



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan

Green Infrastructure and Green space
Background Paper

Publication Draft

Leeds Local Development Framework
Development Plan Document

September 2015



PART 1: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT

1. INTRODUCTION

Aire Valley Leeds provides a unique opportunity to create a green urban network of spaces and places connecting the heart of the city, with the edge of the countryside. Whilst the area has an industrial legacy, parts of it are important natural habitats and provide recreation opportunities and are relatively tranquil in nature. The overall vision for Aire Valley Leeds is to accommodate new jobs and homes required by the Core Strategy, within an enhanced green setting, whilst improving natural habitats and making the area a more attractive visitor destination.

The main purpose of this study is to provide the evidence base to support policies and proposals for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of green infrastructure in the Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan. In particular, the document:

- Reviews the national, regional and local policies, guidance and evidence base relating to green infrastructure;
- Identify and map green infrastructure sites in Aire Valley Leeds;
- Identify and map a hierarchy of regional and locally important green corridors in Aire Valley Leeds based on the methodology used by Natural England for their regional evidence base.

2. ROLE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

What is green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) as:

“a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities” (Annex 2: Glossary, p52)

Natural England have developed a more extensive definition of green infrastructure as set out below:

“Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.

Green infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban environment to its wider rural hinterland. Consequently, it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local neighbourhood levels, accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside”

Natural England Green Infrastructure Guidance (NE176), Natural England, 2009

Natural England clarify that planning for green infrastructure is distinct to planning for open space (Open Space or Green Space Strategies based on former Planning

Policy Guidance 17 audits). Sometimes the distinctions can appear subtle, as all green spaces can form part of green infrastructure networks. Nevertheless, the main distinctions can be explained in the following terms:

- Green infrastructure goes beyond the site specific, considering the ‘big picture’ – landscape context, hinterland and setting, as well as strategic links of sub-regional scale and beyond;
- Green infrastructure considers private, as well as public assets;
- Green infrastructure provides a multi-functional, connected, network delivering ecosystem services;
- Whilst open space studies consider typologies beyond sports and amenity green space, spaces are considered primarily from access, quality and management perspectives, rather than consideration of wider environmental benefits and services.

A green infrastructure typology

A number of types of green infrastructure are identified in Natural England’s Guidance:

- 1. Parks and Gardens** – urban parks, country and regional parks, formal gardens
- 2. Amenity green space** – informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, domestic gardens, village greens, urban commons, other incidental space, green roofs
- 3. Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces** – woodland and scrub grassland (e.g. downland and meadow, heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and disturbed ground, bare rock habitats e.g. cliffs and quarries)
- 4. Green corridors** – rivers and canals, including their banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths and rights of way
- 5. Other** – allotments, community gardens, city farms, cemeteries and churchyards

3. NATIONAL, REGIONAL & LOCAL POLICIES AND EVIDENCE

National

The Government’s policies on conserving and enhancing the natural environment are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (Section 11). The following paragraphs are of particular importance in terms of planning for the natural and local environment, green infrastructure and biodiversity:

Paragraph 109: “*The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*

- *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;*
- *recognising the wider benefits of eco-system services;*
- *minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*
- *preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air water or noise pollution or land instability.*
- *remediating and mitigating, despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.”*

Paragraph 114: *“Local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach in their local plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.”*

Paragraph 117: *“To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:*

- *plan for biodiversity at a landscape scale across local authority boundaries;*
- *identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;*
- *promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan.”*

Regional

A green infrastructure evidence base was produced by Natural England for the Yorkshire and Humber Region. This work was intended to support the delivery of the green infrastructure policy (policy YH8) in the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Strategy. Although the regional strategy has since been abolished, the evidence base collated by Natural England remains important for consideration of green infrastructure issues within Leeds. It provides a consistent approach to delivery of green infrastructure policies and in particular identifies strategic green infrastructure which runs across administrative boundaries.

The assessment follows a number of steps to map existing and potential green infrastructure sites and corridors and to establish a hierarchy of strategic green infrastructure based on the number of functions each corridor serves. The results show a network of regional, sub-regional and district corridors.

Local

The strategic policies for green infrastructure in Leeds district are set out in the Leeds Core Strategy. Strategic Green Infrastructure is defined under Spatial Policy 13 and indicated on the key diagram and Map 16. The supporting text to the policy states that green infrastructure has to carry out several functions¹ in order to create robust and multi-functional networks; explains that strategic green infrastructure is that which has strategic importance across the district; and indicates a desire to maintain and enhance an integrated network of strategic green infrastructure in the long term.

The following green infrastructure corridors are identified which are of particular relevance to Aire Valley Leeds:

- The Aire Valley, along the river and canal corridors and including (inter alia) Aire Valley Leeds, incorporating the proposed Urban Eco Settlement (which has particular aims to strengthen green links to Leeds City Centre, the lower Aire Valley, Temple Newsam and Rothwell Country Park);

¹ The functions referred to in the Leeds Core Strategy are: Investment & economy; townscape & character; health & well-being; biodiversity; climate change; flood storage & shade; recreation & open space

- Wyke Beck Valley;
- South Leeds (including the Morley-Middleton Holbeck corridor) – although this corridor does not fall within the AAP area there is potential to link the South Leeds and Aire Valley corridors through AAP proposals.

Policy G1 of the Core Strategy sets out the requirements for development proposals (including site allocation documents) that are acceptable within or adjoin areas of strategic green infrastructure. This includes the need to retain and improve green infrastructure; taking opportunities to fill in gaps in corridors; using landscape schemes to deal positively with the transition between development and adjoining land; and taking opportunities to increase woodland cover. Policies G7 and G8 protect important species and habitats and set out biodiversity improvements required by new development proposals. Map 18 shows the Leeds Habitat Network which incorporates land in the eastern part of Aire Valley Leeds close to the river corridor.

The preparation of the AVL AAP provides an opportunity to identify the local green infrastructure network in AVL and provide detailed guidance and certainty to the application of Core Strategy green infrastructure policies.

4. APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING THE LOCAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK IN AIRE VALLEY LEEDS

In order to establish a baseline position for the type and quantity of green infrastructure present in Aire Valley Leeds, a number of separate assessments have been undertaken. Details on the methodology used to undertake the assessments are set out in Sections 5 and 6. These have guided the identification of the following green infrastructure assets in Aire Valley Leeds which together form the green infrastructure network:

1. **Green infrastructure sites** (see section 5) – areas of green infrastructure with defined boundaries
2. **Green infrastructure corridors** (see section 6) – a network of connected green corridors, which usually incorporate the above sites, and which provide more than one green infrastructure function (e.g. supporting biodiversity; mitigating flood risk; providing recreational opportunities)

5. AIRE VALLEY LEEDS: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SITES

Green space sites

The evidence for these defined sites is set out in separate documents as follows:

- Site Allocations Plan and Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan Nature Conservation Background Paper (September 2015)
- Green space sites (see part 2 of this background paper)
- Leeds Habitat Network (2014)

Out of a total area of 1,332 hectares in Aire Valley Leeds, analysis identified that just over 37% of this land area could be categorised as green infrastructure. A further assumption was made in order to provide a robust baseline position. Potential green infrastructure within development sites (those specifically allocated on the existing proposals map for Leeds set out in the UDP Review 2006) is excluded from the

calculations. For example, a number of development sites currently used for agricultural purposes are excluded because they are already earmarked for development under the baseline scenario. Areas of woodland planting (within development sites) are an exception to this because it would be a principle design objective to retain mature landscape components within new developments. None of this is to say that other green infrastructure should not be provided within development sites. This is an expectation of good design and a policy requirement.

The assessment makes no judgement on the quality, usability or value of land in respect to the functions of green infrastructure. The assessment recorded 'everything green', identified from aerial photographs.

Quantity of green infrastructure

The assessment identified a total area of 503 hectares of green infrastructure sites in Aire Valley Leeds. Approximately 16% of this is public open space. The largest contribution to green infrastructure comes from natural and semi-natural green space; accounting for 68% of the total. Blue space (rivers, canal, lakes and ponds) and woodland planting are major contributors within the natural and semi-natural green space category accounting for 35% and 22% of green infrastructure respectively. Amenity green space makes a major contribution at 22% of the total, but this is of mixed quality and makes a limited contribution to the function of green infrastructure in some cases.

6. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDORS IN THE AIRE VALLEY

Assessment Methodology

As part of the regional green infrastructure study, Natural England examined various studies which included definitions of green infrastructure functions and agreed a list of fifteen functions to work within their corridor analysis. For consistency, these indicators have been carried through to the assessment of local green corridors in Aire Valley Leeds.

The regional study used high level indicators to assess whether corridors satisfy the 15 green infrastructure functions. Based on the indicators set out in Table 2, it categorised corridors into regional, sub-regional and district functions as follows:

- regional - demonstrates 13-15 functions
- sub-regional - demonstrates 10-13 functions
- district (local) - demonstrates 8-11 functions

The aim of the local assessment is to identify green infrastructure of local importance to Aire Valley Leeds; to be shown on the policies map.

The assessment of prospective green infrastructure corridors in Aire Valley Leeds looked at those parts of the corridors within the AAP boundary and assesses how many of the local indicators the corridor satisfies. For the local level study, the regional indicators would present a high standard that would be difficult to satisfy given the scale of the area. These were amended to be relevant to the local level. The local indicators are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Green infrastructure corridor functions and indicators

Functions	Regional indicators	Local indicators	Local weighting
(1) Open space	Contains open space assets, such as parks and woodlands.	Contains space assessed in Leeds Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment.	x1.5
(2) Biodiversity	Contains one or more sites of significant wildlife value.	Based on recent site assessment, meets at least one of the following criteria: i) Includes a designated site (country-wide value or higher); ii) Provides physical connectivity between semi-natural features at each end of the corridor; or iii) Contains a number of semi-natural features that have some level of physical connectivity between them.	x3
(3) Landscape	Contains at least one landscape feature worthy of protection or enhancement.	Contains at least one landscape feature of local importance worthy of protection or enhancement.	x3
(4) Food production	Areas in agricultural or food production.	Includes agricultural land or allotments / community gardens.	x3
(5) Mitigating flood risk	Contains floodplains, areas at flood of flooding or areas where green infrastructure could be used to reduce run off into flood risk areas.	Contains areas in Flood Risk areas 2, 3A or 3B in the Leeds Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.	x3
(6) Contribution to mitigating climate change	Contains area which are, or could be, managed for non-flooding climate change mitigation through, carbon sequestration in areas such as peatlands, managed woodlands or locations for energy crop production.	Contains areas which are, or could be, managed for non-flooding climate change mitigation through, carbon sequestration or locations for energy crop production.	x3
(7) Health	Includes Air Quality Management Areas or locations with populations with poor health where green infrastructure can be used to increase outdoor activity or address pollution issues.	Meets at least one of the following criteria: (i) Close (walking distance) to areas with top 10% deprived areas in IoD 2010 for health and meeting accessibility and/or recreation criteria. (ii) Close to AQMA or Area of Concern.	x3
(8) Accessibility	Contains rights of way allowing access by foot, cycle or horse riding along the corridor.	Identified off road pedestrian route / cycle path and/or bridleway.	x3
(9) Recreation	Contains formal and informal outdoor recreational assets such as golf courses, play areas and sports pitches.	Meets at least one of the criteria below: (i) Contains areas classified in PPG17 Open space study under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor recreation and/or • children's play. (ii) River corridors or lakes used for fishing, water sports activities.	x1.5
(10) Education	Visitor centre or site already	As regional.	x1

Table 2: Green infrastructure corridor functions and indicators			
Functions	Regional indicators	Local indicators	Local weighting
	used for environmental education.		
(11) Cultural	Contains gardens, cemeteries, historic features or buildings with public access.	As regional.	x1
(12) Tourism	Includes tourism assets which would form part of at least a day trip for people from outside the immediate area.	As regional.	x1
(13) Poor quality environment	Contains existing poor quality environments which could be improved with investment in green infrastructure.	Based on the physical appearance of the site and potential for improvement.	x1
(14) Land & property values	Areas where investment in green infrastructure will increase the desirability of the area.	Corridor closely linked to development sites or existing areas of commercial or residential properties and has scope to significantly improve existing green infrastructure or to increase the number of functions.	x1
(15) Economic growth	Includes area where development is proposed and increased green infrastructure is likely to attract further economic investment e.g. high value industry.	Corridor closely linked to a development site/s suitable for commercial development.	x1

Table 2 also shows a weighting given to the various local functions and indicators to derive a final score for each corridor. This additional step was included because it was considered that some key functions, such as biodiversity or flood risk mitigation, would be attributed with too little weight if each function was weighted equally. Some of the 15 functions can be grouped into higher level sub-categories, for example open space & recreation or education, culture and tourism are performing similar functions, others stand alone as key functions in their own right. The list below shows how the functions were grouped into 10 higher level categories for weighting purposes. Each of these higher level functions is accorded a 10% weighting in the final score using the weighting system shown in the table.

- Open space & recreation – includes functions (1) & (9);
- Biodiversity – (2)
- Landscape – (3)
- Food production – (4)
- Mitigating flood risk – (5)
- Contribution to mitigating climate change – (6)
- Health – (7)
- Accessibility – (8)
- Education, culture & tourism – (10, 11 & 12)
- Economic value – (13, 14 & 15)

The following potential corridors were assessed (shown on Map A):

Regional GI corridor
River Aire

Sub-regional GI corridor

Wyke Beck

Potential Local GI corridors

1. Richmond Hill	10. Wakefield Road
2. Cross Green to Temple Newsam	11. Railway line, Stourton
3. East End Park to Hunslet	12. Leeds Valley Park
4. Osmondthorpe to Thwaite Mills	13. West of M621
5. Knowsthorpe Lane	14. Stourton to Skelton Bridge
6. Pontefract Lane corridor (A63)	15. Middleton Park to Stourton
7. Halton Moor to Temple Green	16. Holbeck to Stourton
8. Temple Green (East)	17. Hunslet
9. Temple Newsam to Rothwell Country Park	18. South Bank to Stourton

Regional Assessment Results

The regional study identified three strategic corridors located within, or close to, Aire Valley Leeds:

- The River Aire corridor is classified as a regional corridor;
- The Wyke Beck as a sub-regional corridor;
- A district corridor at Middleton/Morley/Holbeck which is not located within Aire Valley Leeds, but has potential to link to the area.

Local Assessment Results

Table 3 sets out the results of the assessment of local corridors against the indicators set out in Table 2. It shows which functions are served by each potential corridor within the AAP area, the total number of functions served (out of 15) and the final weighted score for the corridor (out of 30). This forms the basis of identifying the hierarchy of local corridors on the green infrastructure network plan shown in the bottom row of the table. A corridor scoring 15 or more in the final weighting was considered to be performing the role of a local green infrastructure corridor. Those corridors performing more than one function but scoring less than 15 in the final weighting were identified as a local corridor with limited functions.

The assessment results and further commentary on the potential to increase and enhance the number of functions served by the corridor is set out in Appendix A.

7 POLICIES AND PROPOSALS IN THE PLAN

The application of this assessment and analysis are illustrated on Map 5 and Map 13 of the publication draft AVLAAP. Site specific requirements to improve, enhance or create green infrastructure are set out within the text and policies of the plan. The contributions towards green infrastructure required from the allocated sites vary. Each green infrastructure contribution or improvement sought reflects the site's specific circumstances in relation to this evidence.

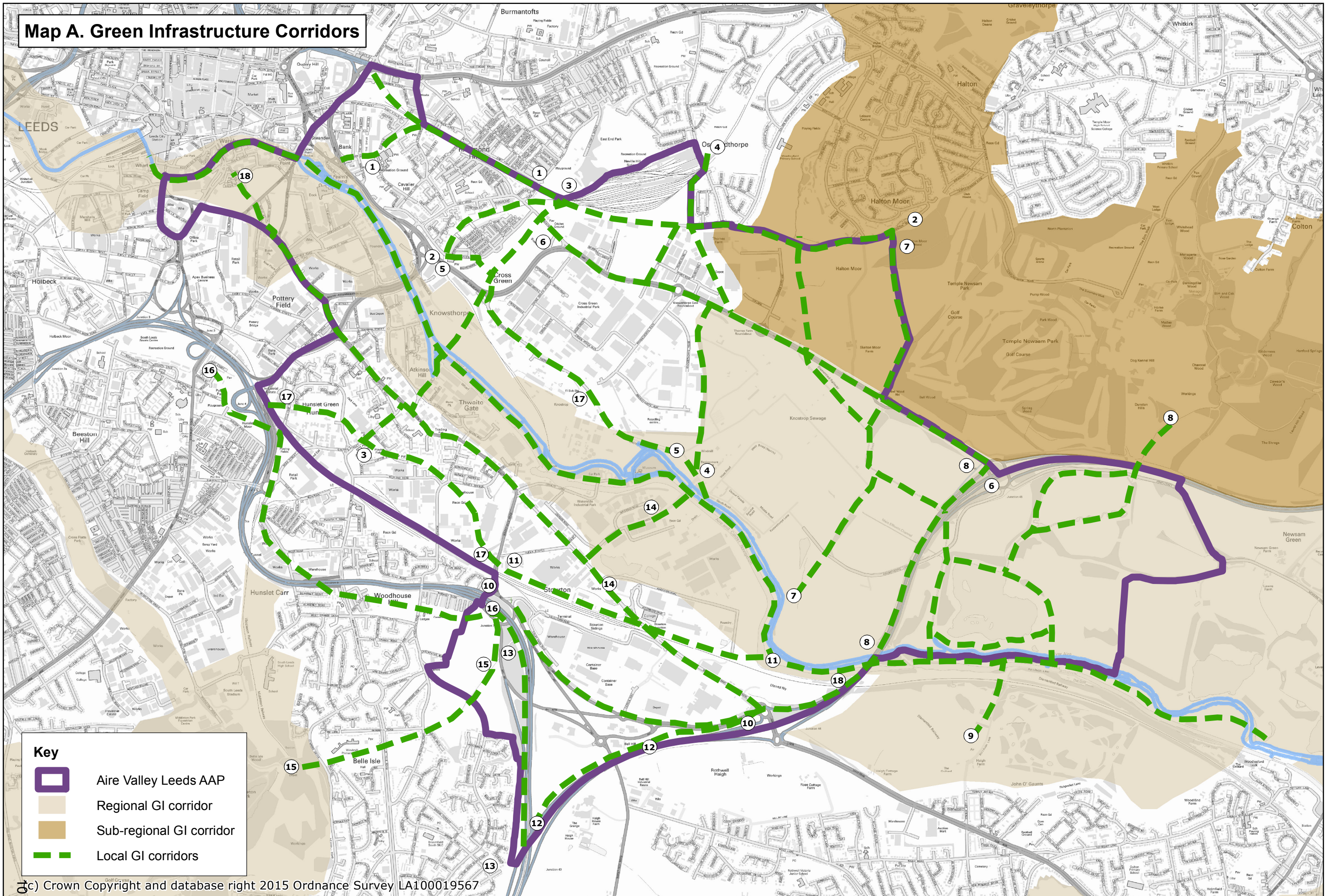
TABLE 3: ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AIRE VALLEY CORRIDORS AGAINST GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FUNCTIONS

GI FUNCTIONS / KEY INDICATORS (WEIGHTING FOR FUNCTION)	FROM REGIONAL HIERARCHY		LOCAL NETWORK																		
	River Aire	Wyke Beck	1: Richmond Hill	2: Cross Green - Temple Newsam	3: East End Park - Hunslet	4: Osmondthorpe - Thwaite Mills	5: Knowsthorpe Lane	6: ELLR	7: Halton Moor - Temple Green	8: Temple Green link (East)	9: Temple Newsam - Rothwell Country Park	10: Wakefield Road	11: Railway line, Stourton	12: Leeds Valley Park	13: West of M621	14: Stourton - Skelton Grange Bridge	15: Middleton Park - Stourton (AAP area)	16: Holbeck - Stourton	17: Hunslet	18: South Bank - Hunslet - Stourton	
1. Open space (x1.5)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Biodiversity (x3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Landscape (x3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Food production (x3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Flood risk mitigation (x3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Climate change mitigation (x3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Health (x3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Accessibility (x3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. Recreation (x1.5)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10. Education (x1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11. Cultural (x1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12. Tourism (x1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13. Poor quality environment (x1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14. Land & property values (x1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15. Economic growth (x1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total (max 15)	14	9.5	10.5	10.5	10	5	3.5	6	6	5	9	3.5	3	8	6	3	3	6	6	6.5	6.5
Weighted total (max 30)	27	19.5	22.5	22.5	19	10	8.5	12	12	9	20	8.5	5	17.5	12	5	5	11	11	10.5	10.5
Hierarchy	R	SR	L+	L+	L+	L-	L-	L-	L-	L-	L+	L-	L-	L+	L-	L-	L-	L-	L-	L-	L-

KEY:

SCORES: ✓ Serves GI function; ○ Partly serves GI function; ✗ Does not serve GI function
HIERARCHY: R = Regional corridor; SR = Sub-regional corridor; L+ = Local corridor; L- = Local corridor (limited current functions);

Map A. Green Infrastructure Corridors



Key

- Aire Valley Leeds AAP
- Regional GI corridor
- Sub-regional GI corridor
- Local GI corridors

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APPENDIX A

AIRE VALLEY LEEDS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT

RIVER AIRE CORRIDOR

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	A number of public open spaces along corridor including the river canal towpath.	✓
Biodiversity	Woodlesford Canal side Ponds (Leeds Nature Area 24), Lagoon 21 (with active management plan and no public access), Rothwell Country Park (LNA 120), Skelton Lake (LNA 71), land to east of Skelton Grange Power Station, considerable interest along river and canal for bats, otters, water vole, and on adjacent land for bird species such as Little Ringed Plover. Less land of ecological value along river/canal side between railway station and Leeds Dock.	✓
Landscape	<p><u>City centre:</u> Heavily urbanised with open spaces and corridors predominantly hard surfaced. More recent developments have included public amenity space and pedestrian routes adjacent to the river corridor. Occasional patches of self-regenerating waterside planting offers temporary habitat/resting places.</p> <p><u>Edge of city centre:</u> East of Crown Point Bridge the river corridor widens somewhat to give a visually less constrained appearance. Fearn's Island dividing the watercourse adds to the sense of an increased level of softening greenery, offsetting the hard urban environment to either side. Further east beyond Rose Wharf, the corridor widens visually with development set further back from the immediate river frontage and softer, vegetated waterfront edges.</p> <p><u>Hunslet Riverside:</u> Beyond South Accommodation Road the southern bank of the river has existing development in close proximity reflecting the former industrialised nature of the area. East of Hunslet Mills the new Yarn Street development has provided a suburbanised pedestrian and cycle corridor to the river front, set within soft landscape. A manicured amenity landscape directly associated with the new residential development, biodiversity benefits are limited to two planting beds along the waterfront with two limited wildlife access/egress points from the water.</p> <p><u>Knostrop Cut and Thwaite Mills</u></p> <p>The watercourse widens significantly, with the separate Knostrop Cut running alongside the main watercourse. The sense of physical containment in the urban centre lessens, allowing what appears as a more urban edge character to develop, with a naturalised vegetation screen to the north forming an essential part of this appearance.</p> <p>A pedestrian and cycle bridge link provides access across to a central island separating the canalised Knostrop Cut from the main river. The central island currently accommodates the regionally important Trans Pennine Trail pedestrian and cycle route. Leading from the island, a further footbridge links to the northern bank of the River Aire.</p> <p>With only a single footpath link heading west back towards South Accommodation Road, the northern bank offers a less accessible</p>	✓

	<p>environment where vegetation has been allowed to develop over time. This has become an increasingly valuable natural habitat, in distinct contrast with the developed urban south bank of the corridor.</p> <p>The vegetation to the north bank increases in extent further east, forming an effective visual screen to industrial uses to the north. On the south side industrial land uses continue to dominate the visual appearance although a widened towpath corridor provides an important buffer to the Knostrop Cut and River Aire corridor.</p> <p>At Thwaite Gate the vegetated watercourse corridor narrows allowing industrial uses to either side to influence the character of the area, before the central island widens out to include the historically and culturally significant Thwaite Mills. To the south bank industrial uses are apparent, although well screened by maturing soft landscape provision along the towpath corridor.</p> <p><u>Skelton Grange and Stourton</u></p> <p>Further east the river and canal continue to run alongside but following a more southerly direction. The western bank continues with existing industrial uses exerting an urban influence on visual appearance. A narrowed towpath corridor provides little vegetation to screen such uses.</p> <p>To the eastern river bank, the site of the now demolished Skelton power station is gradually softening in appearance as naturalising vegetation develops, with only limited human disturbance</p> <p>Continuing southwards existing industrial uses to the west are set further back from the River Aire and canal corridor. There is a developing sense of having arrived at the urban edge to open countryside as the watercourses turn eastwards under the final barrier of the elevated M1 motorway on its bridge crossing.</p> <p><u>Skelton Lake / Rothwell Country Park</u></p> <p>The landscapes of Skelton Lake to the north and Rothwell Colliery to the south are newly developed remedial responses to former industrial environments.</p>	
Food production	No land under cultivation on the stretch of the river within the AAP area.	X
Flood risk	Functional floodplain identified along part of the River Aire corridor in the Leeds Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Surrounding land particularly along the south bank is in Flood Risk Zone 3	✓
Climate change	Woodland areas and area of mature planting along parts of both river banks. Some of this is managed. Planting in the city centre parts of the corridor helps perform an urban cooling function.	✓
Health	River corridor provides a number of recreational opportunities and is connected into local communities with poor health issue albeit some of these routes have barriers.	✓
Accessibility	The Trans Pennine Trail runs along the river/canal corridor.	✓
Recreation	The corridor provides opportunities for recreational walking, cycling, fishing and potentially water sports. Sea scouts based along corridor	✓
Education	Skelton Grange Environment Centre & Leeds Museum Discovery Centre.	✓

Cultural	Royal Armouries, Hunslet Mills, Thwaite Mills.	✓
Tourism	Royal Armouries & Thwaite Mills.	✓
Poor Environment	Areas of poor environmental and derelict sites around Hunslet Riverside, South of Clarence Dock, East Bank sites, Skelton Grange and along the waterfront in Stourton.	✓
Property value	Significant potential to enhance land and property value along corridor particularly Hunslet Riverside, East Bank and South Bank area (including provision of a new city park).	✓
Economic growth	A number of major development sites have frontage along the corridor including sites at South Bank, East Bank, Hunslet Riverside, Skelton Grange and Stourton.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		14
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		27
HIERARCHY: REGIONAL		

WYKE BECK CORRIDOR

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	Skelton Lake and surrounding land is identified as natural green space in the open space assessment. No public open space to the west of the M1.	✓
Biodiversity	LNA 71 and Skelton Lake and River Aire at southern end, and the water courses provide species interest for Water Vole, Otter, White-clawed Crayfish. Phase 1 Habitat Survey and breeding bird survey carried out in 2010 and management plan updated in 2012.	✓
Landscape	Part of an extensive and varied landscape corridor running from Roundhay Park Leeds southwards to the River Aire. Within AVL, Wyke Beck runs through mixed landscapes of open grassland, arable land, previous industrial uses, maturing planted woodland and emergent self-seeded woodland vegetation. As such the beck does not inhabit a particular or consistent watercourse landscape. Much of the corridor is inaccessible to the public, limiting its recreational and visual amenity value. A section of the beck corridor running through Thornes Farm lies within culvert, further reducing amenity value. Although varied, the overall landscape of Wyke Beck is poorly structured and developed along the watercourse, diminishing current visual amenity and biodiversity values.	✓
Food production	Skelton Moor Farm is cultivated at present but is a development site.	○
Flood risk	Land adjacent to the Wyke Beck is located within Flood Risk Zone 2 and 3, the area of land is significant to the north of the ELLR	✓
Climate change	Some mature planting along corridor – not managed woodland.	○
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	✗
Accessibility	Rights of way and cycle paths next to Skelton Lane, but no complete route along the corridor.	○
Recreation	Footpaths and rights of way next to Skelton Lake.	✓
Education	No facilities present.	✗
Cultural	No features present.	✗
Tourism	No facilities present.	✗
Poor Environment	The current quality is mixed but is poorer to the south of the ELLR where the beck is channelised as it passes close to the Knostrop WWTW.	✓
Property value	Significant opportunities to enhance the corridor, particularly south of the ELLR and create a good first impression when entering the city.	✓
Economic growth	The corridor passes through two major development sites in the Enterprise Zone.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		9.5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		19.5

HIERARCHY: SUB -REGIONAL

1: RICHMOND HILL

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	There are a number of public open spaces along corridor.	✓
Biodiversity	No designations. Good connection in east to Corridor 2 and East End Park, and well-vegetated sides to the railway for much of the corridor. Some semi-natural features. Limited ecological features and connectivity at the western end – leading to the River Aire.	✓
Landscape	Planting along railway embankments; existing green space and other open spaces. Vegetation to upper reaches of railway embankments provide a green setting and visual amenity to adjacent residential areas. Links with existing parks and open spaces, all with potential for positive management and improvements in existing landscape quality	✓
Food production	Small-scale allotments within the Saxton Gardens scheme.	✓
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	x
Climate change	Some mature planting along corridor –woodland not managed.	o
Health	Poor health issues within Richmond Hill. Corridor provides recreational opportunities.	✓
Accessibility	Off road (or on quiet roads) cycle and walking routes through area.	✓
Recreation	Playing pitches and children's play facilities.	✓
Education	No facilities present.	x
Cultural	No features present.	x
Tourism	No facilities present.	x
Poor Environment	Mixed quality environment, but some areas are poor particularly through industrial areas	✓
Property value	Green infrastructure enhancement has potential to provide an uplift for local property values which are relatively low at present	✓
Economic growth	Potential development sites located, some may be suitable for economic development uses as part of mixed use schemes.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		10.5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		22.5

HIERARCHY: LOCAL

2: CROSS GREEN – TEMPLE NEWSAM

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	Cricket ground; Red Road allotments; Easy Road amenity space.	✓
Biodiversity	No designated sites but significant roadside patches of scrub and unmanaged grassland which connects Halton Moor Wood (Leeds Nature Area) in the east to Halton Moor (which has water courses with Water Voles and White Clawed Crayfish), and westwards to East End Park and via disused railway to Knowsthorpe and River Aire (and Corridors 3 and 5). Therefore a locally significant ecological corridor.	✓
Landscape	Existing vegetation, green space, woodland edge screen planting belt between residential and Thornes Farm and Skelton Farm industrial areas. Visual amenity benefits of planting to residential areas, screening and setting to industrial developments	✓
Food production	Red Road allotments.	✓
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function. Wyke Beck crosses the corridor but flood risk function accounted for under that corridor.	X
Climate change	Some mature planting along corridor – not managed.	O
Health	Poor health issues within neighbouring communities (Cross Green, Richmond Hill, Osmondthorpe, Halton Moor. Corridor provides recreational opportunities including sports, walking and cycling.	✓
Accessibility	Off road cycle route (part of national network).	✓
Recreation	Cricket ground.	✓
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Derelict / vacant sites located along corridor e.g. former Wholesale Market site on Newmarket Approach.	✓
Property value	Limited existing development along corridor but some potential to enhance land values along undeveloped sites	✓
Economic growth	A number of development sites with economic development potential are located along the corridor e.g. former Wholesale Market; Thornes Farm and Logic Leeds (Skelton Moor Farm). Development can contribute to green infrastructure corridor functions and general quality.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		10.5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		22.5
HIERARCHY: LOCAL		

3: EAST END PARK – HUNSLET

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	Copperfields college playing fields, East Leeds rugby club temporary pitch and cricket ground.	✓
Biodiversity	No designated sites. Some ecological linkage from East End Park through Cross Green but then weak to the River Aire and weak connectivity to Church Street/Old Mill Lane. The southern section connecting to the River Aire is the weakest link (but there is some good connectivity via the rest of the disused railway through Knowsthorpe and to the River Aire at Knostrop Weir as an alternative route).	X
Landscape	Allotments, Copperfields open space, some existing planting to Copperfields boundaries and existing footpaths, existing planting to River Aire. Knowsthorpe to Hunslet centre limited positive features apart from river corridor planting – weak link visually.	✓
Food production	Red Road allotments.	✓
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Significant area of mature tree cover on the Copperfields site – not managed.	O
Health	Poor health issues within neighbouring communities (Cross Green and Richmond Hill). Corridor provides recreational opportunities including sports.	✓
Accessibility	Rights of way and cycle paths across Copperfields site but no complete north to south route. Significant barriers to routes along southern part of corridor such as the ELLR, industrial development and the River Aire.	O
Recreation	Rugby pitch on Copperfields.	✓
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	The listed Hunslet Mills complex is located on the south bank of the River Aire. Mill buildings are currently derelict but restoration could provide significant cultural opportunities.	✓
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Derelict and/or vacant sites at Copperfields and Knowsthorpe	✓
Property value	Significant opportunities to enhance land and property value e.g. existing Cross Green area, Copperfields, Knowsthorpe and Hunslet Mills	✓
Economic growth	Development site with economic development potential along corridor (Copperfields, Knowsthorpe, Hunslet Mills)	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		10
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		19

HIERARCHY: LOCAL

4: OSMONDTHORPE – SKELTON GRANGE

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designated sites but does form a link from Waterloo Sidings (LNA) along the railway line to the north and along significant well-vegetated corridors (including a disused railway section) southwards to the River Aire (which will be valuable for foraging and commuting bats). Therefore a local ecological corridor but limited to lines of trees in places. The link either side of Pontefract Lane is an important area to maintain and improve (i.e. land to south-west of Thornes Farm Roundabout).	✓
Landscape	Tree planting on screening embankment to boundary of sewage works a significant feature in the wider landscape. Intermittently planted embankment between Cross Green Industrial Estate and Thornes Farm. Boundary embankment to sewage works a visually significant feature but poorly managed and loss of trees. Embankment between CGIE and Thornes Farm is a locally important feature defining the boundary between the older and newer industrial areas. Need to introduce more planting and positive coherent management by the various landowners.	✓
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Thick belt of planting to edge of industrial estates – not managed.	O
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	Skelton Grange Environment Centre located at southern end of the corridor.	X
Cultural	No facilities present.	✓
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	The general condition of the environment in Cross Green is poor	✓
Property value	Very limited opportunities to enhance values along this corridor which runs to the rear of most properties	X
Economic growth	Some potential to enhance the Thornes Farm frontage site but limited	O
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		10

HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)

5: KNOWSTHORPE LANE

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	Knowsthorpe Lane has sections of roadsides that are well-vegetated and hold water in a ditch (that will be valuable to foraging bats), and forms an ecological corridor that runs parallel to the River Aire but is less complete along the western section of Knowsthorpe Lane where it meets the A63, and the eastern section connecting to the River Aire is weak in places. Therefore a local ecological corridor but limited in value. There are important linkages south to the River Aire (between Knostrop Treatment Works and the aggregates processing facility) and onto the partially used railway line which may offer a better ecological route or connectivity for this corridor.	✓
Landscape	Mixed tree and shrub planting to highway boundaries. Consistent planning approach to approval of industrial developments has provided visually significant, green highway corridor. A good example of what is achievable over time but more needs to be done to strengthen either end of the corridor. Inter-site boundaries and highway junctions create disconnects.	✓
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Mature planting along corridor – not managed	O
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	The general condition of the environment in Cross Green is poor.	✓
Property value	The corridor passes through the industrial estate with limited potential to raise property values.	X
Economic growth	There are limited economic development opportunities close to Knowsthorpe Lane	X
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		3.5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		8.5

HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)

6: A63 PONTEFRACT ROAD CORRIDOR

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designations. Some roadside tree and shrub planting along the south side of Pontefract Lane, and highway planting along the M1, and severed corridor north across Pontefract Lane to Skelton Moor Farm. Weak ecological corridor function along western end of Pontefract Lane. Good links with Wyke Beck and Rothwell Country Park (below M1).	X
Landscape	Isolated occurrences of existing planting. Roadside planting to the eastern section where existing woodland to the north and open fields provide rural edge character. Limited newer planting in association with ELLR will add visually to existing planting over time. Existing fields provide rural landscape edge but all approved for change to industrial development. Opportunities to provide boundary planting as adjacent developments come forward but will require robust action on part of LPA to prevent over-development of sites at the expense of meaningful and consistent landscape provision for amenity and biodiversity.	✓
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Mature planting along corridor – not managed.	O
Health	Cycle path along ELLR connects to wider network and communities with poor health issues. Probably has a limited function as a recreational route compared to the nearby Cross Green – Temple Newsam route and the Trans Pennine Trail.	O
Accessibility	Cycle path along ELLR route.	✓
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	The general condition of the environment along the ELLR is poor. Enhancement of green infrastructure along the corridor is a significant opportunity.	✓
Property value	Significant opportunities to enhance the corridor and create a good first impression when entering the city.	✓
Economic growth	The four major development sites in the Enterprise Zone have frontages along this corridor.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		6
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		12
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

7: HALTON MOOR – TEMPLE GREEN

Function	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designations. Good ecological features near the River Aire (water with a range of native plants and bare earth) and some good areas of vegetation leading north but no connectivity across the Knostrop Sewage Works site to link with the Wyke Beck corridor. Severed route across Pontefract Lane and then follows the ecological feature of a hedge with ditch to Halton Moor wood. A good ecological corridor if the weak section through Knostrop Sewage Works is addressed and corridor through Skelton Moor Farm to Halton Moor Wood strengthened.	X
Landscape	Existing woodland edge boundaries to northern section. Open fields to west but due to be developed. Existing planting between ELLR and Wyke Beck to be removed for approved highway development. Isolated pockets of existing planting to south of Wyke Beck. Visually significant existing woodland boundary to northern section will require adequate stand-off from new development ensure retention Opportunities for new development to provide meaningful planting for Green Infrastructure visual amenity and biodiversity benefits, subject to sufficient suitable planting areas being secured.	✓
Food production	Some land under cultivation but part of development site.	O
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate charge	There are some areas of managed woodland to the north of the corridor and significant further opportunities along the length of the corridor.	✓
Health	Although the north of the corridor lies adjacent to the Halton Moor estate where there are poor health issues, there is limited accessibility along the corridor and no public open space	X
Accessibility	Definitive bridleway along northern part of corridor to western side of Logic Leeds sites but no routes to south of ELLR.	O
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	The north part of the corridor is attractive but south of the ELLR it runs through the former operational land of the Knostrop WWTW where environmental quality is poor.	✓
Property value	Significant opportunities to enhance the corridor, particularly south of the ELLR and create a good first impression when entering the city.	✓
Economic growth	The corridor passes through two major development sites in the Enterprise Zone.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		6
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		12
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

8: TEMPLE GREEN (EAST)

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designations but some significant ecological habitats immediately north of the River Aire and well-vegetated sections running along the M1 that link with the main effluent channel (high insect biomass will attract foraging bats) and Wyke Beck Corridor. North of Wyke Beck Corridor there is some planting alongside the M1 linking to Corridor 6. Currently serves as only a weak ecological corridor due to its short length.	✓
Landscape	Motorway boundary to currently open field. Limited planting to northern and southern extents of this motorway boundary, which will develop further over time. Significant change in the form of approved industrial development will create significant visual change. Adequate space required to develop GI corridor to this development site edge.	X
Food production	Some land under cultivation but part of development site.	O
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Mature planting along corridor – not managed.	O
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Significant potential to improve the quality of the environment which is dominated by the adjacent M1 motorway.	✓
Property value	Significant opportunities to enhance the corridor and create a good first impression when entering the city.	✓
Economic growth	The corridor passes to the eastern side of a major development site in the Enterprise Zone.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		9
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

9: TEMPLE NEWSAM – ROTHWELL COUNTRY PARK

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	Skelton Lake and surrounding land is identified as natural green space in the open space assessment.	✓
Biodiversity	No designations but some significant ecological habitats within this corridor (Skelton Lake and water courses) that link the River Aire/Rothwell Country Park and Temple Newsam Estate. Therefore a locally significant ecological corridor. M1 provides a physical barrier to a number of species.	✓
Landscape	Planted beck corridor in association with Skelton Lake. Public footpath corridor (from Temple Newsam through to anticipated bridge link to Rothwell Country Park). Planting in association with wider restoration works now maturing and gaining visual significance in the wider landscape. Future development to adjacent areas needs to protect and enhance GI corridor. Improved linkage under the M1 required.	✓
Food production	Land under cultivation but part of development site.	○
Flood risk	Colton Beck runs through this corridor and the land immediately adjacent is categorised under Flood Risk Zone 3	✓
Climate change	An area of managed woodland is located immediately south of the Skelton Gate development site.	✓
Health	The corridor to the north of the River Aire is not particularly close to communities with poor health issues	✗
Accessibility	Routes through the site to Skelton Lake from Temple Newsam. No access across river and canal corridor to Rothwell Country Park at present. Scheme to provide a cycle / pedestrian crossing across river is being progressed	○
Recreation	Footpaths and public rights of way through the site.	✓
Education	No facilities present.	✗
Cultural	No features present.	✗
Tourism	No facilities present.	✗
Poor Environment	The environment along the corridor is relatively attractive.	✗
Property value	Enhancement of green infrastructure and increasing the number of functions it served should have a positive effect on land and future property values.	✓
Economic growth	The corridor passes through a major development site (Skelton Gate)	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		9
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		20
HIERARCHY: LOCAL		

10: WAKEFIELD ROAD CORRIDOR

FUNCTION	INDICATORS PRESENT	SCORE
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designations but the north east and north west sections of this corridor have locally significant ecological value for Water Voles, and there are some well-vegetated sections along the sides of Wakefield Road (which will be used by foraging and commuting bats). The eastern end connects with the River Aire and Calder Navigation. Therefore a locally significant ecological corridor. It would be ecologically beneficial for the western end of this corridor to be extended beyond the railway to the River Aire via Wakefield Road and Thwaite Lane (Corridor 17).	✓
Landscape	Planting in association with development and the road corridor, provides setting for adjacent developments and visual amenity screening for road users. Alterations to Jct 7 for proposed park and ride need to take account of Green Infrastructure corridor. Highways and railway already weaken the connection with corridors 17 and 18.	✓
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Significant areas of mature planting along road corridors – not managed.	O
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Although the corridor is road dominated, the level of mature planting adjacent to the road gives it a green feel.	X
Property value	Leeds Valley Park (business park) is situated immediately to the south of the corridor	✓
Economic growth	There is little undeveloped land suitable for economic development along the corridor	X
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		3.5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		8.5
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

11: RAILWAY LINE, STOURTON

FUNCTION	INDICATORS PRESENT	SCORE
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designations. A section of the railway line with associated trees, water course and pond alongside. Connected to River Aire/Calder navigation at east end. Only serves as a weak ecological corridor at present. Vegetated banks of the railway may justify including the ecological corridor westwards to join Corridor 16 and 18 to the Hunslet Moor area.	✓
Landscape	Planting in association with existing rail corridor linking to limited amenity planting to development alongside a watercourse. Planting alongside rail corridor under pressure from development. Limited planting alongside beck accepted for development in conjunction with watercourse being kept open – potential for improvement visually and for biodiversity.	✓
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Mature planting alongside railway line – not managed.	O
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Corridor passes through industrial area with a generally poor quality environment,	✓
Property value	Corridor passes to the rear of most properties. Enhancement unlikely to have a significant positive impact on values	X
Economic growth	There is little undeveloped land suitable for economic development along the corridor	X
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		3.5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		8.5
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

12: LEEDS VALLEY PARK

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designations. Poor linear semi-natural habitat features alongside the motorway (although more along the centre of the motorway and along the south-eastern side). Links severed at south-western end by M621. Poor ecological corridor. May form part of a broad motorway verge network corridor in the future (made up of scrub, tree belts and unmanaged grassland areas). (Highways England may be worth contacting for biodiversity information and any ecological/landscape management plans).	X
Landscape	Limited amenity planting to existing in limited space alongside existing car parking. Boundary planting visible from motorway corridor coming from the south so limited amenity value. Future development t should seek to provide a more robust planted corridor to enhance GI value.	X
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate charge	Little mature planting – mainly landscape provision for business park.	X
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	Definitive bridleway runs across Leeds Valley Park site.	✓
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	The corridor sits alongside a modern business park	X
Property value	Leeds Valley Park (business park) is situated immediately to the south of the corridor	✓
Economic growth	Half of the site remains to be developed. A good quality green environment should enhance the attractiveness of the site to investors and occupiers	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		3
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		5
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

13: WEST OF M621

FUNCTION	INDICATORS PRESENT	SCORE
Open space	Some of the corridor at southern end is public open space.	✓
Biodiversity	No designations but this is a very well vegetated corridor along the western side of the M621 and will be used by bats for foraging and commuting (and by Water Voles along water courses within this corridor). This corridor extends considerably further south along the western side of the M621. Therefore a locally significant ecological corridor. It would be ecologically beneficial to consider how this corridor can link northwards across the M621, along Wakefield Road and to the River Aire, and east across the M621 to corridor 10.	✓
Landscape	Existing planting as part of the Forest of Leeds initiative. Part of a wider area of green space provision in association with adjacent residential development. Landscaping provides visual amenity value and screening to residents; softening of the highway approach to the city. LCC managed green space. Maintenance & management should reflect its green infrastructure status for both amenity and biodiversity functions.	✓
Food production	Grazing land (not cultivated) on the Stourton North site. Part of a development site	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Mature planting along corridor – not managed	O
Health	Alongside amenity open space serving the modern housing development off Middleton Ring Road which offer some benefits. Also provides buffer to M621 providing noise and air pollution mitigation.	✓
Accessibility	Footpath / cycle path along part of corridor.	O
Recreation	Public right of way along part of corridor.	✓
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Although located next to the motorway the general quality of the environment in the area is not particularly poor.	X
Property value	Enhancement of green infrastructure and increasing the number of functions it served should have a positive effect on land and future property values.	✓
Economic growth	Passes alongside the Stourton North development site.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		8
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		17.5
HIERARCHY: LOCAL		

14: STOURTON – SKELTON GRANGE BRIDGE

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	Public open space at Stourton Lagoons.	✓
Biodiversity	No designations. Semi-natural features provided by linear groups of trees and open water that connect to the canal/river in the north and pond/railway to the south.	✓
Landscape	Local landscape and amenity value No public access although existing ponds are fished. Planting in association with development provides a green link through to the Aire corridor. Highway improvements should seek to secure additional roadside planting and management. Potential to improve pedestrian and cycle connections to the Aire corridor.	✓
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Some mature planting along corridor – not managed woodland.	O
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Industrial area, environmental quality is mixed with the lagoons offering significant potential for enhancement	✓
Property value	Enhanced and upgraded lagoon area could be a positive environmental feature in this predominantly industrial area.	✓
Economic growth	There are some development site suitable for economic development uses along the corridor.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		6
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		12
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

15: MIDDLETON PARK - STOURTON

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	No public open space. Wider corridor would score [✓] as there are a number of areas of public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designations. A short section leading from corridor 13 south westwards towards Middleton Park – ecologically it has some value as it follows a water course that has records of Water Voles nearby. May form an ecological corridor when included with land beyond the Aire Valley boundary and would score [✓] – but not in isolation.	X
Landscape	Short link along watercourse. Open, horse-grazed grassland either side. Proposed development of park and ride facility should ensure the retention of the open water course within a well-vegetated corridor. Links to a district level GI corridor to the south-west.	✓
Food production	Grazing land (not cultivated) on the Stourton North site. Part of development site	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Little mature planting along corridor (within AAP area).	X
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA. Wider corridor serves this function which could potentially be extended as part of the design of future development.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Site is grazing land.	X
Property value	Enhancement of green infrastructure and increasing the number of functions it served should have a positive effect on land and future property values.	✓
Economic growth	Passes through the Stourton North development site.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		3
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		5

HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)

16: HOLBECK – STOURTON

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	No public open space (within AAP area). Wider corridor would score [✓] as there is a number of areas of public open space.	X
Biodiversity	Good ecological links at the east end where it connects with corridors 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 18 but no specific semi-natural habitats and only a very short section. May form an ecological corridor when included with land beyond the Aire Valley boundary and would score [✓] – but not in isolation. Hunslet Old Cemetery and Hunslet Moor LNAs form part of the corridor beyond the boundary, with a good number of semi-natural habitats along its length (trees, hedgerows, grasslands). Good ecological links with the railway near the west end, and motorway verges (further extensions to the north-west ecologically to connect with St. Matthew's LNA along motorway verges and sports pitches with trees).	X
Landscape	Naturalised vegetation developing up on rough grassland. An existing informal but popular pedestrian desire line runs through, linking Stourton to Woodhouse Hill and beyond.	✓
Food production	Grazing land (not cultivated) on the Stourton North site. Part of development site. Wider corridor would score [✓] as it includes an allotment site.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Little mature planting along corridor (within AAP area).	X
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA. Wider corridor serves this function which could potentially be extended as part of the design of future development.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present. Wider corridor would score [✓] as there are a number of recreational opportunities, such as children's play facilities, present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present. Wider corridor includes Hunslet Old Cemetery and would score [✓]	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Site is grazing land.	X
Property value	Enhancement of green infrastructure and increasing the number of functions it served should have a positive effect on land and future property values.	✓
Economic growth	Passes through the Stourton North development site.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		3
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		5
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

17: HUNSLET

FUNCTION	INDICATORS	SCORE
Open space	A number of public open spaces along corridor.	✓
Biodiversity	No designations. A number of recreational grassland areas (of low ecological value) loosely connected by lines of trees – and no clear connectivity in some places. Connects to the railway at either end. May be worth considering ecological connections to the River Aire/Calder navigation and improving ecological value of recreational areas/open spaces to justify creation of an ecological corridor.	X
Landscape	Disconnected areas of green space and vegetation. Seek corridor improvements long-term as development opportunities come forward. Work with current landowners to maximise GI value.	X
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Limited mature landscaping along corridor	X
Health	Number of areas of public open space providing recreational opportunities for a community in Hunslet with poor health issues.	✓
Accessibility	Linked green spaces provide a green route for walking although there are some barriers such as Church Street In Hunslet District Centre.	✓
Recreation	Playing pitches and children's play facilities.	✓
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Mixed quality environment but some areas are poor particularly through industrial areas	✓
Property value	Green infrastructure enhancement has potential to provide an uplift for local property values which are relatively low at present	✓
Economic growth	No development sites suitable for economic development along corridor	X
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		6
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		11

HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)

18: SOUTH BANK – HUNSLET – STOURTON

FUNCTION	INDICATORS PRESENT	SCORE
Open space	A number of open spaces located alongside the corridor.	✓
Biodiversity	No designations. The southern section has some semi-natural features (trees and woodland strips) along the A639, but the A61 Hunslet Road has very few. Could be good links with River Aire and proposed City Centre Park at north-west end if substantial roadside tree/tree belt planting carried out.	X
Landscape	Limited connections between areas of soft landscape between road corridor and adjacent developments. Gradual improvement (as development opportunities have come forward) is strengthening the 'green appearance' of this corridor. Tighter urban grain of northern section has more limited landscape value. Continue process of improving the visual amenity value of this corridor. Improve pedestrian and cycle use.	✓
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Corridor at the edge of Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 but not currently serving a flood mitigation function.	O
Climate change	Corridor is currently very urban in character with little in the way of mature planting.	X
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	Outdoor sports facility located along corridor.	✓
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	Mixed quality environment but some areas are poor.	✓
Property value	Green infrastructure enhancement has potential to provide an uplift for local land and property values.	✓
Economic growth	Number of potential development sites suitable for economic development along side and close to the corridor.	✓
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		6.5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		10.5
HIERARCHY: LOCAL (LIMITED CURRENT FUNCTIONS)		

OTHER CORRIDORS ASSESSED

KNOWSTHORPE – STOURTON		
Function	Indicators present	Score
Open space	No public open space.	X
Biodiversity	No designations. Good ecological connectivity at north end from Knostrop Weir to towards Knowsthorpe Way along good quality semi-natural habitats (scrub, unmanaged grassland, grazed grassland, hedgerows). Poor ecological connectivity along southern section (along Wakefield Road) with some trees connecting to the railway. One half is good ecologically but the southern section (Thwaite Lane and Wakefield Road) needs improving to provide this important link southwards.	O
Landscape	Limited existing amenity planting in association with development and existing sewage works. River Aire corridor runs through. Disconnected corridor which in the longer-term could be enhanced as any development proposals come forward. Seek improvements for pedestrian and cycle use. Work with landowners to maximise GI value of existing planting provision.	X
Food production	No land under cultivation.	X
Flood risk	Does not serve a significant flood risk mitigation function.	X
Climate change	Some mature planting along corridor particularly north of the river – not managed woodland.	O
Health	No sites or routes encouraging outdoor activity. Not close to AQMA.	X
Accessibility	No off road green travel routes.	X
Recreation	No recreational opportunities present.	X
Education	No facilities present.	X
Cultural	No features present.	X
Tourism	No facilities present.	X
Poor Environment	General poor environmental quality through industrial area.	✓
Property value	Possibility to enhance values of existing properties particularly south of the river corridors.	O
Economic growth	No development sites suitable for economic development along corridor.	X
TOTAL FUNCTIONS (OUT OF 15)		2.5
WEIGHTED SCORE (OUT OF 30)		5
HIERARCHY: LIMITED POTENTIAL		

PART 2: GREEN SPACE BACKGROUND DOCUMENT: AIRE VALLEY LEEDS

1. INTRODUCTION

This assessment is part of the background evidence base supporting the preparation of green space policies, designation and proposals in the Aire Valley Leeds AAP.

The assessment provides an analysis of the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing green space provision in Aire Valley Leeds against the Leeds Core Strategy provision standards to provide a baseline position. It also assesses the impact of proposals contained within the AAP, including proposed loss of green space and new provision on this baseline position.

2. EXISTING GREEN SPACE PROVISION

This section assesses the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing green space provision in Aire Valley Leeds. Data used in this assessment was obtained from the [Leeds Open Space, Sports and Recreation Assessment](#) (2011) as amended and updated by subsequent surveys and monitoring.

The Leeds Core Strategy green space provision standards appear in Policy G3, which identifies the following standards for quantity, quality and accessibility for different types of green space in Leeds. Table 1 below replicates Core Strategy Policy G3: Standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

Table 1: Core Strategy Policy G3: Standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Green space type	Quantity per 1000 population	Quality ¹ (minimum score)	Accessibility
Parks and gardens (LCPK)	1 hectare	7	720m
Outdoor sports provision (OUT)	1.2 hectares (excluding education provision)	7	Tennis court 720m, bowling greens and grass playing pitches 3.2 km, athletics tracks, synthetic pitches 6.4 km
Amenity green space (AMY)	0.45 hectares	7	480m
Children and young people's equipped play facilities	2 facilities per 1,000 children (excluding education provision)	7	720m
Allotments (ALLOT)	0.24 hectares	7	960m

¹ The quality score (out of a maximum of 10) is determined by assessing each area of greenspace against a number of criteria, such as: (i) how welcoming; (ii) level of health and safety; (iii) cleanliness and maintenance; (iv) conservation, habitats and heritage.

Green space type	Quantity per 1000 population	Quality ¹ (minimum score)	Accessibility
Natural green space (NAT)	0.7 hectares (main urban area and major settlements, 2 hectares other areas)	7	720m and 2 km from site of 20 ha
Civic Space (applicable for South Bank, Brewery Wharf and East Bank areas)	0.41 hectares	7	720m

Other types of green space, such as cemeteries, green corridors and golf courses also contribute to the overall provision of green space, but are not included in this assessment because there are no specific standards in the Core Strategy.

Natural green space has only been included in the assessment where there is an element of public access that allows people to experience nature. To view all natural green space (accessible and private) see the Aire Valley Leeds Green Infrastructure Network for the Aire Valley Leeds AAP.

3. OVERALL QUANTITY & QUALITY OF GREEN SPACES IN AIRE VALLEY LEEDS

Total green space in Aire Valley Leeds AAP area is 112 hectares on 29 green space sites, including green corridors and children's play or outdoor facilities in educational use. Table 2 provides a schedule of all green space sites within Aire Valley Leeds including details on site area, type of green space (see Table 1 above) and the quality score (out of a maximum 10) derived from the site assessment. These sites are shown on Plan 1a (Appendix 1) in relation to the sub-areas within Aire Valley Leeds.

Table 2: Schedule of existing green space sites within Aire Valley Leeds

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area (ha)	Typology	Quality Score
124	Grove Road Recreational Ground	1.032	LCPK	5.20
236	Cavalier Hill Recreation Ground	1.880	OUT	4.41
292	Easy Road	1.019	AMY	6.91
297	East Leeds Rugby League Pitch	1.020	OUT	6.45
298	Richmond Hill amenity space	0.510	AMY	5.33
304	Bow Street Recreation Ground	1.962	LPK	5.50
306	Saxton Gardens (Dolphins green space)	0.679	AMY	6.38
307*	Richmond Hill Primary School	0.602	OUT	7.73
320	Cross Green Lane Former Rugby Pitches	1.996	OUT	0.66
321	Pontefract Lane disused allotments	0.702	ALLOT	1.07
372*	Former Copperfields High School Playing fields	5.197	OUT	5.11
521	East Leeds Cricket and Sports Club	1.003	OUT	5.70
522	Red Road Allotments	1.210	ALLOT	2.11

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area (ha)	Typology	Quality Score
523	Neville POS	1.493	AMY	1
816	River Canal Corridor	5.480	NAT	4.69
915	Pepper Road Recreation Ground	4.122	OUT	4.07
912	Skelton Grange Road Pitch	1.01	OUT	2
961	Middle Croft Close POS (3)	0.870	AMY	5.76
1001	Jack Lane	1.541	NAT	5.00
1052*	Hunslet St Marys Primary School	0.674	OUT	5.36
1053	Hunslet Green (Community Sports Club)	3.762	OUT	7.61
1059*	Thwaites Mills Paddock	3.049	NAT	5.36
1270	Midland Garth POS	0.216	AMY	3.08
1285	Rocheford Walk POS	1.200	AMY	3.09
1341*	Low Road County Primary School	0.847	OUT	6.5
1646*	St Josephs Primary School	0.445	OUT	6.71
1886	Whitefield Way, Hunslet	0.455	AMY	1.91
1830	Skelton Lake	50.472	NAT	4
1840	Temple Newsam Woodland	0.799	NAT	7.33

QUANTITY ASSESSMENT

The quantity of green space provision has been assessed for each type of green space for Aire Valley Leeds and for each of the five local areas. To undertake the assessment the total population and child population (aged 0-16) is required. The base line population is based on the ONS 2012 Mid-Year Estimate, presented in table 3 below:

Table 3: Local area population estimate, 2012

Local Area	Population	Children aged 0-16
South Bank	3,712	99
South Bank (within city centre boundary)	3,711	99
East Bank/Richmond Hill	6,803	969
East Bank/Richmond Hill (within city centre boundary)	2,279	97
Hunslet	2,541	530
Central Aire Valley	0	0
Skelton Gate	0	0
Aire Valley Leeds	13,057	1,599

Source: ONS 2012 Mid-Year Estimate

The quantity assessment looks solely at the types of green space for which Core Strategy standards apply and therefore excludes sites for private use which are not open for general public use (such as school playing fields)². The total amount of green space is 101 hectares, over 23 sites as illustrated on Plan 1b. There are an additional 3.2 hectares of civic space across seven sites in the parts of the Aire Valley Leeds which lie within the boundary of Leeds City Centre (see Table 5 for schedule of sites). Civic spaces are designed for pedestrians, mainly comprise of hard landscaping and function as a setting for civic buildings or provide outdoor venues for community events.

Table 4: Overall quantity and quality of existing green space in Aire Valley Leeds by type

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the Quantity standard	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	2	2.99	0.23	×	5.35
Outdoor sports provision*	8	15.29	1.17	×	4.41
Amenity green space	8	6.44	0.49	✓	4.18
Children's and young people's equipped play**	4	7 facilities	4.38 facilities	✓	-
Allotments	2	1.91	0.15	×	1.59
Natural green space	4	75.23	5.76	✓	5.14
Total	24	101.36	1.13		4.32
City Centre Civic space	7	3.2	0.53	✓	7.65

* Includes junior playing pitch at Grove Road (0.5 hectares) within the park & gardens site. Site not included in totals to avoid double counting.

** Children's play facilities located within other green space therefore excluded from totals.

² The six sites falling into this category are indicated by an asterisk in Table 2 and are excluding from the data set out in Table 3.

Table 4 presents the quantity of green space provision across Aire Valley Leeds by type and calculates the quantity of provision per 1,000 population/child population and compares this to the Core Strategy quantity standard. The analysis sets out the average quality score for each green space type to provide a broad indication of the quality of green space in the area.

Existing green space provision in Aire Valley Leeds satisfies most of the Core Strategy quantitative provision standards. Parks and gardens, outdoor sports and allotments are the types of green space which do not meet the quantity standard. Parks and Gardens is the most notable shortfall at only 23% of the Core Strategy standard, or a 77% shortfall.

The majority of the green space sites (21 out of 23) fall below the required quality standard of 7, with the result that the average quality score falls well below the standard for all types of green space. Those sites with the lowest scores are not currently in use or maintained. Six out of seven of the civic spaces located in the Aire Valley Leeds meet the required quality standards.

4. LOCAL AREA ASSESSMENTS

SOUTH BANK

Table 5: Schedule of existing green space sites in the East Bank, Richmond Hill and Cross Green area

Site ID	Site Name	Area (ha)	Typology	Quality Score
2294	Brewery Wharf	0.383	CIVIC	9.27
2310	North of Armouries - Canal Side	0.573	CIVIC	7
2312	Aire and Calder Navigation - Pedestrian Route	0.208	CIVIC	7.25
2318	ASDA Riverside - Pedestrian Route	0.223	CIVIC	6
2358	Public Square - Royal Armouries	0.424	CIVIC	8.2
2359	Clarence Dock	1.270	CIVIC	7.5
2360	Chadwick Street POS	0.122	CIVIC	8.33

Table 6: Overall quantity and quality of green space in the South Bank local area by type

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	0	0	0	-
Outdoor sports provision	0	0	0	-
Amenity green space	0	0	0	-
Children's and young people's equipped play	0	0	0	-
Allotments	0	0	0	-
Natural green space	0	0	0	-
Total	0	0	0	-
City Centre Civic Space	7	3.2	0.86	7.03

The South Bank area has no existing green space other than in the form of civic space/public realm. This would be expected in a city centre location where the density of development is considerably higher and opportunities to provide open green space within new development are limited. The proposed city park will be located in this area and is discussed in more detail later in this document.

There is civic space within the Brewery Wharf and Leeds Dock developments and along the waterfront, adding up to over 3.2 hectares on seven separate sites.

EAST BANK, RICHMOND HILL AND CROSS GREEN

Table 7: Schedule of existing green space sites in the East Bank, Richmond Hill and Cross Green area

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area	Typology	Quality Score
236	Cavalier Hill Recreation Ground	1.880	OUT	4.41
292	Easy Road	1.019	AMY	6.91
297	East Leeds Rugby League Pitch	1.020	OUT	6.45
298	Richmond Hill amenity space	0.510	AMY	5.33
304	Bow Street Recreation Ground	1.962	LPK	5.50
306	Saxton Gardens (Dolphins green space)	0.679	AMY	6.38
320	Cross Green Lane Former Rugby Pitches	1.996	OUT	0.66
321	Pontefract Lane disused allotments	0.702	ALLOT	1.07
521	East Leeds Cricket and Sports Club	1.003	OUT	5.70
522	Red Road Allotments	1.210	ALLOT	2.11

Table 8: Overall quantity and quality of existing green space in the East Bank, Richmond Hill and Cross Green local area by type

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the quantity standard	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	1	1.96	0.29	×	5.50
Outdoor sports provision	4	5.90	0.87	×	4.31
Amenity green space	3	2.21	0.32	×	6.21
Children's and young people's equipped play*	2	4 facilities	4.13 facilities	✓	-
Allotments	2	1.91	0.28	✓	1.59
Natural green space	0	0	0	×	-
Total	10	11.98	1.76	N/A	4.45

* Children's play facilities located within other green space therefore excluded from totals

Children's play facilities and allotments satisfy the provision standards, with the remainder of space types in deficiency (parks and gardens, outdoor sports, amenity green space, natural green space). Although parks & garden provision is deficient, it should be noted that East End Park (a 20 hectare community park) is immediately adjacent to the plan boundary, within easy walking distance of most of the Richmond Hill and Cross Green area. The area has a range of outdoor sport facilities, mainly comprising grass playing pitches. The area also has a range of children's and young people's play facilities consisting of a multi-use games area, a skate park, a teen zone and a play area. Although allotment provision is currently assessed as being in surplus, this includes the disused allotment site next to Pontefract Lane which does not currently contribute any usable plots. If this site was excluded, provision would decrease to 0.21 hectares per 1,000 population; below the quantity standard.

All green space sites in the area scored below a quality score of 7, although the three amenity green spaces only fell marginally below the standard. Two of the three lowest scoring sites in Aire Valley Leeds were in this area, both of these sites are disused, overgrown and litter strewn.

There are no city centre civic spaces within that area of East Bank which falls within the city centre. However, as Plan 1b illustrates, there are two green space sites (Saxton Gardens and Bow Street Recreation Ground) adjacent to the city centre boundary which serve some of the recreational needs of residents from within the city centre.

HUNSLET

Table 9: Schedule of existing green space sites in the Hunslet area

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area	Typology	Quality Score
124	Grove Road Recreational Ground	1.032	LCPK	5.20
816	River Canal Corridor	5.480	NAT	4.69
915	Pepper Road Recreation Ground	4.122	OUT	4.07
1001	Jack Lane	1.541	NAT	5.00
1053	Hunslet Green (Community Sports Club)	3.762	OUT	7.61
1270	Midland Garth POS	0.216	AMY	3.08
1285	Rocheford Walk POS	1.200	AMY	3.09
1886	Whitefield Way, Hunslet	0.455	AMY	1.91

Table 10: Overall quantity and quality of existing green space in the Hunslet local area by type

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the quantity standard	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	1	1.03	0.41	×	5.20
Outdoor sports provision*	3	8.38	3.30	✓	5.84
Amenity green space	3	1.87	0.74	✓	2.69
Children's and young people's equipped play**	2	3 facilities	5.66 facilities	✓	-
Allotments	0	0	0	×	-
Natural green space	2	7.02	2.76	✓	4.85
Total	8	17.80	7.01	N/A	4.33

* Includes junior playing pitch at Grove Road (0.5 hectares) within the park & gardens site. Site not included in totals to avoid double counting.

** Children's play facilities located within other green space therefore excluded from totals.

The Hunslet area has excellent provision of outdoor sports, which includes five adult pitches and two junior pitches and satisfies the standard for amenity green space, natural green space and children's play facilities. It fails to meet the standard for parks and gardens and has no allotments. Hunslet Green (Community Sports club) is one of only two sites in Aire Valley Leeds that satisfies the quality standard by scoring more than 7, but the average quality of green space falls below the required standard.

Parts of the Hunslet area are within the accessibility standard for the different types of green space. The existing residential area of Hunslet fails to satisfy the accessibility standard for natural green space with the majority of natural space located along the river corridor.

CENTRAL AIRE VALLEY

Table 11: Schedule of existing green space sites in the Central Aire Valley

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area	Typology	Quality Score
523	Neville POS	1.493	AMY	1
816	River Canal Corridor	16.94	NAT	4.69
912	Skelton Grange Road Pitch	1.01	OUT	2
961	Middle Croft Close POS (3)	0.870	AMY	5.76
1840	Temple Newsam Woodland	0.799	NAT	7.33

Table 12: Overall quantity and quality of existing green space in Central Aire Valley by type

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the quantity standard	Average quality score
Parks and gardens	0	0	N/A	N/A	-
Outdoor sports provision	1	1.01	~	~	2
Amenity green space	2	2.36	~	~	3.38
Children's and young people's equipped play	0	0	N/A	N/A	-
Allotments	0	0	N/A	N/A	-
Natural green space	2	17.74	~	~	6.01
Total	5	21.11	N/A	N/A	4.16

Nb. ~ Population too small to calculate quantitative provision ratios.

The developed parts of Central Aire Valley are predominantly commercial/industrial with a residential population that is too small to conduct a meaningful assessment. It has five green space sites, including a poor quality amenity site adjacent to 'the Nevilles' in Osmondthorpe, and another amenity space at Middle Croft Close serving the east of the Belle Isle area. A lone, historic grass playing pitch which is located next to Skelton Grange bridge has not been in use for many years. The site has previously been granted planning permission for industrial uses. The land along the river corridor, which incorporates the Trans Pennine Trail, forms the largest green space in the area. A small area of woodland, which forms part of the wider Temple Newsam estate, extends into the area on the Logic Leeds site. This space is the only site in the area which meets the Core Strategy quality standard.

SKELTON GATE

Table 12: Schedule of existing green space sites in Skelton Gate

Site ID	Site Name	Site Area	Typology	Quality Score
1830	Skelton Lake	50.472	NAT	4

Table 13: Overall quantity and quality of green space in Skelton Gate by type

Type	Number of sites	Ha	Ha per 1,000	Meets the quantity standard	Average quality score
Natural green space	1	50.47	~	✓	4.0
Total	1	50.47	N/A	N/A	4.0

Nb. ~ Population too small to calculate quantitative provision ratio

The Skelton Gate area to the east of the M1 is currently undeveloped but includes a large area of natural green space based around Skelton Lake, which was formed as part of the restoration of previous opencast coal mine on the site. This site does not currently meet the minimum Core Strategy quality standard.

5. GREEN SPACE LOSSES

The proposals for housing and employment allocations identified in the Publication Draft Area Action Plan will involve the loss or reduction in size of a number of existing green spaces shown on Plan 1a. Table 14, below, sets out justification for the proposed losses in more detail. In two cases this reflects decisions on earlier planning applications to allow development of all or part of the site to secure improvements to the wider green space. In the case of the Copperfields site, it is to allow the redevelopment of the site for housing which would include provision of new areas of high quality green space to serve future residents of the site and the wider community, whilst retaining the existing pitch used by East Leeds Rugby League Club.

Table 14: Schedule of existing green spaces to be lost as a result of development proposed in the AAP

Site ID	Site Name	Green Space Losses	Justification
304	Bow Street Recreation Ground	Reduced area from 1.96 to 1.21 hectares. Area of green space to be lost would be incorporated within development site AV29 (housing allocation).	Area of green space to be lost is currently identified under Policy N1 on the Policies Map but is in private ownership and has previously been incorporated in an unimplemented planning permission for housing and office uses at Site AV29 establishing the principle for loss of this green space. Development linked to improvements to existing recreation ground in the detailed site-specific policy.
372	Former Copperfield College School Playing Fields	Loss of site 5.2 hectares within development site AV38 (housing allocation). As former school playing fields this site has not been included within the publically accessible green space calculations.	Former school playing fields designated under Policy N6 Site and also within the Hunslet Riverside Strategic Housing & Mixed Use Allocation under saved Policy H3 of the UDP. Incorporated within the wider Copperfields site which will

Site ID	Site Name	Green Space Losses	Justification
			provide new green space to serve the development and wider community. Most effective approach considered to be a design led approach to identify most appropriate type and location of green space within site, taking into account safety and accessibility issues. Replacement pitch provision will be required.
321	Pontefract Lane disused allotments	Loss of site 0.7 hectares within development site AV38 (housing allocation).	The site has not been in allotment use for a number of years. Site would be incorporated within the wider Copperfields site (see site 372). Overall re-provision of green space on the site likely to exceed lost green space on this site and (Site 320 below) and will achieve significant qualitative and accessibility enhancements.
320	Cross Green Lane Former Rugby Pitches	Reduced area from 2 to 1.47 hectares with development site AV38 (allowing for retention of existing East Leeds Rugby League club pitch at the site).	Proposed for existing pitch to be retained within the wider Copperfields development site (see sites 372 and 320 above for wider approach to site).
912	Skelton Grange Road Pitch	Loss of site 1.01 hectares within development site AV74 (general employment allocation).	Playing pitch has not been in use for well over a decade and is not well located in respect to existing or proposed residential areas. Principle of loss of site established through approval of earlier lapsed planning permission (unimplemented).

With the exception of the above changes and losses, it is proposed to protect the green space sites shown on Plan 1b under Core Strategy Policy G6 and to show these sites on the Policies Map. Table 15 provides a recalculation of the overall quantity of green space provision in Aire Valley Leeds by type against the Core Strategy standards after taking into consideration the proposed losses of green space.

Table 15: Overall quantity and quality of green space protected under Core Strategy Policy G6 by type

Type	No. of sites	Total area of site (ha)	Ha per 1,000 population	Core Strategy standard ha per 1,000 population	Meets Quantity standard (per 1,000 pop)	Surplus / Deficit Total Area (ha)	Average quality score (minimum standard = 7)
Parks and gardens	2	2.28	0.17	1	Deficit 0.83 hectares	-10.73	5.35
Outdoor sports provision ³	7	13.65	1.05	1.2	Deficit 0.15 hectares	-2.02	5.58
Amenity green space	8	6.44	0.49	0.45	Surplus 0.04 hectares	0.57	4.18
Children's and young people's equipped play	4	7 facilities	4.38 facilities (per 1,000 children)	2 (per 1,000 children)	Surplus 2.38 facilities	3 facilities	-
Allotments	1	1.21	0.09	0.24	Deficit 0.15 hectares	-1.92	2.11
Natural green space	4	75.23	5.76	0.7	Surplus 5.06 hectares	66.09	5.26
Total⁴	21	98.31	7.57	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.5
City Centre Civic space	7	3.2	0.53	0.41	Surplus 0.12 hectares	2.46	7.65

As Table 15 shows the proposed protected green space in Aire Valley Leeds continues to provide a surplus of provision in terms of amenity green space, children's and young people's play and natural green space. The deficiencies in parks and gardens, outdoor sports and allotments are all greater than previously but as the justification in Table 14 explains this generally represent a loss of unused/unmaintained or lower quality green space. Overall the quantity of publically accessible green space would decrease by just over 3 hectares.

6. ACCESSIBILITY

Plans 2a to 2f illustrates application of the different Core Strategy accessibility standards. Accessibility to green space in the residential areas of Aire Valley Leeds is relatively good. The majority of the residential population have access to sites within and outside the Aire Valley Leeds boundary for parks and gardens, amenity, children and young people's facilities and allotments. Whilst the majority of Aire Valley Leeds is with 2 km of a large (greater than 20 hectares) natural site, parts of Richmond Hill and South Bank do not have access to a smaller local natural site. In the absence of the ability to deliver new natural green space, these areas will require

³ Includes junior pitch (0.5 ha) within parks and gardens site which is not included in totals to avoid double counting.

⁴ Total excludes children's play facilities which are located within other green space sites.

enhanced green infrastructure links accessing existing natural sites, such as the canal / river corridor to compensate for the lack of local access.

7. NEW GREEN SPACE PROVISION

Policy G4 of the Core Strategy sets out the requirements for new green space provision on new residential development in Leeds, outside the city centre boundary. Policy G5 sets out the policy for new open space provision for new development within Leeds City Centre (as defined by saved Policy CC2 of the Leeds UDP Review) and applies to all new residential and commercial development on site over 0.5 hectares.

Most of the South Bank area is contained within the city centre boundary and all of the Hunslet, Skelton Gate and Central Aire Valley areas are excluded, the East Bank local area is dissected. This means two different policies regarding green space / open space provision will apply to new development within these local areas depending on whether the site is located within the city centre.

The data highlights some overall acute deficiencies which will need to be addressed through the plan. New parks and gardens, amenity space and allotments will all be required. The implementation of the Skelton Gate site (AV111) will need to deliver considerable green space provision of multiple types but will also benefit from its proximity to Temple Newsam, which is a large city park offering a wide range of facilities.

The AAP will need to deal with allotment shortages at a local level, as the larger sites come forward. There is already a deficiency across the plan area which will be further compounded by the growing local population as sites are developed. Local food growing should be integrated into sustainable delivery of new homes. Whilst the recently delivered new allotments at Saxton Gardens are too small to consider in the green space assessment, they are important to residents of the complex and provide a valuable resource which diverts some need from the waiting list for plots on the only other in-use site in the AAP area at Red Road Allotments.

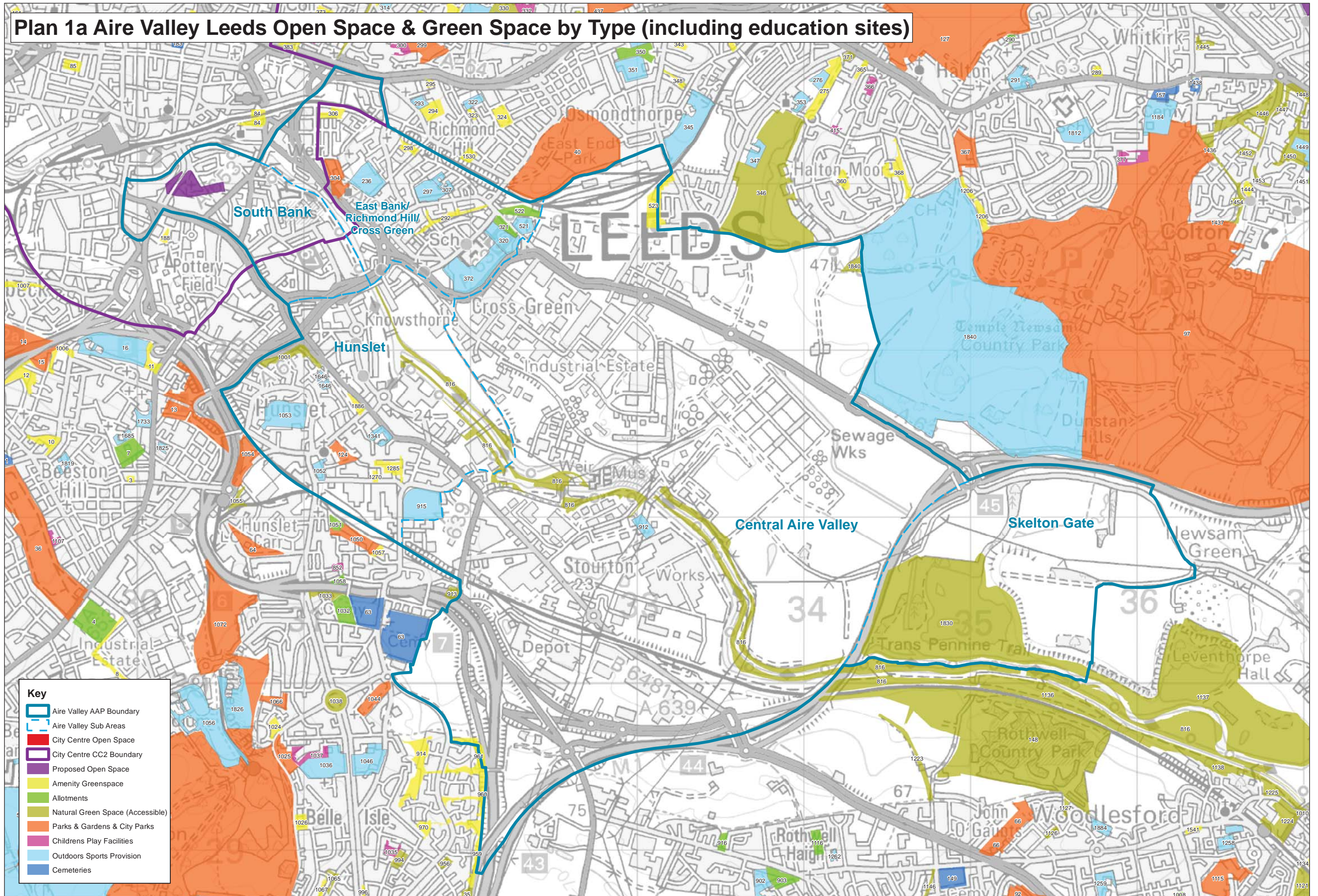
Plan 3 illustrates that the proposed three hectare city park will fill an obvious gap in the provision of green space and Parks and Gardens in the city centre. The area to the south of the city centre was identified as having a quantitative and accessibility shortfall in the Leeds Open Space, Sports and Recreational Assessment.

Table 16 provides further commentary on the delivery of new green space within Aire Valley Leeds through the implementation of Core Strategy policy within new development (Policies G4 and G5) and the new City Park proposed in the South Bank area as part of the AAP.

Table 16: New green space proposed within the AAP.

Proposal	Location	Size (Ha)	Commentary
City Park	South Bank Planning Statement Area (Site AV94)	3.5	<p>The council's ambition is to develop a major new City Park just south of the River Aire with strong pedestrian links across the river into the heart of the shopping and commercial area and to surrounding communities.</p> <p>Delivery of the park is linked to major regeneration proposals for the South Bank area centred on the former Tetley's Brewery site.</p> <p>Proposals for the city centre located park were introduced as part of the South Bank Planning Statement which set out an aspiration to create a 3.5 hectare park on a phased basis alongside development in the surrounding area. The park will help meet the outdoor recreational needs of the growing South Bank community and wider Aire Valley Leeds. The draft AAP document will set out detailed proposals for new and improved pedestrian and cycle links to the proposed City Park.</p>
On site green space in residential development (Core Strategy Policy G4)	Housing & mixed use allocations outside City Centre	N/A	<p>Policy G4 requires on-site green space for housing development (including housing within mixed use development) equating to 80 square metres per dwelling.</p> <p>Major opportunities to provide significant areas of new or replacement green spaces are identified at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skelton Gate (AV111) estimated capacity 2,619 dwellings • Copperfields (AV38) 273 dwellings • Bridgewater Road North (AV40) 425 dwellings <p>Other opportunities to provide smaller green space within other housing and mixed use allocation taking into account site specific issues.</p>
On site open space on city centre sites (Core Strategy Policy G5)	Housing & mixed use allocations in City Centre	N/A	<p>Policy G5 requires open space provision for sites over 0.5 hectares. Commercial developments to provide a minimum of 20% of the total site area and housing development to provide a minimum of 0.41 hectares of open space per 1,000 population.</p>

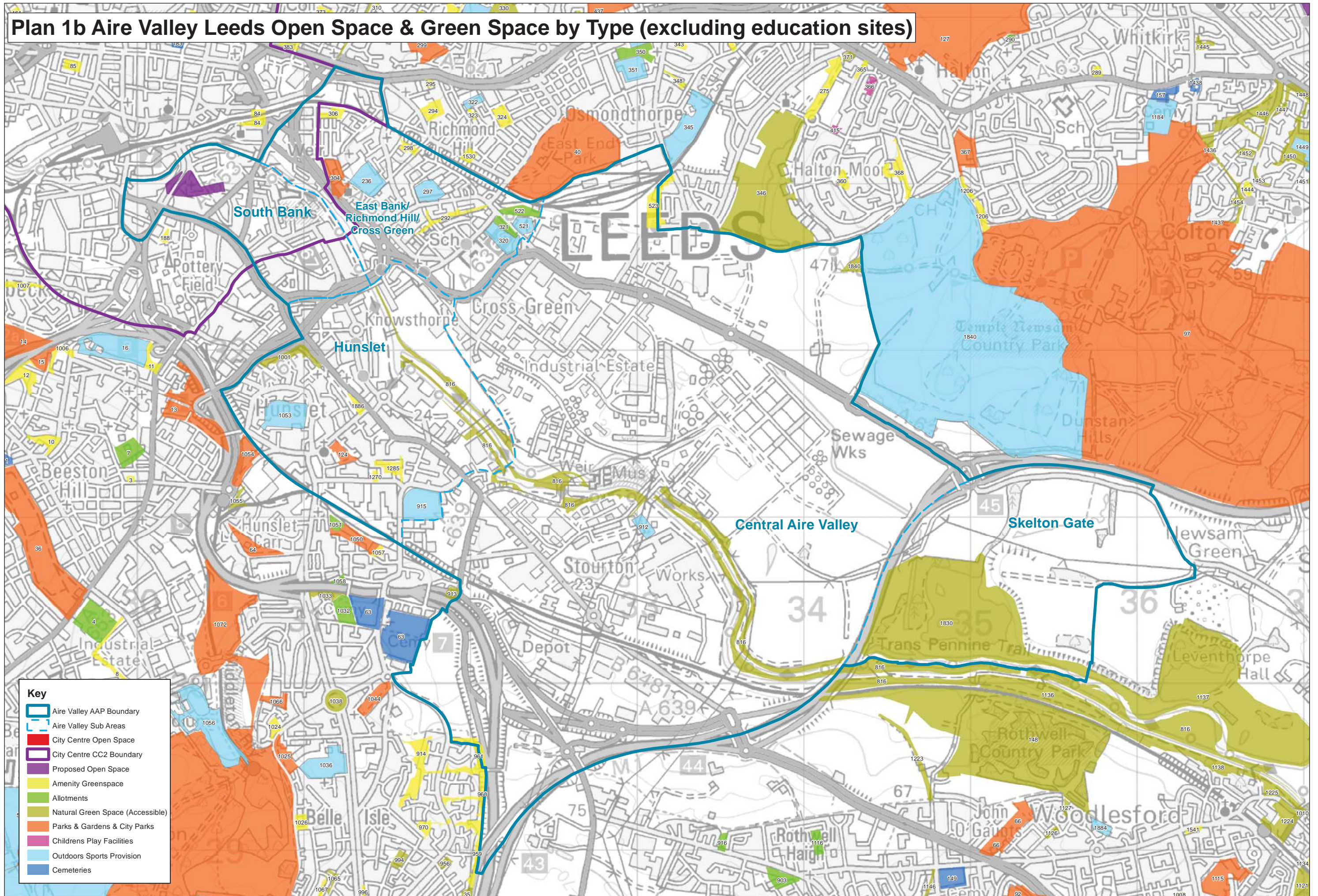
Plan 1a Aire Valley Leeds Open Space & Green Space by Type (including education sites)



Key

- Aire Valley AAP Boundary
- Aire Valley Sub Areas
- City Centre Open Space
- City Centre CC2 Boundary
- Proposed Open Space
- Amenity Greenspace
- Allotments
- Natural Green Space (Accessible)
- Parks & Gardens & City Parks
- Childrens Play Facilities
- Outdoors Sports Provision
- Cemeteries

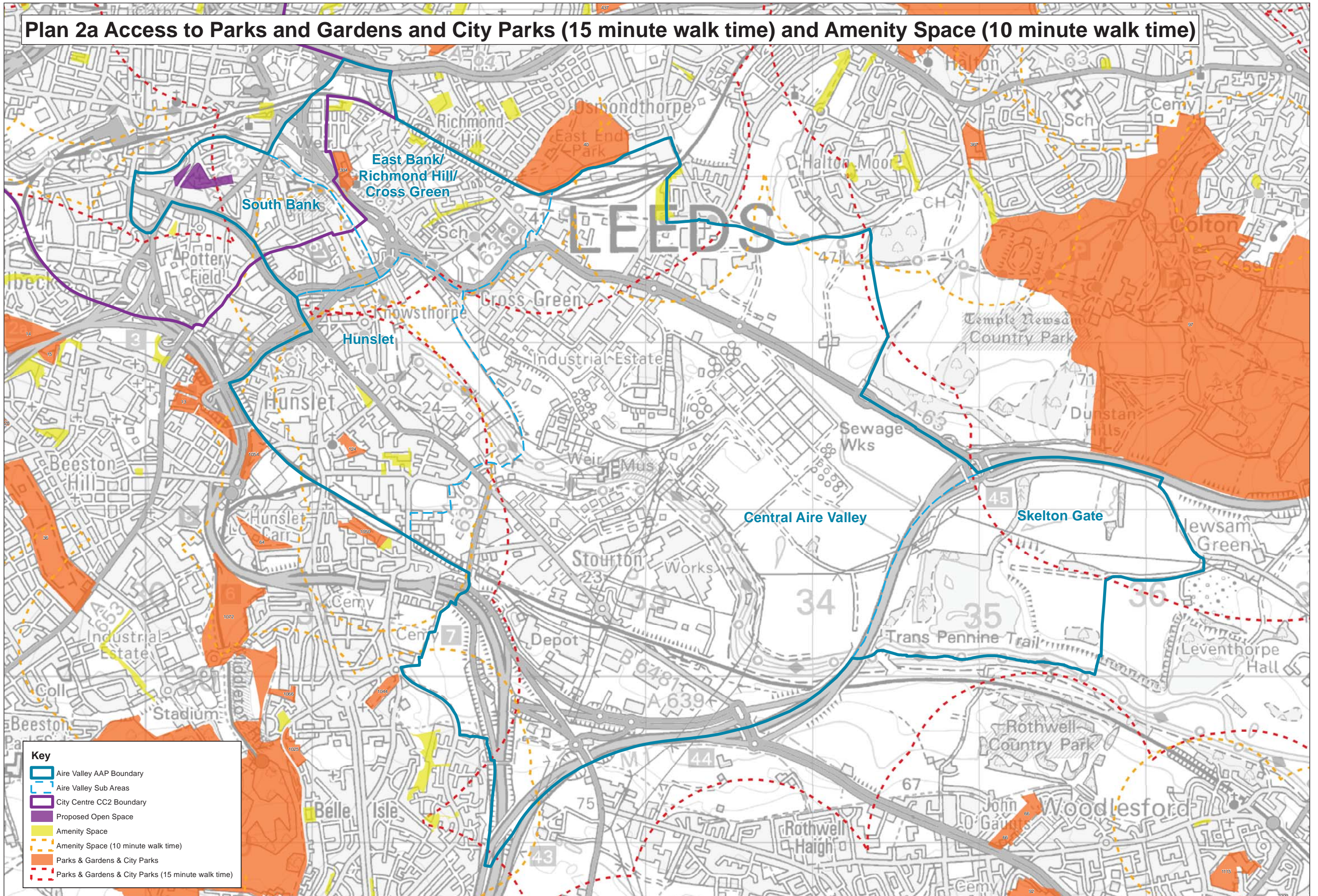
Plan 1b Aire Valley Leeds Open Space & Green Space by Type (excluding education sites)



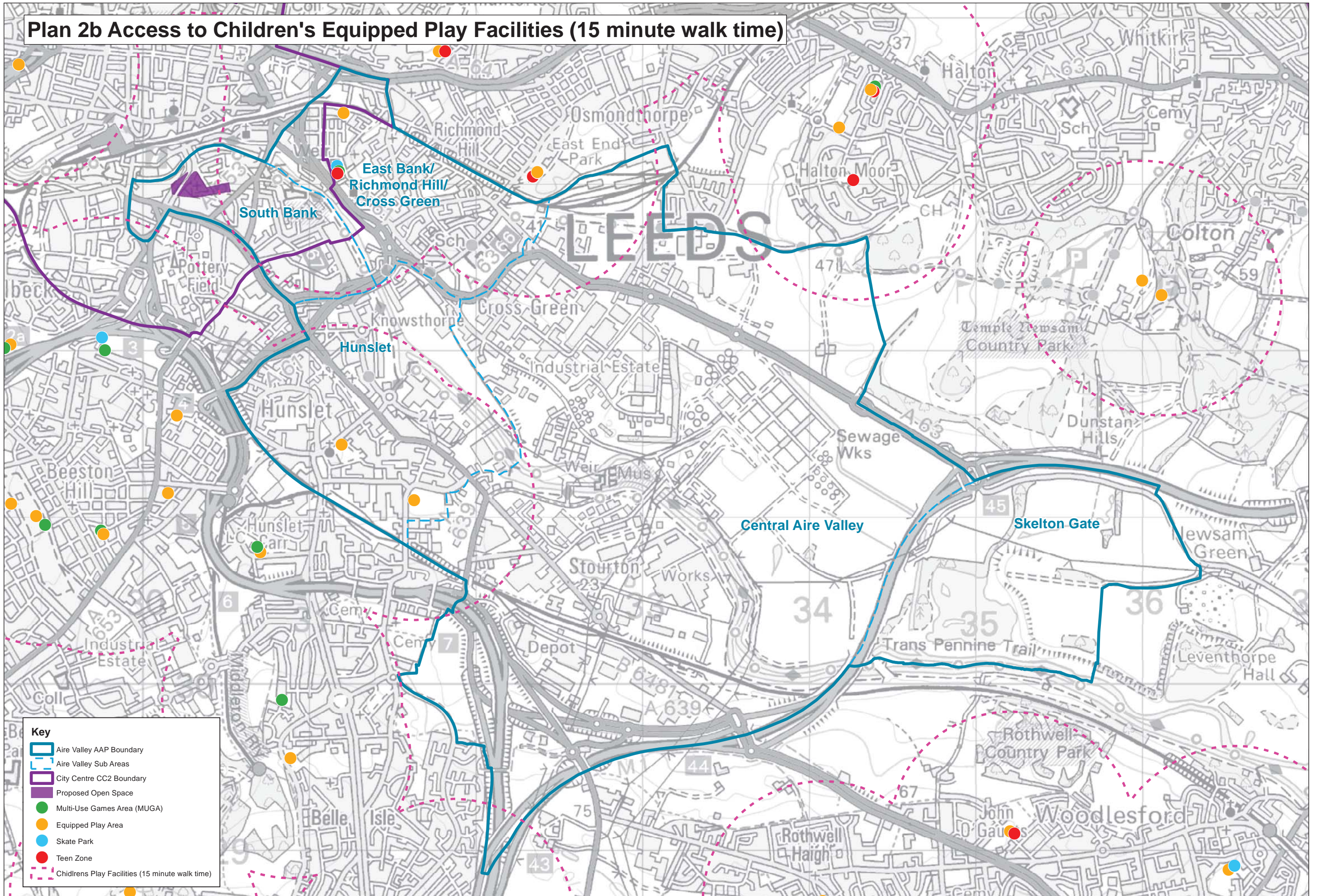
Key

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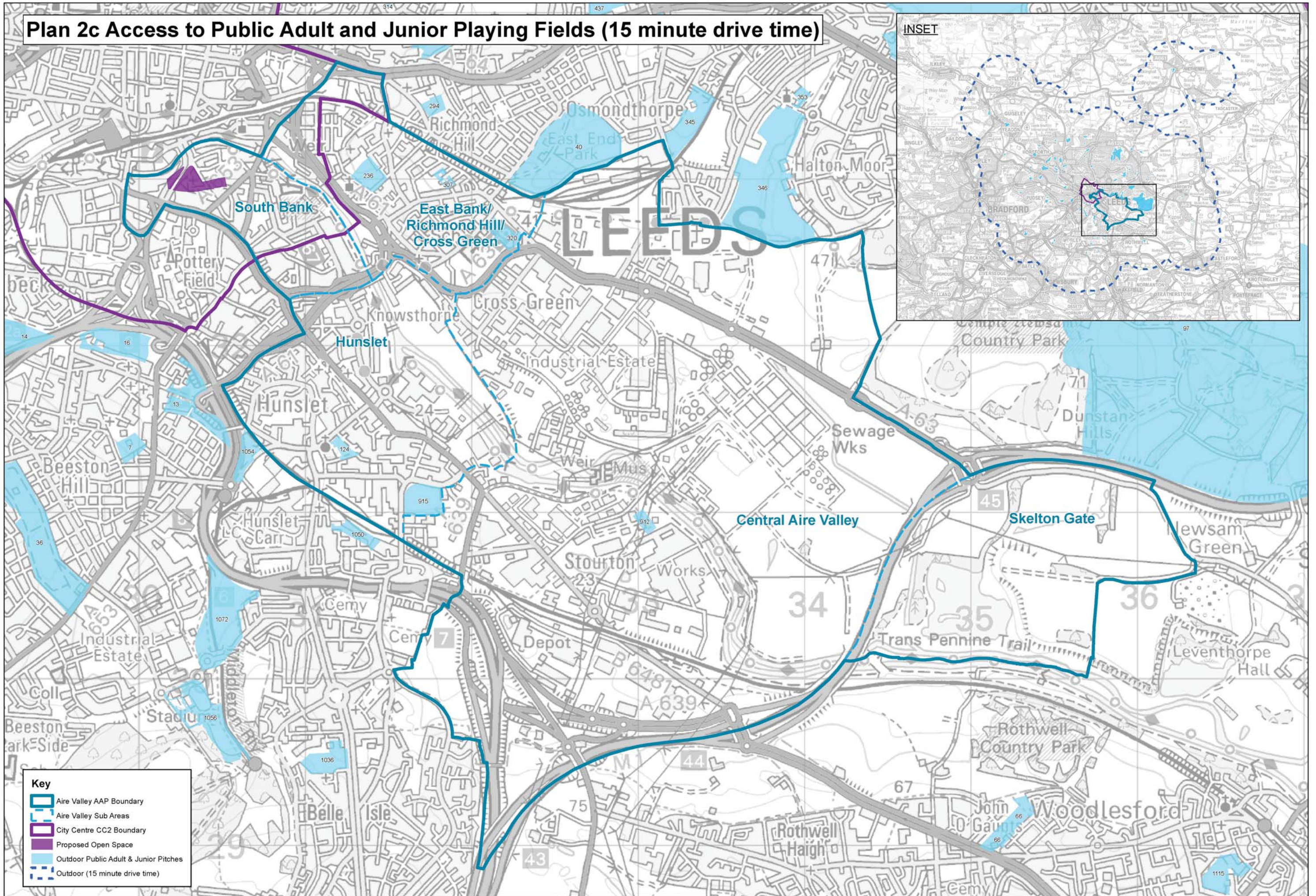
Plan 2a Access to Parks and Gardens and City Parks (15 minute walk time) and Amenity Space (10 minute walk time)



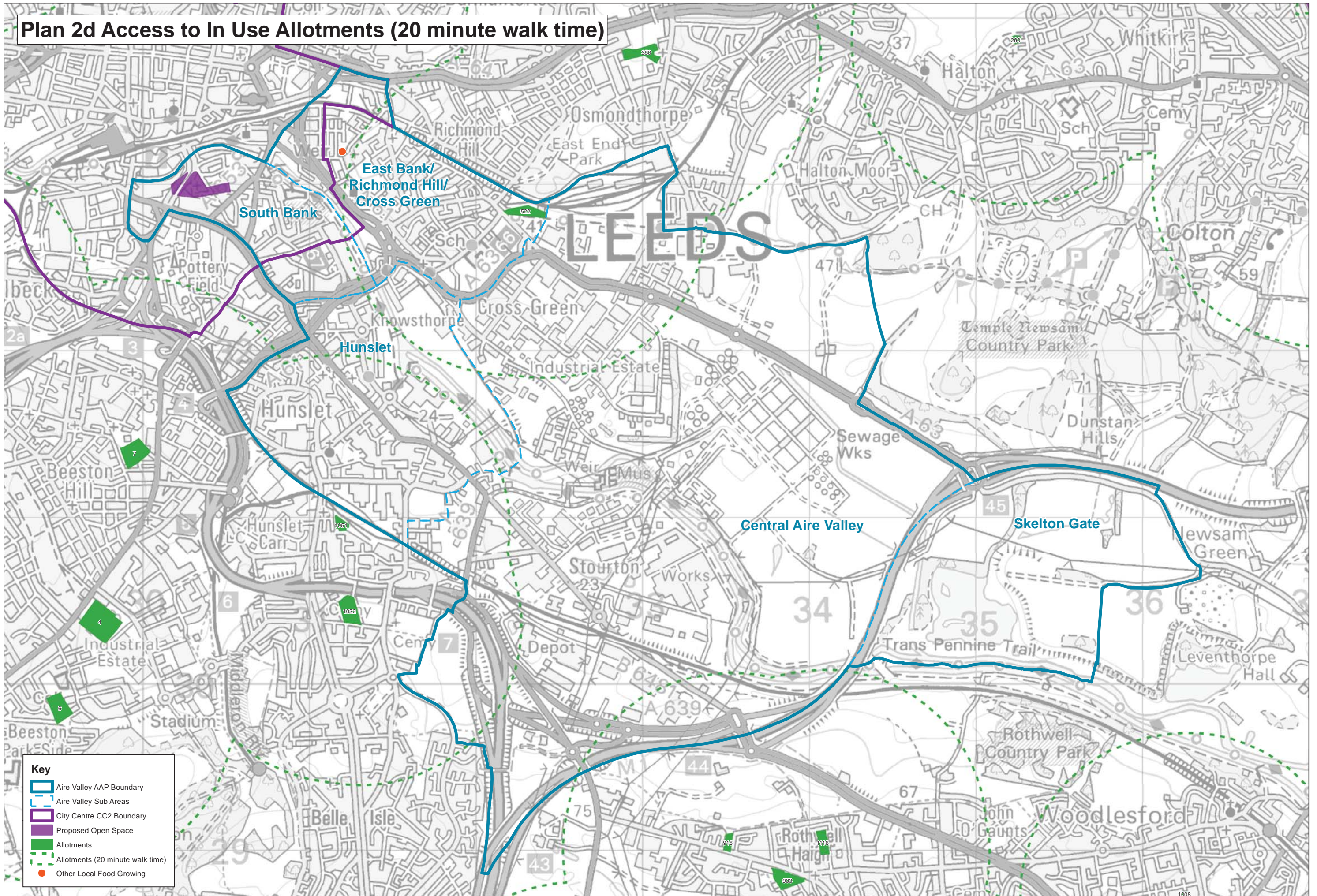
Plan 2b Access to Children's Equipped Play Facilities (15 minute walk time)



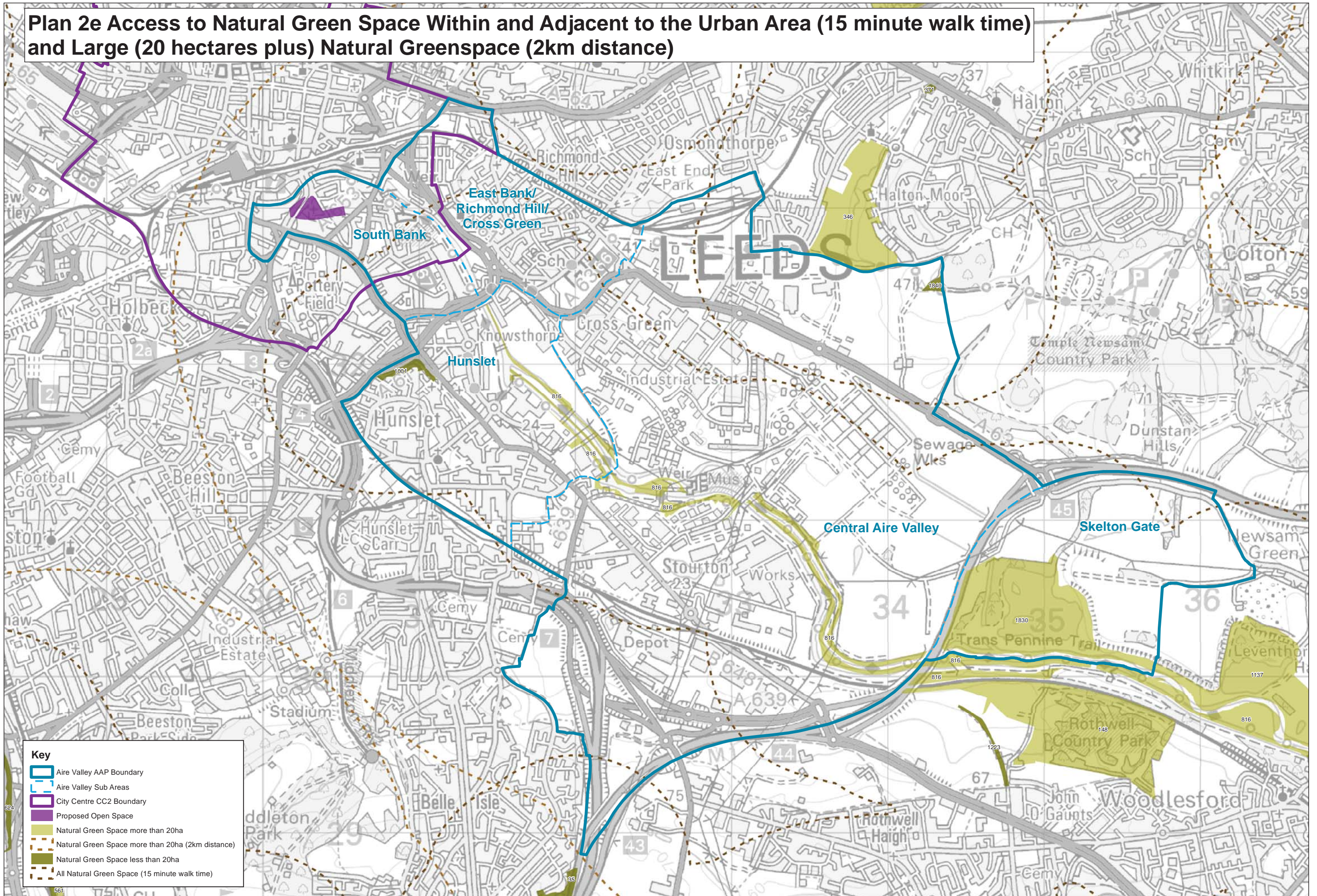
Plan 2c Access to Public Adult and Junior Playing Fields (15 minute drive time)



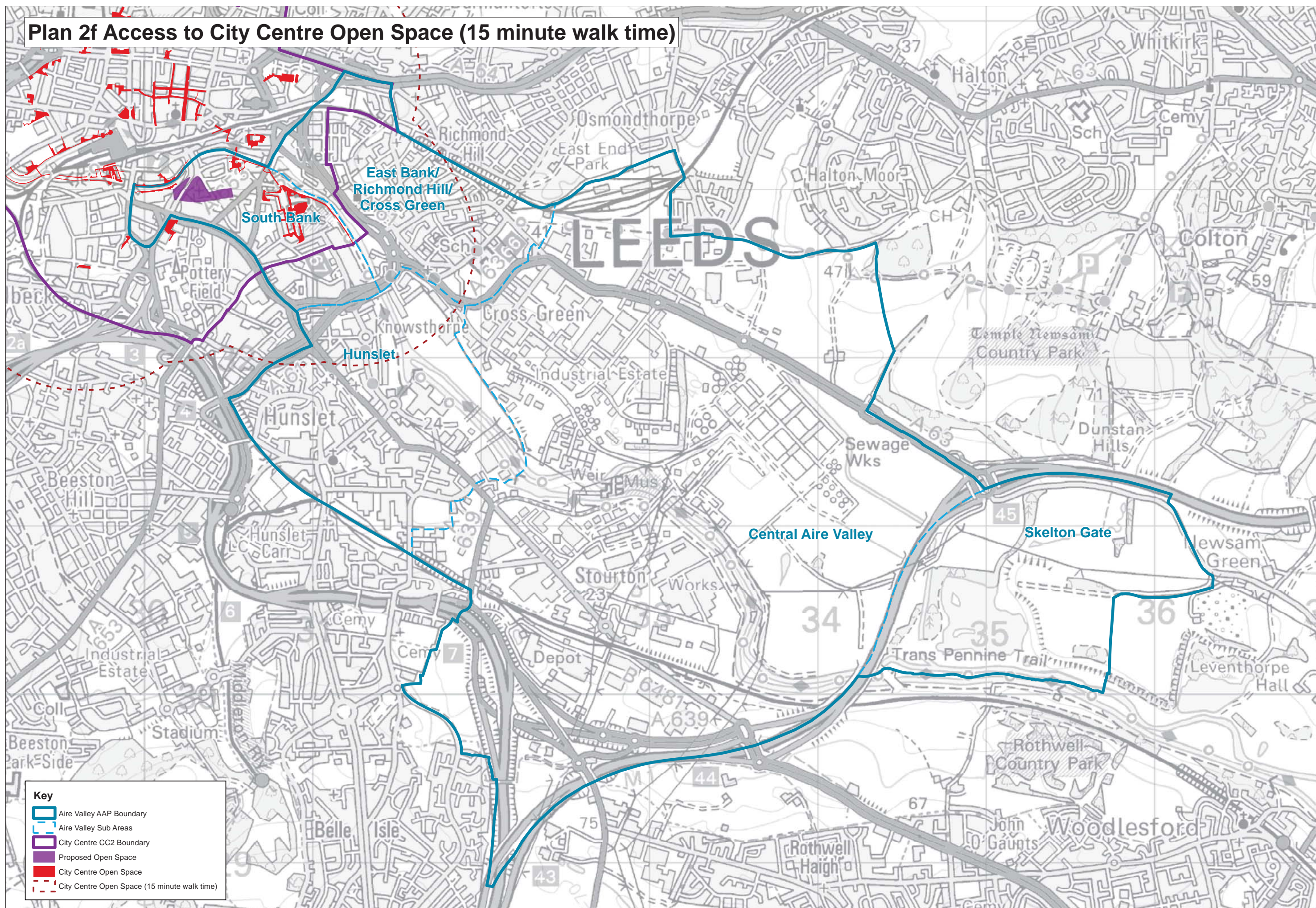
Plan 2d Access to In Use Allotments (20 minute walk time)



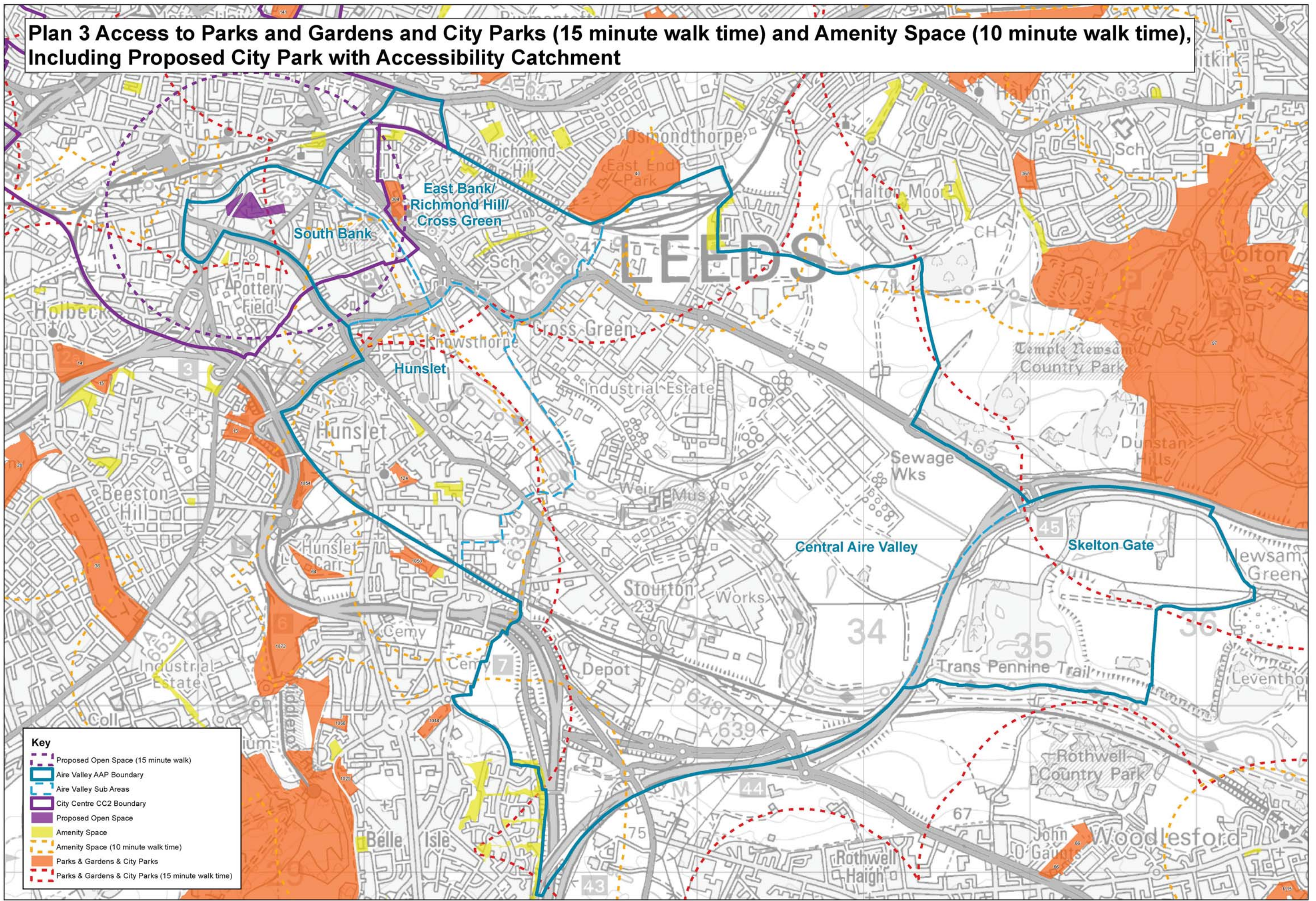
Plan 2e Access to Natural Green Space Within and Adjacent to the Urban Area (15 minute walk time) and Large (20 hectares plus) Natural Greenspace (2km distance)



Plan 2f Access to City Centre Open Space (15 minute walk time)



Plan 3 Access to Parks and Gardens and City Parks (15 minute walk time) and Amenity Space (10 minute walk time), Including Proposed City Park with Accessibility Catchment



Key

- Proposed Open Space (15 minute walk)
- Aire Valley AAP Boundary
- - - Aire Valley Sub Areas
- City Centre CC2 Boundary
- Proposed Open Space
- - - Amenity Space
- Amenity Space (10 minute walk time)
- Parks & Gardens & City Parks
- - - Parks & Gardens & City Parks (15 minute walk time)

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**Aire Valley Leeds Area Action
Green Infrastructure and Green space Background Paper
Publication Draft**

Leeds Local Development Framework
Development Plan Document

September 2015