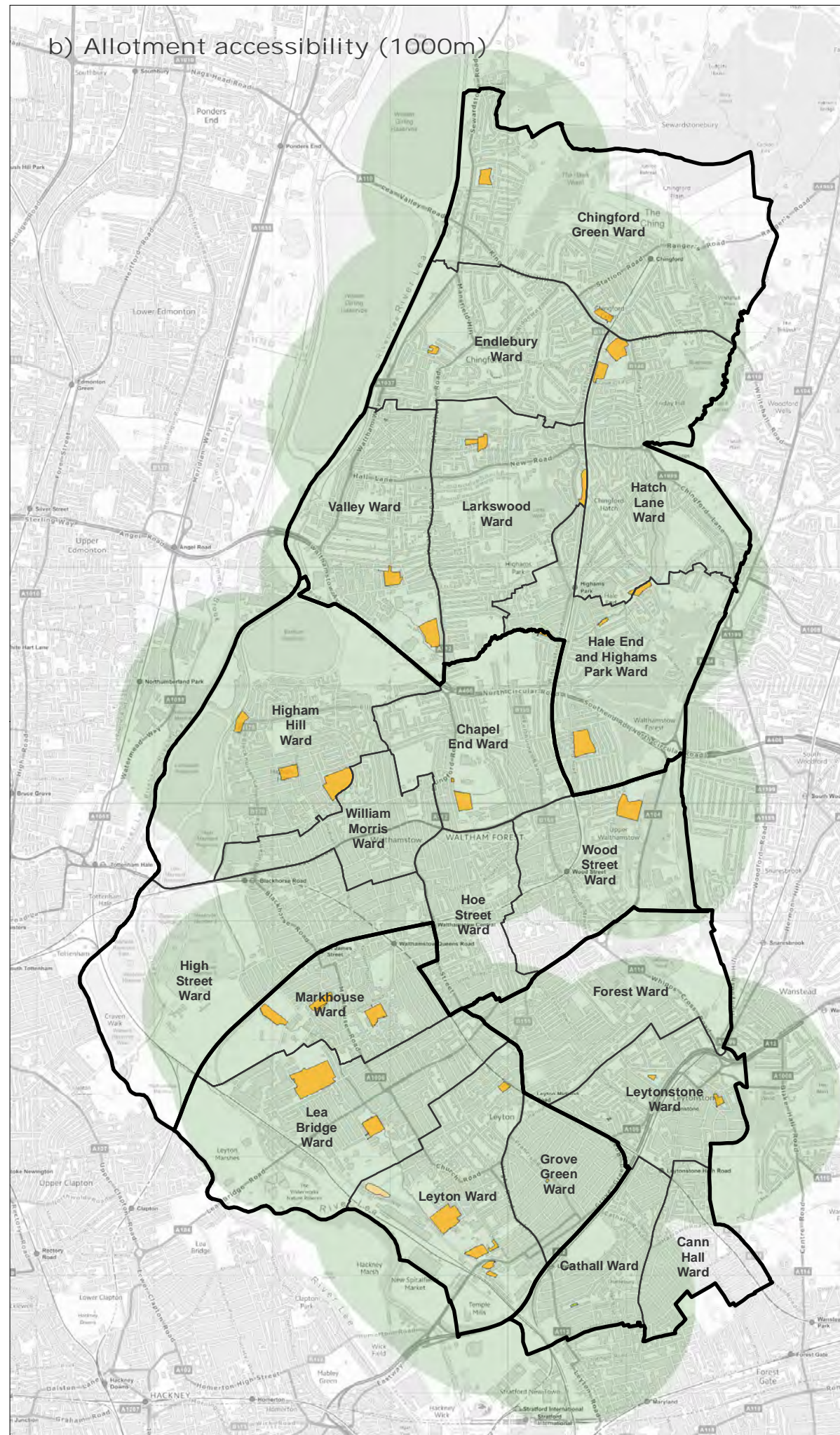
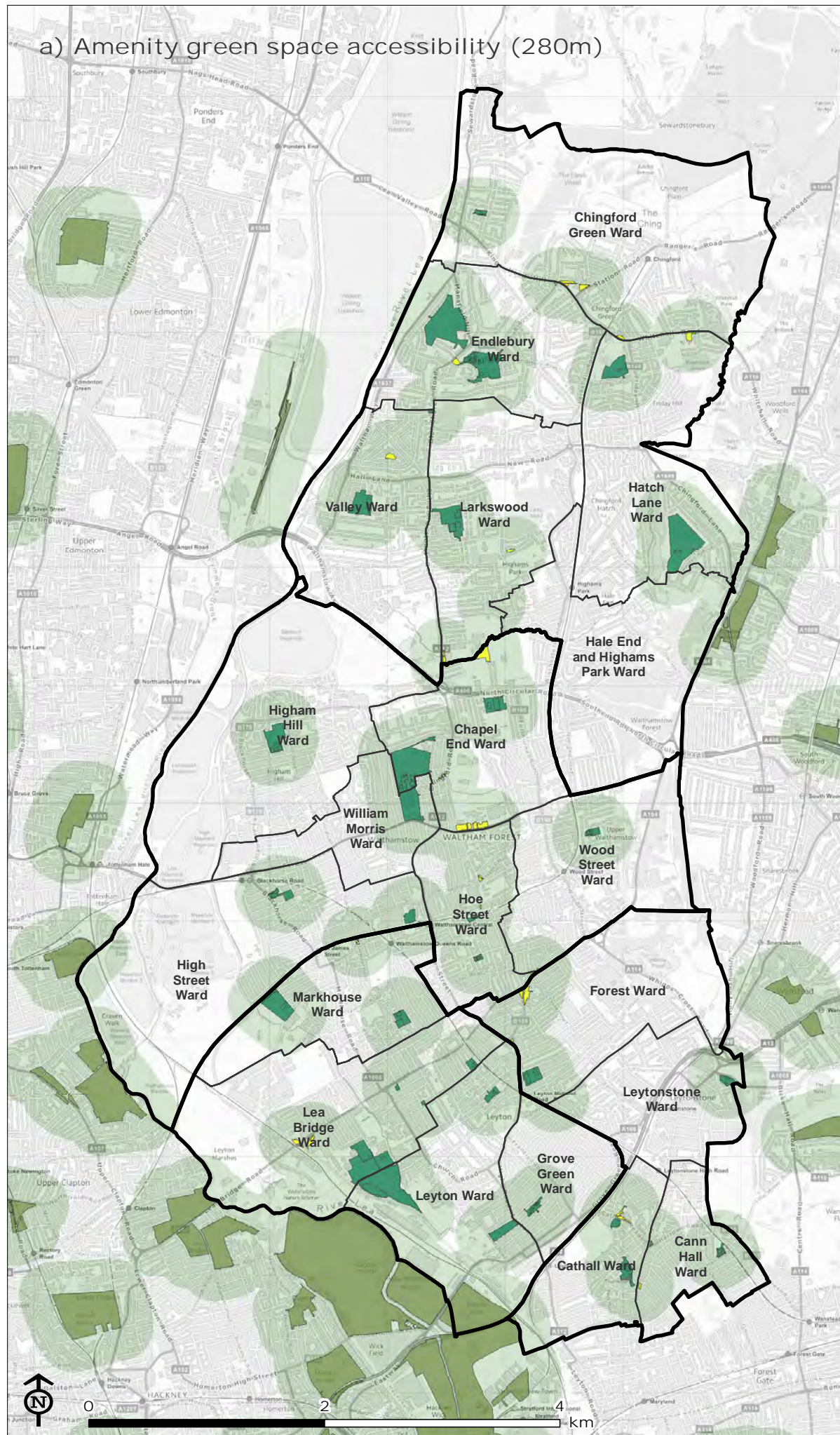
Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review

Figure 6.7: Natural & semi-natural urban green space accessibility

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Natural & semi-natural urban green space (showing secondary typologies)
  - Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
  - Outdoor Sports Facilities
  - Large waterbodies
  - Additional areas of natural & semi-natural urban green space within sites with a different primary typology
- Relevant sites in surrounding authorities
  - Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Accessibility buffers
  - Accessible (restrictions may apply)
  - No public access

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review

Figure 6.8: Amenity green space and allotments accessibility

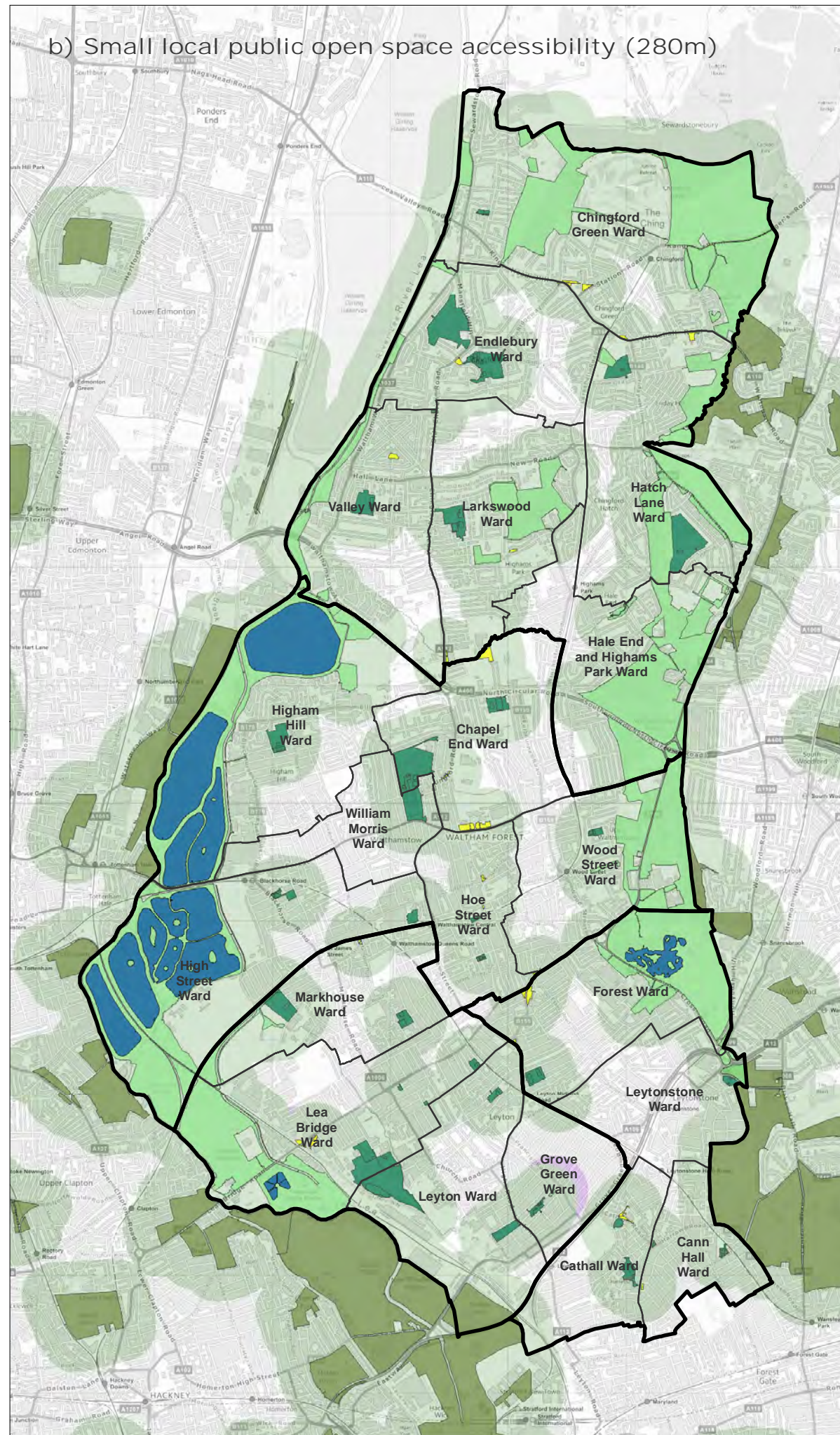
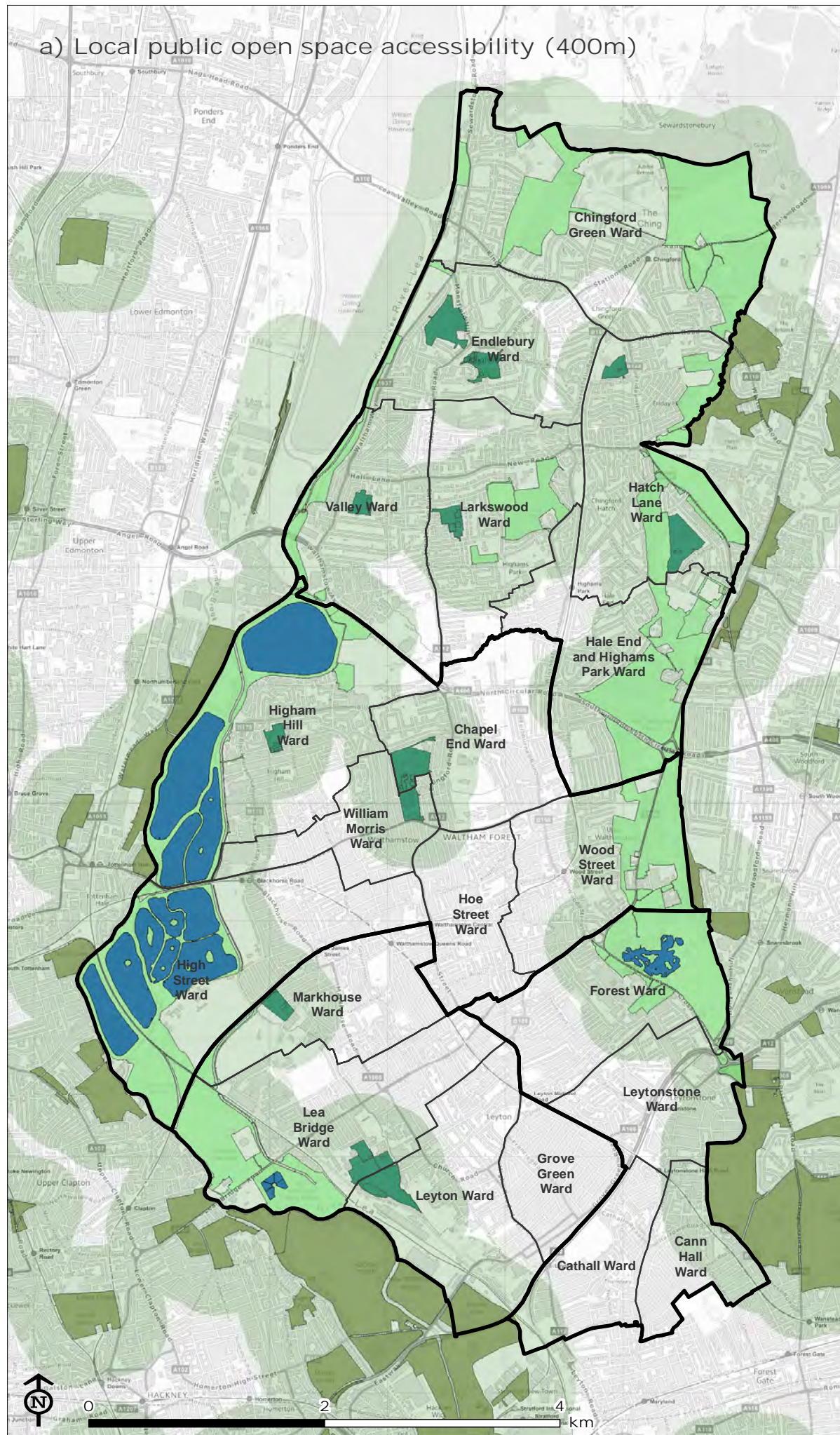
- Legend map a) Amenity green space
- Analysis Areas
  - Ward boundaries
  - Amenity Green Space
  - Sites providing equivalent provision
  - Parks & Gardens
  - Relevant sites in surrounding authorities
  - Parks & gardens and Amenity green space
  - Accessibility buffers
  - Site catchments

- Legend map b) Allotments
- Analysis Areas
  - Ward boundaries
  - Allotments, Community Gardens & City Farms
  - Allotments/community gardens within sites of another typology
  - Accessibility buffers
  - Site catchments

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000







**Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review**

Figure 6.9: Public open space accessibility

Legend map a) Local public open space

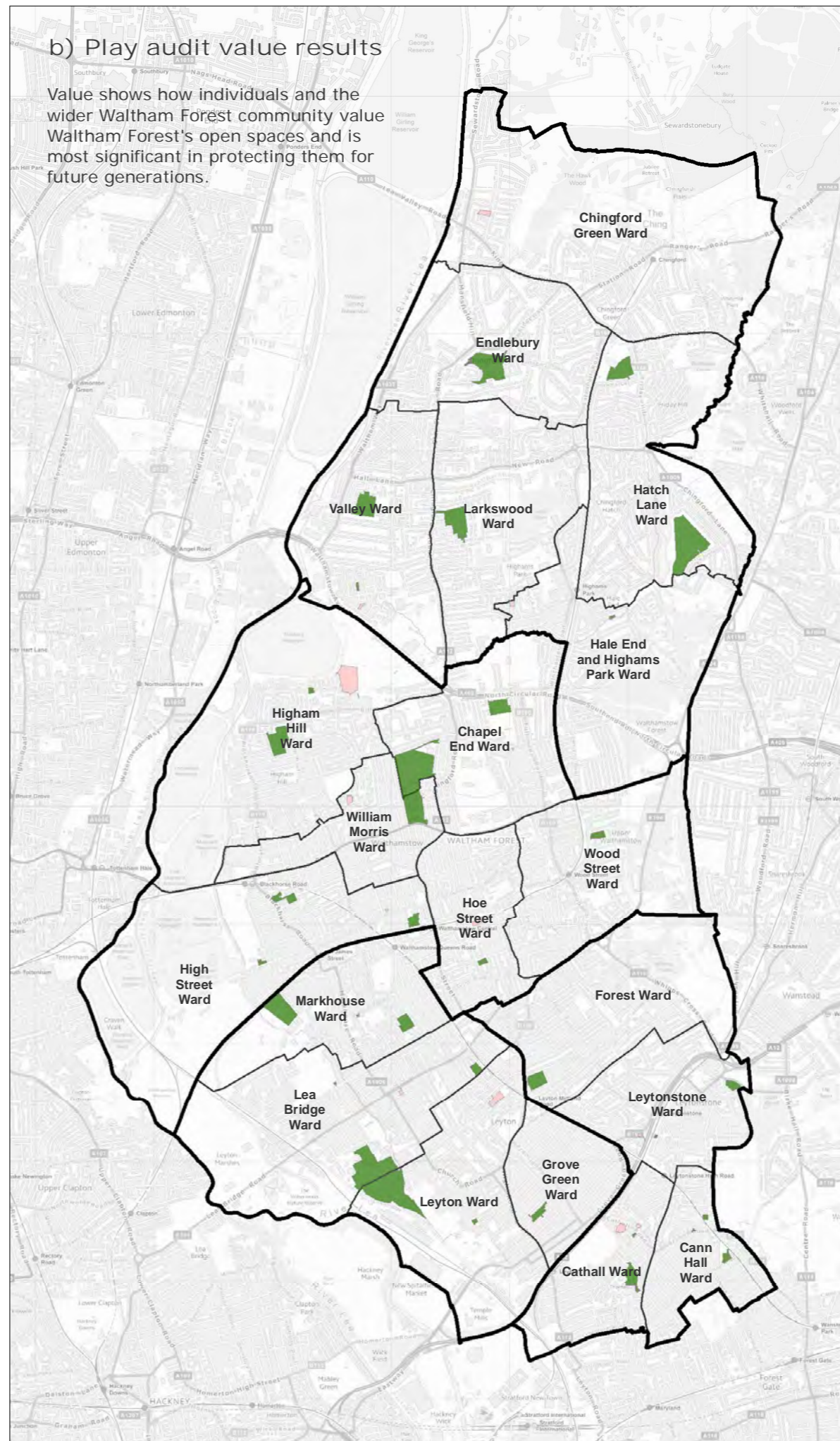
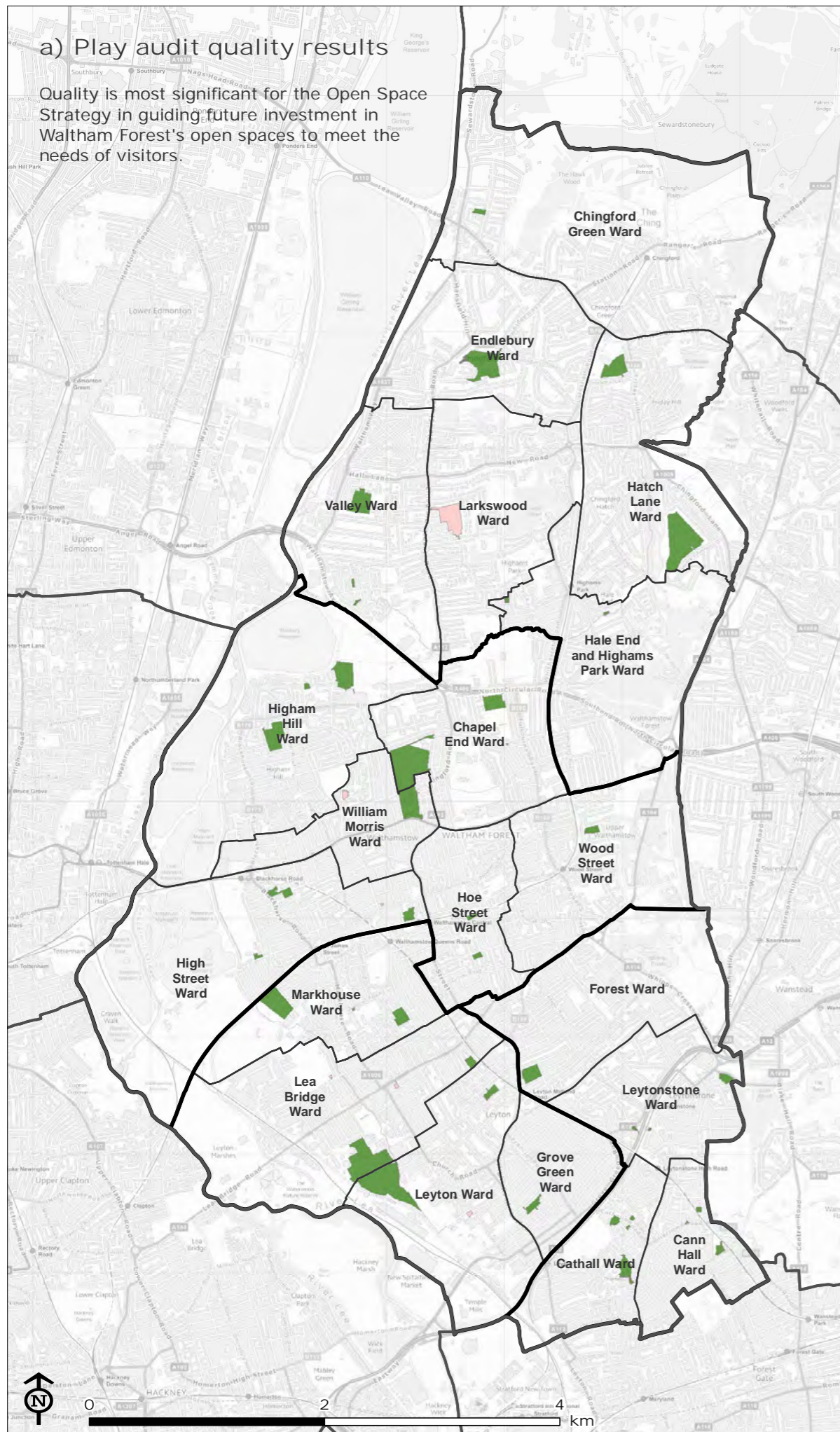
- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Large waterbodies
- Local public open space**
- Parks & Gardens
- Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Relevant sites in surrounding authorities**
- Parks & gardens, Amenity green space and natural & semi-natural urban green space
- Accessibility buffers**
- Site catchments

Legend map b) Small local public open space

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Large waterbodies
- Small local public open space**
- Parks & Gardens
- Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space
- Amenity Green Space
- Relevant sites in surrounding authorities**
- Parks & gardens, Amenity green space and natural & semi-natural urban green space
- Accessibility buffers**
- Accessible (restrictions may apply)
- No public access

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





## Waltham Forest Open Space Review

Figure 6.10: Quality and value of audited sites with play provision

Key for map a)

Analysis Areas

Ward boundaries

Quality assessment

Meets or exceeds standard (41)

Doesn't meet standard (7)

Key for map b)

Analysis Areas

Ward boundaries

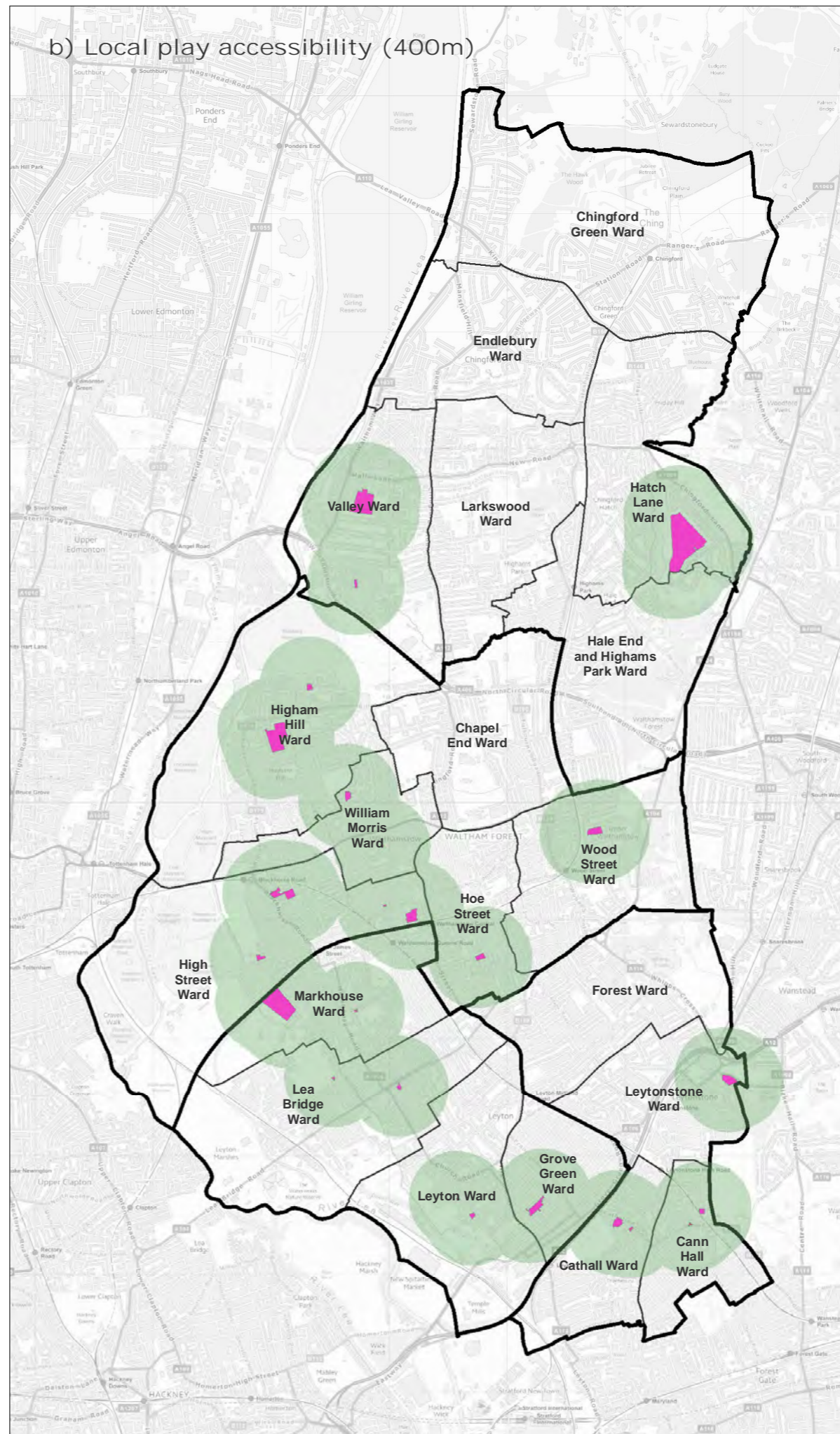
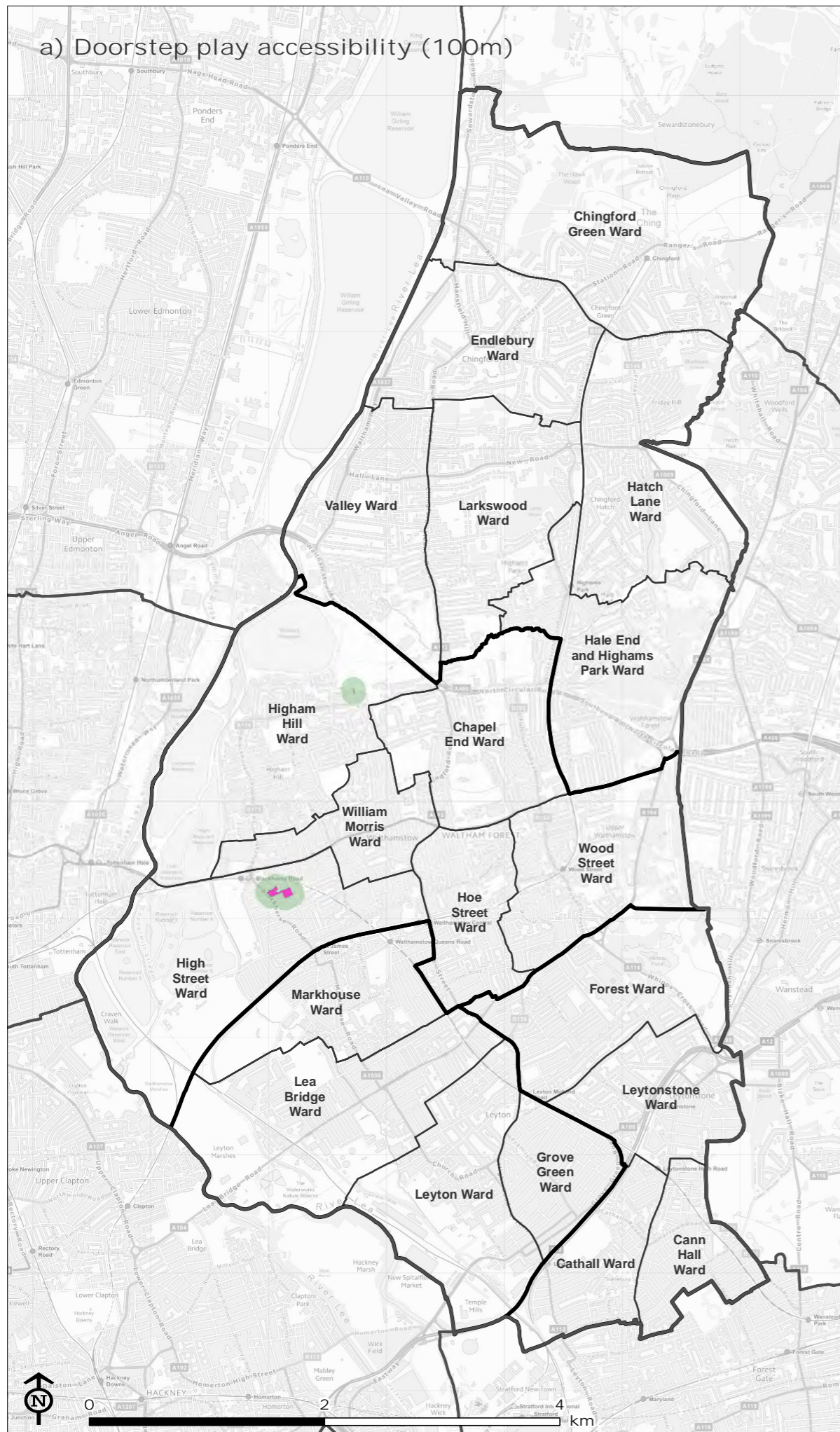
Value assessment

Meets or exceeds standard (34)

Doesn't meet standard (14)

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review

Figure 6.11: Accessibility of audited sites with play provision

Key for map a)

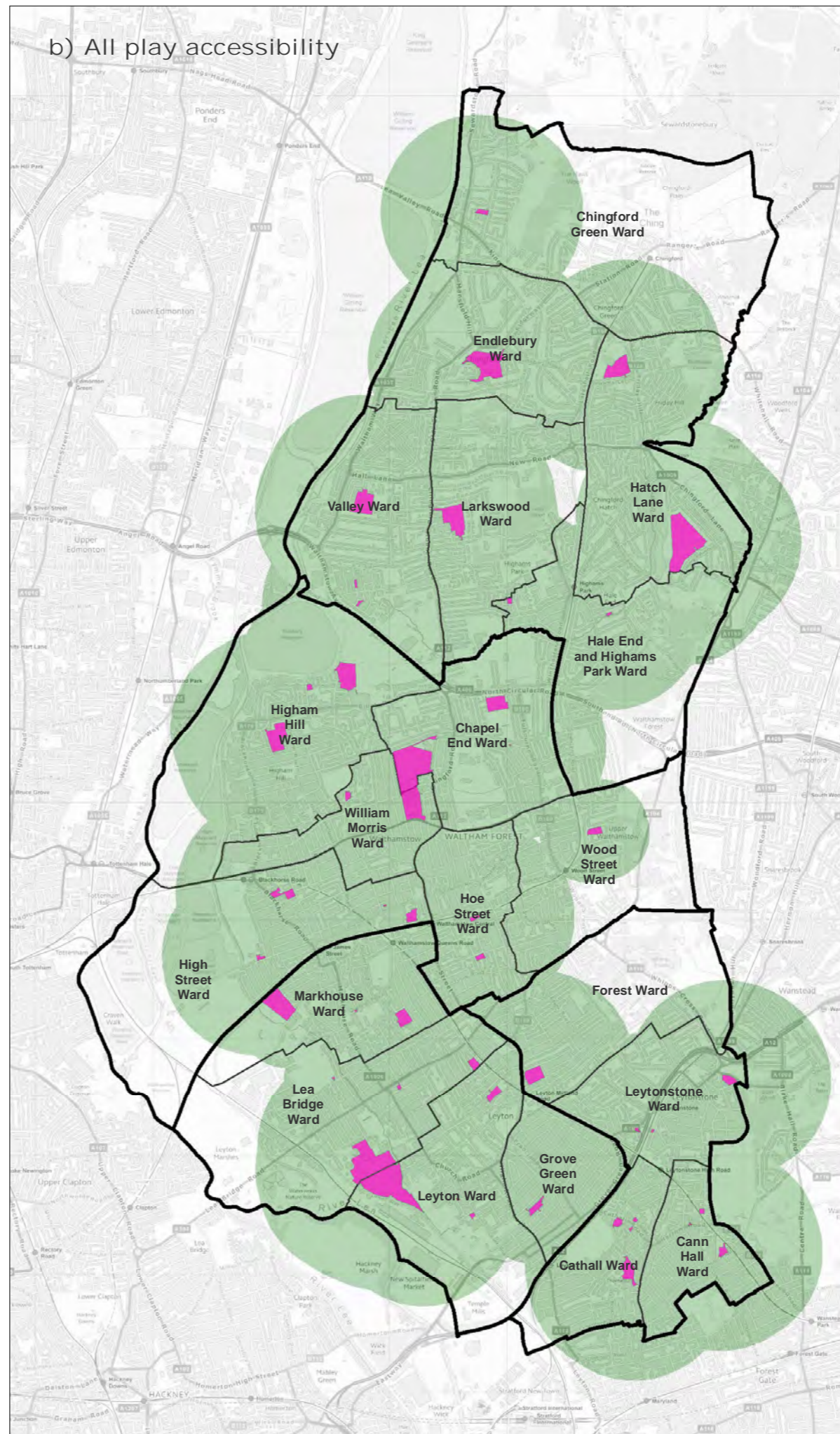
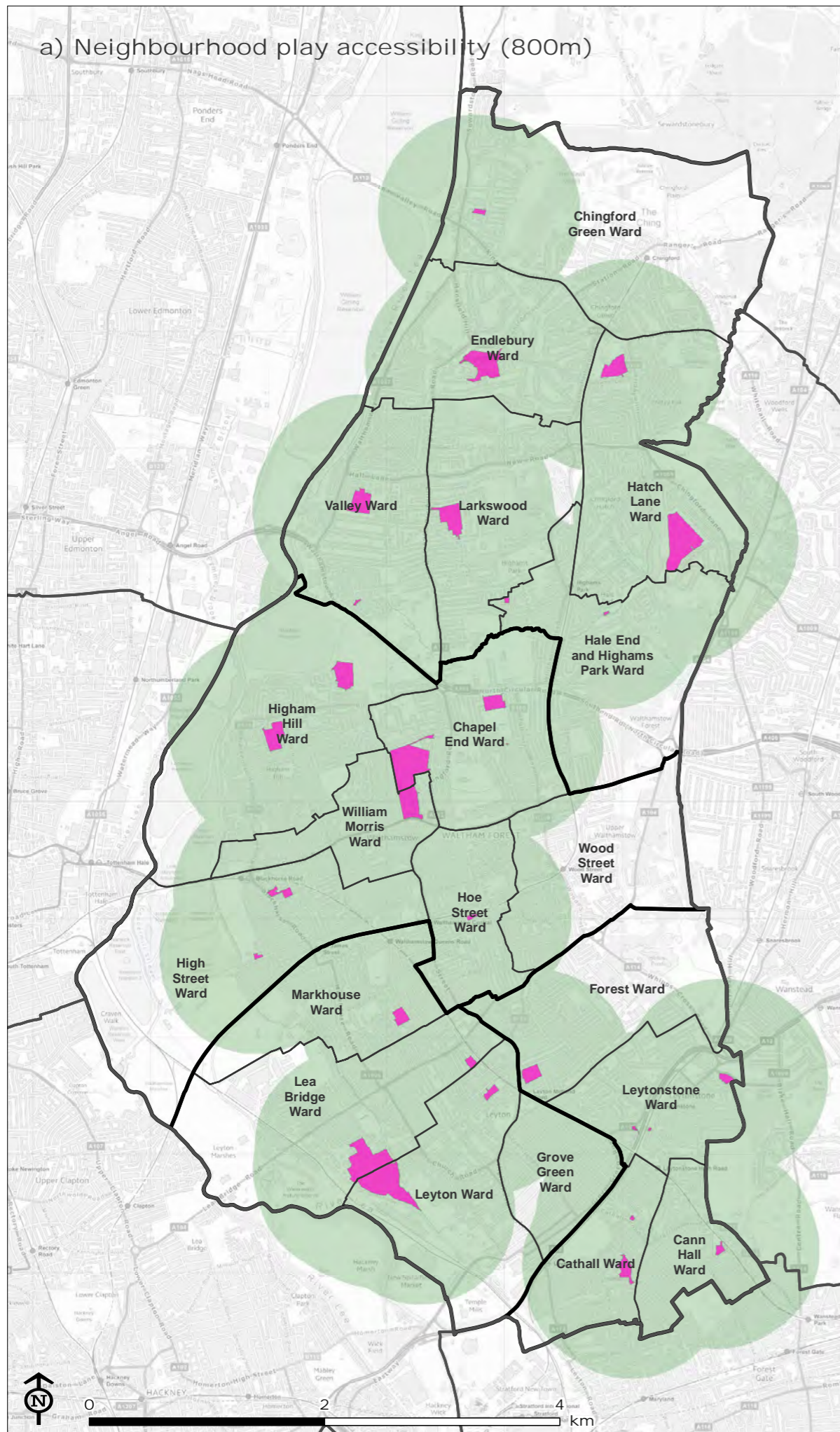
- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Sites with doorstep play provision
- Doorstep play buffers

Key for map b)

- Analysis Areas
- Ward boundaries
- Local play provision
- Local play buffers

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000





**Waltham Forest  
Open Space Review**

Figure 6.12: Accessibility of audited sites with play provision

Key for map a)  
 [Black outline] Analysis Areas  
 [Thin black outline] Ward boundaries  
 [Pink square] Sites with neighbourhood play provision  
 [Light green square] Neighbourhood play buffers

Key for map b)  
 [Black outline] Analysis Areas  
 [Thin black outline] Ward boundaries  
 [Pink square] All sites with play provision  
 [Dark green square] All play buffers

Map Scale @A3: 1:45,000



7

# Neighbourhood Area profiles



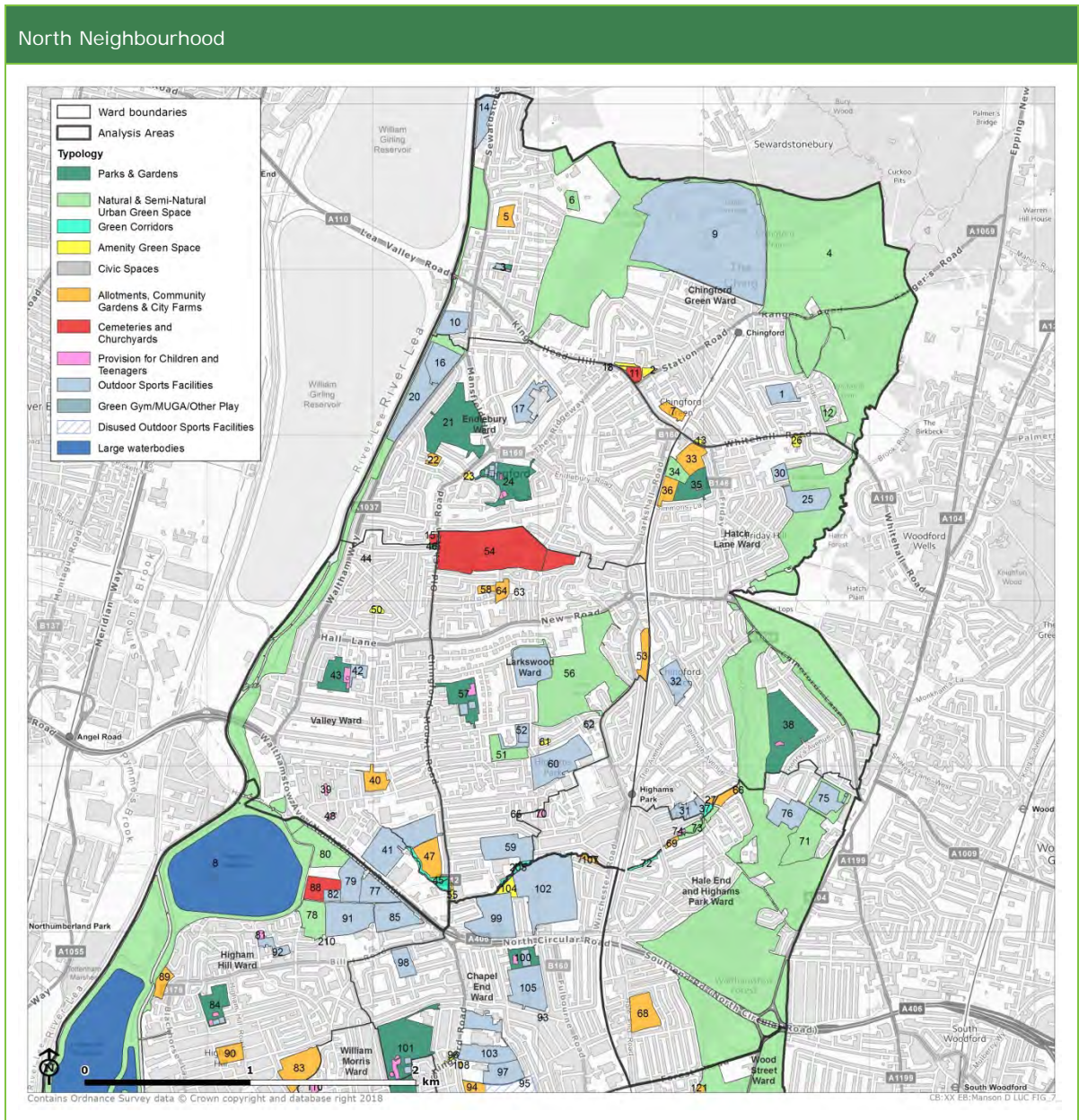


# 7 Neighbourhood Area profiles

7.1 The following section summarises the open space provision within four neighbourhood areas as follows:

- North
- Central
- South East
- South West

7.2 Consideration is given to current provision and identifies the implications of the predicted increase in population.



North Neighbourhood	
<b>Demographics</b>	
2017 population projection (rounded) <sup>7</sup>	70,700
2033 population projection (rounded) <sup>8</sup>	71,900 (8% increase on 2017 projection)
Number of LSOAs in neighbourhood	41
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% indices of multiple deprivation	9 (22%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% health and disability deprivation	1 (2%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% living environment deprivation	1 (2%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% housing and services deprivation	27 (66%)
<b>Quantity of public open space</b>	
Public open space/ 1000 people 2017	4.9ha
Public open space/ 1000 people 2033	4.9ha
Current provision against 1.6ha/1000 quantity standard	+3.3ha
Projected provision against 1.6ha/1000 quantity standard	+3.3ha
Provision for children and young people/ child 2017 <sup>9</sup>	1.0m <sup>2</sup>
Provision for children and young people/ child 2033 <sup>10</sup>	1.0m <sup>2</sup>
Current provision across Waltham Forest/ child	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
Projected provision across Waltham Forest/ child	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Accessibility of open space</b>	
<p>Although within the catchment area of a metropolitan natural and semi-natural green space, the Northern Neighbourhood falls outside the catchment area of district scale provision. This places pressure on the local and small local hierarchies of open space. There are sections of the neighbourhood's residents that fall outside the catchment areas of all publicly accessible open space. These tend to be located within the centre of the neighbourhood including the wards of Chingford Green, Larkswoods, Hatch Lane and small section of Hale End and Highams Park. Residents located in the north of Valley Ward are only within the catchment area of Amenity Green Space. There appears to be deficiency of play provision in areas to the north, central and south of the Neighbourhood.</p>	
<b>Quality and value of open space</b>	
<p>Several parks and amenity spaces in the North Neighbourhood fall below the proposed standards. Cambrian Gardens, Harrow Green, Jack Cornwall Park, Kitchener Road Park, Leigh Road, Leyton Manor Park, Newport School Nature Reserve, Pump Hall Park, Queens Road Playground, River Ching and Ropers Avenue, The Ching and Brookfield, The Copse and Wadham Avenue Open Space all fall below the Quality standard. Thirteen of the open spaces in the neighbourhood fall below the set standard. Cambrian Gardens, Harrow Green, Kitchener Road Park, Leigh Road, Leyton Manor Park, Queens Road Play area all fall below the Value standard. Generally the open spaces within the neighbourhood perform better in terms of value than they do for quality.</p>	

<sup>7</sup> Based on GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017)

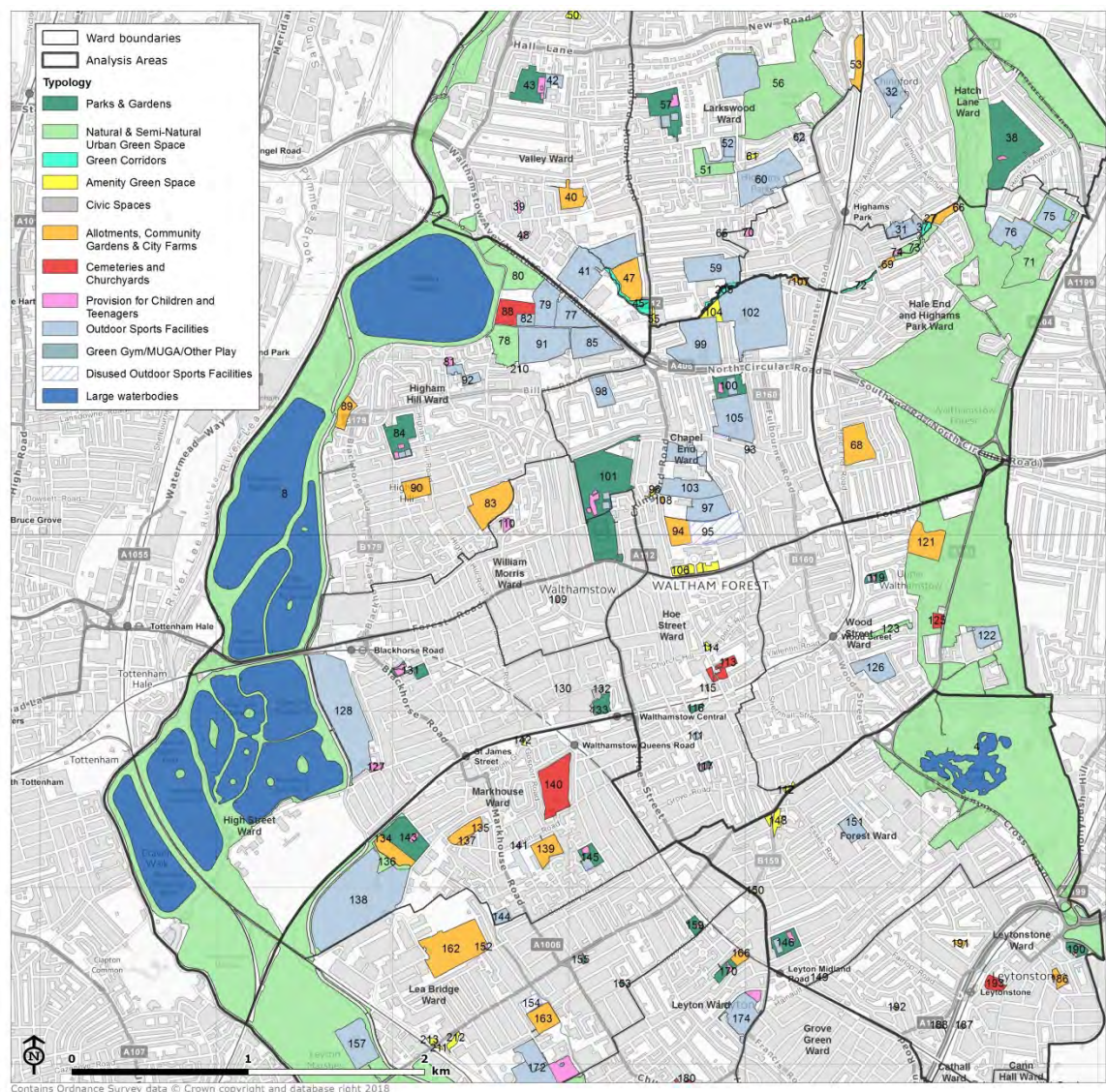
<sup>8</sup> Based on GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017)

<sup>9</sup> Based on GLA 2016 Housing-led population projections (2017)

<sup>10</sup> Based on GLA 2016 Housing-led population projections (2017)



## Central Neighbourhood



### Demographics

2017 population projection (rounded) <sup>11</sup>	90,800
2033 population projection (rounded) <sup>12</sup>	107,900 (30% increase 2017 projection)
Number of LSOAs in neighbourhood	44
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% indices of multiple deprivation	19 (43%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% health and disability deprivation	2 (5%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% living environment deprivation	26 (59%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% housing and services deprivation	40 (91%)
<b>Quantity of public open space</b>	
Public open space/ 1000 people 2017	2.0ha
Public open space/ 1000 people 2033	1.7ha
Current provision against 1.6ha/1000 quantity standard	+0.4ha

<sup>11</sup> Based on GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017)

<sup>12</sup> Based on GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017)

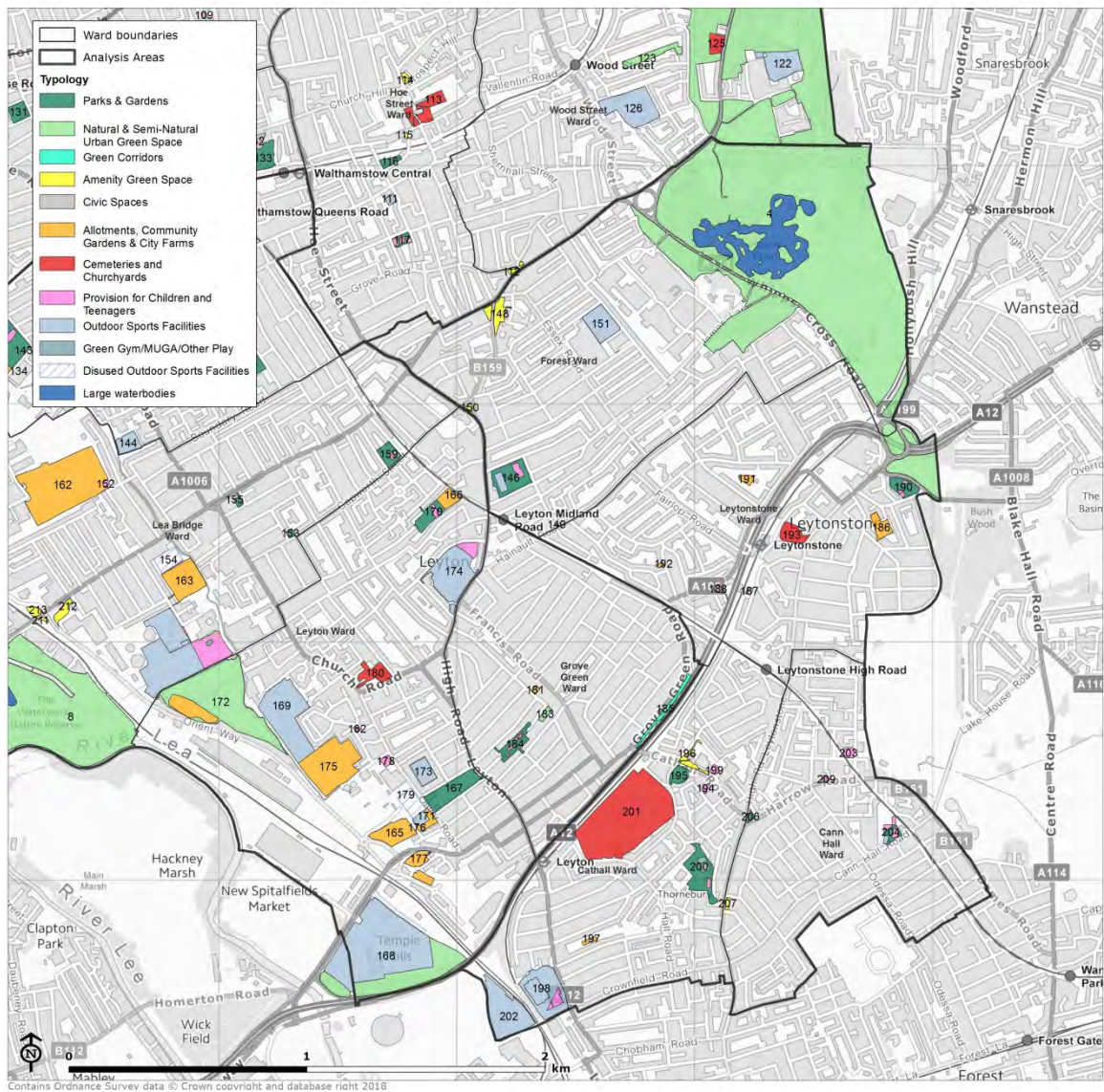
Central Neighbourhood	
Projected provision against 1.6ha/1000 quantity standard	+0.1ha
Provision for children and young people/ child 2017 <sup>13</sup>	1.0m <sup>2</sup> <sup>14</sup>
Provision for children and young people/ child 2033 <sup>15</sup>	0.9m <sup>2</sup>
Current provision across Waltham Forest/ child	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
Projected provision across Waltham Forest/ child	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Accessibility of open space</b>	
<p>Large sections of the Neighbourhood fall outside the catchment area of local and small local publicly accessible open space. Areas also fall outside the catchment area of district scale provision. However Lloyd and Avelling Park, a small park and garden, and Walthamstow Town Square Gardens, a small local park and garden cater for residents within the heart of the Central Neighbourhood area. This raises the importance of these open spaces. Eastern and western sections of the neighbourhood fall outside the catchment area of a play space.</p>	
<b>Quality and value of open space</b>	
<p>North and eastern section of the Neighbourhood contains open spaces which do not meet the proposed standards for quality. However all publicly accessible open spaces within the neighbourhood area meet or are close to meeting the required standard for value.</p>	

<sup>13</sup> Based on GLA 2016 Housing-led population projections (2017)

<sup>14</sup> Quantity excludes play areas located within areas of social housing

<sup>15</sup> Based on GLA 2016 Housing-led population projections (2017)

## South East Neighbourhood



### Demographics

2017 population projection (rounded) <sup>16</sup>	53,9000
2033 population projection (rounded) <sup>17</sup>	61,100 (17% increase on 2017 projection)
Number of LSOAs in neighbourhood	29
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% indices of multiple deprivation	9 (31%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% health and disability deprivation	1 (3%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% living environment deprivation	20 (69%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% housing and services deprivation	27 (93%)

### Quantity of public open space

Public open space/ 1000 people 2017	1.3ha
Public open space/ 1000 people 2033	1.2ha
Current provision against 1.6ha/1000 quantity standard	-0.3ha

<sup>16</sup> Based on GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017)

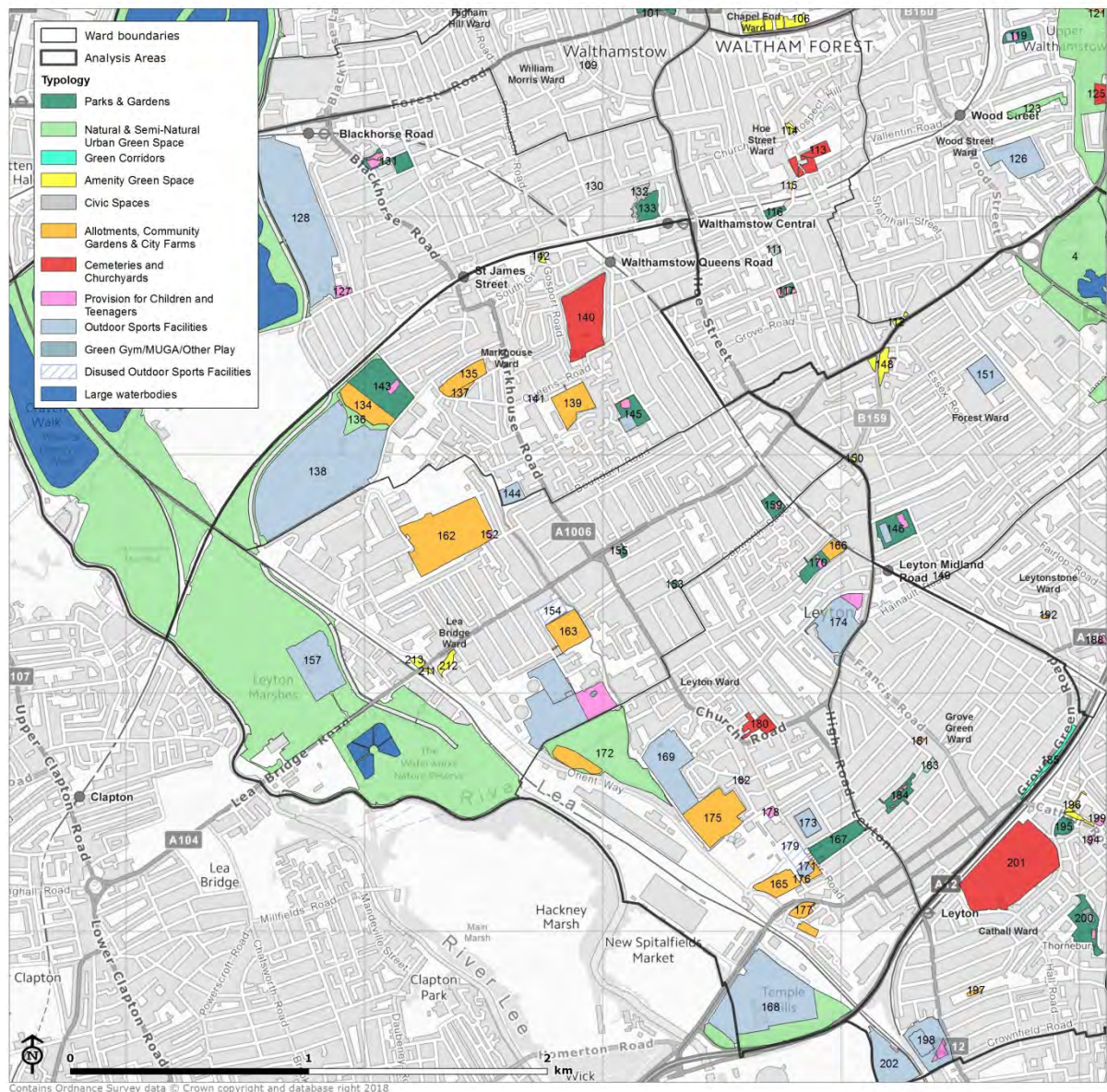
<sup>17</sup> Based on GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017)

South East Neighbourhood	
Projected provision against 1.6ha quantity standard:	-0.4ha
Provision for children and young people/ child 2017 <sup>18</sup>	1.1m <sup>2</sup>
Provision for children and young people/ child 2033 <sup>19</sup>	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
Current provision across Waltham Forest/ child	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
Projected provision across Waltham forest/ child	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Accessibility of open space</b>	
<p>There is no access to district level parks and gardens within the neighbourhood although Epping Forest provides opportunities for residents to access natural and semi-natural green spaces. There is no access to local parks and gardens within the South East Neighbourhood and limited access to small local parks and gardens. Access to small local parks and gardens is limited to the south of the neighbourhood and on the east and west boundaries. Leaving large areas of the central and northern areas with no access. The limited provision of parks and gardens places a greater reliance on the other open spaces within the neighbourhood. The very north east of the analysis area is deprived of access to both amenity green spaces and allotments.</p>	
<b>Quality and value of open space</b>	
<p>The majority of open spaces in the neighbourhood area achieve the required standards for quality and value. This includes All Saints Church, Cann Hall Park, Cathall Green, Cathall Road, Chingford Green and Chingford Mount Cemetery. However Acacia Road Playground, Arnett Square Playground, Artesian Gardens and Bridge Road Playground score below the quality standards set for playgrounds. In addition Bellamy Road Memorial Garden and Cambien Gardens both fall below the quality standards set for the parks and gardens. Chingford Road Amenity Space falls below the overall quality and value standards set for the typology.</p>	

<sup>18</sup> Based on GLA 2016 Housing-led population projections (2017)

<sup>19</sup> Based on GLA 2016 Housing-led population projections (2017)

## South West Neighbourhood



### Demographics

2017 population projection (rounded) <sup>20</sup>	63,500
2033 population projection (rounded) <sup>21</sup>	80,400 (37% increase on 2017 projection)
Number of LSOAs in neighbourhood	30
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% indices of multiple deprivation	9 (30%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% health and disability deprivation	1 (3%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% living environment deprivation	20 (67%)
Number of LSOAs in 0-20% housing and services deprivation	29 (97%)

### Quantity of open space

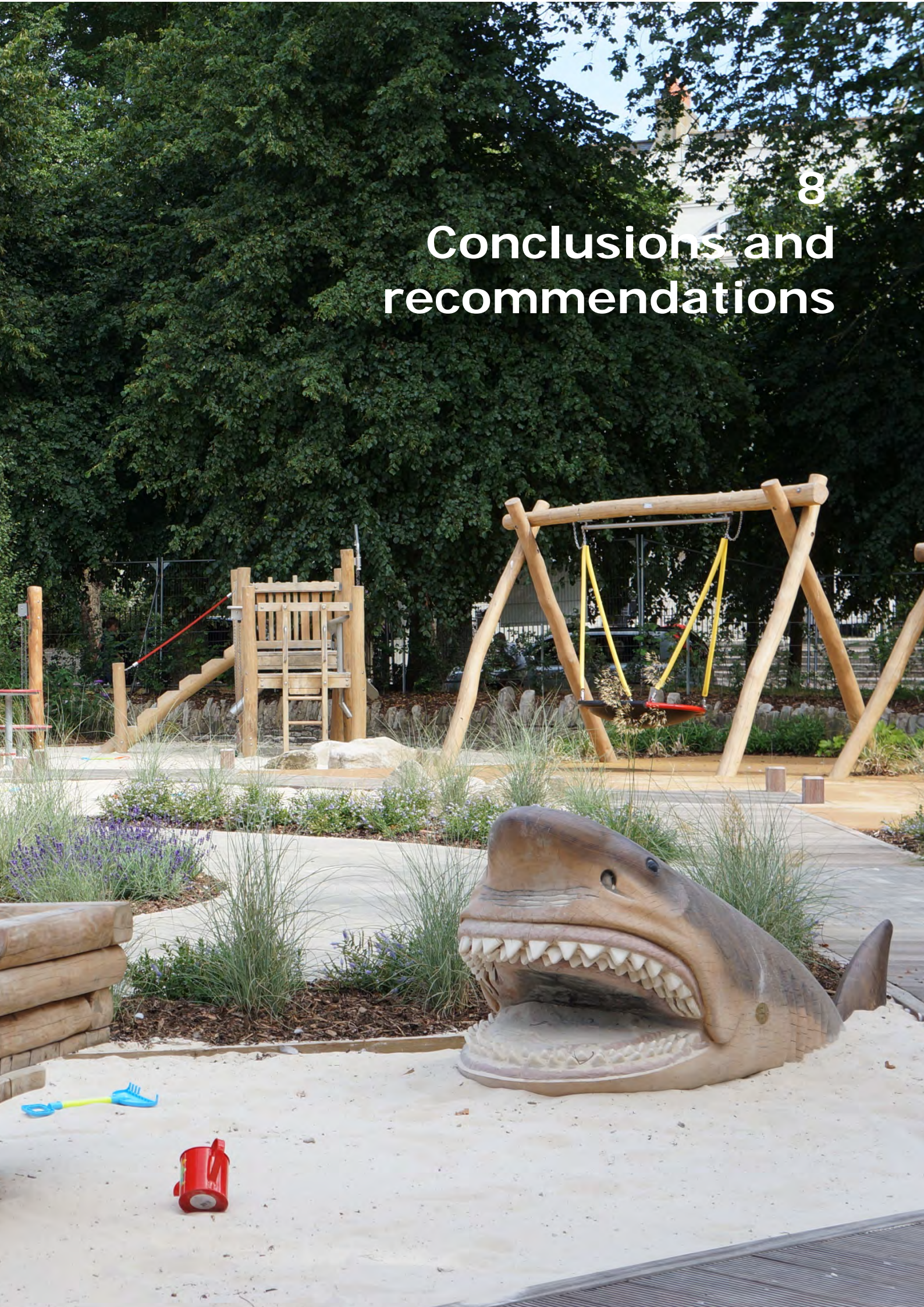
Public open space/ 1000 people 2017	1.3ha
Public open space/ 1000 people 2033	1.0ha

<sup>20</sup> Based on GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017)

<sup>21</sup> Based on GLA Interim 2015-based population projections (2017)

South West Neighbourhood	
Current provision against 1.6ha/1000 quantity standard	-0.3ha
Projected provision against 1.6ha/1000 quantity standard	-0.6ha
Provision for children and young people/ child 2017	1.7m <sup>2</sup>
Provision for children and young people/ child 2033	1.5m <sup>2</sup>
Current provision across Waltham Forest/ child	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
Projected provision across Waltham Forest/ child	1.2m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Accessibility of public open space</b>	
<p>The very south west of the south west neighbourhood has access to district level parks which are located outside of the borough boundary. The west and centre of the neighbourhood is within access to the district natural and semi-natural urban green space. The north east, centre and south of the neighbourhood is generally within accessible range of local and small parks and gardens.</p>	
<b>Quality of open space</b>	
<p>The open spaces within the South West Neighbourhood generally score above the proposed standards for quality and value. Highams Park scores below the quality standard for parks, but above for value.</p>	
<b>Value of open space</b>	
<p>The open spaces within the South West Neighbourhood generally score above the proposed standards for both quality and value. Queens Road Cemetery scores below the value standard for cemeteries, but above for quality.</p>	

# Conclusions and recommendations







## 8 Conclusions and recommendations

### Summary of findings from open space audit

8.1 The audit of the publicly accessible open spaces in Waltham Forest identified the following issues and opportunities:

- There are 1,198.1ha of open space within the borough, made up of a range of typologies. The greatest quantity of open space falls within the natural and semi-natural urban greenspace typology covering an area of 786.3 ha. The boroughs two regional parks (Lee Valley and Epping Forest) make up the majority of this. A substantial portion of these parks are large waterbodies.
- There are 83.8ha of parks and gardens within the borough. Of this, over a quarter of the total area is made up of other typologies such as play and sports facilities.
- Considering all open space in the borough, regardless of its primary use or accessibility, the North Neighbourhood has the largest quantity (489ha) followed closely by the Central Neighbourhood (447ha). The South East Neighbourhood has the lowest overall quantity at 99ha. This pattern is repeated when sites with a primary sports use are excluded.
- The vast majority of this open space is publicly accessible. Where restrictions apply, these tend to be restrictions in terms of opening hours, or in the case of allotments, sites being limited to tenants only.
- Play and sports facilities are found within a number of sites – in particular parks and gardens as would be expected.
- Allotments have not been audited for this assessment, but there are 39 such sites and almost all residents in the borough are within 1km of an allotment.
- Parks and gardens scored well in terms of having welcoming and well-presented entrances. Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, green corridors and amenity green spaces have a large proportion of 'poor' or 'fair' scores.
- The vast majority of parks and gardens, and cemeteries and churchyards score 'good' or 'fair' for provision of signage. However open spaces within the typologies of natural and semi-natural urban green space, amenity green space and green corridors were found to have mainly 'poor' provision of signage.
- Parks and gardens, amenity green spaces and cemeteries and churchyards scored well in terms of quality of access and accessed within and through the open space, with only a small percentage found to have poor quality access/accesses within the open space. Amenity green space also scored relatively well under this question. No natural and semi-natural urban green spaces or green corridors achieved a 'good' score for this question.
- Parks and gardens, together with amenity green spaces and cemeteries and churchyards, performed well in terms of the criteria used to consider how healthy, safe and secure open spaces feel. The vast majority were considered to have natural surveillance into the open space from surrounding properties and approaches to the open space feeling safe. They were also considered to have a frequent flow of people within the open space to offer self-surveillance. However the majority of open spaces within the typologies of natural and semi natural urban green space and green corridors did not perform well against these elements.
- The vast majority of open spaces within the typologies of parks and gardens, and amenity green spaces contain planted and grass areas are in a 'fair' condition. Very few open spaces contain planted areas and grass areas in a 'good' condition. A number of parks and gardens contain features which are considered to be in a 'poor' condition.

- Overall, footpaths across all open spaces are considered to be in a 'fair' condition. Footpaths within the typologies of natural and semi-natural green space and green corridors are considered to be in 'fair' or 'poor' condition. The condition of footpaths in these open spaces may restrict access.
- Buildings located within the borough's open spaces are considered to be in a 'good' or 'fair' condition. All the buildings located within natural and semi-natural urban green spaces are considered to be in a 'fair' condition.
- The audit revealed that there is very little evidence of sustainable management practices within the borough's open spaces.
- Open spaces within the parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban green spaces and cemeteries and churchyards typologies contain at least three types of vegetation with the vast majority of these open spaces containing over five types of vegetation. Amenity green spaces tend to contain three to five types of vegetation. There are open spaces within the typologies of green corridors, amenity green spaces and civic spaces which contain just one or two vegetation types.
- The audit found evidence of 27 active community groups in the borough's open spaces. The majority of community groups are associated with parks and gardens. Smaller numbers of natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces and cemeteries and churchyards support a community group.
- The majority of parks and gardens have noticeboards, with smaller numbers found in cemeteries and churchyards, natural and semi-natural urban green space and green corridors. Of the 30 sites that were found to have permanent noticeboards, only 17 displayed up to date information.
- Few of the borough's open spaces contain public art and there is little evidence of there being a programme of cultural or other community activities. Public art is contained primarily within the parks and gardens and amenity green spaces.
- Overall, play provision in Waltham Forest is in a good condition and offers opportunities to play for a broad range of children and young people. Many of the borough's play spaces provided within larger open spaces such as parks and gardens.

## 8.2 The application of the proposed standards has revealed the following:

- At borough level, current provision exceeds the proposed standard of 1.6ha/1000 people. There is however, spatial variation across the borough with the Central and North Neighbourhood Areas exceeding the quantity standards and the South East and South West Neighbourhood Areas falling below the quantity standard. Considering population forecasts, this pattern will continue into the future, with the overall borough level of provision reducing from 2.4ha/1000 people currently to 2.1ha/1000 people in 2033.
- Audited sites in the south of the borough are more consistently meeting or exceeding the quality standards for their respective typologies. Several larger spaces in the north of the borough are falling below the proposed standards. Overall, more than half of the sites that have been audited are meeting or exceeding the quality standard, with a further 16% close to meeting it.
- At borough level, the vast majority of audited sites are meeting or exceeding the proposed value standards. Only 10% of audited sites are not meeting the value standard. Six of the seven Premier Parks are meeting or exceeding the standard.
- At the regional and metropolitan level of the hierarchy, the proposed accessibility standard is achieved throughout the borough as a result of Lee Valley Regional Park in the west of the borough and Epping Forest in the east. Both of these are at the regional level of the hierarchy, but they will equally perform the role of metropolitan sites. At these levels of the hierarchy, access to natural and semi-natural urban green space is enjoyed by all residents.
- There are no district level parks and gardens in the borough, but immediately south of the borough boundary, there are three parks and gardens at this level of the hierarchy in Hackney.

- At the local level of the hierarchy, there are gaps in provision in a number of typologies. When considering public open space together, in the North Neighbourhood Areas, some deficiencies exist in all of the wards. There are more significant deficiencies apparent in the Central Neighbourhood Area, particularly Hoe Street and Chapel End Wards. In the South West Neighbourhood Area, Grove Green ward has no access to public open space at this level of the hierarchy. Leyton, Lea Bridge and Markhouse wards are well served on their western edges, less so to the east. In the South East Neighbourhood Area, Cathall ward is most deficient with Forest, Leytonstone and Cann Hall wards better served on their eastern edges.
- At the small local level of the hierarchy, there is better access in the central north-south axis of the borough. Although there are areas of deficiency across the borough, there are no wards without any access to small local public open space.
- Play provision appears to vary throughout the borough with large areas of the borough's residents falling outside the catchment areas of doorstep and local play spaces; indeed there are just two sites offering doorstep provision. The greatest provision for children and young people falls within the Neighbourhood play hierarchy with the vast majority of residents within an 800m catchment area of a play space. Areas within the wards of Chingford Green, Hale End and Highams Park, Larkwood, Forest Lea Bridge, Leyton, Lea Bridge, High Street, and Highham Hill area deficient in access to site offering provision for children and young people.
- The emerging findings from the Playing Pitch Strategy indicate that there are three sites which are no longer needed for playing fields. These sites are Chestnut Field, Hare and Hounds and The Score Centre.

## Recommendations for an open space strategy

- 8.3 The projected population growth is likely to have a significant impact on open space provision in Waltham Forest. The provision of new open spaces in areas which experience the greatest levels of open space deficiency (i.e. the south of the borough) is going to be limited due to the dense urban environment which typically characterises these areas. In such instances efforts should be made to ensure existing open spaces are multifunctional and are of a good quality and high value. Attempts should be made to also ensure all sectors of the community are able to easily access open spaces through the removal of physical barriers (e.g. providing safe crossing points across roads) and ensuring open spaces are appropriately promoted. In addition, innovative approaches to new open space provision will also be required.
- 8.4 The assessment of quality and value has shown that Premier Parks have been prioritised in terms of investment and upkeep. Consideration needs to be given to whether this approach is serving the whole community, especially in terms of easy access to high quality local and small local open space near to homes. There are a number of smaller open spaces and natural and semi-natural urban green spaces that appear not to have been a focus for investment and appear to have limited community involvement.
- 8.5 Along the Lee Valley area, there are quite a few unmanaged sites with issues around security and natural surveillance. Quite often the presence of infrastructure doesn't lend the site to natural surveillance – i.e. busy roads. Lack of natural surveillance is oftentimes a result of sites being separated from communities by roads.
- 8.6 Play provision is relatively good. It is clear that investment has been targeted at play provision - even outside of Premier Parks. There are some excellent play areas and the investment already made is making a noticeable difference for residents of (and visitors to) the borough.
- 8.7 Epping Forest and Lee Valley Regional Park provide access to natural and semi-natural urban green space for residents along the eastern and western edges of the borough (and visitors from beyond). The role the regional parks play in terms of providing access to natural and semi-natural urban green space for residents in the centre of the borough that do not enjoy access to nature on their 'doorstep' is unclear without public consultation.

- 8.8 All residents should be within range of a site that offers a range of facilities for this diverse community – including opportunities for both formal and informal recreation. Most importantly, users need to feel safe and secure.
- 8.9 In areas where a deficiency in access to more formal parks and gardens has been identified, consideration should be given to improving the role and functionality of amenity green spaces to provide a meaningful substitute for this type of provision. This is also the case for natural and semi-natural green spaces in areas where there is a deficiency in terms of access to parks and gardens.
- 8.10 There are opportunities to consider the role of disused cemeteries in terms of increasing access to these for appropriate activities (quiet contemplation/enjoyment). This could be through provision of benches, opportunities for dog walking, improved signage and improved access through sites (such as even paving).
- 8.11 Where it is not possible to provide additional open space, consideration should be given to improving links between open spaces and providing green corridors to improve and enhance the network of green features. The open space network should be considered alongside the Public Rights of Way network, and opportunities should be sought to increase connectivity. Similarly, opportunities should be sought to improve the streetscape and public realm – looking for opportunities to green wide paths. In the case of open spaces separated by roads, consideration should be given to rerouting/removing roads.
- 8.12 The Mini-Holland scheme is one of many projects underway to make Waltham Forest safer for walking and cycling, offering sustainable transport routes. This needs to be supported by provision of cycle parking in and around open spaces.
- 8.13 With the high population density in the south of the borough, there will be limited opportunities for creating new open spaces. Continued access to surrounding open spaces including Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park needs to be safeguarded. Where links between Waltham Forest and open spaces in surrounding boroughs are not always as pleasant or easy, opportunities to improve connectivity should be sought.
- 8.14 Where development is likely to increase pressure on the boroughs green spaces, and opportunities for new provision are limited, the borough should look at innovative ways to provide green space at roof level or through green walls. Efforts should be made to ensure existing open spaces are multifunctional and are of a good quality and high value. Attempts should be made to also ensure all sectors of the community are able to easily access open spaces through the removal of physical barriers (e.g. providing safe crossing points across roads) and ensuring open spaces are appropriately promoted.
- 8.15 Whilst this study has not included an audit of housing amenity spaces, there is an opportunity to integrate and enhance the role of housing amenity spaces throughout the borough.
- 8.16 Where there is regeneration, new open space needs to be meaningful rather than ‘leftover’ open space. Opportunities should be sought to put development on the edge of spaces to enable larger blocks of open space to be created rather than smaller incidental open spaces amongst and around buildings. This will ensure that any spaces that are created as a result of development are more meaningful for existing and future residents of the borough.
- 8.17 Waltham Forest has a very diverse and changing population. It is recommended that public consultation is undertaken to delve deeper into the needs and aspirations of residents. Parks are increasingly becoming working spaces for a number of start-ups, social enterprises and home workers. It is likely that the needs of these community members are not yet fully understood.
- 8.18 With the title of London Borough of Culture, it is important that open spaces reflect the character of the surrounding historic environment. For example, near Chingford station, Chingford Green is key to the interpretation of the surrounding area. Through provision of interpretation panels, users can understand and appreciate the role of open space in its wider context and the importance of conserving that.
- 8.19 Similarly, it is important to ensure that open spaces reflect their cultural value – both in terms of cultural heritage (war memorials) but also the cultural interests and traditions of surrounding communities.

- 8.20 The New London Plan (consultation has recently closed) commits to making London at least 50% green by 2050 and encourages boroughs to prepare green infrastructure strategies that integrate objectives relating to open space provision, biodiversity conservation, flood management, health and well-being, sport and recreation. Whilst the multi-functionality of open spaces in the borough has been considered as part of this assessment, it is recommended that a green infrastructure strategy is prepared.

## **Appendix 1**

### Audit form scoring system



# Waltham Forest open space audit 2017

Value scores are highlighted in yellow

Quality scores are highlighted in green

## Desk based assessment

Site ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grid reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ownership (WF, private, other): \_\_\_\_\_  
Area (ha): \_\_\_\_\_  
Category of open space: \_\_\_\_\_

## Designations

### A1 National and International:

- Listed building  +3 •
- Scheduled Monument  +3 •
- SSSI  +3 •
- Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens  +3 •
- Special Protection Area  +2
- Special Area of Conservation  +2
- Ramsar  +2
- Green Belt  +3

### A2: Regional:

- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation/ Local Wildlife Site  +2 •
- Biodiversity Opportunity Area  +2
- Metropolitan Open Land  +2

### A2 Access:

- National/ Regional Trails  +3
- Sustrans Routes  +3

### A3 Local - Statutory:

- Conservation Area  +1
- Local Nature Reserve  +1

### A4 Other:

- Within a Flood Risk Zone  +1
- Ancient Woodland  +1
- T.P.O  +1
- Has the site achieved a Green Flag Award?  +3
- Has the site achieved a Green Flag Community Award?  +3
- Has the site achieved a Green Heritage Award?  +3



# Site assessment

Site ID:

Site Name:

Category of open space:

Audit date and time:

Time spent surveying:

Name of surveyor:

Survey site access: (e.g. access to whole site/ access to part of site/ no access to site)

## 1. Welcoming place

Site access:

- Freely accessible to public  +5
- De-facto public access  +1
- Restricted public access  +2
- No public access  -1

If restricted access, what kind of restriction?

- Opening hours  +2
- Limited to particular areas  +2
- Members/ tenants only  +1
- Other (please state)  0

To what extent are the entrances well presented?  +1 +2 +3

To what extent are the boundaries well defined and maintained?  +1 +2 +3

What is the overall quality of access and accesses within and through the open space?  +1 +2 +3

What is the overall quality of access and accesses for people travelling to open space?  +1 +2 +3

What is the overall provision of signage?  +1 +2 +3

## 2. Health, safety and secure

Play provision:

- Is there play equipment on site?  +1 per item
- How many separate items for equipment?  +1
- Is it for under 5 years?  +1
- 5-11 years?  +1
- Over 11 years?  +1

What play activities are provided for:

- Balancing  +1
- Sliding  +1
- Rocking  +1
- Climbing/ agility  +1
- Social play  +1
- Swinging  +1
- Rotating  +1
- Jumping  +1
- Viewing  +1
- Counting  +1
- Touching  +1

Is there impact absorbing surfacing around the equipment?  +1

Are there benches within the enclosure?  +1

Are there litterbins within the enclosure?  +1

Is there a play area notice at the entrance stating dog free, children only and emergency contacts?  +1

Is there space, separate from the equipped area, for informal play/ general runabout?  +1

Overall condition of play equipment?  +1 +2 +3

Is there other provision for play on site? (Please also note condition)

- MUGA  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Waterplay  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Skate park  +1  +1 +2 +3
- BMX  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Other  +1  +1 +2 +3

Please state:

Is there evidence the green space is being used for informal recreation?

- Walking/ dog walking  +1
  - Children's play  +1
  - Young people hanging out  +1
  - Sitting/ relaxing  +1
  - Desire lines  +1
  - Skateboarding  +1
  - Cycling  +1
  - Food growing  +1
  - Other  +1
- Please state:

Overall provision for informal recreation?  +1 +2 +3

What is the condition of basic amenities?

- Toilets  +3  +1 +2 +3
- Cafe  +3  +1 +2 +3
- Litter and/ or dog bins  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Seating  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Lifebelts  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Cycle parking  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Other  +1  +1 +2 +3

Please state:

Community safety/ sense of security:

- Is there natural surveillance into the site from surrounding properties?  +1
- Do the approaches feel open and secure?  +1
- Is there a flow of people through the green space (to achieve self surveillance)?  +1
- Is lighting provided?  +1
- Is dog fouling evident onsite?  -1

Active recreation/ sport provision:

- Grass pitches  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Artificial pitches (e.g. astro turf)  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Tennis courts  +1  +1 +2 +3
- Other  +1  +1 +2 +3

### 3. Clean and well maintained

- Is graffiti evident?  -1
  - Vandalism evident?  -1
  - Overall cleanliness?  +1 +2 +3
  - Overall condition of planted areas  +1 +2 +3
  - Overall condition of grass areas  +1 +2 +3
  - Overall condition of footpaths  +1 +2 +3
  - Quality of water and associated edge treatment  +1 +2 +3
  - Are there any buildings or other built features onsite?  Not scored
  - If so, please note condition  +1 +2 +3
- Allotments:
- Estimated number of plots in use: 0-25% +1 26%-50% +2 51-75% +3 76-100% +4
- Overall condition of allotment site:  +1 +2 +3

Please state:

### 4. Sustainability

- Is there evidence of sustainable management practices?  +1
- Does the green space provide a buffer for/ absorb noise or air pollution from:
  - Nearby traffic  +1
  - Nearby industry  +1
  - Other  +1
- Is there evidence of tree/ woodland management?  +1

### 5. Conservation and heritage

- Is there indication that natural features are being managed for nature conservation?  +1
- Vegetation cover/ type: 1 or 2 types +1 3 - 5 types +2 over 5 types +3
  - Fine lawn
  - Amenity grassland
  - Wildflower grassland
  - Herbs
  - Shrub
  - Scrub
  - Hedge
  - Annual bedding
  - Ornamental planting
  - River, stream or canal
  - Pond/ lake
  - Ditch
  - Marginal vegetation
  - Woodland
  - Woodland edges/ trees and shrubs forming shelterbelt
  - Tree groups/ scattered trees
  - Veteran or significant individual trees
  - Orchard
  - Deadwood
  - Derelict wasteland
  - Other vegetation type: (please state)
  - Invasive species  -1

- Does the green space contribute to the setting of the immediate local area?  +1
- Is the open space visually attractive?  +1

What threats/ disturbances/ issues are affecting the attractiveness of the site?

- Road noise  -1
- Rail noise  -1
- Pollution  -1
- Lack of landscape management  -1
- Erosion  -1
- Intrusive buildings  -1
- Motorcycle scrambling  -1
- Fly tipping  -1
- Flooding  -1
- Other  -1

Please state:

### 6. Community involvement

- Is there a evidence of an active community group?  +3
- Is there a permanent public noticeboard on site?  +1
- If so, are up to date notices displayed?  +1
- Are there any temporary notices on site informing users about current developments?  +1
- Is so, are they up to date?  +1
- Does the site offer educational interest (e.g. nature conservation interest or local historic significance)?  +1
- Is there a built facility on site which is being used by the local community for education?  +1
- Is there evidence that a natural feature on site is being used by the local community for education?  +1

### 7. Marketing and culture

Are any of the following social and cultural facilities located on or adjacent to green space:

- Community centre  +1
- Youth centre  +1
- Arts or cultural venue  +1
- Indoor sport hall/ leisure centre  +1
- Other social facility/ business facility  +1

- Is there a dedicated outdoor performance area within the green space?  +1
- Does the green space contain public art?  +1
- Is there a school immediately adjacent to the green space?  +1
- Does the green space feature any recognisable landmark features of local importance?  +1
- Is there a programme of cultural or other community activities?  +1

### 8. Potential themes for enhancement:

Please indicate which of the following benefits/ services should be prioritised for future management or enhancement (please tick as many boxes as relevant):

- Access
- Informal recreation
- Sports/ other organised activities
- Natural habitats/ biodiversity
- Character setting
- Amenity
- Educational interest
- Productive landscape
- Water attenuation
- Other

Please state:

### 9. Comments:

Please add any further information on open space e.g. details of primary or secondary uses/ purposes or any significant issues/ opportunities which should be highlighted.

## **Appendix 2**

Detailed audit forms  
(see separate  
volume)



**Appendix 3**

Audited sites



Typology/hierarchy	Site ID	Site Name	Area (ha)	Premier Parks	Accessibility
Amenity Green Space	18	Chingford War Memorial	0.03		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	115	Vestry Road	0.03		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	150	Leyton Green	0.06		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	207	Jubilee Gardens	0.08		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	112	Shernell Street Open Space	0.09		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	142	South Grove Road Open Space	0.1		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	114	The Drive	0.12		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	13	The Four Wents	0.13		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	96	Chingford Road	0.13		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	61	Ropers Avenue	0.15		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	55	Greyhound stadium redevelopment	0.16		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	23	Peel Close	0.23		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	50	Marmion Close	0.33		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	26	British Legion Road Open Space	0.34		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	196	Cathall Road	0.34		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	2	Chingford Green	0.59		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	148	Knotts Green	0.63		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	104	Wadham Avenue Open Space	0.79		Freely accessible to public
Amenity Green Space	106	Walthamstow Town Hall	1.19		Freely accessible to public
Cemeteries and Churchyards	15	All Saints Churchyard	0.27		Freely accessible to public
Cemeteries and Churchyards	125	St Peters in the Forest Churchyard	0.45		Freely accessible to public
Cemeteries and Churchyards	11	St Peters & St Paul Churchyard	0.66		Freely accessible to public
Cemeteries and Churchyards	193	St John the Baptist's Churchyard	0.7		Restricted public access
Cemeteries and Churchyards	180	St Mary's Churchyard	0.78		Freely accessible to public
Cemeteries and Churchyards	113	St Mary's Churchyard	1.01		Restricted public access
Cemeteries and Churchyards	88	Muslim Burial Ground	2.25		Restricted public access
Cemeteries and Churchyards	140	Queens Road Cemetery	4.49		Restricted public access
Cemeteries and Churchyards	201	St Patricks RC Cemetery	9.31		Restricted public access
Cemeteries and Churchyards	54	Chingford Mount Cemetery	16.56		Restricted public access



Typology/hierarchy	Site ID	Site Name	Area (ha)	Premier Parks	Accessibility
Civic Spaces	132	Walthamstow Town Square	0.42		Freely accessible to public
Green Corridors	37	The Ching and Brookfield Meadow	0.26		Freely accessible to public
Green Corridors	72	River Ching	0.36		Majority freely accessible with some restricted areas
Green Corridors	185	The Linear Park	0.48		Restricted public access
Green Corridors	205	River Ching	0.71		Freely accessible to public
Green Corridors	45	Ching Walkway	1.12		Freely accessible to public
District Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	56	Larkswood & Larkswood Playing Fields	23.3		Freely accessible to public
Local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	51	Ainslie Wood	2.05		Freely accessible to public
Local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	78	Cheney Row Open Space	3.19		Freely accessible to public
Local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	80	Folly Lane Community Woodland	4.16		Freely accessible to public
Local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	71	Mallinson Park Woods	4.98		Restricted public access
Small local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	183	Newport School Nature Area	0.15		No public access
Small local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	12	The Copse	0.53		Freely accessible to public
Small local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	123	Greenway Avenue Nature Reserve	0.73		Majority freely accessible with some restricted areas
Small local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	6	Hawkwood Pond	0.85		Restricted public access
Small local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	136	Low Hall Conservation Area	0.92		Restricted public access
Small local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	73	The Ching and Brookfield Meadow	1.25		Freely accessible to public
Small local Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	34	Pimp Hall Nature Reserve	1.32		Restricted public access
Local Parks & Gardens	35	Pimp Hall Park	2.8		Restricted public access
Local Parks & Gardens	43	Chase Lane Park	2.95		Restricted public access
Local Parks & Gardens	84	Higham Hill Recreation Ground	3.01		Majority freely accessible with some restricted areas
Local Parks & Gardens	143	St James Park	3.7		Freely accessible to public

Typology/hierarchy	Site ID	Site Name	Area (ha)	Premier Parks	Accessibility
Local Parks & Gardens	57	Memorial Park	3.81	Y	Restricted public access
Local Parks & Gardens	24	Ridgeway Park	5.35	Y	Restricted public access
Local Parks & Gardens	38	The Highams Park	8.69		Freely accessible to public
Local Parks & Gardens	21	Mansfield Park	9.04		Freely accessible to public
Local Parks & Gardens	101	Lloyd and Aveling Park	12.9	Y	Freely accessible to public
Local Parks & Gardens	172	Leyton Jubilee Park	15.4	Y	Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	149	Leigh Road	0.01		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	65	Bellamy Road Memorial Garden	0.02		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	206	Harrow Green	0.08		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	153	Cambrian Gardens	0.09		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	46	Good Memorial Gardens	0.12		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	155	Friendship Gardens	0.13		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	116	Vestry Road Playground	0.26		Majority freely accessible with some restricted areas
Small local Parks & Gardens	117	Wingfield Park	0.31		Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	3	Drysdale Park	0.41		Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	195	Cathall Green	0.47		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	204	Cann Hall Park	0.5		Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	159	Leyton Manor Park	0.61		Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	119	Bisterne Avenue Park	0.64		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	190	Henry Reynolds Gardens	0.71		Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	170	Jack Cornwell Park	0.77		Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	184	Sidmouth Park	0.79		Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	133	Walthamstow Town Square Gardens	0.87		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	131	Stoneydown Park and Gardens	1.02		Freely accessible to public
Small local Parks & Gardens	145	Thomas Gamuel Park	1.31		Restricted public access
Small local Parks &	167	Coronation	1.66	Y	Restricted public access

Typology/hierarchy	Site ID	Site Name	Area (ha)	Premier Parks	Accessibility
Gardens		Gardens			
Small local Parks & Gardens	146	Abbots Park	1.71	Y	Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	200	Langthorne Park	1.74	Y	Restricted public access
Small local Parks & Gardens	100	Kitchener Road Park	1.97		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	93	Brookscroft Road Play Area	0.02		Freely accessible to public
Provision for Children and Teenagers	210		0.02		Freely accessible to public
Provision for Children and Teenagers	130	Nursery play area	0.03		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	109	Greenleaf Road Playground	0.04		Freely accessible to public
Provision for Children and Teenagers	182	Walnut Road Playground	0.04		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	141	Queens Road Playground	0.05		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	209	Harrow Road Park	0.05		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	152	Bridge Road Playground	0.06		Freely accessible to public
Provision for Children and Teenagers	187	Church Lane Playground	0.06		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	194	Artesian Gardens Playground	0.07		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	74	Vincent Road Playground	0.11		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	188	Dyers Hall Playground	0.11		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	199	Epicentre Playground	0.11		Freely accessible to public
Provision for Children and Teenagers	48	Keatley Green	0.13		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	39	Arnett Square Playground	0.14		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	178	SCORE Playground	0.15		No public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	203	Acacia Road Playground	0.17		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	70	Long Leys	0.18		Restricted public access
Provision for Children and Teenagers	81	Folly Lane Playground	0.21		Freely accessible to public

Typology/hierarchy	Site ID	Site Name	Area (ha)	Premier Parks	Accessibility
Provision for Children and Teenagers	127	Coppermill Park	0.24		Freely accessible to public
Provision for Children and Teenagers	110	Priory Court Playground	0.31		Freely accessible to public

**Appendix 4**

Quality and value standards development



Type/ hierarchy of open space	Quality	Value
<b>Parks and gardens</b>		
Local parks and gardens	44	44
Small local parks and gardens	37	34
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>		
Neighbourhood	4	30
Local	4	18
Doorstep	4	16
<b>Natural and semi-natural urban green space</b>		
District natural and semi-natural urban green space	31	21
Local natural and semi-natural urban green space	26	16
Small local natural and semi-natural urban green space	24	16
<b>Amenity green space</b>		
Amenity green space	22	9
<b>Churchyards and cemeteries</b>		
Churchyards and cemeteries	27	17
<b>Green corridors</b>		
Green corridors	17	11

## Local Parks and Gardens

Criteria	Quality	Value
<b>Baseline information</b>		
Local statutory		1
<b>Theme 1: A welcoming place</b>		
Freely accessible		4
Entrances well presented	3	
Boundaries well defined	2	
Access within	2	
Access to	2	
Provision of signage	2	
<b>Theme 2: Healthy, safe and secure</b>		
Play provision		5
Age groups		2
Play activities		6
Impact absorbing		1
Is it fenced off		1
Are there benches		1
Litterbins		1
Gate self-closing		1
Play area notice	1	
Space for play		1
Overall condition of play	3	
Other provision	1	
Provision for informal recreation		3
Seating	3	1
Litter bins	3	1
Cycle parking	3	1
Approaches feel open and secure	1	
Active recreation	2	1
<b>Theme 3: Well maintained and clean</b>		
Level of cleanliness	3	
Condition quality of planted area	2	
Condition quality of grass areas	2	
Paths	2	
<b>Theme 4: Environmental management</b>		
Does the green space provide a buffer for/ absorb noise or air pollution		1
Evidence of sustainable management practices		
<b>Theme 5: Biodiversity, landscape and heritage</b>		
At least 5 vegetation types		3
Contributes to sense of place		1
Visually attractive	1	
Natural features managed	2	
Overall design	2	
<b>Theme 6: Community involvement</b>		
Evidence of an active community group		3
Public noticeboard	1	
Up to date notices	1	
Offer educational interest		1
Natural feature on site being used by the local community		1
<b>Theme 7: Marketing and communication</b>		
Public art		1
Features local landmark		1
Programme of cultural or other community activities		1
<b>Local Parks and Gardens</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>



## Small Local Parks and Gardens

Criteria	Quality	Value
<b>Baseline information</b>		
Local statutory		1
<b>Theme 1: A welcoming place</b>		
Freely accessible		4
Entrances well presented	3	
Boundaries well defined	2	
Access within	2	
Access to	2	
Provision of signage	2	
<b>Theme 2: Healthy, safe and secure</b>		
Play provision		4
Age groups		2
Play activities		6
Impact absorbing		1
Is it fenced off		1
Are there benches		1
Litterbins		1
Gate self-closing		1
Play area notice	1	
Space for play		1
Overall condition of play	3	
Provision for informal recreation		2
Seating	2	1
Litter bins	2	1
Cycle parking	3	1
Approaches feel open and secure	1	
<b>Theme 3: Well maintained and clean</b>		
Level of cleanliness	3	
Condition quality of planted area	2	
Condition quality of grass areas	2	
Paths	2	1
<b>Theme 4: Environmental management</b>		
Does the green space provide a buffer for/ absorb noise or air pollution		1
Evidence of sustainable management practices		
<b>Theme 5: Biodiversity, landscape and heritage</b>		
At least 3 vegetation types		2
Visually attractive	1	
Natural features managed	1	
Overall design	1	
<b>Theme 6: Community involvement</b>		
Public noticeboard	1	
Up to date notices	1	
<b>Theme 7: Marketing and communication</b>		
Public art		1
Features local landmark		
Programme of cultural or other community activities		1
<b>Small Local Parks and Gardens</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>

### District natural and semi-natural urban green space

Criteria	Quality	Value
<b>Baseline information</b>		
National statutory		
National - non statutory		
Regional - statutory		2
Local - statutory		1
<b>Theme 1: Welcoming Place</b>		
Freely accessible		5
Entrances well presented	3	
Boundaries well defined	2	
Access within	2	
Access to	2	
Provision of signage	2	
<b>Theme 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>		
Provision for informal recreation		3
Seating	3	1
Litter bins	3	1
Dog bins		
Cycle parking	3	1
Approaches feel open and secure	1	
<b>Theme 3: Well maintained</b>		
Level of cleanliness	3	
Paths	2	1
<b>Theme 4: Sustainability</b>		
Environmental role		1
Evidence of tree management	1	
<b>Theme 5: Heritage and conservation</b>		
At least 6 vegetation types		3
Contributes to sense of place		1
Features local landmark		1
Visually attractive	1	
Natural features managed	1	
Overall design		
<b>Theme 6: Marketing/ Community involvement</b>		
Public noticeboard	1	
Up to date notices	1	
<b>District natural and semi-natural urban green space</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21</b>

### Local natural and semi-natural urban green space

Criteria	Quality	Value
<b>Baseline information</b>		
Local - statutory		1
<b>Theme 1: Welcoming Place</b>		
Freely accessible		5
Entrances well presented	3	
Boundaries well defined	2	
Access within	2	
Provision of signage	2	
<b>Theme 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>		
Provision for informal recreation		3
Seating	3	1
Litter bins	3	1
Approaches feel open and secure	1	
<b>Theme 3: Well maintained</b>		
Level of cleanliness	3	
Paths	2	
<b>Theme 4: Sustainability</b>		
Environmental role		1
Evidence of tree management	1	
<b>Theme 5: Heritage and conservation</b>		
At least 6 vegetation types		3
Contributes to sense of place		1
Visually attractive	1	
Natural features managed	1	
Overall design		
<b>Theme 6: Marketing/ Community involvement</b>		
Public noticeboard	1	
Up to date notices	1	
<b>Local natural and semi-natural urban green space</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>

### Small local natural and semi-natural urban green space

Criteria	Quality	Value
<b>Baseline information</b>		
Local - statutory		1
<b>Theme 1: Welcoming Place</b>		
Freely accessible		5
Entrances well presented	3	
Boundaries well defined	2	
Access within	2	
Provision of signage	2	
<b>Theme 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>		
Provision for informal recreation		3
Seating	3	1
Litter bins	3	1
Approaches feel open and secure	1	
<b>Theme 3: Well maintained</b>		
Level of cleanliness	3	
Paths	2	
<b>Theme 4: Sustainability</b>		
Environmental role		1
Evidence of tree management		
<b>Theme 5: Heritage and conservation</b>		
At least 6 vegetation types		3
Contributes to sense of place		1
Visually attractive		
Natural features managed	1	
<b>Theme 6: Marketing/ Community involvement</b>		
Public noticeboard	1	
Up to date notices	1	
<b>Small local natural and semi-natural urban green space</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>

**Amenity green space**

Criteria	Quality	Value
<b>Theme 1: Welcoming Place</b>		
Freely accessible		5
Entrances well presented	3	
Boundaries well defined	2	
Access within	2	
<b>Theme 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>		
Seating	3	
Litter bins	3	
Approaches feel open and secure	1	
<b>Theme 3: Well maintained</b>		
Level of cleanliness	3	
Condition quality of grass areas	2	
Paths	2	
<b>Theme 4: Sustainability</b>		
Environmental role		1
<b>Theme 5: Heritage and conservation</b>		
At least 4 vegetation types		2
Contributes to sense of place		1
Visually attractive	1	
<b>Amenity green space</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>

**Green corridors**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Baseline information</b>		
National		3
<b>Theme 1: Welcoming Place</b>		
Freely accessible		5
Entrances well presented	3	
Boundaries well defined	2	
Access within	2	
Access to	2	
Provision of signage	2	
<b>Theme 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>		
Approaches feel open and secure	1	
<b>Theme 3: Well maintained</b>		
Level of cleanliness	3	
Paths	2	
<b>Theme 4: Sustainability</b>		
Environmental role		1
<b>Theme 5: Heritage and conservation</b>		
At least 2 vegetation types		1
Contributes to sense of place		1
Overall design		
<b>Green corridors</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>

## Churchyards and cemeteries

Criteria	Quality	Value
<b>Baseline information</b>		
National - Statutory		3
Local - Statutory		1
<b>Theme 1: Welcoming Place</b>		
Restricted access		2
Opening hours		2
Entrances well presented	3	
Boundaries well defined	2	
Access within	2	
Access to	2	
Provision of signage	2	
<b>Theme 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>		
Provision for informal recreation		2
Seating	3	
Litter bins	3	
Approaches feel open and secure	1	
<b>Theme 3: Well maintained</b>		
Level of cleanliness	3	
Condition quality of grass areas	2	
Paths	2	
<b>Theme 4: Sustainability</b>		
Environmental role		1
<b>Theme 5: Heritage and conservation</b>		
At least 4 vegetation types		4
Contributes to sense of place		1
Features local landmark		1
Visually attractive	1	
Natural features managed	1	
Overall design		
<b>Churchyards and cemeteries</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>

**Doorstep**

Criteria	Quality	Value
Play equipment		4
Age groups		1
Play activities		6
Impact absorbing		1
Is it fenced off		1
Are there benches		1
Litterbins		1
Play area notice	1	
Space for play		1
Overall condition of play	3	
<b>Doorstep</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>

**Local**

Criteria	Quality	Value
Play provision		5
Age groups		2
Play activities		6
Impact absorbing		1
Is it fenced off		1
Are there benches		1
Litterbins		1
Play area notice	1	
Space for play		1
Overall condition of play	3	
<b>Local</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>

**Neighbourhood**

Criteria	Quality	Value
Play provision		10
Age groups		3
Play activities		11
Impact absorbing		1
Is it fenced off		1
Are there benches		1
Litterbins		1
Play area notice	1	
Space for play		1
Overall condition of play	3	
Other provision		1
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>



**Appendix 5**

Site quality and value ratings summary



Site ID	Name	Typology	Hierarchy	Quality Total	Value Total	Quality Standard	Value Standard
104	Wadham Avenue Open Space	Amenity Green Space		7	15	22	9
106	Walthamstow Town Hall	Amenity Green Space		37	27	22	9
112	Shernell Street Open Space	Amenity Green Space		24	10	22	9
114	The Drive	Amenity Green Space		19	14	22	9
115	Vestry Road	Amenity Green Space		30	14	22	9
13	The Four Wents	Amenity Green Space		24	13	22	9
142	South Grove Road Open Space	Amenity Green Space		29	12	22	9
148	Knotts Green	Amenity Green Space		25	21	22	9
150	Leyton Green	Amenity Green Space		22	18	22	9
18	Chingford War Memorial	Amenity Green Space		27	20	22	9
196	Cathall Road	Amenity Green Space		30	18	22	9
2	Chingford Green	Amenity Green Space		33	24	22	9
207	Jubilee Gardens	Amenity Green Space		30	18	22	9
23	Peel Close	Amenity Green Space		23	12	22	9
26	British Legion Road Open Space	Amenity Green Space		18	17	22	9
50	Marmion Close	Amenity Green Space		20	10	22	9
55	Greyhound stadium redevelopment	Amenity Green Space		22	9	22	9
61	Ropers Avenue	Amenity Green Space		20	12	22	9
96	Chingford Road	Amenity Green Space		13	13	22	9
211	Lea Bridge Road 3	Amenity Green Space		14	12	22	9
212	Lea Bridge Road 2	Amenity Green Space		12	14	22	9
213	Lea Bridge Road 1	Amenity Green Space		Site currently closed		22	9
11	St Peters & St Paul Churchyard	Cemeteries and Churchyards		31	29	27	17
113	St Mary's Churchyard	Cemeteries and Churchyards		31	24	27	17
125	St Peters in the Forest Churchyard	Cemeteries and Churchyards		15	28	27	17
140	Queens Road Cemetery	Cemeteries and Churchyards		31	16	27	17
15	All Saints Churchyard	Cemeteries and Churchyards		33	25	27	17
180	St Mary's Churchyard	Cemeteries and Churchyards		31	24	27	17
193	St John the Baptist's Churchyard	Cemeteries and Churchyards		39	31	27	17
201	St Patricks RC Cemetery	Cemeteries and Churchyards		28	26	27	17
54	Chingford Mount Cemetery	Cemeteries and Churchyards		32	21	27	17
88	Muslim Burial Ground	Cemeteries and Churchyards		18	12	27	17
132	Walthamstow Town Square	Civic Spaces		32	14		
185	The Linear Park	Green Corridors		26	17	17	11
205	River Ching	Green Corridors		16	11	17	11
37	The Ching and Brookfield Meadow	Green Corridors		16	15	17	11
45	Ching Walkway	Green Corridors		12	12	17	11
72	River Ching	Green Corridors		9	11	17	11
56	Larkwood & Larkwood Playing Fields	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Spac	District	21	31	31	21
51	Ainslie Wood	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Spac	Local	23	22	26	16
71	Mallinson Park Woods	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Spac	Local	9	31	26	16
78	Cheney Row Open Space	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Spac	Local	15	19	26	16
80	Folly Lane Community Woodland	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Spac	Local	5	20	26	16
12	The Copse	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Spac	Small local	13	18	24	16
123	Greenway Avenue Nature Reserve	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Spac	Small local	6	15	24	16

Site ID	Name	Typology	Hierarchy	Quality Total	Value Total	Quality Standard	Value Standard
136	Low Hall Conservation Area	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	Small local	9	20	24	16
183	Newport School Nature Area	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	Small local	17	18	24	16
34	Pimp Hall Nature Reserve	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	Small local	34	32	24	16
6	Hawkwood Pond	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	Small local	36	32	24	16
73	The Ching and Brookfield Meadow	Natural & Semi-Natural Urban Green Space	Small local	25	17	24	16
101	Lloyd and Aveling Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	74	80	44	44
143	St James Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	34	54	44	44
172	Leyton Jubilee Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	64	93	44	44
21	Mansfield Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	23	30	44	44
24	Ridgeway Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	52	75	44	44
35	Pimp Hall Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	33	59	44	44
38	The Highams Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	40.5	68	44	44
57	Memorial Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	47	64	44	44
84	Higham Hill Recreation Ground	Parks & Gardens	Local	47	69	44	44
43	Chase Lane Park	Parks & Gardens	Local	32	76	44	44
100	Kitchener Road Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	30	60	37	34
116	Vestry Road Playground	Parks & Gardens	Small local	42	32	37	34
117	Wingfield Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	40	56	37	34
119	Bisterne Avenue Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	32	44	37	34
131	Stoneydown Park and Gardens	Parks & Gardens	Small local	34.8	73	37	34
133	Walthamstow Town Square Gardens	Parks & Gardens	Small local	37	45	37	34
145	Thomas Gamuel Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	38	51	37	34
146	Abbots Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	57	70	37	34
149	Leigh Road	Parks & Gardens	Small local	22	13	37	34
153	Cambrian Gardens	Parks & Gardens	Small local	19	16	37	34
155	Friendship Gardens	Parks & Gardens	Small local	28	25	37	34
159	Leyton Manor Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	45	56	37	34
167	Coronation Gardens	Parks & Gardens	Small local	45	23	37	34
170	Jack Cornwell Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	36	46	37	34
184	Sidmouth Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	37	50	37	34
190	Henry Reynolds Gardens	Parks & Gardens	Small local	41.5	97	37	34
195	Cathall Green	Parks & Gardens	Small local	37	38	37	34
200	Langthorne Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	53	55	37	34
204	Cann Hall Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	52	46	37	34
206	Harrow Green	Parks & Gardens	Small local	33	17	37	34
3	Drysdale Park	Parks & Gardens	Small local	25	46	37	34
46	Good Memorial Gardens	Parks & Gardens	Small local	17	12	37	34
65	Bellamy Road Memorial Garden	Parks & Gardens	Small local	27	12	37	34