

# Aberdeen City, Play Sufficiency Assessment

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# 1. Executive Summary



# Document purpose

The Planning Scotland Act 2019 places a statutory duty on local planning authorities to carry out a Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA). This Play Sufficiency Assessment for Aberdeen has been produced by SLR Consulting Limited and streets-UK on behalf of Aberdeen City Council.

The Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations and Guidance 2023 require planning authorities to:

- Identify and map formal play spaces for all ages (0-17 inclusive) in its area to clearly show their locations within each locality and in the overall local authority area
- Assess and provide statements as regards the overall:
  - quantity,
  - quality,
  - accessibility of formal and informal play spaces
- Consult children, their parents and carers during the assessment
- Publish a Play Sufficiency Assessment report with the above inclusions

The evidence gathered in the Play Sufficiency Assessment may then be used to inform provisions for play in the preparation of the next Local Development Plan.

# Assessment Process

To assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of play opportunities for children and young people across Aberdeen City Council, a range of methods were employed, including desktop studies, site audits, and consultation sessions.

Consultation has been undertaken in the following formats:

- Play-based workshops and questionnaires to assess quality in a nursery and in primary, secondary and ASN schools
- Online surveys to gather feedback from parents and carers on perceptions of safety, accessibility, and adequacy
- Responses gathered by Aberdeen City Council in the course of their in-person and online ‘Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future’ consultation activities from the general public on play
- Review of recently provided views on play adequacy from Aberdeen’s community of parents and carers of young people with Additional Support Needs

- Responses gathered by Aberdeen City Council in the course of the ‘Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future’ consultation activities from community councils.

The above consultation has fed into the below methodology summary for assessing the Quantity, Quality and Accessibility of play spaces.

## Quantity

Desktop studies allowed the identification of formal and informal play spaces across the local authority area (Aberdeen City) and for these to be sorted by locality (Electoral Ward). Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit was used to inform the quantity of informal play opportunities.

## Quality

A Play Space Audit was developed by Aberdeen City Council for formal equipped play spaces and surveys were undertaken between September 2024 and April 2025. The audit assessed ‘Quality of place’ and Quality of Play’ to provide an ‘Overall quality of play’ rating.

The ‘Quality of place’ questions covered topics including:

- Setting/Visual Amenity
- Accessibility
- Maintenance and Security
- Functionality and Adaptability
- Natural Environment/Greenspace

The ‘Quality of play’ questions allowed assessment of the specific play opportunities that were available (eg. physical play , creative play, and social play) by age group and ability. The provision of inclusive play (across all age groups) within the physical, creative, and social play categories was also assessed and recorded.

Data from Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit was used to provide quality assessment of informal play spaces.

## Accessibility

Desktop analysis using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software allowed walking times to Formal Equipped Play Areas to be calculated informing the accessibility assessment.

Specific accessibility questions from the Play Space Audit were also used to further assess accessibility.

# Key findings

## Quantity

There were 174 formal equipped play spaces identified across the City. The numbers of formal equipped play spaces within Wards varied from the lowest number of eight (Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells and Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee) up to highest number of 20 (Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill and Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen). The average number for a Ward was 13. Not all formal equipped play spaces offer the same opportunities for play or are of the same scale however and so these results should be read in association with the Quality and Accessibility findings.

The highest quantities of additional formal and informal play space were generally located in the largest Wards, on the edges of the City where access to either the countryside, woodlands or coastline is available. The lowest quantities of additional formal and informal play space were generally located in the smaller Wards, in City centre locations including:

- Midstocket/Rosemount
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Northfield/Mastrick North

In these Wards access to natural/semi natural greenspaces is limited due to the small quantities of this typology present in these locations.

## Engagement quantity findings

The findings of the engagement surveys and in-person activities mirrored the findings of the desk top audit and play space audit in respect of the quantity and spread of play areas throughout the City.

## Quality

‘Overall Play Quality’ across the Wards for formal equipped play spaces varied from 50% achieving a reasonable or above score (George St/Harbour) to 100% achieving a reasonable or above score (Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee). The Ward average for the City was 74%. Only five Wards fell below this average score and these were Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill (65%), Midstocket/Rosemount Ward (67%), (George St/Harbour) 50%, Torry/Ferryhill (69%) and Lower Deeside (64%).

Generally all Wards scored ok for ‘Quality of Place’, with over 85% of formal equipped play areas in each Ward achieving a reasonable score or above. Exceptions to this were George Street/Harbour where only 60% of sites achieved a reasonable score or above.



The average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for ‘Quality of Play for 0-5 year olds’ was 62%. The Ward with the highest percentage was Northfield/Mastrick North with 83% whilst the lowest was Lower Deeside with 36%.

The average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for ‘Quality of Play for 6-11 year olds’ was 60%. The Ward with the highest percentage was Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee with 88% whilst the lowest was George St/Harbour with 40%.

The average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for ‘Quality of Play for 12-15 year olds was 28%’. The Ward with the highest percentage was Northfield/Mastrick North with 50%.whilst the lowest was Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone with 0%.

The average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for ‘Quality of Play for 16-17 year olds’ was 22%. The Ward with the highest percentage was Torry/Ferryhill with 38% whilst the lowest was George St/Harbour with 10%.

It is noticeable that the average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Quality of Play for younger children (0-5 year olds [62%] and 6-11 year olds [60%]) was considerably higher than that of young people (12-15 year olds [28%] and 16-17 year olds [22%]). This was generally as all play areas included elements for younger children however not all spaces included elements for young people.

Ninety-four (54%) of the 174 formal equipped play spaces assessed provided inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old), whilst fifty-three (30%) provided inclusive physical play opportunities for young people (12-17 year old).

In regards to opportunities for risky and challenging play of the 174 formal equipped play spaces assessed:

- 119 formal equipped play spaces (68%) achieved a score of 1-5 (Lower risk/challenge)
- 49 formal equipped play spaces (28%) achieved a score of 6-10 (Average risk/challenge)
- 6 formal equipped play spaces (4%) achieved a score of 11-15 (Higher risk/challenge)

‘Other formal and informal spaces’ which were considered suitable to contribute additional play opportunities across the City, were assessed for quality through Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. With a few exceptions most spaces rated ‘average’ or above. Wards that included spaces which fell below average were Northfield/Mastrick North, Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee, and Kincorth/Nigg/Cove.

### Engagement quality findings

Scoring on quality, taken from the ‘Your Place, Your Plan, Your Future’ consultation event which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City was fairly consistent across North, Central and South localities and all 13 Wards. Across the Wards was a range of scores of between 3.3 to 5.5 out of 7 (1=low, 7=high). The lowest scoring Wards were Kincorth/Nigg/Cove (3.3), George St/Harbour (3.8), Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone (4.1), Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill (4.1), and Lower Deeside (4.1).

There was a widespread desire for more age-appropriate equipment and seating, especially for teenagers, and greater quantities of popular equipment, such as swings, to deal with demand. There was also a desire for more accessible play equipment and ensuring the availability of natural play.

As well as a widespread appreciation of the facilities that are provided, there was a frustration at levels of maintenance, cleanliness and addressing anti-social behaviour.

### Accessibility

In terms of accessibility the distribution of formal equipped play spaces across all Wards generally resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The Wards with residential areas which had further than 10 minutes walk to reach a formal equipped play space included:

- Bridge of Don
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Midstocket/Rosemount
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Torry
- Airyhall
- Lower deeside
- Kincorth

It should be noted that the above analysis did not take account of the scale or quality of formal equipped play spaces and therefore these findings should be read in conjunction with the other findings.

Several formal equipped play spaces were identified through the Play Space Audit where the entrance and layouts were not considered to be accessible for all. These are identified in the Ward sections and included 56 sites in total (32% of the total number of formal equipped play spaces).

### Engagement accessibility findings

Participants appreciated that they generally had a park nearby and particularly enjoyed the facilities at the destination parks (eg. Duthie Park, Hazlehead Park, Westfield Park etc.).

## Conclusions

There are 174 formal equipped play spaces within Aberdeen City. The distribution of these spaces means that generally the majority of the residential areas within the City are within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. Thirty-two percent of these formal equipped play spaces had issues identified with the accessibility of their entrance or layout.

The quality of these formal equipped play spaces varies. Generally the majority of spaces score well for ‘quality of place’ (although it was noted through engagement that there was a frustration at levels of maintenance, cleanliness and addressing anti-social behaviour) and score better on ‘quality of play’ for younger children (0-11 year olds) than for young people (12-17 year olds).

The average ‘Overall Play Quality’ for the City was 74%. Only five Wards fell below this average score and these were Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill (65%), Midstocket/Rosemount Ward (67%), (George St/Harbour) 50%, Torry/Ferryhill (69%) and Lower Deeside (64%). Scoring on quality, taken from the ‘Your Place, Your Plan, Your Future’ consultation event was fairly consistent across the Wards.

Just over half of the spaces (54%) featured inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst just under a third (30%) provided inclusive physical play opportunities for young people (12-17 year old).

Generally the level of risky or challenging play was low, with just below a third of spaces (32%) providing what was considered average or higher risk/challenging play.

The findings of the engagement surveys and in-person activities mirrored the findings of the desk top audit and play space audit in respect of the quantity and spread of play areas throughout the City. The consultation further highlighted questions of scale and quality within each play area. There was a widespread desire for more age-appropriate equipment and seating, especially for teenagers, and greater quantities of popular equipment, such as swings, to deal with demand. There was also a desire for more accessible play equipment and ensuring the availability of natural play.







---

## 2. Introduction



## 2.1.1 Purpose of the Assessment

The Planning Scotland Act 2019 places a statutory duty on local planning authorities to carry out a Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA).

Planning authorities must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children and young people to establish needs and demands to be met and communities' aspirations.

Play Sufficiency Assessment regulations require planning authorities to:

- Identify and map formal play spaces for all ages (0-17 inclusive) in its area to clearly show their locations within each locality and in the overall local authority area
- Assess and provide statements as regards the overall:
  - quantity,
  - quality,
  - accessibility of formal and informal play spaces
- Consult children, their parents and carers during the assessment
- Publish a Play Sufficiency Assessment report with the above inclusions

The evidence gathered in the Play Sufficiency Assessment may be used to inform provisions for play in the preparation of the next Local Development Plan.

## 2.1.2 Legislative Context

Aberdeen City Council is firmly committed to upholding children's right to play, recognising it as a vital component of their physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development. This commitment is rooted in a robust legislative and policy framework that supports the creation of inclusive, accessible, and high-quality play opportunities across the city.

The following legislative and policy context guides Aberdeen City Council in its efforts to ensure that every child has the opportunity to play freely and safely, and to grow and thrive in a city that values and protects their right to play.

### National Legislation and Policy

- **UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024**  
*Incorporates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots law, including Article 31 (the right to play).*
- **Play Sufficiency Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2023**  
*Requires local authorities to assess and ensure the adequacy and accessibility of play opportunities.*
- **Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997**  
*Provides a legal framework for land use planning, including provisions that affect the design of child-friendly spaces.*
- **National Planning Framework 4 (2023)**  
*Introduces a national policy on play, recognising its importance to children's development and embedding it within planning priorities.*
- **Scotland's Play Strategy (2013)**  
*Sets out a national vision for play, emphasising its role in supporting all aspects of children's wellbeing and encouraging cross-sector collaboration.*

### Local Planning and Strategy

- **Aberdeen City Council Play Policy and Strategy (2018)**  
*A local framework aligning with national guidance and legislation to ensure play is inclusive, accessible, and prioritised across the city.*
- **Aberdeen City Local Development Plan**  
*This document incorporates planning policies that influence the design and location of play spaces, aligning with national planning requirements.*



## 2.1.3 Definitions

Definitions of terms/phrases used within this document:

**ACC** Aberdeen City Council

**Ward** The localities of the City have been assessed using 'electoral Ward' boundaries. For ease of description these are hereafter referred to, simply, as Ward.

**Play** Play is engaging in an activity that would generally possess some of, if not all of, the below qualities (as defined in Play Scotland's [Play Strategy Scotland](#)):

- Fun
- Uncertainty
- Challenge
- Flexibility
- Non-productivity

**PSA** Play Sufficiency Assessment

**Play Sufficiency Assessment report** This report document.

**Play Space Audit** The survey developed to assess the accessibility and quality of formal equipped play spaces.

**'Quality of place'** The questions within the Play Space Audit relating to setting, accessibility, maintenance, functionality and natural environment.

**'Quality of play'** The questions within the Play Space Audit relating to play.

**'Overall quality of play'** A combined rating for formal equipped play spaces which combines 'Quality of place' and 'Quality of play' scores from within the Play Space Audit.

**Child/children** For the purpose of this Play Sufficiency Assessment "children" means persons under the age of 18 years (e.g. 0 – 17 years old inclusive).

**Younger child/children** For the purpose of this Play Sufficiency Assessment "younger children" means persons under the age of 12 years (e.g. 0 – 11 years old inclusive).

**Young people/person** For the purpose of this Play Sufficiency Assessment 'young people' are defined as older children (e.g. 12 – 17 years old inclusive).

**Child Poverty** Children are considered as living in poverty if they live in households with less than 60% of median household income. This is the key measure used by UK, Scottish Government and by the EU.

**Open Space** The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 broadly defines open space as space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green space or civic areas. Parks, public gardens, allotments, woodlands, play

areas, playing fields, green corridors, paths, churchyards and cemeteries, natural areas, institutional land as well as civic spaces are all forms of open space.

**Play Spaces** Outdoor spaces which are accessible by the public and which offer play opportunities for children.

**Formal Equipped Play Spaces** These are spaces specifically designed and maintained for the purposes of play. i.e. play areas/playgrounds.

**Other Formal Play Spaces** These include formal areas for more defined uses such as skate parks and sports.

**Informal Play Spaces** These are areas within open spaces which are not specifically designed and maintained for the purposes of play but which could offer opportunities for play such as parks, woods/forest, beaches.

**GIS** This acronym stands for Geographic Information System, it connects data to maps allowing location data to be linked to descriptive data.

**TRACC** Is a travel time analysis software tool which enables accurate travel times and distances to be calculated.

**ASN** Additional Support Needs

**YPYPYF** Was engagement undertaken as part of the 'Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future' which sought views on play and other place-based criteria from the public, community councils and other groups.

**Locality areas (Central, North, and South)** These locality areas are used as the basis of discussion in Aberdeen City Council's Locality Plans and have been used within the 'Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future' engagement activities. Central comprises the areas between the River Dee and the River Don approximately, the North is the area to the north of the A944, and South is the area to the south of the A944. For the purpose of the Play Sufficiency Assessment regulations however which require planning authorities to clearly show play within each 'locality', locality in this context refers to the Electoral Ward.







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# 3. Assessment Process

This chapter describes the assessment process undertaken for the Play Sufficiency Assessment.



# 3.1 Intro

To assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of play opportunities for children and young people across Aberdeen City Council, a range of methods were employed, including desktop studies, site audits, and consultation sessions.

Between September 2024 and April 2025, 174 formal equipped play areas were successfully surveyed and are presented in this report. As a play sufficiency assessment, particular emphasis was placed on data from the audits of formal equipped play spaces. However, this report also considers other formal opportunities such as skateparks and playing fields, as well as informal spaces like parks, woodlands, and beaches.

Initial play space audits were conducted by Aberdeen City Council in 2024, followed by further assessments carried out by SLR Consulting Ltd in 2025. Although multiple surveyors were involved, consistency was maintained through a shared briefing, standardised questions, and a unified scoring system.

# 3.2 Methodology

The following sets out the methodology employed in undertaking this Play Sufficiency Assessment. A full source list of data sources can be found in Section 8. This also notes relevant caveats/limitations which may affect the accuracy of the document due to the datasets used.

## Desktop Research:

An initial desktop review of information was undertaken this included:

- A review of existing policies, strategies and planning documents relevant to children's play
- Gathering of demographic data, particularly the distribution of children by age, gender, and need
- Identifying formal equipped play spaces within each Ward
- Identifying other formal and informal spaces which are publicly accessible and could reasonably be assumed to provide opportunities for play using Aberdeen City Council, Open Space Audit data and other appropriate sources.

## Play Space Audit development:

A Play Space Audit was developed by Aberdeen City Council for formal equipped play spaces (the survey is described in more detail in section 3.3 and is included within Chapter 9, Appendices). The assessment survey was a bespoke survey which was developed to provide a consistent tool for assessing the accessibility and quality of formal equipped play spaces.

## Play Space Audit site visits:

Play Space Audits of formal equipped play spaces were undertaken between September 2024 and April 2025. This included:

Site visits were undertaken to all sites identified through desktop study as formal equipped play spaces. Some formal equipped play spaces identified through early desktop studies were found to be closed due to renovation or safety issues, while others were found to have been removed entirely. These spaces are not included within this report. Some additional formal equipped play spaces which were not initially identified through desktop studies were subsequently identified during site visits. Where these formal equipped play spaces were open and accessible to the public these were incorporated in the survey.

Play Space Audits were conducted of all formal equipped play spaces which were present and open to the public. Survey results were recorded and photographs of all sites were taken to support the analysis of results.

As a Play Sufficiency Assessment, particular emphasis was placed on data obtained from these audits of formal equipped play spaces. However, this report also considers other formal opportunities such as skateparks and playing fields, as well as informal spaces like parks,

woodlands, and beaches.

Play grounds within school grounds were scoped out of the audits as these areas could not be guaranteed to be accessible outwith school opening times. Sites which required paid entry were also scoped out of the audits.

## Assessment of other formal and informal play

The range and variety of other formal and informal play opportunities within the City makes a common and consistent assessment of play quality across these areas challenging. This Play Sufficiency Assessment therefore assesses the quality of other formal and informal play spaces across the Ward by the play opportunities which these can provide. In order to achieve this these spaces have been categorised into the following typologies which have then been mapped for each Ward using a variety of sources.

- Sports areas
- Public parks and gardens
- Amenity greenspace
- Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- Skateparks/bmx tracks/cycletracks
- Cycleways
- Forests and woodlands
- Country parks
- Beaches
- Other

## Aberdeen City Council Open Space Audit:

Aberdeen City Council has undertaken an Open Space Audit of all open space within the City. To complement the play quality assessment of other formal and informal spaces, the Open Space Audit quality scores for significant areas that could contribute to play have been referenced. These are principally the following categories of space:

- Sports areas
- Public parks and gardens
- Amenity greenspace
- Natural/semi natural greenspaces

The Open Space Audit was developed by Aberdeen City Council (the survey is described in more detail in section 3.4 and is included within Chapter 9, Appendices).

## Stakeholder Engagement:

As required by The Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations and Guidance 2023, streets-UK on behalf of Aberdeen City Council, implemented the following methods:



# 3.3 Play Space Audit

- Consulted children, their parents and carers
- Conducted play-based workshops and questionnaires to assess quality in a nursery and in primary, secondary and ASN schools
- Used online surveys to gather feedback from parents and carers on perceptions of safety, accessibility, and adequacy
- Collated responses of the general public on play gathered by Aberdeen City Council in the course of their in-person and online 'Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future' consultation activities
- Collated recently provided views on play adequacy from Aberdeen's community of parents and carers of young people with Additional Support Needs
- Collated the views of community councils gathered by Aberdeen City Council in the course of the 'Your Place, Four Plans, Your Future' consultation.

A summary of engagement can be found in Chapter 5 as well as Ward summaries in Chapter 6.

## Analysis:

Following verification of location and existence of formal equipped play spaces, the collection of the assessment data, and the sourcing of other relevant data sets, the information was then analysed using a series of methods, these included:

- The production of graphs from gathered data to allow a visual presentation of the data findings and comparisons to be made.
- Mapping of results using GIS data
- Overlaying of results with additional GIS data
- Running TRACC travel time analysis software to map accessibility in the form of walking times. To estimate travel time to formal equipped play spaces, walking Isochrones have been generated using TRACC software, with an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr. This software analyses the street and path network (based on OS Mastermap RAMI & OS Mastermap Paths data) to show how long it would take to walk to a formal equipped play space from any area in the City.
- Mapping other formal and informal play opportunities.

Aberdeen City Council produced a Play Space Audit which has been used to score and subsequently assess each formal equipped play space. A copy of the Play Space Audit can be found within Chapter 9, Appendices.

The following describes the Play Space Audit:

## 1. 'Quality of place'

The assessment of 'Quality of place' covered five topics which were used to assess the spaces and settings in which formal equipped play is located. These questions covered:

1. Setting/Visual Amenity
2. Accessibility
3. Maintenance and Security
4. Functionality and Adaptability
5. Natural Environment/Greenspace

## 2. 'Quality of Play'

The Play Space Audit allowed assessment of the specific play opportunities that were available by age group and ability.

Play opportunities were categorised into the following:

- **Physical Play** e.g. running, climbing, swinging
- **Creative Play** e.g. chalk drawing, sound making, pretend play
- **Social Play** e.g. places to hide, quiet places to sit/think/chat

These opportunities were assessed within the following age groups:

- 0-5 years old
- 6-11 years old
- 12-15 years old
- 16-17 years old

These age categories broadly correlate to the stages of a child's physical development and were employed to procure more meaningful data which could inform analysis. This allows better identification of which age groups are best served by the play spaces rather than simply which play places have the greatest provision of equipment.

The survey determined in advance that some criteria would not be applicable to certain age groups and therefore these activities were not included in the assessment. For example, some physical play such as crawling has not been assessed for 16-17 year olds.

The provision of inclusive play (across all age groups) within the physical, creative, and social play categories was also assessed and recorded. These scores contribute to the quality of play scores.

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed and contributed to the quality of play scores.

Within the survey, where a skatepark/bmx track was associated with a play park this was recorded however it's presence did not contribute to the to the quality of play scores recorded.

## 3. Scoring

To enable consistency within the scores given by different assessors a consistent audit method was utilised and each criterion was evaluated with a simple Yes/No scoring system, where 'Yes' is assigned 1 point and 'No' is assigned 0 points. For example:

*Are there trees, bushes, or shrubs?* **Yes/No.**

The total points for each category are then summed to calculate a percentage score.

The results of the Play Space Audit have been used to provide the following results for each formal equipped play space:

- An overall 'Quality of place' score.
- A 'Quality of play' score per age group.
- A 'Quality of play' score across all age groups.
- An 'Overall quality of play' score which combines 'Quality of place' and 'Quality of play' score. This was weighted 50/50 between the 'Quality of place' and 'Quality of play'.

To allow a comparison of data, the scores have been ranked into the following categories:

- 70%+ score is **Very High** (Major strengths, with minimal weaknesses)
- 60%+ score is **High** (Important strengths with areas for improvement)
- 50%+ score is **Reasonable** (Strengths just outweigh weaknesses)
- 40%+ score is **Low** (Important weaknesses)
- >40% score is **Very Low** (Major weaknesses)

Example 'very high' and 'very low' examples across the "Quality of place" and 'Quality of Play' are illustrated overleaf with explanation regarding the elements which influenced these ratings.



# 3.3.1 Example scoring

The images opposite illustrate some examples of ‘very high’ and ‘very low’ scores across the ‘Quality of place’ and ‘Quality of play’ questions based on the responses to the Play Space Audit.

## Quality of play

Generally a higher score for quality of play is obtained by a higher number of elements of equipment which offer different types of play, catering to a wider range of children and young people. A ‘very low’ score does not necessarily mean that the element(s) of play which are provided are bad per say, it just means that they offer limited opportunities for varied play across the physical, creative and social play criteria of the Play Space Audit and across age groups. This can be seen in the ‘very low’ example opposite where the equipment provides limited play opportunities for a limited age group, whilst the actual equipment itself is not necessarily poor quality.

## ‘Quality of place’

The below images provide examples of ‘very high’ and ‘very low’ scoring sites across the “Quality of place” questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 01: Example of ‘very high’ quality of place**  
Site 128, Johnston Gardens East, Lower Deeside: This site scored well due to its pleasant setting and environment, good access from adjacent paths and the provision of seating and picnic benches. Recent vandalism to one element of play lowered it’s score.



**Figure 02: Example of ‘very low’ quality of place**  
Site 85, Formartine Rd, Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen: Although this site is overlooked and away from traffic and noise, the site scored poorly across other criteria in part due to its generally uninviting appearance and lack of seating and picnic benches.

## ‘Quality of play’

The below images provide examples of ‘very high’ and ‘very low’ overall scores across all age groups for the play quality questions of the Survey.



**Figure 03: Example of a ‘very high’ overall play quality**  
Site 153, Duthie Park, Torry/Ferryhill: This site scored well due to a wide range of different play activities catering for a full range of children across all age groups.



**Figure 04: Example of ‘very low’ overall play quality**  
Site 54, John Arthur Court, Den Burn, Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill: This site scored poorly due to the limited range of play activities provided which did not cater well for younger children.



## 3.3.2 Additional survey information recorded

### Comments

Within the Play Space Audit space for comments was included to allow for any notable strengths, and/or weaknesses of the formal equipped play space to be recorded.

### Photographs

Within the survey, photographs were taken to support analysis and to allow examples to be provided within this document.

### Risky or challenging play

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play quality recorded within the main Play Space Audit.

An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-11, 12-15 and 16-17 year old age groups. The 0-5 year demographic was exempted from this assessment as children of this age are more vulnerable and likely to have heavily supervised/assisted play with an adult. Later ages facilitate a more 'hands-off' form of supervision where children have more autonomy in their methods of play.

Within this additional survey, risky and challenging play was assessed on a scale of one to five (where 1 was the least risky/challenging and 5 was the most risky/challenging), across the 6-11, year old, 12-15 year old and 16-17 year old age groups, providing a total score out of 15.

This assessment was undertaken to inform the commentary provided within the summary section for each Ward however the scores from this section of the assessment were not carried forward into the 'Quality of place' and play quality totals provided. For the purposes of this additional survey skateparks/bmx tracks associated with a play park have been included within the assessment where present.

Balancing/Hanging/Swinging/Climbing/ Cycling/Skating/ Scooting were considered to have an elevated element of risk/challenge. Risky and challenging play was assessed by the opportunities afforded to undertake these activities through the following equipment:

- BMX/Cycle Track/Skate Park
- Gliding/Zip Lines
- Climbing (Frames/Monkey Bars/Cargo Nets) – Increased risk will generally apply to equipment tailored to older age groups, however adventure frames still offer modest risk for younger users.
- Swinging (depending on nature of swings) – standing ones/tyre swings are riskier than basket swings and therefore increase score.

If the play area met three of the above bullet points for an age group, then it would score a 4 or 5 (depending on the variety/number or options available for the child).

If a play area met two of the bullet points for an age demographic, a score of 3 was recorded.

Any play spaces that achieved only one bullet point scored one or two with a 2 being given where there was more than one example of the risky play opportunity.



Figure 05: Gliding



Figure 06: Climbing



Figure 07: Swinging



# 3.4 Other formal and informal play space assessment

This Play Sufficiency Assessment assesses the quality of other formal and informal play spaces across the Ward by the play opportunities which these can provide. In order to achieve this, these spaces have been categorised into the following typologies which have then been mapped for each Ward. Areas have been provided to allow assessment of the quantity where appropriate.

- Sports areas
- Public parks and gardens
- Amenity greenspace
- Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- Skateparks/bmx tracks
- Cycletracks
- Forests and woodlands
- Country parks
- Beaches
- Other

To identify these areas the following sources have been used:

- Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit
- OS open space data
- Forestry and Land Scotland's Website
- The Skateparks Project Website
- The Play Space Audit

Descriptive text for each Ward then describes the play quality provided by these spaces, complemented by references to Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit quality results where appropriate and available. A description of the Open Space Audit is included opposite.

## Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit

Aberdeen City Council has undertaken an Open Space Audit of all open space within the City.

The Open Space Audit recorded the principal landuse type of the site and used a number of questions under key themes to assess the quality of the open space. Each site received a score out of five for each of the themes listed below:

- Accessible and Connected Greenspaces
- Attractive and Appealing Places
- Opportunities for Physical Activity
- Community Value
- Biodiversity Value and Habitat Connectivity
- Ecosystem Services

Scores are based on the surveyor's impression of the site, and this provided a broad overview of the quality of spaces including their value and areas for improvement. This can be found in Appendix 2. From the above a rating of **very low, low, average, high** or **very high** was ascribed to the area.

These findings have been used within this Play Sufficiency Assessment to record the quality of other formal and informal spaces for significant areas that could contribute to play, are public, and are free to enter.

These are principally the following designations of space:

- Sports areas
- Public parks and gardens
- Amenity greenspace
- Natural/semi natural greenspaces



# 3.5 Presentation of results

This Play Sufficiency Assessment report presents the results of the Play Space Audit in line with the Play Sufficiency Assessment regulations noted in section 2.1.3. Play spaces have been mapped by both locality (Ward) and by overall local authority area (Aberdeen City)

## Ward

At the locality level, formal equipped play spaces and their audit results have been mapped and assessed alongside other formal and informal play opportunities. This has been presented in the following format:

**Ward Introduction:** This section summarises the Ward, it's neighbourhoods, schools and demographics.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** This presents the Ward specific feedback obtained from engagement.

**Quantity Assessment:** This evaluates the number of formal equipped play spaces in the Ward, their ownership, and their distribution across the area.

**Accessibility Assessment:** This section examines how easily children can access play spaces, considering factors like walking time, bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks. Within this section some of the specific Play Space Audit questions relating to accessibility are also included to provide additional detail.

**Quality Assessment:** This section draws from the scores obtained through the Play Space Audit to present the quality findings. It presents the individual scores for each formal equipped play space within the Ward in a chart form, showing:

- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place'

To allow a comparison of data the scores have been presented as percentages and ranked into the following categories:

- 70%+ score is **Very High** (Major strengths, with minimal weaknesses)
- 60%+ score is **High** (Important strengths with areas for improvement)
- 50%+ score is **Reasonable** (Strengths just outweigh weaknesses)
- 40%+ score is **Low** (Important weaknesses)
- >40% score is **Very Low** (Major weaknesses)

The rating for each formal equipped play space based on 'Overall quality of play' is then presented graphically on a map.

**Quality overview:** A Ward overview is provided showing the percentage of formal equipped play spaces which achieve very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score for each of the following:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

**Other Formal and Informal Play Opportunities:** This section identifies other formal and informal play opportunities located within the Ward and provides a commentary based on a desktop survey and the 'Aberdeen Open Space Audit 2024'. This report notes the quality of individual spaces as rated in the Open Space Audit based on the following numeric scale:

- 21-25 score is **Very High**
- 16-20 score is **High**
- 11-15 is **Average**
- 6-10 is **Low**
- 0-5 is **Very Low**

Further details of the Open Space Audit can be found in the appendices.

**Ward Summary:** A summary is provided on the Quantity, Accessibility and Quality of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward.

The quality section provides commentary on the following:

- The percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieve very high/high/reasonable/low/very low ratings for 'Overall play value'
- 'Quality of place' across the Ward
- Age groups provision across the Ward
- Inclusive physical play provision across the Ward
- Quality range across the Ward
- Risky and challenging play across the Ward

The percentage of formal equipped play areas achieving a rating of reasonable or above is then compared with the City as a whole.

## Aberdeen City

At the overall local authority area level, surveyed formal equipped play spaces and their results have been mapped and assessed alongside other formal and informal play opportunities. This has been presented in the following format:

**Quantity Assessment:** This shows the number of formal equipped play spaces across the City and provides a comparison of the quantity of these against both Ward area and Ward child and young person population. A heat map is provided which illustrates the number of children and young people per formal equipped play space in each Ward, allowing a visual comparison across the City.

**Accessibility Assessment:** This section examines how easily children can access formal equipped play spaces, considering walking times across the City. This is presented in the format of a plan which illustrates 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over walking distances and allows a visual comparison across the City.

**Quality Assessment:** This section presents the percentage of formal equipped play spaces which achieved a 'reasonable' or higher rating within the Ward and produces a heat map to illustrate quality across the City.

**Other Formal and Informal Play Opportunities:** This section identifies other formal and informal play opportunities located across the City and provides a commentary.







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# 4. Context

This chapter sets out the City wide context for the Play Sufficiency Assessment.



# 4.1 Aberdeen City

## 4.1.1 Localities

Aberdeen City, located on Scotland's northeast coast, is a vibrant and diverse urban centre. The city is divided into the following 13 Wards which each contain several neighbourhoods detailed in the following chapters:

Ward	Ward area (Hectares)
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	4797
Bridge of Don	2529
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	423
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	263
Northfield/Mastrick North	313
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	1428
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	332
George St/Harbour	458
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	1125
Torry/Ferryhill	568
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	404
Lower Deeside	4662
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	1532

Figure 08: Ward areas

## 4.1.2 Demographic Data

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

### Population

The total city population is 224,250 of which 43,348 are aged between 0-19 years old (19.3%). This breaks down further to 22,184 0-9 year olds and 23,013 10-19 year olds.

Ward	Total population in Ward	Number of 0-9 year olds in Ward	Number of 10-19 year olds in Ward	Total 0-19 year olds in Ward	% of Ward population who are between 0-19
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	20892	2309	1918	4227	20.2
Bridge of Don	19664	2052	1917	3969	20.2
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	15007	1345	2206	3551	23.7
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	14168	1409	1317	2726	19.2
Northfield/Mastrick North	15933	2027	2075	4102	25.7
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	15290	1620	1715	3335	21.8
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	14394	1159	1219	2378	16.5
George St/Harbour	19773	1188	2491	3679	18.6
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	20186	2030	1963	3993	19.8
Torry/Ferryhill	20237	1782	1806	2726	17.7
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	15677	1544	1444	2988	19
Lower Deeside	16851	1893	1317	2187	13
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	16178	1826	1625	3451	21.3

Figure 09: Ward populations

### Poverty

The Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment (Oct 2023) records: *'In Scotland in 2019/22 an estimated 21% of people were living in relative poverty (below 60% of median income) after housing costs and it is estimated that 57% of those in relative poverty are in working households (i.e. households where at least one person is working). It is estimated that 24% of children in Scotland are living in relative poverty after housing costs'.*

The report goes on to say,

*'Provisional data for 2021/22 estimates that 6,818 children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative Low Income families - up from 6,172 in 2019/20. Almost two-thirds (62.7%) are in working families and 27% are under 5 years old. Over half (55.6%) of children living in relative low income families are in lone parent families'.*

The following table is developed from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023. This gives 6,163 children (0-19 year old) living in poverty (14.2% of the child and young person population). Poverty is not spread equally across the City. The table below illustrates higher rates in Torry/Ferryhill Ward, Northfield and Mastrick North Ward and Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone Wards particularly.

Ward	No. of children and young people living in relative poverty	% of children and young people living in relative poverty
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	971	23
Bridge of Don	304	7.7
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	567	16
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	414	15.2
Northfield/Mastrick North	969	23.6
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	299	9
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	165	6.9
George St/Harbour	462	12.6
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	272	6.8
Torry/Ferryhill	904	33.2
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	228	7.6
Lower Deeside	201	9.2
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	407	11.8

Figure 10: Ward child poverty



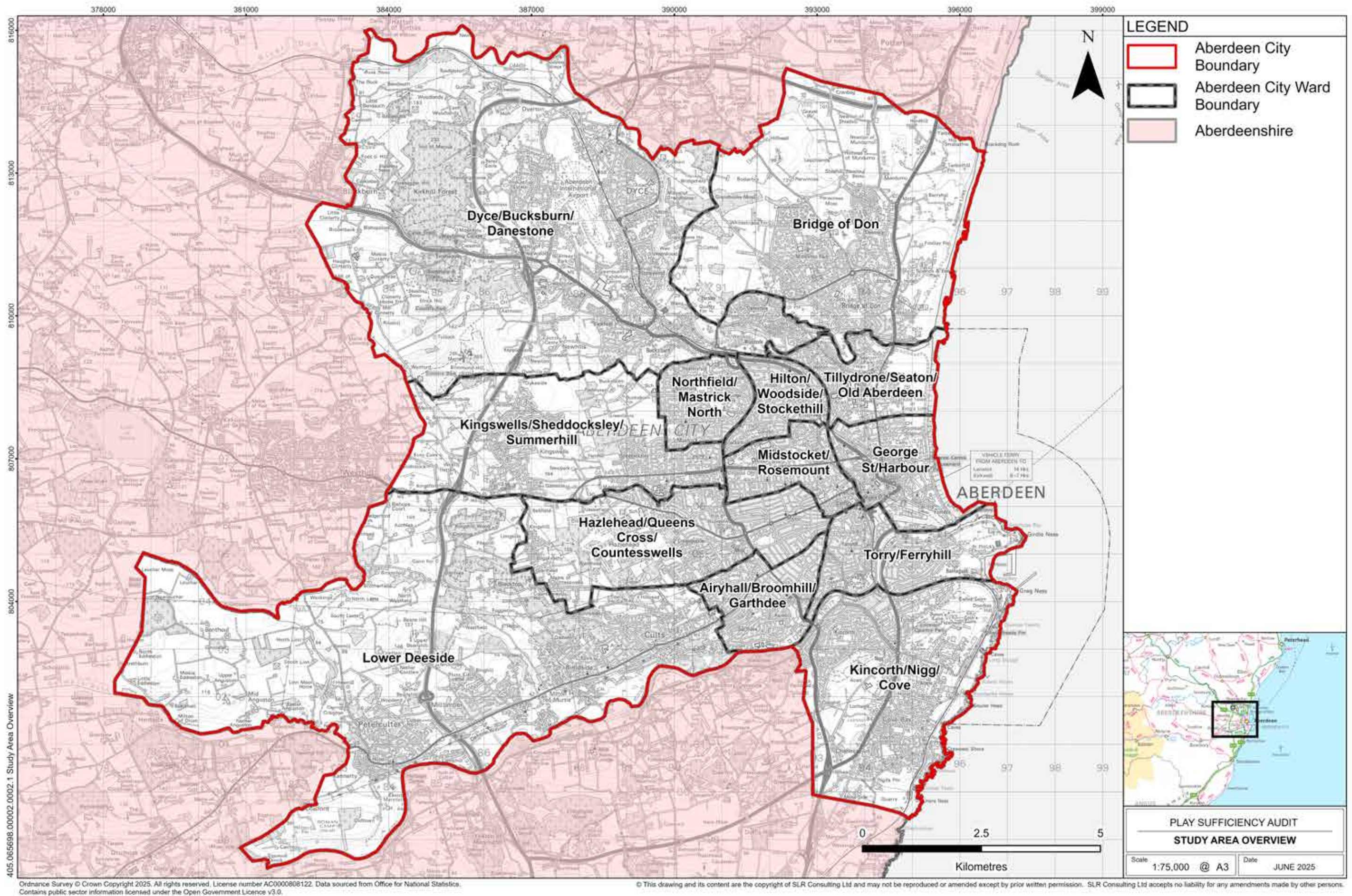


Figure 11: Map illustrating Ward boundaries within Aberdeen City





IN A GROUP MAKE A  
ROUNDABOUT

STREETS

NATURE

DO TEN STAR JUMPS

STAND UP + BE A SPIN

FEET

SECONDS

NATURE

BE A FISH  
FOR 10 SECONDS

MAKE A GROUP BRIDGE  
IN A GROUP

FREE SPIN

PLAY



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# 5. Engagement

This chapter reports the engagement undertaken in relation to the Play Sufficiency Assessment.



# 5.1 Overview

In preparing the Play Sufficiency Assessment, Aberdeen City Council have sought to engage with Children and Young People (under 18), Parents & Carers, Community Councils and the wider Public.

This engagement has comprised:

- An online survey on play and other place-based criteria for public, community councils and other groups as part of the 'Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future' (YPYPYF) multi-strategy engagement programme
- A young person version of the YPYPYF online survey on play and other place-based criteria
- An online survey on play aimed at parents and carers
- In person play workshops with an outdoor nursery, two primary schools and two secondary schools, including a specialist Additional Support Needs wing
- Multiple in-person events with schools and communities as part of the 'Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future' multi-strategy engagement programme
- A bespoke play-based workshop for children with additional support needs, plus their families and caregivers

A detailed overview of the findings of the online consultation and in person engagement events is outlined in the following chapter however the key findings are;

- Engagement responses were received from every Ward, every priority neighbourhood and every school catchment area in the City. Engagement activities took place with children and young people in North, Central and South Wards
- Play and recreation provision scored 4.3 out of 7 in the general public survey. In the parents and carers survey, outdoor play spaces scored 3.3 out of 7.
- The engagement with children at pre-school and primary level suggested they quite liked their local play areas but they want more variety, including opportunities for natural play. They also want increased quantities of popular equipment (especially swings) and better seating and lighting. Tidiness and control of dogs and dog waste also featured regularly.
- Young people at secondary school level interact with play areas at different times from younger children and often closer to schools than their homes. They want more equipment that is age-appropriate and more opportunities to sit and hang out. This could be swings, benches or even concrete skate ramps. Improved lighting and safety would also make the play areas more attractive to this age group.
- Young people with additional support needs and their parents and carers also reflected the points above but further emphasised the need for accessibility and inclusivity. Equipment for all sizes and abilities that can also be challenging and exciting. Accessible equipment central to the play area but not adjacent to very small children. Opportunities for shelter and for nearby parking for both cars and sometimes minibuses. Considered choices of materials, good levels of cleanliness and opportunities for sensory play.
- The main positive themes for parents and carers are cleanliness, safety, accessibility, and range of equipment, particularly in large parks. Parents also noted when spaces were age-appropriate and inclusive. The principal criticisms focused on maintenance issues, vandalism, lack of toilets/seating, and inadequate provision for older children (especially girls) or children with disabilities.
- The general public have an appreciation for the quantity, variety and accessibility of play and recreational spaces. People recognise the value of facilities that cater to all ages. Responses suggest an uneven distribution or quality of play areas, with certain parks not meeting the same standards as others. There is a desire for local play areas that are safe, accessible, and welcoming play environments. The absence of appropriate spaces for older children, in particular, is forcing informal use of streets, car parks, and commercial areas, which raises further issues around safety and public perception.



Figure 12: Balancing in Duthie Park during pre school engagement



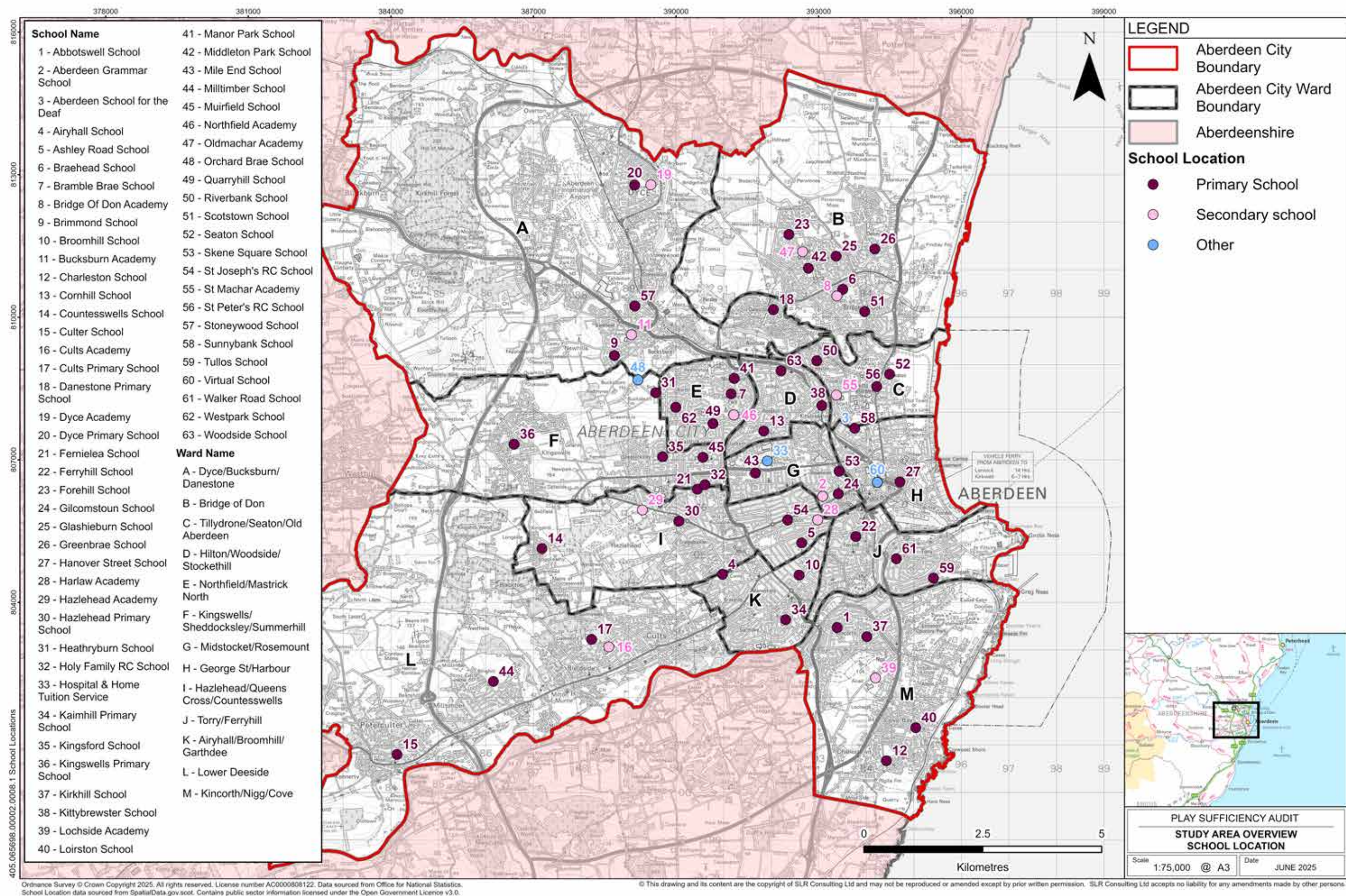


Figure 13: Map illustrating schools within Aberdeen City Wards



# 5.1.1 Engagement & Consultation

Aberdeen City Council sought to maximise involvement with the Play Sufficiency Assessment process by combining a series of focussed play engagement activities and specific play-related surveys with the wider Your Place, Your Plan, Your Future (YPYPYF) consultation which included sections on Play.

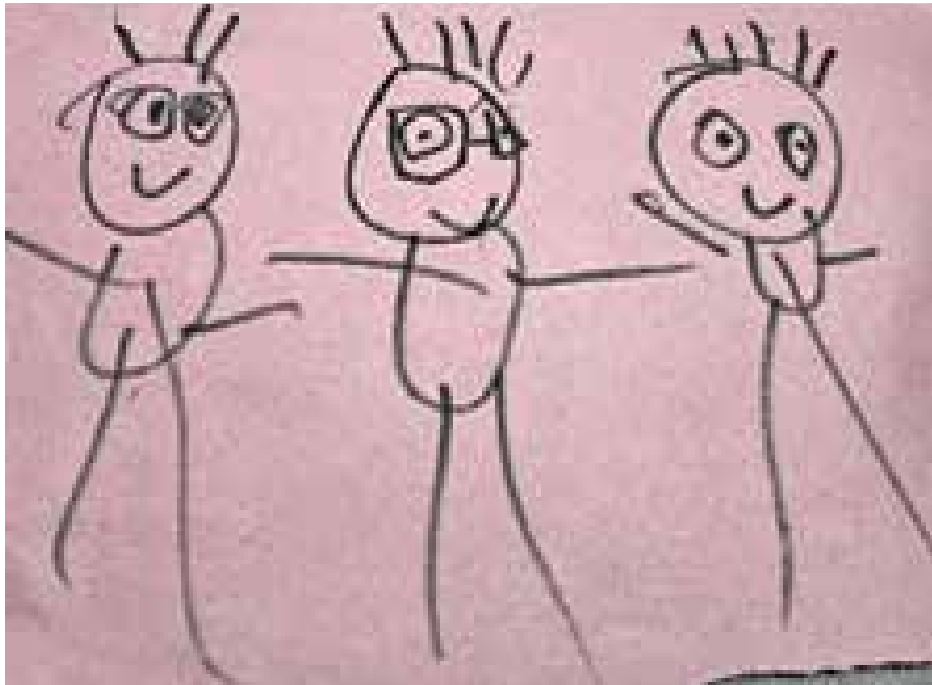


Figure 14: Portrait of engagement team, by Aziza, age 4

# 5.1.2 Pre school

A visit was organised with Duthie Park outdoor nursery to join the children and specialist staff and witness their play and understand their preferences both within the outdoor elements of the nursery itself and the surrounding park and woodland. The children predominantly expressed their preferences for building and creating in a natural play context. Although there is an extensive formal play park adjacent to the nursery, the majority suggested their favourite spaces on a daily basis were the nearby woods and old Deeside railway path.

The staff reinforced this feedback, highlighting that the children want to stay longer within the natural play areas than in the formal play areas and they enjoy the opportunity to make, to invent and to imagine.

*'I love the woods!' – Freddie, age 4*

*'We cut sticks on the railway line' – Hunter, age 3 ½*

*'I love the duck pond and climbing' – Jessica, age 4*

Parents and carers were engaged with at drop-odd and pick up and encouraged to complete the online survey.



Figure 15: Duthie Park outdoor nursery

# 5.1.3 Primary School

The team engaged with the primary 7 classes from both Greyhope Primary School and Gilcomstoun Primary School. They were assisted in delivering these activities by four 'Young Ambassadors' – Ruby, Nicole, Agnes and Moses, 13 and 14 year old secondary pupils from Aberdeen who have been developing their skills in creative consultation for young people with Aberdeen City Council's Creative Learning Team. Their ability to relate to, and connect with, the primary school pupils was very valuable.

For each school, the classes visited two nearby play areas and used the 'Spinny Wheel' to choose questions about the play area and to encourage discussion. The questions either led to scoring the play area by positioning along a mega rope from 'poor' to 'excellent' or to small group discussions. The main themes were; Quality – (rope); Exciting – (rope); More of... (Discussion); Don't like... (Discussion); Clean – (rope); After dark! (discussion); seating – (rope)

The classes then returned indoors to take part in a creative workshop with games related to four elements of the YPYPYF engagement:

- Where I Go and What I do (Another Spinny Wheel);
- How do I get From One Place to Another;
- How I feel and how I care;
- What I need to live well

The games, which were co-designed and facilitated by the Young Ambassadors, included 'Emotional Jenga', 'Spinny Wheel' and 'Roll of the Dice'. The children went round the games in small groups of 5.

The responses related to play form part of this report.



Figure 16: Roll the dice



Figure 17: Spinny wheel



Greyhope Primary School

The P7 classes took the team to the two play areas nearest to the school, known to the children as The ‘Tattie Field’ and Logie Park, both on North Grampian Circle.

The Tattie Field		
<b>Spin 1</b>		
After dark!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Park and nearby streets too dark</li><li>• Would go more if better lighting</li></ul>	
<b>Spin 2</b>		
Don't like...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grass too long and too bumpy to play</li><li>• Lack of seating</li><li>• Dirty and too much dog poo</li><li>• Basketball hoops too high for younger kids and no nets</li><li>• Too empty and boring</li></ul>	
<b>Spin 3</b>		
Seating (1=good, 3 = bad)	<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is none</li></ul>
<b>Spin 4</b>		
More of...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Swings</li><li>• Stuff to play on</li><li>• Shelter</li><li>• Lighting</li><li>• benches</li></ul>	

Logie Park		
Spin 1		
Exciting (1=good, 3 = bad)	2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More than 50% come here twice a week</li><li>• Very fun place to play</li><li>• Lots of trees to climb</li><li>• Want more swings and slides</li><li>• Fun on bike on the hill</li></ul>
Spin 2		
Clean (1=good, 3 = bad)	1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broken glass</li><li>• Vandalism</li><li>• Dog poo</li></ul>
Spin 3		
Quality (1=good, 3 = bad)	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See above</li></ul>



Figure 18: Spin 3 at The Tattie Field ‘seating’



Figure 19: Spin 3 at Logie Park ‘quality’

‘Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future’ Play Responses

Where is your favourite place to play in your neighbourhood?

- The football pitch at Greyhope School
- Friend’s house
- Local park
- Golf Course
- Duthie Park
- Balnagask Park
- Other parks in Torry

What are the parks like in your neighbourhood?

- They are quite filthy but fun. Children in the park make friends.
- Duthie Park is good
- I go to my local park
- I play on the golf course next to my house
- Logie Park, it has a slide and some fun places to play



Gilcomstoun Primary School

The P7 class took the team to Skene Street play park and Jack’s Brae play park, both near the school.

Skene Street Play Park	
Spin 1	
After dark!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes, my house is near here, it would be ok</li><li>• No, not able to see, people could hide</li><li>• Lots of lights behind the trees would make it better</li><li>• No lights can't see, maybe fairy lights between the railings</li><li>• Decorate the trees with lanterns and lights</li><li>• More people make it safer - Northern Lights watching during night maybe?</li><li>• too dangerous as won't see uneven paths</li><li>• Younger kids won't come</li></ul>
Spin 2	
Clean (1=good, 3 = bad)	<b>2.5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sticks and leaves everywhere - should be removed</li><li>• Lots of litter and rubbish</li><li>• Broken glass on area that isn't grassy</li></ul>
Spin 3	
Quality (1=good, 3 = bad)	<b>2.2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More benches</li><li>• Make it look better</li><li>• More looked after</li><li>• More things to do and play on</li><li>• Better entrance from street</li><li>• No dogs</li><li>• Add football goals to flat bit</li></ul>
Spin 4	
Exciting (1=good, 3 = bad)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not exciting</li><li>• Nothing to do</li><li>• Add more stuff</li><li>• Not enough for older kids</li><li>• Only one swing</li><li>• Like that there lots of space</li><li>• More swings and slides - it's a bit boring</li></ul>

Jack's Brae play park	
Spin 1	
Seating (1= good, 3 = bad)	<b>2.4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• more swings</li><li>• more seats or benches</li><li>• don't need more seating</li><li>• can't sit on ground</li><li>• seating should be cleaner</li></ul>
Spin 2	
More of...	<b>2.5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• slides - big one from top to bottom (several comments)</li><li>• swings - more and bigger</li><li>• stuff for older kids</li><li>• play house</li><li>• shelter, covered seating</li><li>• bigger climbing frame</li><li>• monkey bars</li><li>• hotspots</li><li>• ski area</li><li>• ping pong</li><li>• soft surfaces</li><li>• things that don't spin - get's dizzy</li><li>• mini inflatable</li><li>• bird food places</li></ul>



Figure 20: Spinny wheel at Jack’s Brae play park

‘Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future’ Play Responses

Where are the best play spaces in your neighbourhood?  
(1 is amazing, 5 is rubbish)

- Victoria Park 1
- Westburn Park 1
- Seamount Park 3
- Duthie Park 4

What do you like about the places that you play?

- I like the people and the play equipment
- I like Westburn Park because it is local. Also the stuff to play on
- I like the equipment
- I like the swings in one of the parks and I like the grass.
- I like the equipment in Victoria Park

Are there enough play spaces where you live? Yes/No

- Yes
- Yes because it has a lot of space
- Yes
- Yes, I live near 2 parks
- Yes



Figure 21: Spin 2 ‘clean’ at Skene Street Play Park



5.1.4 Secondary Schools

St Machar Academy

The team engaged with a mixed S2 Outdoor Learning class at St Machar Academy during the school's activities week on 27th May 2025.

As with the primary schools, the 18 pupils visited two nearby parks with play areas and used the 'Spinny Wheel' to chose questions about the play area and to encourage discussion. The questions either led to scoring the play area by positioning along a mega rope from 'poor' to 'excellent' or to small group discussions. The main themes were; Quality – (rope); Exciting – (rope); More of... (Discussion); Don't like... (Discussion); Clean – (rope); After dark! (discussion); seating - (rope).

The parks were St Machar Park and Scott's Park, both close to the school. Not many of the young people use them outside school hours as they generally don't live nearby. They are used a lot at lunchtime, however, especially Scott's Park, which has a small shop adjacent.

The classes then returned indoors to take part in a creative workshop with games related to four elements of the YPYPF engagement:

- Where I Go and What I do (Another Spinny Wheel);
- My Hang Out Places (Play Your Cards Right);
- How I feel and how I care (Emotional Jenga);
- What I need to live well (Roll of the Dice)

The young people went round the games in small groups of 4 or 5.

Scott's Park play area	
Spin 1	
Quality (1=good, 3 = bad)  Conversations were widened to include all the parks near where the young people live	<b>1.3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looks nicer (than St Machar) , I like the wood</li><li>• It needs more bins and seats</li><li>• I don't like how the ZIP line is always broken, but today it's not!</li><li>• There is always noodles on the ground after lunch!</li><li>• There is graffiti too</li><li>• I like the natural colours</li><li>• I like how there is more space in between the things to play on and they are more spaced out</li><li>• Criticised for lack of swings and a broken zipline.</li><li>• Hidden areas raised safety concerns.</li><li>• Not seen as suitable for all age groups.</li><li>• Very limited seating – only a couple of benches with no extra space.</li><li>• The trees are fun to lay on and its nice and green</li><li>• Looks nicer, wood, clean, bins</li><li>• Don't like Slide should be bigger</li><li>• Not much equipment would like monkey bars</li><li>• Astro turf has no fencing, so ball gets kicked out</li><li>• No proper seating – want benches to sit and eat at</li><li>• Would like tower spins (like the Spider ropes)</li><li>• Good having shop</li><li>• *Observation young people (particularly the boys) were more relaxed and happy playing in this park</li></ul>



Figure 22: Climbing in Scott's Park Play Area

St Machar Park Play Area	
Spin 1	
Exciting (1=good, 3 = bad)  Conversations were widened to include all the parks near where the young people live	<b>2.2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most use parks closer to their homes such as Printfield &amp; Tilly high rises</li><li>• St Machar Park is used more for lunch hangout - more picnic bench type seating to sit and have snacks</li><li>• Many miss the large ramp where they used to sit and chat</li><li>• Play equipment should be more spread out</li><li>• Not much to do for older age</li><li>• Parkour - more areas for climbing</li><li>• More older swings and climbing frames</li><li>• Seaton Park good example of great park - big bowl to sit in ... would like this kind of thing in our park. We would like tyre swings, better use of space - more equipment like a zipline. Nets for goal posts, more seating canopies, areas to sit and eat at. (kids requesting more for their park at Printfield).</li><li>• Park next to high rise flats Tilly - fix stuff that's damaged. Create quiet areas in parks. Door/gate (not locked) to park makes it feel safer</li><li>• Rubbish!</li><li>• They have taken the best things away ( the skatepark ramps). Me and my friend sat there chatting for ages</li><li>• There is lots for young kids but not older ones, like bigger climbing things or parkour</li><li>• I want the skatepark back</li></ul>
Spin 2	
After Dark...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Park not safe - Tilly isn't safe area, drink &amp; drugs</li><li>• Teenagers running about</li><li>• More lighting on park and around white Brite lighting</li><li>• High fence (open fence)</li><li>• No dog policy (dog poo)</li><li>• more police.</li><li>• Other children said they felt safe in this park.</li><li>• No there is not enough lighting</li><li>• It needs more lights</li><li>• More lights</li></ul>
Spin 3	
More of...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better lighting</li><li>• More seating/hang out spaces shelter (but not like the pod more picnic style)</li><li>• High fencing (that can still be seen through)</li><li>• More exciting equipment suitable for older age range spread out across park</li><li>• Popular features included a parkour ramp, bike ramp, and zipline.</li><li>• Seating made from logs and planks, that was shaded is wanted.</li><li>• It needs more places to sit and more shelter</li><li>• Bigger things to do for bigger young people</li><li>• Space to shelter from the weather</li><li>• Places to sit</li><li>• An access swing for people with disabilities</li><li>• More tunnels and structures</li><li>• events</li></ul>



Bucksburn Academy Additional Support Needs Wing

The team also engaged with pupils within the Additional Support Needs wing at Bucksburn Academy on 29th May 2025. Due to time constraints and poor weather, the session was held indoors in the hall but this allowed the group of 35 pupils and 12 teaching and support staff to break into 3 groups and have constructive discussions. The group discussions went in slightly different directions but all focussed on play and the specific needs and desires of young people with additional support needs. The ‘Where I Go and What I do’ Spinny Wheel was utilised by two of the groups

It’s worth noting that most of the children attending this session were not from the Bucksburn area and came to school on bus from all around Aberdeen. The playground is seen as two distinct areas: The Big Playground & The Small Playground.



Figure 23: Children and young people consulted at Bucksburn Academy Additional Support Needs Wing

	Group 1
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Several of the young people highlighted the maze at Hazlehead Park as being fun and exciting</li><li>Seaton Park and Duthie Park also mentioned often</li><li>Group suggested Hazlehead Park has most accessible equipment and also enjoy the zoo. Good parks and equipment are learnt about by word of mouth</li><li>indoor areas or some form of shelter is important</li><li>needs to be more age-appropriate kit</li><li>outdoor gyms would be good</li><li>Want to be separated from little kids</li><li>Hazlehead Park <b>(Exciting 6/7)</b>.</li><li>Maze fun if a crowd, lots of choice, zip line is fun, swing in new bit is fun, like pets’ corner</li><li>Love jumping with Dad. Happy at Innoflate but very expensive</li><li>Older parks should be refurbished and looked after</li><li>There should be free ice-cream!</li></ul>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>some have fear of heights</li><li>want bigger equipment away from smaller kids</li><li>Dogs should always be on leads</li><li>Better lighting would help</li></ul>
Accessible <b>3.5/7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Car parking is important, not just at destination parks</li><li>Parking for mini buses also important at bigger parks</li></ul>
Don’t Like...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>young kids</li><li>bad cleaning</li><li>rubbish</li><li>dog poo</li></ul>
Quality <b>4.5/7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Variety is good</li><li>Maze is fun but also feels safe</li><li>More places needed to hang out, shelter, wi-fi</li><li>More age and size appropriate equipment</li><li>Areas undercover needed, such as a gazebo, especially for special needs</li></ul>

Group 2		
Talking About Your School Playground at Bucksburn Academy		
	The Big Playground	The Small Playground (is enclosed and secure)
What do you like about it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Can sit under trees</li><li>Large space to run around</li><li>Can use the space after school to play football and basketball</li><li>Nice big playground but it often feels empty</li><li>Lots of grass</li><li>Basketball Hoops are cool</li><li>Football Goals are well used</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nice safe place to be</li><li>There is a basket swing</li><li>Grass</li></ul>
What do you not like about it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Not enough for juniors to do</li><li>There are no monkey bars</li><li>There isn’t a challenging climbing frame</li><li>Existing Climbing Frame should be slightly harder</li><li>There isn’t a climbing wall</li><li>There isn’t an outdoor ping pong table</li><li>Not much to do</li><li>There isn’t a shelter for us to go into</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Too small, not enough to do</li><li>Small playground, often too many people in it</li><li>Junior classes tend to go there</li></ul>

Group 2	
Talking About Your School Playground in general at Bucksburn Academy	
Seating Score: <b>1/7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only 2 benches in the playground</li><li>They are not comfortable</li><li>We need seating for different sizes of people</li><li>We need soft seating</li><li>We need shaded seating</li><li>We need seating where we can talk to our friends in groups</li><li>We need groups of seats</li><li>Groups can only sit on the grass which is often muddy</li><li>We need accessible seats</li></ul>
Quality Score: <b>4/7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Its not terrible, not the best</li><li>Rubbish goes everywhere</li><li>Maintenance is ok</li></ul>
Exciting Score: <b>2/7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Its ok but there isn’t so much to do</li><li>Duthie Park and Seaton Park are examples of exciting parks</li><li>If we want to make our playground more exciting, we need to think about vandalism</li></ul>
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It’s really important</li><li>There are no wheelchair swings in the school grounds</li><li>Everyone should be able to access a park and a play area</li></ul>
After Dark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Seaton Park is not lit well at night, and I don’t even like going out if a place is well lit.</li><li>I’m not allowed out in the dark</li><li>I don’t like going out in the dark</li><li>I feel unsafe in the dark</li></ul>



Group 2	
Talking About Your Local Parks	
Seaton Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There's a river there</li><li>• Lots of nature</li><li>• Good fun to go there</li><li>• Rugby field there</li><li>• Circular walk is really great</li></ul>
Duthie Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Really good play park</li><li>• Lots of space and trees</li><li>• Winter Gardens are really good</li><li>• Good big park area</li><li>• Spongy soft play surface is great.</li></ul>
Hazlehead Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lovely new park with lots of play equipment</li><li>• It's really lovely</li><li>• Great facilities</li><li>• Slides and swings are really fun</li></ul>
Victoria Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No play equipment</li><li>• Lots of trees and paths</li><li>• Mainly for dog walking</li></ul>
Other Parks mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crookie Park</li><li>• Bankhead Park</li><li>• Woodend Park</li><li>• Westburn Park</li><li>• Fittie Park</li><li>• Union Terrace Garden</li></ul>

Group 2	
What would the best park and plays park in the world look like?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cars on a track</li><li>• Huge trampolines in the ground</li><li>• Obstacle courses</li><li>• Glass in curvy walls that you can look through</li><li>• Really long and fast slides</li><li>• Spiral slides</li><li>• Big swings to swing with your friends – basket swings</li><li>• Lots of colourful flowers</li><li>• Lots of nature</li><li>• Zip Lines, really long ones</li><li>• Climbing Walls</li><li>• Jumping Pillows</li><li>• Spaces to go down into tunnels under the park</li><li>• Climbing frames that are more challenging. Climbing frames with rope and a basket at the top to sit in are really fun</li><li>• Union Terrace gardens is a good example of a park with lots of interesting things to see and do.</li><li>• Stonehaven has a great climbing frame.</li><li>• Balmedie has a really good climbing frame.</li></ul>	

Group 3	
Where I go and what I think about those places	
Close by – The Big Playground and the small playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is not much there, I like playing hide and seek in the big park but I know all the best places to hide</li><li>• I like hide and seek</li><li>• There are no lights</li><li>• There is no where to go if it is raining</li><li>• no lights</li></ul>
Bucksburn park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• it's the BEST</li><li>• it has accessible things too</li><li>• it good because there are big AND small things to do if I am scared</li><li>• the bouncy ground so you don't hurt yourself</li><li>• there is no swing for wheelchair users</li></ul>
Hazlehead Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I like the different levels but there is nothing to do when you get to each level (accessibility is good but no activity)</li></ul>
Duthie Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is good for bigger and smaller children to play. It is amazing</li><li>• I like the swing and the big slide</li></ul>
Johnston Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I like having the space to play with my ball</li></ul>
Union Terrace Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The bigger the better!</li><li>• I LOVE the letters ABERDEEN. I would like other letters so I can practise my spelling. Light up ones!</li><li>• The spinny blue ball is the best, it is fun</li><li>• The noise making is fun!</li></ul>
Northfield's Hub Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The really tall ship is fun and you can go inside</li></ul>
Airyhall School Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has really good accessible swings</li></ul>

Group 3
Other Suggestions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety is important</li><li>• There need to be fences</li><li>• They need lights</li><li>• A big basket ball court would be good</li><li>• More accessible swings</li><li>• Trees for hiding in</li><li>• Hills to roll down and have a soft landing</li><li>• Shelter under trees</li><li>• Monkey bars</li><li>• Separate areas for big and small things too do. Tall and small so it is not too scary and high for everyone and different ages</li><li>• Hammocks</li><li>• Pirate ships</li><li>• Composite material is too hot to use when it is sunny</li><li>• Have different levels of seating for accessible and different ages to be on the same level when sitting for picnics</li><li>• Sensory is important within the park</li><li>• Different levels of soft jumping off areas</li><li>• Printed games on the ground</li><li>• Sensory wall</li><li>• Some space to shelter when it rains</li><li>• Basket ball hoops</li><li>• Hide and seek areas</li><li>• Have places to keep your things whilst you play, like a locker. Also for prams</li><li>• A race track!</li><li>• More toilets</li></ul>



Figure 24: The spinny wheel



# 5.1.5 Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future Online Survey for Young People

A young persons' version of the 'Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future' multi-strategy engagement programme was made available via a link on the Commonplace platform hosting the adult version and was also distributed to schools and other youth groups through Groupcall Messenger and Aberdeen's Community Planning Partnership network.

There were 59 surveys returned, 39 completed the section on 'Play' and 10 completed the section on 'Places to have fun'. The average age of the respondents was 10.5 years.

The result are shown in locality areas (Central, North, and South) rather than Wards. These locality areas are used as the basis of discussion in Aberdeen City Council's Locality Plans. Central comprises the areas between the River Dee and the River Don approximately, the North is the area to the north of the A944, and South is the area to the south of the A944.

Individual comments from respondents are outlined by Ward in Chapter 6, under each Ward.

- In terms of Play, the survey asked the following questions;
- In your local area, where do you, other young people and younger children choose to play or meet up?
  - What's good about the places you choose to meet up and play in?
  - What could be improved about the places you choose to meet up and play in?
- For 'Places to Have Fun, the survey asked the following questions;
- When thinking about nearby places to play and have fun, what is good now?
  - When thinking about nearby spaces to play and have fun in, what would make such spaces better?
  - Give the fun play spaces in your area a score: 1, 2 or 3 (not good, okay or great)

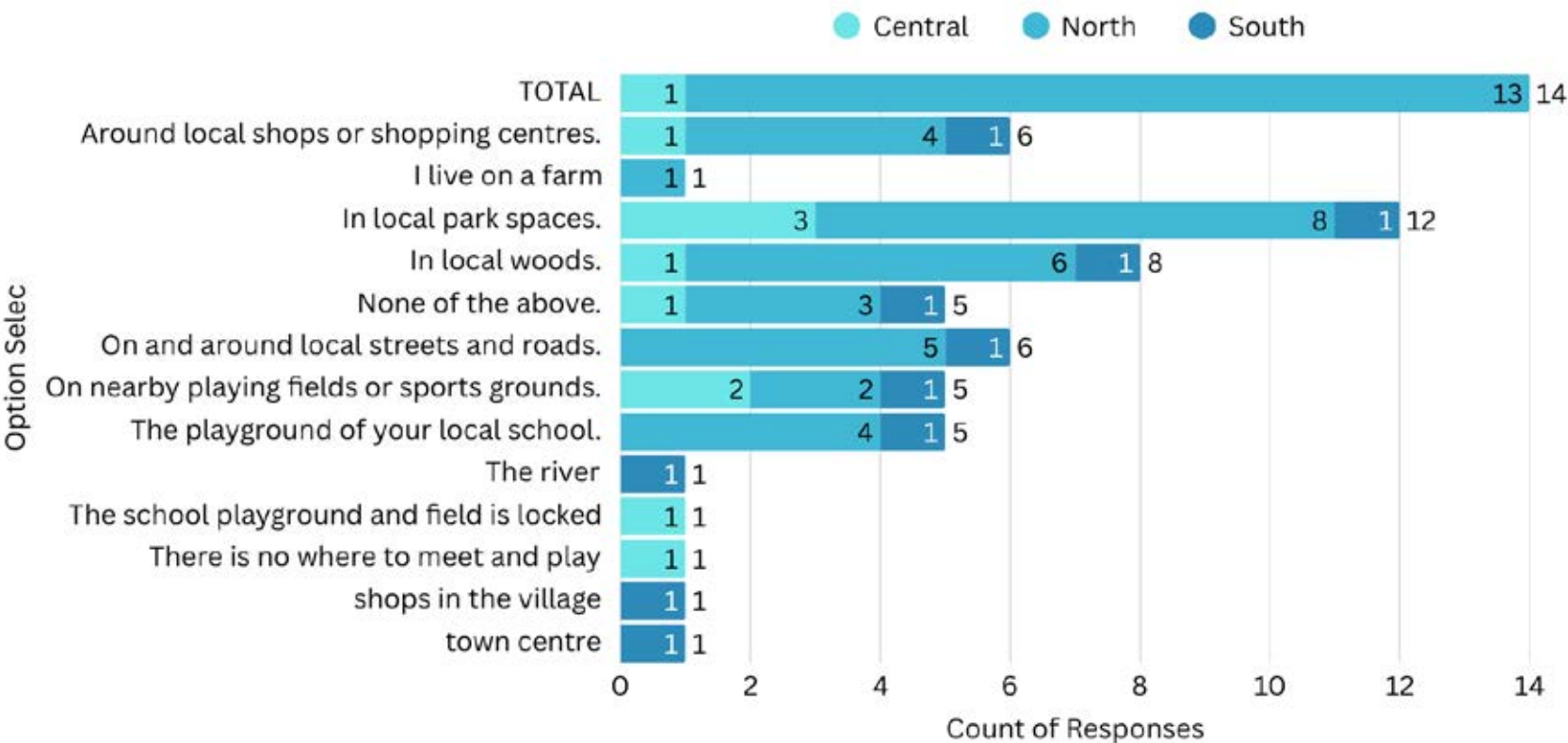


Figure 25: In your local area, where do you, other young people and younger children choose to play or meet up?

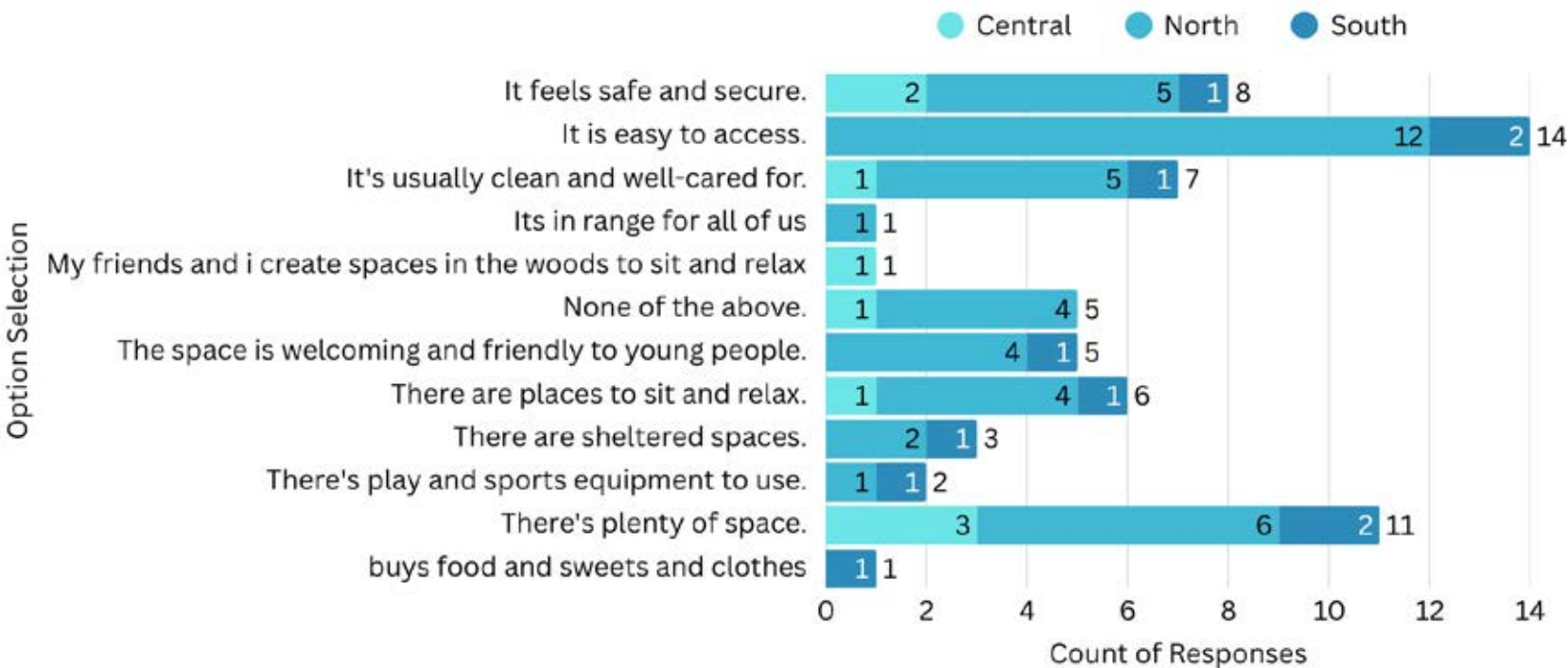


Figure 26: What's good about the places you choose to meet up and play in?



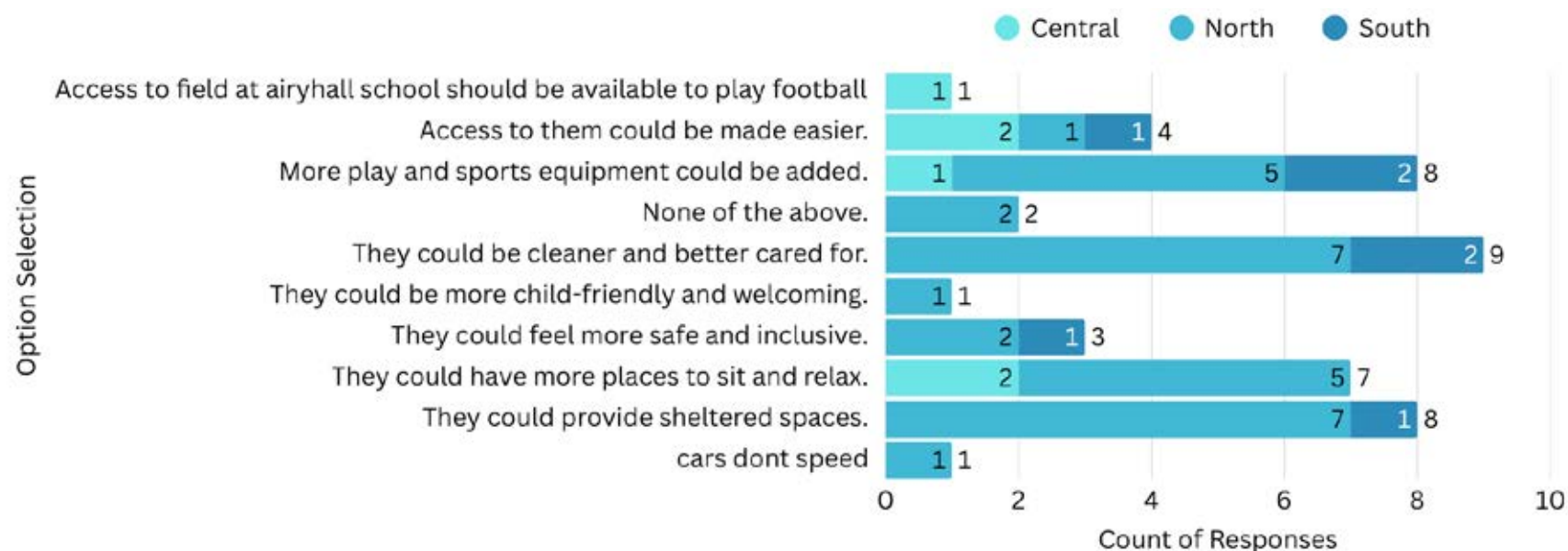


Figure 27: What could be improved about the places you choose to meet up and play in?

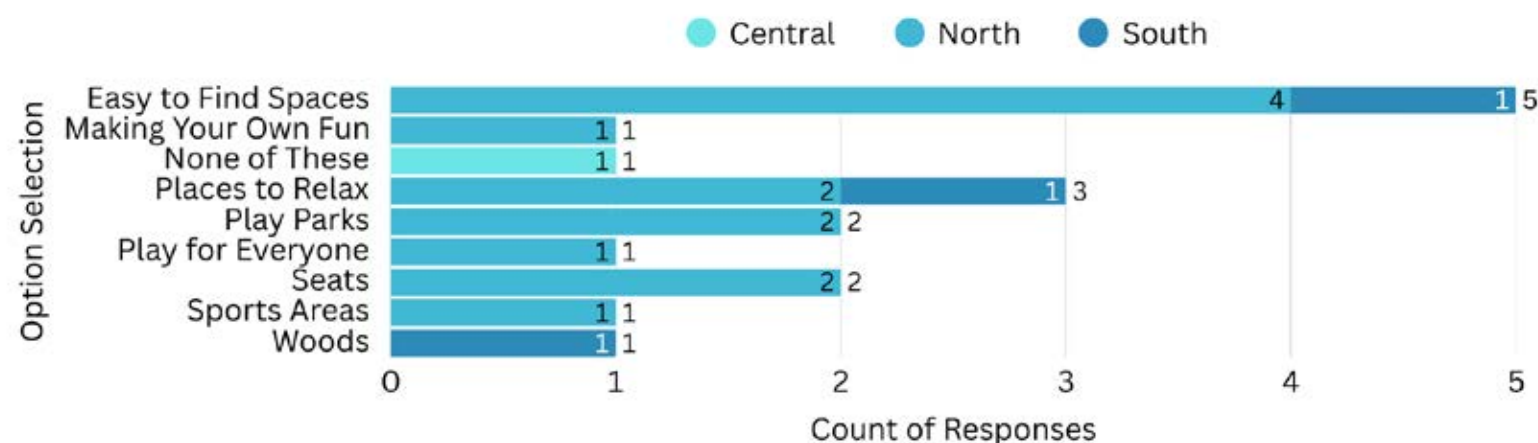


Figure 28: When thinking about nearby places to play and have fun, what is good now?



Figure 29: When thinking about nearby spaces to play and have fun in, what would make such spaces better?

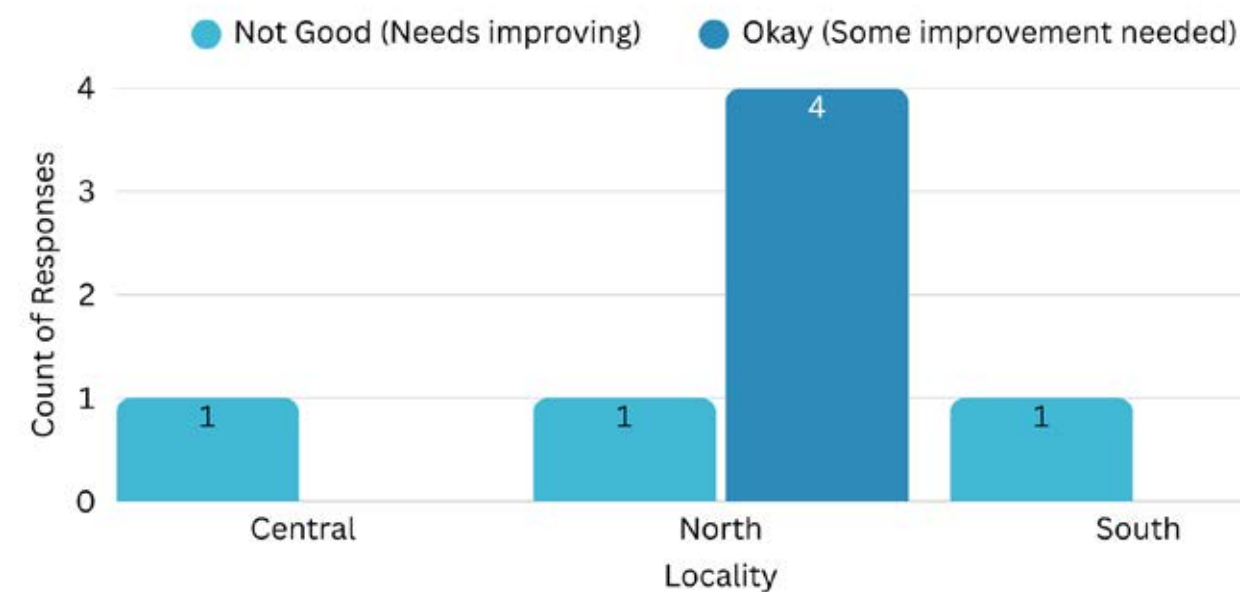


Figure 30: Give the fun play spaces in your area a score: 1, 2 or 3 (not good, okay or great)



# 5.1.6 Parents and Carers

An online survey was prepared through Google Forms and shared widely via Aberdeen City Council's Groupcall Messenger, SeeSaw and at in person engagement events. 406 responses were received.

The result are shown in locality areas (Central, North, and South) rather than Wards. These locality areas are used as the basis of discussion in Aberdeen City Council's Locality Plans. Central comprises the areas between the River Dee and the River Don approximately, the North is the area to the north of the A944, and South is the area to the south of the A944.

## Question 1 – Are you..?

98% of those completing the survey identified as Parents

## Question 2 – What age young people are you thinking about when you answer this?

- 0-5 years 146 responses
- 6-11 years 346 responses
- 12-17 years 119 responses

## Question 3 - What school does the young person go to?

All 66 educational establishments in the drop-down list were represented.

## Question 4 - How would you score the availability of places for children and/or teenagers to play and hang out outdoors in your local area?

Rank from 1 to 7 (1 = really bad, 7 = excellent)

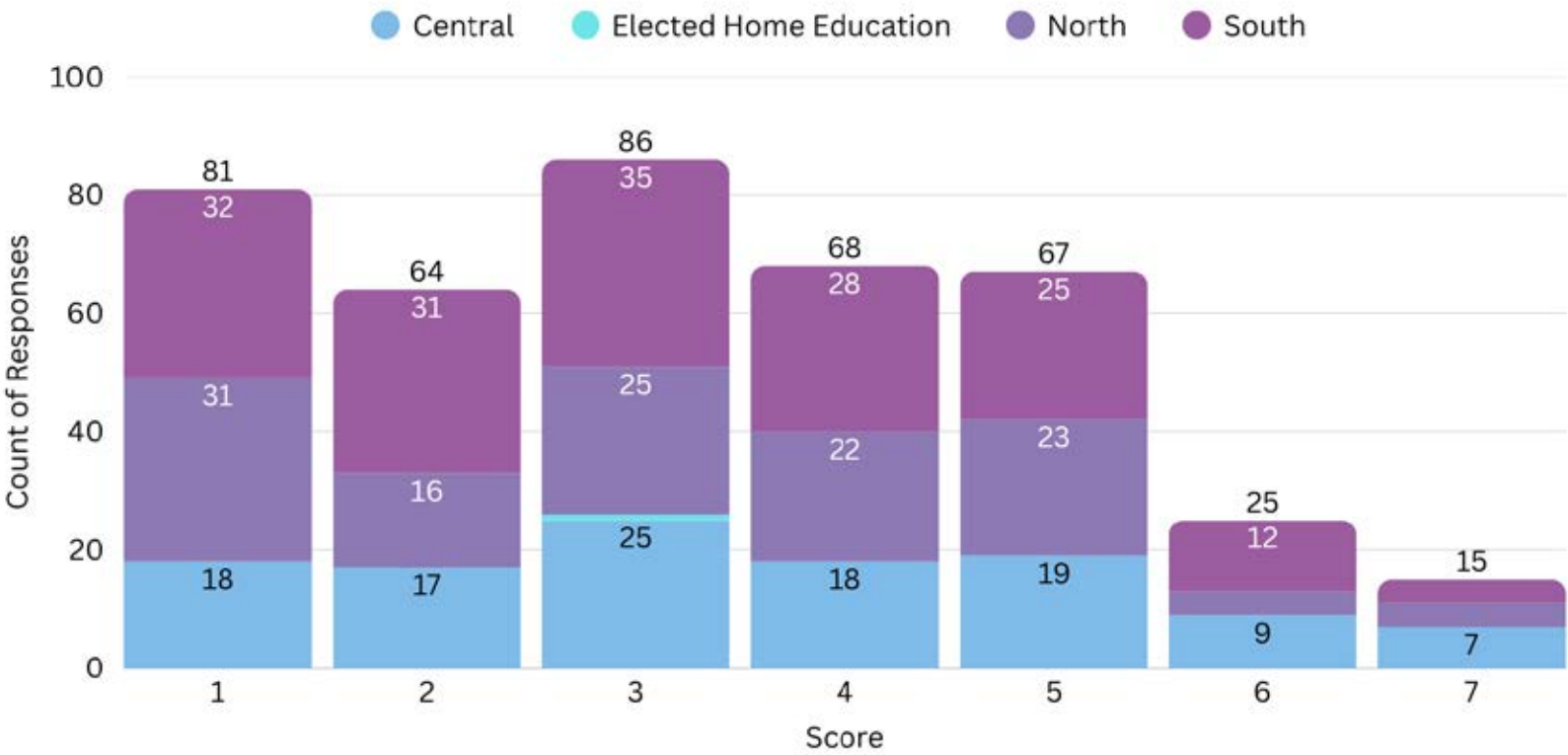


Figure 31: Responses to 'Availability of places for children and/or teenagers to play and hang out outdoors'



**Question 5 - Please name up to three outdoor places where children and teenagers mostly play or hang out in your local area**

A full cross-section of formal and informal play areas as well as areas of nature, retail and leisure outlets, gardens and clubs were highlighted across South, Central and North Aberdeen.

**Interpretation:**

Children and teenagers tend to play in public parks (like Duthie, Hazlehead, Westburn), school playgrounds, and informal urban spaces such as streets, grassy areas, or behind shops.

**Consensus:**

Parks remain central to children and young people’s play across all areas.

Teenagers are less visible in designated play spaces and often gather in informal or under-supervised spaces.

Neutral sentiment dominates, suggesting most respondents were listing places without strong emotional reactions.

**Question 6 - How would you score the outdoor play spaces in your local area?**

(When scoring, maybe consider things like seating, how safe it feels, lighting, cleanliness, state of repair, how easy it is to get to, is it suitable for different ages, range of equipment, any activities missing, are toilets available)

Rank from 1 to 7 (1 = really bad, 7 = excellent)

**The overall average rating was 3.34**

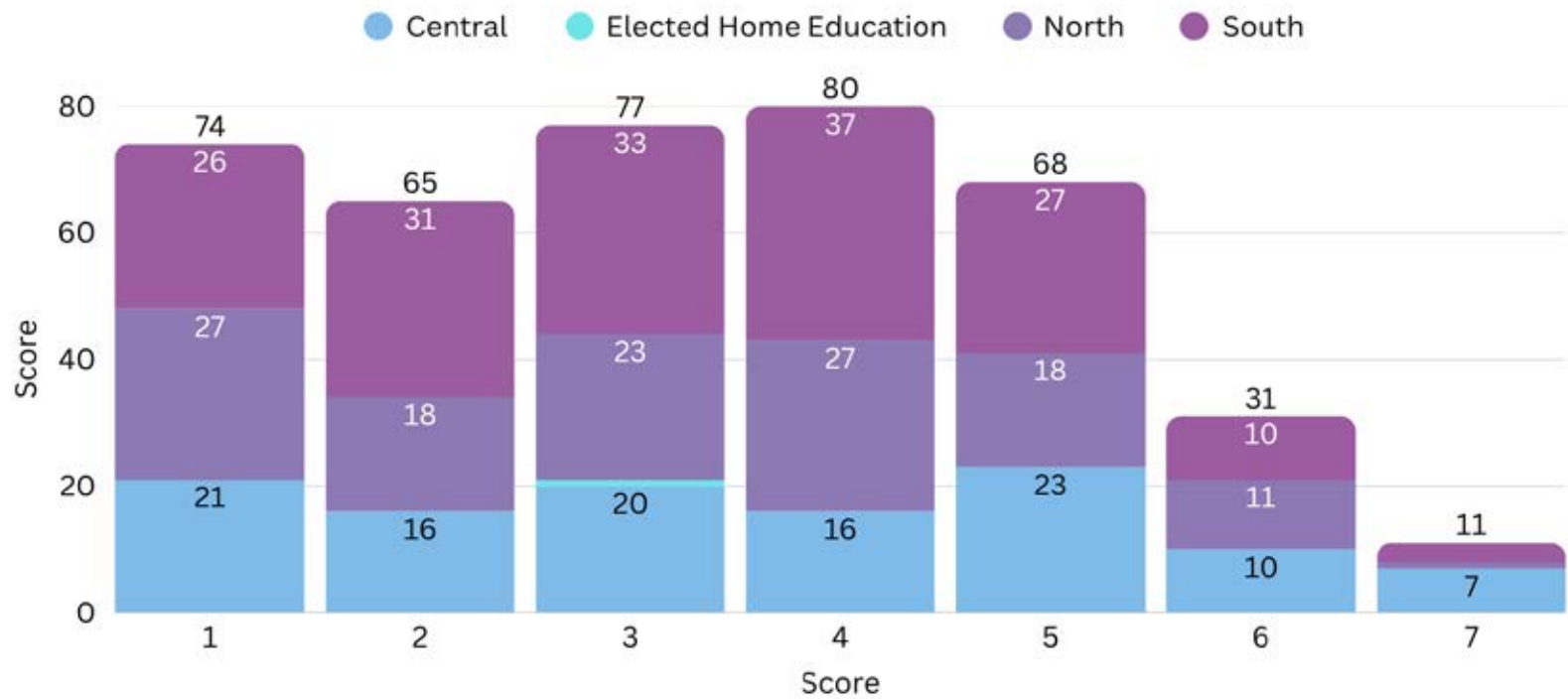


Figure 32: Responses to 'How would you score the outdoor play spaces in your local area?'



**Question 7 – Based on your score above, please describe what is good about the outdoor play spaces within your local area?**

**Topics and recurring words:**

Clean and accessible – clean, equipment, well, nice, easy  
Open spaces and natural areas – area, grass, field, natural, open  
Good facilities – park, swings, slides, equipment, space  
Community value – children, enjoy, safe, lots, good

**Notable Positive Comments:**

*“Clean, well maintained, age-appropriate equipment”*  
*“Safe and inclusive play parks with plenty to do”*  
*“Suitable for all ages, up to standard equipment, easily accessible”*  
*“There is a local park which has great facilities for children up to around age 10, it’s clean and well maintained”*

**Interpretation:**

The main positive themes are cleanliness, safety, accessibility, and range of equipment, particularly in large parks. Parents also noted when spaces were age-appropriate and inclusive.

**Consensus:**

- Central and North localities show strong positive sentiment. South had fewer responses, but still skewed positive or neutral .
- High-quality destination parks like Hazlehead and Duthie are frequently praised.
- Respondents appreciate well-maintained areas with thoughtful design.

**Question 8 - Also based on your score above, please describe what is bad about the outdoor play spaces within your local area?**

**Topics and key words:**

Poor maintenance – broken, dirty, old, vandalised, damaged  
Lack of facilities – toilets, equipment, shade, lighting, seating  
Not inclusive – older, teenagers, small, suitable, unsafe  
Access issues – transport, far, dangerous, path, parking

**Notable Negative Comments:**

*“Equipment broken or vandalised regularly”*  
*“Needs upgraded , dated swings and no skate parks”*  
*“No shade or shelter, very little for older kids”*  
*“Playparks not accessible for children with disabilities”*  
*“Dog mess/dogs off the lead”*

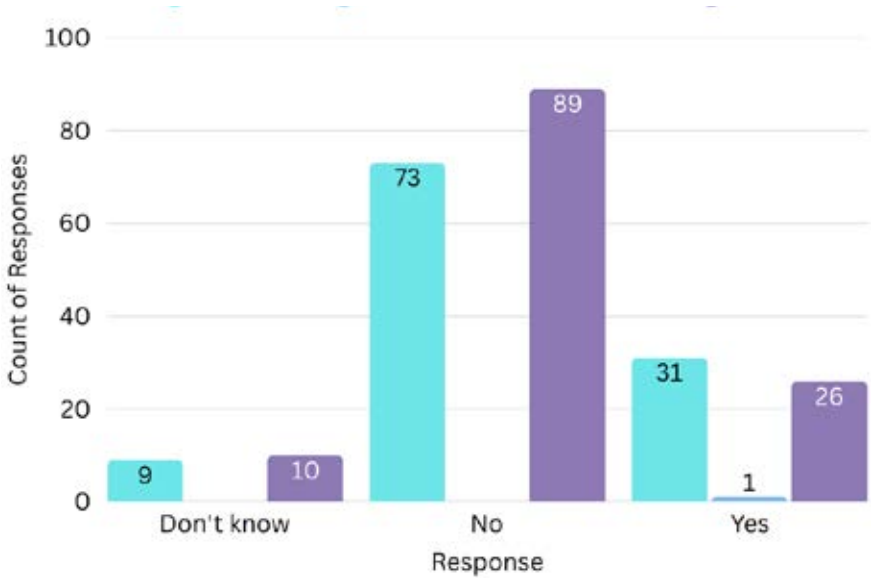
**Interpretation:**

Criticisms focus on maintenance issues, vandalism, lack of toilets/ seating, and inadequate provision for older children or children with disabilities.

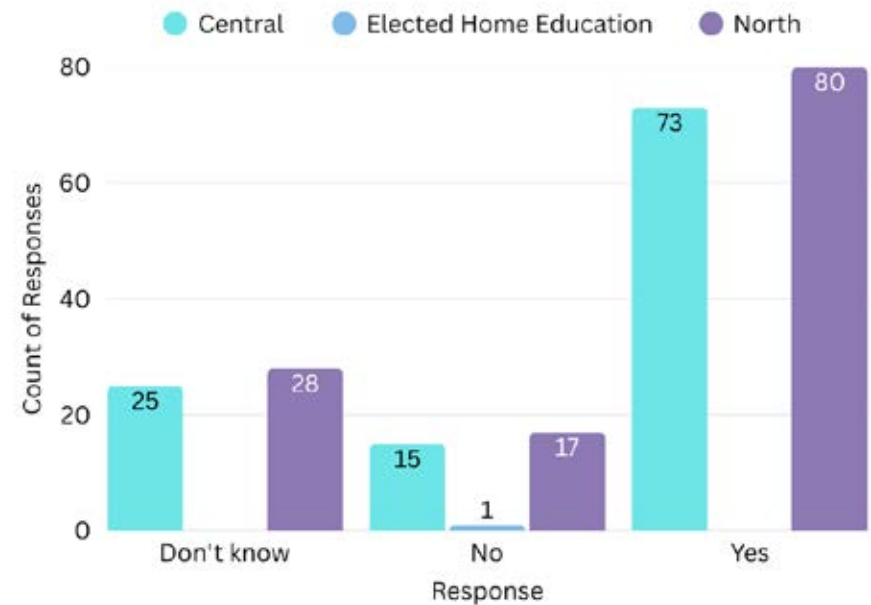
**Consensus:**

- Negative sentiment dominates, particularly in Central and North.
- Lack of investment in upkeep and inclusive design was a repeated theme.
- Many spaces are not suitable for teenagers or those with additional support needs.
- Deterioration of existing spaces has a visible impact on perceived quality.

**Question 9 - Are there opportunities for children or teenagers to experience more daring or challenging forms of play (such as climbing) within your area?**



**Question 10 - Are any age groups or demographics under-served by opportunities for play and social spaces within your area? (In answering this question, you may want to consider groups such as older kids, girls, those with additional support needs or cultural barriers)**





**Question 11 - If you answered ‘Yes’ to question 10, please could you specify which age groups/demographics do not have suitable spaces to play or hang out and why?**

**Topics and key words:**

Teenagers – teens, nothing, hang, bored, older

Disabled children – needs, inclusive, access, special, equipment

Girls – boys, groups, inclusive, feel, safe, seating

Young children – toddler, small, baby, play, only

**Notable Concerns:**

*“Teenagers have nowhere to go but bus stops or shops”*

*“No inclusive play equipment for children with disabilities”*

*“Older girls don’t feel safe in certain spaces”*

**Interpretation:**

The most under-served groups are:

- Teenagers, who are rarely catered for in play design.
- Children with disabilities, who lack inclusive or adapted equipment.
- Older girls, who sometimes feel unsafe or excluded from shared spaces.

**Consensus:**

- Localities agree on the lack of provision for teenagers.
- There’s growing awareness of equity issues around accessibility and gender.
- Strongly negative responses reflect frustration and emotional concern.

**Question 12 - What three things would most improve play and social spaces for children and teenagers in your area?**

**Topics and key words;**

Better equipment – climbing, swings, slides, new, park

Toilets and cleanliness – toilets, bins, clean, maintain, more

Teenage areas – hang, skate, social, teenage, seating

Safety & accessibility – safe, light, accessible, inclusive, diverse

**Notable Suggestions:**

*“Larger equipment for bigger children (the roundabout swing at Hazlehead is great for bigger kids)”*

*“More play areas, more items in the area, more swings”*

*“Adapted swings and play equipment”*

*“Grass cut more frequently/glass & broken bottles cleaned up”*

**Interpretation:**

Suggested improvements include:

- New equipment (especially for older kids).
- Basic infrastructure like toilets, seating, and lighting.
- Dedicated spaces for teenagers to gather and socialise safely.
- Inclusive design for diverse needs.

**Consensus:**

- Responses are largely neutral, indicating a constructive tone.
- All localities agree that more diverse, better-maintained facilities are needed.
- Focus is on actionable upgrades, not just complaints — showing public willingness to support change.

**Question 13 - Apart from how good or bad the local play areas are, do any of these factors discourage the young person from playing outside more?**

(Bad weather/ short winter days/ prefer playing online/ other)

**Topics and key words:**

Weather – cold, wet, dark, wind, rain

Safety concerns – fear, people, gangs, safety, drugs

Poor facilities – toilets, light, bins, seating, boring

Digital alternatives – screen, games, indoors, bored

**Interpretation:**

The biggest barriers are:

- Weather (especially in winter).
- Safety concerns, including fear of anti-social behaviour or lack of supervision.
- Digital distractions, drawing children indoors.
- Lack of engaging or accessible facilities.

**Consensus:**

- Neutral to negative sentiment shows practical barriers rather than emotional ones.
- Parents want to encourage outdoor play but feel let down by the environment.
- The issue is multi-faceted: a mix of environmental, social, and design factors.



## 5.1.7 Play Based Engagement with Young People with Additional Support Needs and their Parents or Care Givers

### **Question 14 - Do you have any other comments to make on the quality or availability of play spaces for children or teenagers in your local area?**

*"I believe that improving the quality and variety of outdoor play spaces is essential for the well-being of children and teenagers in the area. Currently, the limited options available do not cater to older children, which leads to fewer opportunities for physical activity and socialization. Additionally, the lack of accessible sports facilities and appropriate play equipment for various age groups creates safety issues and limits choices for outdoor play. I hope this survey highlights the need for more inclusive and varied spaces that can serve the whole community."*

*"Please focus on teens from underprivileged backgrounds as they are causing lots of problems due to not having free / cheap spaces for activities."*

*"Perhaps more seating at larger parks to give kids somewhere to rest and chill out too"*

*"Sensory spaces, natural materials, interactive facilities such as percussion and noise related points, places for using bikes safely"*

*"Please look at Make Space for Girls. Please consider lighting and safety to encourage more access to parks at night."*

*"We don't need more little play parks, we need something more alternative/ a bit more daring that both older children and younger children can use."*

*"Safe travel options between local schools and local play areas is vital. Traffic makes walking to parks very unsafe for children"*

*"Think young children quite well served in this area. Choice of parks within walking distance and short car journeys away. Maybe not so good for older kids."*

*"Grateful for what we have"*

In July 2023, representatives of Aberdeen City Council's Creative Learning Team, along with streets-UK and Soundplay Project, welcomed children with additional support needs, plus their families and caregivers, to Orchard Brae School. As well as engaging through play with SoundPlay's interactive music and light installations, the participants found out more about the detailed plans for Aberdeen's Beach Park and discussed what is important to them in terms of play and learning.

Key themes that emerged from the conversations included;

- Adequate changing facilities in size and number
- Extended opening times to allow visits when quieter
- Wheelchair accessibility through paths and to play activities but also seating and picnic benches
- Sensory play and water play
- Play equipment big enough for large children (and adults!)

The families really appreciated the SoundPlay offer, which greatly engaged the young people and allowed the adults/carers time to reflect and discuss what would work best for them.

Selected comments are outlined below

- Mentally fully capable – wants to do same stuff as pals but needs more room for chair, expendable materials to reach chair etc
- Interactive and sensory is great – tubular, spin, light,, art installations, sculpture, colour
- They want to explore and learn at their own pace
- Likes a wide range of materials and finishes to experience
- Encourage positive risk-taking – could to be challenged as this enables, empowers and is hopeful
- Need balance between safety and independent play
- Loves climbing frames but wants whole frame to be accessible – alternative route if difficult bit, for example monkey bars
- Bigger play kit – suitable for older kids with lower mental age
- Sunken trampolines
- Mindful of mobility issues, for example height restriction bars on a chute
- Cleanliness and upkeep of materials, for example tunnels, important for some ASN kids



# 5.1.8 Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future Online Survey

Community Planning Aberdeen partners are refreshing a range of plans and strategies which aim to improve the place Aberdonians live. They asked Aberdeen residents to participate and share their views on what things are good now and what improvements they think would make the city and neighbourhoods better in the future.

This single engagement approach gave everyone the chance to share their views and to shape multiple local plans and strategies at once. It looked at the 14 themes from the Scottish Place Standard Tool, which is used across Scotland to have conversations with people about the places where they live. It helps identify the strengths of a place and where improvements may be needed.

The online survey was promoted extensively through the Community Planning Partnership network and on social media. There were also numerous drop in events across the whole City and bespoke workshops aimed at harder to reach communities.

The views on Play have been extracted for this report. There were 987 responses which related to Play.

The result are generally shown in locality areas (Central, North, and South) rather than Wards. These locality areas are used as the basis of discussion in Aberdeen City Council’s Locality Plans. Central comprises the areas between the River Dee and the River Don approximately, the North is the area to the north of the A944, and South is the area to the south of the A944.

In addition, the comparative scoring question has additionally been analysed for Wards and Priority Neighbourhoods in the City.

### Questions

- How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?
- What is working well?
- What could be improved?
- Where do children and young people play in your area?
- Please tell us your thoughts on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in your area?

### Question 1 - How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?

(Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
very poor	poor	Not good	okay	good	Very good	excellent

The overall average score for the City as whole was **4.3**

## Results by Ward

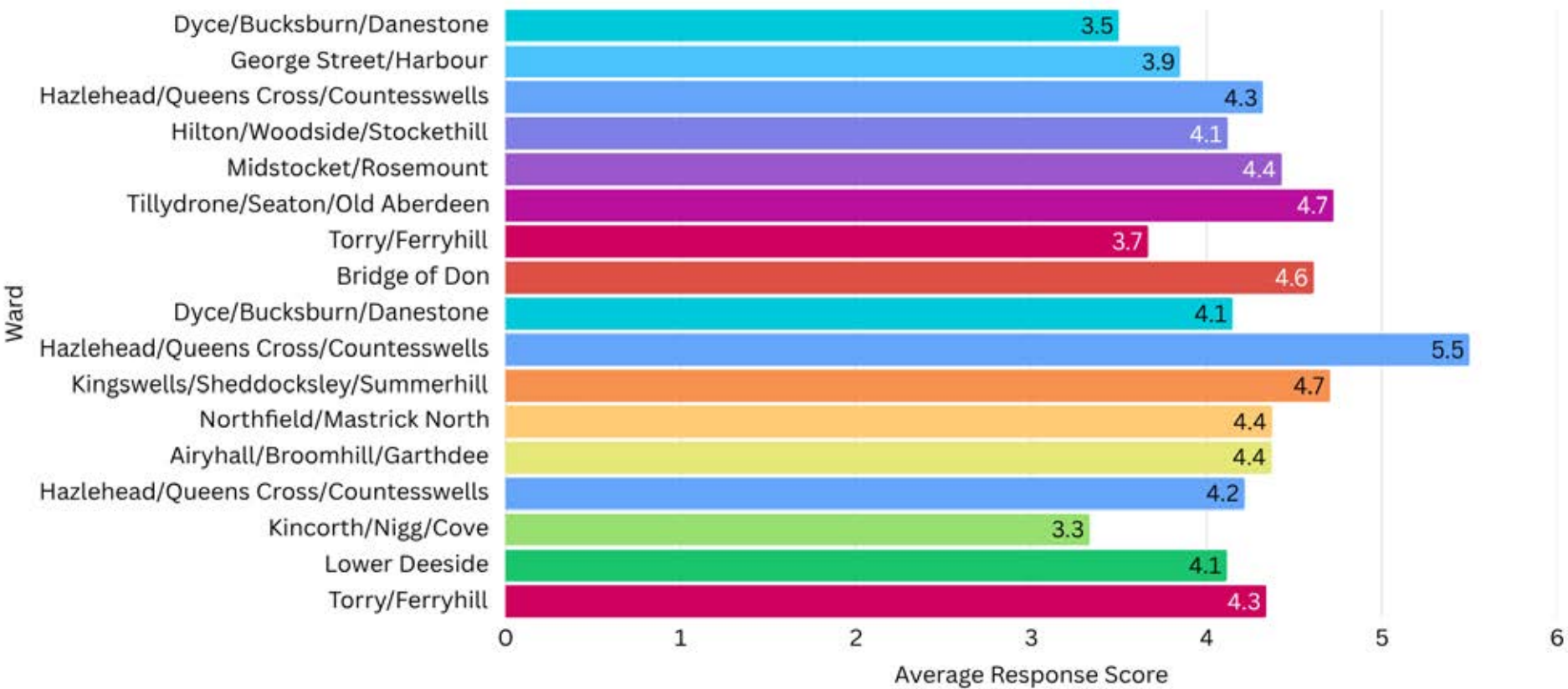


Figure 33: Average Ward scores for 'How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?'



# Results by Community Planning Partnership Localities

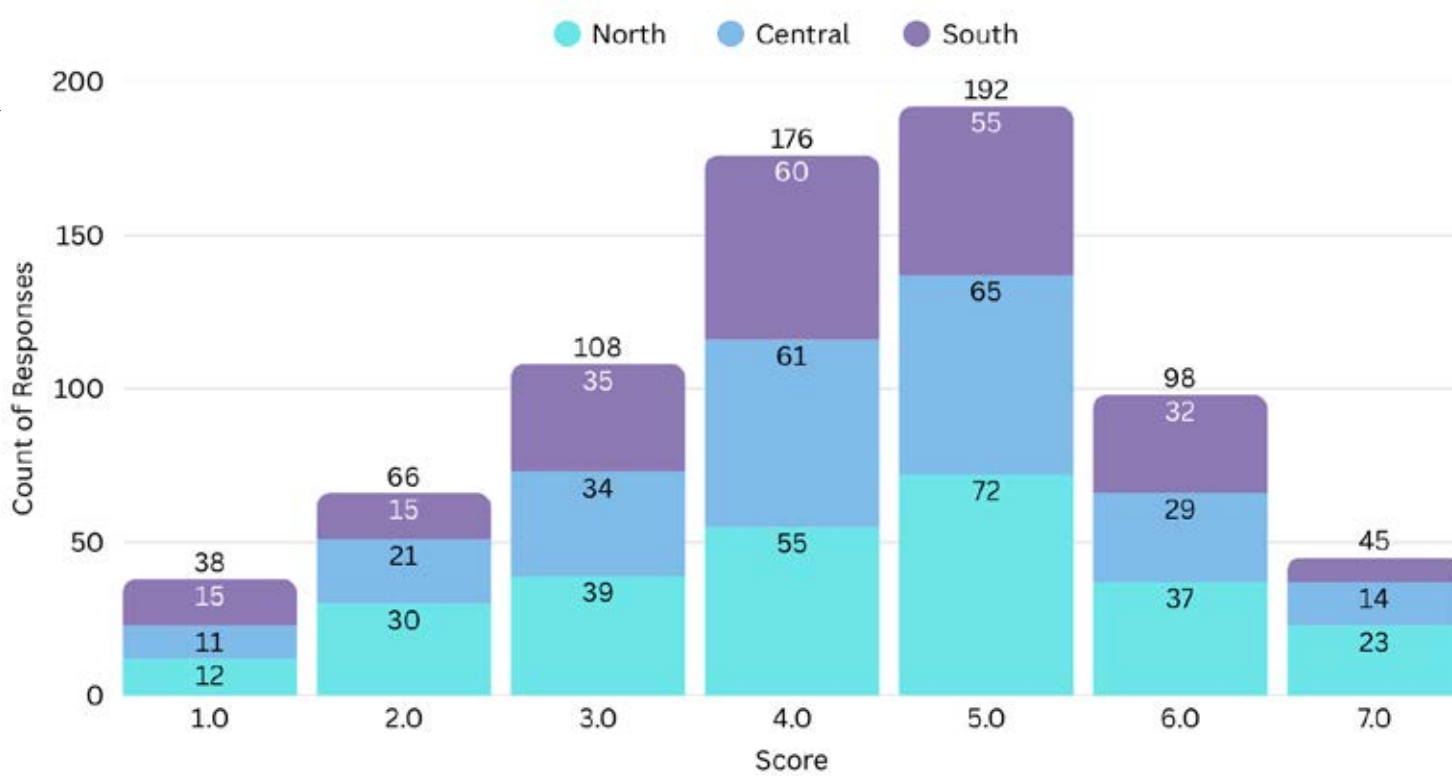


Figure 34: Locality score breakdown for ‘How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?’

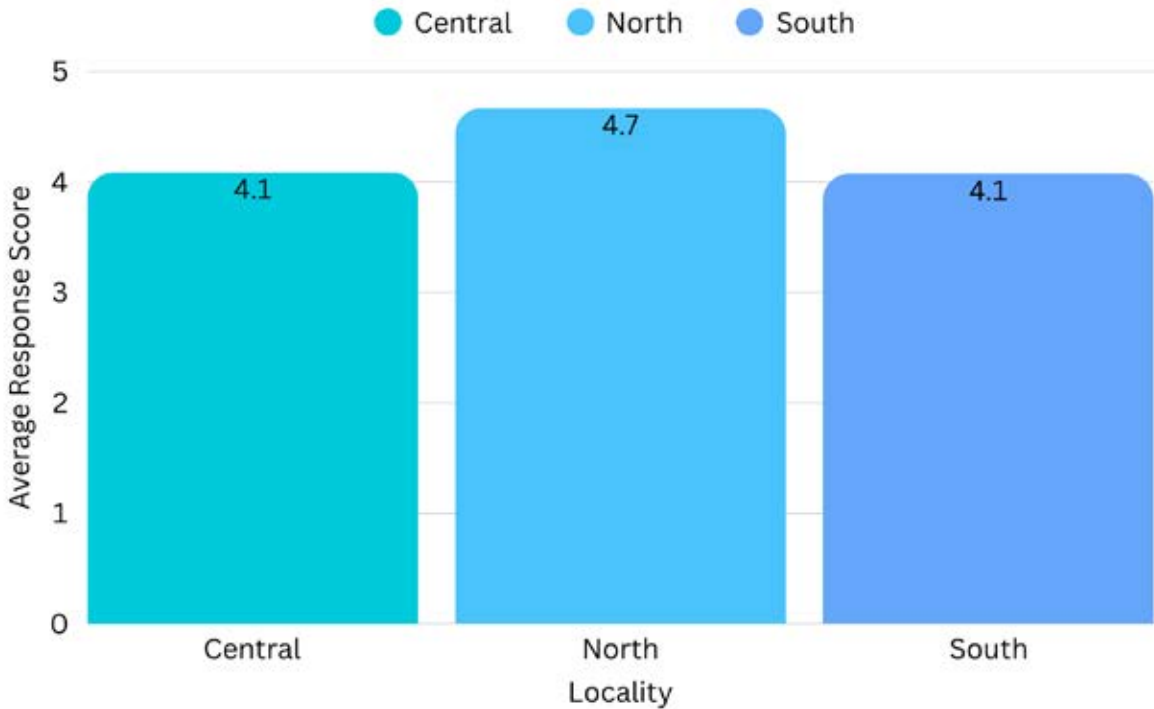


Figure 35: Average locality scores for ‘How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?’

# Results by Priority Neighbourhoods

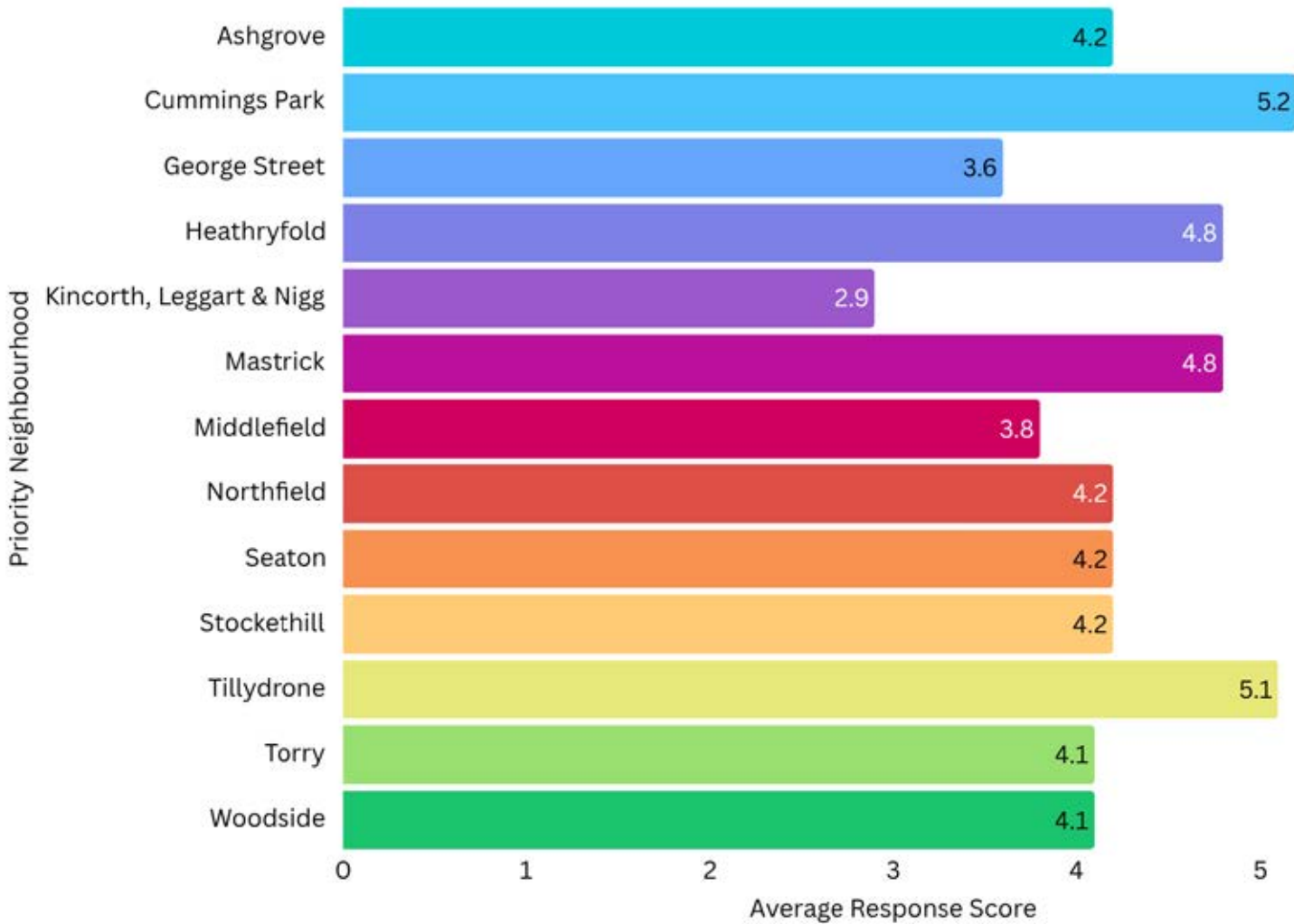


Figure 36: Average Priority Neighbourhoods scores for ‘How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?’



**Question 2 – What is Working Well?**

**CENTRAL**

**Themes Identified:**

- Access to outdoor gym equipment and community-supported activity spaces
- A wide range of local parks described as “good,” “lovely,” and well-maintained
- Sports options such as swimming, gyms, and general recreation facilities

**Sentiment Summary:**

Central area responses leaned toWard positive and neutral. Many respondents expressed satisfaction with the range and condition of facilities, though there is an undertone of disparity between different parts of the area.

**Notable Comments:**

*“Lots of spaces for young children to play and be outside”*

*“There’s plenty of playparks around the area”*

*“The parks we do have are always packed with people so they do get used a lot”*

*“Good green space in a range of locations.”*

Interpretation:

There is a general appreciation for the variety and accessibility of recreational spaces in the Central locality. People recognise the value of facilities that cater to all ages. However, some comments suggest uneven distribution or quality, with certain parks not meeting the same standards as others.

**SOUTH**

**Themes Identified:**

- Well-known City destination parks such as Duthie and Hazlehead are viewed positively
- Safe, walkable access to multiple play areas
- Emphasis on clean, maintained parks with green space

**Sentiment Summary:**

Responses in the South area were strongly positive, with frequent praise for the quality and upkeep of parks. A few comments flagged concerns around neglected smaller parks or reduced facilities due to redevelopment.

**Notable Comments:**

*“Good availability of parks.”*

*“There are two good children’s play parks and a big green space nearby which are safe and well looked after.”*

*“A lot of the small parks are neglected in our neighbourhoods.”*

**Interpretation:**

South residents clearly value their local parks and green spaces. Larger parks are described as accessible and well-maintained, and families feel they have usable spaces nearby. However, there is a perception that while destination parks are strong, some smaller or residential-area parks may not receive equal attention.

**NORTH**

Themes Identified:

- Several large parks and community facilities, including near the Don
- Positive mentions of local access to play spaces
- Noted use of facilities for children and families

**Sentiment Summary:**

While there are positive comments, the tone is more reserved. Respondents often acknowledge existing resources but point to inconsistency or difficulty in accessing them.

**Notable Comments:**

*“Plenty spaces to enjoy if you know where to look.”*

*“Aberdeen has lots of beautiful places for children to explore but they are often expensive to access.”*

*“Focusing on kids, would like to have small park which is within walking distance. Around Laurel Park, Bridge of Don.”*

**Interpretation:**

In the North, access to quality spaces appears more varied. While some residents express satisfaction, others note that parks or activities are not within easy reach or are costly to use. This suggests that while the infrastructure exists, barriers such as accessibility or proximity may reduce its effectiveness for many families.

**Question 3 – What could be improved?**

**CENTRAL**

**Themes Identified:**

- A lack of facilities tailored for teenagers and older children
- Improvements needed in existing parks, including safety and equipment upgrades
- More swimming options, community sports centres, and enhanced public toilets

**Sentiment Summary:**

Responses are a mix of neutral and negative. Comments are often constructive rather than critical, with many offering specific and actionable ideas. Frustration is most evident where facilities are described as outdated, underused, or poorly maintained.

**Notable Comments:**

*“No such facilities near me, boys get super bored.”*

*“More accessible play equipment but also outdoor gym equipment that can be used for free would be a boost in terms of health in the area.”*

*“People abusing these spaces and lack of dog bins. Again just litter everywhere.”*

**Interpretation:**

In Central, there is a desire for facilities that serve a broader age range, especially teenagers. Many people feel the area has the potential to be vibrant but is held back by infrastructure that either no longer meets needs or is not being maintained to an acceptable standard. The tone suggests residents are open to improvement, not discouraged—provided investment is spread more evenly and planning responds to local demographics.

**SOUTH**

**Themes Identified:**

- Increased provision of football pitches, outdoor activities, and teen-focused spaces
- Preservation of small green areas for informal play
- Concerns over affordability and the lack of community-led or low-cost recreational options

**Sentiment Summary:**

While positive ideas are present, most comments express concern or frustration. Many respondents worry that overdevelopment or uneven investment has reduced the flexibility and accessibility of local spaces.



**Notable Comments:**

*“Provide incentives that will attract more people to go out. Also more and more people don’t have money to play or do recreation.”*

*“Leave small areas of green grass alone for children to play.”*

*“Almost no areas for teenagers to play and enjoy outdoor activities other than school premises..”*

**Interpretation:**

Residents in the South see opportunities for improvement, particularly in enhancing the accessibility and inclusivity of play and recreation areas. Many feel that while destination parks are maintained, smaller and more community-oriented spaces are overlooked. There is also a clear call for affordable options, indicating that cost is becoming a barrier to regular recreational use.

**NORTH**

**Themes Identified:**

- Significant gaps in provision for teenagers, including social and active recreation
- The need for more accessible, low-cost indoor facilities such as swimming pools and soft play
- A feeling that certain neighbourhoods are underserved or ignored

**Sentiment Summary:**

Responses from the North are more frequently negative, reflecting a deeper concern that local needs are not being met. There is a strong sense of inequality in terms of investment and provision.

**Notable Comments:**

*“Focuses on more deprived areas but able neighbourhoods.”*

*“Costs to access some facilities or sporting venues are expensive.”*

*“Nothing good for teenagers to do.”*

**Interpretation:**

The North area stands out for the depth of concern expressed. While some respondents acknowledge efforts to support priority areas, many feel that the basic recreational needs of families are being overlooked. The perceived lack of facilities for older children and the cost of using what is available suggest a growing gap between what is needed and what is provided. This contributes to a sense of exclusion and underinvestment.

**Question 4 – Where do children and young people play in your area?**

**CENTRAL**

**Themes Identified:**

- Use of neighbourhood parks such as Stewart Park, Westburn Park, and school playgrounds
- Many children play in residential streets or informal areas due to lack of dedicated space
- Older children are more likely to congregate unsupervised in shared public areas

**Sentiment Summary:**

Most responses are neutral or negative, reflecting either a lack of designated play infrastructure or safety concerns. Comments often describe where children go without expressing satisfaction or optimism about those locations.

**Notable Comments:**

*“Play park in front of multi storey.”*

*“Beside Cornhill Primary and Stewart Park.”*

*“Sadly, the few children in my building take a blanket on a small patch of grass... or they have to be taken further for some play park experience, by car.”*

**Interpretation:**

In Central, children are largely reliant on a few known parks and school playgrounds for outdoor play. There is concern that these are not sufficient, especially for older children. For some families, local play is not an option, either due to a lack of suitable space or concerns about safety. This suggests that while the infrastructure exists, it is not always appropriate, accessible, or inviting for regular use.

**SOUTH**

**Themes Identified:**

- Primary schools, public parks (notably Duthie Park and Cults area), and informal green spaces are frequently mentioned
- Some children use school grounds outside of hours or improvise by playing in local woodland or grassy banks
- Mixed use of spaces, with a blend of structured play parks and informal natural settings

**Sentiment Summary:**

South displays the widest spread of sentiment. There are comments describing safe, active play environments, but also frustration over neglected areas and safety risks in less maintained spaces.

**Notable Comments:**

*“There are two good children’s play parks and a big green space nearby which are safe and well looked after.”*

*“Local children’s play park.”*

*“Duthie Park. Parks in Kincorth are really dirty and unkempt. They all could do with a make up.”*

**Interpretation:**

There is a clear divide in the South between well-used, well-kept play areas and those in need of attention. While some neighbourhoods benefit from high-quality, maintained parks, others appear to lack safe and clean environments for children. The result is an uneven experience: some families feel well-served; others are discouraged from using nearby spaces.

**NORTH**

**Themes Identified:**

- Many children play in the streets, near shops, or in underutilised green areas due to a lack of dedicated parks
- Use of spaces such as Marchburn and Allan Douglas parks was mentioned, alongside newer parks linked to sports centres
- Frequent mention of children making use of whatever space is nearby, regardless of suitability

**Sentiment Summary:**

The North received a high proportion of negative sentiment. Comments describe informal and often inappropriate play environments, such as streets, shopfronts, or small patches of grass. Several responses reflect a sense of frustration from both residents and businesses.

**Notable Comments:**

*“Mostly play in their own gardens or local parks. Older children just gather in the streets.”*

*“In the street as there is nothing available at the moment.”*

*“In the woods, at the parks, on the streets and in the shops – which is very frustrating for the business owners and customers.”*

**Interpretation:**

Children in the North often lack safe, accessible, and welcoming play environments. Families appear to adapt by using whatever is available, but this frequently leads to inappropriate or unsafe play settings. The absence of designated spaces for older children, in particular, is forcing informal use of streets, car parks, and commercial areas, which raises further issues around safety and public perception.



## 5.1.9 Community Councils and Other Groups

### Question 5 - Please tell us your thoughts on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in your area?

#### Key Themes Identified:

- Mixed quality and maintenance: Some parks are described as “good” or “plenty,” but others noted “poor,” “used,” or “ok” - indicating inconsistency across locations.
- Quantity often sufficient, accessibility lacking: Respondents acknowledged that parks exist, but are not always inclusive, accessible by public transport, or suitable for older children.
- Inclusivity concerns: Requests for more disability-friendly features and better design for a broader age range.
- Safety and lighting: Suggestions included better lighting, improved paths, and design to deter antisocial behaviour.

#### Sentiment Overview:

Positive (297): Acknowledgment that certain areas have made progress

Neutral (237): StraightforWard comments about what exists

Negative (63): Complaints about lack of access, broken equipment, or poor maintenance.

#### Interpretation:

This question captures a nuanced view. The quantity of play areas may be sufficient, but issues with quality and access limit their effectiveness. Accessibility isn't just about location, it's about design, upkeep, safety, and inclusion.

#### Notable Comments:

*“I think it's great you are addressing this and believe more fun and enjoyable spaces available to youngsters will serve to encourage more outside activities”*

*“Less focus on toddlers spaces and more focus on play areas for all ages.”*

*“Brilliant quality but lacking accessible swings for wheelchair users”*

As part of the wider ‘Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future’ exercise a facilitated hybrid Community Council event was held on 12 May 2025. The following comments were received on the play and recreation theme:

#### What is working well?

- Good theatre, a good entertainment venue; variety of children's activities
- Cruyff Courts – positive to the city
- Hazlehead improvements are great; recent investment in play areas; Seaton park and Victoria park good for movement
- Reinvestment in play areas that are age inclusive
- Great parks, great park groups – visible investment in play areas.
- Skate parks and padel board courts
- Dog spaces – for purpose of exercise: Stewart Park and Sunnybank park have these.

#### What could be improved?

- Co-design play spaces - Currently spaces are mainly designed around boys interests. Ensure gender inclusion
- Cost of tickets to events are more expensive than in other cities
- Lack of affordable activities for children
- Lack of disabled spaces at some parks
- Lack of free space for sports (badminton, table tennis etc.)
- Encourage community groups with accessible grants for park events
- Most are not disabled/ age range inclusive
- Lack of good quality play equipment in some places







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# 6. Assessment

This chapter reports the assessments of each of the Wards followed by a City wide summary.



# 6.1 Introduction

## 6.1.1 Wards

The city is divided into the following 13 Wards and the assessment of each area is detailed in the following sections of the document. These Wards are:

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill
- Midstocket/Rosemount
- George St/Harbour
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Torry/Ferryhill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Lower Deeside
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

Following analysis of the 13 Wards this section concludes with an overview of the City as a whole.

## 6.1.2 Formal equipped play spaces

A total of 174 formal equipped play spaces across Aberdeen City were assessed. 142 are maintained by Aberdeen City Council. These have been assessed in relation to Quantity, Accessibility and Quality following the methodology set out in Section 3. The Ward boundaries and the formal equipped play spaces which are located within them can be viewed on the map on the next page.

Additional formal and informal opportunities were also considered as part of this Play Sufficiency Assessment. These have been categorised and mapped under the following headings:

- Sports areas
- Public parks and gardens
- Amenity greenspace
- Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- Skateparks/bmx tracks/cycletracks
- Cycleways
- Forests and woodlands
- Country parks
- Beaches
- Other



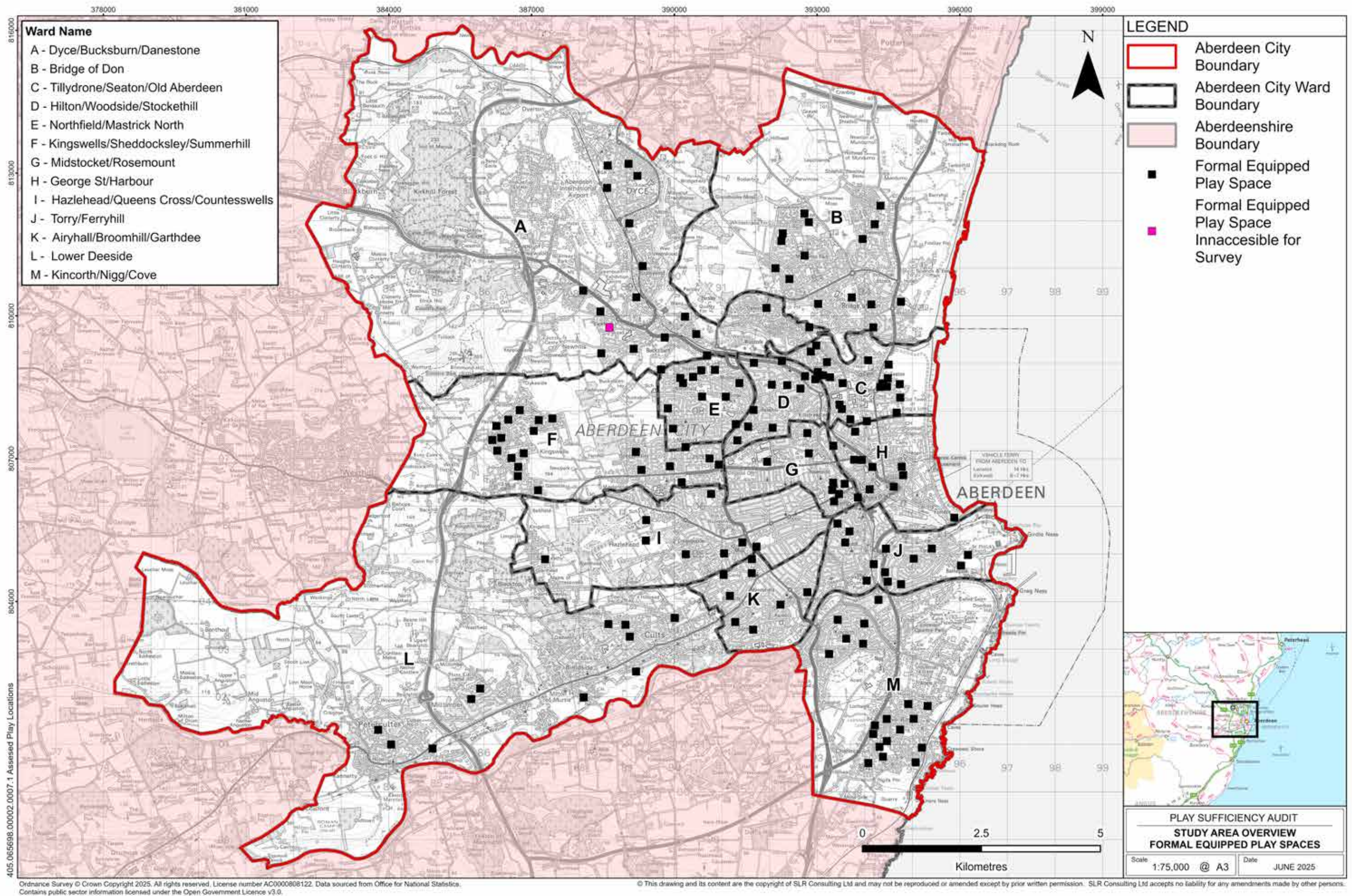


Figure 37: Map illustrating formal equipped play spaces within Aberdeen City Wards



# 6.2 Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone

## 6.2.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Aryburn
  - Bankhead
  - Bishopston
  - Bucksburn
  - Chapel of Stoneywood
  - Clinterty Home Farm
  - Cothill
  - Danestone
  - Dyce
  - Grandholm Village
  - Grandhome
- Haughs of Clinterty
  - Little Clinterty
  - Mains of Grandhome
  - Meikle Clinterty
  - Newhills
  - Overhills
  - Persley
  - Rivehill
  - Stoneywood
  - The Mill
  - Toll Farm

## 6.2.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

### Primary Schools

- Brimmond School
- Danestone Primary School
- Dyce Primary School
- Stoneywood School

### Secondary Schools

- Bucksburn Academy
- Dyce Academy

### Other schools

- Orchard Brae School

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.2.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 20,892.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 20.2% of this population, totalling 4,227 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 2,309 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,918 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 971 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 23% of the child population in the Ward. 382 of those children and young people live within the Bucksburn North neighbourhood whilst 264 live within the Woodside neighbourhood.

## 6.2.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 52 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide 4.3 This Ward 4.1

### What is working well?

- Plenty choice
- Due to location we have very happy with all the facilities
- Available spaces are well used and enjoyed regularly

### What could be improved

- Don’t think there is really anything for young people.
- There needs to be more versatile play areas. An adventure park and skate/bike pump track in Stoneywood area to cover all ages of children as they move past primary age. Play areas under cover would be good for all weather playing
- Maintenance of play equipment

### Where do children and young people play in your Ward?

- Parks, football pitches and swings
- There are 2 parks within 10 minutes of my house.
- Dyce central park. Down by the river. The woods between Dyce and Bucksburn along the river.

### Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone Ward?

- Some swing park upgraded but now covered in graffiti and rubbish.
- Play park for younger kids fine, would be good to have options for

- older kids/teens
- Brilliant quality. Lacking accessible swings for wheelchair users.
- Some swing park upgraded but now covered in graffiti and rubbish.
- Play park for younger kids fine, would be good to have options for older kids/teens
- Brilliant quality. Lacking accessible swings for wheelchair users.

## 6.2.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 18 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 13 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
1	Sluie Drive Play Area	Council
2	Central Park, Dyce, Play Area	Council
3	Skene Place, Dyce Play Area	Council
5	Millhill Brae Play Area	Council
6	Forrit Brae Play Area	Council
7	Newton Terrace Play Area	Council
8	Cruickshank Crecent Play Area	Council
9	Middle Brae Play Area	Council
10	Westerton of Auchmill (Golf) Play Area	Council
11	Auchmill Terrace Play Area	Council
12	Danestone (near primary) Play Area	Council
13	Balgownie Drive Play Area	Private
14	Wellheads Avenue/437 Wellheads Avenue	Private
15	Lawson Drive	Private
16	Goodhope Ave	Council
17	River Don Park Play Area	Council
18	Hopecroft Road Play Area	Private
20	Beech Manor Play Area	Private



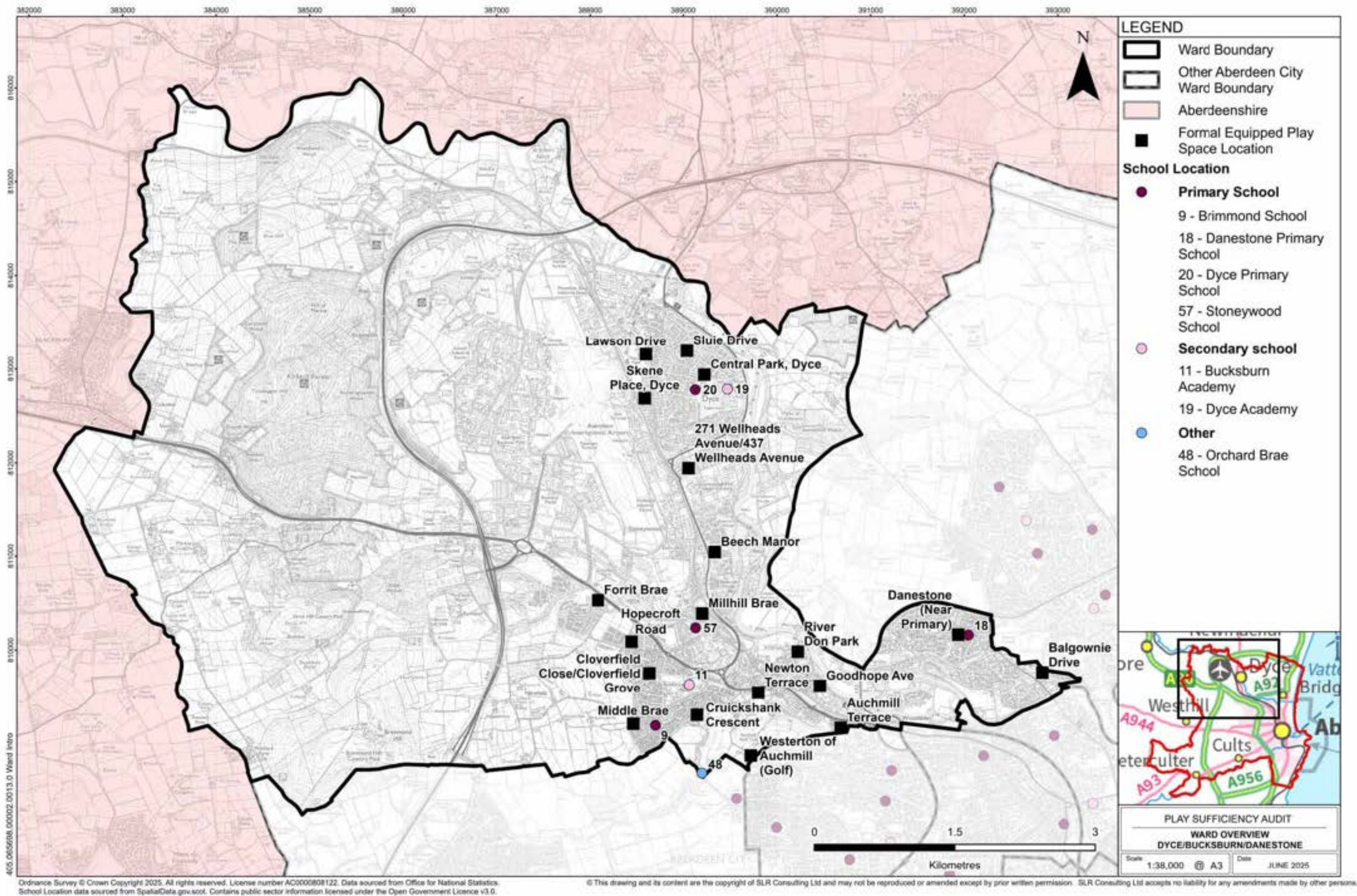


Figure 38: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



# 6.2.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that generally the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space. It should be noted that formal equipped play spaces within Aberdeenshire Council are not included in this assessment and therefore the areas around the periphery of the City boundary may have shorter distances than illustrated. There is for example a formal equipped play area in Blackburn.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- Within the west of the Ward, walking distances to formal equipped play spaces are over twenty minutes however this area has relatively few residential properties and is largely covered by farmland and open space including Tyrebagger and Kirkhill Woods and Brimmond and Elrick Country Parks.
- The area to the west of the City which shows a concentration of bus stops and is shown as over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space is Dyce Industrial Estate adjacent to the Aberdeen Airport.
- The area in the east of the Ward which shows a walking distance to formal equipped play spaces of over twenty minutes is due to the presence of the River Don, residential properties here are generally within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space.
- The area to the north of the Bucksburn Roundabout shows a walking distance of up to 20 minutes to a formal equipped play space, however this area consists of predominantly none residential uses.

## Cycleways and Core Paths

The area benefits from core paths which provide links out to the informal play opportunities in the west of the Ward (Tyrebagger and Kirkhill Woods and Brimmond and Elrick Country Parks).

Core paths such as no. 5, Fortmartine Buchanan Way are traffic free and provide good connections to play spaces Lawson Drive and Skene Place in particular.

The National Cycleway Network Route 1 runs through the Ward.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of five spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Sluie Drive Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Central Park, Dyce, Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Skene Place, Dyce Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Millhill Brae Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Forrit Brae Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Newton Terrace Play Area	No	No	No
Cruickshank Crecent Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Middle Brae Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Westerton of Auchmill (Golf) Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Auchmill Terrace Play Area	No	No	Yes
Danestone (near primary) Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Balgownie Drive Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wellheads Avenue/437 Wellheads Avenue	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawson Drive	Yes	No	Yes
Goodhope Ave	Yes	Yes	Yes
River Don Park Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hopecroft Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beech Manor Play Area	Yes	No	Yes



Figure 39: Image of narrow entrance to Middle Brae play area



Figure 40: Image of narrow path entrance to Lawson Drive play area



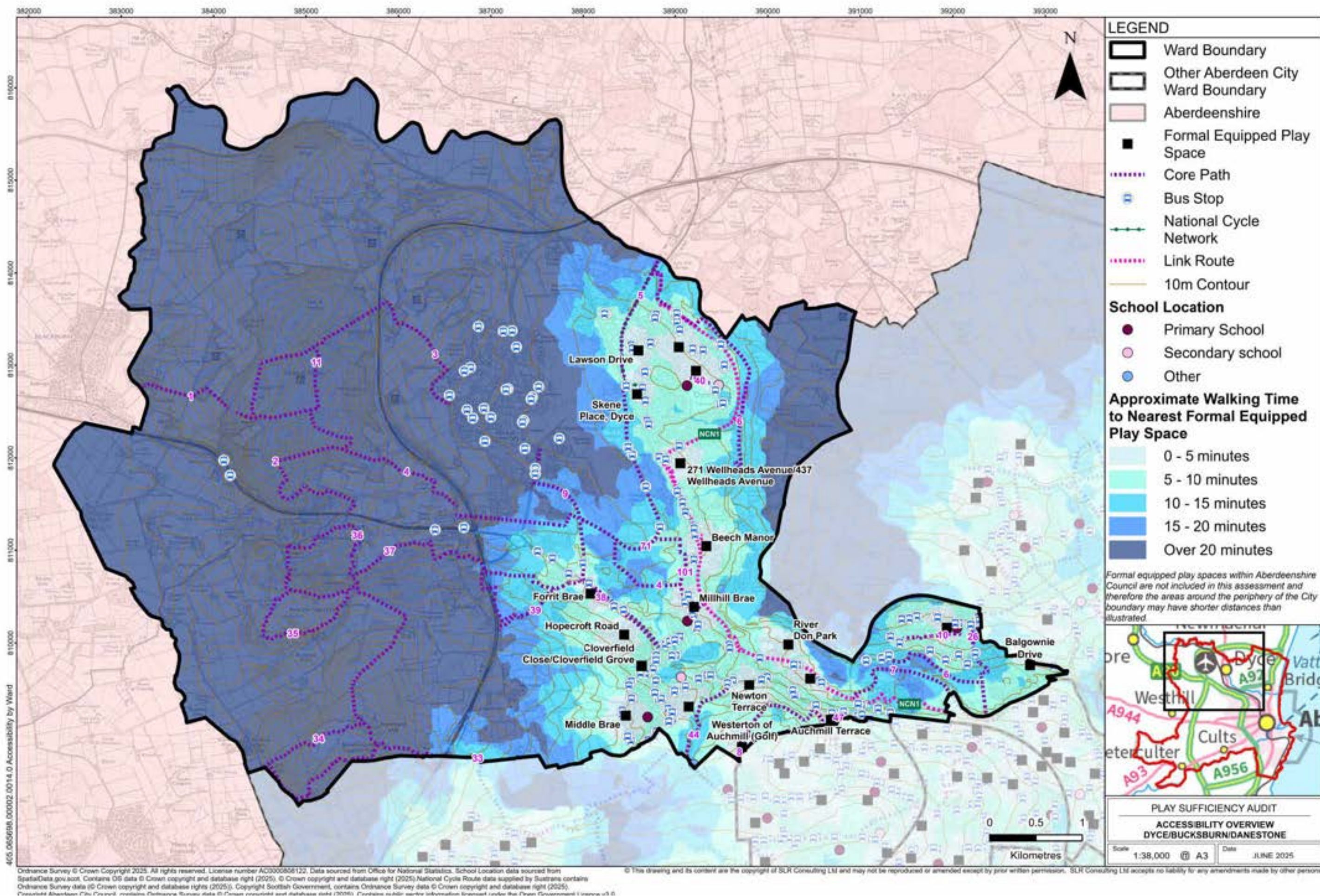


Figure 41: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward  
 Map illustrates walking distances to formal equipped play spaces, overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway network



# 6.2.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

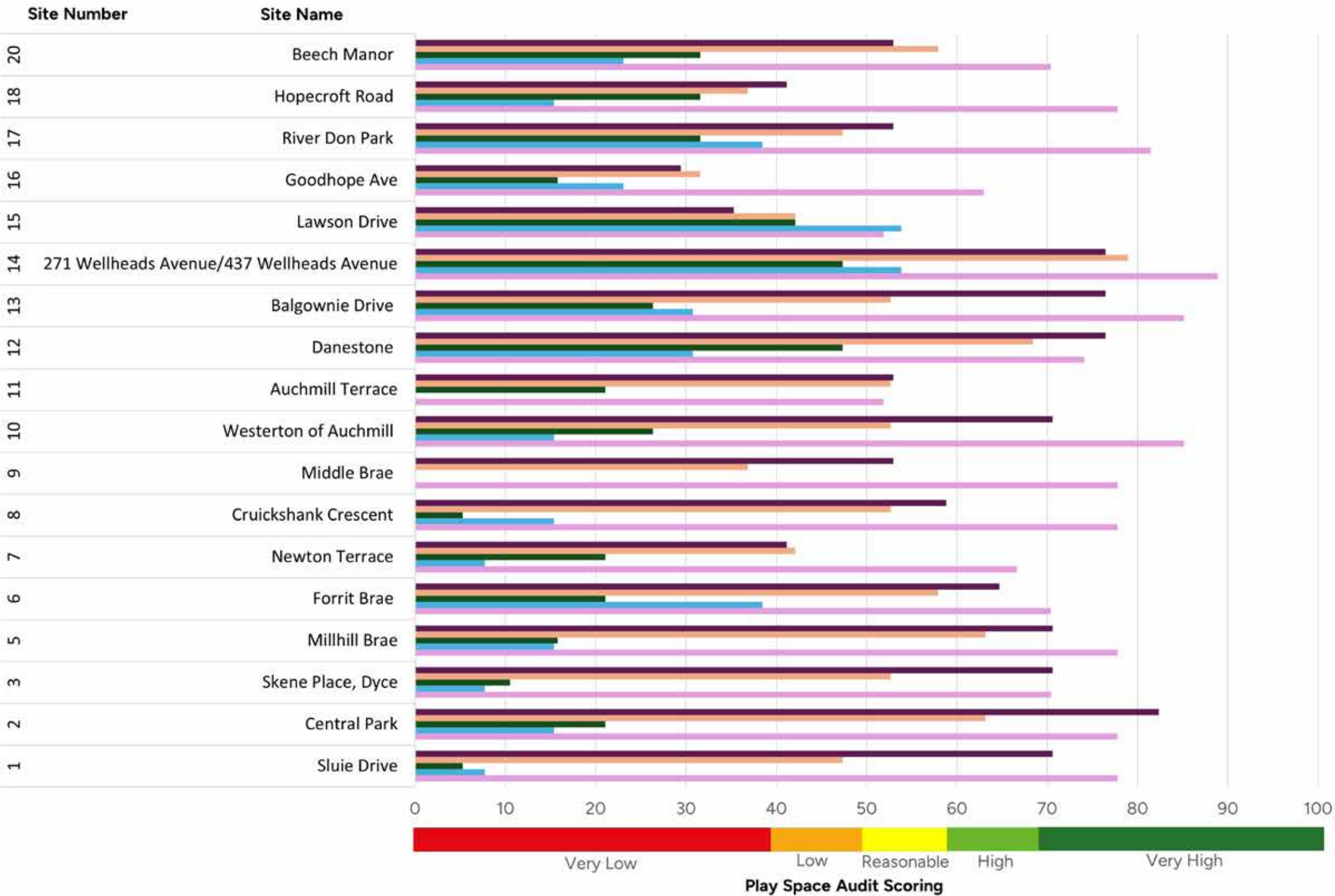


Figure 42: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



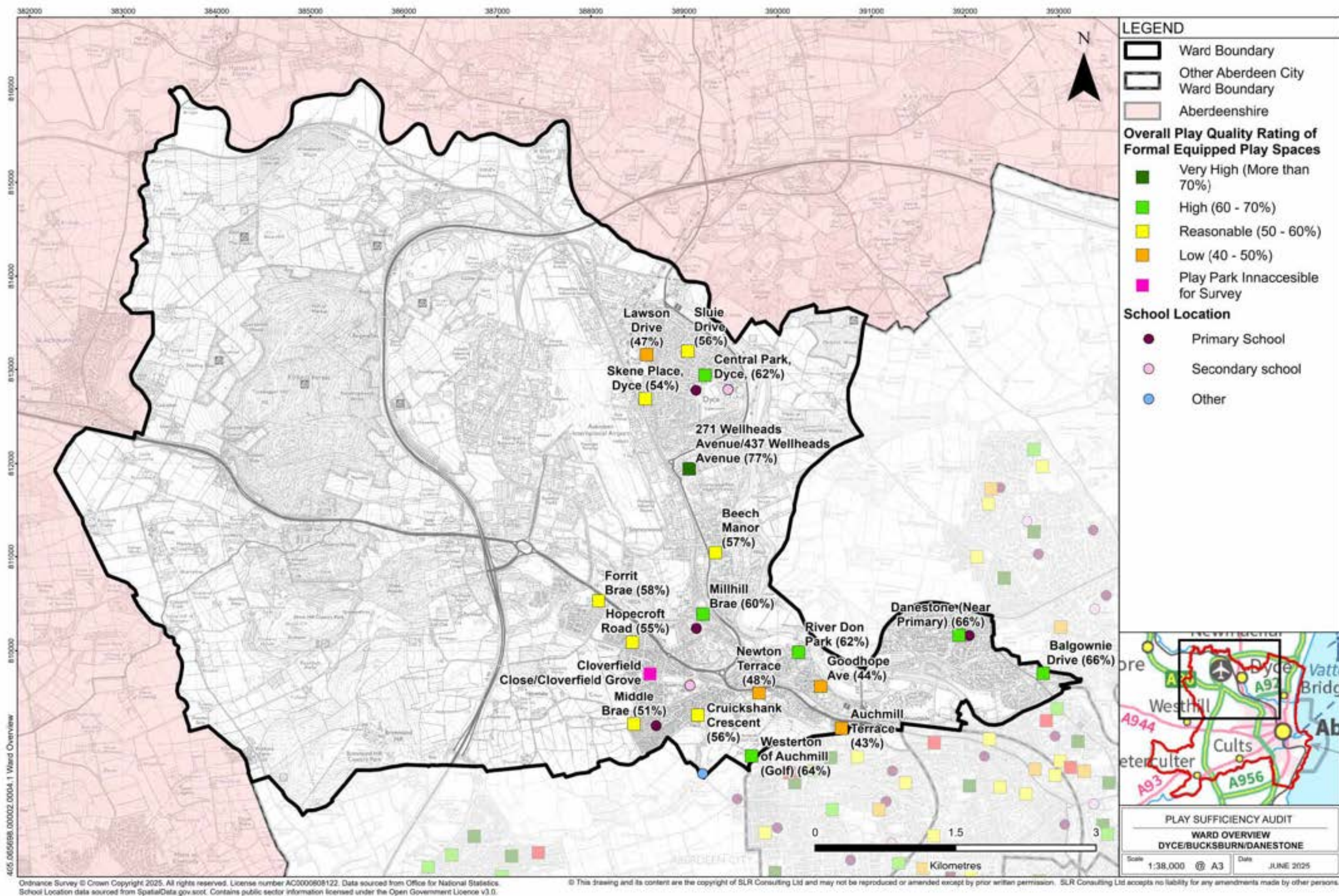


Figure 43: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.2.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

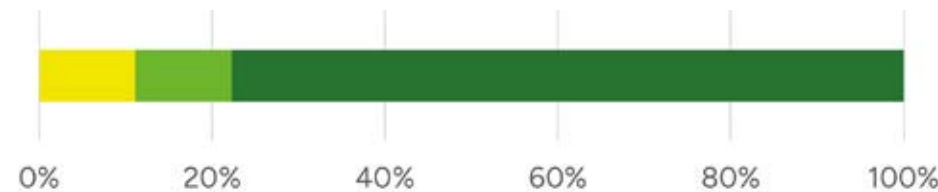


Figure 44: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

77.78% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

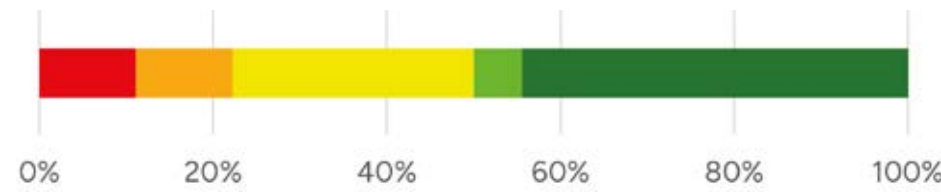


Figure 45: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

27.78% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

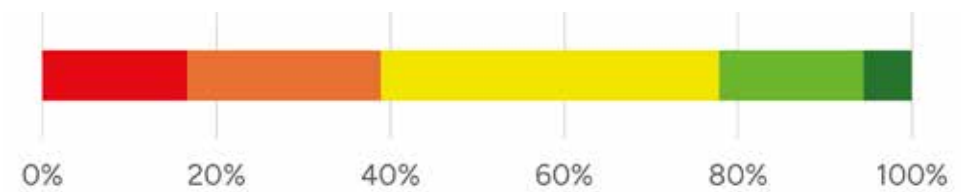
4.56% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

44.44% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 46: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

16.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

22.22% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

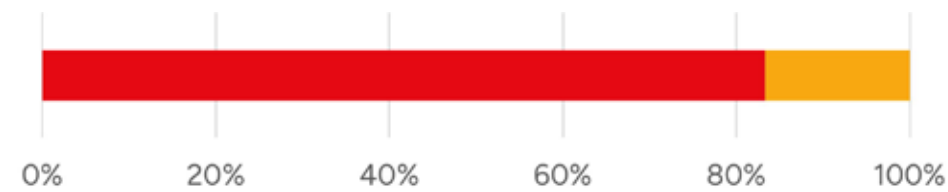
38.89% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

16.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

5.56% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 47: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

83.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

16.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

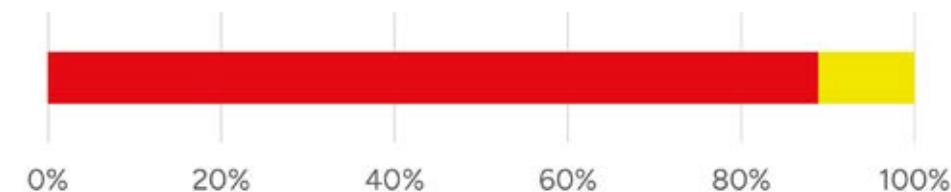
0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 48: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

88.89% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.2.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the north west of the City, the Dyce/Bucksburn/ Danestone Ward benefits from a selection of Country Parks, Forests and Woodlands as well as the NCN 1 leading from Aberdeen City into the highlands of Inverness. The area includes large parks such as Auchmill Golf Course, Riverview Park, and Central Park in Dyce, which offer recreational opportunities, walking paths, and sports facilities. The River Don flows through the Ward, creating a valuable natural corridor with riverside trails and wildlife habitats, particularly around Persley Walled Garden and Danestone Park. In Bucksburn, residents enjoy access to Bucksburn Park and the nearby playing fields, while greenbelt land on the periphery maintains a semi-rural character.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 848.56 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 20.75 hectares of Sports areas
- 21.81 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 17.61 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 46 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- 476.63 hectares of Forest/woodland
- 265.76 hectares of Country park

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There are eight sports areas identified on the map opposite.

Notable sites are:

### DBD100: Newton Terrace Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated average within Aberdeen City Council's (ACC's) Open Space Audit.
- This is a small formal equipped play space (Site 7) and playing field.

### DBD116: Woodside Playing Fields East

- This area's quality rated average within Aberdeen City Council's (ACC's) Open Space Audit.
- This is a small formal equipped play space (Site 71), playing field and outdoor basketball court.

### DBD36: Pitmedden Rd South Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's (ACC's) Open Space Audit.
- This is a Sports Club with adjacent grassland and paths that lead across Pitmedden road to a small formal equipped play space (Site 15).

### DBD66: Bankhead Road Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's (ACC's) Open Space Audit.
- This is a playing field with a small formal equipped play space (Site 5), and nearby allotments.

## Public parks and gardens

There are two identified parks within the Ward, these are:

### DBD29: Riverview drive Park West

- This area's quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a 35.7 acre park with well-maintained walking trails and a car park

### DBD40: Dyce Central Park

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- 24.9 acres
- Features a small playground and outdoor sports facilities

## Amenity greenspace

The majority of amenity greenspaces are residential and feature small playgrounds or areas of grass.

Some larger areas of amenity greenspace in the area include:

- **DBD112** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features parking, a walled garden, and a woodside trail along the River Don. The NCN 1 also runs through the space.
- **DBD120** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. This is a community garden with sculptures, pathways, large areas of grass, and an 18th century walled garden.

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

- Auchmill Nature walk and nature reserve
- Auchmill Community Woodland

## Forests and woodlands

The following forests and woodlands are identified on Forestry and Land Scotland's website as places to visit. These woodlands could provide opportunities for natural play as part of a walk or visit.

### Kirkhill Woods:

- One waymarked walking trails (strenuous)
- The Tappie Tower (19th century folly with views)
- A mountain bike fun park.
- Free parking.

### Tyrebagger woods:

- Two waymarked walking trails (moderate)
- Family friendly trails suitable for walking and cycling.
- Sculpture trail
- Free parking.

## Country parks

The following areas are designated as country parks:

### Brimmond Country Park:

- Brimmond Hill features hiking trails
- Access available via a small parking area

### Elrick Country Park:

- Features woodland, moorland, streams, and rural views

## Cycletracks

The National Cycleway Network Route 1 runs through the Ward. NCN 1 is part of both the long-distance Coasts and Castles route and the North Sea Cycle Route, and connects Aberdeen City to the Highland capital of Inverness.



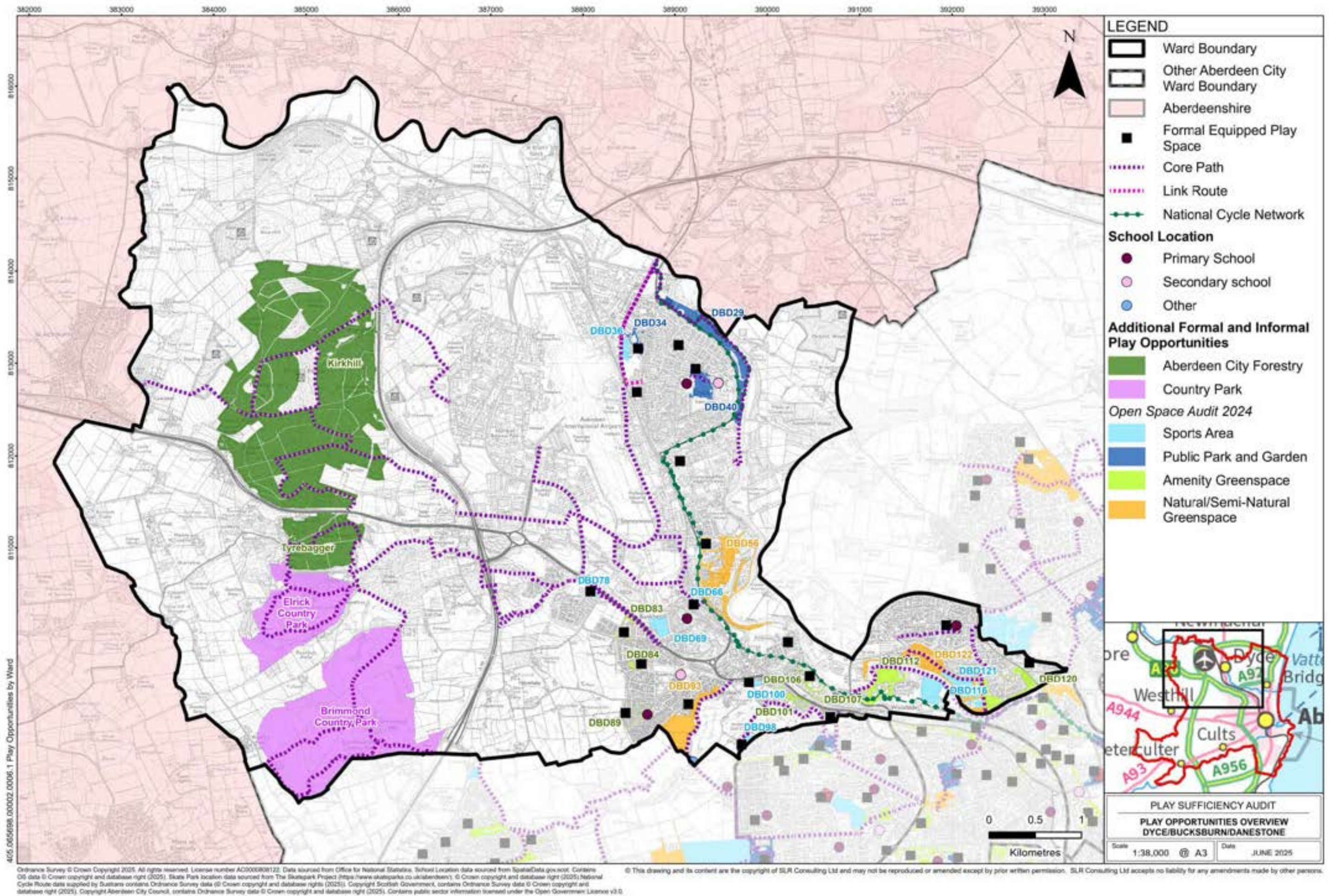


Figure 49: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.2.10 Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 18 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 20.75 hectares of Sports areas
- 21.81 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 17.61 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 46 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- 476.63 hectares of Forest/woodland
- 265.76 hectares of Country park

In total there is approximately 848.56 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was generally okay with the following exceptions:

- 6 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 5 had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 1 space recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- Within the west of the Ward, walking distances to formal equipped play spaces are over twenty minutes however this area has relatively few residential properties.
- Dyce Industrial Estate adjacent to Aberdeen Airport shows a concentration of bus stops and is over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space.
- The River Don creates a barrier to movement within the Ward however residential properties are generally within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space.
- The area to the north of the Bucksburn Roundabout shows a walking distance of up to 20 minutes to a formal equipped play space, however this area consists of predominantly none residential uses

### Accessible parking

The play area, River Don Park (Site 17) includes formal parking and within this provision accessible parking spaces are included.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

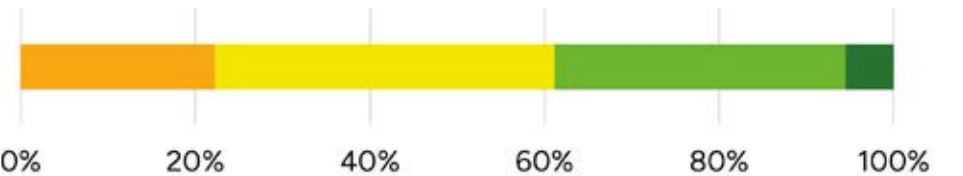


Figure 50: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

22.22% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

38.98% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

5.56% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Lawson Drive
- Auchmill Terrace

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups. Sites including Westerton of Auchmill (Golf) Play Area and Lawson Drive provided higher provision for young people (12-17 year old).

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Wellheads Avenue play park with a ‘very high’ score (see image).
- Auchmill Terrace play park with a ‘very low’ score (see image).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Eleven of the 18 formal equipped play spaces (61%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst two of the spaces (11%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 17 play areas (94%) achieved a score of 0-5
- 1 play areas (6%) achieved a score of 6-10

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Westerton of Auchmill (Golf) Play Area (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was higher than the City average, with 77.87% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 51: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Central Park, Dyce



Figure 52: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Westerton of Auchmill (Golf) Play Area



Figure 53: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Wellheads Avenue/437 Wellheads Avenue



Figure 54: Example of ‘low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Auchmill Terrace



# 6.3 Bridge of Don

## 6.3.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Ashwood
  - Balgownie
  - Bridge of Don
  - Denmore
  - Donmouth
  - Dubford
  - Leuchlands
- Lover’s Loup
  - Middleton Park
  - Mundurno
  - Perwinnes
  - Scotstown
  - Tam’s Hole

## 6.3.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

- Primary Schools**

  - Braehead School
  - Forehill School
  - Glashieburn School
  - Greenbrae School
  - Middleton Park School
  - Scotstown School
- Secondary Schools**

  - Bridge Of Don Academy
  - Oldmachar Academy

**Other schools**

  - None

It is acknowledged that there are

playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.3.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 19,664.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 20.2% of this population, totalling 3,969 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 2,052 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,917 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 304 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 7.7% of the child population in the Ward. 75 of those children and young people live within the Balgownie and Donmouth West neighbourhood and 75 are within Oldmachar East.

## 6.3.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Bridge of Don Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 60 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      4.6

**What is working well?**

- There are lots of lovely spaces and play areas for younger children
- some good areas for children’s games and activities
- Some good spots but again nothing is ever kept clean tidy or working order

**What could be improved**

- Disabled children need to be focused on more. A token here and there isn’t good enough
- more areas for football. Ensure new builds have play areas for children
- more places/spaces for teenagers I know in our area they are not very well catered for which causes them to hang around the streets

**Where do children and young people play in your Ward?**

- Mostly play in their own gardens or local parks. Older children just gather in the streets
- Westfield Park play area, Gordon Park
- Teens at East Woodcroft, Toddlers at Oldmachar Church playpark, others behind Asda off Jesmond Drive

**Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Bridge of Don Ward?**

- A Dog park in East Woodcroft for ball throwing/ running about. As not all children like dogs around them. More rubbish bins, dog poo bins.
- Quality is shocking. One swing, a baby swing and a slide for 500

- homes.
- Accessibility is good. Quality is good. Need more quiet spaces for some kids.

## 6.3.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 15 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 12 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

It is noted that there are two play parks proposed as part of the Cloverhill development on the east side of the A92 however these were not included in this assessment.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
21	Seaview Place Play Area	Council
22	Seaview Drive Open Space Play Area	Council
23	Greenbrae Drive Play Area	Council
24	Westfield Park Play Area	Council
25	Gordon Park Play Area	Council
26	Scotstown Gardens Play Area	Council
27	Buckie Wynd Play Area	Council
28	Jesmond Drive Play Area	Council
29	Lee Crescent North Opp. 309 Play Area	Council
30	Lee Crescent North Gable 179 Play Area	Council
31	East Woodcroft Play Area	Council
32	Ashwood Park Play Area	Council
33	Laverock Braes Play Area	Private
35	King Roberts Way	Private
184	Home Farm Gardens Play Area	Private



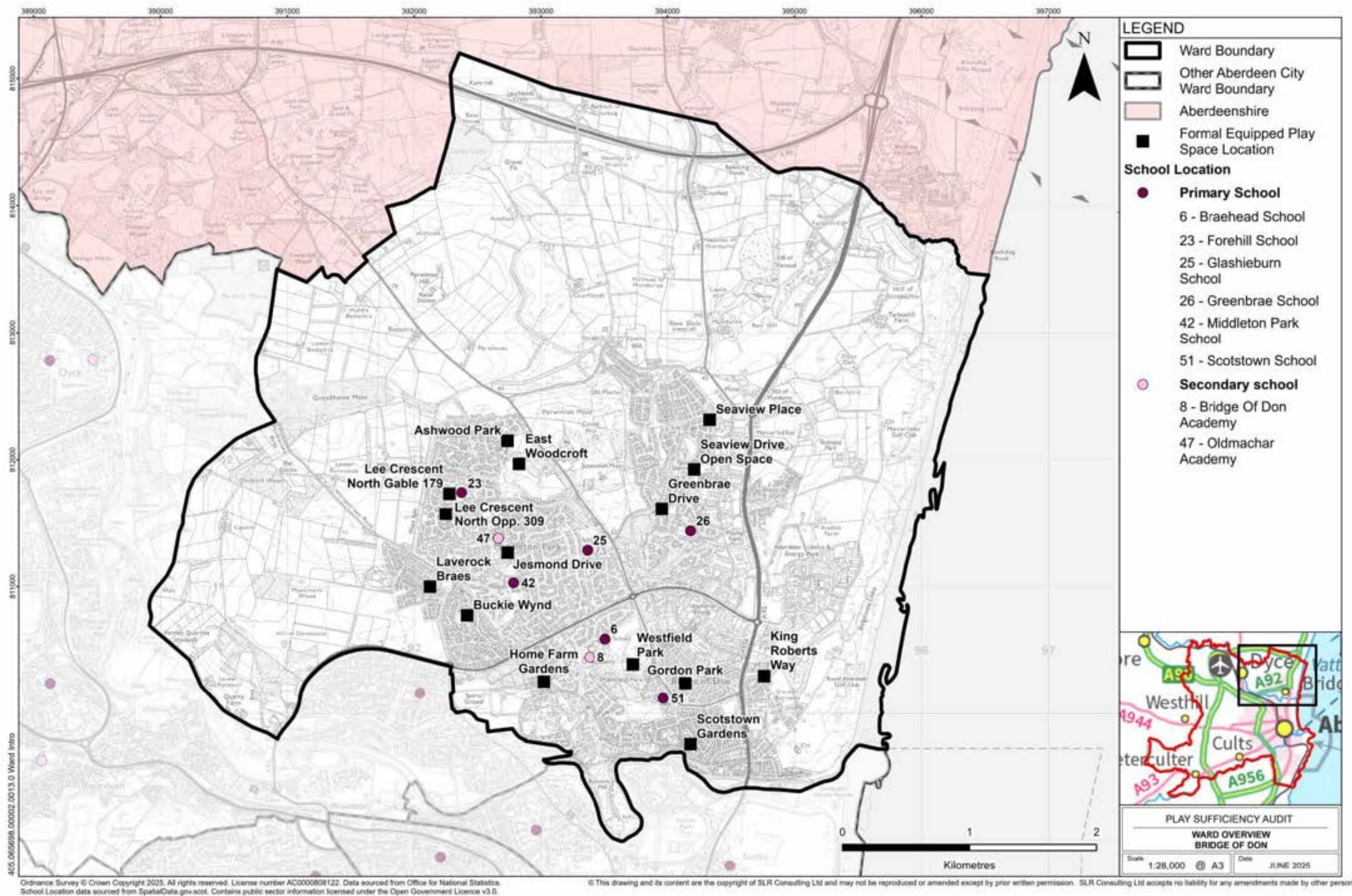


Figure 55: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



6.3.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that generally the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space. It should be noted that formal equipped play spaces within Aberdeenshire Council are not included in this assessment and therefore the areas around the periphery of the City boundary may have shorter distances than illustrated. There is for example a formal equipped play area in Middleton of Potterton.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- Areas to the east, north, and west of the Ward where walking distances to formal equipped play spaces are over twenty minutes. These areas are generally more rural in character and have relatively few residential properties.
- An area in the centre of the Ward around Jesmond Avenue, including Glashieburn School, bounded by the Parkway on the south and Scotstown Road on the east where walking distances to formal equipped play spaces are between 10 and 15 minutes.
- Areas to the east of the Ward, either side of the Parkway where the landuse is predominantly industrial estate.
- The new Cloverhill development on the east side of the A92 (Ellon Road) which shows a walking distance of over 20 minutes. It is understood that there are two proposed play parks included as part of this development however these were not assessed within this audit.

Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of five spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Seaview Place Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seaview Drive Open Space Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greenbrae Drive Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Westfield Park Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gordon Park Play Area	No	No	Yes
Scotstown Gardens Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Buckie Wynd Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Jesmond Drive Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lee Crescent North Opp. 309 Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lee Crescent North Gable 179 Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
East Woodcroft Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ashwood Park Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laverock Braes Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
King Roberts Way	Yes	Yes	Yes
Home Farm Gardens Play Area	Yes	No	Yes



Figure 56: Image of the narrow gravel path providing the entrance to Buckie Wynd play area



Figure 57: Image of poor inclusive access at Gordon Park play area



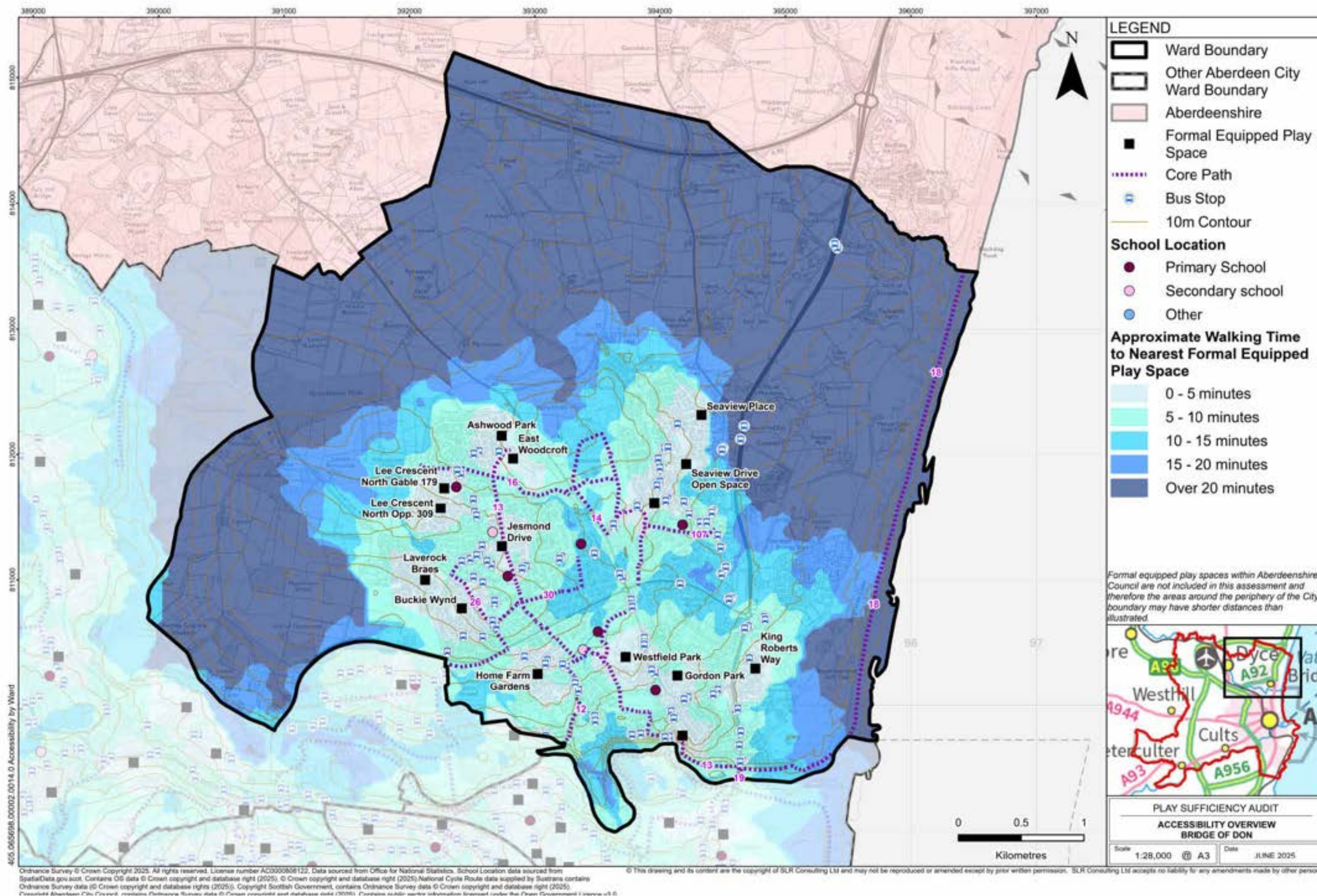


Figure 58: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.3.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

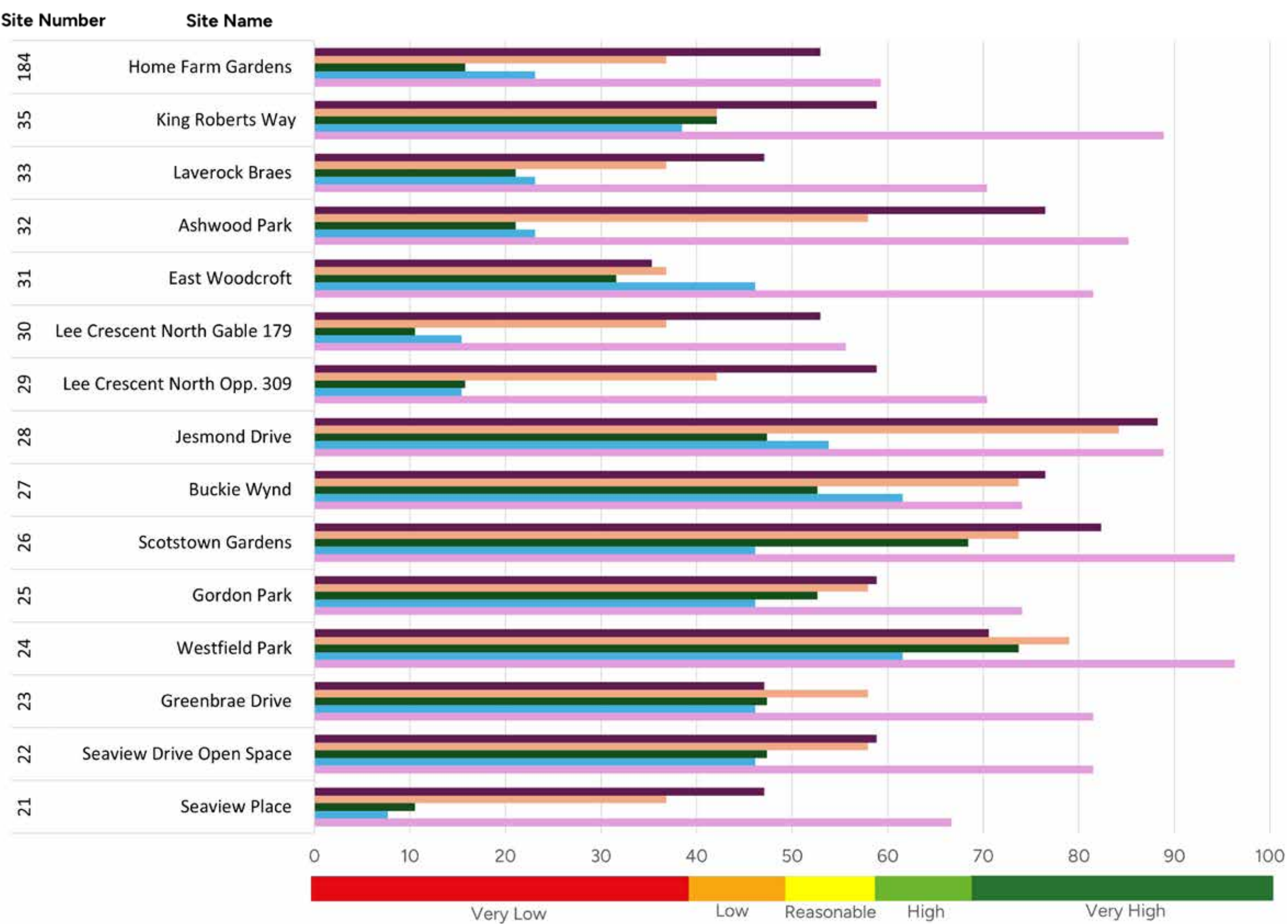


Figure 59: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



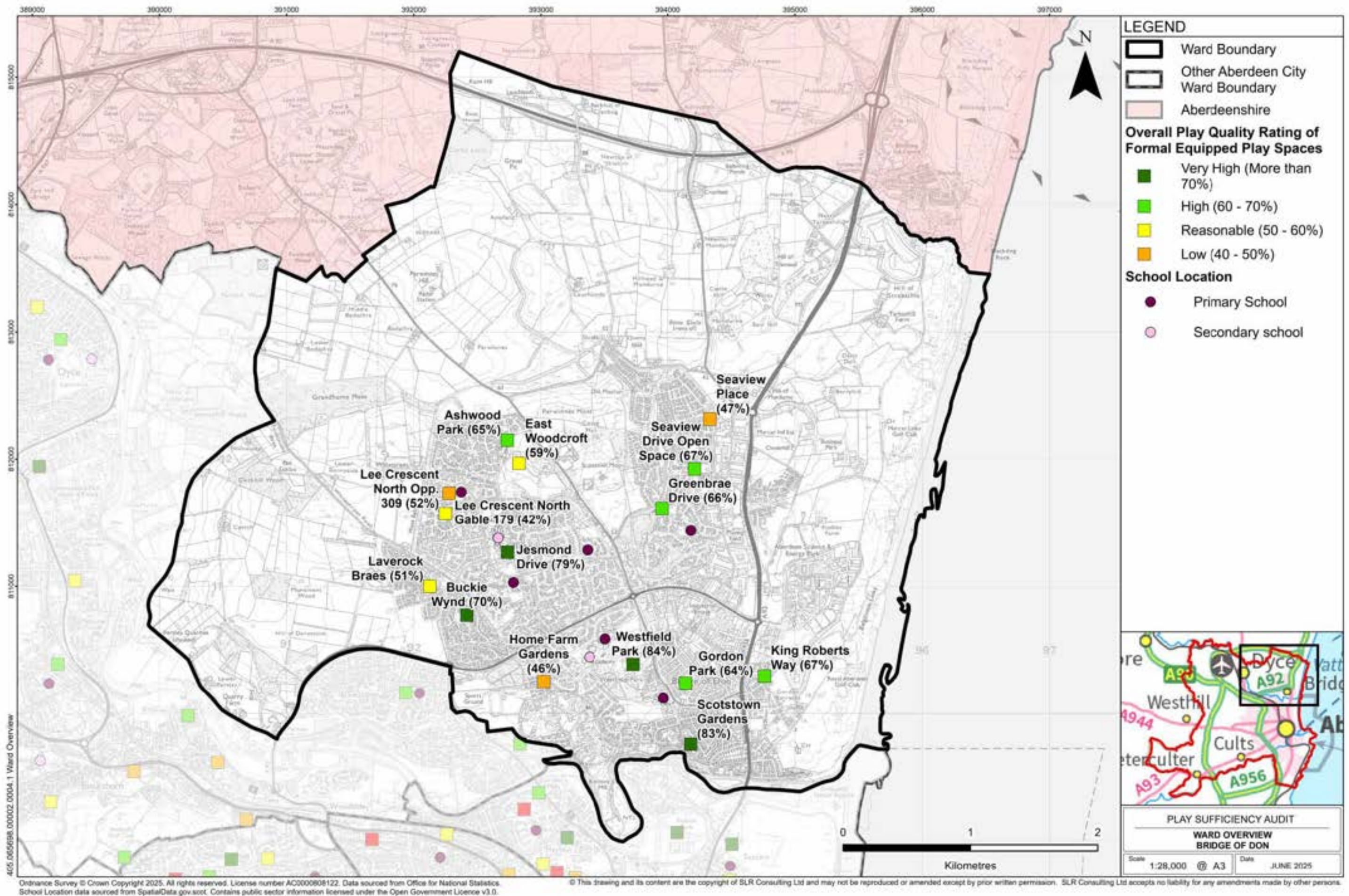


Figure 60: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.3.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

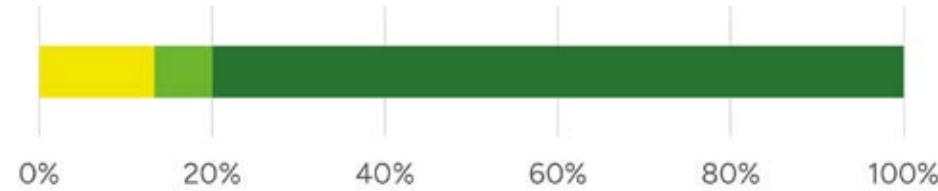


Figure 61: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

13.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

6.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

80% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

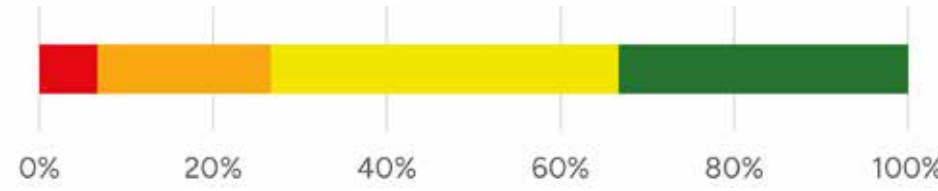


Figure 62: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

6.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

40% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

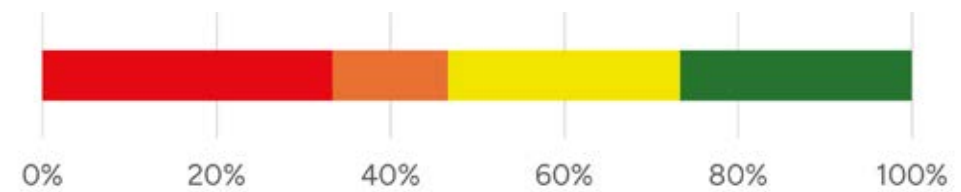
0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 63: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

13.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

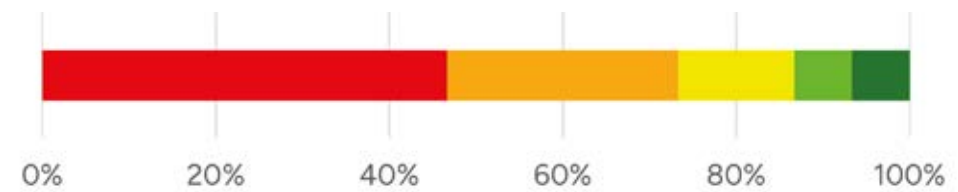
26.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

26.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 64: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

46.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

26.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

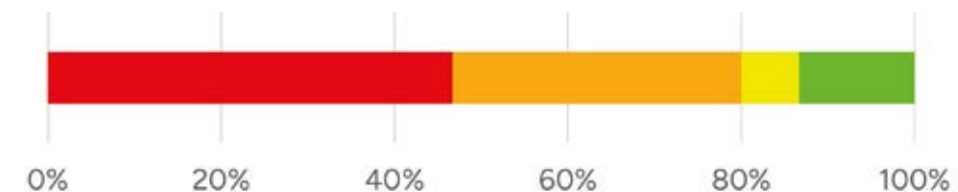
13.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

6.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

6.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 65: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

46.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

6.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

13.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.3.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located towards the north of the City, the Bridge of Don Ward benefits from sports areas and a large number of play spaces. The Ward includes expansive parks such as Westfield Park, and Balgownie Park. Where the River Don meets the North Sea, there is a rich natural habitat and scenic walking routes along the estuary and beach. Smaller neighbourhood parks and playing fields are scattered throughout communities like Ashwood, Denmore, and Danestone, supporting local sports and family activities.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 130.72 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 20.82 hectares of Sports areas
- 23.27 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 4.25 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 20.21 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- 62.17 hectares of Beach

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low**, **low**, **average**, **high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There are two areas of sports areas identified on the map opposite. These are:

### BOD154: Balgownie Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's (ACC's) Open Space Audit.
- This a large area with multiple sports pitches.

### BOD161: Cairnfold Road Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a large open area of grass.

## Public parks and gardens

There are four identified parks within the Ward, these are:

### BOD57: Gordon Rd Play Space

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a formal equipped play space (Site 25), with adjacent playing field.

### BOD54: Westfield Park

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a large park with woodland walks, cycleparking, skatepark, football pitch, and formal equipped play space (Site 24). Adjacent to the park is also a fitness centre and scout hall.

### BOD82: Greenbrae Walk

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a large hilly stretch of grass with a formal equipped play space (Site 23), and sports play space.

### BOD49: Balgownie Rd Play Space

This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.

- Large fenced formal equipped play space (Site 24)

## Amenity greenspace

The following amenity greenspace include play spaces:

- **BOD69** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features areas of grass and two formal equipped play spaces (Sites 21 and 22).
- **BOD37** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features small area of grass and one formal equipped play space (Site 35).

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

- **BOD85** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. It is 20 ha of open semi-natural land with small areas of woodland and paths with one formal equipped play space (Site 31).

## Beaches

- **North Donmouth Beach** is a sandy beach with dunes, and footpaths leading to shore. It has paid parking.

## Skatepark/BMX tracks

- There is a skate park at Westfield Park, see description above.



Figure 67: Image of additional formal play at Westfield Park



Figure 66: Image of additional formal play at Westfield Park



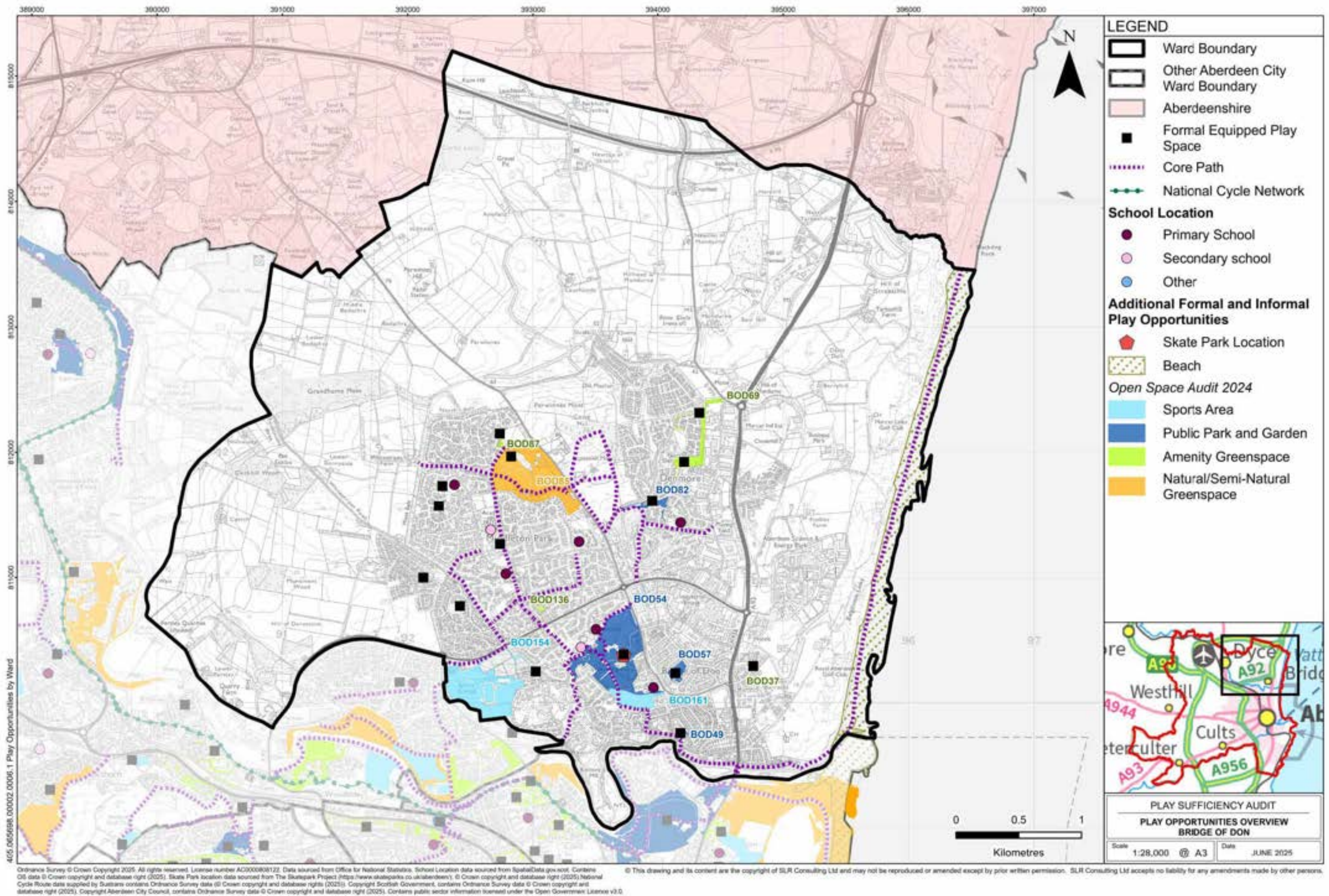


Figure 68: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.3.10 Bridge of Don Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 15 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 20.82 hectares of Sports areas
- 23.27 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 4.25 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 20.21 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- 62.17 hectares of Beach

In total there is approximately 130.72 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 1 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 4 spaces had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- no spaces recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- Areas to the east, north, and west of the Ward where walking distances to formal equipped play spaces are over twenty minutes. These areas are generally more rural in character and have relatively few residential properties.
- An area in the centre of the Ward around Jesmond Avenue, including Glashieburn School, bounded by the Parkway on the south and Scotstown Road on the east where walking distances to formal equipped play spaces are between 10 and 15 minutes.
- Areas to the east of the Ward, either side of the Parkway where the landuse is predominantly industrial estate.
- The new development on the east side of the A92 (Ellon Road) at Strabathie Gardens which shows a walking distance of over 20 minutes. It is understood that there are two proposed play parks included as part of this development however these were not assessed within this audit.

### Accessible parking

The play area, Westfield Park (Site 24) includes formal parking and within this provision accessible parking spaces are included.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

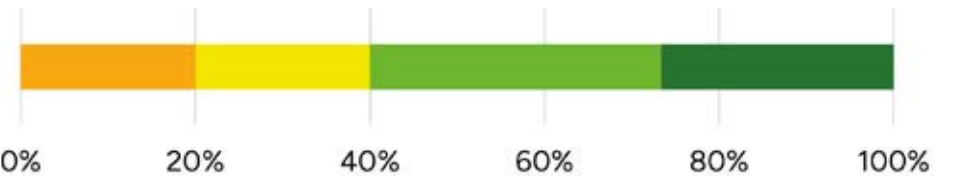


Figure 69: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

27.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Lee Crescent North Gable 179 Play Area

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Westfield Park with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Lee Crescent North Gable 179 Play Area with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Ten of the 15 formal equipped play spaces (67%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst seven of the spaces (47%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 10 play areas (67%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 4 play areas (27%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 1 play area (6%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Westfield Park (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was higher than the City average, with 80% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 70: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Gordon Park play area



Figure 72: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Westfield Park



Figure 71: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Westfield Park



Figure 73: Example of ‘low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Lee Crescent North Gable 179 Play Area



# 6.4 Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen

## 6.4.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Black Neuk
  - Devil's Rock
  - Donside Village
  - Hayton
  - Hillhead Student Village
  - Linksfield
- Old Aberdeen
  - Pittodrie
  - Powis
  - Seaton
  - Sunnybank
  - Tillydrone

## 6.4.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

- Primary Schools**

  - Riverbank School
  - Seaton School
  - St Peter's RC School
- Secondary Schools**

  - St Machar Academy

**Other schools**

  - None

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.4.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 15,007.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 23.7% of this population, totalling 3,551 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 1,345 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 2,206 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 904 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 33.2% of the child population in the Ward. Of those children and young people 302 live within the Torry East area and 237 live within the Torry West area.

## 6.4.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen Ward taken from the 'Your place, Your plan, Your future' survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 45 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      4.7

**What is working well?**

- The Cornhill Community Association accessible outdoor gym is cited by young people as being a great addition to the facilities - it appeals to a different demographic
- There is a good variety for younger children to do activities
- They have just put in a outdoor football pitch and basketball court and a lot of children/ teenagers are using it.

**What could be improved**

- People abusing these spaces and lack of dog bins. Again just litter everywhere
- Could do with more activities for the older children/ high school age
- All the toys, swings, roundabouts, chutes are far too small. They need to be bigger to get fun out of them

**Where do children and young people play in your Ward?**

- Park beside Northsea and Bayview Courts. More young people at night more than during the day.
- mostly Seaton park
- Scott's Park in Bedford, Powis Circle play park, Sunnybank Park

**Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen Ward?**

- We had a skate board ramp that we had which was used well, has been removed and upset a lot of local people.
- There is a good few parks and Seaton park on our doorstep
- We need more swings at Scott's Park in Bedford. We only have 2 swings, and over 200 children and young people

## 6.4.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 20 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 18 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
81	Gordons Mills Road Play Area	Council
82	Kings/Elphinstone Court Play Area	Council
83	Tillydrone Court Play Area	Council
84	Alexander Terrace Play Area	Council
85	Formartine Rd Opp 193-200 Play Area	Council
86	Portal Terrace Play Area	Council
87	Powis Circle Play Area	Council
88	Powis Crescent Play Area	Council
89	Sunnyside Road Play Area	Council
90	Orchard Street Play Area	Council
91	Seaton Park Play Area/Seaton Park	Council
92	St. Ninians Court Play Area	Council
94	Seaton Avenue North Play Area	Council
95	Seaton Gardens North Play Area	Council
96	Seaton Gardens South Play Area	Council
97	Seaton Avenue South Play Area	Council
98	Seaton Crescent Play Area	Council
99	Regent Walk Play Area	Council
100	Links View Amenity Space	Private
101	Tedder Road	Private



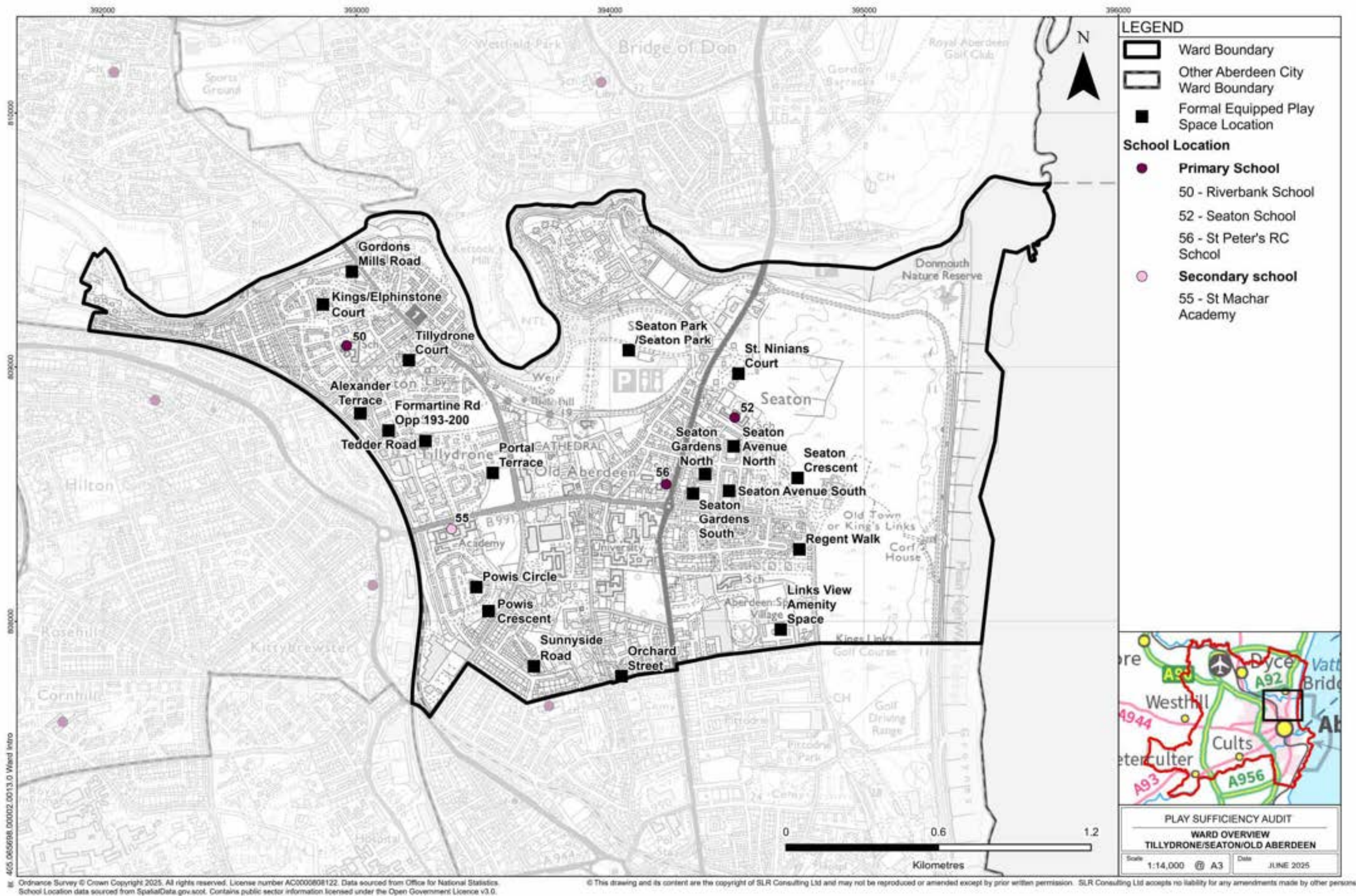


Figure 74: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



# 6.4.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20, and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that all main residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

One exception to this on the plan opposite is Hillhead Student Village in the north of the Ward however this is believed to be due to smaller paths not being included within the data set used for analysis.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of seven spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Gordons Mills Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kings/Elphinstone Court Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Tillydrone Court Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alexander Terrace Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Formartine Rd Opp 193-200 Play Area	No	No	No
Portal Terrace Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Powis Circle Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Powis Crescent Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Sunnyside Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Orchard Street Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Seaton Park Play Area/ Seaton Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Ninians Court Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seaton Avenue North Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seaton Gardens North Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seaton Gardens South Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Seaton Avenue South Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seaton Crescent Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Regent Walk Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Links View Amenity Space	Yes	No	No
Tedder Road	Yes	No	Yes



Figure 75: Image of grassed surface unsuitable for wheelchairs at Formartine Rd Opp 193-200 Play Area



Figure 76: Image of entrance to Seaton Gardens South Play Area



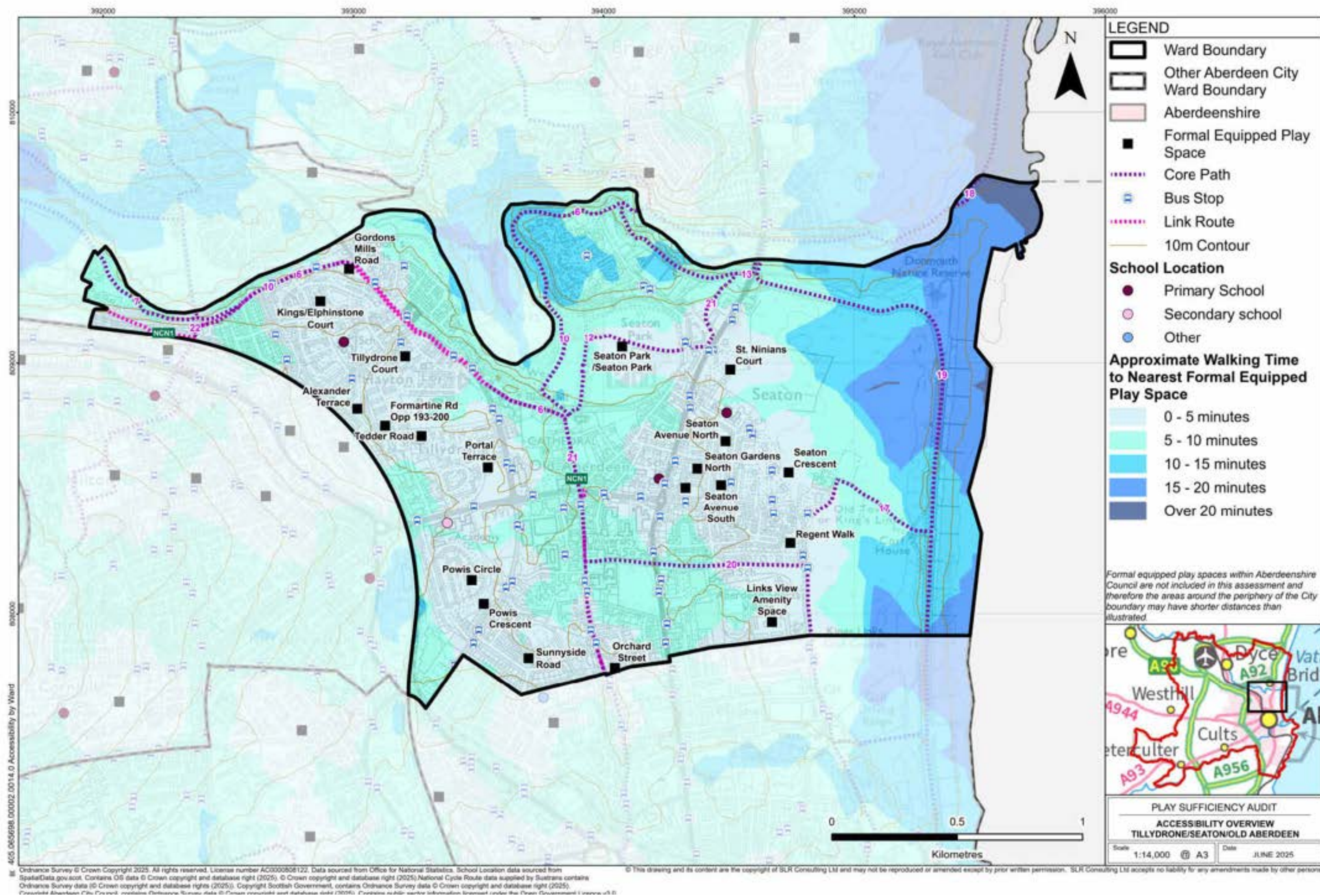


Figure 77: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.4.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

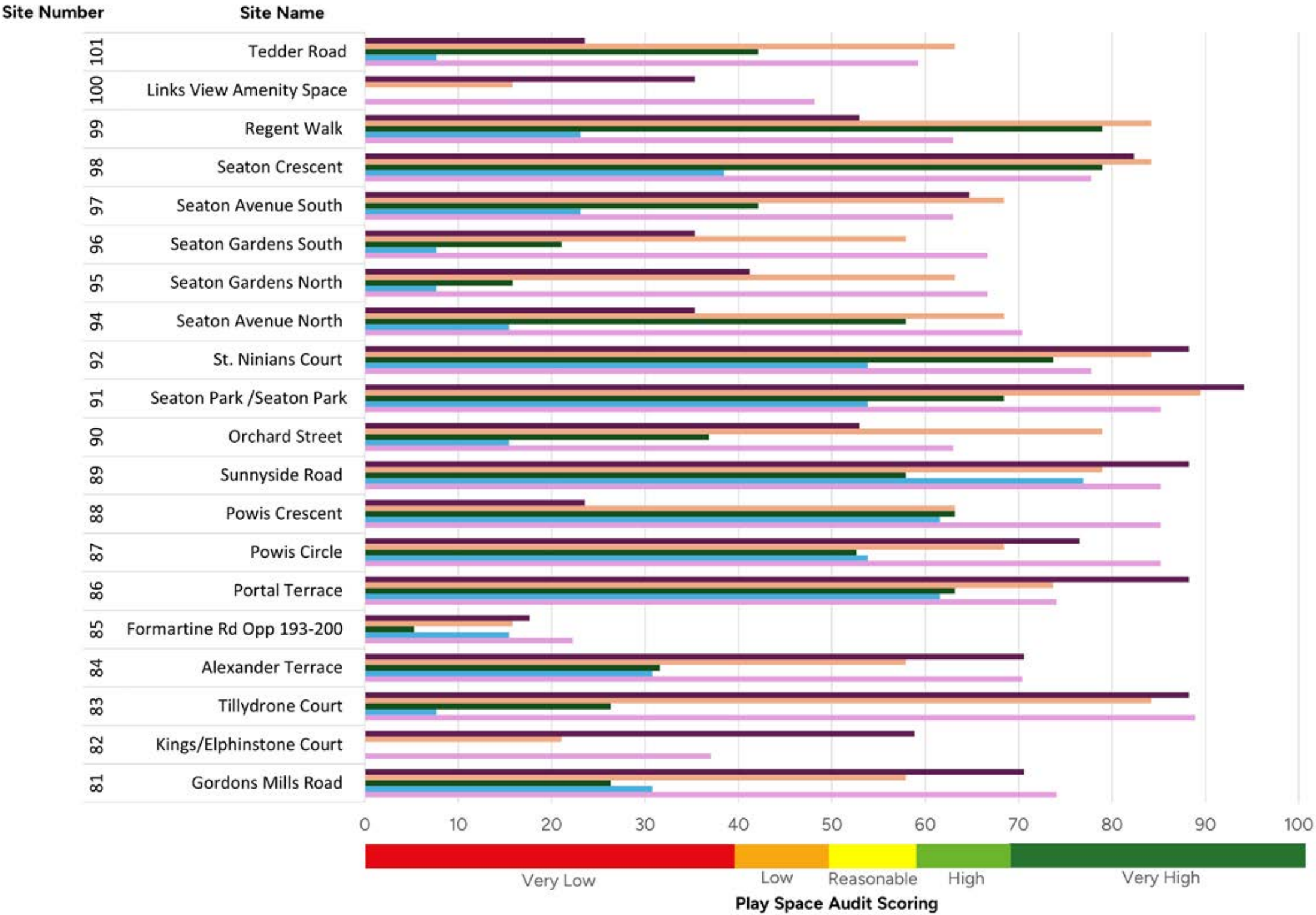


Figure 78: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



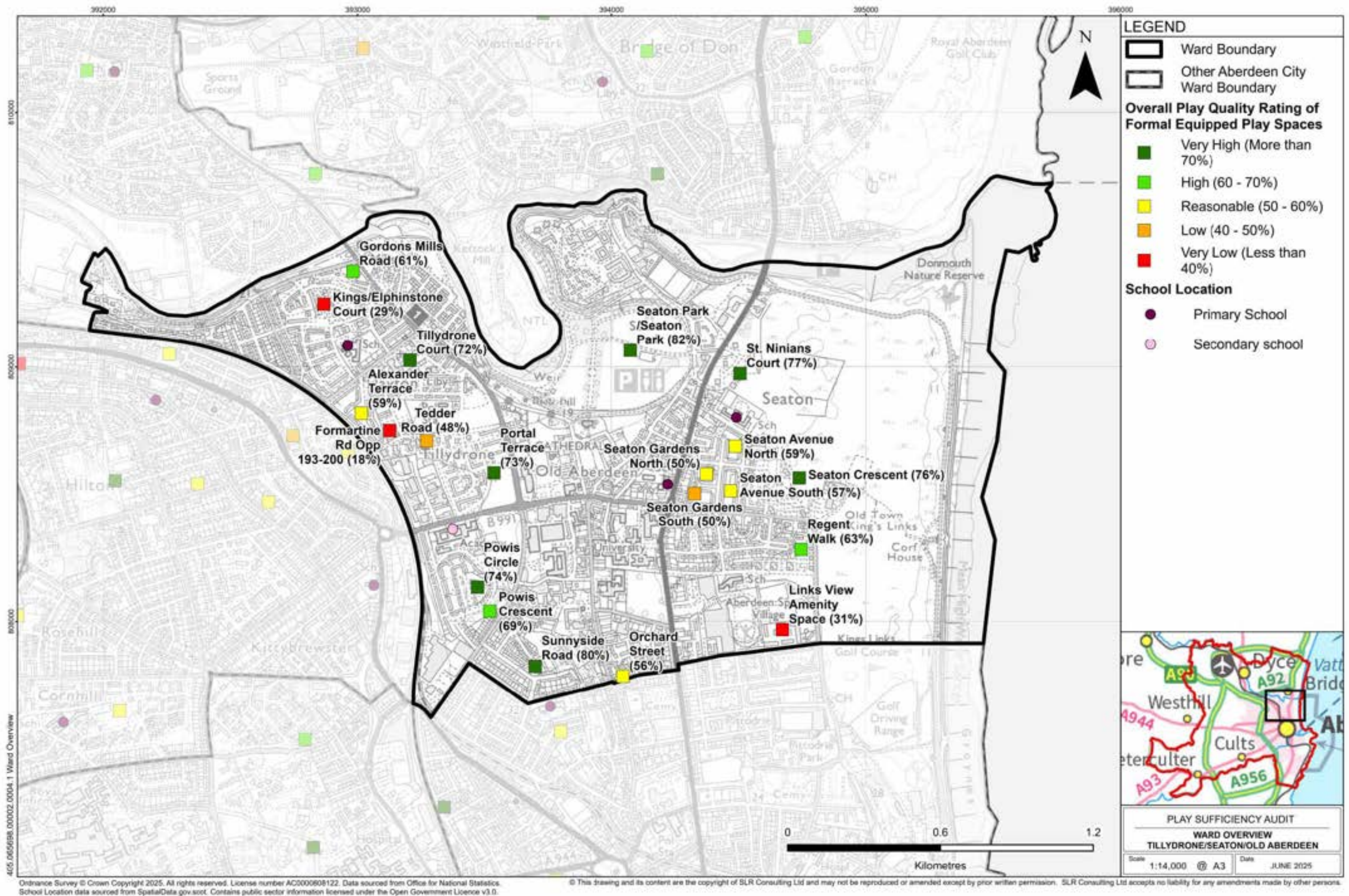


Figure 79: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.4.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

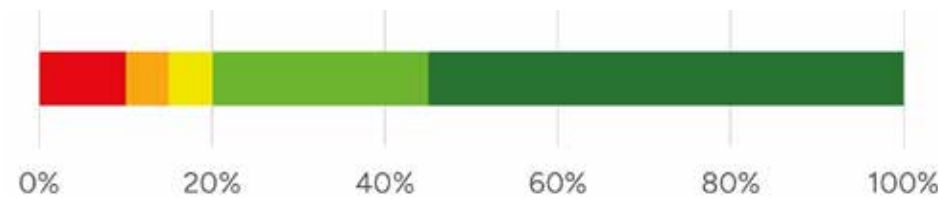


Figure 80: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

55% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

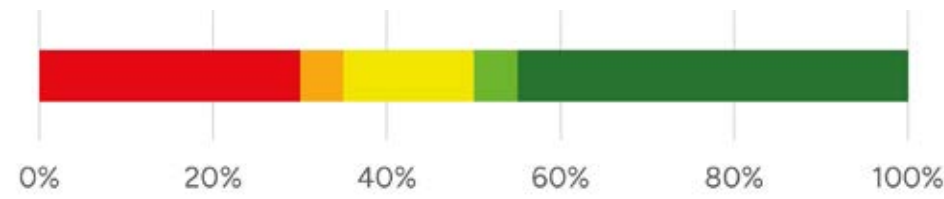


Figure 81: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

30% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

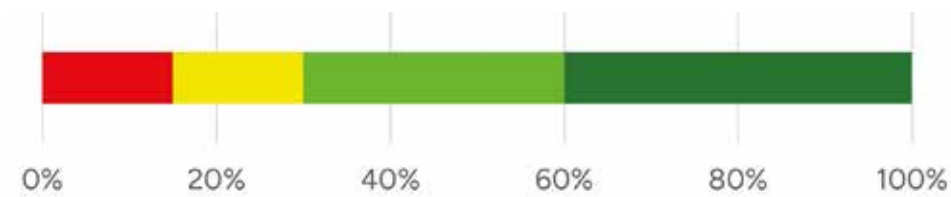
5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

45% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 82: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

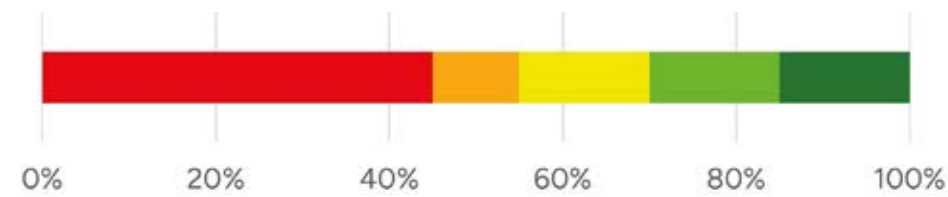
15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

30% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

40% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 83: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

45% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

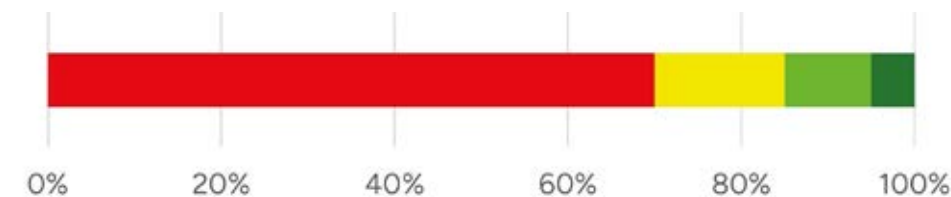
15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 84: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

70% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.4.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the north of the City, the Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen Ward benefits from multiple sports areas, beaches and well connected green spaces. One of the Ward’s most prominent assets is Seaton Park, a large, scenic public park along the River Don, known for its formal gardens, woodland trails, and expansive playing fields. The river itself runs through the Ward, offering attractive riverside paths and wildlife habitats, that provides for walkers and cyclists. In Old Aberdeen, the grounds of King’s College and surrounding historic precincts provide green courtyards and tree-lined avenues that blend heritage with open space. Tillydrone also benefits from community parks and access to riverside routes that connect it to wider green networks.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 106.11 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 10.97 hectares of sports areas
- 32.68 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 10.66 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 51.80 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces (including beach)

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low**, **low**, **average**, **high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There are two areas of sports areas identified on the map opposite. These are:

### TS07: Seaton Crescent Playing fields

- This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s (ACC’s) Open Space Audit.
- This a large grassed area with multiple sports pitches.

### TS031: Seaton Golf Road Playing Fields

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.

- This is a large open area of grass with football pitches and a skatepark.

## Public parks and gardens

There are four identified parks within the Ward, these are:

### TS071: Keith Park

- This area’s quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is a grass park with pathways adjacent to a Sports Centre.

### TS067: Seaton Park

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is a large park with a nature reserve, wetland, formal gardens, woodland walks and a formal equipped play space (Site 91).
- The site has parking and toilets.

### TS047: St. Machar Park

- This area’s quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is a fenced park with football posts, skatepark and a formal equipped play space (Site 86).

### TS038: Sunnybank Park

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is a park with a skate park, basketball hoops, exercise equipment and a formal equipped play space (Site 89).

### TSO64Cruickshank Botanic Gardens

- Rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- The Cruickshank Botanic Garden is located on the King’s College campus of the University of Aberdeen and is free to enter.
- This 4.5 hectare Garden offers has shrub borders, a rock and water garden, sunken garden, rose garden, herbaceous border and an arboretum, and houses a nationally important collection of more than 2500 taxa.

## Amenity greenspace

The majority of amenity greenspace are residential and feature small playgrounds or areas of grass.

Some larger areas of amenity space in the area include:

- **TSO45** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It features two formal equipped play spaces (assessed sites 87 and 88).
- **TSO36** quality rated high rated 16 within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It

- features one formal equipped play space (assessed site 90).
- **TSO3** quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It features one formal equipped play space (assessed site 92) and areas of green space.
- **TSO12** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It features large areas of grass and is adjacent Aberdeen Sports Village.

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

- **TSO61** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It is open semi-natural land with woodlands and riverside paths.
- **TSO2** quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It is open semi-natural land with a large expanse of grass and shrubbery.

## Beaches

- **TSO1** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It features Donmouth Nature Reserve, and Donmouth sands.
- **TSO33** quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It features Aberdeen sandy beach.

## Skatepark/BMX tracks

- There is a skate park at TS047: St Machar Park, see description above.
- There is a skate park at TS031: Seaton Golf Road Playing Fields, see description above.
- There is a skate space at TS038: Sunnybank Park, see description above and image below.

## Cycletracks

The National Cycleway Network Route 1 runs through the Ward. NCN 1 is part of both the long-distance Coasts and Castles route and the North Sea Cycle Route, and connects Aberdeen City to the Highland capital of Inverness.



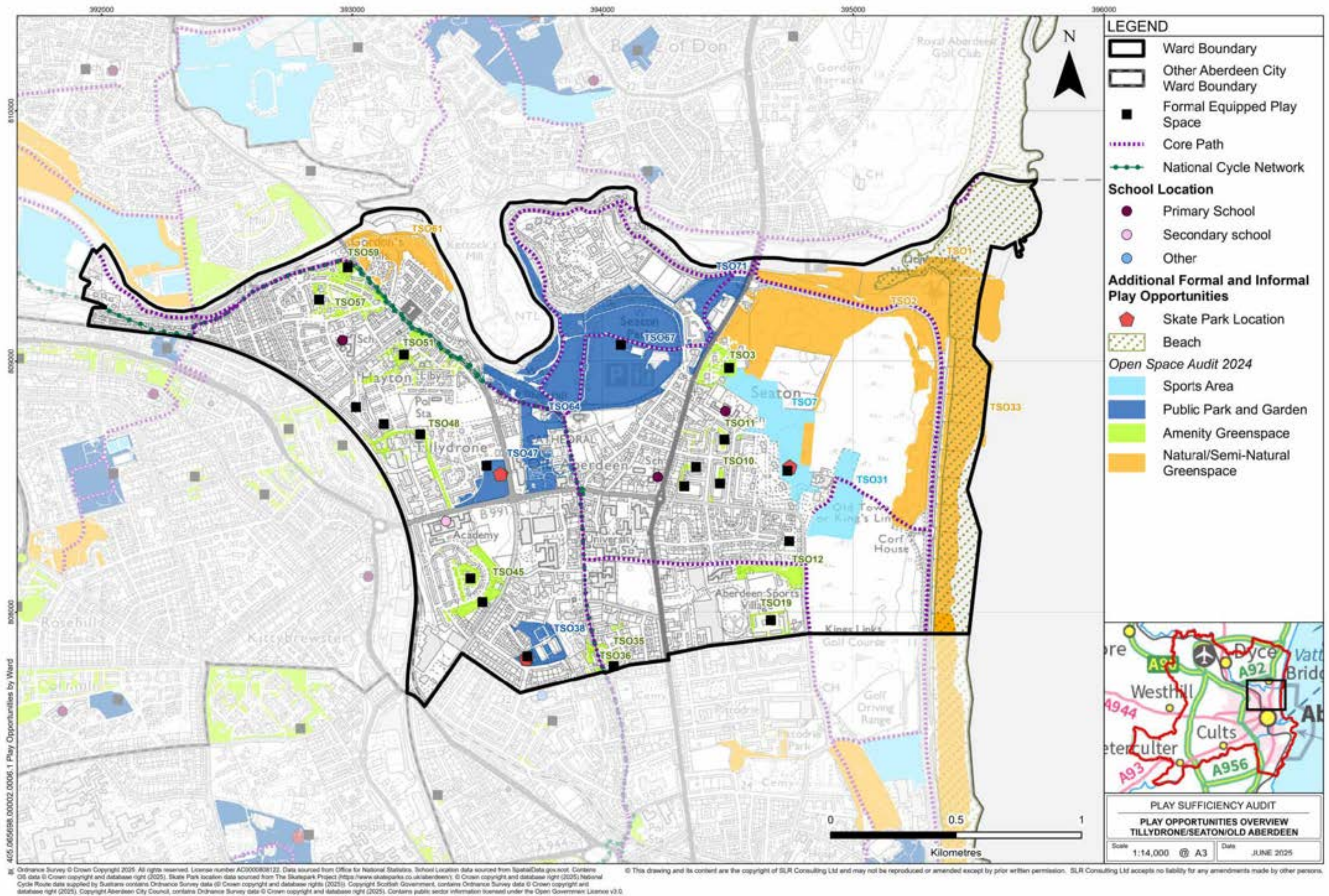


Figure 85: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.4.10 Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 20 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 10.97 hectares of sports areas
- 32.68 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 10.66 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 51.80 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces (including beach)

In total there is approximately 106.11 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 1 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 7 spaces had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 2 spaces recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

### Accessible parking

The play area, Seaton Park (Site 91) includes formal parking and within this provision accessible parking spaces are included.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

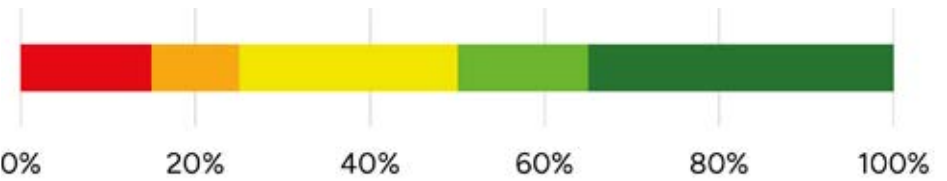


Figure 86: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

35% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Formartine Rd Opp 193-200 Play Area
- Kings/Elphinstone Court Play Area
- Links View Amenity Space

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Seaton Park Play Area/Seaton Park with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Formartine Rd Opp 193-200 Play Area with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. 18 of the 20 formal equipped play spaces (90%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst 14 of the spaces (70%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 15 play areas (75%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 4 play areas (20%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 1 play areas (5%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Powis Crescent Play Area (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was higher than the City average, with 75% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 87: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Tillydrone Court Play Area



Figure 89: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Seaton Park Play Area/Seaton Park



Figure 88: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Powis Crescent Play Area



Figure 90: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Formartine Rd Opp 193-200 Play Area



# 6.5 Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill

## 6.5.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Cornhill
- Hilton
- Kittybrewster
- Rosehill
- Stockethill
- Woodside

## 6.5.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

- Primary Schools**

  - Cornhill School
  - Kittybrewster School
  - Woodside School
- Secondary Schools**

  - None

**Other schools**

  - None

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.5.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 14,168.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 19.2% of this population, totalling 2,726 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 1,409 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,317 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 414 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 15.2% of the child population in the Ward. 219 of those children and young people live within the Stockethill neighbourhood and 195 live within the Hilton neighbourhood.

## 6.5.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 37 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      4.1

**What is working well?**

- Play parks and green space are available close by and well used by children and families.
- Lots of opportunities
- Nature gym in the community garden

**What could be improved**

- Get a better place to play football. Improve lights at park ( Ferriers Crescent)
- No such facilities near me, boys get super bored
- Get more clubs for teenagers and young people

**Where do children and young people play in your Ward?**

- Some playing at Stewart Park or Westburn Park. Some are on e/bikes/ Scooters along the pavements!!
- I don’t let my children out to play unless we go to a public park
- Beside Cornhill Primary and Stewart Park.

**Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill Ward?**

- The quality of Stockethill park is really nice, lots of variety but nothing that’s specifically designed for children with disabilities.
- the Cornhill playground is ok, but not very big. The Stockethill playground seems to have had a big investment in the climbing structure but it is not suitable/ safe for smaller children to play on. This means that teenagers are smoking/drinking in it at night, and then there are broken bottles/litter all over the site.

## 6.5.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 11 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, all of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
70	Clifton Rd Play Area	Council
71	Deer Road Play Area	Council
72	Marquis Road Play Area	Council
73	Ferrier Crescent Play Area	Council
74	Stewart Park Play Area	Council
75	Hilton Community Centre Play Area	Council
76	Piries Lane Play Area	Council
77	Laburnum Walk Play Area	Council
78	Cairncry Community Centre Play Area	Council
79	Ash Hill Road Play Area	Council
80	Oldcroft Place Play Area (Stockethill Play Park)	Council



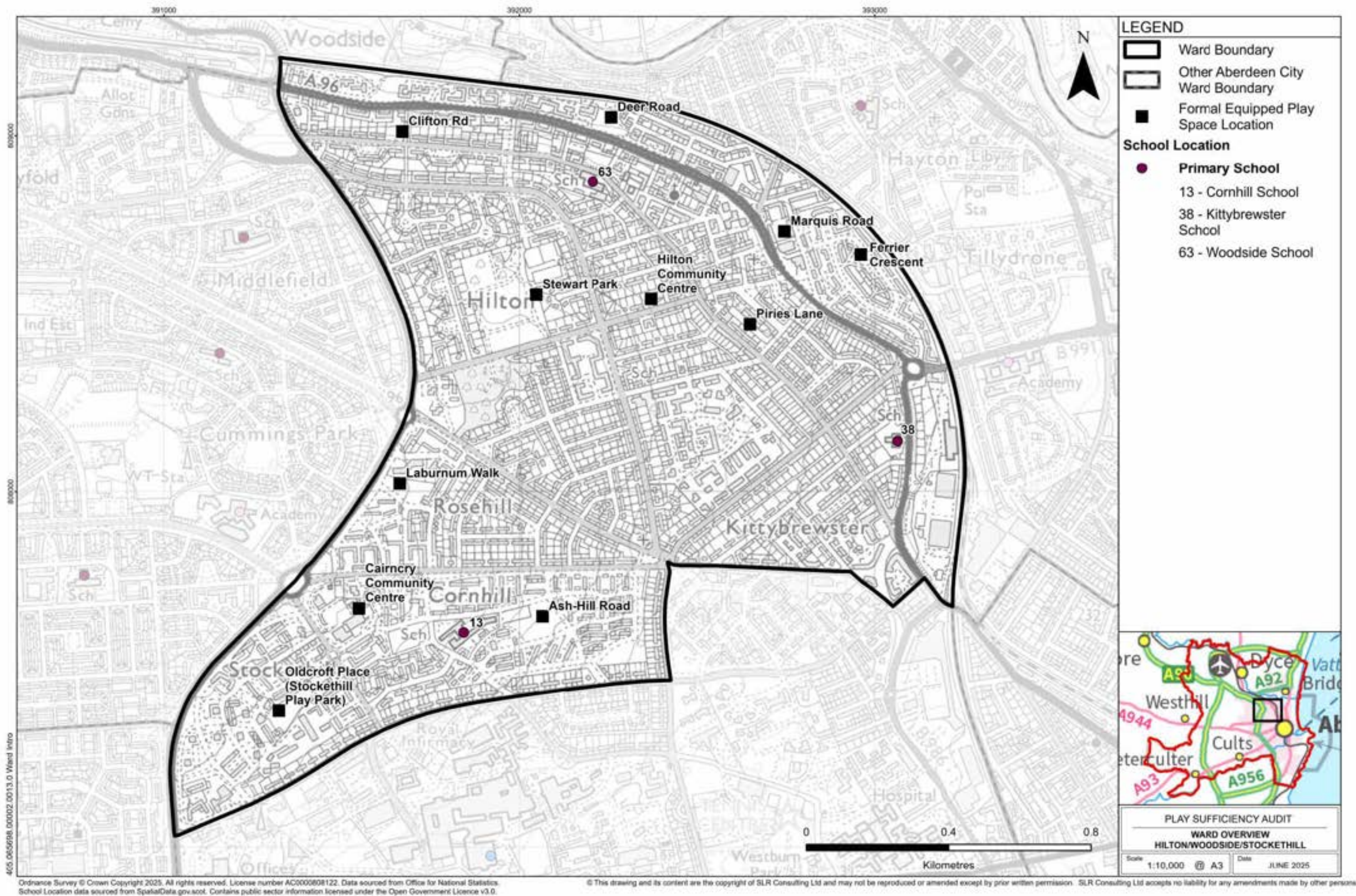


Figure 91: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



# 6.5.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that all main residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of six spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Clifton Rd Play Area	No	No	No
Deer Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marquis Road Play Area	No	Yes	No
Ferrier Crescent Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Stewart Park Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hilton Community Centre Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Piries Lane Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Laburnum Walk Play Area	No	No	Yes
Cairncry Community Centre Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Ash Hill Road Play Area	No	No	Yes
Oldcroft Place Play Area (Stockethill Play Park)	Yes	Yes	Yes



Figure 92: Image of sloping grassed layout at Clifton Rd Play Area



Figure 93: Image of steps on route to Ash Hill Road Play Area



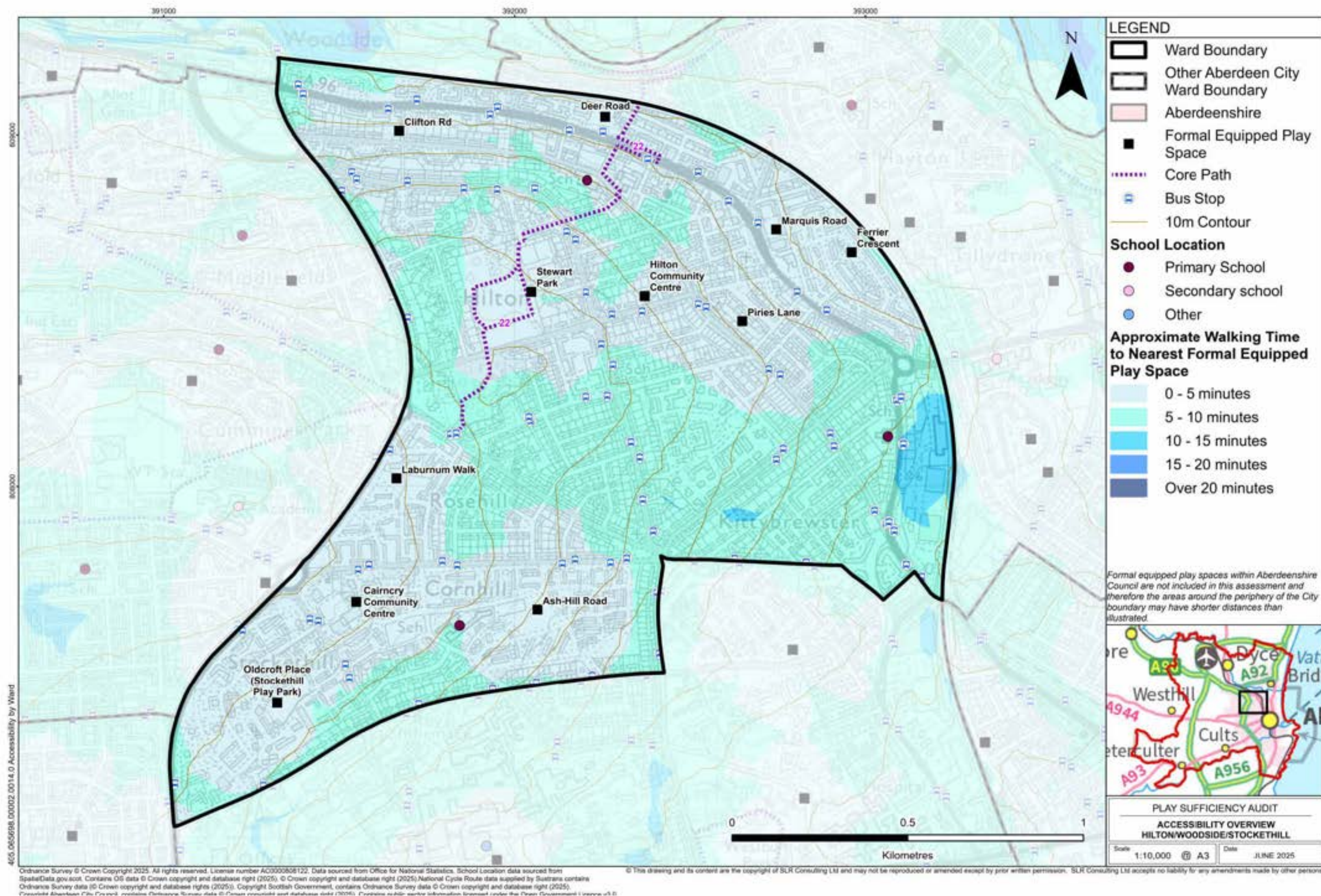


Figure 94: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.5.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

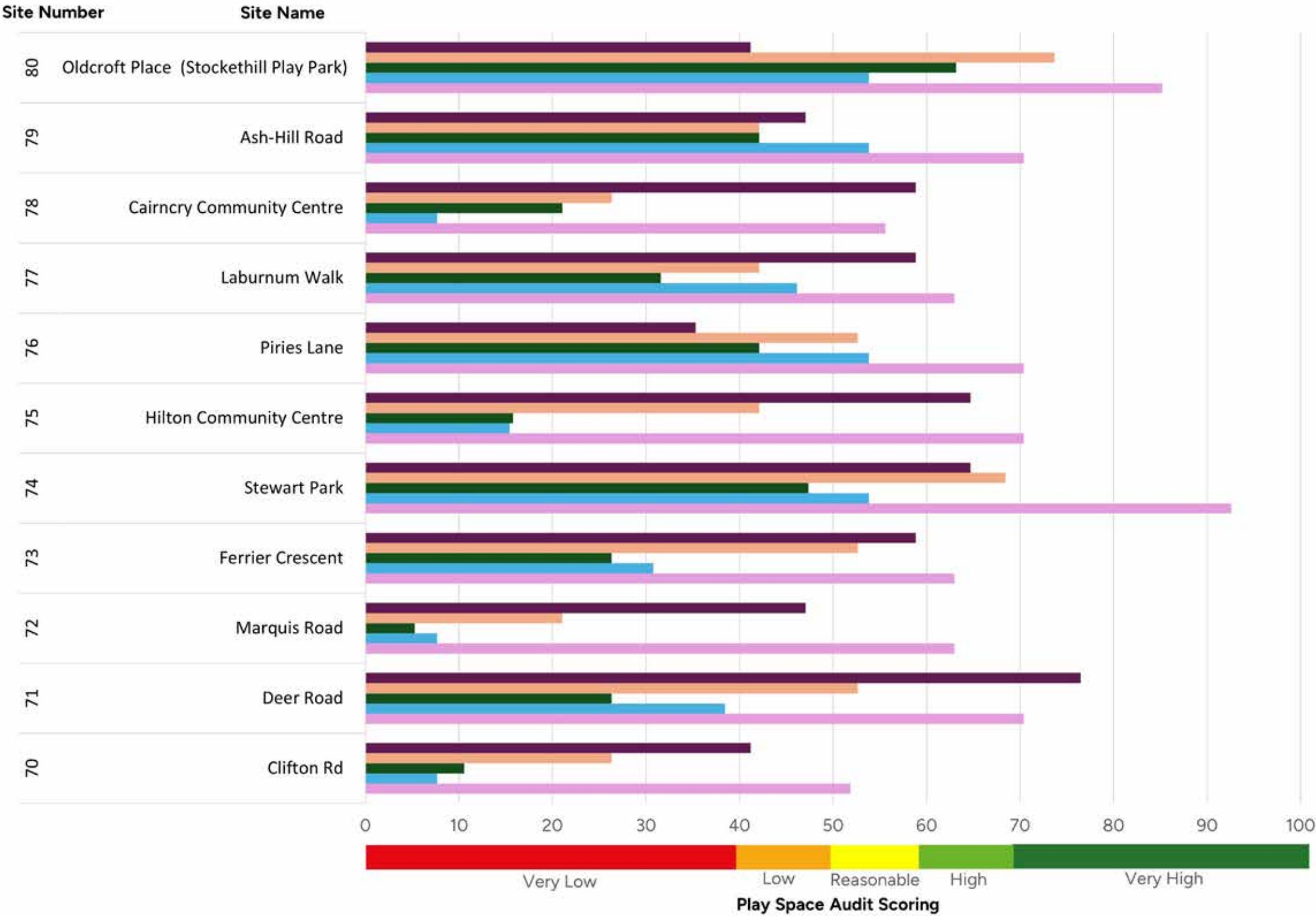


Figure 95: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



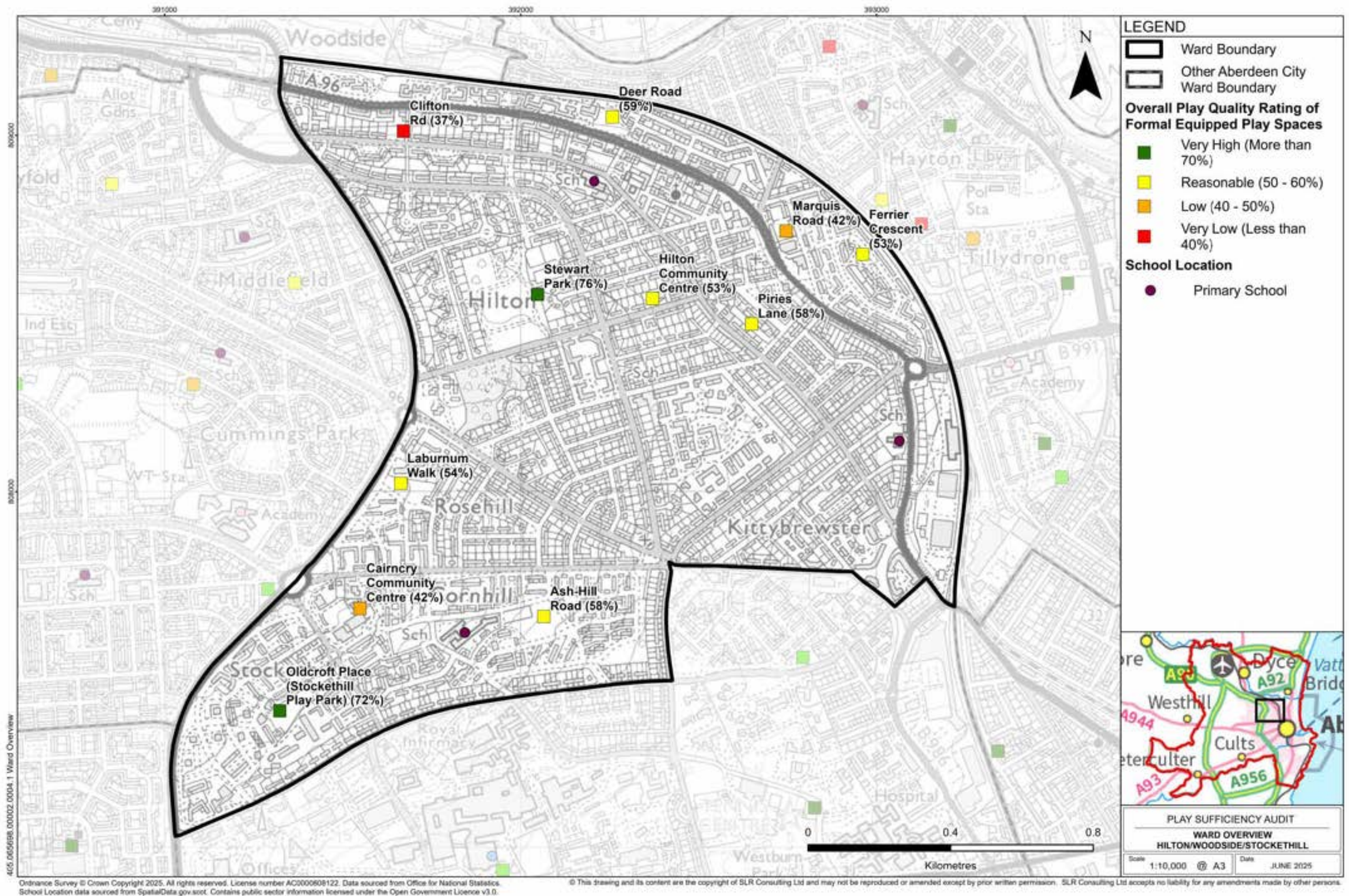


Figure 96: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.5.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/ reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/ very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

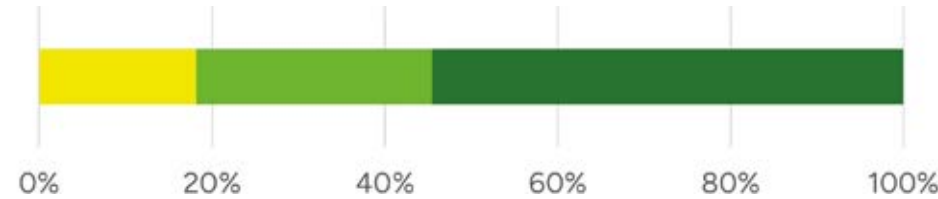


Figure 97: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 18.18% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 27.27% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 54.55% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/ very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

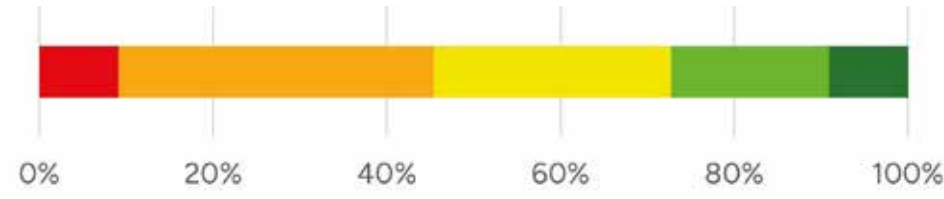


Figure 98: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

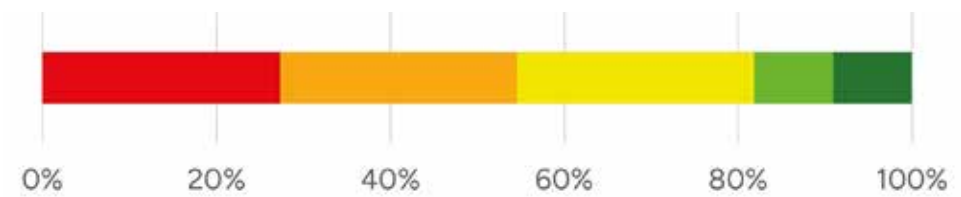
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

- 9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 36.36% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 27.27% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 18.18% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 99: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

27.27% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

27.27% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

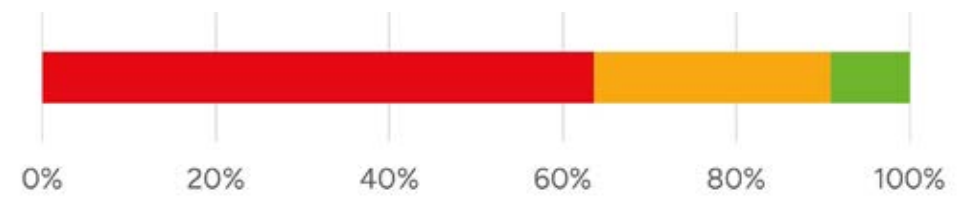
27.27% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 100: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

63.64% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

27.27% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

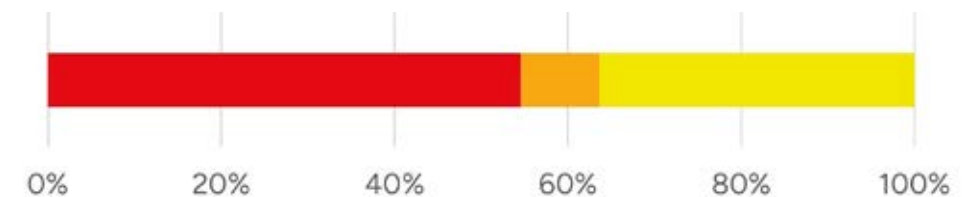
0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 101: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

54.55% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

36.36% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.5.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the north east of the City, the Hilton/Woodside/ Stockethill Ward benefits from multiple parks with play spaces, woodland and sports facilities. Smaller neighbourhood parks and open spaces are scattered throughout Stockethill and Woodside, supporting local play and community activity. The River Don lies close to the northern edge of the Ward, with paths and green corridors connecting nearby areas to riverside trails.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 23.89 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 0.33 hectares of Sports areas
- 6.93 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 13.33 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 3.30 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There is one sports area identified on the map opposite. This is:

### HWS13: Anderson Ave Sports Centre

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a bowling green

## Public parks and gardens

There are four identified parks within the Ward, these are:

### HWS2: Deer Road

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This area contains a formal equipped play space with sports

equipment, sand pit and grass (Site 141) situated adjacent a road.

### HWS12: Stewart Park

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a large grass park with pathways, tree planting, flat open-areas, a pavilion and a formal equipped play space (Site 74).

### HWS30: Cornhill Drive Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a flat open area of grass with a formal equipped play space (Site 79).

## Amenity greenspace

The majority of amenity greenspace are residential and feature small playgrounds or areas of grass.

Some larger areas of amenity space in the area include:

- **HWS33** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features one formal equipped play spaces (Site 88) and open grassed area.
- **HWS25** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features one formal equipped play space (Site 77), mounded grassed areas and sports play space.
- **HWS31** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features a large area of grass.
- **HWS19** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features a large area of grass with tree planting, and paths.

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

- **HWS17** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. It is a woodland with natural paths, known as Hilton Old Quarry.



Figure 102: Image of Laburnum Walk play space and grass mounding



Figure 103: Image of informal play within the Ward at HWS30



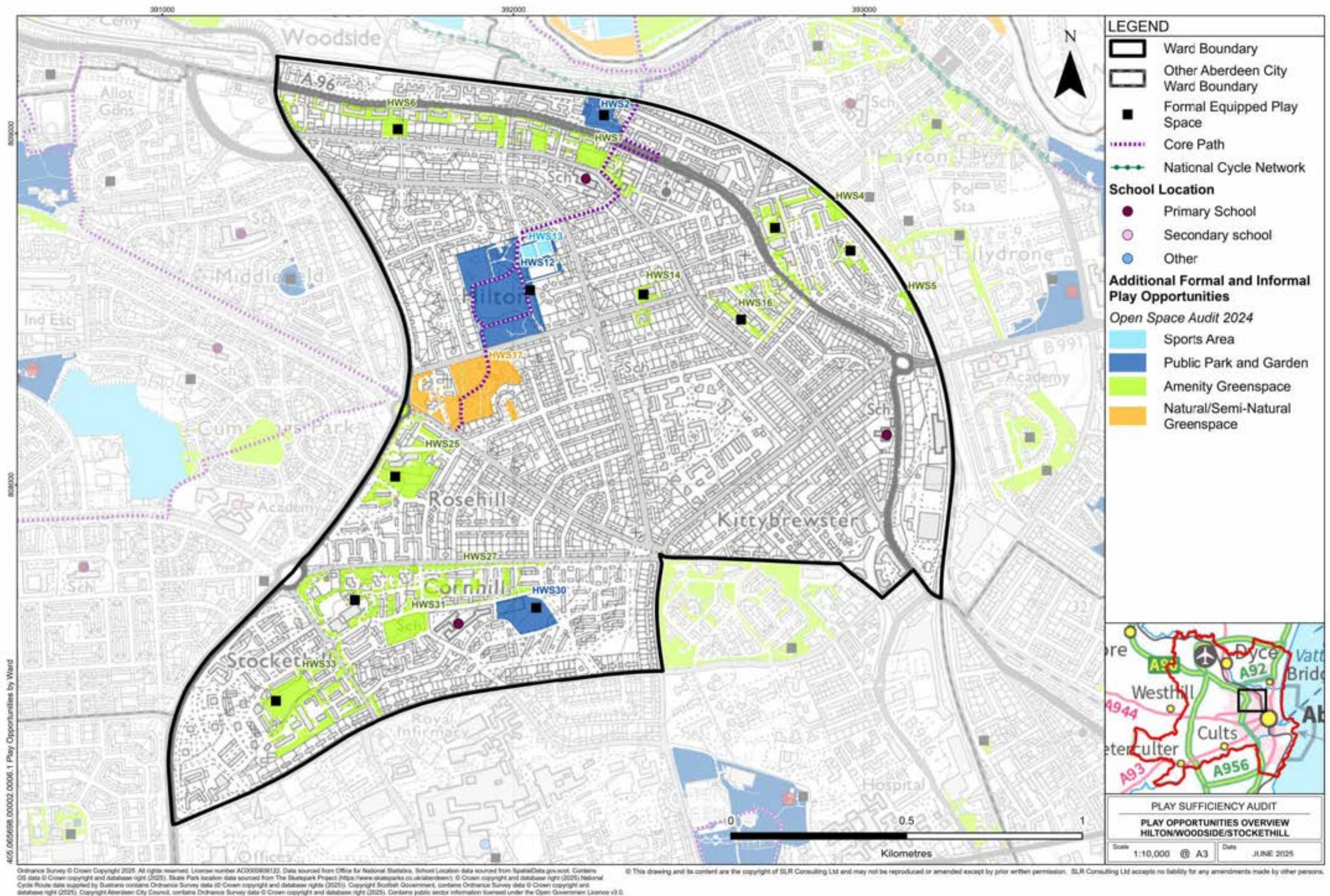


Figure 104: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.5.10 Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 13 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 0.33 hectares of Sports areas
- 6.93 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 13.33 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 3.30 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

In total there is approximately 23.89 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 5 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 6 had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 2 space recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

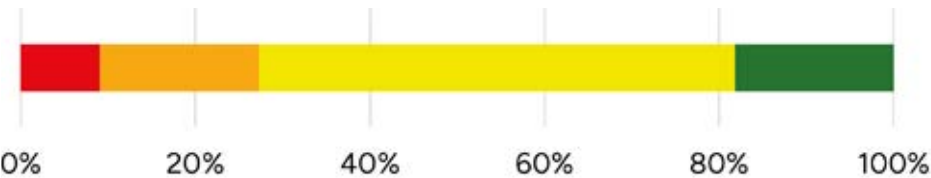


Figure 105: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

18.18% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

54.55% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

18.18% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’.

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Stewart Park Play Area with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Clifton Road Play Area with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. One of the 11 formal equipped play spaces (9%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst none of the spaces (0%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 7 play areas (64%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 4 play areas (36%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 0 play areas (0%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play parks for risky and challenging play were, Stewart Park Play Area, Ash Hill Road Play Area and Oldcroft Place Play Area (Stockethill Play Park) (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was lower than the City average, with 72.73% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 106: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Deer Road Play Area



Figure 108: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Stewart Park Play Area



Figure 107: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Oldcroft Place Play Area (Stockethill Play Park)



Figure 109: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Clifton Road Play Area



# 6.6 Northfield/Mastrick North

## 6.6.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Cummings Park
- Heathryfold
- Mastrick
- Middlefield
- Northfield

## 6.6.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

### Primary Schools

- Bramble Brae School
- Manor Park School
- Quarryhill School
- Westpark School

### Secondary Schools

- Northfield Academy

### Other schools

- None

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.6.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 15,933.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 25.7% of this population, totalling 4,102 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 2,027 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 2,075 individuals
- Regarding child poverty, approximately 969 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 23.6% of the child population in the Ward. 348 of those children and young people live within the Heathryfold and Middlefield neighbourhood, 316 live within Northfield.

## 6.6.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Northfield/Mastrick North Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 60 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      4.4

### What is working well?

- Fine for young ones
- Plenty parks and play areas
- Decent amount of parks for kids. A lot of open space for activities and a lot of variety.

### What could be improved

- Areas surrounding park and green space areas are not well kept, as well as kids roaming about damaging items and littering and shouting abuse
- Fence at edge of road to safeguard children running onto the road
- More areas for young people to stay out of trouble

### Where do children and young people play in your Ward?

- Play swings on outside Mastrick Community Centre and Henry Ray Park
- Auchmill woods, Auchmill Golf Course, parks in Northfield area
- in the street and in communal gardens, around shops and supermarkets

### Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Northfield/Mastrick Ward?

- Grass is often left to grow too long between cuts. Built on a hill no accessible toys for children with additional needs
- There are few playgrounds in my area, when the weather is good the playgrounds are overcrowded. The equipment is often broken, there are few attractions on these playgrounds
- I think it's good but unfortunately people don't pick up dog waste after exercising dogs.

## 6.6.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 12 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, all of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
58	Greenfern Road Play Area	Council
59	Eric Hendrie Park Play Area, North and South	Council
60	Beech Road Play Area	Council
61	Byron Court Play Area	Council
62	Allan Douglas Park Play Area	Council
63	Cummings Park Community Centre Play Area	Council
64	Persley Crescent Play Area	Council
65	Westerton Crescent Play Area	Council
66	Marchburn Park Play Area	Council
67	Oldtown Terrace Play Area	Council
68	Heathryfold Play Area	Council
69	Manor Avenue Play Area	Council



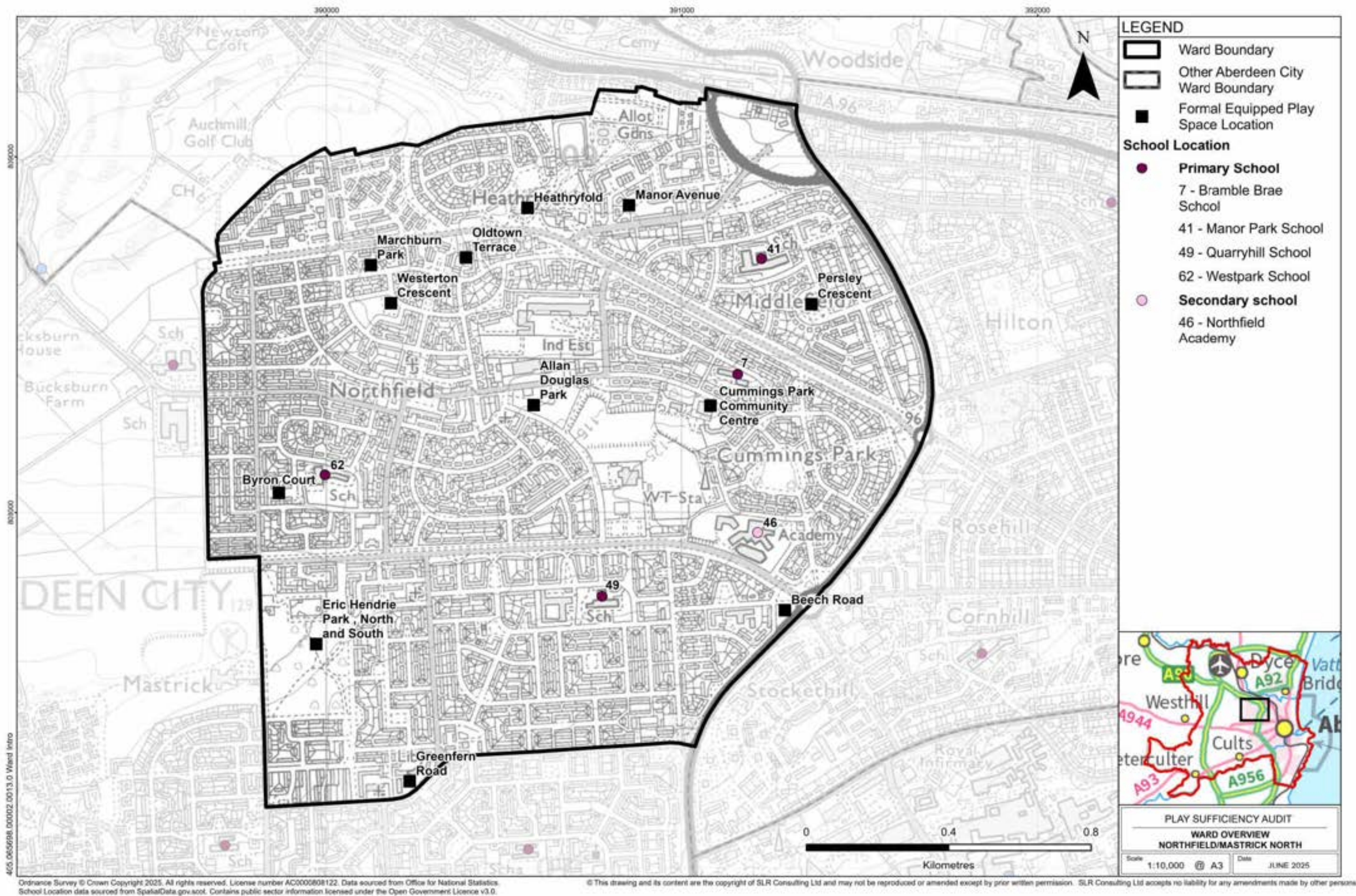


Figure 110: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



# 6.6.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space. The exception to this is a small area of housing directly to the south of Quarry Hill School.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of three spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Greenfern Road Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Eric Hendrie Park Play Area, North and South	No	Yes	Yes
Beech Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Byron Court Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Allan Douglas Park Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Cummings Park Community Centre Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Persley Crescent Play Area	No	No	No
Westerton Crescent Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marchburn Park Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oldtown Terrace Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Heathryfold Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manor Avenue Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes



Figure 111: Image of muddy entrance to Persley Crescent Play Area



Figure 112: Image of raised edging and loose surfacing at Greenfern Road Play Area



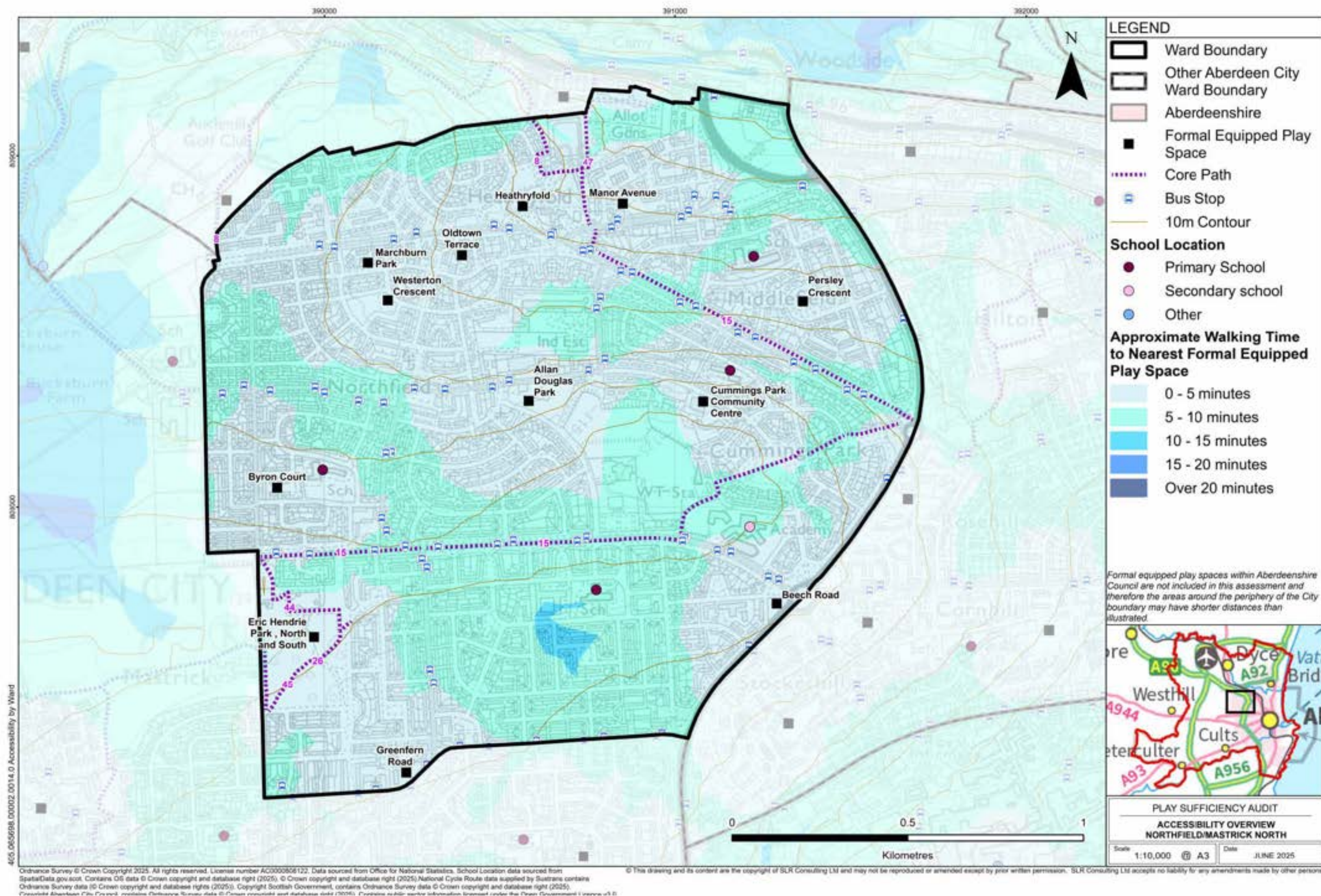


Figure 113: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.6.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

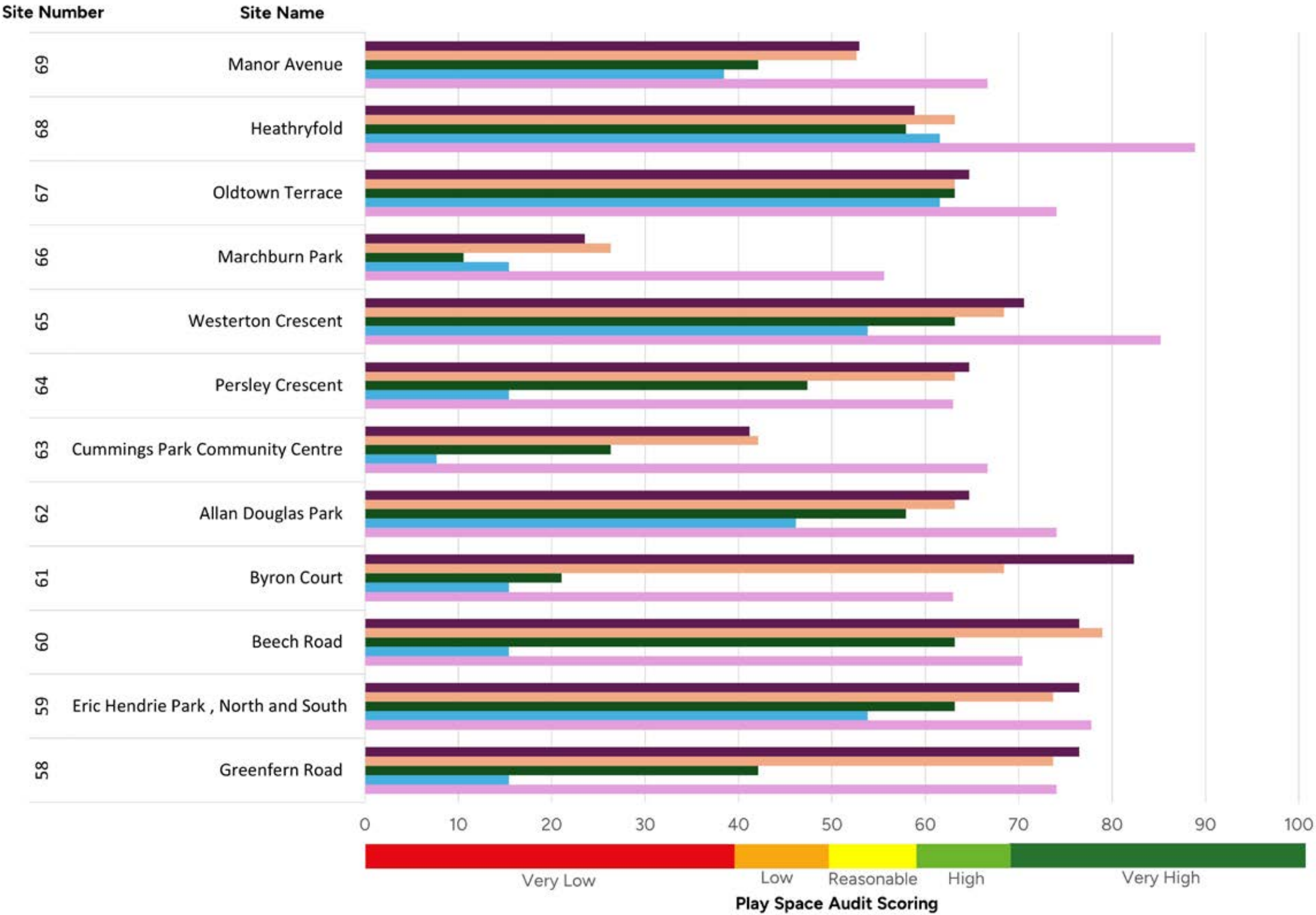


Figure 114: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



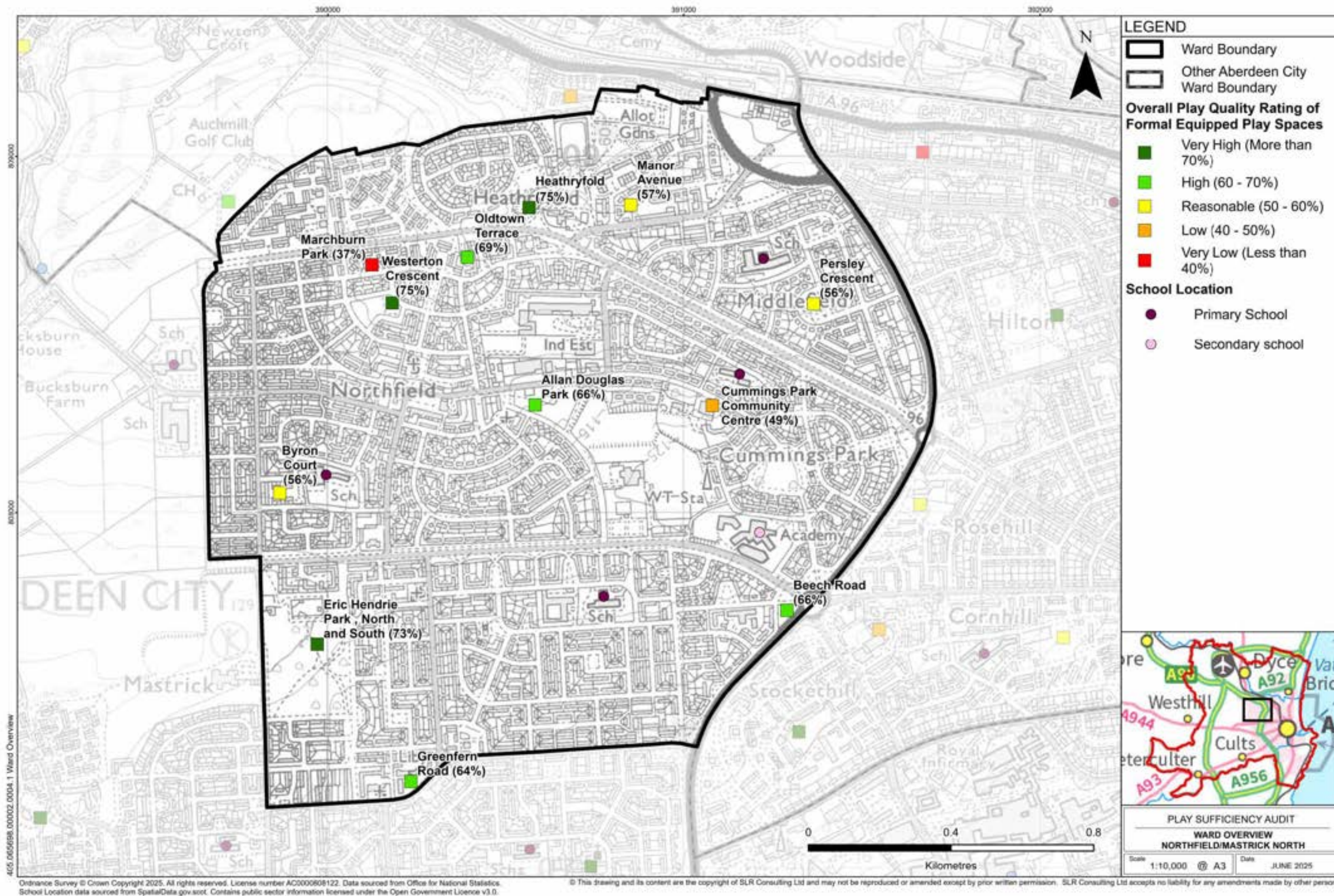


Figure 115: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.6.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

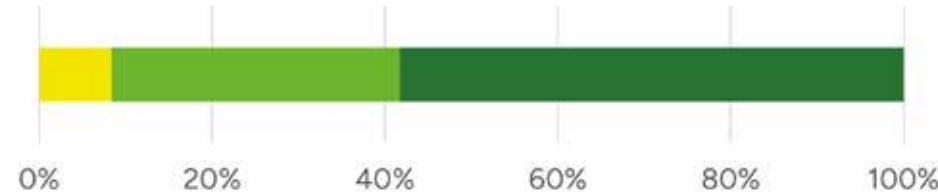


Figure 116: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 58.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

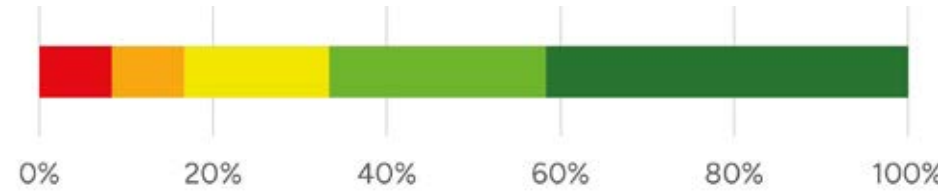


Figure 117: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

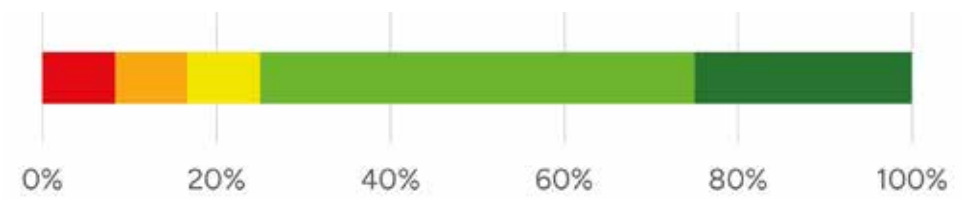
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

- 8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 16.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 41.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



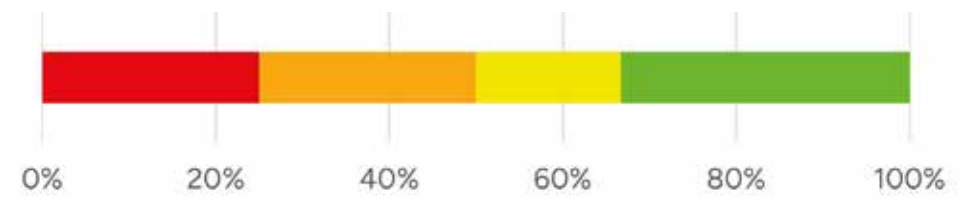
**Figure 118: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

- 8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



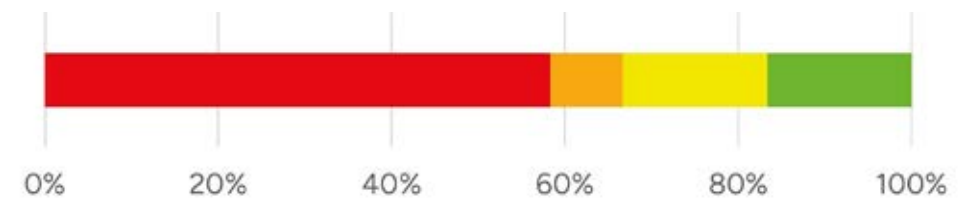
**Figure 119: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

- 25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 16.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 120: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

- 58.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 16.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 16.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.6.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the north east of the City, the Northfield/Mastrick North Ward benefits from multiple play spaces but has a small number of quality open space. The area includes several well-used local parks such as Heathryfold Park and Allan Douglas Park which provides space for sports, play, and community gatherings. These parks are complemented by smaller green pockets and tree-lined streets that help break up the housing density. Proximity to the River Don corridor to the north also offers easy access to riverside paths and natural habitats.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 26.28 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 6.69 hectares of Sports areas
- 14.23 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 5.36 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 0 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There is one sports area identified on the map opposite. This is:

### NMN24: Kettlehills Crescent

- This area's quality rated low within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This area is a playing field

## Public parks and gardens

There are four identified parks within the Ward, these are:

### NMN6: Heathryfold Road

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.

- This area contains a formal equipped play space with large open areas of grass, play equipment built into slope, paths, and a community centre with sports facilities (Site 68) situated adjacent a road.

### NMN33: Newton Road

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a grass park with a fenced formal equipped play space (Site 64).

### NMN22: Allan Douglas Park

- This area's quality rated low within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a fenced area of grass with some mounding and paths. It contains a formal equipped play space (Site 62), a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area), skate park/BMX park and zipline/flying fox.

### NMN37: Deveron Road

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a large open area of grass with tree planting and paths. It contains a formal equipped play space (Site 59) and sports facilities.

## Amenity greenspace

The majority of amenity greenspace are large grassed verges but the following areas of amenity space in the area provided play opportunities:

- **NMN40** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features one formal equipped play spaces (assessed site 58) and open grassed area outside of the library.
- **NMN28** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. It is a flat grassed green .

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

No areas of natural or semi natural greenspace were identified in the Ward which could contribute to informal play.

## Skatepark/BMX tracks

- There is a skate park at Allan Douglas Park, see description above.



Figure 122: Image of play space 68 within NMN6



Figure 121: Image of MUGA at NMN22



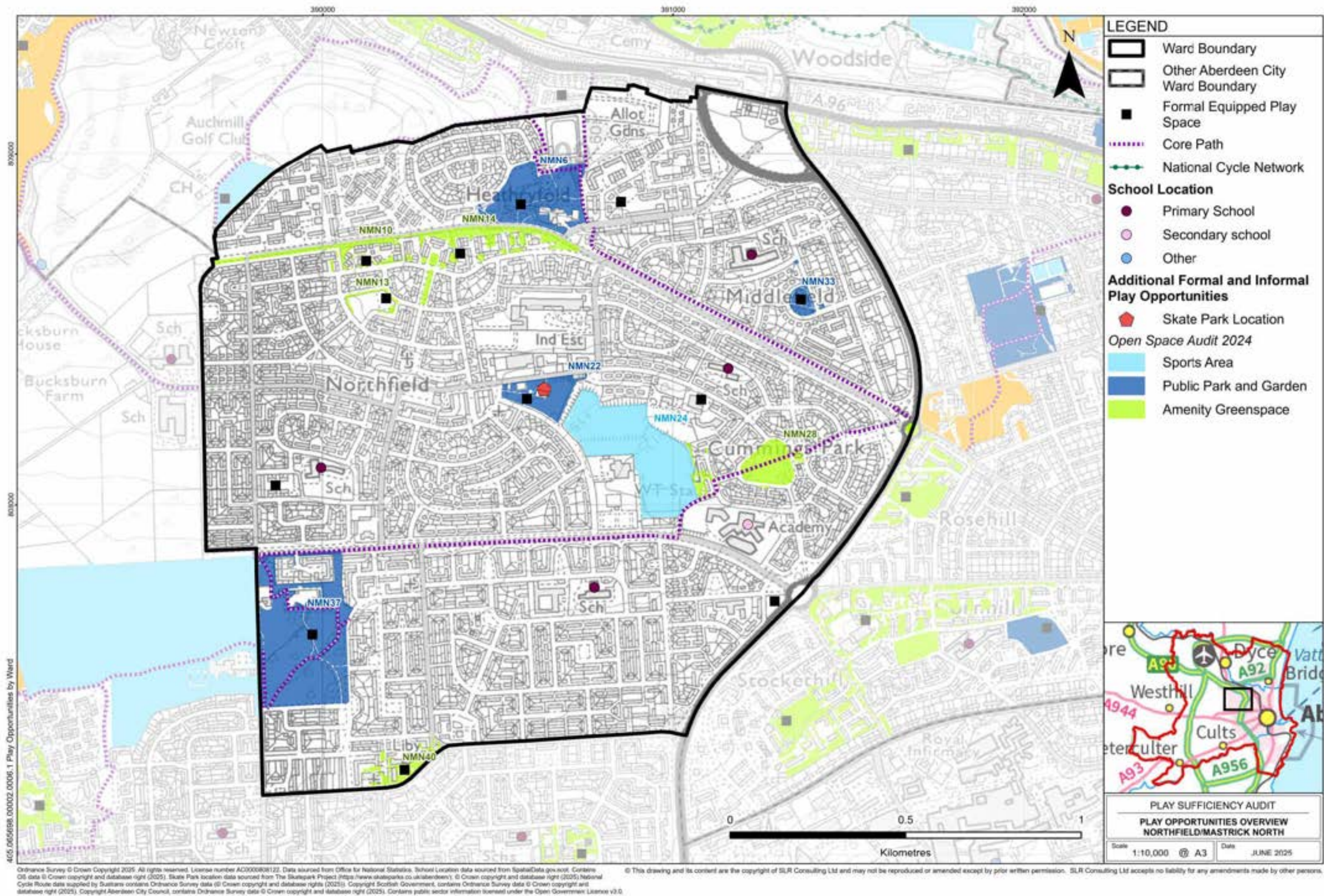


Figure 123: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.6.10 Northfield/Mastrick North Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 12 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 6.69 hectares of Sports areas
- 14.23 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 5.36 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 0 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

In total there is approximately 26.28 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 3 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 3 had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 1 space recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

The exception to this was a small area of housing directly to the south of Quarry Hill School.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

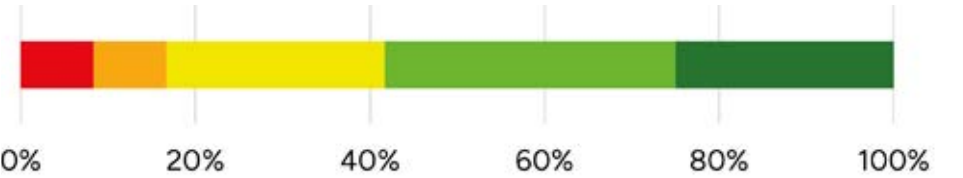


Figure 124: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

8.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

34.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’.

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Heathryfold Play Area with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Marchburn Park with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Six of the 12 formal equipped play spaces (50%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst two of the spaces (17%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 4 play areas (33%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 7 play areas (58%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 1 play areas (8%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Allan Douglas Park Play Area (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was higher than the City average, with 83.34% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 125: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Eric Hendrie Park Play Area, North and South



Figure 127: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Heathryfold Play Area



Figure 126: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Allan Douglas Park Play Area



Figure 128: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Marchburn Park



# 6.7 Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill

## 6.7.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Borrowstone
  - Cairdhillock
  - Cloghill
  - Fairley
  - Gateside
  - Hillside
  - Kingswells
- Longcairn
  - Newpark
  - Old Four Mile Cottages
  - Sheddocksley
  - Summerhill
  - West Hatton

## 6.7.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward

- boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).
- Kingsford School
  - Kingswells Primary School
  - Muirfield School

### Primary Schools

- Heathryburn School
- Holy Family RC School

### Secondary Schools

- None

### Other schools

- None

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.7.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 15,290.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 21.8% of this population, totalling 3,335 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 1,620 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,715 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 299 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 9% of the child population in the Ward. 187 of those children and young people live within the Mastrick neighbourhood and 112 are within Kingswells.

## 6.7.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 39 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      4.7

### What is working well?

- Parks, etc well used
- Seem to be well maintained
- there are many public parks

### What could be improved

- lack of variety
- Too much kids walking around streets. Feel there is nothing for them to do, hence street crime.
- Nowhere for teenagers to play

### Where do children and young people play in your Ward?

- They’d probably have to walk about 10-15mins to the nearest park
- Hazlehead park and some small play areas in Kingswells
- Hazlehead Park, Sheddocksley playing fields, Maidencraig nature reserve

### Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill Ward?

- seems to be adequate space for younger children but nothing attractive for teens
- Plenty of space for young people to roam free
- I am very happy with all of them for both my 14 years old son and our newborn daughter who will be big enough soon to enjoy them all

## 6.7.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 20 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 14 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
36	Derbeth Park Play Area	Council
37	Corse Avenue Play Area	Council
38	Callum Wynd Play Area	Council
39	Clova Park Play Area	Council
40	Coldstone Avenue Play Area	Council
41	Broaddykes Drive Play Area	Council
42	Kingswood Crescent Play Area	Council
43	Wellside Place Play Area	Council
44	Wellside Wynd Play Area	Council
45	Sheddocksley Community Centre Play Area	Council
46	Hallfield Road Play Area	Council
47	Eday Crescent Play Area	Council
48	Mastrick Drive Play Area	Council
49	Willowpark Crescent Play Area	Council
50	Concraig Gardens	Private
54	John Arthur Court Den Burn	Private
55	Bellfield View Amenity	Private
56	Coull Gardens	Private
57	Rona Place Amenity	Private
185	Huxterstone Drive	Private



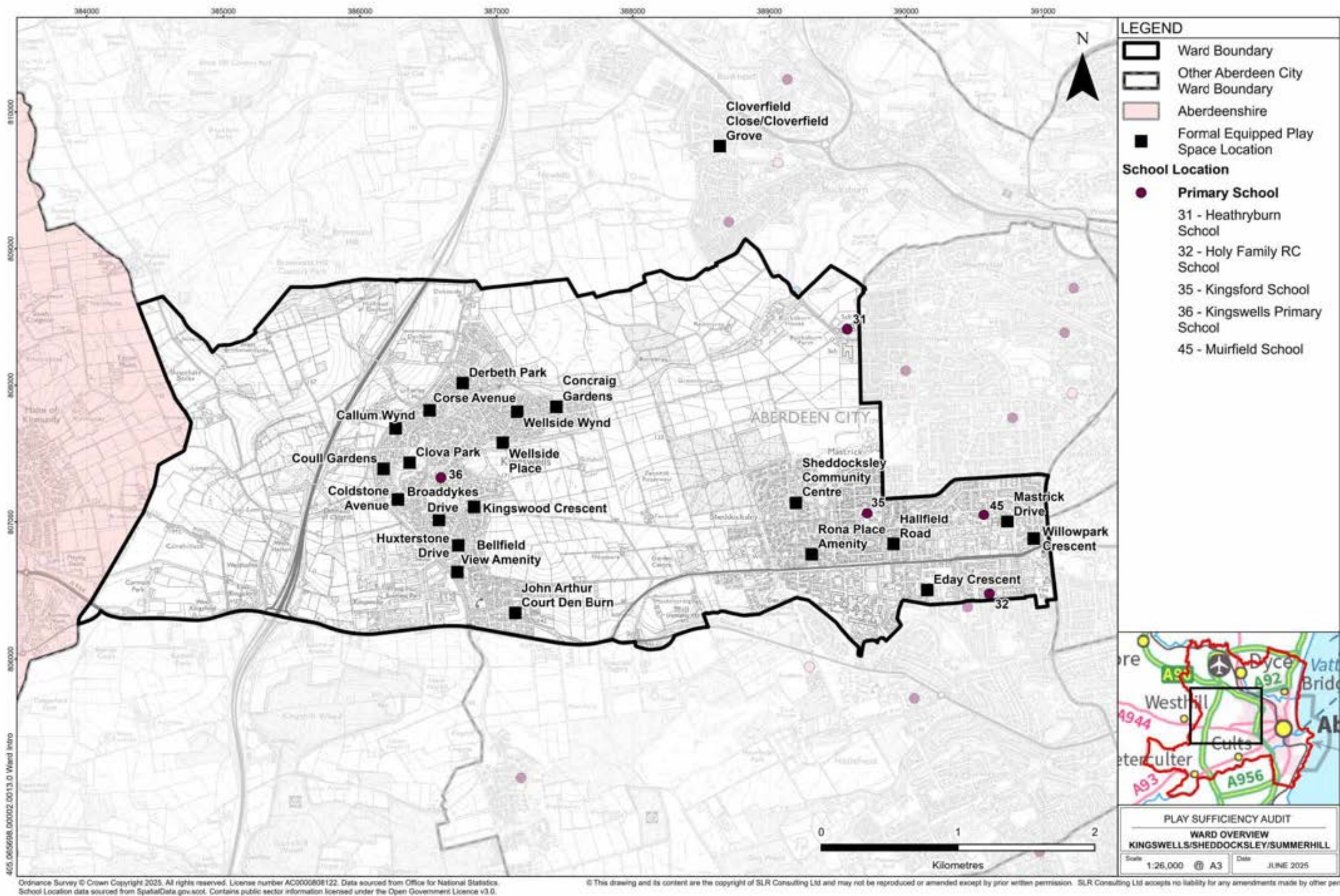


Figure 129: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



# 6.7.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20, and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that generally the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space. Formal equipped play spaces within Aberdeenshire Council are not included in this assessment and therefore the areas around the periphery of the City boundary may have shorter distances than illustrated. There is for example a formal equipped play area in Westhill.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- The area forming a band through the centre of the Ward where walking distances exceed 20 minutes is predominantly agricultural land separating Kingswells from the city and contains few residential properties.
- The area forming a band along the west edge of the Ward where walking distances exceed 20 minutes is predominantly agricultural land separating the City from the Aberdeenshire and contains few residential properties.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of eight spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Derbeth Park Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corse Avenue Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Callum Wynd Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clova Park Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coldstone Avenue Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Broaddykes Drive Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Kingswood Crescent Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Wellside Place Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Wellside Wynd Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sheddocksley Community Centre Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hallfield Road Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Eday Crescent Play Area	No	No	Yes
Mastrick Drive Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Willowpark Crescent Play Area	No	No	Yes
Concraig Gardens	Yes	No	Yes
John Arthur Court Den Burn	Yes	No	No
Bellfield View Amenity	Yes	No	Yes
Coull Gardens	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rona Place Amenity	Yes	No	No
Huxterstone Drive	No	Yes	Yes



Figure 130: Image of poor path condition at John Arthur Court Den Burn



Figure 131: Image of poor entrance condition at Rona Place Amenity



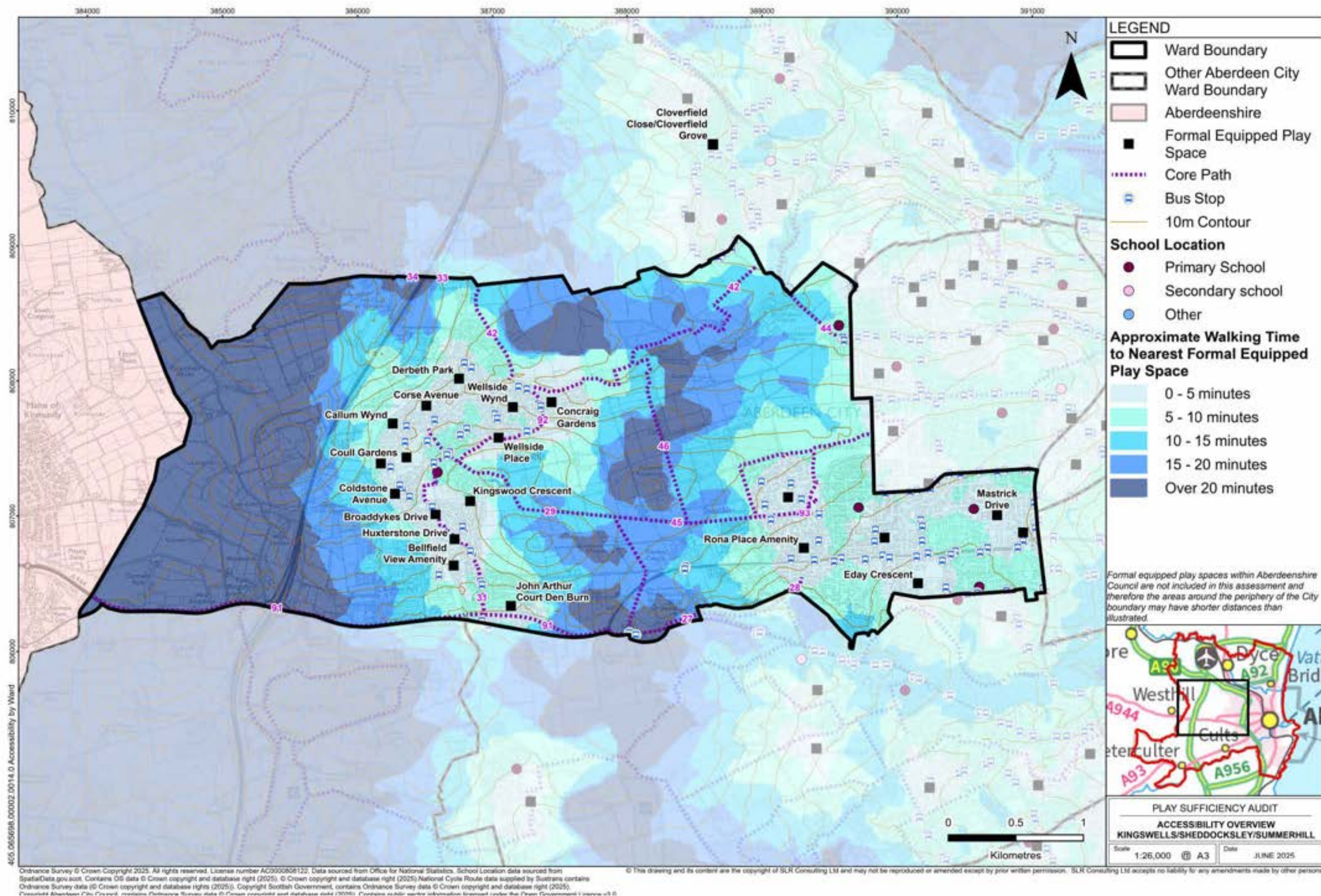


Figure 132: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.7.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

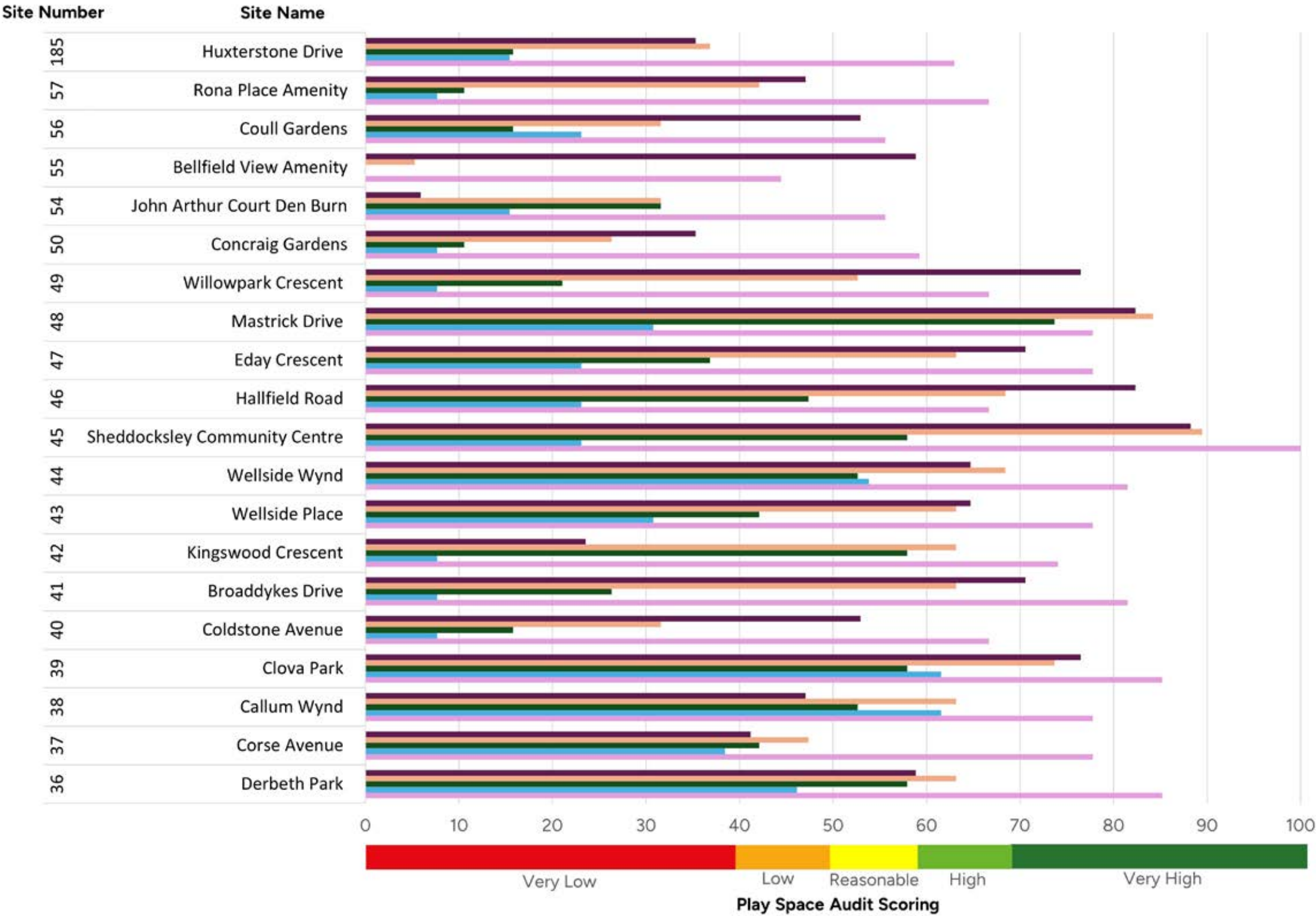


Figure 133: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



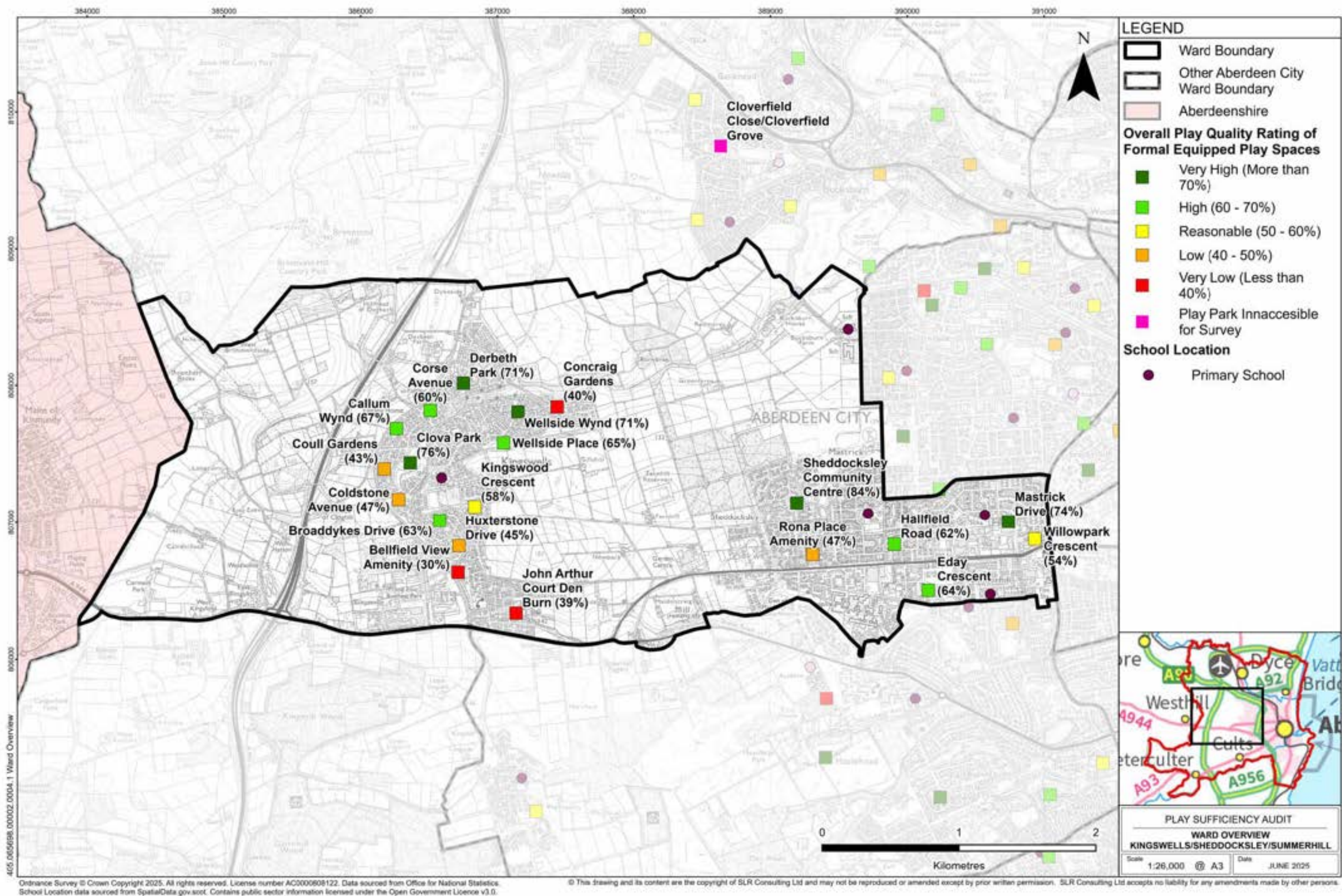


Figure 134: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.7.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

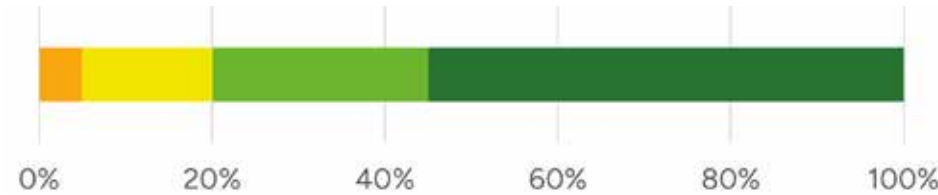
The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

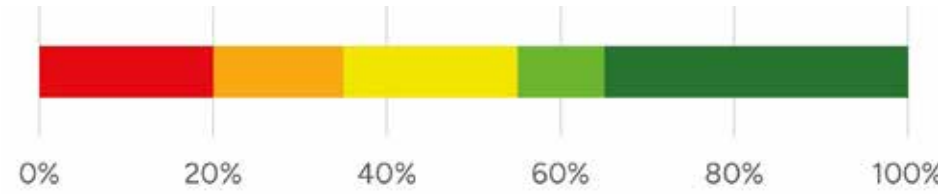


**Figure 135: Context scores for Ward**  
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 55% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.



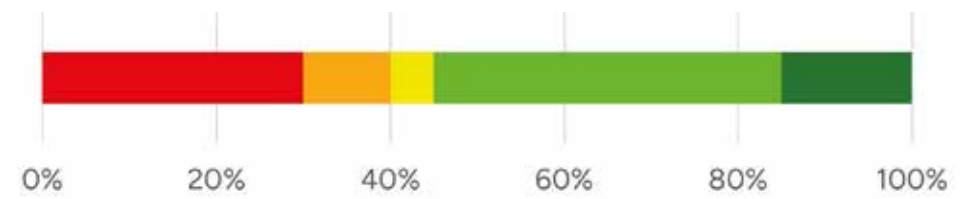
**Figure 136: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward**  
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

- 20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 35% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 137: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

30% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

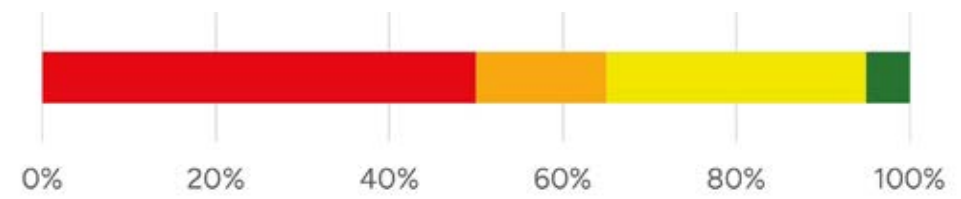
5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

40% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 138: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

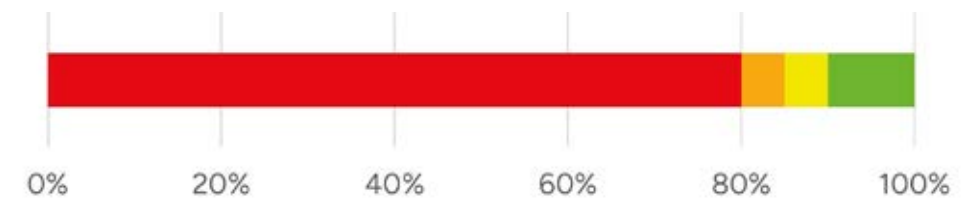
30% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 139: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

80% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.7.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the east of the City, the Kingswells/Sheddocksley/ Summerhill Ward benefits from large areas of natural greenery and nearby woodlands and smaller neighbourhood green spaces, offering extensive opportunities for walking and outdoor activities. These parks provide playgrounds, sports facilities, and community meeting spots.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 70.25 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 29.63 hectares of Sports areas
- 0.98 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 18.43 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 21.21 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There are five sports areas identified on the map opposite. This is:

### KSS10: Webster Park Playing Field

- This area’s quality was rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This features playing fields and a MUGA (multi-use games area).

### KSS53: Kingswood Mews Playing Fields

- This area’s quality was rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This area features core paths through a playing field adjacent to Kingswells primary school playground.

### KSS77: Springfield Rd West Sheddocksley Sports Centre

- This area’s quality was rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This features playing fields with football pitches and a community garden.

### KSS78: Sheddocksley Playing Fields East

- This area’s quality was rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This features playing fields with football pitches.

### KSS79: Sheddocksley Playing Fields West

- This area’s quality was rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This features playing fields with football pitches

## Public parks and gardens

There is one park identified within the Ward, this is:

### KSS91: Hallfield Crescent Road

- This area’s quality was rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This area contains a formal equipped play space with sports equipment, sand pit and grass (Site 141) situated adjacent a road.

## Amenity greenspace

The majority of amenity greenspace are residential and feature small playgrounds or areas of grass.

The following amenity spaces are well connected to each other via paths through woodland and residential areas:

- **HKSS25** quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- **KSS22** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- **KSS21** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- **KSS20** quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- The area features large areas of woodland with paths and four formal equipped play spaces (Sites 43, 44, 50 88).

Other notable amenity spaces include:

- **KSS40** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It is a large park with pathways and a formal equipped play space located on top of the mound (Site 39).
- **KSS51** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It is a linear green corridor with paths, tree planting, grassed areas and two formal equipped play spaces (Sites 41 and 185).
- **KSS72** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It is a mixture of green corridor with paths, tree planting, grassed areas and two formal equipped play spaces (Site 44).

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### KSS48 Kingswood Ave Woodlands East

- Quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- It is a small linear woodland.

### KSS17/KSS18 Sheddocksley Woodlands

- Quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- It is a dense woodland with natural paths and informal play.
- **KSS118** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. It is open semi-natural land with a winding uphill path.



Figure 140: Image of KSS40 and formal equipped play space site 39



Figure 141: Image of informal play within KSS17/KSS18



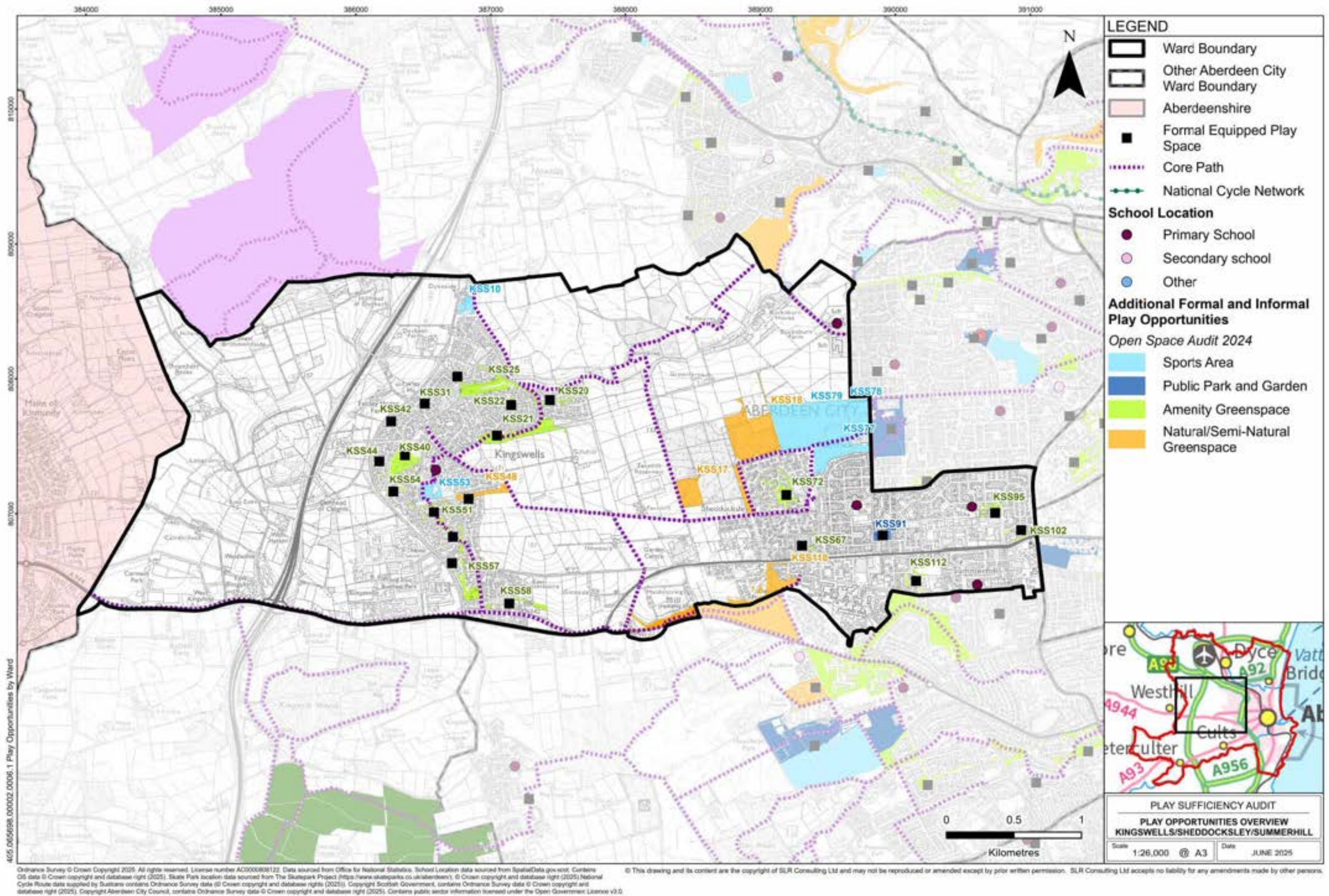


Figure 142: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.7.10 Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 20 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 29.63 hectares of Sports areas
- 0.98 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 18.43 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 21.21 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

In total there is approximately 70.25 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 6 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 8 spaces had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 2 spaces recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- The area forming a band through the centre of the Ward where walking distances exceed 20 minutes is predominantly agricultural land separating Kingswells from the city and contains few residential properties.
- The area forming a band along the west edge of the Ward where walking distances exceed 20 minutes is predominantly agricultural land separating the City from the Aberdeenshire and contains few residential properties.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

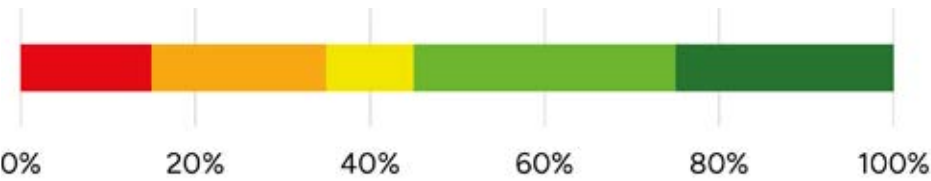


Figure 143: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

- Legend**
- Very High
  - High
  - Reasonable
  - Low
  - Very Low

15% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Bellfield View Amenity

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Clova Park play park with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Bellfield View amenity with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Twelve of the 20 formal equipped play spaces (60%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst four of the spaces (20%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 13 play areas (65%) achieved a score of 1-5
- 6 play areas (35%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 1 play areas (5%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Clova Park Play Area (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was lower than the City average, with 55% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 144: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Mastrick Drive Play Area



Figure 146: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Clova Park play park



Figure 145: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Clova Park Play Area



Figure 147: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Bellfield View amenity



# 6.8 Midstocket/Rosemount

## 6.8.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Ashgrove
- Foresterhill
- Gilcomston
- Midstocket
- Rosemount

## 6.8.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

- Primary Schools**

  - Gilcomstoun School
  - Mile End School
  - Skene Square School
- Secondary Schools**

  - Aberdeen Grammar School

**Other schools**

  - Hospital & Home Tuition Service

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.8.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 14,394.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 16.5% of this population, totalling 2,378 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 1,159 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,219 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 165 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 6.9% of the child population in the Ward. 65 of those children and young people live within the Ashgrove neighbourhood and 64 are within Rosemount.

## 6.8.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Midstocket/Rosemount Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 46 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      4.4

**What is working well?**

- lovely and well-kept play areas around me
- Lots of spaces for young children to play and be outside
- great parks for kids

**What could be improved**

- There are no play spaces other than Bonnymuir Green, which now has very limited play equipment for children
- There could be more smaller parks, use any green space as there are abandoned green spaces
- More dog poo bins

**Where do children and young people play in your Ward?**

- Westburn park, Victoria park and Bonnymuir Gardens
- play parks, on the streets, car parks, in garden
- Union Terrace Gardens is good for recreation

**Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Midstocket/Rosemount Ward?**

- Good quantity, middling quality. Some accessibility
- I think it’s so sad that school playing fields are not neighbourhood resources anymore (because of how funding was changed when schools were rebuilt?). it’s sad to be locked out of a resource.
- The Westburn playground is good but there’s no playground space around Midstocket area. There’s no where kids can play freely away from traffic. This is a real shame as that is what this generation of kids are missing out on.

## 6.8.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 9 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 8 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
102	Beattie Avenue Play Area	Council
103	Westburn Park Play Area	Council
104	Rosemount Square Play Area	Council
105	Jack’s Brae Play Area	Council
106	Denburn Court Play Area	Council
107	Skene Street Play Area**/Skene St Church	Council
108	Thistle Court Play Area	Council
109	Union Terrace Gardens Play Area	Council
110	Foresterhill Rd Children Hospital	Private



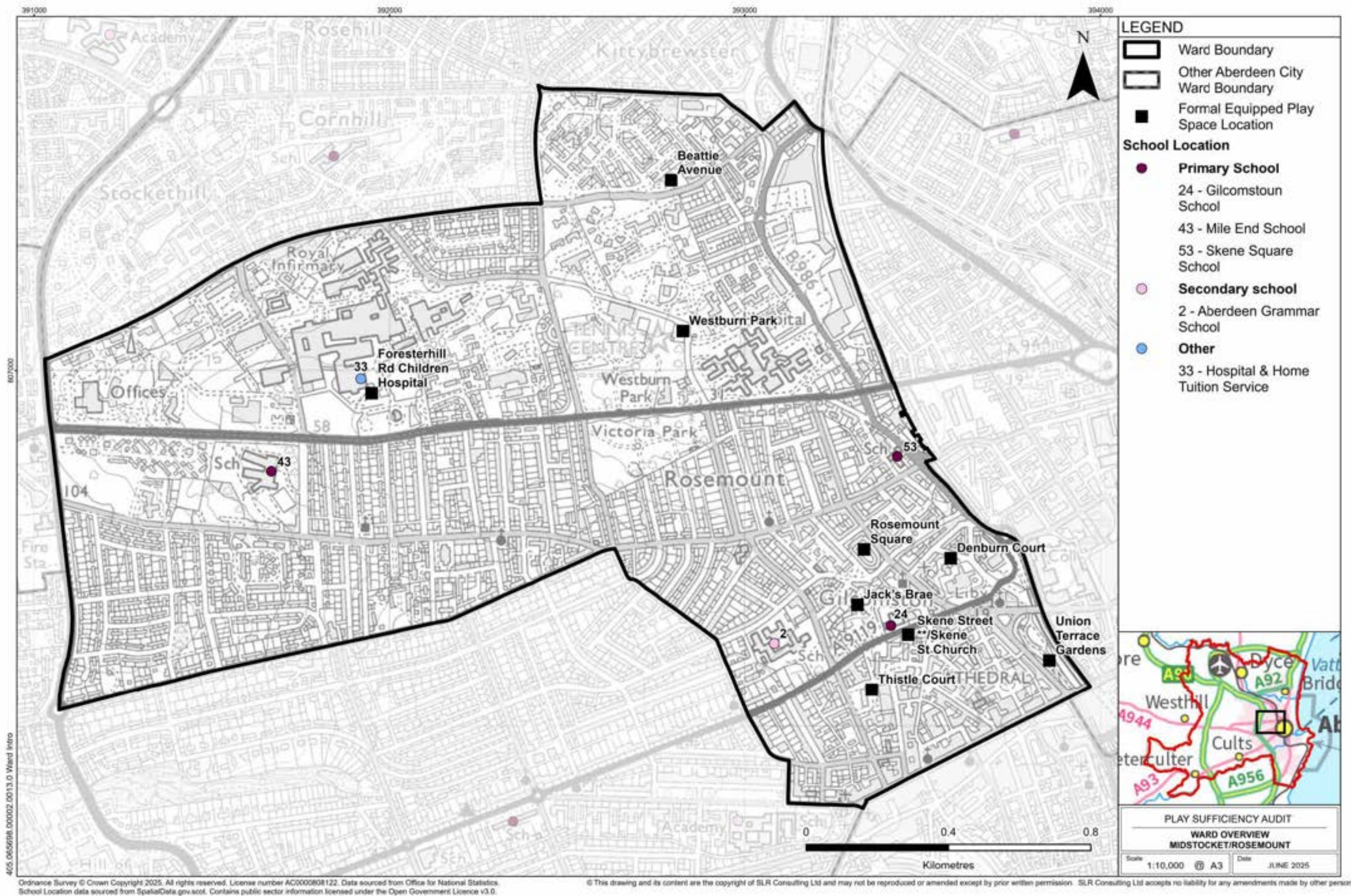


Figure 148: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



# 6.8.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- The south of the Ward where walking distances increase to 10-15 minutes to a formal equipped play space.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of 1 spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Beattie Avenue Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Westburn Park Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosemount Square Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Jack's Brae Play Area	Yes	Yes	No
Denburn Court Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Skene Street Play Area**/ Skene St Church	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thistle Court Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Union Terrace Gardens Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Foresterhill Rd Children Hospital	Yes	Yes	Yes



Figure 149: Image of steps into Rosemount Square Play Area



Figure 150: Image of good access and surfacing at Union Terrace Gardens Play Area



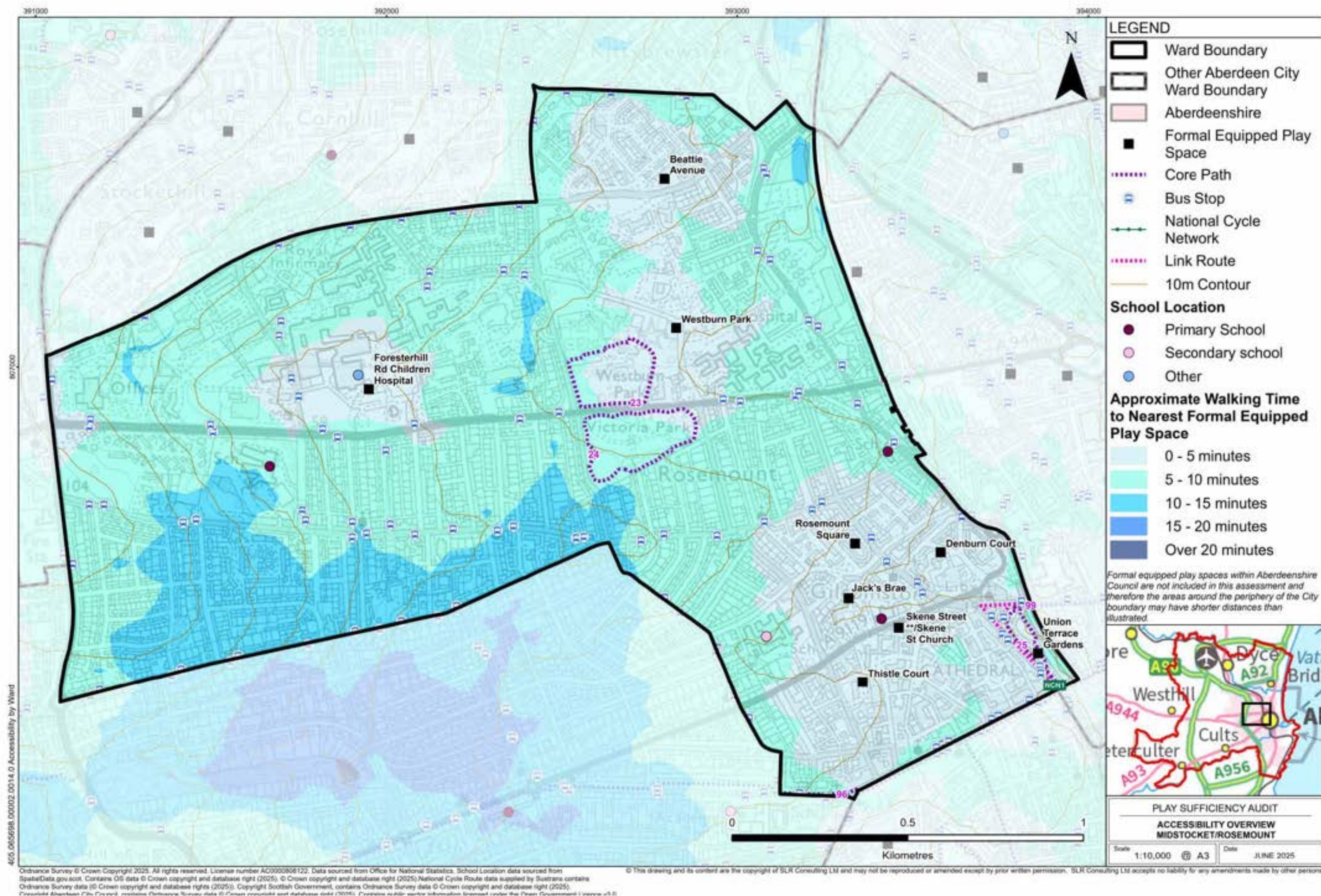


Figure 151: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.8.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

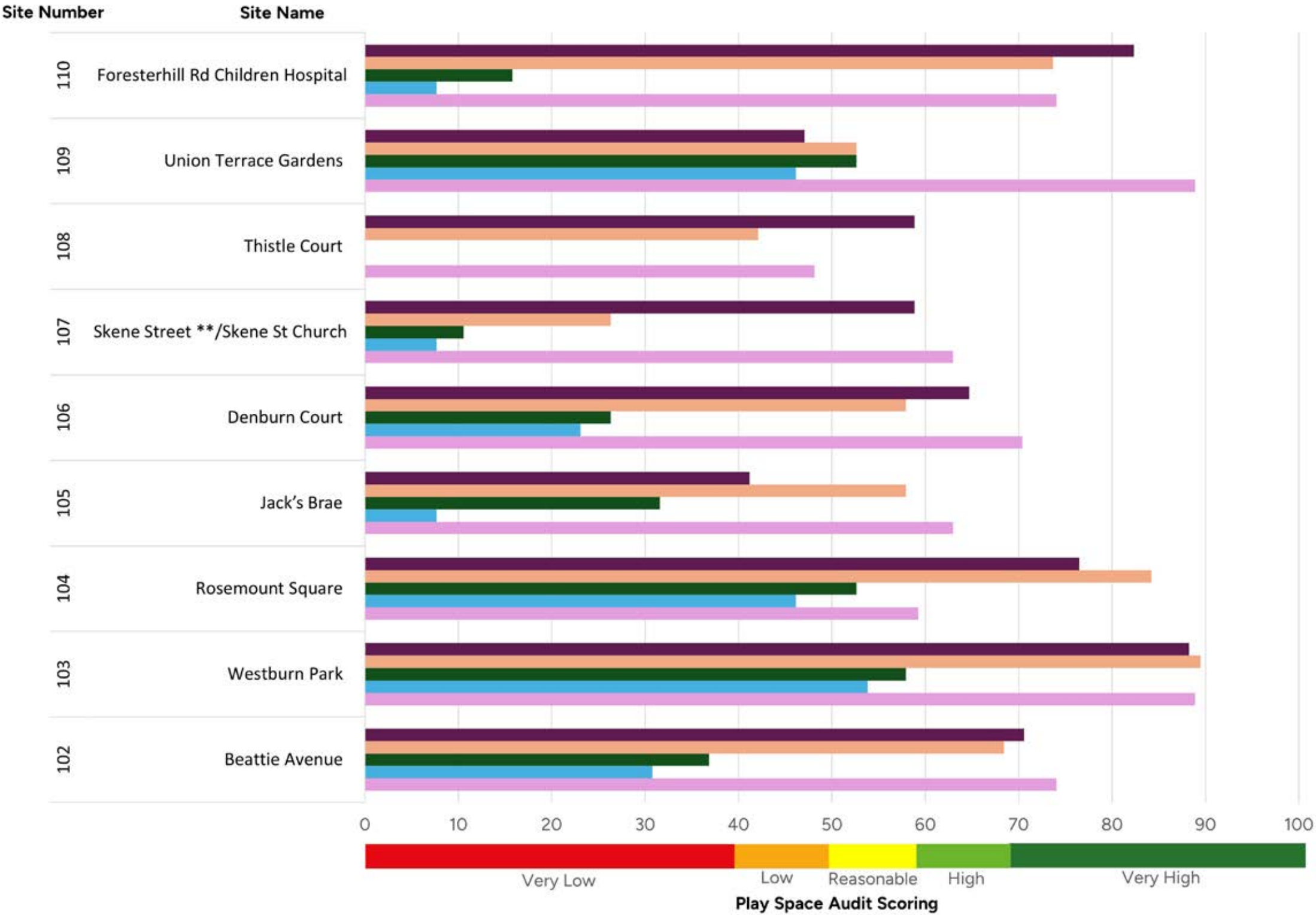


Figure 152: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



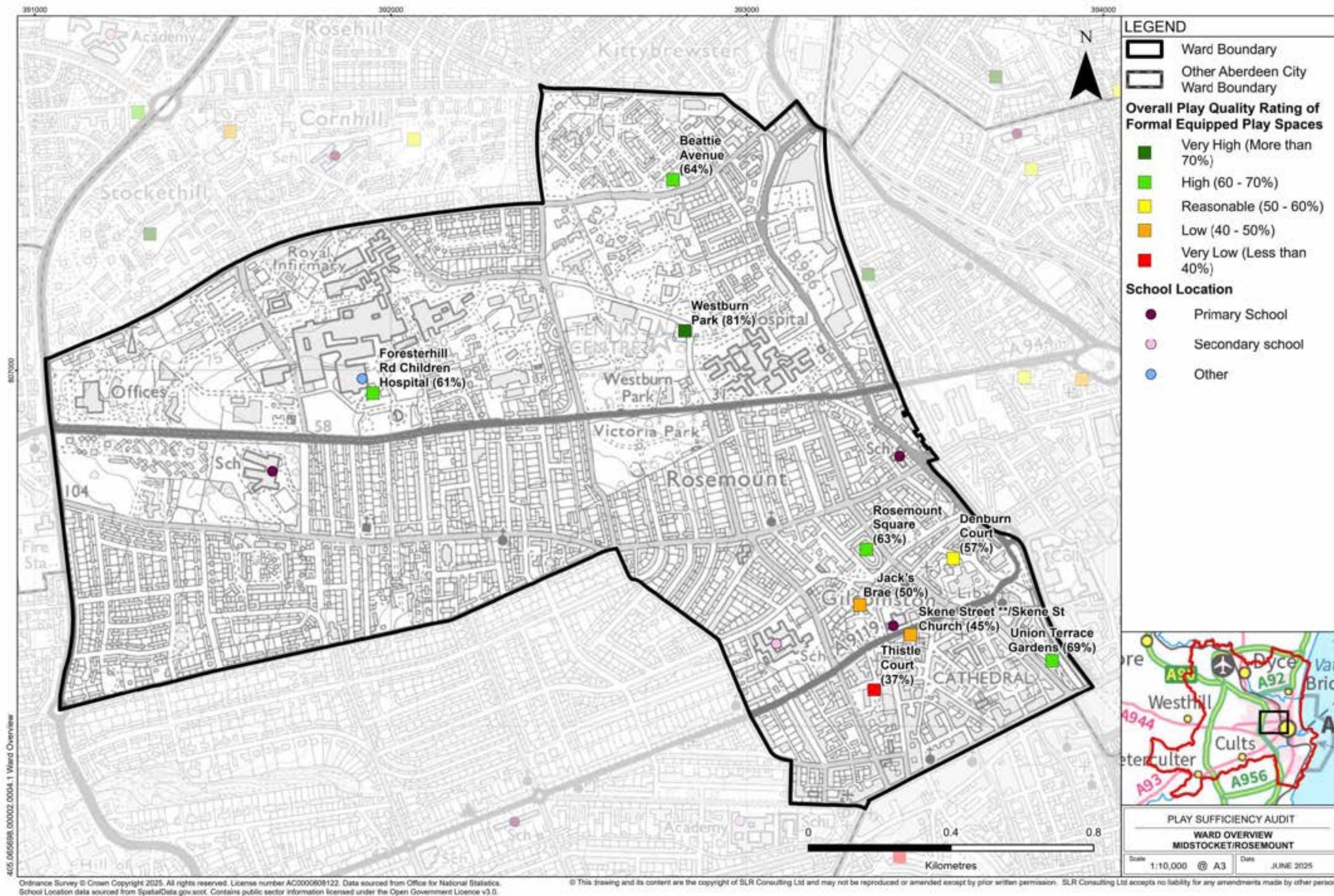


Figure 153: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.8.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

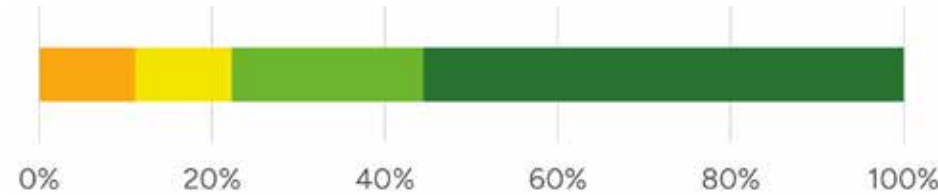
The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 154: Context scores for Ward**  
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

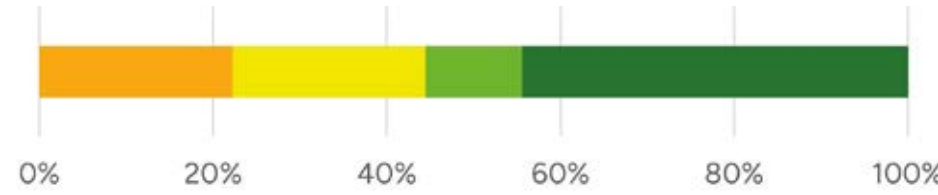
11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

22.22% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

55.56% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 155: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward**  
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

22.22% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

22.22% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

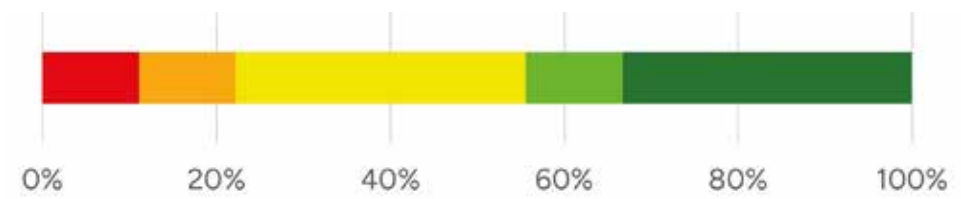
11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

44.44% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



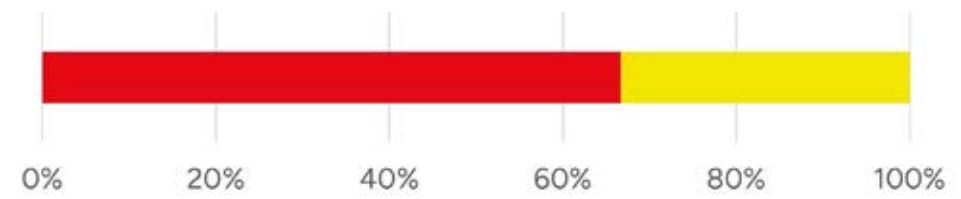
**Figure 156: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

- 11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



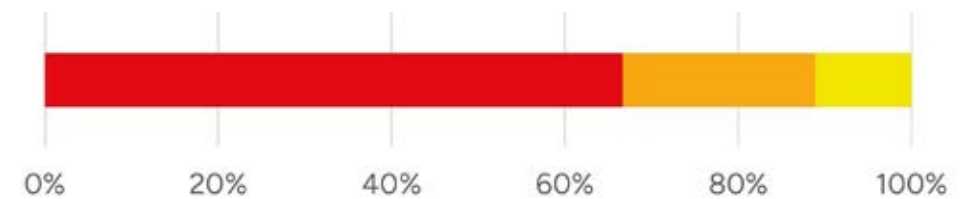
**Figure 157: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

- 66.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 33.33% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 158: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

- 66.67% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 22.22% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.8.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the east of the City, the Midstocket/Rosemount Ward benefits from multiple parks and gardens. Key among these are Victoria Park, known for its mature trees, play areas, and sports facilities, and Midstocket Park, a smaller local green space. Union Terrace Gardens and Westburn Park provide large, landscaped areas ideal for walking, events, and leisure activities. Together, these parks and gardens create a network of green spaces that support recreation and play. The Ward also benefits from proximity to the River Don and its associated paths, offering riverside walks and natural habitats nearby.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 22.54 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 0 hectares of Sports areas
- 15.95 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 5.78 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 0.81 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

No publicly accessible sports areas were identified within the Ward

## Public parks and gardens

There are four parks identified within the Ward, this is:

### MSR39: Midstocket Park

- This area's quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This area features an open, mounded area of grass.

### MSR22: Victoria Park

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.

- This area features multiple paths through a park with planting, open areas of grass, formal planting, and lighting,

### MSR23: Westburn Park

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This area features multiple paths through a park wit ponds, planting, open areas of grass, formal planting, and lighting,
- This area contains a formal equipped play space (Site 103), a skate park and dedicated space for ball games, as well as a sand pit area.

### MSR1: Union Terrace Gardens

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This area contains a formal equipped play space (Site 109), formal planting, seating areas, open grass, and seating.

## Amenity greenspace

The majority of amenity greenspace are residential and feature small playgrounds or areas of grass.

The following amenity spaces are well connected to each other via paths through woodland and residential areas:

- **MSR125** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- **MSR12** rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features a fenced formal equipped play space (Site 107) parallel to road.
- **MSR 26** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features a formal equipped play space (Site 102) and a varied expanse of green space within a residential area.
- **MSR42** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features a varied expanse of green space and garden within a residential area.

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

- **MSR11** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. It features one formal equipped play space (Site 105) adjacent to road with areas of grass on sloping land.

## Cycletracks

A small segment of the National Cycleway Network Route 1 runs through the Ward via MSR1. NCN 1 is part of both the long-distance Coasts and Castles route and the North Sea Cycle Route, and connects

Aberdeen City to the Highland capital of Inverness.

## Skatepark/BMX tracks

- There is a skate park at Westburn Park, see description above and image below.



Figure 160: Image of skate park within the Ward at Westburn Park



Figure 159: Image of Site 105 within MSR11s



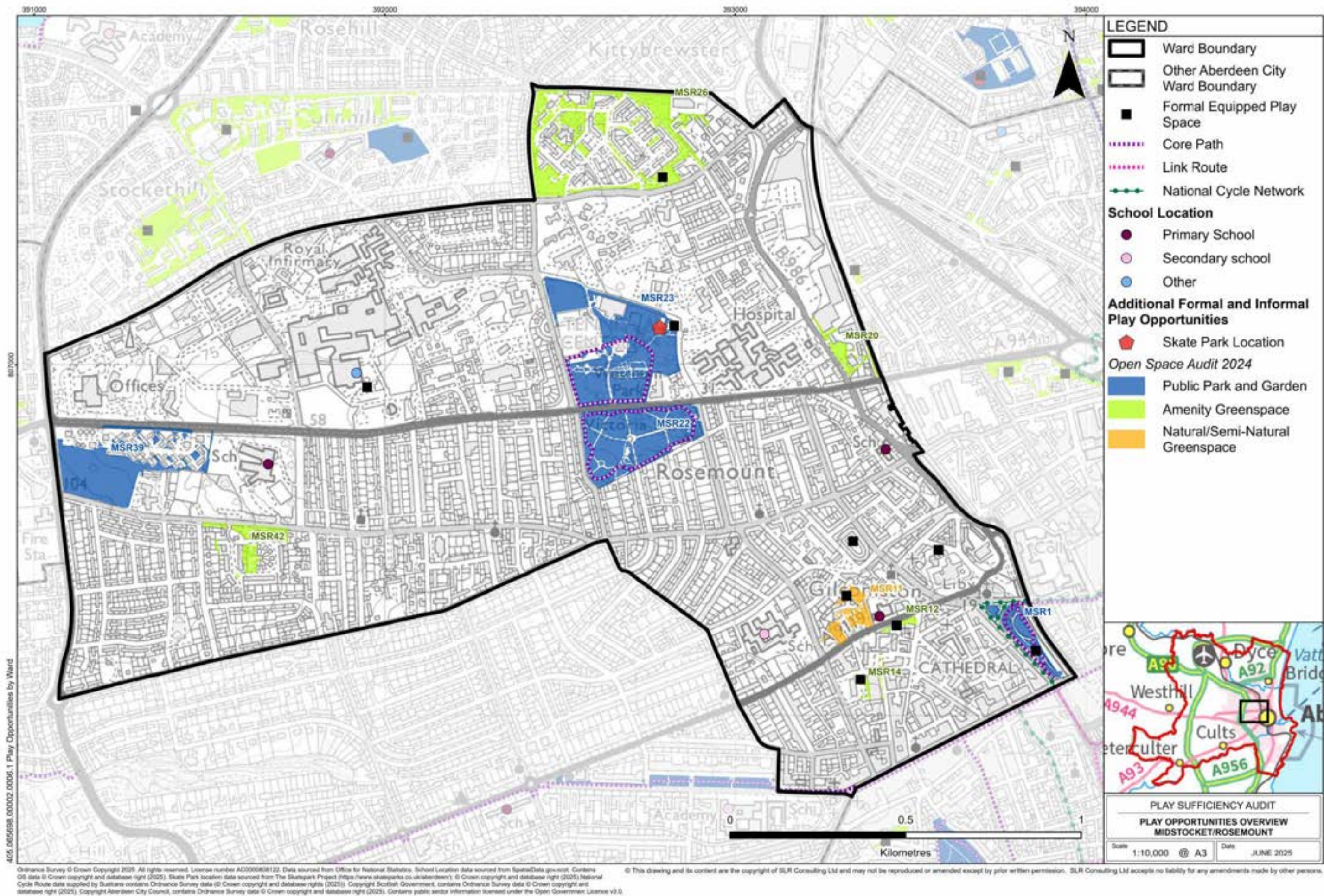


Figure 161: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.8.10 Midstocket/Rosemount Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 9 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 0 hectares of Sports areas
- 15.95 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 5.78 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 0.81 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

In total there is approximately 22.54 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 1 space didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 1 space had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 1 space recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- The south of the Ward where walking distances increase to 10-15 minutes to a formal equipped play space.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

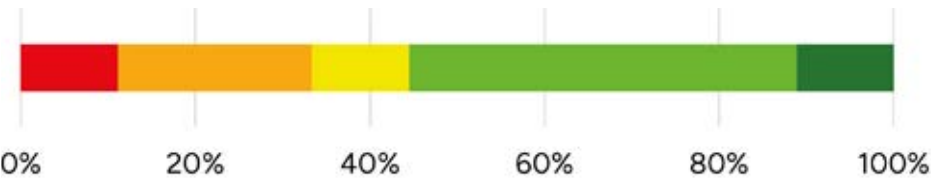


Figure 162: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

22.22% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

44.44% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

11.11% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Thistle Court Play Area

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Westburn Park Play Area with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Thistle Court Play Area play park with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Eight of the 9 formal equipped play spaces (89%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst four of the spaces (44%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 7 play areas (78%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 1 play areas (11%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 1 play areas (11%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Union Terrace Gardens Play Area (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was lower than the City average, with 66.66% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 163: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Foresterhill Rd Children Hospital



Figure 165: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Westburn Park Play Area



Figure 164: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Union Terrace Gardens Play Area



Figure 166: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Thistle Court Play Area



# 6.9 George Street/Harbour

## 6.9.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Aberdeen
- Footdee
- Froghall
- George Street

## 6.9.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

- Primary Schools**

  - Hanover Street School
  - Sunnybank School
- Secondary Schools**

  - None

**Other schools**

  - Aberdeen School for the Deaf
  - Virtual School

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.9.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 19,773.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 18.6% of this population, totalling 3,679 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 1,188 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 2,491 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 462 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 12.6% of the child population in the Ward. 214 of those children and young people live within the Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank area.

## 6.9.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for George Street/Harbour Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 26 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      3.8

**What is working well?**

- Parks seem well maintained and well used
- beach front open spaces seem to be well used by families.
- There are a fair number of options

**What could be improved**

- There are very few places for teens to go to in the city
- More/better play equipment for children and benches, etc for adults to meet outdoors
- kept clean

**Where do children and young people play in your Ward?**

- We have one small play park for younger children nearby and are close to the beach. But very little sheltered area to gather and socialise safely.
- local play park- used more by adults with dogs than children though
- in the play-park, out the back

**Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in George Street/Harbour Ward?**

- It is very poor in the city centre. The nearest play spaces are very run down and unsafe for children.
- Outdoor space is well catered for where we are (and will be even more so once the beach development is completed). But there is a real lack of indoor space to gather for formal/informal groups especially for older children. This is not just local to us but across the city. If you cannot afford to join a gym where can your teens etc gather with friends to remain healthy and active.. ?
- More play parks and green spaces in the George St corridor are needed

## 6.9.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 10 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 9 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

It was noted that a new park (Aberdeen Beach Park) was under construction on Queens Links at the beach however this was not open to the public at the time of the audit and so has not been included. See link for further information <https://generationaberdeen.co.uk/beachfront/>

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
111	Froghall Place Play Area	Council
112	Leslie Terrace Play Area	Council
113	Hutcheon Court/Cruyff Court Play Area	Council
115	Hutcheon Court Play Area	Council
116	Gallowgate Play Area	Council
118	Lemon Street Play Area	Council
119	Wales Street Play Area	Council
120	Marischal Court Play Area	Council
121	Pocra Quay Play Area	Council
122	Roof Garden, St Nicholas Centre	Private



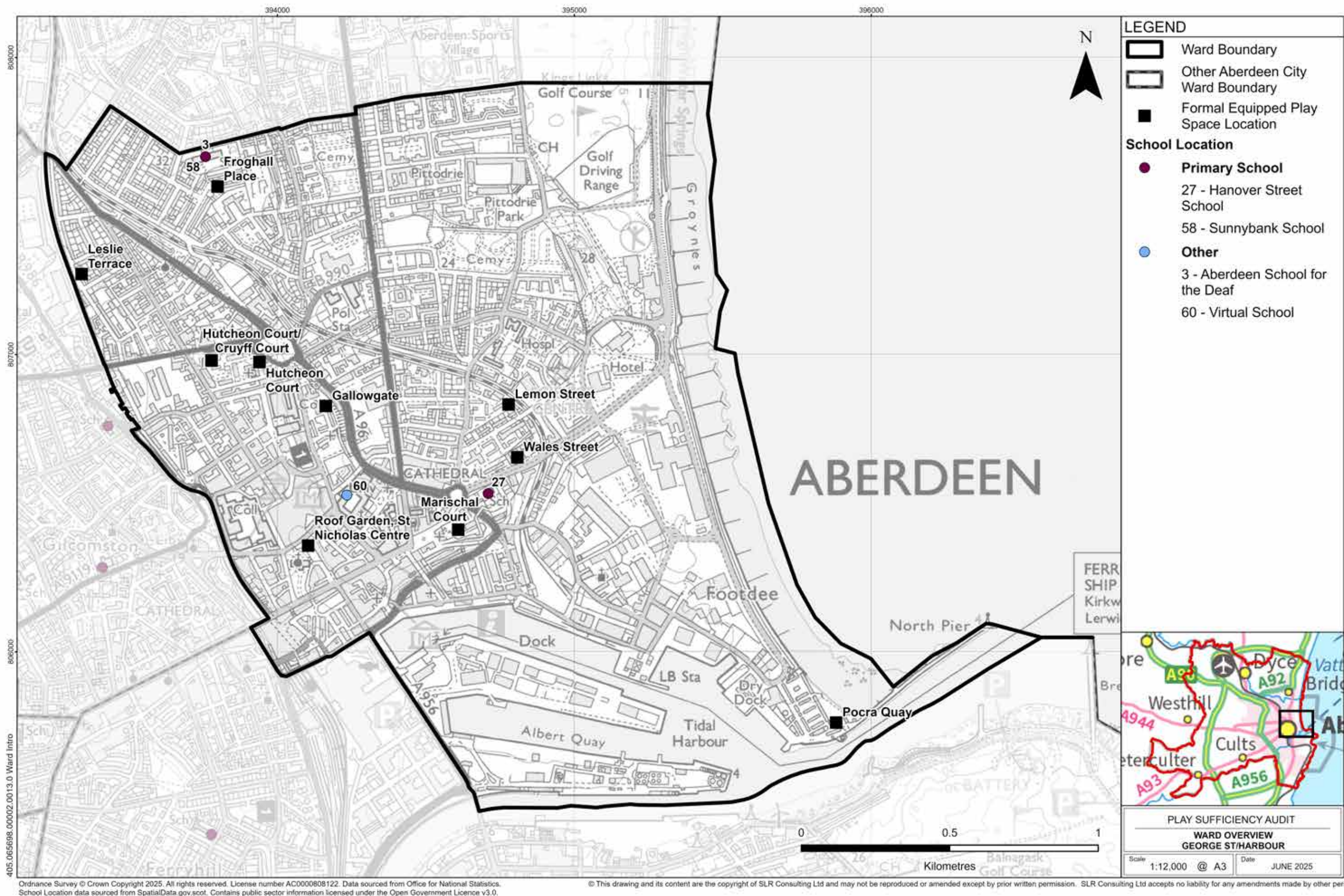


Figure 01: Map of the ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within ward



# 6.9.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that all main residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- The harbour, beach and links.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of seven spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Froghall Place Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Leslie Terrace Play Area	No	No	Yes
Hutcheon Court/Cruyff Court Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hutcheon Court Play Area	Yes	No	No
Gallowgate Play Area	No	No	No
Lemon Street Play Area	No	No	No
Wales Street Play Area	No	No	Yes
Marischal Court Play Area	No	No	Yes
Pocra Quay Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roof Garden, St Nicholas Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes



Figure 167: Image of poor access at Gallowgate Play Area



Figure 168: Image of poor access at Lemon Street Play Area



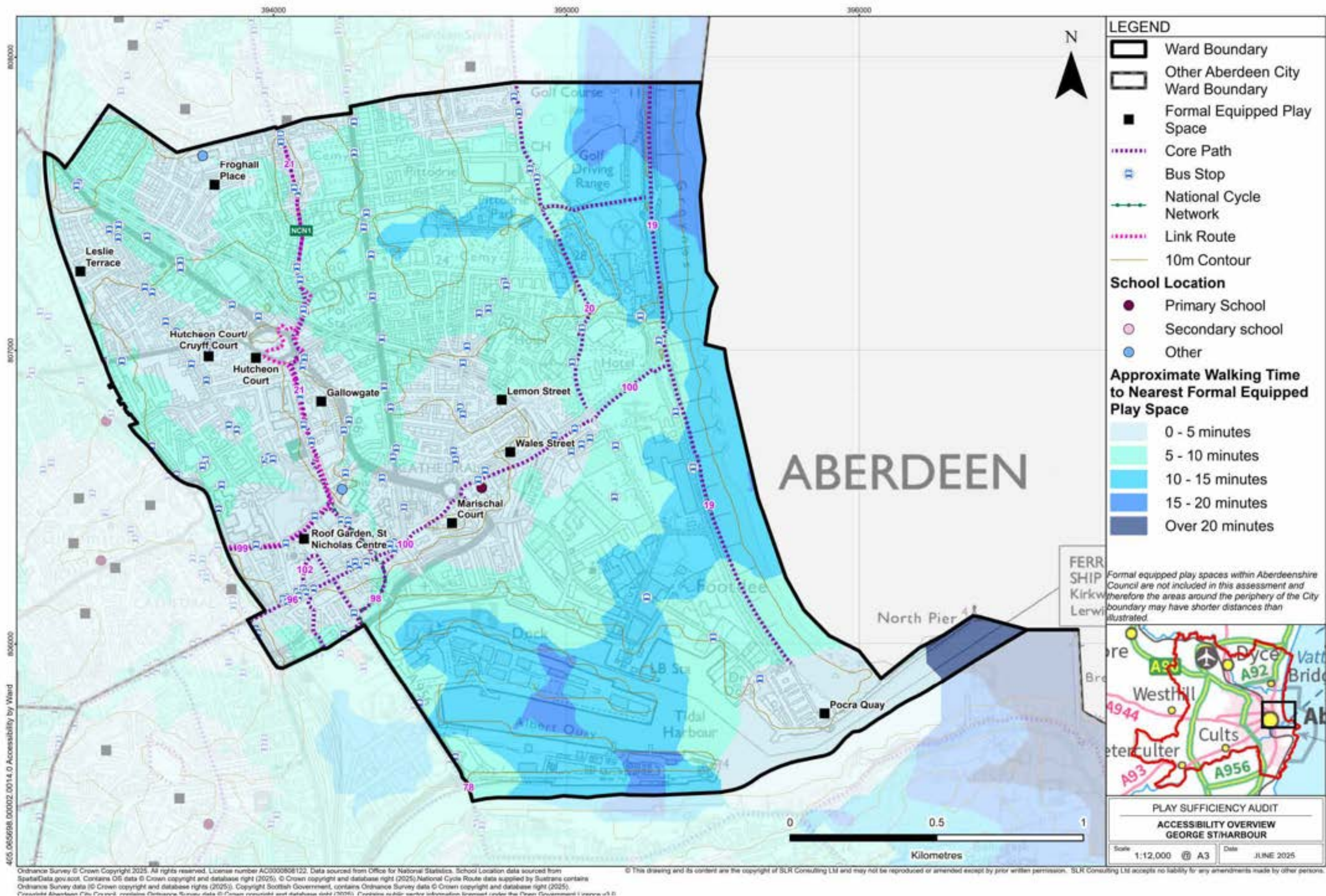


Figure 169: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.9.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

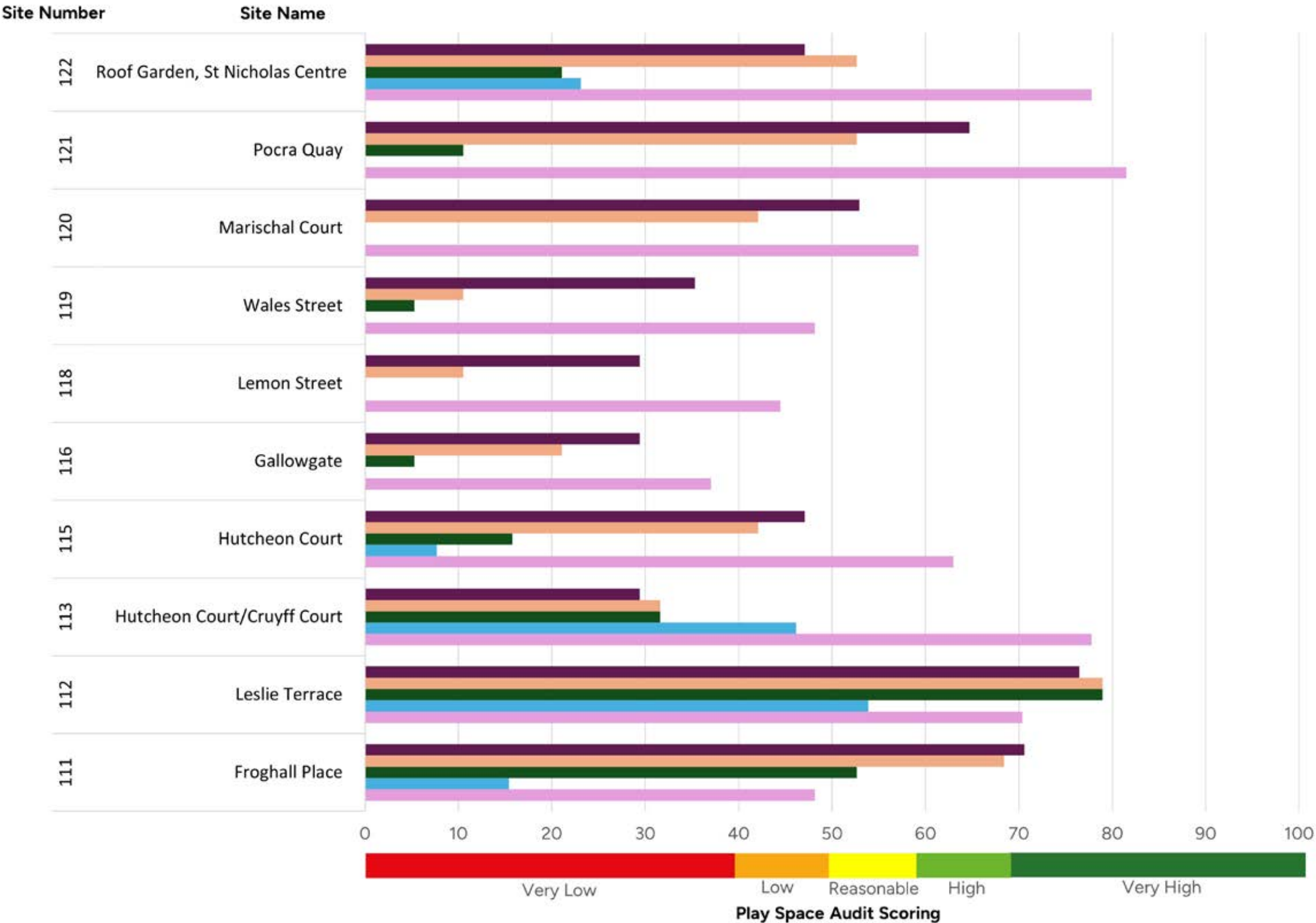


Figure 170: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



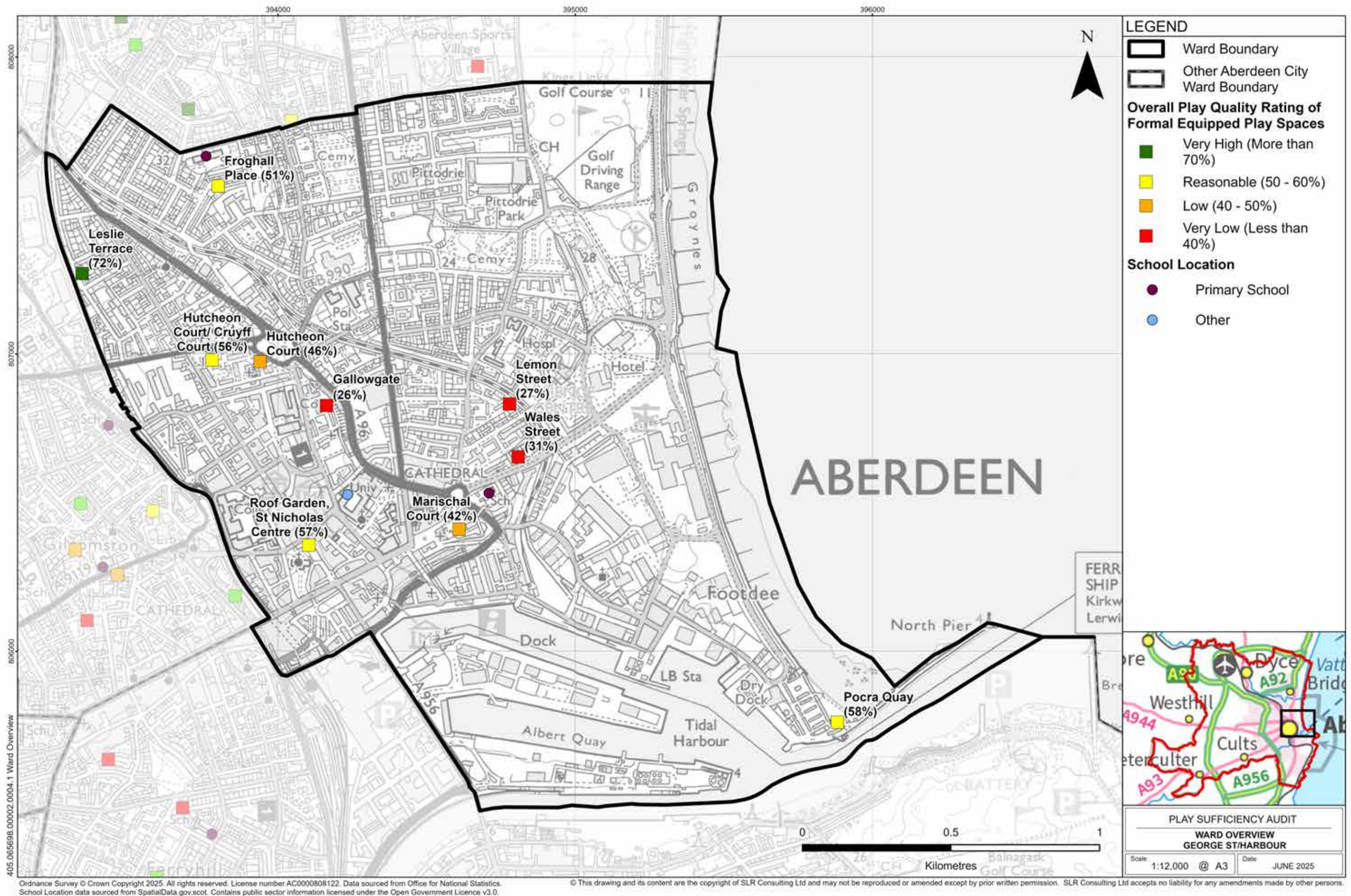


Figure 171: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.9.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

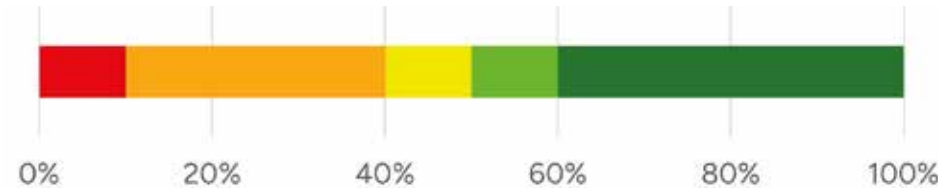


Figure 172: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

30% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

40% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

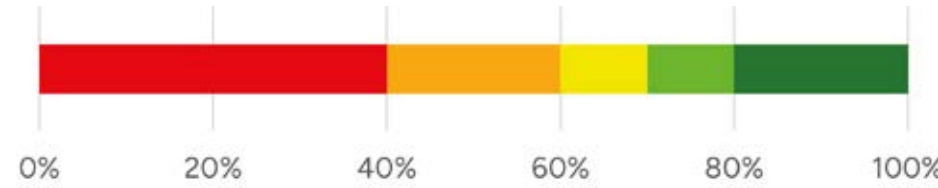


Figure 173: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

40% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

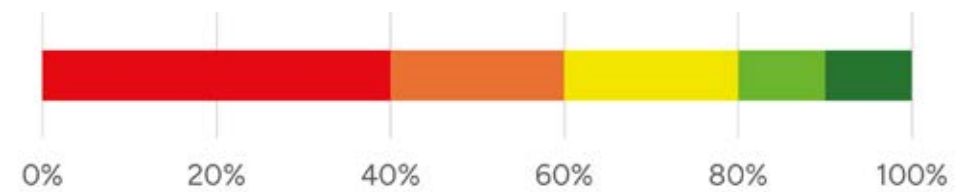
10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 174: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

40% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

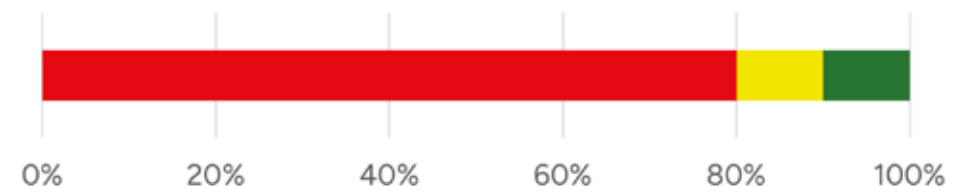
20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 175: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

80% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

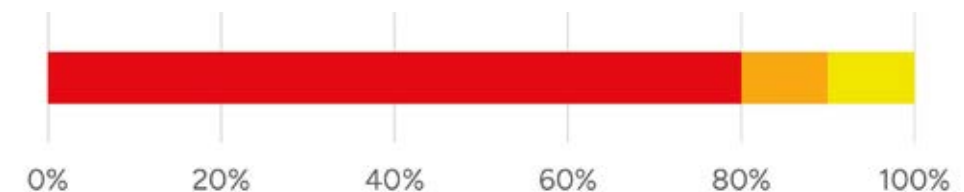
10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 176: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

80% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.9.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located towards the centre of Aberdeen City, the George Street Harbour Ward, while predominantly urban, benefits from highly rated city centre amenity spaces that feature play spaces. Aberdeen Beach Esplanade, offers a major open coastal space and open coastal lawns provide expansive waterfront green space that significantly enhances the Ward’s recreational and scenic offerings.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 45.20 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 3.61 hectares of Sports areas
- 5.09 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 6.08 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 30.42 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces (including beach)

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports Area

There is one sports area identified within the Ward, this is:

### GSH2: Links Cricket Ground

- This area’s quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- Playing field

## Public parks and gardens

There is one park identified within the Ward, this is:

### GSH23: Beach Boulevard

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This area is planned to be a new playpark and events space.

## Amenity greenspace

The majority of amenity greenspace are verge planting.

The following amenity spaces are notable as they contain park seating or play areas.

- **GSH32** quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit. This features an area of open flat grass.
- **GSH25** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. This features a formal equipped play space (Site 118).
- **GSH26** quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit. This features a formal equipped play space (Site 119).
- **GSH27** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. This features areas of grass and tree planting with paths.
- **GSH55** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. This is features an area of grass and shrub planting.
- **GSH79** quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit. This features a formal equipped play space (Site 112).

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### GSH3: Broad Hill

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is an area of open semi-natural land with paths

### GSH6: Merkland Lane Amenity Space

- This area’s quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This area includes Gallows Hill, a small mound, and paths.

## Beaches

### GSH88: Esplanade South Beach

- This area’s quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is a sandy beach with open coastal lawns and waterfront green space.

## Cycletracks

The National Cycleway Network Route 1 runs through the Ward. NCN 1 is part of both the long-distance Coasts and Castles route and the North Sea Cycle Route, and connects Aberdeen City to the Highland capital of Inverness.



Figure 178: Image of informal play within the Ward at the Beach



Figure 177: Image of opportunities for informal play within the Ward at Broad Hill



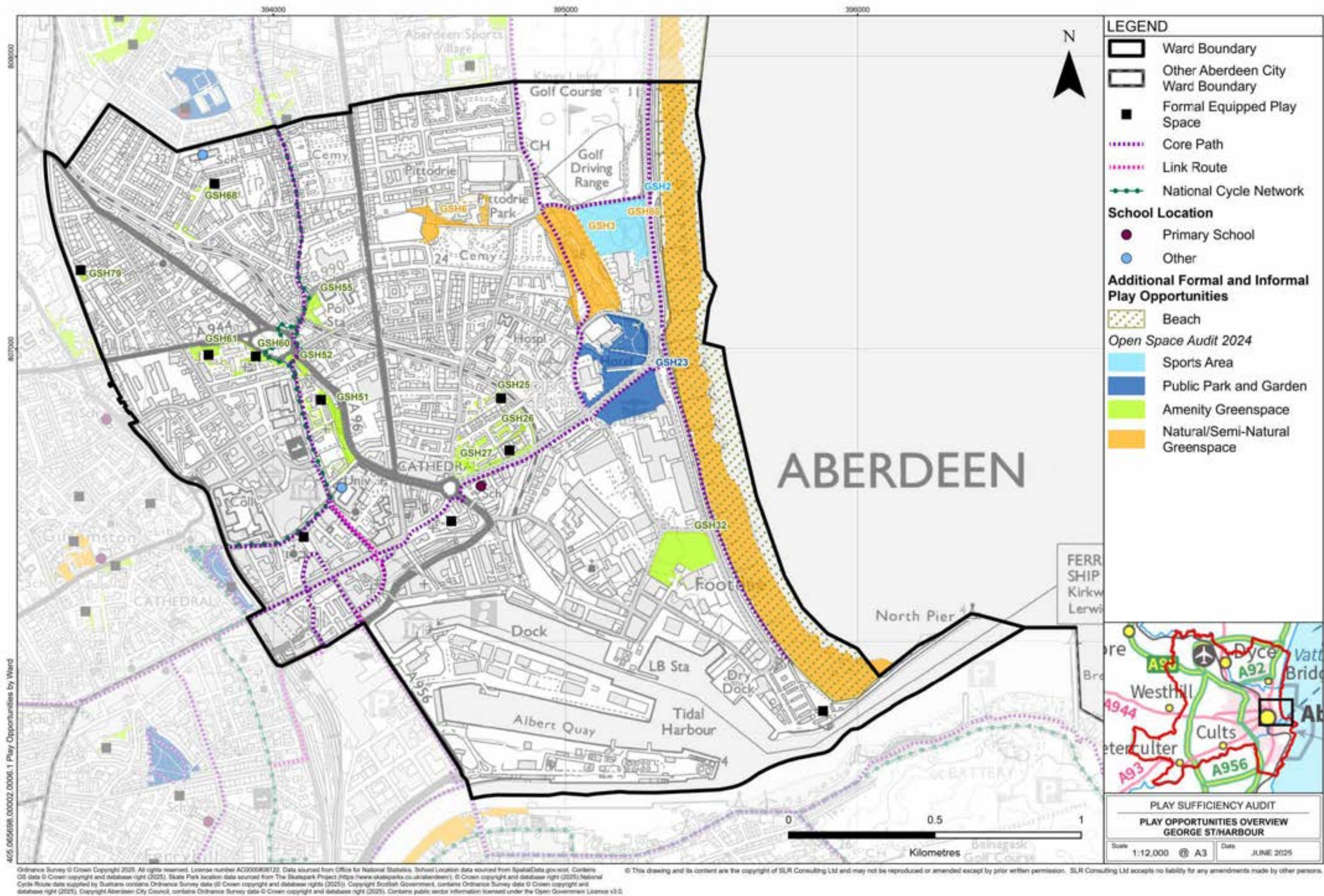


Figure 179: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.9.10 George Street/Harbour Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 10 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 3.61 hectares of Sports areas
- 5.09 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 6.08 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 30.42 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces (including beach)

In total there is approximately 45.20 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 5 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 7 spaces had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 3 space recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

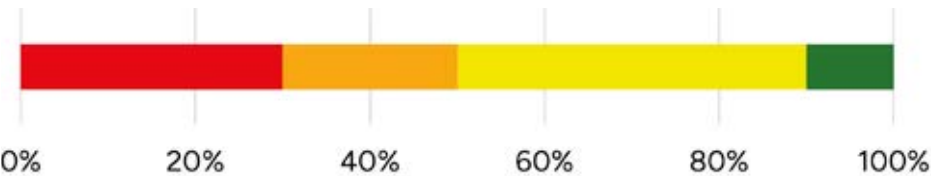


Figure 180: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

30% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

20% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

40% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

10% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Wales Street Play Area
- Lemon Street Play Area
- Gallowgate Play Area
- Froghall Place Play Area

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Leslie Terrace Play Area with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Gallowgate Play Area with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Four of the 10 formal equipped play spaces (40%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst three of the spaces (30%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 6 play areas (60%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 4 play areas (40%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 0 play areas (0%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Leslie Terrace Play Area (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was lower than the City average, with 50% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 181: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Froghall Place Play Area



Figure 182: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Leslie Terrace Play Area



Figure 183: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Leslie Terrace Play Area



Figure 184: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Gallowgate Play Area



# 6.10 Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells

## 6.10.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Ashley
- Craigiebuckler
- Hazlehead
- Rubislaw
- West End
- Woodend

## 6.10.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

### Primary Schools

- Countesswells School
- Ashley Road School
- Fernielea School
- Hazlehead Primary School
- St Joseph’s RC School

### Secondary Schools

- Harlaw Academy
- Hazlehead Academy

### Other schools

- None

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.10.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 20,186.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 19.8% of this population, totalling 3,993 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 2,030 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,963 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 272 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 6.8% of the child population in the Ward. 113 of those children and young people live within the Summerhill neighbourhood.

## 6.10.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 61 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide 4.3 This Ward 4.3

### What is working well?

- We live close to the new playpark in Hazlehead which we go to several times a week.
- There are lots of outdoor spaces near me which can be used by all
- Parks are great

### What could be improved

- Park play areas can be updated. Enforce no dogs in parks unless on lead
- Maintenance of parks, especially toilet facilities. More play equipment for older children
- Would be nice with a small playpark closer to our house, so the kids in the street could meet and play and get to know each other better.

### Where do children and young people play in your Ward?

- Hazlehead Park
- Hazlehead park, Burnieboozle park, Airyhall community centre park
- Play parks, eg. Cromwell Play Park. Also their old school playground.

### Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells Ward?

- For the number of new houses being erected there should be far more parks and green spaces
- Look to be good quality and well used.
- No enough public transport to the play areas

## 6.10.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 8 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 5 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
134	Hazlehead Caravan Site Play Area	Council
135	Hazlehead Park Play Area/Hazlehead Park	Council
136	Craigiebuckler Avenue Play Area	Council
137	Johnston Gardens (Park) Play Area	Council
138	Cromwell Road Play Area	Council
139	Rosewell Park	Private
140	Kepplestone Gardens	Private
141	Countesswells Park Road Play Area	Private



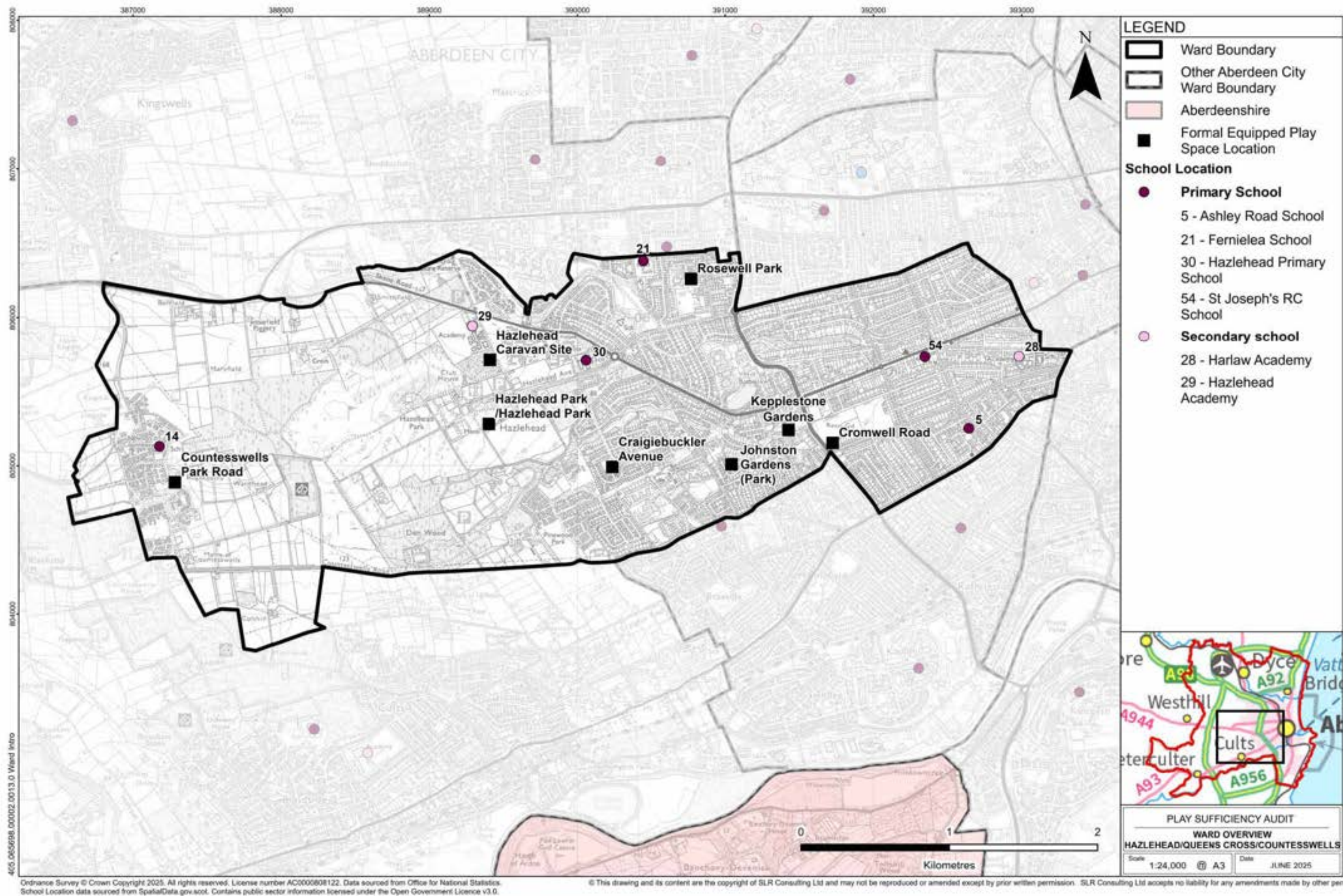


Figure 01: Map of the ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within ward



# 6.10.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that generally the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- The area forming a band running north - south through the east of the Ward where walking distances exceed 20 minutes is predominantly agricultural land separating Countesswells from the City and contains few residential properties.
- The corridor of land along Queens Road shows a walking time of 10-15 minutes to a formal equipped play space.
- To the north of this Queens Road, Queens Den is shown as having a 15-20 minute walking distance to a formal equipped play area. This is an error within the analysis due to the data set used does not include smaller scale paths.
- The area around Rubislaw Den North and Desswood Place in the east of the Ward (to the north of Kepplestone Gardens) is shown as having a 10-20 minute walking distance to a formal equipped play area.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of one space where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Hazlehead Caravan Site Play Area	Yes	No	No
Hazlehead Park Play Area/ Hazlehead Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
Craigiebuckler Avenue Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Johnston Gardens (Park) Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cromwell Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rosewell Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kepplestone Gardens	Yes	Yes	Yes
Countesswells Park Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes



Figure 185: Image of long grass and bark mulch surfacing at Hazlehead Caravan Site Play Area



Figure 186: Image of good access at Johnston Gardens (Park) Play Area



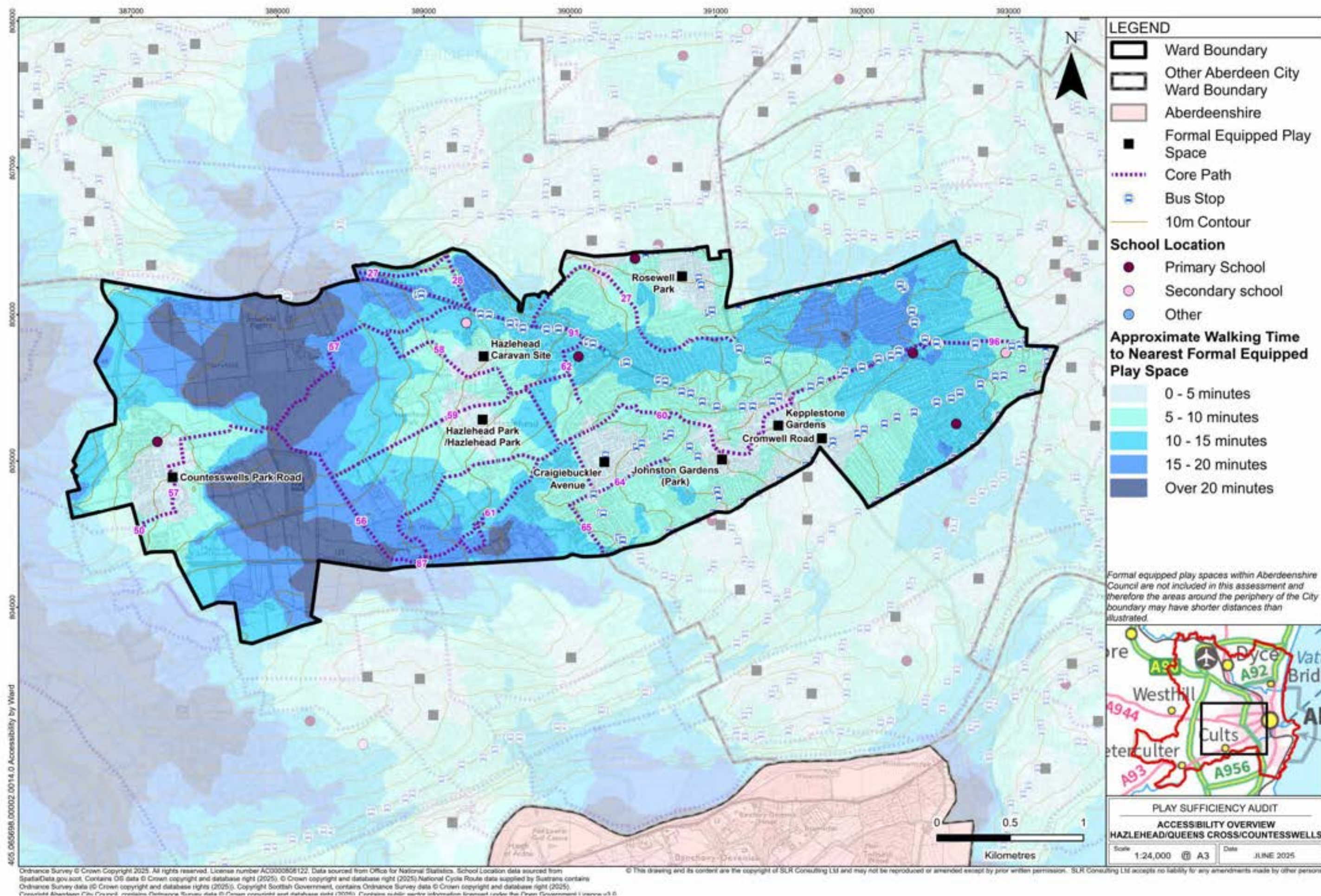


Figure 187: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.10.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

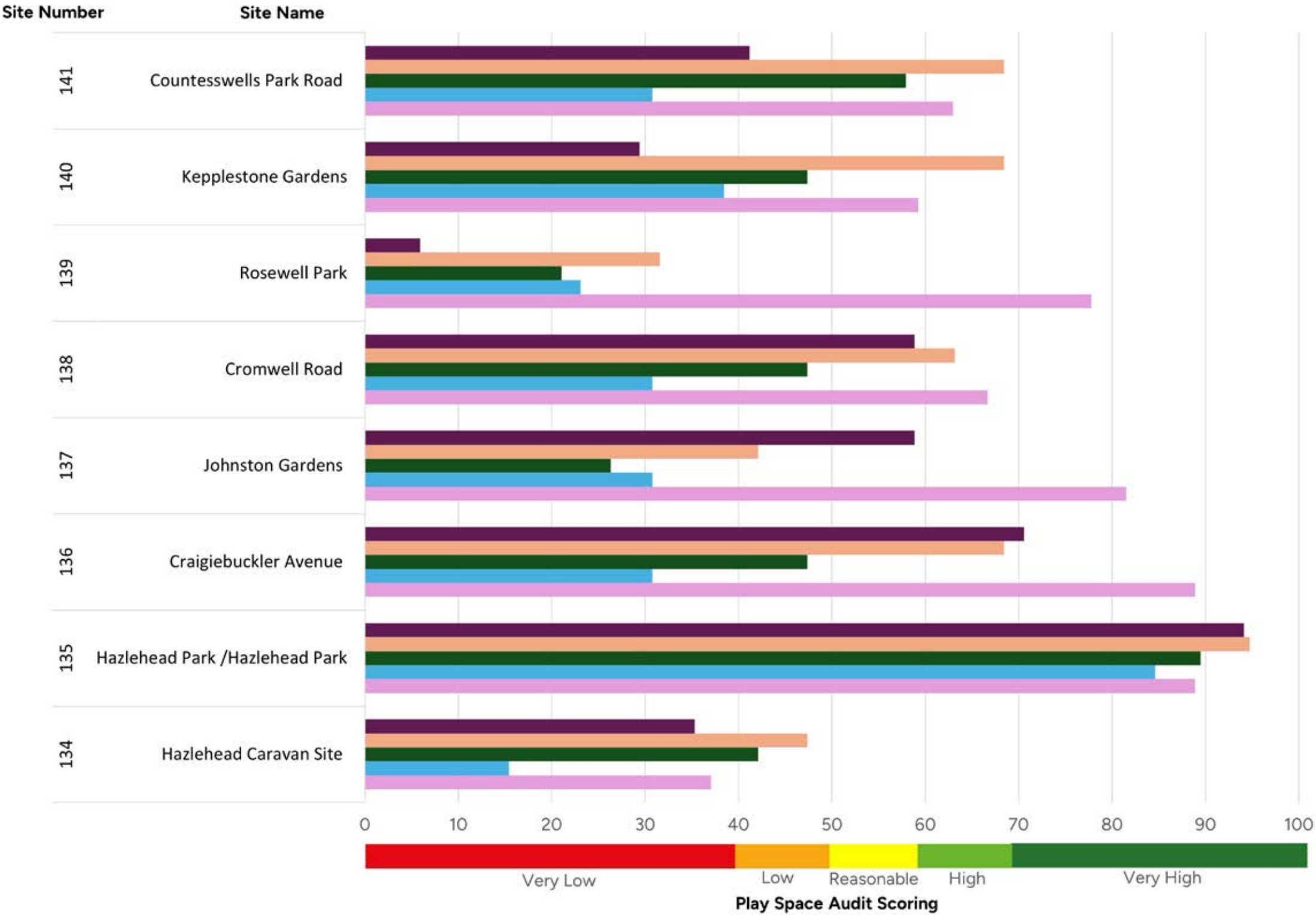


Figure 188: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



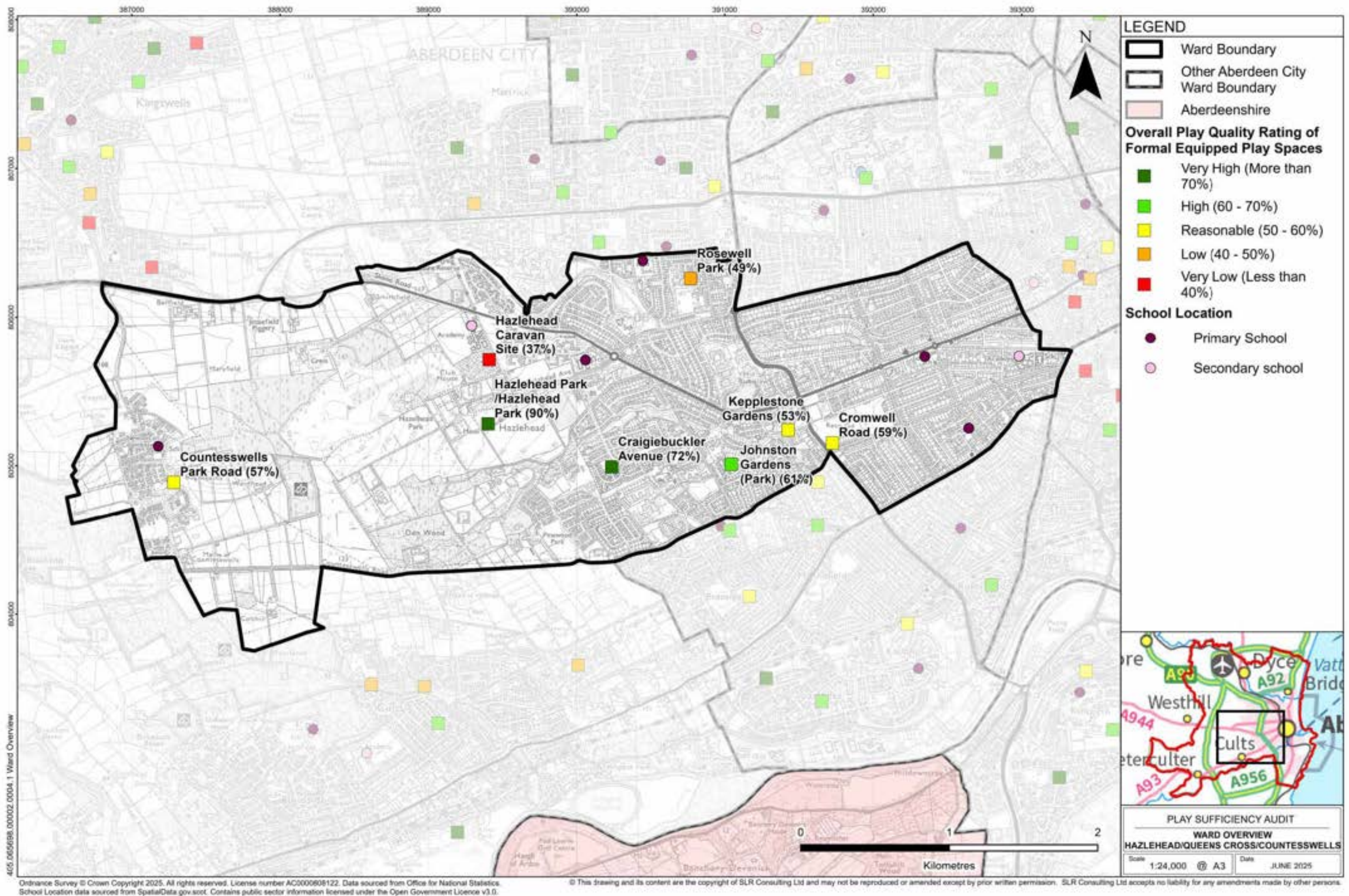


Figure 189: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.10.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

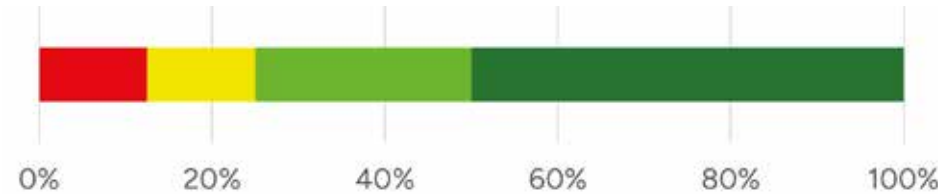


Figure 190: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

12.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

12.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

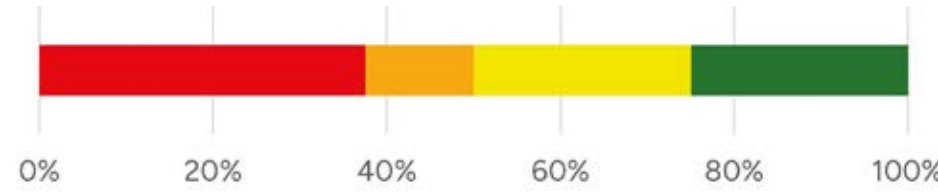


Figure 191: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

37.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

12.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

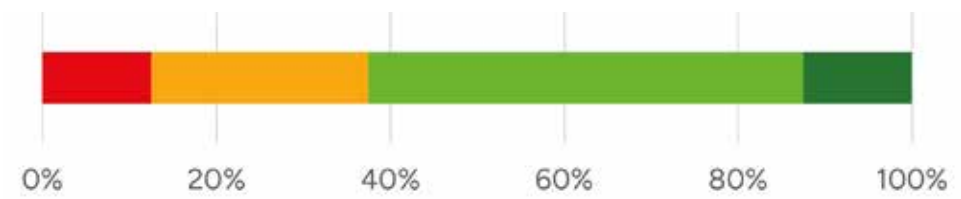
0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 192: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

12.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

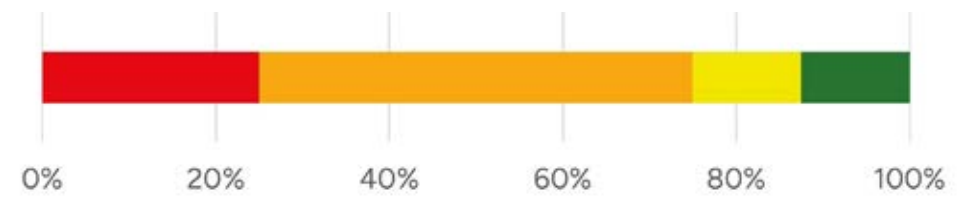
0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

12.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 193: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

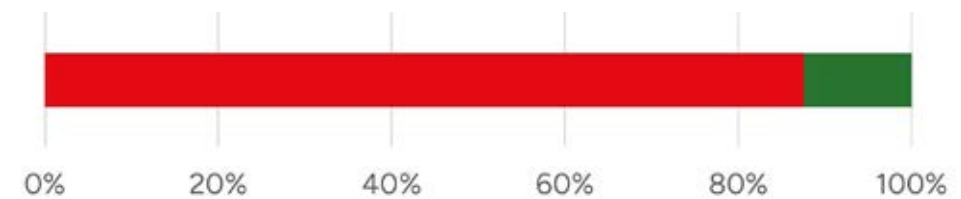
12.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

12.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 194: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

87.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

12.50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.10.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the east of the City, the Hazlehead/Queens Cross/ Countesswells Ward benefits from highly rated amenity spaces and parks that are well connected via multiple core paths. Hazlehead Park, in particular, is a vast and historic park offering woodlands, gardens, sports facilities, and an 18-hole golf course, providing ample opportunities for outdoor recreation.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 83.85 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 18.88 hectares of Sports areas
- 18.10 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 28.12 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 18.75 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports Area

There is one park identified within the Ward, this is:

### HQC15: Hazlehead Playing Fields (West End Park)

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- Playing field

## Public parks and gardens

There is one park identified within the Ward, this is:

### HQC14: Hazlehead Park

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This area features formal gardens, a maze, paths, tree planting and

large grassed areas formal equipped play space (Site 135). There is parking.

### HQC49: Rubislaw and Queen's Terrace Gardens

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This features a linear fenced park and gardens.

## Amenity greenspace

The majority of amenity greenspace are verge planting.

The following amenity spaces are notable as they contain park seating or play areas.

- **HQC39** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features a green corridor with paths, tree planting, stream and planting.
- **HQC7** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. This connects to **HQC39** and features paths through tree planting, large flat areas of grass and residential areas.
- **HQC23** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features an area of open grass.
- **HQC25** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features a path through tree planting and hilly grassed areas.
- **HQC27** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features a formal equipped play space (Site 140) and large areas of grass mounded along roadside.
- **HQC22** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features a formal equipped play space (Site 136), sports facilities, open grass.

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### HQC5: Den of Maidencraig

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a nature reserve that features a duck pond, woodland, large areas of grass, paths and parking.

### HQC12: Groats Road West Amenity

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This area includes a woodland, paths and a formal equipped play space (Site 134).

## Other

It is noted that there is an area of open space (Cults Burn Park) within Countesswells. This area is not illustrated on the map opposite as it was not captured within the Open Space Audit data, however it includes a bridge and burn, grassed areas, an orchard and paths.



Figure 196: Image of Site 136 within HQC22



Figure 195: Image of Cults Burn Park, Countesswells



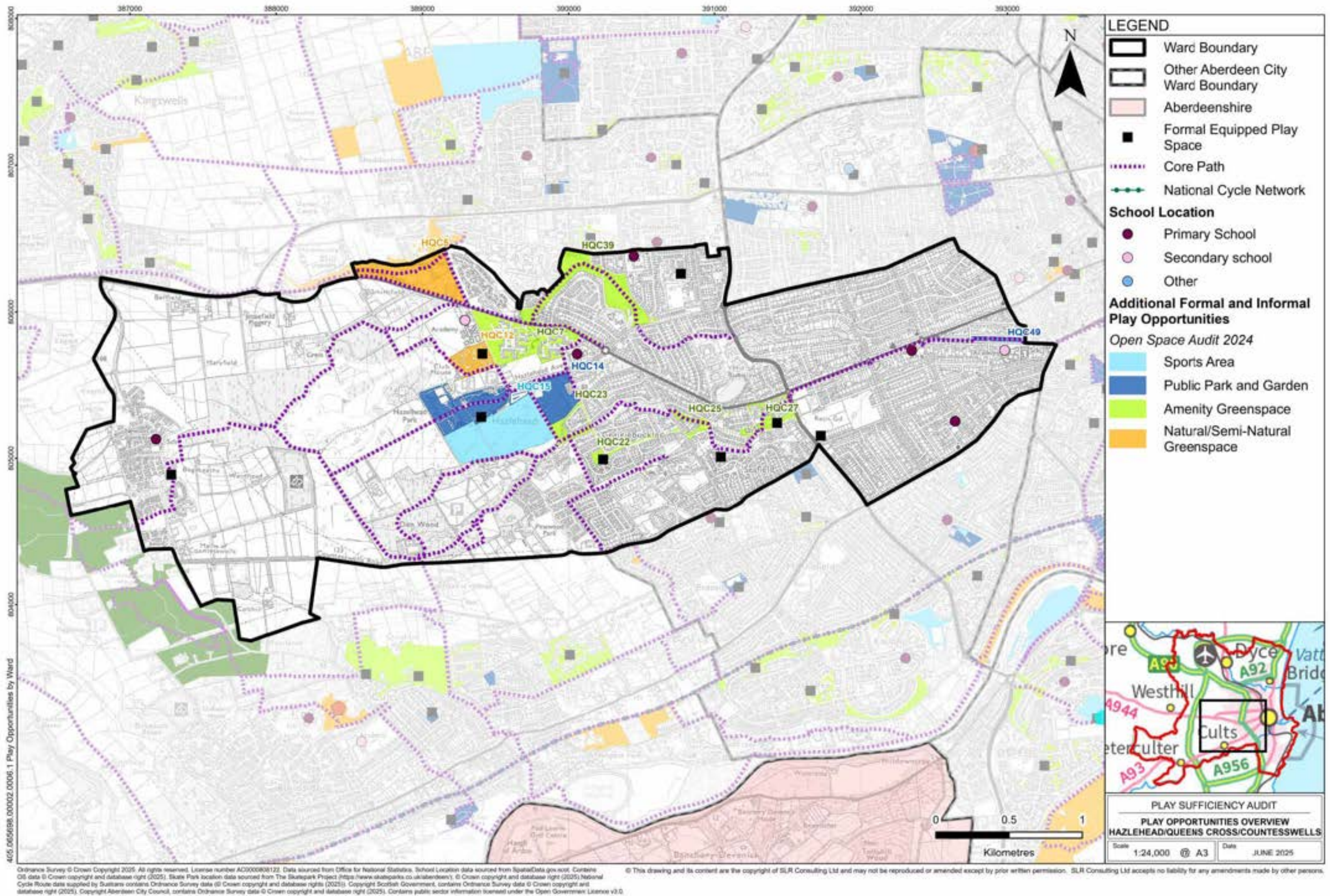


Figure 197: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.10.10 Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 8 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 18.88 hectares of Sports areas
- 18.10 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 28.12 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 18.75 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

In total there is approximately 83.85 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- no spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 1 space had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 1 space recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- The area forming a band running north - south through the east of the Ward where walking distances exceed 20 minutes is predominantly agricultural land separating Countesswells from the City and contains few residential properties.
- The corridor of land along Queens Road shows a walking time of 10-15 minutes to a formal equipped play space.
- The area around Rubislaw Den North and Desswood Place in the east of the Ward (to the north of Kepplestone Gardens) is shown as having a 10-20 minute walking distance to a formal equipped play area.

### Accessible parking

The larger scale play area Hazlehead Park (Site 135) includes formal parking and within this provision accessible parking spaces are included.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

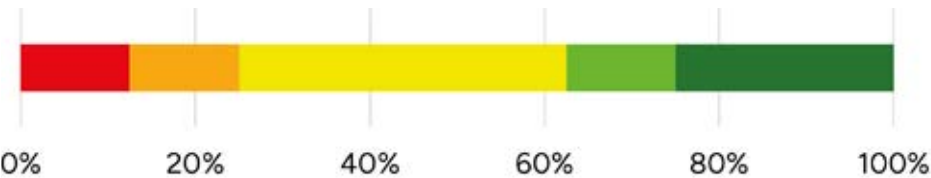


Figure 198: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

37.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Hazlehead Caravan Site Play Area

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5, 6-11 and 12-15 age groups compared to the 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Hazlehead Park Play Area with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Hazlehead Caravan Site Play Area with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Eight of the 8 formal equipped play spaces (100%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst six of the spaces (75%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 6 play areas (75%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 2 play areas (25%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 0 play areas (0%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Hazlehead Park Play Area (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was higher than the City average, with 75% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 199: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Craigiebuckler Avenue Play Area



Figure 200: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Hazlehead Park Play Area



Figure 201: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Hazlehead Park Play Area



Figure 202: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Hazlehead Caravan Site Play Area



# 6.11 Torry/Ferryhill

## 6.11.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Balnagask
  - East Kirkhill
  - Ferryhill
- South Kirkhill
  - Torry

## 6.11.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

### Primary Schools

- Ferryhill School
- Tullos School
- Walker Road School

- None

### Other schools

- None

It is acknowledged that there are

### Secondary Schools

playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.11.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 20,237.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 17.7% of this population, totalling 2726 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 1,782 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,806 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 904 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 33.2% of the child population in the Ward. 302 of those children and young people live within the Torry East area and 237 live within Torry West area.

## 6.11.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Torry/Ferryhill Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 52 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      4.3

### What is working well?

- Duthie Park is fantastic
- Plenty of parks/ skate parks, open space
- We live near Duthie park which is great. The children can safely play and walk home without supervision

### What could be improved

- Light Duthie Park up at night in Winter, installation of an outdoor gym at Duthie Park as the adults use the kids playground equipment for pullups. More baby swings, there is always a queue
- Replace old equipment
- not enough play areas for children

### Where do children and young people play in your Ward?

- Duthie Park. Albury Park
- Logie Park & Victoria Park Torry
- St Fittick’s park and the play area at Mansfield/Victoria Road

### Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Torry/Ferryhill Ward?

- I am concerned about the perception of young people when they are out with friends, they have a right to use any public space and parks however there is often negative perceptions that they are intimidating or up to no good, when together and playing,
- Very good - but there can ALWAYS be more baby swings (one per park isn’t enough )

## 6.11.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 13 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 10 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
150	Ferryhill Community Centre Play Area	Council
151	Albury Place Play Area	Council
152	South Esplanade West Play Area	Council
153	Duthie Park  NB. Duthie Park includes three areas of Formal Equipped Play which have been assessed as one site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duthie Park North</li><li>• Duthie Park South</li><li>• Duthie Park Pony Park</li></ul>	Council
154	Kerloch Gardens West Play Area	Council
155	Girdleness Road Play Area	Council
156	North Grampian Circle Play Area	Council
157	Abbey Place Play Area	Council
159	Balnagask Circle Play Area	Council
160	St Fitticks Play Area/St Fitticks Park	Council
161	Riverside Play Area	Private
162	Strawberry Bank Parade Play Area	Private
163	Walker Gardens Play Area	Private



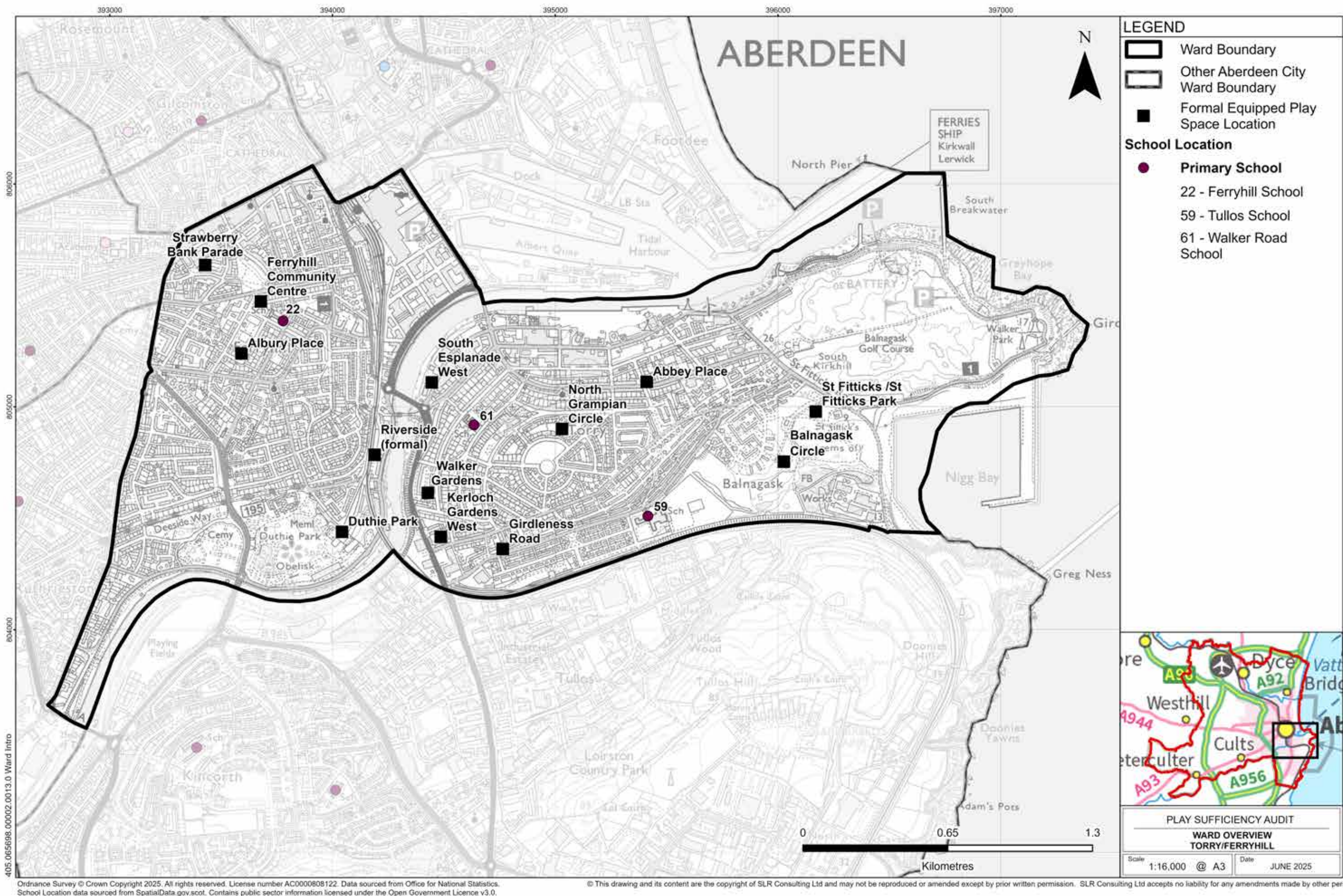


Figure 203: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



# 1.1.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that generally the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- Industrial areas adjacent to the Aberdeen Harbour and Union Square where walking times are 10-15 minutes.
- The area around Gairn Crescent to the north of Allenvale Cemetery where walking times are illustrated as 10-15 minutes. It is noted that this may be an error in the analysis due to the data set used not including smaller paths.
- Areas along the coast line where no residential properties are present.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of three spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Ferryhill Community Centre Play Area	No	No	Yes
Albury Place Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Esplanade West Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
Duthie Park NB. Duthie Park includes three areas of Formal Equipped Play which have been assessed as one site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duthie Park North</li><li>• Duthie Park South</li><li>• Duthie Park Pony Park</li></ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kerloch Gardens West Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Girdleness Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Grampian Circle Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abbey Place Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Balnagask Circle Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
St Fitticks Play Area/St Fitticks Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
Riverside Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Strawberry Bank Parade Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Walker Gardens Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes



Figure 204: Image of entrance to Ferryhill Community Centre Play Area



Figure 205: Image of poor access at Strawberry Bank Parade Play Area



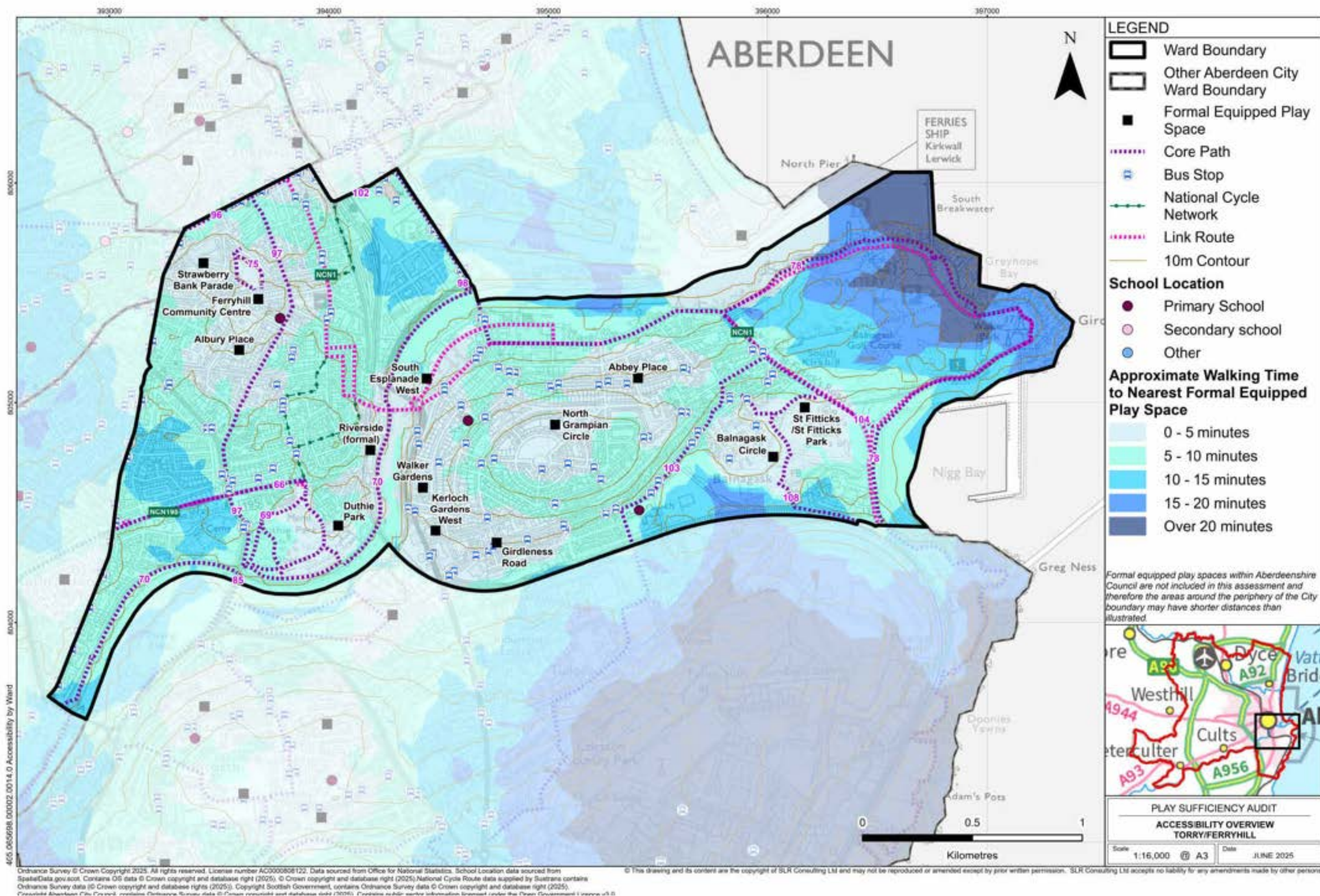


Figure 206: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward



# 6.11.6 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

NB. Site 153, Duthie Park includes three areas of Formal Equipped Play which have been assessed as one site.

- Duthie Park North
- Duthie Park South
- Duthie Park Pony Park

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

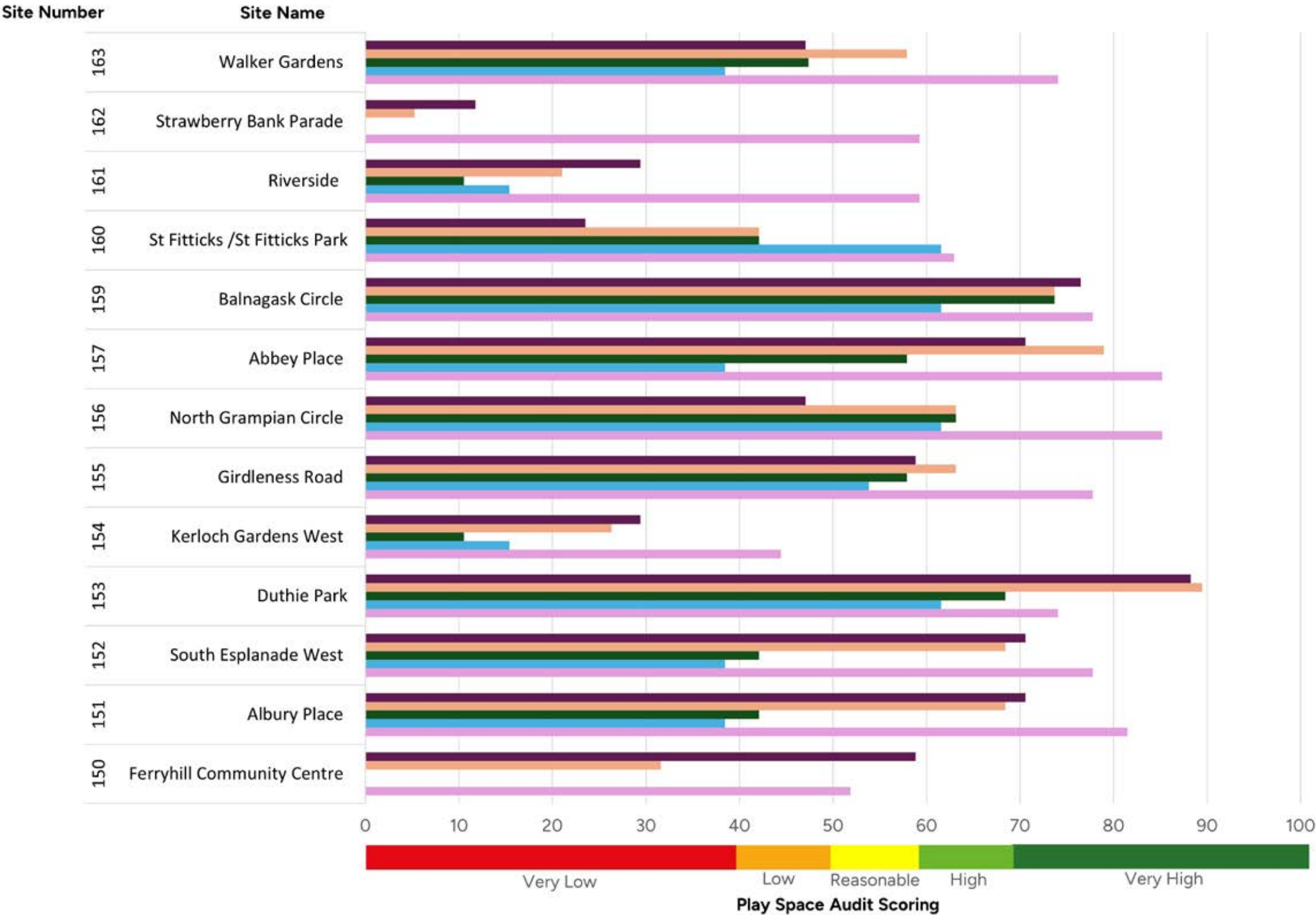


Figure 207: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward







# 6.11.7 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

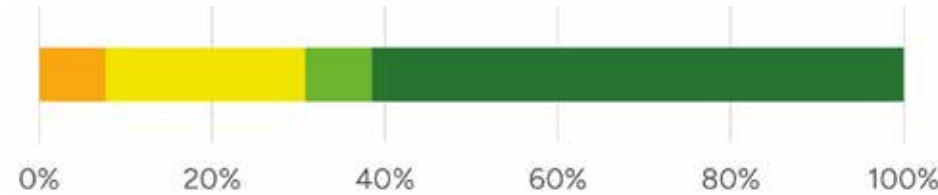


Figure 209: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 7.69% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 23.08% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 7.69% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 61.54% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

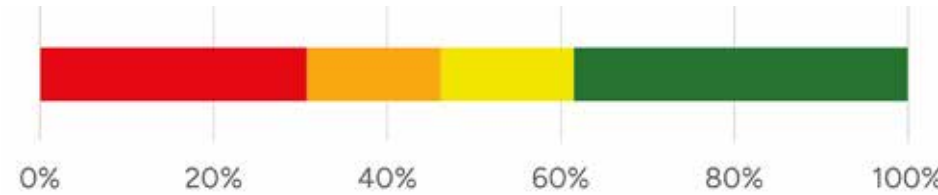


Figure 210: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

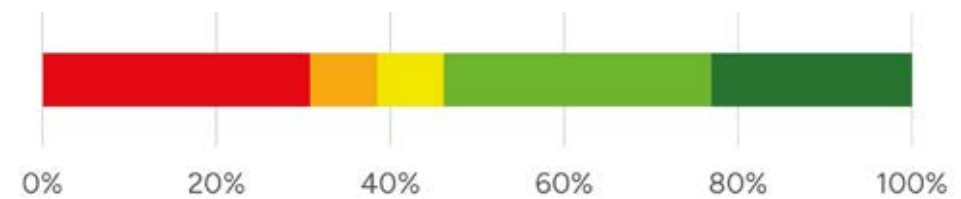
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

- 30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 15.38% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 15.38% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 38.46% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



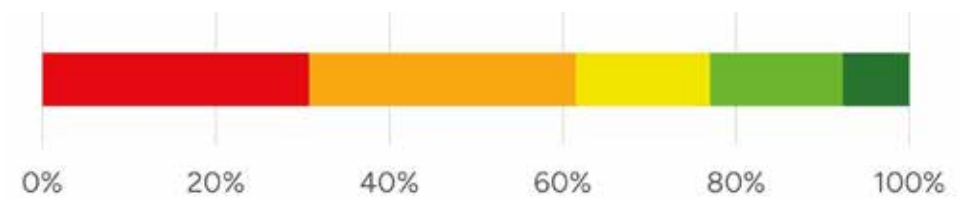
**Figure 211: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

- 30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 7.69% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 7.69% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 23.08% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



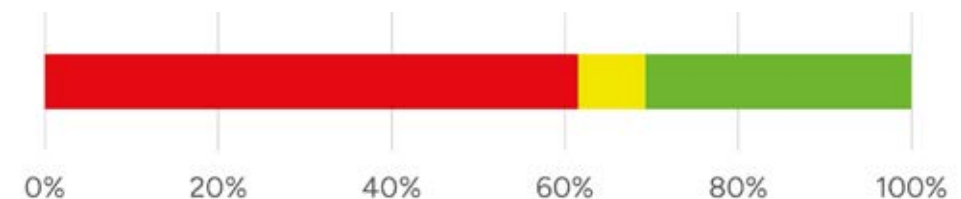
**Figure 212: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

- 30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 15.38% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 15.38% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 7.69% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 213: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

- 61.54% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 7.69% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.11.8 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located towards the south of the City, the Torry/Queens Cross/Countesswells Ward lies adjacent to the Dee estuary. The River Dee runs through the Ward from the estuary. Torry is located directly south of the River Dee, Ferryhill sits on higher ground to the west of the river's bend, offering more suburban housing and green spaces like Duthie Park, which runs alongside the Dee.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 41.92 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 5.50 hectares of Sports areas
- 20.81 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 2.82 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 12.80 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports Area

There is one park identified within the Ward, this is:

### TFH10: East Tullos Burn Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- Large field, with sports facilities. e.g. basketball and football

### TFH11: Tullos Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- Large athletics field, outdoor gym, playing field with multiple pitches and sports facilities e.g. basketball and football

## Public parks and gardens

There is one park identified within the Ward, this is:

### TFH60: Bon Accord Terrace Gardens

- This area's quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- Park that features tree planting, formal planting, and pathways

### TFH80: Duthie Park

- This area's quality rated very high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- Park featuring an expansive lawn area, playgrounds for kids & both indoor & outdoor gardens. Features a formal equipped play space (Site 153)

### TFH14: St. Fittick's Park

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- Park featuring an expansive hilly landscape, a formal equipped play space (Site 160), skatepark, playgrounds, parking, and sports facilities e.g. basketball

## Amenity greenspace

The mapped amenity greenspace are predominantly residential green spaces. The following amenity spaces are notable as they provided open space for play and/or formal equipped play spaces.

- **TFH33** quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit. This is an area of lawn connected to Balnagask Community Centre.
- **TFH34** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. This features a fenced formal equipped play space (Site 155) adjacent to the road.
- **TFH38** quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit. This area features a football pitch, formal equipped play space (Site 156) and open green space.

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### TFH84: Riverside Drive Bridge of Dee

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is an open-semi natural riverside walk

### TFH48: South Esplanade West

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This area includes a riverside walk, a formal equipped play space (Site 152) and boat club.

### TFH13: Balganask Circle

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.

- This area features a large open field with tree planting and a formal equipped play space (Site 159). It connects to TFH14 and TFH11.

## Cycletracks

The National Cycleway Network Routes 1 and 195 run through the Ward. NCN 1 is part of both the long-distance Coasts and Castles route and the North Sea Cycle Route, and connects Aberdeen City to the Highland capital of Inverness. NCN 195 (Deeside way) and provides traffic-free paths and some short quiet-road sections along the former Deeside Railway line between Aberdeen and Ballater.



Figure 214: Image of site 156 within TFH38



Figure 215: Image of TFH13



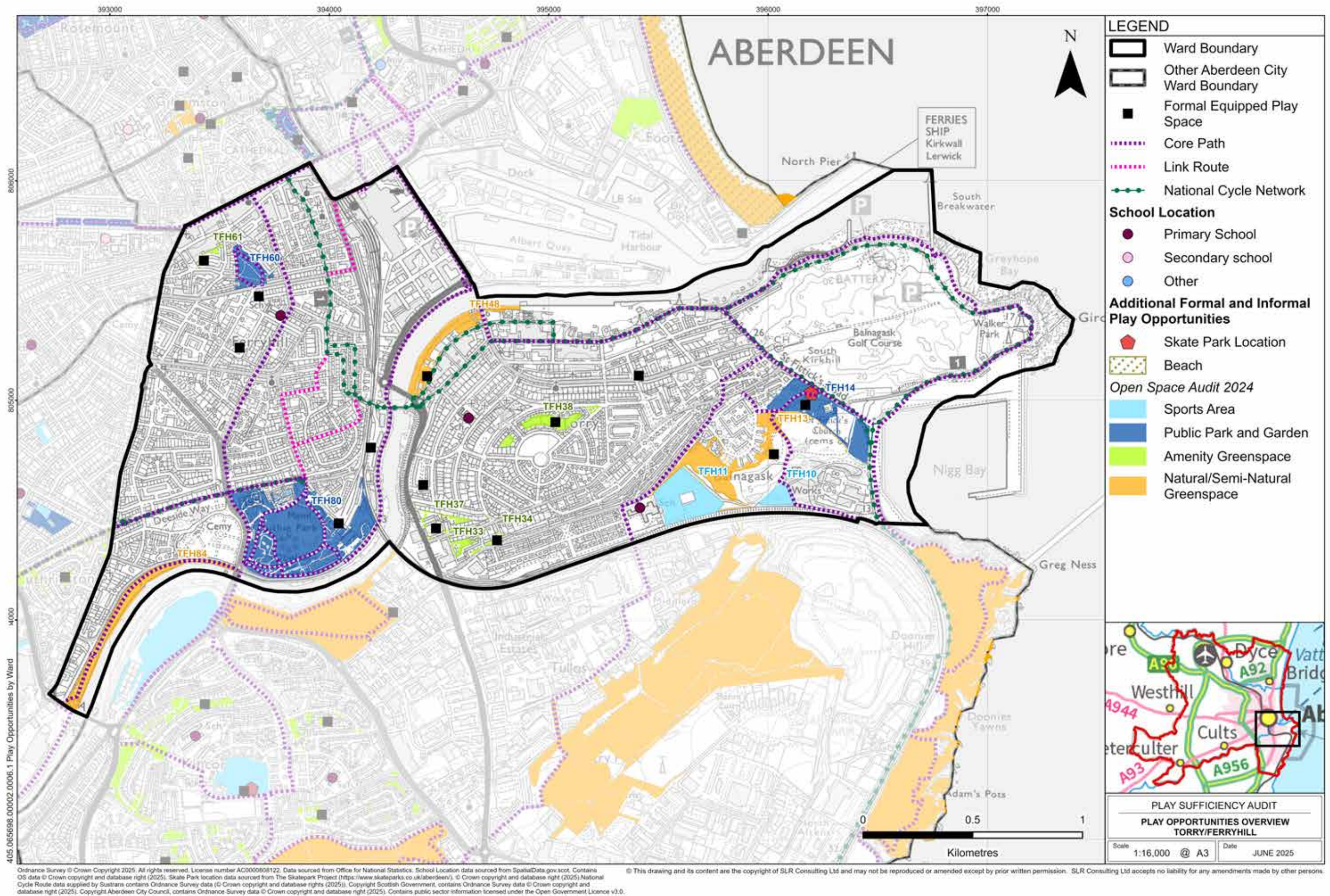


Figure 216: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.11.9 Torry/Ferryhill Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 13 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 5.50 hectares of Sports areas
- 20.81 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 2.82 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 12.80 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

In total there is approximately 41.92 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 2 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 3 had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 0 space recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- Industrial areas adjacent to the Aberdeen Harbour and Union Square where walking times are 10-15 minutes.
- The area around Gairn Crescent to the north of Allenvale Cemetery where walking times are illustrated as 10-15 minutes. It is noted that this may be an error in the analysis due to the data set used not including smaller paths.
- Areas along the coast line where no residential properties are present.

### Accessible parking

The larger scale play area, Duthie Park (Site 153) includes formal parking and within this provision accessible parking spaces are included.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

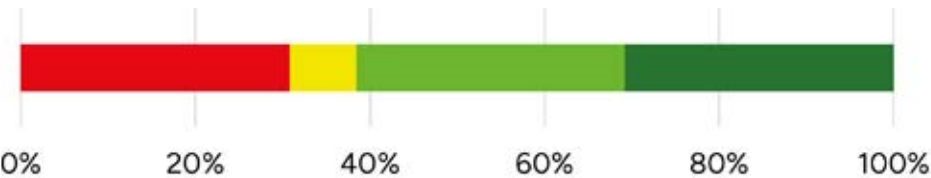


Figure 217: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

7.69% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

30.77% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Kerloch Gardens West Play Area

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a slightly higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Duthie Park with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Strawberry Bank Parade Play Area with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Five of the 13 formal equipped play spaces (38%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst three of the spaces (23%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 7 play areas (54%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 6 play areas (46%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 0 play areas (0%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play parks for risky and challenging play were North Grampian Circle Play Area and **St Fitticks Play Area/St Fitticks Park** (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was lower than the City average, with 69.23% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 218: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Balnagask Circle Play Area



Figure 219: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at St Fitticks Play Area/St Fitticks Park



Figure 220: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Duthie Park



Figure 221: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Strawberry Bank Parade Play Area



# 6.12 Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee

## 6.12.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Airyhall
- Braeside
- Broomhill
- Garthdee
- Gray Street Mews
- Kaimhill
- Mannofield
- Ruthrieston
- Seafield

## 6.12.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundary do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

### Primary Schools

- Airyhall School
- Broomhill School
- Kaimhill Primary School

### Secondary Schools

- None

### Other schools

- None

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.12.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 15,677.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 19% of this population, totalling 2,998 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 1,544 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,444 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 228 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 7.6% of the child population in the Ward. 206 of those children and young people live within the Garthdee neighbourhood.

## 6.12.4 Engagement

Engagement Outcomes for Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee Ward: 38 Responses

### How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?

- City wide 4.3
- This Ward 4.4

### What is working well?

- There are two good children’s play parks and a big green space nearby which are safe
- Good availability of parks
- Plenty of provision

### What could be improved

- Leave small areas of green grass alone for children to play
- Dogs dirt stops a lot of play
- There is not much on offer for teenagers in the City. A lot of the activities that are available are quite pricey which makes them unavailable to those who are struggling in the current climate
- Parks need to be maintained better, groups of older kids vandalised the parks and we don’t feel safe to visit.

### Where do children and young people play in your Ward?

- They generally don’t. Very young children are in parks with parents. Older children are inside a lot.
- There are two good children’s play parks and a big green space nearby which are safe and well looked after . They also play on the steps and grassy banks and areas and in the trees around about.
- We stay in our garden it’s safer.
- There are 2 parks close by but both have lots of older kids smoking, swearing and vandalising the park

### Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee Ward?

- More playgrounds with various equipment for various age groups and safe surface
- Local parks in my area are on very poor condition. There are larger very good parks however I need to travel by car to get there.
- The are of good quality and recently replaced. However a new housing development was build over a playpark and what is was replaced with was pitiful in size with no space to run about or kick a ball

## 6.12.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of eight formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, all of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Formal equipped play space name	Maintained by
142	Thorngrove Crescent	Council
143	Airyhall Community Centre	Council
144	Craigielea Avenue	Council
145	Braeside Place	Council
146	Ruthrieston Crescent	Council
147	Kaimhill Circle	Council
148	Morrison Drive	Council
149	Devenick Place	Council



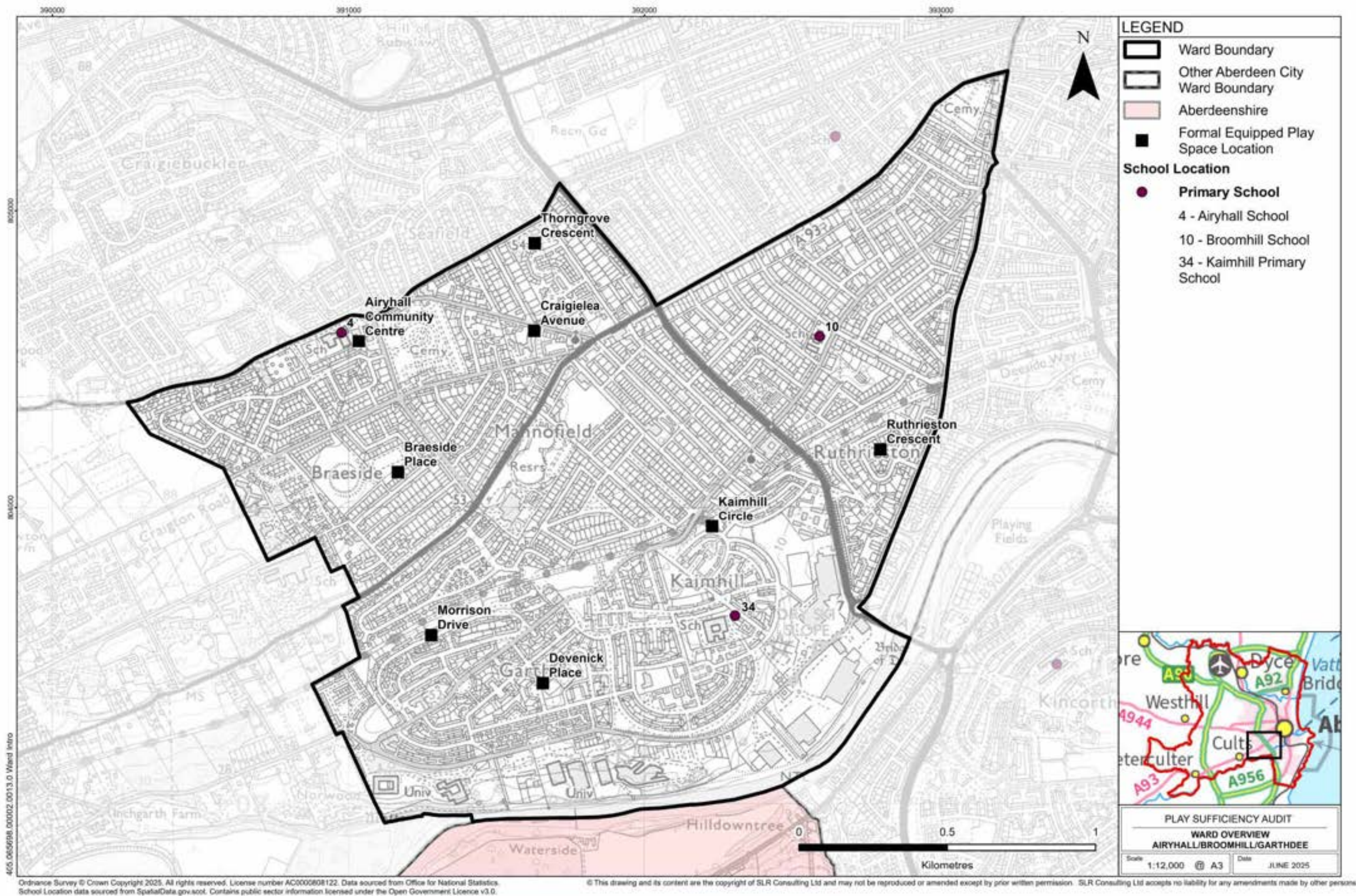


Figure 222: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



# 6.12.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that generally the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- In the north-east of the Ward around Broomhill School the distance is a 15-20 minute walk in the worst case within this residential area.
- Along the southern boundary of the Ward along the River Dee the distance is 15-20 minutes. This area is dominated by retail land uses.
- In the centre of the Ward around Mannofield the distance is 15-20 minutes, this is largely due to the Water Treatment Works creating a barrier to pedestrian movement and creates a larger distance for several residential properties located to the south of the Water Treatment Works
- Along the western boundary of the Ward the distance is 15-20 minutes for several residential properties, this is due to several factors including barriers to movement created by the Braeside Reservoir and properties backing onto the National Cycle Network 195.

## Cycleways

Although the National Cycle Network 195 (the Deeside Way) runs through the Ward this has little connection to the formal equipped play spaces at Ruthrieston Circle and Kaimhill Circle, whilst the connection to Morrison Drive could be improved. In some cases the Deeside Way creates a barrier to movement north-south through the Ward and increases journey times to formal equipped play spaces.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Thorngrove Crescent	Yes	Yes	Yes
Airyhall Community Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes
Craigielea Avenue	Yes	Yes	Yes
Braeside Place	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ruthrieston Crescent	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kaimhill Circle	Yes	Yes	Yes
Morrison Drive	Yes	Yes	Yes
Devenick Place	Yes	Yes	Yes



Figure 223: Image of access at Craigielea Avenue play area  
A wide well surfaced path provides access.



Figure 224: Image of the entrance to Morrison Drive play space with NCN 195 (Deeside Way) in the background.



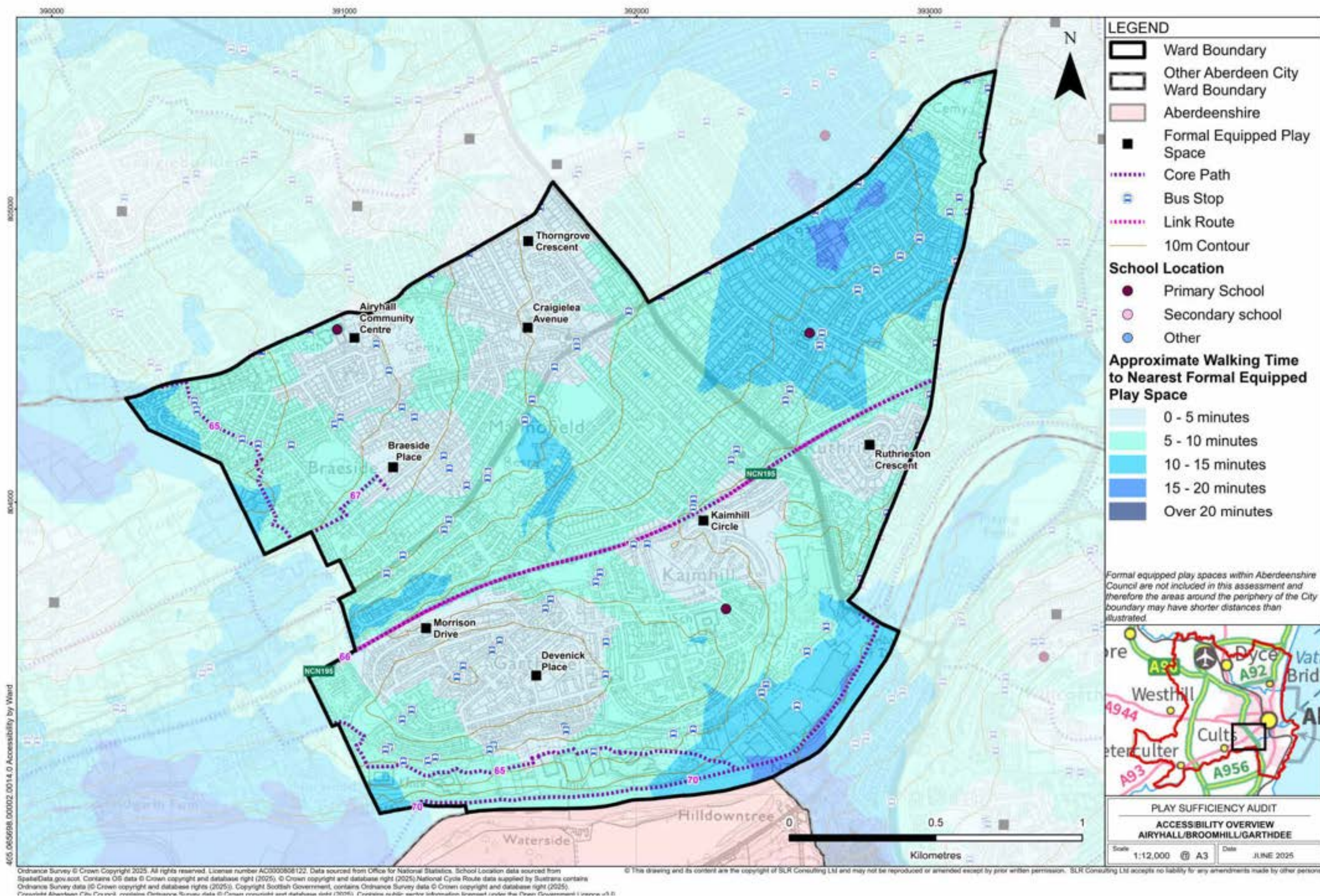


Figure 225: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Ward

Map illustrates walking distances to formal equipped play spaces, overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway network



# 6.12.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the percentages achieved by each assessed play area in the play space audit assessment.

It shows the percentage score each assessed play area achieved for the following:

- Play quality score for 0-5 year olds
- Play quality score for 6-11 year olds
- Play quality score for 12-15 year olds
- Play quality score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score
- Overall score ('Quality of place' + play quality)

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

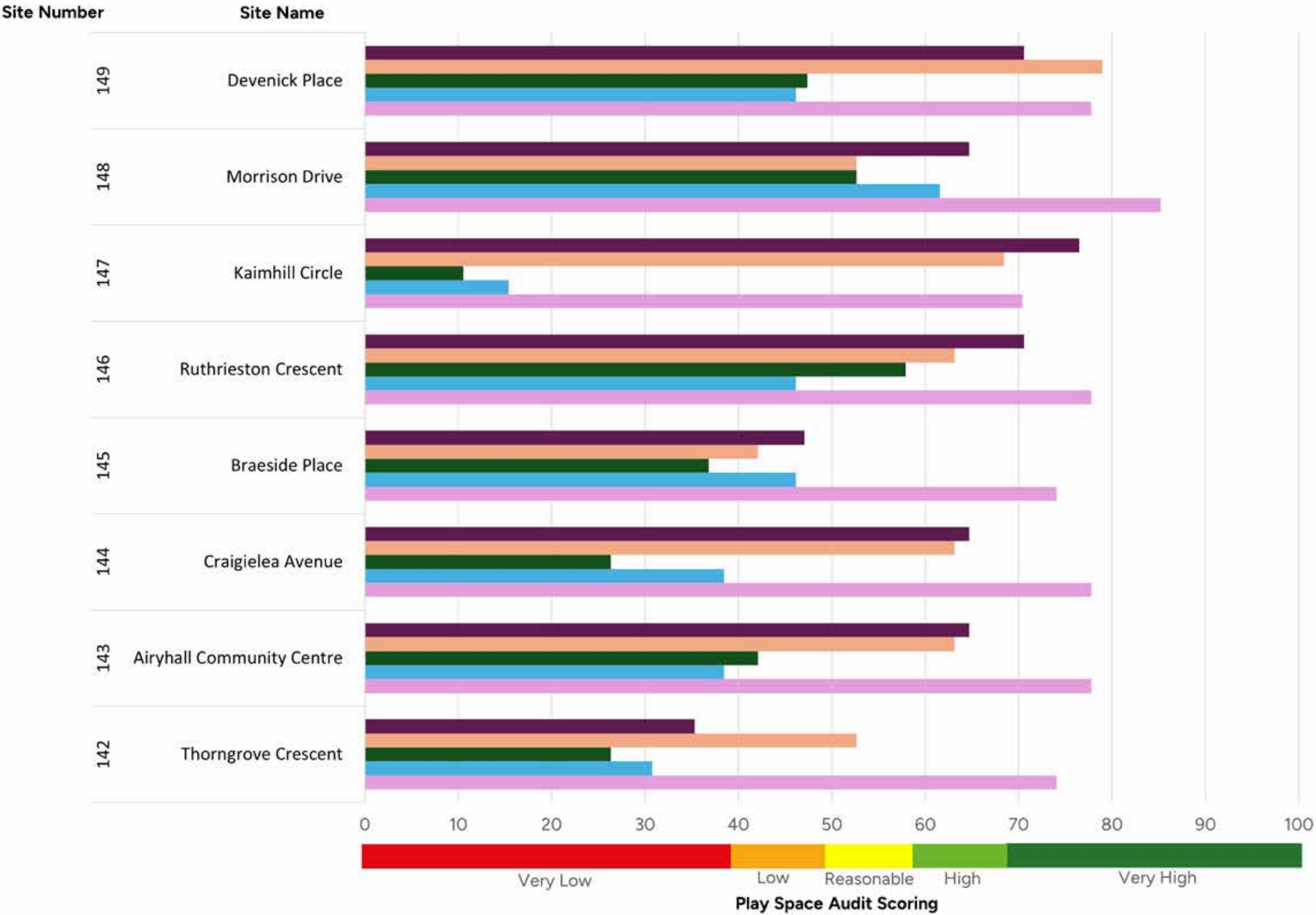


Figure 226: Quality assessment results of formal equipped play spaces within Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee Ward



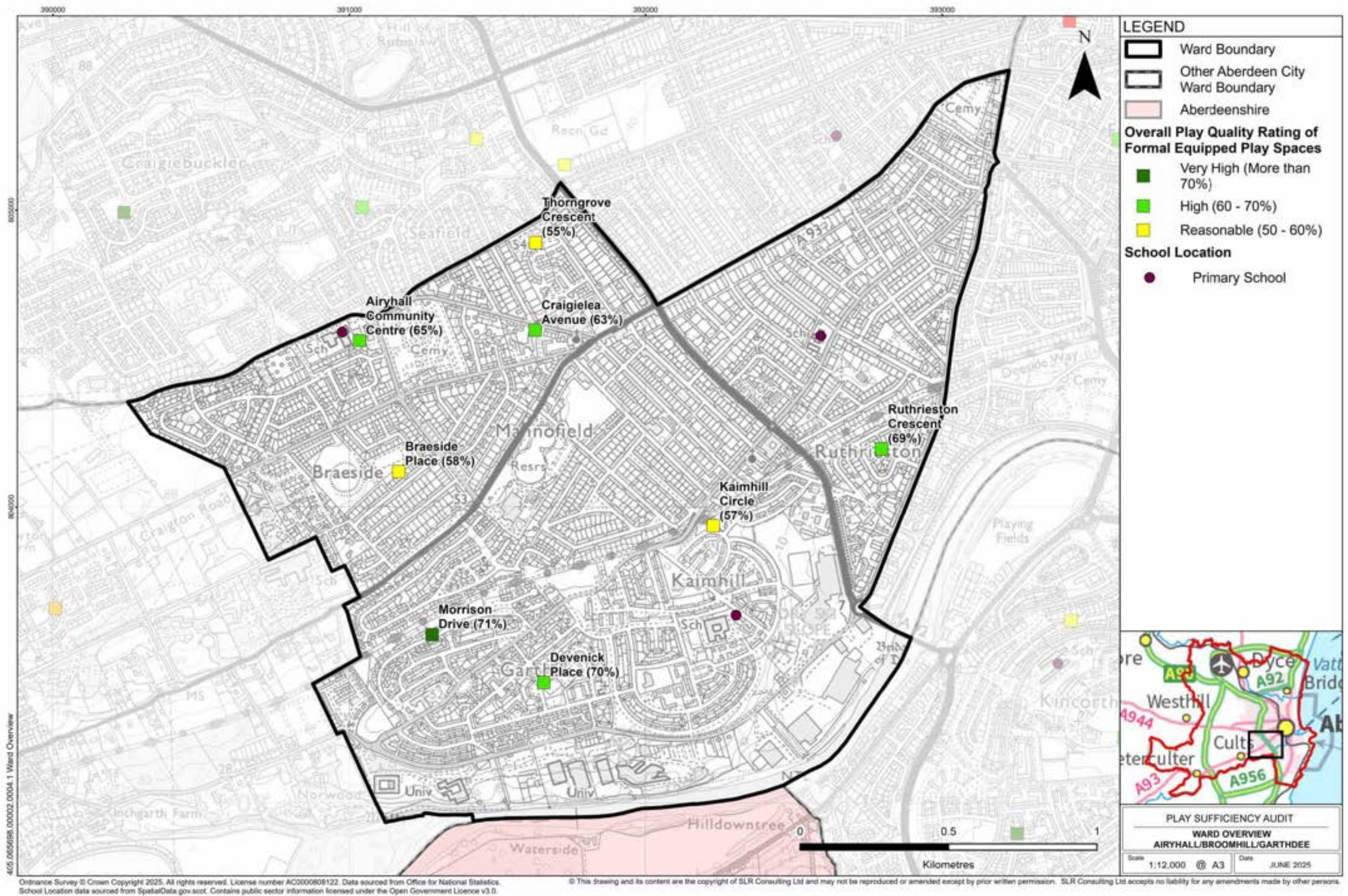


Figure 227: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.12.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of the eight number of formal equipped play spaces within the Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/poor/very poor score across the different survey categories of 'Quality of place', play for 0-5 year olds, play for 6-11 year olds, play for 12-15 year olds, and play for 16-17 year olds.

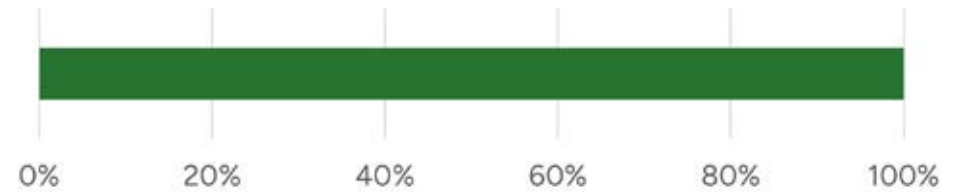
The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

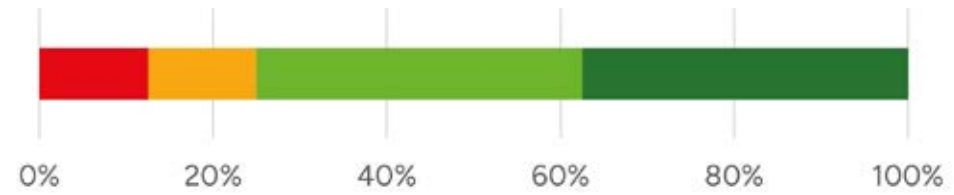


**Figure 228: Context scores for Ward**  
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

100% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 229: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward**  
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

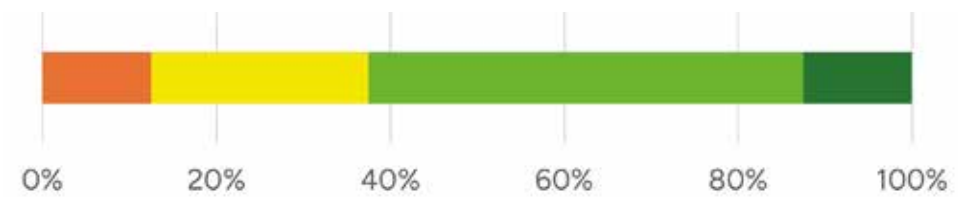
37.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

37.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 230: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

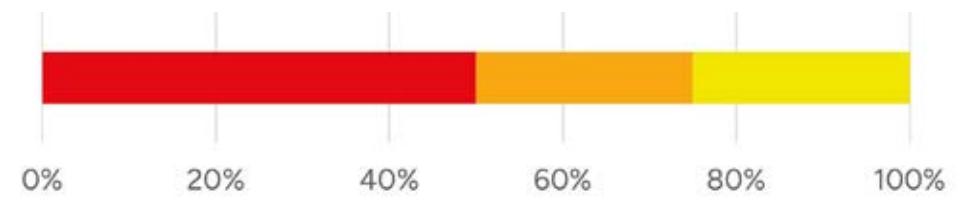
25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 231: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

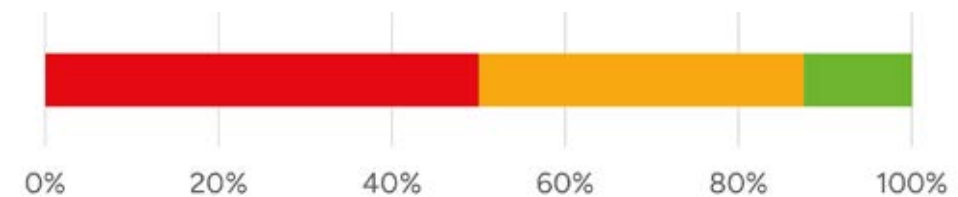
50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

25% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 232: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

37.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.



# 6.12.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the west of the City, the Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee benefits from sports facilities, playgrounds, and walking paths. The River Dee runs along the southern boundary, providing riverside paths and natural habitats as well as connection with the NCN 195 (Deeside Way), popular for walking and cycling.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 20.24 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 3.57 hectares of Sports areas
- 3.46 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 12.97 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 0.25 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There are three areas of sports areas identified on the map opposite. These are:

### ABG52: Pitstruan Terrace Sports Area

- Otherwise known as Ruthrieston Outdoor Sport Centre
- This area’s quality rated low within Aberdeen City Council’s (ACC’s) Open Space Audit.
- This a is an outdoor park space, associated with outdoor tennis and a bowling facility used by a number of private bowling clubs. Sport Aberdeen is currently working with local groups and partners to develop a community sports hub based around this facility.

### ABG47: Broomhill Terrace Playing Fields

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is a fenced playing area located within The Woodies park in the east of the Ward (opposite Broomhill School) it provides play opportunities for sports.

### ABG38: Garthdee Crescent Playing Fields

- This area’s quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This area consists of a number of playing fields.

## Public parks and gardens

There are three identified parks within the Ward, these are:

### ABG48: The Woodies park

- This area’s quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- In the east of the Ward (which also includes a fenced sports area - see above)

### ABG6: Thorngrove Crescent

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- (which also includes a formal equipped play space)

### ABG11: Braeside Place School

- This area’s quality rated average within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit.
- (which also includes a formal equipped play space)

## Amenity greenspace

The following amenity greenspace create a corridor associated with the NCN 195 (Deeside Way):

- **ABG20**, quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- **ABG35**, quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- **ABG37**, quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- **ABG46**, quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.

Of these site ABG20 particularly provides opportunities for informal play and includes equipment for sports illustrated opposite.

Other more meaningful areas of amenity space in the area include:

- **ABG28**, quality rated average within ACC’s Open Space Audit. This area slopes down to Garthdee Road, which limits its suitability for play however the area includes trees, pathways and extensive spring bulb planting through grassed areas.

## Other

The River Dee runs along the south boundary of the Ward and a core path is associated with this corridor providing opportunities for informal play.

## Cycletracks

The National Cycleway Network Route 195 (Deeside Way) runs through the Ward and provides a traffic free route for cycling.



Figure 233: Image of other formal and informal play within the Ward at Morrison Drive and the NCN 195 (Deeside Way)



Figure 234: Image of formal play located within wider opportunities for informal play within the park at Thorngrove Crescent



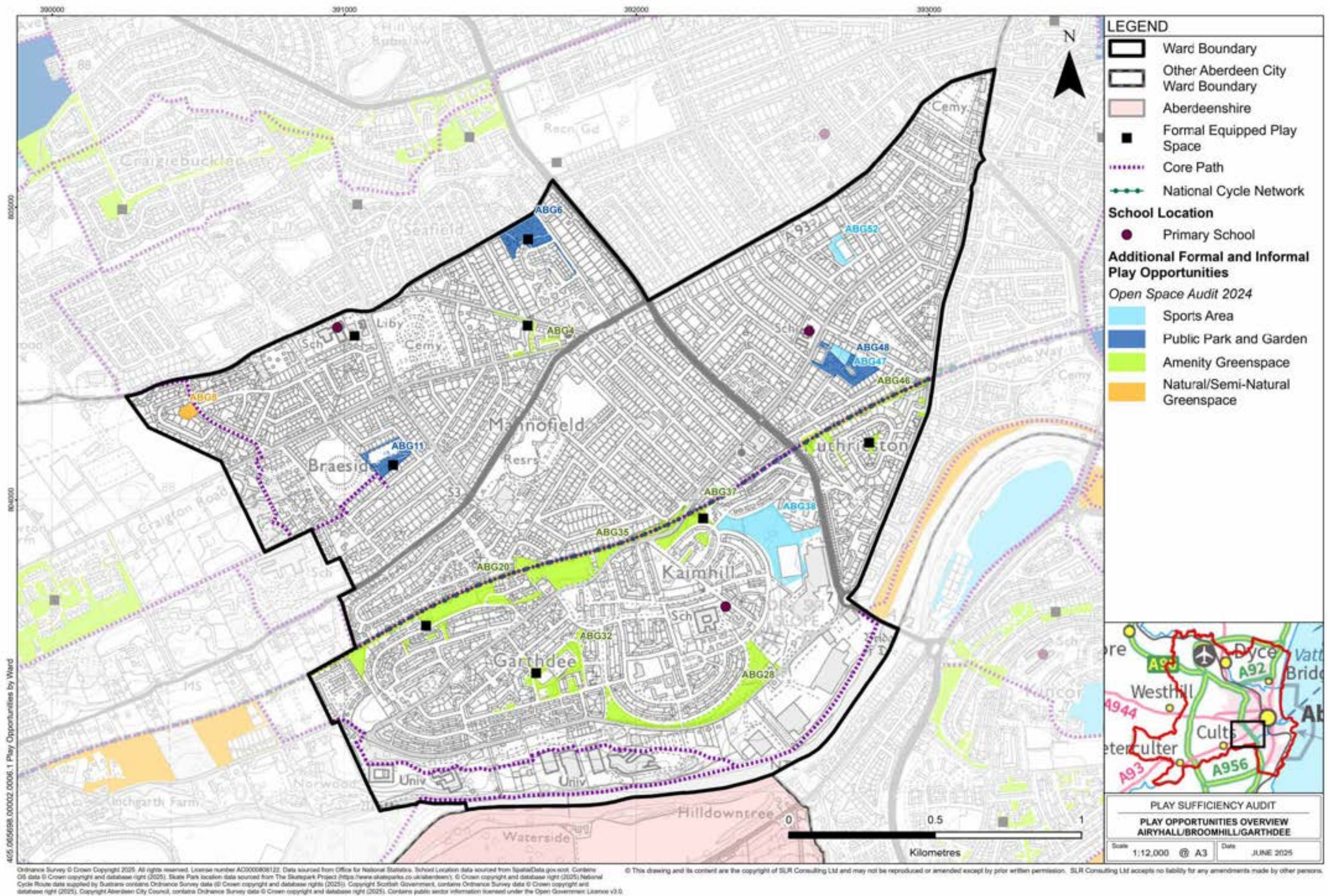


Figure 235: Map showing informal and other play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.12.10 Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 8 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 3.57 hectares of Sports areas
- 3.46 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 12.97 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 0.25 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

In total there is approximately 20.24 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- no spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- no spaces had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- no spaces recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- In the north-east of the Ward around Broomhill School the distance is a 15-20 minute walk in the worst case within this residential area.
- Along the southern boundary of the Ward along the River Dee the distance is 15-20 minutes. This area is dominated by retail land uses.
- In the centre of the Ward around Mannofield the distance is 15-20 minutes, this is largely due to the Water Treatment Works creating a barrier to pedestrian movement and creates a larger distance for several residential properties located to the south of the Water Treatment Works
- Along the western boundary of the Ward the distance is 15-20 minutes for several residential properties, this is due to several factors including barriers to movement created by the Braeside Reservoir and properties backing onto the National Cycle Network 195.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

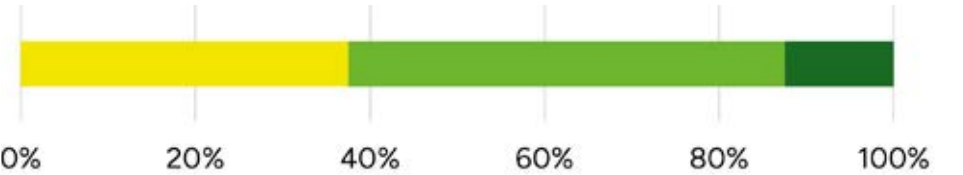


Figure 236: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

37.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

50% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

12.5% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’.

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Morrison Drive play park with a ‘very high’ score (see image).
- Thorngrove Terrace with a ‘reasonable’ score (see image).

**Inclusive play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Three of the 8 formal equipped play spaces (38%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst one of the spaces (13%) was assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 5 play areas (63%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 3 play areas (38%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 0 play areas (0%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Morrison Drive Play Area (see image).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was higher than the City average, with 100% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 237: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Devenick Place



Figure 239: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Morrison Drive



Figure 238: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Morrison Drive play area



Figure 240: Example of ‘reasonable’ quality play provision within the Ward at Thorngrove Terrace



# 6.13 Lower Deeside

## 6.13.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Bielside
  - Bishops Court
  - Colthill
  - Countesswells
  - Cults
  - Easter Anguston
  - Hill Farm
  - Kingshill
  - Mill of Brotherfield
- Milltimber
  - North Lasts
  - Peterculter
  - Pitfodels
  - Silverburn
  - South Lasts
  - Upper Anguston
  - West Auchlea

## 6.13.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

- Primary Schools**

  - Culter School
  - Cults Primary School
  - Milltimber School
- Secondary Schools**

  - Cults Academy

**Other schools**

  - None

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.13.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 16,851.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 13% of this population, totalling 2,187 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

- Ages 0–9: 1,893 individuals
- Ages 10–19: 1,317 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 201 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 9.2% of the child population in the Ward. 86 of those children and young people live within the Culter neighbourhood.

## 6.13.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Lower Deeside Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 45 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      4.1

**What is working well?**

- Newton Dee has accessible spaces for play, relaxation and outdoor activities
- Spaces well used
- Aberdeen has lots of great green/ play spaces all over

**What could be improved**

- An area for older kids e.g. skate park or multi purpose equipment
- Play equipment, football pitches, basketball hoops, lighting
- Maintenance and better dog bin facilities. I have a park near me (cults), and I’ve stopped playing football with my son there due to the amount of dog dirt on the football pitch area

**Where do children and young people play in your Ward?**

- Allan park, Kirk brae park, primary, secondary school fields
- Small play park areas in housing estates
- Local parks, bike track, railway line

**Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Lower Deeside Ward?**

- Play park is not close to my house. Too little available
- Council-maintained spaces are not sufficiently well maintained. No consideration of gradual decay requiring ongoing renewal
- Bad old out dated. broken equipment, astro pitches locked

## 6.13.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 11 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 6 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

It was noted that a new park (Oldfold Park) was under construction in Milltimber, near Milltimber School however this was not open to the public at the time of the audit and so has not been included.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
124	Kirk Terrace Play Area	Council
125	Allan Park, Cults Play Area	Council
126	The Meadows Play Area	Council
127	Colthill Road Play Area	Council
128	Johnston Gardens East	Council
129	Coronation Road Play Area	Council
130	East Craigbank Drive Play Area	Private
131	Den of Pittengullies Play Area	Private
132	Old Ferry Road Newton Dee	Private
133	Woodlands Ave	Private
186	West Craigbank Way	Private



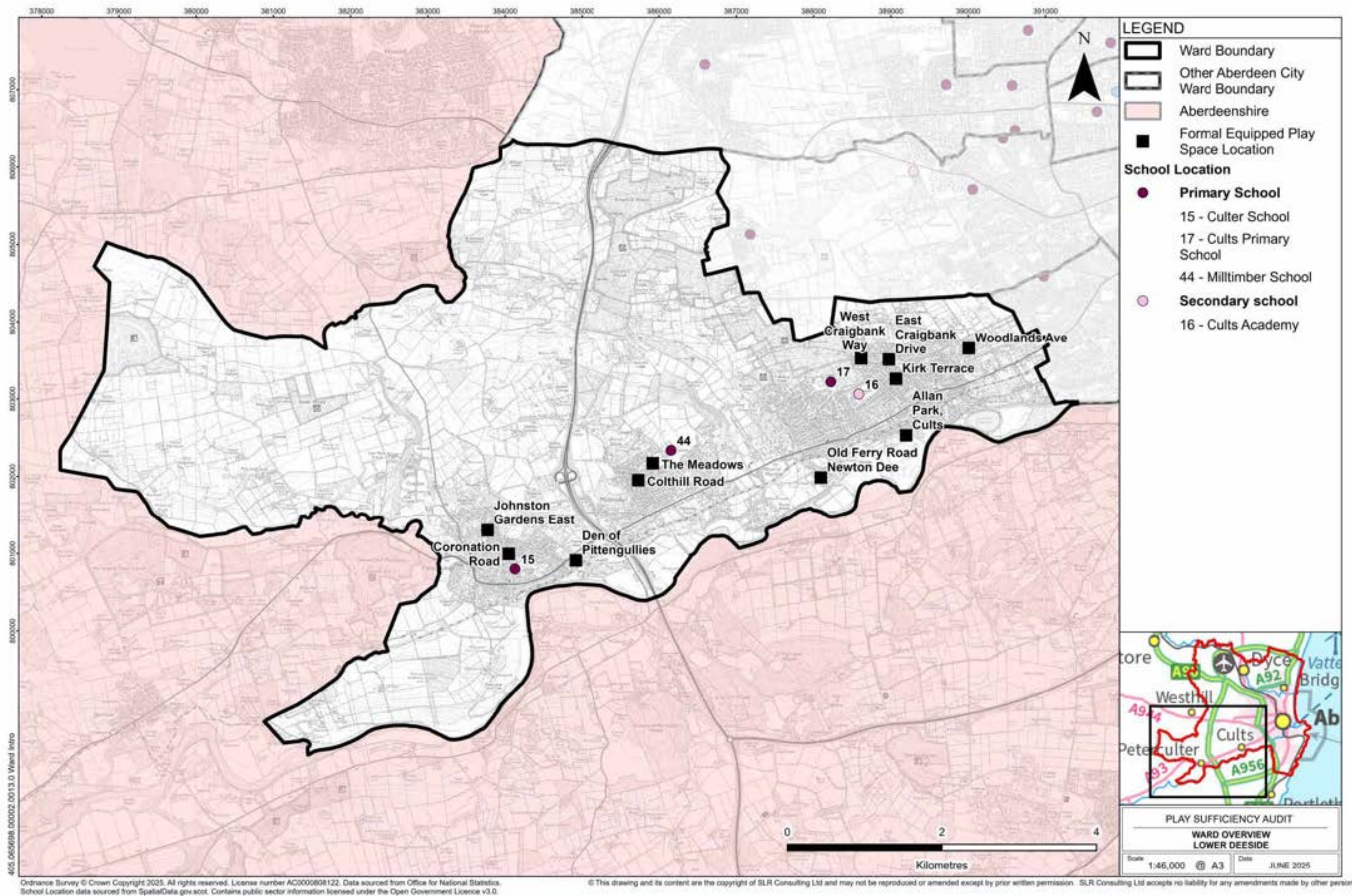


Figure 01: Map of the ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within ward



# 6.13.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

## Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that generally the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- The north of the Ward generally shows a walking time of over 20 minutes to formal equipped play spaces. These areas are generally woodland or agriculture and have a limited number of residential properties.
- Generally residential areas are focussed along the A93 corridor. In some locations walking times to the nearest formal equipped play space are up to 20 minutes and it is noted however that this hillside is relatively steep.
- The area to the north of Cults and Beildside on the edge of the settlements have distances of over 10 minutes to the nearest formal equipped play space.

## Cycleways and Core Paths

The National Cycle Network route 95 (Deeside Way) runs through the Ward. This may be particularly useful for people living to the south of the A93 to access Allan Park, Old Ferry Road Newton Dee, and Den of Pittengullies to avoiding crossing the A93 and climbing the hill to formal equipped play areas higher up.

## Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of one spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Kirk Terrace Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Allan Park, Cults Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
The Meadows Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colthill Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Johnston Gardens East	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coronation Road Play Area	No	Yes	Yes
East Craighbank Drive Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Den of Pittengullies Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Old Ferry Road Newton Dee	Yes	Yes	Yes
Woodlands Ave	No	No	Yes
West Craighbank Way	Yes	Yes	Yes



Figure 241: Image of lack of crossing points at Coronation Road Play Area



Figure 242: Image of poor access due to raised edging at Woodlands Avenue play area







# 6.13.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

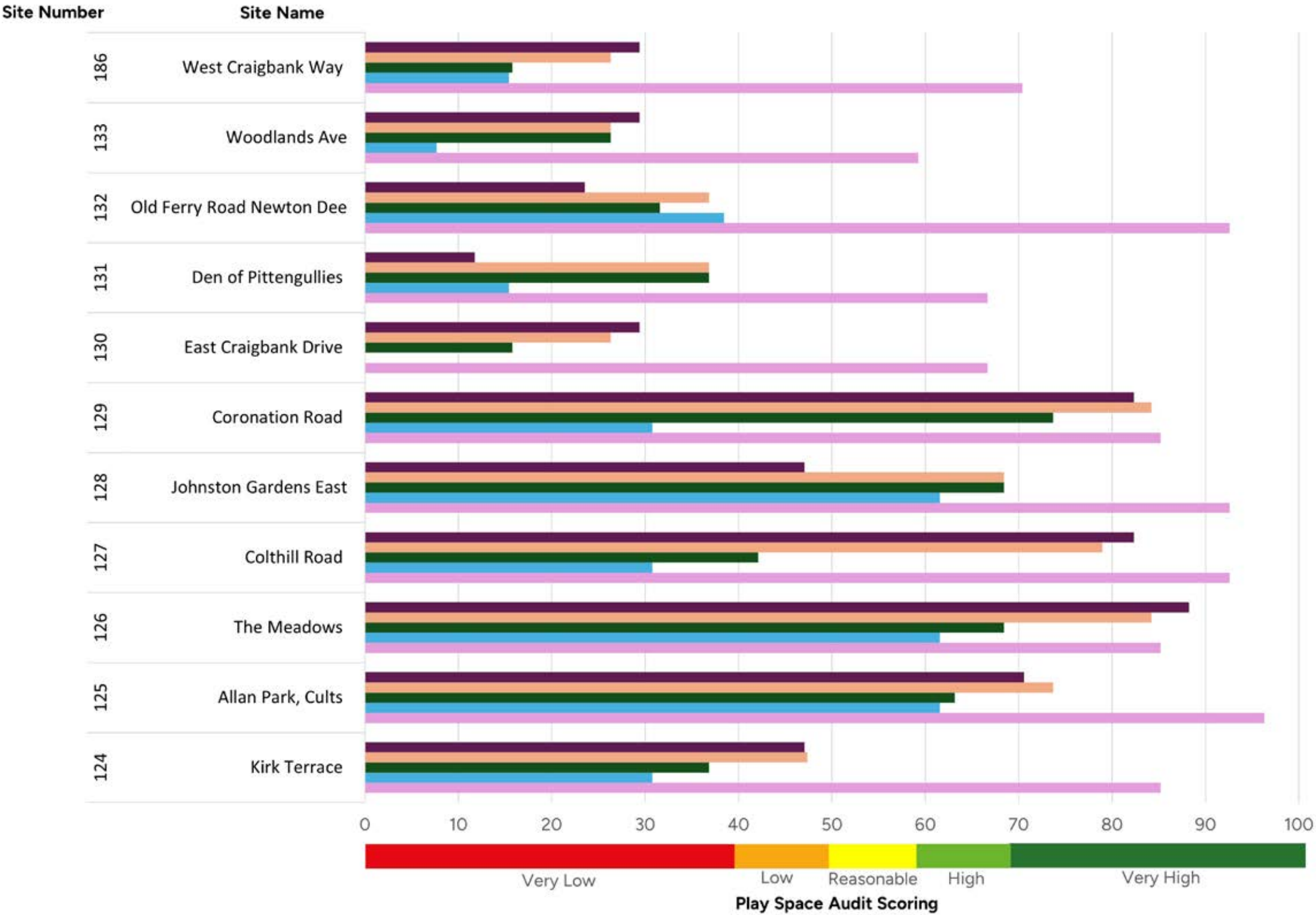


Figure 244: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



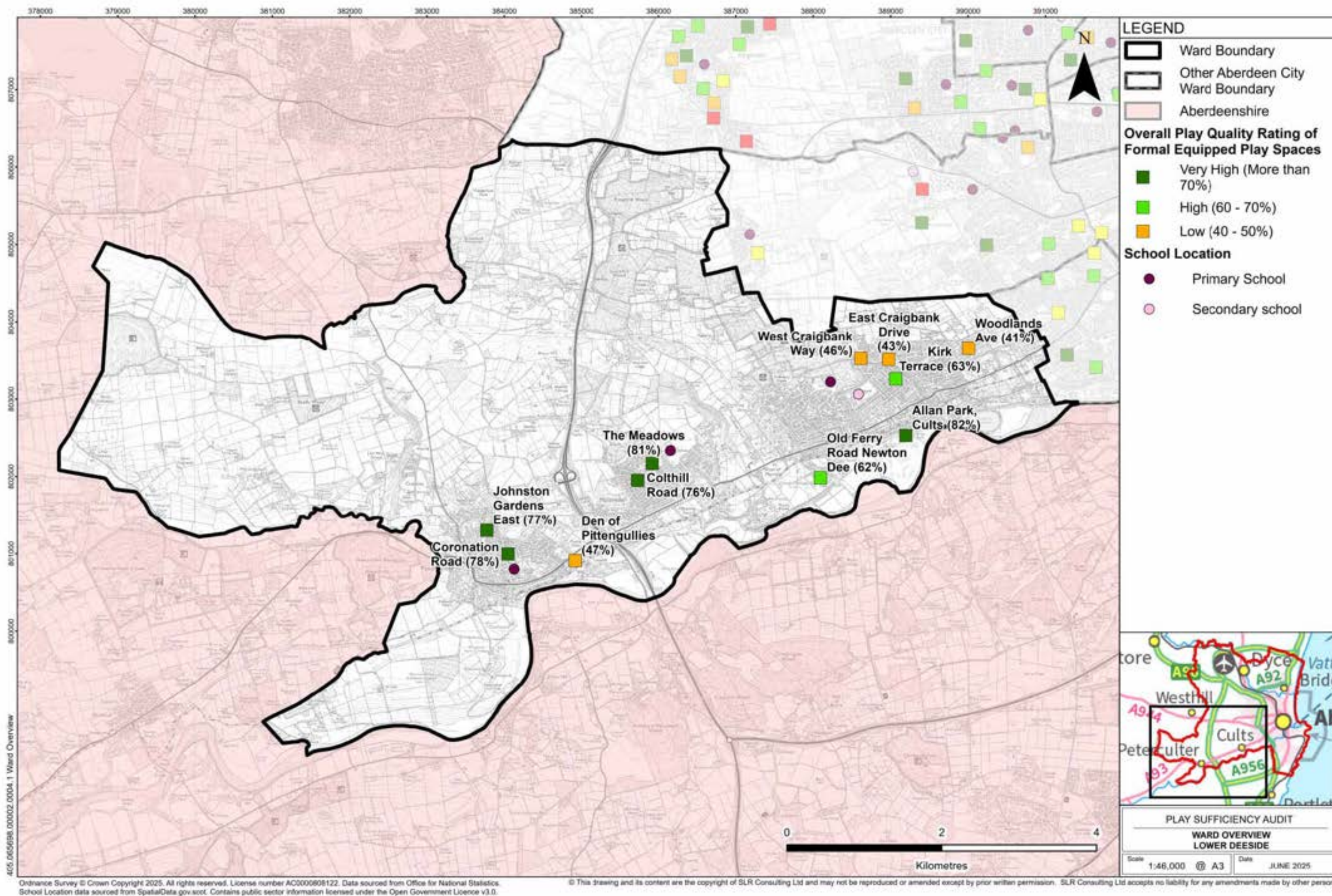


Figure 245: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.13.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

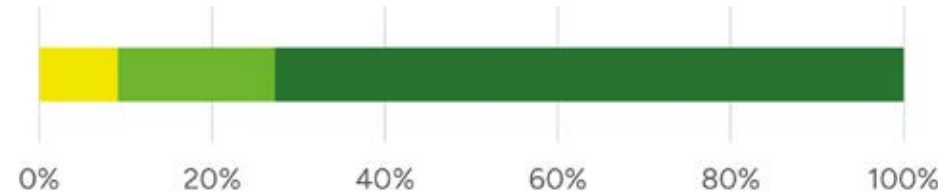


Figure 246: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

18.18% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

72.73% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

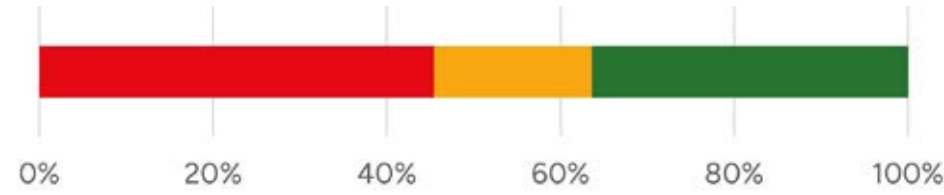


Figure 247: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

45.45% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

18.18% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

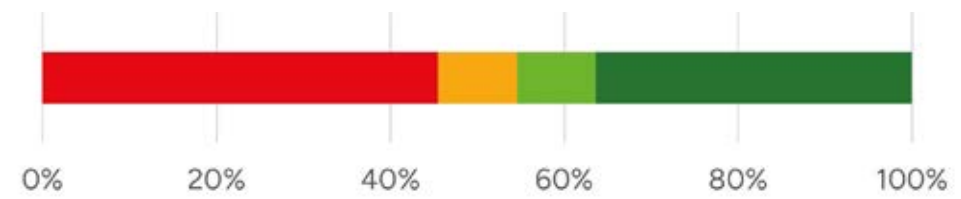
0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

36.36% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 248: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

45.45% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

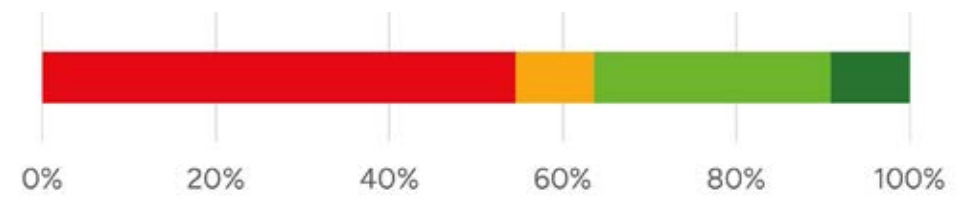
0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

36.36% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 249: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

54.55% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

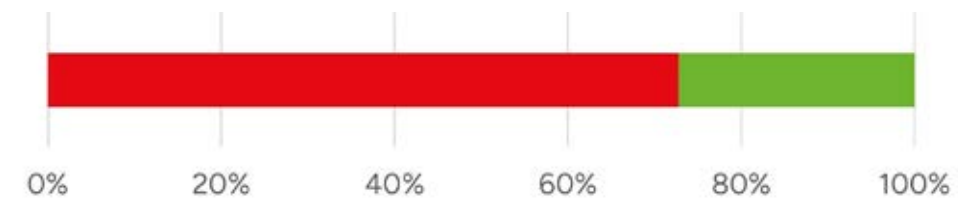
0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

27.27% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

9.09% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 250: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

72.73% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

27.27% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.13.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the south west of the City, the Lower Deeside Ward has plentiful open green spaces, many linked by the National Cycleway 195, which offers scenic routes along the River Dee. Key parks like Allan Park and Johnston Gardens North provide maintained green areas with mature trees, play facilities, and sports equipment.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 179.23 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 5.15 hectares of Sports areas
- 5.56 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 26.66 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 16.57 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- 125.30 hectares of forest and woodland

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low, low, average, high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There are three areas of sports areas identified on the map opposite. These are:

### LDS37: Coronation Rd Playing Fields

- This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s (ACC’s) Open Space Audit.
- This a is a large playing field adjacent to Culter Primary School.

### LDS53: Oldfold Walk

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is a large playing field adjacent to Milltimber community Hall and school. It features a formal equipped play space (Site 126).

## Public parks and gardens

There are four identified parks within the Ward, these are:

### LDS107: Abbotshall Walk

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- This is a park with lawned areas, paths, trees and formal planting.

### LDS114: Kirk Terrace

- This area’s quality rated high within ACC’s Open Space Audit.
- It features a formal equipped play space (Site 124) and playing field with goal posts.

### LDS82: Allan Park

- This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit.
- It features a formal equipped play space (Site 125) within a small woodland setting with sloped paths.

### LDS27: Johnston Gardens North

- This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit.
- It includes large areas of lawn, tree planting, core paths and a formal equipped play space (Site 128).

## Amenity greenspace

The following amenity greenspace create a corridor associated with the NCN 195 (Deeside Way):

- **LDS106** This area’s quality rated average within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. It includes large areas of lawn, core paths and two formal equipped play spaces (Sites 130 and 186).
- **LDS96** This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. It includes large areas of lawn, core paths and a formal equipped play space (Sites 133).
- **LDS55** -This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. It includes a formal equipped play space (Sites 127).
- **LDS7/LDS4** these areas were rated average within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. It includes lawn areas with trees, formal planting, paths but no ball game signs.

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

**LDS76** This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s

Open Space Audit. It includes a woodland and one formal equipped play spaces (Sites 132).

**LDS88** This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. It is a open semi-natural area with informal paths adjacent allotments.

**LDS122** This area’s quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. It includes woodland, core paths, a skatepark and bmx track.

## Forests and woodlands

The following forests and woodlands are identified on Forestry and Land Scotland’s website as places to visit. These woodlands could provide opportunities for natural play as part of a walk or visit.

### Foggieton

- Two small trails with mature beech trees
- Paid parking

### Countesswells

- Four walking trails with varied woodland e.g. conifers, open farmland and viewpoints
- Paid parking

## Cycletracks

The National Cycleway Network Route 195 runs through the Ward and provides traffic-free paths and some short quiet-road sections along the former Deeside Railway line between Aberdeen and Ballater.

## Skatepark/BMX tracks

**Cults Skatepark and Bike Track:** This area is included within LDS122 which was rated high within Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. It includes a skatepark and bike track in a woodland setting.



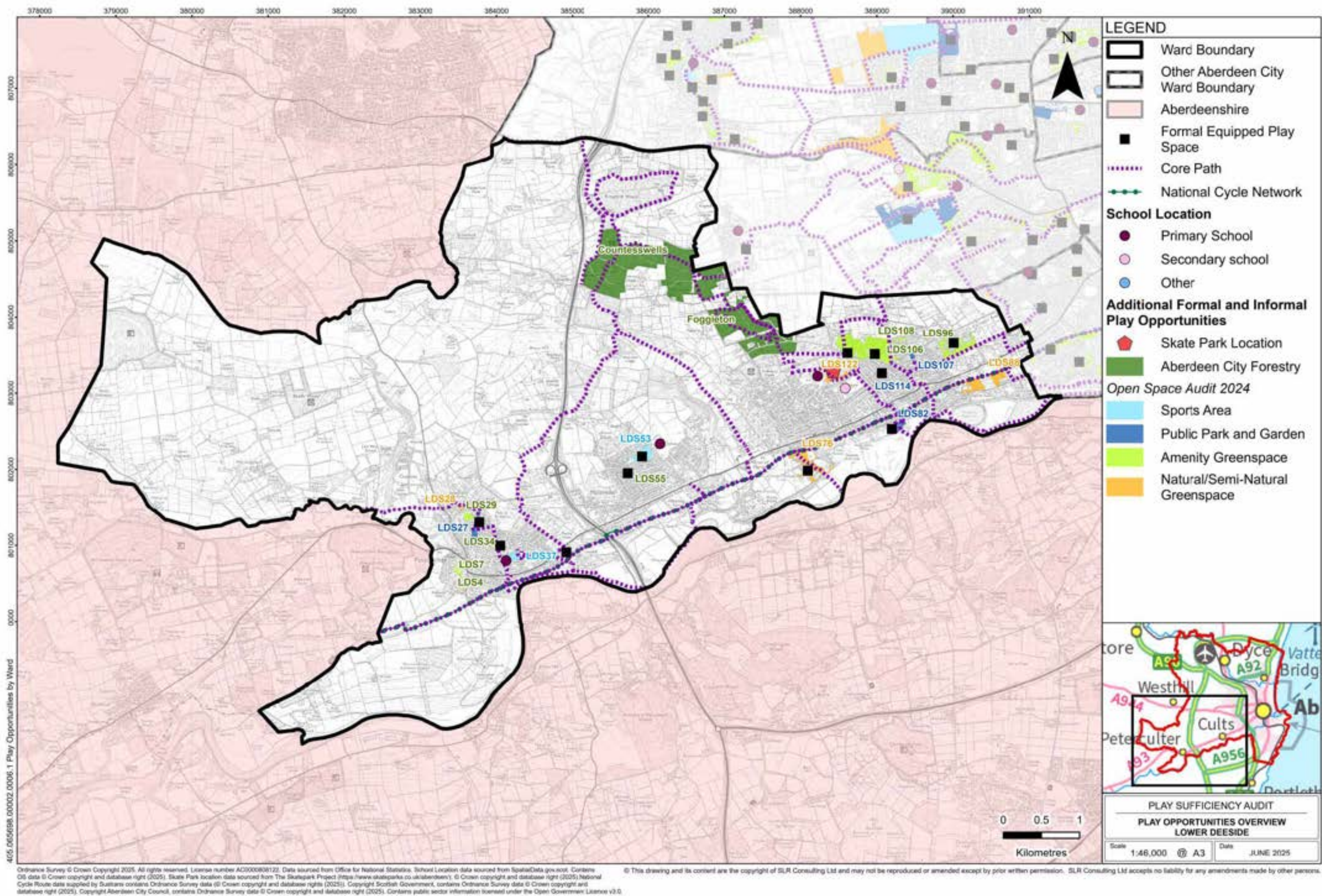


Figure 251: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.13.10 Lower Deeside Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 11 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 5.15 hectares of Sports areas
- 5.56 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 26.66 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 16.57 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces
- 125.30 hectares of forest and woodland

In total there is approximately 179.23 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 2 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 1 space had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- no spaces recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- The north of the Ward generally shows a walking time of over 20 minutes to formal equipped play spaces. These areas are generally woodland or agriculture and have a limited number of residential properties.
- Generally residential areas are focussed along the A93 corridor. In some locations walking times to the nearest formal equipped play space are up to 20 minutes and it is noted however that this hillside is relatively steep.
- The area to the north of Cults and Beildside on the edge of the settlements have distances of over 10 minutes to the nearest formal equipped play space.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

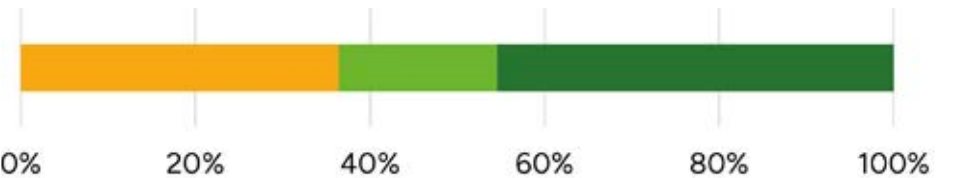


Figure 252: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

- Legend**
- Very High
  - High
  - Reasonable
  - Low
  - Very Low

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

36.36% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

18.18% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

45.45% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’.

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a slightly higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Allan Park Play Area with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Woodlands Avenue play area with a ‘low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Six of the 11 formal equipped play spaces (55%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst four of the spaces (36%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 8 play areas (73%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 3 play areas (27%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 0 play areas (0%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was **Johnston Gardens East** (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was lower than the City average, with 63.64% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 253: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at The Meadows Play Area



Figure 255: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Allan Park



Figure 254: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Johnston Gardens East



Figure 256: Example of ‘low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Woodlands Ave



# 6.14 Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

## 6.14.1 Neighbourhoods

This Ward encompasses several neighbourhoods, including:

- Altens
  - Charlestown
  - Cove Bay
  - Kincorth
- Leggart
  - Nigg
  - Redmoss
  - Tullos

## 6.14.2 Schools

Schools have been mapped overleaf to illustrate their locations as they have been used as reference points for community engagement.

The Ward boundary encloses the following schools (note: Ward boundaries do not necessarily align with school catchment areas).

- Primary Schools**

  - Abbotswell School
  - Charleston School
  - Kirkhill School
  - Loirston School
- Secondary Schools**

  - Lochside Academy

**Other schools**

  - None

It is acknowledged that there are playgrounds associated with schools. These have not been assessed as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment as these may not always be open or publicly accessible.

## 6.14.3 Demographics

The following data is taken from Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen, year 2022/2023.

This gives a total Ward population of 16,178.

Children and young people aged 0 to 19 years comprised approximately 21.3% of this population, totalling 3,451 individuals.

This age group is further divided into:

Ages 0–9: 1,826 individuals

Ages 10–19: 1,625 individuals

Regarding child poverty, approximately 407 children and young people were living in relative low-income families, accounting for 11.8% of the child population in the Ward. The neighbourhoods of Kincorth, Laggard and Nigg south each have 128 children and young people within them who are living in relative low-income families.

## 6.14.4 Engagement

Engagement outcomes for Kincorth/Nigg/Cove Ward taken from the ‘Your place, Your plan, Your future’ survey of the general public which had almost 1000 completed surveys from across the whole City and 31 responses for this Ward.

**How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place? (Scored out of 7 where 1=very poor and 7=excellent)**

City wide      4.3      This Ward      3.3

**What is working well?**

- Local parks are great for younger kids
- Parks are in good condition
- There are a few options for children to play

**What could be improved**

- No parks or play areas in my area
- Some Parks need re vamped cleaned and updated
- More facilities required for children of secondary school age

**Where do children and young people play in your Ward?**

- Lots of play parks in Cove which is great
- Dunlin play park (opposite co-op)
- Local park or have to claim a large fence to play football

**Other comments on the quality, quantity and accessibility of play spaces in Kincorth/Nigg/Cove Ward ?**

- There is good opportunities for young children to play but older kids preteens and teens have very little space to play.
- Very happy with the quantity. It would be nice to see some other equipment at the play parks though, they are all swings, slides and see saws
- There is a lot of green space available in my area but the children need some encouragement to play there, and they need some more ideas of what they can do there.

## 6.14.5 Quantity of formal equipped play spaces

Within this Ward, a total of 19 formal equipped play spaces were identified and surveyed, 16 of which are maintained by Aberdeen City Council.

The Aberdeen City Council website includes a page where the formal equipped play spaces maintained by the council can be viewed and the public can make enquiries, suggestions, or report issues. This can be accessed via the following link: [Aberdeen City Council Playparks](#)

The complete list of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are identified in the table below.

Site no.	Site Name	Maintained by
164	Deevale Crescent Play Area	Council
165	Corthan Crescent Play Area	Council
166	Kincorth Circle Play Area (Bobby Douglas Park)	Council
167	Kincorth Land Play Area	Council
168	Matthews Road Play Area	Council
169	Altens Community Centre Play Area	Council
170	Findon Ness Play Area	Council
171	Langdykes Way Play Area/Cove Play Park	Council
172	Earns Heugh Road Play Area/Dunlin Play Park/Loirston Green	Council
173	Charleston Way Play Area	Council
174	Cove Playfield Play Area (Catto Park)	Council
175	Charleston Road Play Area	Council
176	Charleston Drive (Charleston Forest Park)	Private
177	Wellington Close Play Park	Private
178	Wellington Green/Whitehills Lane South Play Area	Private
179	Cove Gardens	Council
180	Wellington Terrace Play Park	Council
181	Abbotswell Road Play Park	Council
183	Whitehills Play Area	Council



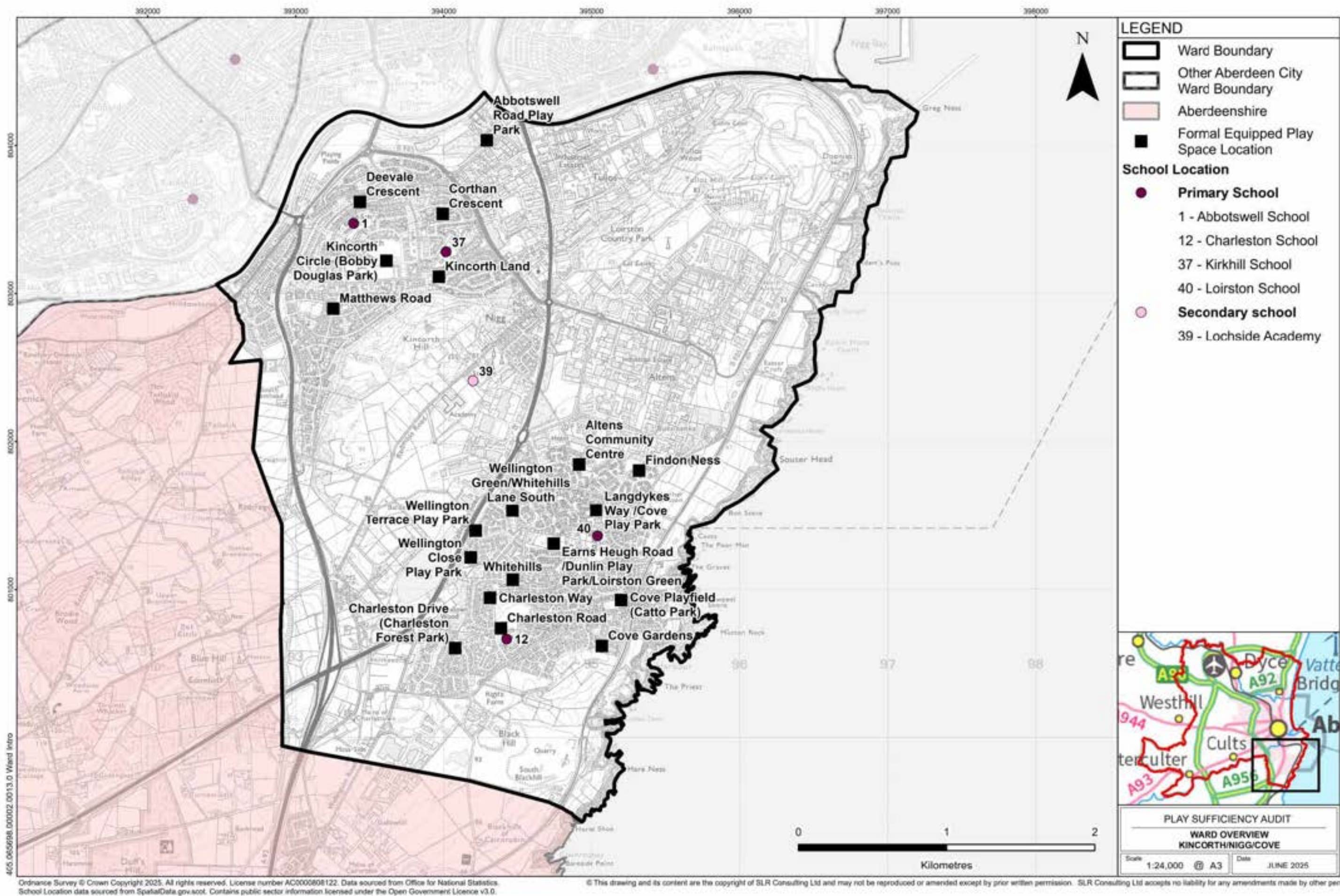


Figure 257: Map of the Ward illustrating formal equipped play spaces and schools within Ward



6.14.6 Accessibility

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20, and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times. To help show topography contours are shown on the map each representing 10m of level change.

The plan is also overlaid with bus stop locations, core paths and cycleway networks allowing these to be viewed in association with the formal equipped play spaces.

Walking Distances

The map opposite illustrates that generally the majority of residential areas within the Ward are within a 10 minute walking distance of a formal equipped play space.

Areas with walking distances greater than 10 minutes include:

- The area along the A92 corridor along the western edge of the Ward shows walking distances of over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space. There are a limited number of residential properties in this area.
- The area in the triangle of land defined by the A92 and A956, including Redmoss Road shows walking distances of over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space. There are a limited number of residential properties in this area.
- The area at the north of the Ward including Altens Business Park Loriston Country Park shows walking distances of over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space. There are a limited number of residential properties in this area.

Accessibility assessment

The table below presents the results of the specific accessibility questions contained within the survey.

The table illustrates that generally access into and around formal equipped play spaces within the Ward are ok with the exception of ten spaces where issues with the accessibility of entrance and layout were identified.

Formal equipped play space name	Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?	Entrance and layout accessible to all?	Paths in good condition?
Deevale Crescent Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Corthan Crescent Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kincorth Circle Play Area (Bobby Douglas Park)	No	Yes	Yes
Kincorth Land Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Matthews Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Altens Community Centre Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Findon Ness Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Langdykes Way Play Area/ Cove Play Park	Yes	No	Yes
Earns Hough Road Play Area/Dunlin Play Park/ Loirston Green	Yes	No	Yes
Charleston Way Play Area	Yes	No	Yes
Cove Playfield Play Area (Catto Park)	Yes	No	No
Charleston Road Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charleston Drive (Charleston Forest Park)	Yes	No	Yes
Wellington Close Play Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wellington Green/Whitehills Lane South Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cove Gardens	No	No	Yes
Wellington Terrace Play Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abbotswell Road Play Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
Whitehills Play Area	Yes	No	Yes



Figure 258: Image of poor access at Altens Community Centre Play Area



Figure 259: Image of poor condition and access at Cove Gardens play area



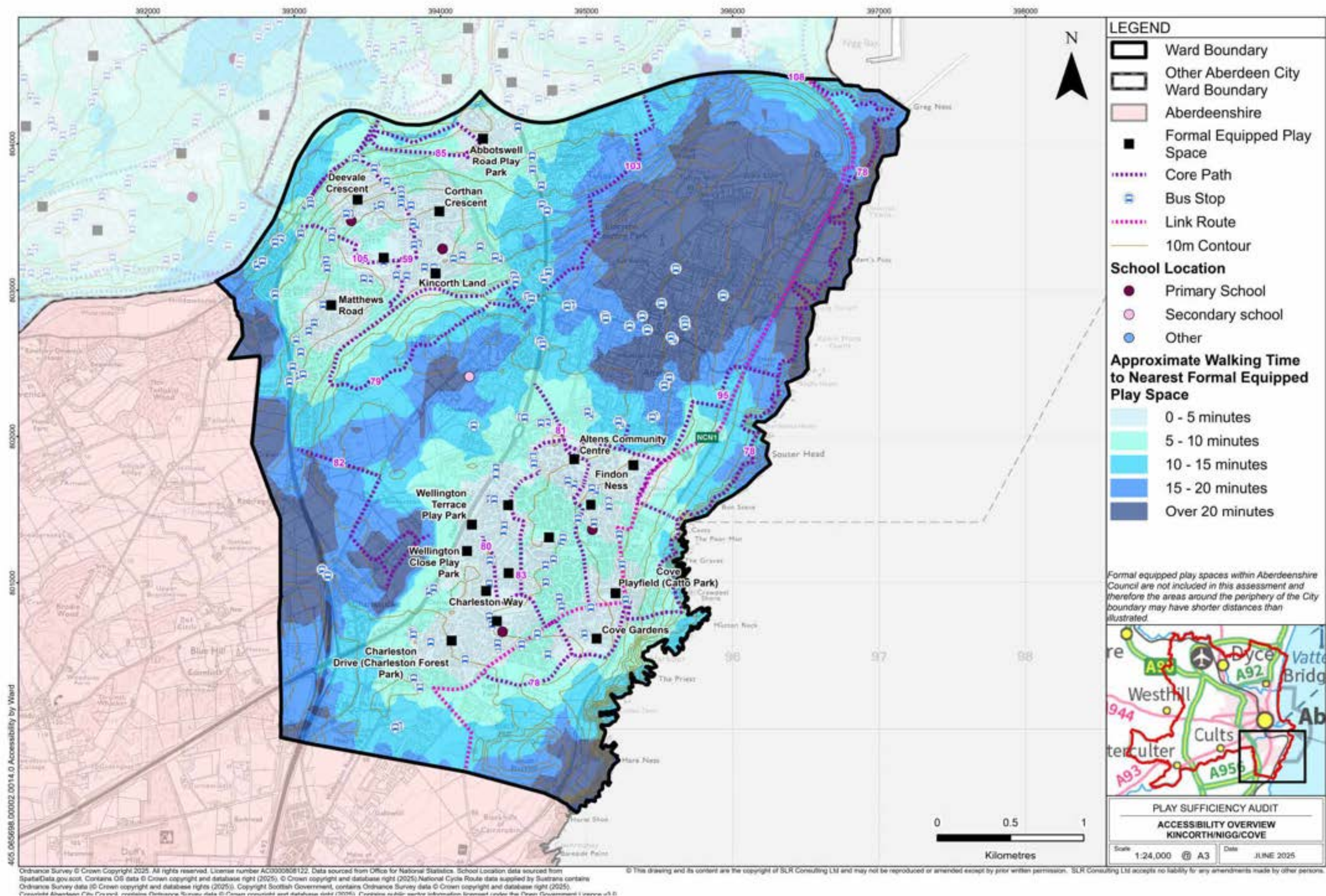


Figure 04: Map illustrating accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within ward



# 6.14.7 Quality Assessment

The adjacent bar chart illustrates the scores (as percentages) which each formal equipped play area achieved in the following categories:

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

An explanation of the assessment process can be found in Chapter 3.

The map overleaf shows the 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward. This rating combines the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

## Legend

(all scores as percentages of total)

- 'Quality of play' score for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' score for 16-17 year olds
- 'Quality of place' score

NB. Where no bar is illustrated this means the formal equipped play space scored 0 in this category

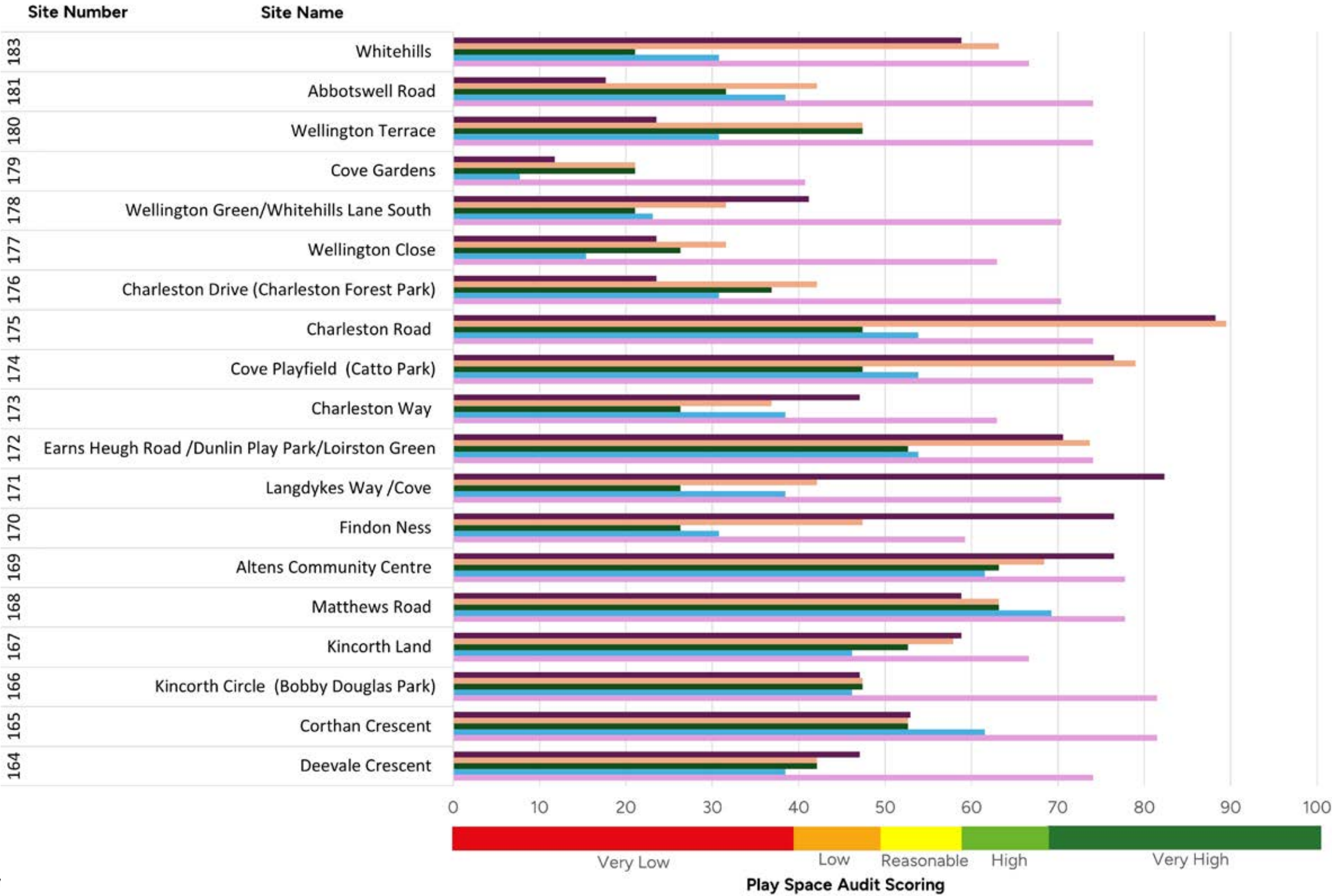


Figure 260: Chart showing 'Quality of play' and 'Quality of place' Play Space Audit results for all formal equipped play spaces within the Ward



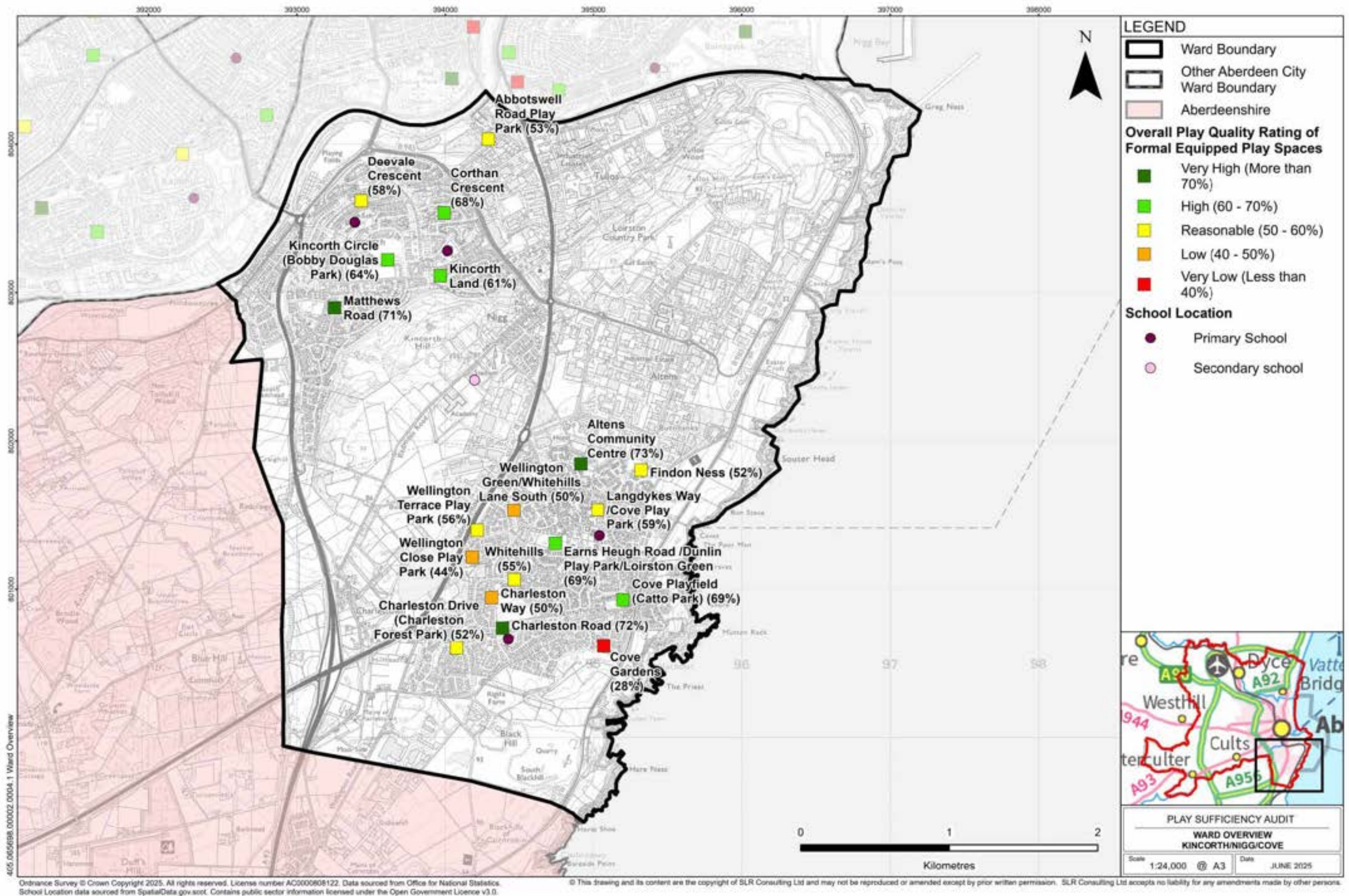


Figure 261: Map showing 'Overall quality of play' rating for each formal equipped play area within the Ward



# 6.14.8 Quality Overview

## Quality overview

The bar charts opposite illustrate the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the different survey categories of:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds

The below legend is common to all bar charts. An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

## 'Quality of place'

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 'quality of place' questions of the Play Space Audit.

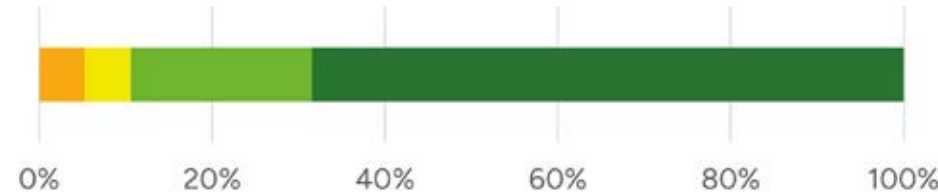


Figure 262: Context scores for Ward

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band, based on the 'context' assessment

- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 5.26% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 5.26% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 21.05% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 68.42% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 0-5 year old 'quality of play' questions of the Play Space Audit.

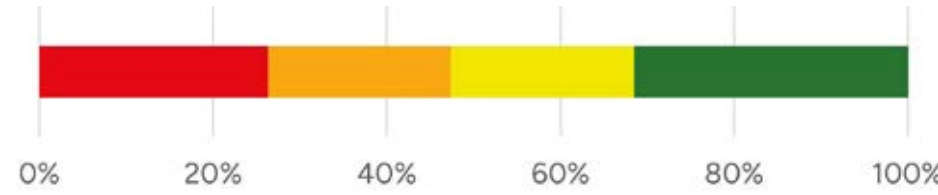


Figure 263: 0-5 year old play scores for Ward

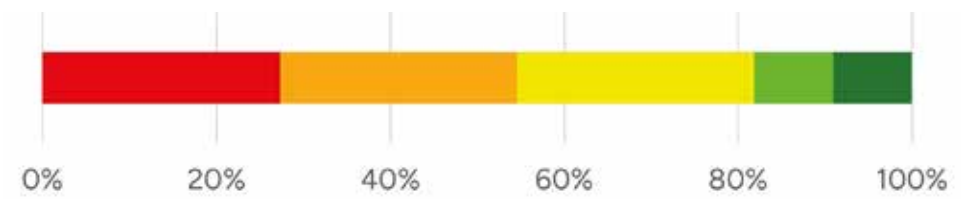
Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the '0-5 year old' assessment

- 26.32% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 21.05% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 21.05% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.
- 0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.
- 31.58% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



## ‘Quality of play’ for 6-11 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 6-11 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 264: 6-11 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘6-11 year old’ assessment

21.05% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

36.84% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

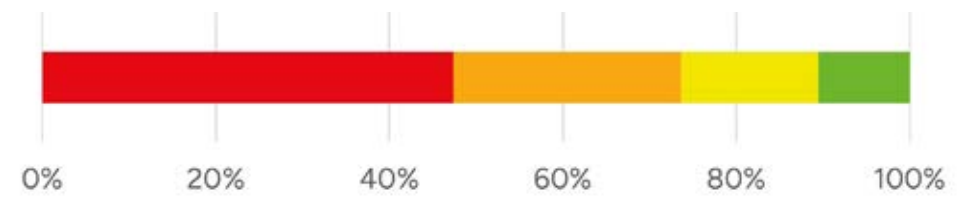
10.53% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15.79% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

15.79% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 12-15 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 12-15 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 265: 12-15 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘12-15 year old’ assessment

47.37% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

26.32% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

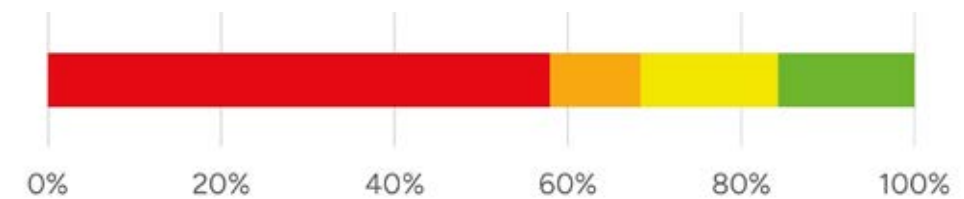
15.79% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10.53% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.

## ‘Quality of play’ for 16-17 year olds

The below bar chart illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low score across the 16-17 year old ‘quality of play’ questions of the Play Space Audit.



**Figure 266: 16-17 year old play scores for Ward**

Percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating band based on the ‘16-17 year old’ assessment

57.89% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very low’ rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

10.53% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘low’ rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15.79% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘reasonable’ rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15.79% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘high’ rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

0% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a ‘very high’ rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



# 6.14.9 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

## Area overview

Located toWards the south of the City, the Kincorth/Nigg/Cove Ward in Aberdeen contains a mixture of residential areas and extensive open green spaces, including the expansive Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve, which offers woodland trails, wildlife habitats, and panoramic views of the city and coastline. The Ward benefits from coastal access at Cove Bay, where sandy beaches and rocky shores provide popular spots for walking and recreation. In addition, Nigg Bay Local Nature Reserve supports rich biodiversity with wetlands and estuarine environments. Smaller community parks and playing fields are scattered throughout Kincorth and Nigg, supporting local sports and outdoor activities.

### Quantity

Identified on the plan overleaf is an area of approximately 199.22 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, this consists of circa:

- 11.97 hectares of Sports areas
- 6.64 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 15.19 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 165.42 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

### Quality

Quality ratings for the below spaces have been taken from Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. Refer to Section 3.4. for methodology. Each assessed site received a quality rating of either **very low**, **low**, **average**, **high** or **very high**. Where available, these ratings have been referenced below.

## Sports areas

There are three areas of sports areas identified on the map opposite. These are:

### KNC65: Great Southern Road Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's (ACC's) Open Space Audit.
- This area features cricket and football pitches.

### KNC89: Kincorth Circle Playing Fields (Bobby Douglas Park)

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- It features a formal equipped play space (Site 166), playing fields and a skatepark.

### KNC12: Marchmont Street Playing Fields

- This area's quality rated low within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a large playing field adjacent with goal posts.

## Public parks and gardens

There are four identified parks within the Ward, these are:

### KNC19: Earns Heugh Road

- This area's quality rated average within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- This is a park with lawned areas and a core path. It features a formal equipped play space (Site 172).

### KNC22: Cove Road

- This area's quality rated high within ACC's Open Space Audit.
- It features a formal equipped play space (Site 174) and football pitch

## Amenity greenspace

- **KNC20** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. This area features a playing field, tree planting and core path.
- **KNC18** quality rated average within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It includes a large area of lawn, and a formal equipped play space (Sites 171).
- **KNC10** quality rated average within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It includes a formal equipped play space (Site 169) and lawned areas with tree planting.
- **KNC17** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It includes lawn areas football posts.
- **KNC37** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It includes lawn areas, core path and a formal equipped play space (Site 178).
- **KNC74** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It includes a formal equipped play space (Site 165).
- **KNC84** quality rated average within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It include a core paths with trees, formal planting, and a formal equipped play space (Site 164).
- **KNC80** quality rated average within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It includes lawn areas with trees, paths and a formal equipped play space (Site 168).

## Natural/semi natural greenspaces

**KNC63** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It features core paths through Tullos Park and has a formal equipped play space (Site 181).

**KNC42** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It is a series of paths running across Kincorth Hill, through areas of coniferous & deciduous woodland, grassland, scrub, heath and a pond.

**KNC2** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It is Tullos Wood nature reserve.

**KNC35** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It features paths through open semi-natural land and a formal equipped play space (Site 176).

**KNC36** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It features paths through open semi-natural land and a formal equipped play space (Site 177).

**KNC4** quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit. It features core paths, and NCN route 1

## Cycletracks

The National Cycleway Network Route 1 runs through the Ward and provides traffic-free paths and some short quiet-road sections.

## Skatepark/BMX tracks

### Cove Skatepark

- This area's quality rated high within Aberdeen City Council's Open Space Audit.
- It includes a skatepark and a formal equipped play space (Site 175).

### Bobby Douglas Park Skate Park



Figure 267: Image of skate park within the Ward at Kincorth Circle Play Area (Bobby Douglas Park)



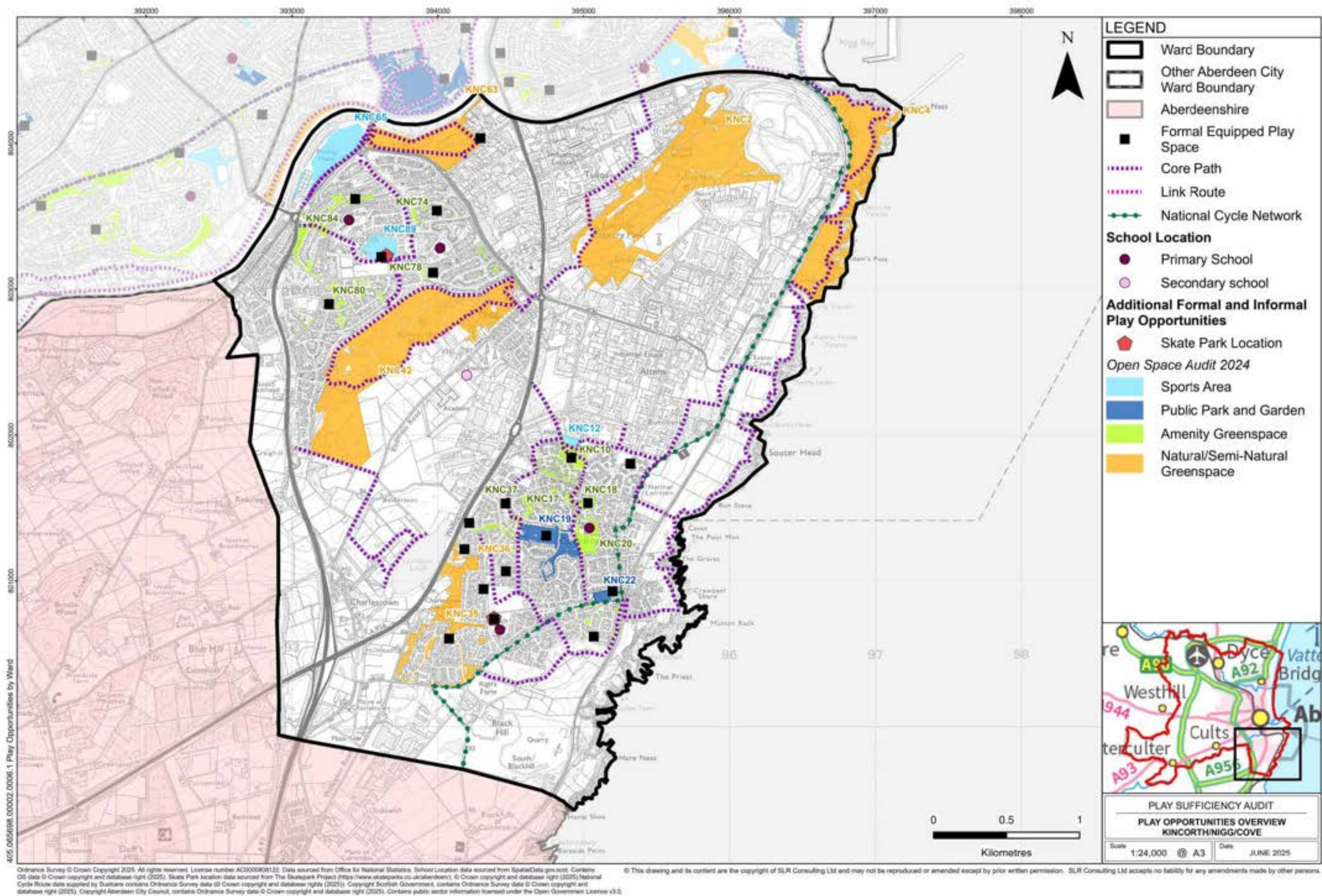


Figure 268: Map showing additional formal and informal play opportunities within the Ward



# 6.14.10 Kincorth/Nigg/Cove Ward Summary

## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

There are 19 formal equipped play areas within this Ward.

### Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The above formal provision is complemented by additional formal and informal play opportunities. This Ward benefits from the following types of space which provide opportunities for play:

- 11.97 hectares of Sports areas
- 6.64 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 15.19 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 165.42 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces

In total there is approximately 199.22 hectares of space within the Ward which provides additional opportunities for formal and informal play.

## Accessibility

### Access

The Play Space Audit recorded that generally access and layout of formal equipped play spaces was okay with the following exceptions:

- 2 spaces didn't have safe road crossing facilities
- 10 spaces had accessibility issues with entrance and layout
- 1 spaces recorded issues with the condition of paths

### Walking distances

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across the ward resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding 'Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'.

Exceptions to this are:

- The area along the A92 corridor along the western edge of the Ward shows walking distances of over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space. There are a limited number of residential properties in this area.
- The area in the triangle of land defined by the A92 and A956, including Redmoss Road shows walking distances of over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space. There are a limited number of residential properties in this area.
- The area at the north of the Ward including Altens Business Park Loriston Country Park shows walking distances of over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space. There are a limited number of residential properties in this area.

## Quality

The bar chart below illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the ward which achieved a very high/high/reasonable/low/very low rating for 'Overall quality of play'. This rating combined the 'Quality of play' scores and the 'Quality of place' scores to provide an 'Overall quality of play' rating.

An explanation of the assessment process and the ratings can be found in Chapter 3.

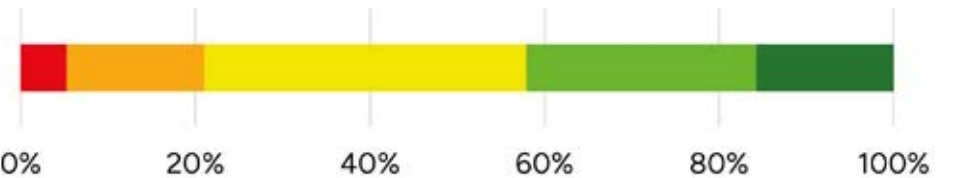


Figure 269: Percentage of Ward formal equipped play spaces within each quality band for 'Overall quality of play'

### Legend

- Very High
- High
- Reasonable
- Low
- Very Low

5.26% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very low' rating. These areas had major weaknesses within the assessed questions.

15.79% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'low' rating. These areas had important weaknesses within the assessed questions.

36.84% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'reasonable' rating. These areas had strengths which outweighed weaknesses within the assessed questions.

26.32% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'high' rating. These areas had important strengths with areas for improvement within the assessed questions.

15.79% of formal equipped play spaces within this Ward achieved a 'very high' rating. These areas had major strengths with minimal weaknesses within the assessed questions.



**‘Quality of place’ within the Ward**

Generally all play areas scored well for ‘Quality of place’. Notable exceptions were:

- Cove Gardens

**‘Quality of play’ for different age groups within the Ward**

Generally across the Ward there was a slightly higher quality of provision for the 0-5 and 6-11 age groups compared to the 12-15 and 16-17 year age groups.

**‘Overall quality of play’ range within the Ward**

The highest and lowest scoring formal equipped play areas within the Ward were:

- Altens Community Centre Play Area with a ‘very high’ score (see image opposite).
- Cove Gardens play area with a ‘very low’ score (see image opposite).

**Inclusive physical play within the Ward**

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Two of the 19 formal equipped play spaces (11%) within the Ward were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old) whilst three of the spaces (16%) were assessed to provide opportunities for young people (12-17 year old). An example of inclusive physical play provision in the Ward is shown opposite.

**Risky and challenging play within the Ward**

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the play provision scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the Ward:

- 14 play areas (74%) achieved a score of 1-5,
- 4 play areas (21%) achieved a score of 6-10
- 1 play areas (5%) achieved a score of 11-15.

The highest scoring play park for risky and challenging play was Charleston Road Play Area (see image opposite).

**City wide comparison**

The overall quality of play rating of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward was higher than the City average, with 78.95% achieving a score of reasonable or higher, compared with the average Ward percentage of 74%.



Figure 270: Example of inclusive physical play within the Ward at Kincorth Circle Play Area (Bobby Douglas Park)



Figure 272: Example of ‘very high’ quality play provision within the Ward at Altens Community Centre Play Area



Figure 271: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Charleston Road Play Area



Figure 273: Example of ‘very low’ quality play provision within the Ward at Cove Gardens



# 6.15 Aberdeen City Play Overview

## 6.15.1 Quantity

The plan on the following page illustrates the distribution of the 174 formal equipped play spaces across Aberdeen City. The below table summarises the number per Ward.

The quantity findings should be read in association with Accessibility findings and the Ward Area and Ward child population data. It should be noted that for larger Wards such as Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone and Lower Deeside, the population is not spread evenly across these Wards due to their edge of City location.

Also, not all formal equipped play spaces offer the same opportunities for play or are of the same scale, therefore these results should be read in association with the Quality findings. For example despite the comparatively low number of sites in the Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee Ward, 100% of formal equipped play areas within this Ward achieved a score of reasonable or above (indicating a larger range of play opportunities), whereas Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill had a high number of formal equipped play spaces however only 65% of these achieved a score of reasonable or above.

WARD	QUANTITY	DEMOGRAPHICS						QUALITY					
	Number of formal equipped play spaces	Ward Area	Ward Population	Ward Child Population (0-9 year old)	Ward Young Person Population (10-19 year old)	Ward child and young person population (0-19 years old)	% of children and young people living in relative poverty	Percentage of formal equipped play areas within Ward achieving a score of reasonable or above					
								Quality of Place	Quality of Play for 0-5 year olds	Quality of Play for 6-11 year olds	Quality of Play for 12-15 year olds	Quality of Play for 16-17 year olds	Overall Play Quality
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	18	4,797	20,892	2,309	1,918	4,227	23	100	78	41	0	11	78
Bridge of Don	15	2,529	19,664	2,052	1,917	3,969	7.7	100	73	53	27	20	80
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	20	423	15,007	1,345	2,206	3,551	16	85	65	85	45	30	75
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	11	263	14,168	1,409	1,317	2,726	15.2	100	55	45	9	36	73
Northfield/Mastrick North	12	313	15,933	2,027	2,075	4,102	23.6	100	83	83	50	33	88
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	20	1,428	15,290	1,620	1,715	3,335	9	95	65	60	35	15	65
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	9	332	14,394	1,159	1,219	2,378	6.9	89	78	78	33	11	67
George St/Harbour	10	458	19,773	1,188	2,491	3,679	12.6	60	40	40	20	10	50
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	8	1,125	20,186	2,030	1,963	3,993	6.8	88	50	63	25	13	75
Torry/Ferryhill	13	568	20,237	1,782	1,806	2,726	33.2	92	54	62	38	38	69
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	8	404	15,677	1,544	1,444	2,998	7.6	100	75	88	25	13	100
Lower Deeside	11	4,662	16,851	1,893	1,317	2,187	9.2	100	36	45	36	27	64
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	19	1,532	16,178	1,826	1,625	3,451	11.8	95	53	42	26	32	79
<b>Aberdeen City total/Ward average</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>18,834</b>	<b>224,250</b>	<b>22,184</b>	<b>23,013</b>	<b>43,312</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>74</b>



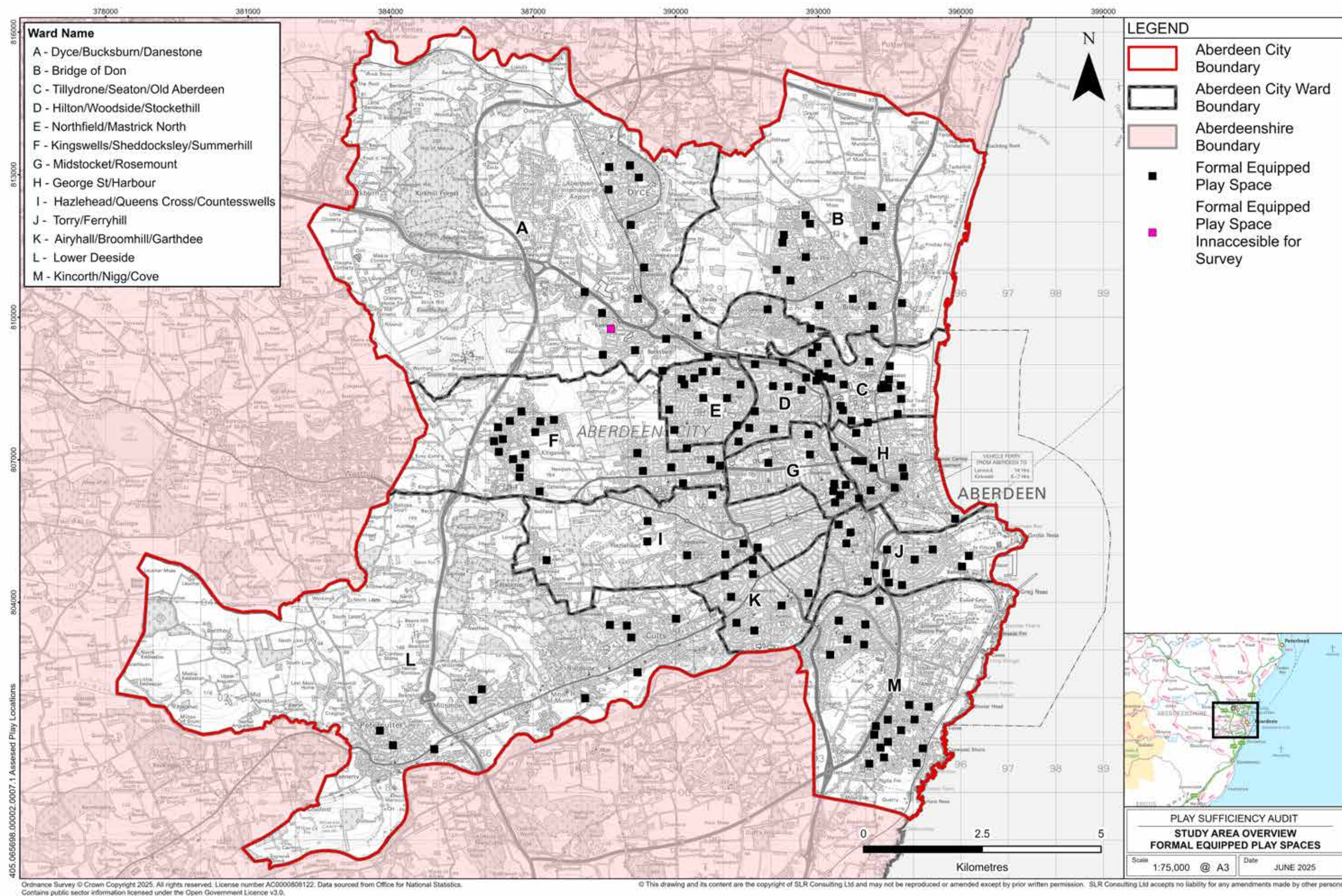


Figure 274: Location map of formal equipped play spaces within Aberdeen City



# 6.15.2 Accessibility

## Walking Distances

The plan overleaf illustrates formal equipped play spaces within walking times of 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes and over. This is based on an assumed walking speed of 4.8km/hr and following the routes of streets and paths which are shown on maps. It is noted that smaller children may not achieve the assumed walking pace and also that the presence of hills could affect these times.

Formal equipped play spaces within Aberdeenshire Council are not included in this assessment and therefore the areas around the periphery of the City boundary may have shorter distances than illustrated.

The map illustrates that there is generally good access to formal equipped play spaces across the City, with the majority of the residential areas of the City being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The 10 minute distance has been selected as being a justifiable limit you might expect young children to be able to walk to, and back from, in order to access a play space and ties in with policy regarding ‘Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods’.

Notable exceptions which include residential areas are described below, further detail is included in the Ward chapters.

### Bridge of Don

- An area in the centre of the Ward around Jesmond Avenue, including Glashieburn School has walking times of 10-15 minutes to a formal equipped play spaces.
- The new development of Cloverhill on the east side of the A92 shows a walking distance of over 20 minutes to formal equipped play spaces. It is understood new play parks are proposed as part of this development.

### Northfield/Mastrick North

- A small area of housing to the south of Quarry Hill School has a 10-15 minute walking time to the nearest formal equipped play space.

### Midsocket/Rosemount Ward

- The south of the Ward shows walking distances of 10-15 minutes to a formal equipped play space.

### Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells

- The corridor of land along Queens Road shows a walking time of 10-15 minutes to a formal equipped play space.
- The area around Rubislaw Den North and Desswood Place in the east of the Ward (to the north of Kepplestone Gardens) is shown as having a 10-20 minute walking distance to a formal equipped play space.

### Torry

- The area around Gairn Crescent to the north of Allenvale Cemetery

shows walking times of 10-15 minutes to a formal equipped play space. It is noted that this may be an error in the analysis due to the data set used not including smaller paths.

### Airyhall

- In the north-east of the Ward around Broomhill School the distance is a 15-20 minute walk to a formal equipped play space.
- In the centre of the Ward around Mannofield the distance is 15-20 minutes to a formal equipped play space.
- Along the western boundary of the Ward the distance is 15-20 minutes to a formal equipped play space for several residential properties

### Lower deeside

- In some locations along the A93 corridor walking times to the nearest formal equipped play space are up to 20 minutes.
- The area on the northern edge of Cults and Beildside have distances of over 10 minutes to the nearest formal equipped play space.

### Kincorth

- The area in the triangle of land defined by the A92 and A956, including Redmoss Road shows walking distances of over twenty minutes to a formal equipped play space. There are a limited number

WARD	Number of formal equipped play spaces	Number of formal equipped play spaces without safe road crossing facilities	Number of formal equipped play spaces having accessibility issues with entrance and layout	Number of formal equipped play spaces having issues with the condition of paths
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	18	6	5	1
Bridge of Don	15	1	4	0
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	20	1	7	2
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	11	5	6	2
Northfield/Mastrick North	12	3	3	1
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	20	6	8	2
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	9	1	1	1
George St/Harbour	10	5	7	3
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	8	0	1	1
Torry/Ferryhill	13	2	3	0
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	8	0	0	0
Lower Deeside	11	2	1	0
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	19	2	10	1
<b>Aberdeen City total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>14</b>

## Access

of residential properties in this area. The table below presents selected questions from the Play Space Audit relating to accessibility. As can be seen approximately 19% of sites were assessed to be lacking safe road crossing facilities (where applicable), 32% of sites were identified to have issues with accessibility in terms of layout and/or entrance and around 8% were assessed as having maintenance issues in relation to the condition of paths.

## Accessible play provision

For information on accessible play equipment please refer to the Quality section 6.15.4.



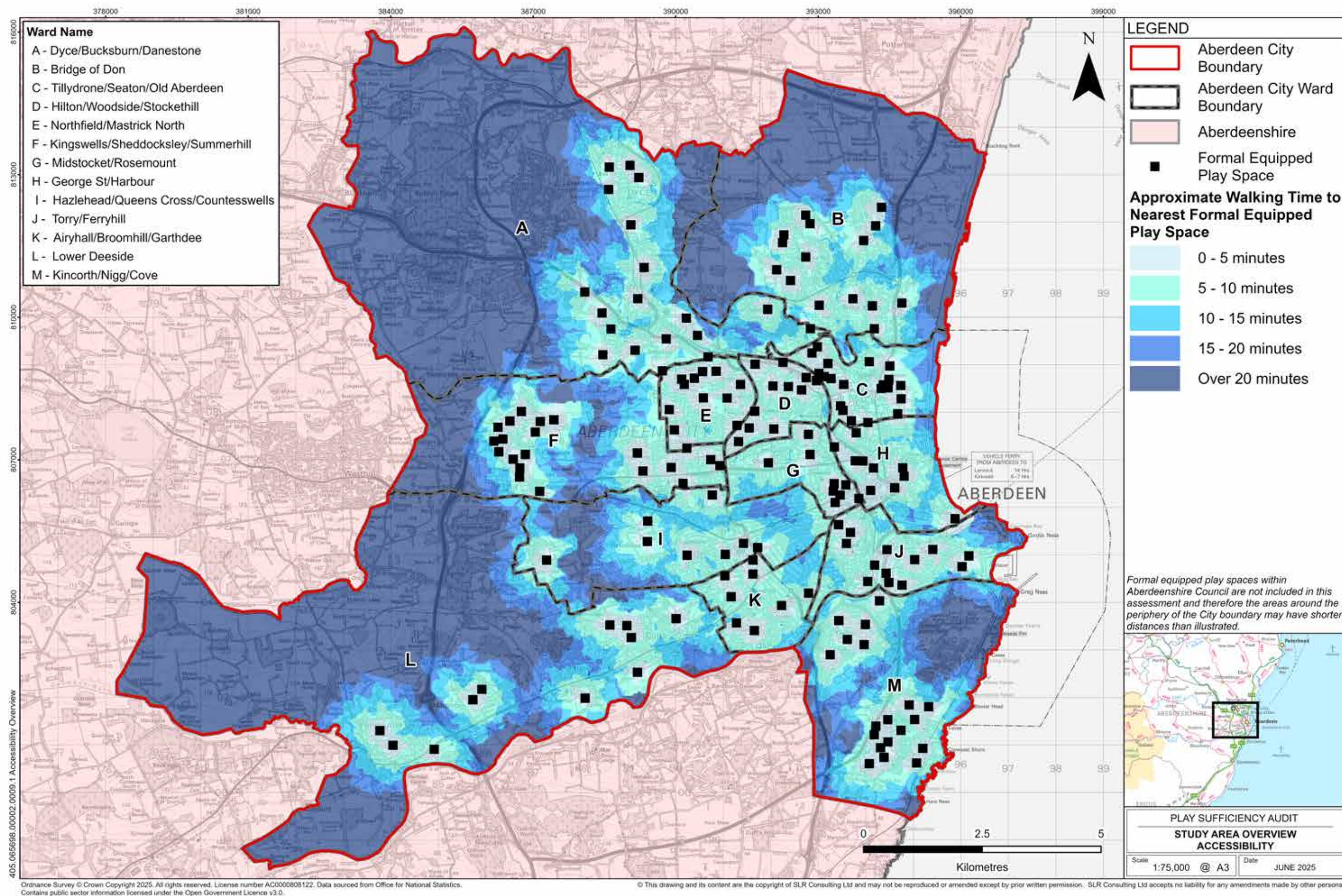


Figure 275: Map showing Accessibility of formal equipped play spaces within Aberdeen City



# 6.15.3 Quality of place and quality of play

The table opposite illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces across the Ward achieving a reasonable or higher rating across the following audit categories:

- 'Quality of place'
- 'Quality of play' for 0-5 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 6-11 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 12-15 year olds
- 'Quality of play' for 16-17 year olds
- 

## Quality of place

As can be seen from the table opposite, the majority of Wards scored well within the 'Quality of Place' category of the Play Space Audit. All of the Wards except George St/Harbour had 85% or above of their formal equipped play areas achieving a reasonable or above rating for Quality of Place.

## Quality of play

As can be seen from the table opposite, the percentage of formal equipped play areas achieving a reasonable or above Quality of Play rating for 0-5 year olds and 6-12 year olds was generally higher than the percentages achieving a reasonable or above Quality of Play rating for 13-15 year olds and 16-17 year olds.

Generally this is as play for younger children (0-11 year olds) is included in most play spaces regardless of scale whereas play for young people (13-17 year olds) tends to be located within the larger play spaces in Wards where equipment can more readily be accommodated.

To help provide analysis of these percentages the city wide average for each category has therefore also been calculated so that Play Quality per age group can be reviewed between Wards.

	Percentage of formal equipped play areas within Ward achieving a score of reasonable or above				
Ward	Quality of Place	Quality of Play for 0-5 year olds	Quality of Play for 6-11 year olds	Quality of Play for 12-15 year olds	Quality of Play for 16-17 year olds
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	100	78	41	0	11
Bridge of Don	100	73	53	27	20
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	85	65	85	45	30
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	100	55	45	9	36
Northfield/Mastrick North	100	83	83	50	33
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	95	65	60	35	15
Midstocket/Rosemount Ward	89	78	78	33	11
George St/Harbour	60	40	40	20	10
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	88	50	63	25	13
Torry/Ferryhill	92	54	62	38	38
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	100	75	88	25	13
Lower Deeside	100	36	45	36	27
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	95	53	42	26	32
<b>Ward average</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>



**Quality of Play for 0-5 year olds**

The average Ward percentage for Quality of Play for 0-5 year olds was 62%. The following Wards had a notably above average (by 10% or more) percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 0-5 year olds.

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Bridge of Don
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee

The following Wards had a notably below Ward average (by 10% or more) percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 0-5 year olds.

- George St/Harbour
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Lower Deeside

The Ward with the highest percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 0-5 year olds was Northfield/Mastrick North with 83%.

The Ward with the lowest percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 0-5 year olds was Lower Deeside with 36%.

**Quality of Play for 6-11 year olds**

The average Ward percentage for Quality of Play for 6-11 year olds was 60%. The following Wards had a notably above average (by 10% or more) percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 6-11 year olds.

- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee

The following Wards had a notably below Ward average (by 10% or more) percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 6-11 year olds.

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- George St/Harbour
- Lower Deeside
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

The Ward with the highest percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 6-11 year olds was Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee with 88%.

The Ward with the lowest percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 6-11 year olds was George St/Harbour with 40%.

**Quality of Play for 12-15 year olds**

The average Ward percentage for Quality of Play for 12-15 year olds was 28%. The following Wards had a notably above average (by 10% or more) percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 12-15 year olds.

- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Torry/Ferryhill

The following Wards had a notably below Ward average (by 10% or more) percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 12-15 year olds.

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill

The Ward with the highest percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 12-15 year olds was Northfield/Mastrick North with 50%.

The Ward with the lowest percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 12-15 year olds was Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone with 0%.

**Quality of Play for 16-17 year olds**

The average Ward percentage for Quality of Play for 16-17 year olds was 22%. The following Wards had a notably above average (by 10% or more) percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 16-17 year olds.

- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Torry/Ferryhill
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

The following Wards had a notably below Ward average (by 10% or more) percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 16-17 year olds.

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward
- George St/Harbour

The Ward with the highest percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 16-17 year olds was Torry/Ferryhill with 38%.

The Ward with the lowest percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Play Quality for 16-17 year olds was George St/Harbour with 10%.



# 6.15.4 Inclusive physical play within the City

## Inclusive physical play within the City for 0-11 year olds

The provision of inclusive play across physical, creative and social play was assessed as part of the quality score for each age group. Within the City as a whole ninety-four of the 174 formal equipped play spaces (54%) were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old).

The following Wards had a notably above average (by 10% or more) percentage of inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old).

- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells

The following Wards had a notably below Ward average (by 10% or more) percentage of inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old).

- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- George St/Harbour
- Torry/Ferryhill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

## Inclusive physical play within the City for 12-17 year olds

Within the City as a whole fifty-three of the 174 formal equipped play spaces (30%) were assessed to provide inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (12-17 year old).

The following Wards had a notably above average (by 10% or more) percentage of inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (12-17 year old).

- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells

The following Wards had a notably below Ward average (by 10% or more) percentage of inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (12-17 year old).

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

Ward	Number of formal equipped play spaces	number of formal equipped play spaces assessed to include inclusive physical play opportunities for 0-11 year olds	% of formal equipped play spaces assessed to include inclusive physical play opportunities for 0-11 year olds	number of formal equipped play spaces assessed to include inclusive physical play opportunities for 12-17 year olds	% of formal equipped play spaces assessed to include inclusive physical play opportunities for 12-17 year olds
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	18	11	61	11	11
Bridge of Don	15	10	67	10	47
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	20	18	90	18	70
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	11	1	9	1	0
Northfield/Mastrick North	12	6	50	6	17
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	20	12	60	12	20
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	9	8	89	8	44
George St/Harbour	10	4	40	4	30
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	8	8	100	8	75
Torry/Ferryhill	13	5	38	5	23
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	8	3	38	3	13
Lower Deeside	11	6	55	6	36
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	19	2	11	2	16
Aberdeen City total/Ward average	174	94	54	94	30



Figure 276: Example of inclusive physical play within the Airyhall/ Broomhill/Garthdee Ward at Devenick Place



Figure 277: Example of inclusive physical play within the Torry/ Ferryhill Ward at Balnagask Circle Play Area



# 6.15.5 Risky and challenging play within the City

## Risky and challenging play within the Ward

The general presence of risky and challenging play was assessed as part of the Play Space Audit scoring. An additional, more detailed assessment of risky and challenging play was also undertaken across the 6-17 year old age groups. This provided a score out of 15 (0 being least risky and 15 being most risky). An explanation of the assessment process and scoring can be found in Chapter 3. Within the City:

- 119 play areas (68%) achieved a score of 1-5 (Lower risk/challenge)
- 49 play areas (28%) achieved a score of 6-10 (Average risk/challenge)
- 6 play areas (4%) achieved a score of 11-15 (Higher risk/challenge)

The following six Wards included spaces which included a higher risk/challenge, formal equipped play space:

- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

The following Wards included a notably above average percentage (by 10% or more) of average risk/challenge, formal equipped play spaces:

- Northfield/Mastrick North
- George St/Harbour
- Torry/Ferryhill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee

The following Wards included a notably above average percentage (10% or more) of lower risk/challenge, formal equipped play spaces:

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward

Ward	Number of formal equipped play spaces	number of formal equipped play spaces scoring 1 to 5 (lower risk/challenge)	% of formal equipped play spaces scoring 1 to 5 (lower risk/challenge)	number of formal equipped play spaces scoring 6 to 10 (average risk/challenge)	% of formal equipped play spaces scoring 6 to 10 (average risk/challenge)	number of formal equipped play spaces scoring 11 to 15 (higher risk/challenge)	% of formal equipped play spaces scoring 11 to 15 (higher risk/challenge)
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	18	17	94	1	6	0	0
Bridge of Don	15	10	67	4	27	1	7
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	20	15	75	4	20	1	5
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	11	7	64	4	36	0	0
Northfield/Mastrick North	12	4	33	7	58	1	8
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	20	13	65	6	30	1	5
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	9	7	78	1	11	1	11
George St/Harbour	10	6	60	4	40	0	0
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	8	6	75	2	25	0	0
Torry/Ferryhill	13	7	54	6	46	0	0
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	8	5	63	3	38	0	0
Lower Deeside	11	8	73	3	27	0	0
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	19	14	74	4	21	1	5
<b>Aberdeen City total/Ward average</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>



Figure 279: Example of risky and challenging play within Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill at Clova Park Play Area



Figure 278: Example of risky and challenging play within Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen at Powis Crescent Play Area



# 6.15.6 Overall quality of play within the City

## Overall Quality of Play

The chart opposite illustrates the results of the Play Space Audit across the City, broken down by Ward. This shows the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within the Ward achieving each quality rating (very high/high/reasonable/low/very low) for 'Overall quality of play'.

The data has then been analysed to determine what percentage of Formal Equipped Play Spaces in each Ward achieved an 'Overall quality of play' rating of reasonable or above. The results are presented below.

Ward	Percentage of formal equipped play areas within Ward achieving a score of reasonable or above
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	78
Bridge of Don	80
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	75
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	73
Northfield/Mastrick North	88
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	65
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	67
George St/Harbour	50
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	75
Torry/Ferryhill	69
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	100
Lower Deeside	64
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	79
Ward average	74

The map on the following page again illustrates the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each Ward which achieved an 'Overall quality of play' rating of reasonable or above graphically.



Figure 280: Table presenting the percentage of formal equipped play spaces within each quality rating for 'Overall quality of play' by Ward.



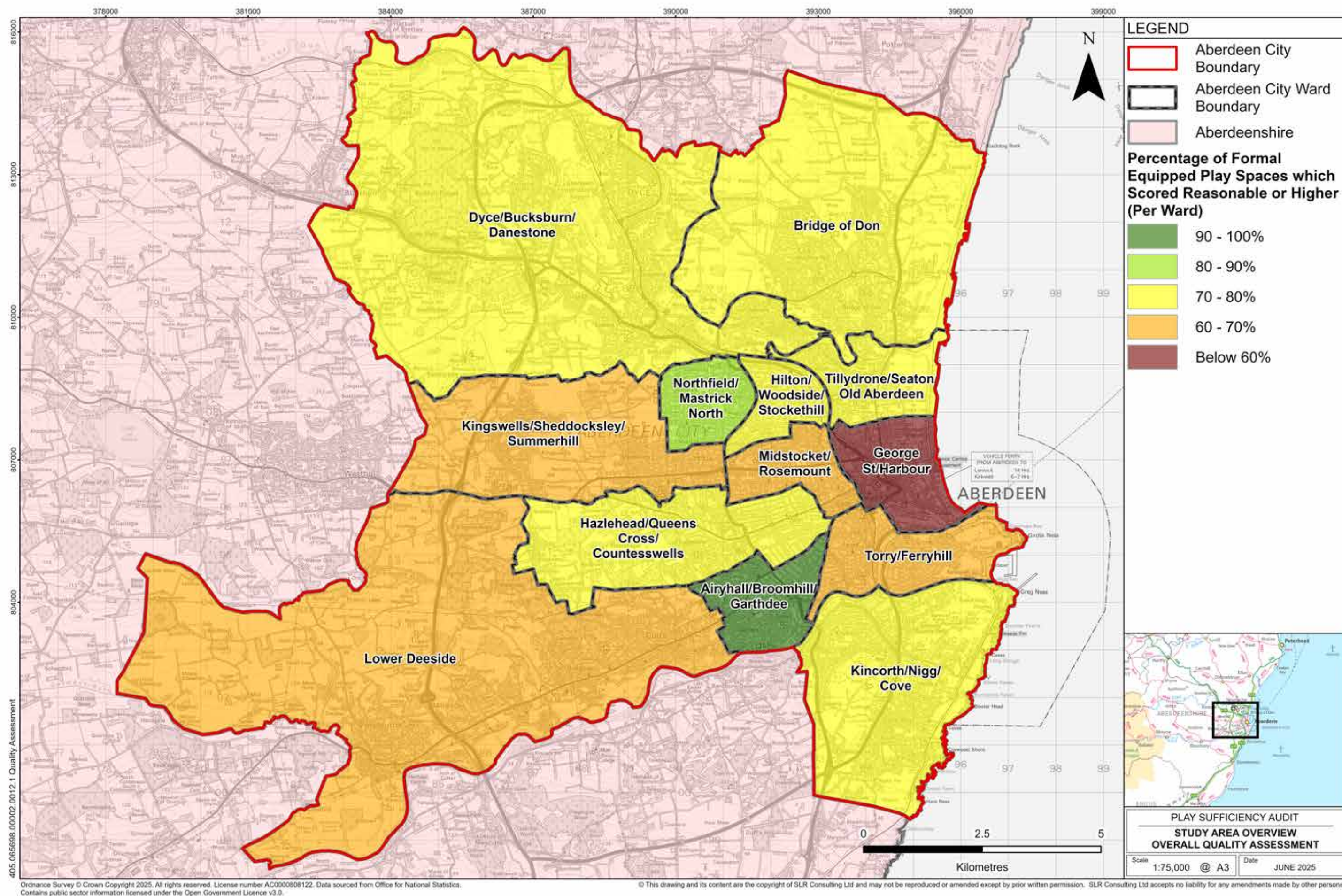


Figure 281: Map showing the percentage of formal equipped play spaces achieving a 'Overall quality of play' rating of reasonable or above by Ward.



# 6.15.7 Additional formal and informal play opportunities

The plan on the opposite page illustrates additional formal and informal play opportunities across the City. This includes approximately 1735.87 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities, which consists of circa:

- 137.87 hectares of Sports areas
- 175.51 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 167.26 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 449.71 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces (including beach)
- 601.93 hectares of Forest and woodland (identified on Forestry and Land Scotland’s website as places to visit).
- 265.76 hectares of Country park (Brimmond Hill Country Park and Elrick Country Park in Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill).

The full breakdown of these figures is available in the table below.

The highest quantities of additional formal and informal play space were generally located in the largest Wards, on the edges of the City where access to either the countryside, woodlands or coastline is available. These Wards include:

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Lower Deeside
- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

The lowest quantities of additional formal and informal play space were generally located in the smaller Wards, in City centre locations. These Wards include:

- Midstocket/Rosemount Ward
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Northfield/Mastrick North

## Quality

Quality ratings for the other formal and informal spaces were taken from Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. Generally all spaces achieved an average or above rating with the exception of:

- NMN22: Allan Douglas Park - Northfield/Mastrick North
- NMN24: Kettlehills Crescent Northfield/Mastrick North
- ABG52: Pitstruan Terrace Sports Area Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- KNC12: Marchmont Street Playing Fields Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

WARD	Ward Area (Hectares)	Quantity of other formal/informal play opportunities (Hectares)							Total area (Hectares)
		Sports areas (Hectares)	Public park and gardens (Hectares)	Amenity greenspace (Hectares)	Natural/ semi natural greenspaces (Hectares)	Forest and woodland (identified on Forestry and Land Scotland’s website as places to visit) (Hectares)	Beach	Country Park (Hectares)	
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	4,797	20.75	21.81	17.61	46	476.63	No	265.76	<b>848.56</b>
Bridge of Don	2,529	20.82	23.27	4.25	82.38	-	Yes, (included under Natural/semi natural greenspaces)	0	<b>130.72</b>
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	423	10.97	32.68	10.66	51.8	-	Yes, (included under Natural/semi natural greenspaces)	0	<b>106.11</b>
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	263	0.33	6.93	13.33	3.3	-	No	0	<b>23.89</b>
Northfield/Mastrick North	313	6.69	14.23	5.36	0	-	No	0	<b>26.28</b>
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	1,428	29.63	0.98	18.43	21.21	-	No	0	<b>70.25</b>
Midstocket/Rosemount	332	0	15.95	5.78	0.81	-	No	0	<b>22.54</b>
George St/Harbour	458	3.61	5.09	6.08	30.42	-	Yes, (included under Natural/semi natural greenspaces)	0	<b>45.2</b>
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	1,125	18.88	18.1	28.12	18.75	-	No	0	<b>83.85</b>
Torry/Ferryhill	568	5.5	20.81	2.82	12.8	-	Coast line only	0	<b>41.93</b>
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	404	3.57	3.46	12.97	0.25	-	No	0	<b>20.25</b>
Lower Deeside	4,662	5.15	5.56	26.66	16.57	125.3	No	0	<b>179.24</b>
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	1,532	11.97	6.64	15.19	165.42	-	Coast line only	0	<b>199.22</b>
<b>Aberdeen City total</b>	<b>18,834</b>	<b>137.87</b>	<b>175.51</b>	<b>167.26</b>	<b>449.71</b>	<b>601.93</b>		<b>265.76</b>	<b>1798.04</b>



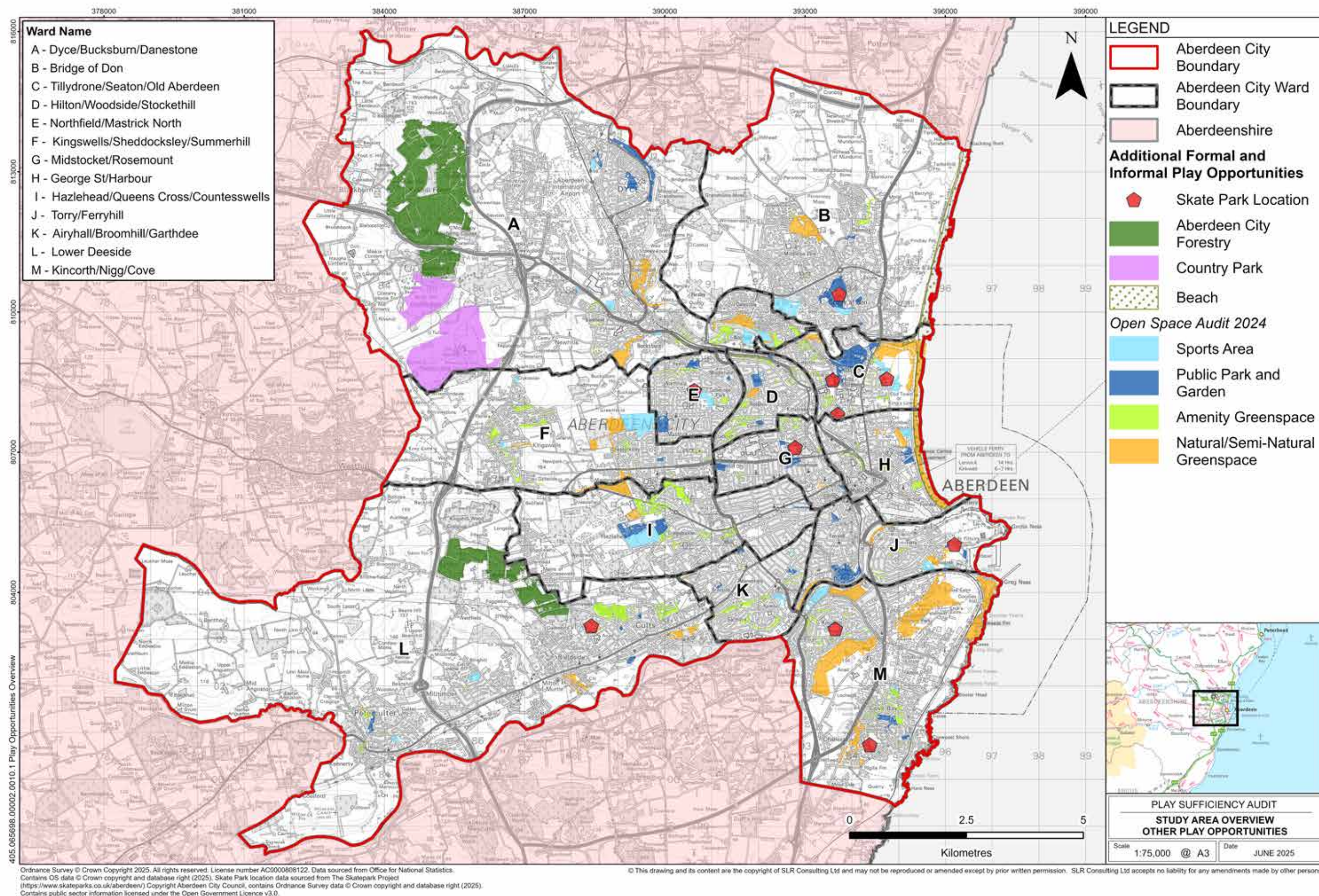


Figure 282: Map showing distribution of additional formal and informal play opportunities across the City.



**Sports areas**

There are sports areas across Aberdeen City, for a detailed break down refer to the individual Ward descriptions. The highest provision of Sports areas is within Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill Ward (29.63 hectares) and the lowest provision is within Midstocket/Rosemount Ward (0 hectares). Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill Ward also had a low provision with 0.33 hectares.

**Public parks and gardens**

There are several larger parks and gardens within Aberdeen which provide greater informal play opportunities, these include:

- Hazlehead Park (Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells)
- Johnston Gardens (Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells)
- Duthie Park (Tory/Ferryhill)
- Allan Park (Lower Deeside)
- Bon Accord Terrace Gardens (Tory/Ferryhill)
- Seaton Park (Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen)
- Stewart Park (Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill)
- Union Terrace Gardens (Midstocket/Rosemount)
- Victoria Park (Midstocket/Rosemount)
- Westburn Park (Midstocket/Rosemount)
- Westfield Park (Bridge of Don)
- Eric Hendrie Park (Northfield/Mastrick North)

The highest provision of public parks and gardens is within Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen Ward (32.68 hectares) and the lowest provision is within Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill Ward (0.98 hectares).



Figure 283: Image of informal play in Allan Park, Lower Deeside Ward

**Amenity Greenspace**

Whilst not all amenity greenspace offers meaningful opportunities for play, the spaces included have been selected due to their scale or location. For a detailed break down of areas of amenity greenspace included, refer to the individual Ward descriptions. The highest provision of amenity space is within Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells Ward (28.12 hectares) and the lowest provision is within Torry/Ferryhill Ward (2.82 hectares).

**Natural/semi natural greenspaces**

Natural and semi natural spaces, including woodland, coast line or other can provide informal play opportunities. The highest provision of natural and semi natural spaces is within Kincorth/Nigg/Cove Ward (165.42 hectares) and the lowest provision is within Northfield/Mastrick North Ward (0 hectares).

The following Wards had meaningful access to woodland:

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill
- Midstocket/Rosemount
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Lower Deeside
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

The following Wards have access to beaches

- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- George St/Harbour



Figure 284: Image of amenity greenspace at Morrison Drive in Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee Ward

**Forests and Woodlands**

The following forests and woodlands are identified on Forestry and Land Scotland’s website as places to visit and are not included in the figures above. These woodlands could provide opportunities for natural play as part of a walk or visit.

- Countesswells Woods
- Foggieton Woods
- Kirkhill Woods
- Tyrebagger woods:

**Country Parks**

- Brimmond Hill Country Park and Elrick Country Park in Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill provide additional informal play opportunities which are not included in the figures above.



Figure 285: Image of informal play opportunities within Kincorth/Nigg/Cove Ward at Tullos Woods



Cycleways

The following Wards benefit from the National Cycle Route 195, the Deeside Way:

- Lower Deeside
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Torry/Ferryhill

The following Wards benefit from the National Cycle Route 1:

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- George Street Harbour
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove
- Midsocket/Rosemount
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Torry/Ferryhill

Skate parks and cycle tracks

There are several free to use skate parks/cycle tracks across the City and their distribution can be seen in figure 273. These include the following:

	Skate park
Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone	
Bridge of Don	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Westfield Park</li></ul>
Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St Machar Mini Ramp</li><li>• Sunnybank Park, skate space</li><li>• Seaton Golf Road Playing Fields</li></ul>
Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill	
Northfield/Mastrick North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Northfield Skatepark</li></ul>
Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill	
Midsocket/Rosemount Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Westburn Skatepark</li></ul>
George St/Harbour	
Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells	
Torry/Ferryhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Torry Skate Park</li></ul>
Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee	
Lower Deeside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cults Woods skate park and bike track</li></ul>
Kincorth/Nigg/Cove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cove Skatepark</li><li>• Bobby Douglas Park Skate Park</li></ul>



Figure 286: Cults Woods skate park and bike track, Lower Deeside



Figure 287: Northfield Skatepark at Allan Douglas Park



Figure 288: Example of risky and challenging play within the Ward at Charleston Road Play Area



Figure 289: Westburn Park, Midsocket/Rosemount



Figure 290: Bobby Douglas Park Skate Park, Kincorth/Nigg/Cove



Figure 291: Westfield Park, Bridge of Don







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# 7. Conclusions



# 7.15.1 Conclusions

The following sets out the main conclusions of this Play Sufficiency Report in regards quantity, quality and accessibility of play opportunities across the City and within the Wards.

The conclusions have looked to highlight the lowest performing areas in each category in order to highlight meaningful opportunities for improvement.



## Quantity

### Formal equipped play spaces

Numbers of formal equipped play spaces within Wards varied from the lowest number of eight (Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells and Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee) up to highest number of 20 (Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill and Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen). The average number for a Ward was 13.

Not all formal equipped play spaces offer the same opportunities for play or are of the same scale, therefore these results should be read in association with the Quality findings. For example despite the comparatively low number of sites in the Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee Ward, 100% of formal equipped play areas within this Ward achieved a score of reasonable or above (indicating a larger range of play opportunities), whereas Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill had a high number of formal equipped play spaces however only 65% of these achieved a score of reasonable or above.

The quantity findings should also be read in association with Accessibility findings and the Ward Area and Ward child population data. It should be noted that for larger Wards such as Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone and Lower Deeside, the population is not spread evenly across these Wards due to their edge of City location.

### Other formal and informal play

Approximately 1735.87 hectares of additional formal and informal play opportunities were identified, which consisted of circa:

- 137.87 hectares of Sports areas
- 175.51 hectares of Public park and gardens
- 167.26 hectares of Amenity greenspace
- 449.71 hectares Natural/semi natural greenspaces (including beach)
- 601.93 hectares of Forest and woodland (identified on Forestry and Land Scotland's website as places to visit).
- 265.76 hectares of Country park (Brimmond Hill Country Park and Elrick Country Park in Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill).

The highest quantities of additional formal and informal play space were generally located in the largest Wards, on the edges of the City where access to either the countryside, woodlands or coastline is available. These Wards include:

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Lower Deeside
- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

The lowest quantities of additional formal and informal play space were generally located in the smaller Wards, in City centre locations. These Wards include:

- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Northfield/Mastrick North

### Other formal informal play typologies

The following identifies the Wards with the lowest quantities of other formal and informal play opportunities.

The following Wards had a lower quantity of Sports areas than the rest of the City (less than 5ha):

- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill (0.33 hectares)
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward (0 hectares)
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee (3.57 hectares)

The following Wards had a lower quantity of Public park and gardens than the rest of the City (less than 5ha):

- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill (0.98 hectares)
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee (3.46 hectares)

The following Wards had a lower quantity of Amenity greenspace than the rest of the City (less than 5ha):

- Torry/Ferryhill (2.82 hectares)
- Bridge of Don (4.25 hectares)

The following Wards had a lower quantity of Natural/semi natural greenspaces than the rest of the City (less than 5ha):

- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill (3.30 hectares)
- Northfield/Mastrick North (0 hectares)
- Midsocket/Rosemount Ward (0.81 hectares)
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee (0.25 hectares)

It is noticeable that the Wards of Midsocket/Rosemount, Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill, Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee, and Northfield/Mastrick North also have the lowest quantity of 'other formal and informal play opportunities' in the City. When changing or modifying any formal equipped play provision within these Wards it would be beneficial to maximise opportunities for contact with nature and natural play.



# Quality

The following Wards did not include a skate park/bmx track:

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill
- George St/Harbour
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee

## Engagement quantity findings

The findings of the engagement surveys and in-person activities mirrored the findings of the desk top audit and play space audit in respect of the quantity and spread of play areas throughout the City.

## Overall Play Quality

Overall play quality across the Wards for formal equipped play spaces varied from 50% achieving a reasonable or above score (George St/Harbour) to 100% achieving a reasonable or above score (Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee). The average for the City was 74%. Only five Wards fell below this average score and these were Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill (65%), Midstocket/Rosemount Ward (67%), (George St/Harbour) 50%, Torry/Ferryhill (69%) and Lower Deeside (64%). Additional or enhancement of formal equipped play in these Wards could therefore bring them closer in line with the wider City. It is noted that there are new formal equipped play spaces planned or in construction in the George St/Harbour Ward (Aberdeen Beach Park) and Lower Deeside Ward (Oldfold Park) and these new spaces will provide improvements within the two lowest scoring Wards.

## Quality of Place

Generally all Wards scored ok for Quality of Place, with over 85% of formal equipped play areas achieving a reasonable score or above. Exceptions to this were George Street/Harbour where only 60% of sites achieved a reasonable score or above. Whilst generally this indicates that play spaces are welcoming and well maintained there is scope for improvement, both to increase the percentage of sites achieving a reasonable rating and to increase the number of high and very high quality sites generally.

## Quality of Play for 0-5 year olds

The average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Quality of Play for 0-5 year olds was 62%. The Ward with the highest percentage was Northfield/Mastrick North with 83% whilst the lowest was Lower Deeside with 36%.

The following Wards generally catered less well than the City on average for children aged 0-5 years old, and as such any improvements to play provision in these Wards could consider additional provision for this age group.

- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- George St/Harbour
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Torry/Ferryhill
- Lower Deeside

## Quality of Play for 6-11 year olds

The average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Quality of Play for 6-11 year olds was 60%. The Ward with the highest percentage was Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee with 88% whilst the lowest was George St/Harbour with 40%.

The following Wards generally catered less well than the City on average for children aged 6-11 years old, and as such any improvements to play provision in these Wards could consider additional provision for this age group.

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Bridge of Don
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- George St/Harbour
- Lower Deeside
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

## Quality of Play for 12-15 year olds

The average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Quality of Play for 12-15 year olds was 28%. The Ward with the highest percentage was Northfield/Mastrick North with 50%.whilst the lowest was Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone with 0%.

The following Wards generally catered less well than the City on average for children aged 12-15 years old, and as such any improvements to play provision in these Wards could consider additional provision for this age group.

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Bridge of Don
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- George St/Harbour
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove



**Quality of Play for 16-17 year olds**

The average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Quality of Play for 16-17 year olds was 22%. The Ward with the highest percentage was Torry/Ferryhill with 38% whilst the lowest was George St/Harbour with 10%.

The following Wards generally catered less well than the City on average for children aged 16-17 years old, and as such any improvements to play provision in these Wards could consider additional provision for this age group.

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Bridge of Don
- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill
- Midstocket/Rosemount Ward
- George St/Harbour
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee

**Quality of Play for younger children vs. young people**

It is noticeable that the average Ward percentage of equipped formal play spaces achieving a reasonable or above rating for Quality of Play for younger children (0-5 year olds [62%] and 6-11 year olds [60%]) was considerably higher than that of young people (12-15 year olds [28%] and 16-17 year olds [22%]). This was generally as all play areas included elements for younger children however not all spaces included elements for young people.

**Inclusive physical play within the City for 0-11 year olds**

Ninety-four (54%) of the 174 formal equipped play spaces assessed provided inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old), whilst fifty-three (30%) provided inclusive physical play opportunities for young people (12-17 year old).

The following Wards had a notably below Ward average (by 10% or more) percentage of inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (0-11 year old).

- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- George St/Harbour
- Torry/Ferryhill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

The following Wards had a notably below Ward average (by 10% or more) percentage of inclusive physical play opportunities for younger children (12-17 year old).

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

Improving the accessible play offerings in these areas would improve the inclusivity of play in these Wards.

**Risky and challenging play**

Of the 174 formal equipped play spaces assessed:

- 119 formal equipped play spaces (68%) achieved a score of 1-5 (Lower risk/challenge)
- 49 formal equipped play spaces (28%) achieved a score of 6-10 (Average risk/challenge)
- 6 formal equipped play spaces (4%) achieved a score of 11-15 (Higher risk/challenge)

The following six Wards included spaces which included a higher risk/challenge play space:

- Bridge of Don
- Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Kingswells/Sheddocksley/Summerhill
- Midstocket/Rosemount Ward
- Kincorth/Nigg/Cove

The following Wards included a notably above average percentage (by 10% or more) of average risk/challenge:

- Northfield/Mastrick North
- George St/Harbour
- Torry/Ferryhill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee

The following Wards included a notably above average percentage (10% or more) of lower risk/challenge:

- Dyce/Bucksburn/Danestone
- Midstocket/Rosemount Ward

Risk and challenge is a key part of play and learning. Where appropriate, additional riskier/more challenging equipment could be considered in those spaces achieving a lower score.

**Other and Informal Play**

Quality ratings for the ‘other formal and informal spaces’ were taken from Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit. Generally all spaces achieved an average or above rating with the exception of:

- NMN22: Allan Douglas Park (Northfield/Mastrick North)
- NMN24: Kettlehills Crescent (Northfield/Mastrick North)
- ABG52: Pitstruan Terrace Sports Area (Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee)
- KNC12: Marchmont Street Playing Fields (Kincorth/Nigg/Cove)

Whilst generally this indicates that the majority of spaces are welcoming and well maintained there is scope for improvement, both to raise all sites to average or above and to increase the number of high and very high quality sites generally.

**Engagement quality findings**

Scoring on quality was fairly consistent across North, Central and South localities, all 13 Wards and also the priority neighbourhoods. As well as a widespread appreciation of the facilities that are provided, there was a frustration at levels of maintenance, cleanliness and addressing anti-social behaviour.

What the consultation further highlighted, however, were questions of scale and quality within each play area. There was a widespread desire for more age-appropriate equipment and seating, especially for teenagers, and greater quantities of popular equipment, such as swings, to deal with demand. There was also a desire for more accessible play equipment and ensuring the availability of natural play.



# Accessibility

## Formal equipped play spaces

The distribution of formal equipped play spaces across all Wards generally resulted in the majority of residential areas being within 10 minutes walk of a formal equipped play space. The Wards with residential areas which had further than 10 minutes walk to reach a formal equipped play space included:

- Bridge of Don
- Northfield/Mastrick North
- Midstocket/Rosemount Ward
- Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells
- Torry
- Airyhall
- Lower deeside
- Kincorth

It should be noted that the above analysis did not take account of the scale or quality of formal equipped play spaces and therefore these findings should be read in conjunction with the other findings. For example, whilst there may be a formal equipped play spaces within 10 minutes walk, these findings on their own would not conclude that this provides adequate provision for a 16-17 year old or for someone with additional needs. To confirm this the findings for the specific play park would require cross referencing.

Several play parks were identified where the entrance and layouts were not considered to be accessible for all. These are identified in the Ward sections and included 56 sites in total (32% of the total number of formal equipped play spaces).

## Other and Informal Play

Accessibility of ‘other formal and informal play spaces’ was assessed as part of the overall quality rating of Aberdeen City Council’s Open Space Audit.

Walking distances to different types of other formal and informal play has not been assessed as part of this report.

As discussed in the Quantity conclusions however, the highest quantities of additional formal and informal play space were generally located in the largest Wards, on the edges of the City where access to either the countryside, woodlands or coastline is available. The lowest quantities of

additional formal and informal play space were generally located in the smaller Wards, in City centre locations including:

- Midstocket/Rosemount Ward
- Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill
- Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee
- Northfield/Mastrick North

In these Wards access to natural/semi natural greenspaces is limited due to the small quantities of this typology present in these locations.

## Engagement accessibility findings

The findings of the engagement surveys and in-person activities mirrored the findings of the desk top audit participants appreciated that they generally had a park nearby and particularly enjoyed the facilities at the destination parks.







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# 8. Data sources



# 8.15.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out where references and data used within this Play Sufficiency Assessment has been sourced from and notes relevant caveats/limitations which may affect the accuracy of the document.

# 8.15.2 Play sufficiency assessment survey data

Formal equipped play space survey data was gathered over the period between September 2024 and April 2025. The survey was developed by Aberdeen City Council and initial surveys were undertaken by Aberdeen City Council staff with subsequent surveys undertaken by SLR Consulting Ltd. Surveys were undertaken by a number of different surveyors. Continuity of survey approach was achieved by the set questions, scoring mechanism and by on site briefings of surveyors.

**Potential limitations in the survey and areas for future improvement**

- Neither the scale of formal equipped play spaces or a survey of number of pieces of equipment was undertaken as part of the survey. Therefore quantity is based solely on the number of locations. The scale of play spaces can be inferred to some extent by the play quality which is delivered by each site however this is not definitive.
- Whilst the Play Space Audit included survey of social, creative and physical play opportunities it could be developed to investigate gender and play in more detail. Particularly to ensure an appropriate mix of equipment and to ensure all feel included and welcome.
- Accessibility questions were wide ranging and would have benefited from being broken down into a higher number of more specific questions, e.g. separate questions for suitable gradient, suitable surfacing, suitable entrances etc.
- The survey did not differentiate between trees within the play area which could be used for natural play vs. trees which provided the general setting. The survey could have included additional questions on natural play opportunities provided by topography/trees/rocks etc. This could be particularly useful in city centre locations where access to natural or semi natural environments is more limited.
- A tailored assessment for informal play spaces, gauging the suitability of a space explicitly for running, jumping, ball games, climbing, hiding, making dens etc. could be developed in future to recognise the potential in a location rather than an audit of what is physically provided.
- The accessibility mapping treated all formal equipped play spaces as equal however this was not the case in terms of scale, quality, accessible play, risky or challenging play, or age groups catered for. Accessibility mapping could be considered which captured some or all of these considerations in more detail.
- Greater audit of accessible pieces of play equipment could be considered to catalogue the number and types of equipment available.

# 8.15.3 Sources

The following lists references that were used to inform the play sufficiency assessment background and audit:

- Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
- The Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023
- National Planning Framework 4 ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))
- Play Sufficiency Assessment Regulations 2023: planning guidance
- Play Scotland’s Getting it Right for Play Toolkit
- UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024
- Play Sufficiency Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2023
- Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
- National Planning Framework 4 (2023)
- Scotland’s Play Strategy (2013)
- Aberdeen City Council Play Policy and Strategy (2018)
- Aberdeen City Local Development Plan

The table on the following page describes where data was sourced from and where relevant sets out any modifications to or limitations in this data.



Dataset	Source	Copyright	Link	Notes
OS 50K	Emapsite (OS)	Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2025. All rights reserved. License number AC0000808122.		Used for all overview plans
OS 25K	Emapsite (OS)	Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2025. All rights reserved. License number AC0000808122.		Used for all Ward specific plans
MiniScale Standard Map		Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2025. All rights reserved. License number AC0000808122.		
Aberdeen City Boundary	district_borough_unitary_region	Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.	Boundary-Line™ Vector Map Download   All of Great Britain   Free OS Data downloads	Coastline clipped to <a href="https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/polling_districts-ac">https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/polling_districts-ac</a>
Aberdeenshire Boundary	district_borough_unitary_Ward_region	Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.	Boundary-Line™ Vector Map Download   All of Great Britain   Free OS Data downloads	Coastline clipped to <a href="https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/polling_districts-ac">https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/polling_districts-ac</a>
Aberdeen City Wards	district_borough_unitary_Ward_region	Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.	Boundary-Line™ Vector Map Download   All of Great Britain   Free OS Data downloads	Coastline clipped to <a href="https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/polling_districts-ac">https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/polling_districts-ac</a>
Formal Equipped Play Spaces	Provided by Aberdeen City Council			
TRACC Analysis	OSMM Highways Network Paths and OSMM Highways Network RAMI	Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2025. All rights reserved. License number AC0000808122.		Note, this data set may not include all smaller pathways/informal routes and therefore walking distances may be shorter than those illustrated in some instances.
Schools	Scottish Government - SpatialData.gov.scot	Data sourced from Scottish Government: SpatialData.gov.scot	Scottish School Roll and Locations - data.gov.uk	Adjusted for site 14 (Countesswells) as in wrong location
Child Population	Community Planning Aberdeen	Data sourced from Community Planning Aberdeen: <a href="https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/resources/localities-outcomes-data/">https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/resources/localities-outcomes-data/</a>	Localities Outcomes Data - Community Planning Aberdeen	
Skate Parks	The Skateparks Project	Data sourced from The Skateparks Project: <a href="https://www.skateparks.co.uk/aberdeen/">https://www.skateparks.co.uk/aberdeen/</a>	Aberdeen City Skateparks - Guide to Skateparks in Aberdeen City	Transition Extreme Skatepark not included due to cost of entry. Additional skateparks added as identified through Play Space Audit
Beaches	Drawn using OS25k and city boundary for coastline	Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2025. All rights reserved. License number AC0000808122.		
Woodland	OS_VectorMap_District	Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2025).		Note, this data set includes all woodland, some of this may not be generally accessible for play opportunities.
Playing Field	OS GreenspaceSite	Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2025).		Note, this data set includes all playing fields, some of these may not be publicly accessible.
Public Park or Garden	OS GreenspaceSite	Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2025).		
Contours	OS Terrain 50 DTM	Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2025).		
Bus Stops	Aberdeen City Council	Copyright Aberdeen City Council, contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right (2025)	<a href="https://spatialdata-accabdn.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/057e4927767a4d20b56fbd05a4f89eac_0/explore?location=57.152216%2C-2.171945%2C12.52">https://spatialdata-accabdn.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/057e4927767a4d20b56fbd05a4f89eac_0/explore?location=57.152216%2C-2.171945%2C12.52</a>	
Core Paths	Scottish Government	Copyright Scottish Government, contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right (2025).		
National Cycle Network	Sustrans	© Crown copyright and database right (2025).National Cycle Route data supplied by Sustrans contains Ordnance Survey data (© Crown copyright and database rights (2025)).		







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# 9. Appendices



## 9.15.1 Appendix 1 – Play Space Audit

### Play Space Audit – Scoring Checklist

The following 5 categories are to be used to assess the broad context of the environment in which formal and informal spaces are located.

A play opportunities scoresheet is then a separate section at the end which will assess what specific play opportunities are available and separate this into physical/creative/social play.

1. Setting/Visual Amenity
2. Accessibility
3. Maintenance and Security
4. Functionality and Adaptability
5. Natural Environment/Greenspace

Key for Coloured Table Cells.	
	No assessment required. Not applicable.

As part of the assessment of the formal play spaces, there will be a need for accompanying photographs. These should include a general photograph of the overall play space (where possible), and photographs of any particularly good or bad features that have been noted in the assessment. E.g.- if the playpark is identified as being in a poor state of repair, please photograph play equipment/fences/surfaces that evidence this. If it has a welcoming approach, try to show this in a photo.

Five or six photographs will likely be enough in most instances. Please try to avoid photographing any people (where possible). We would look to use some of the photographs to supplement the PSA Report to evidence our conclusions and show examples. Photographs of the overall play space may also be used as thumbnail images for the plotted site on a StoryMap at a later stage (if possible).

Quality of Play Environment: Providers' Assessment Tool		
Name of the Play Place	**Name of park/site/play area here**	
Setting Determining how appealing the site is to spend time in, play or socialise.	Y=1 N=0	Comments
Pleasant Setting/Attractive Site?		
Does the play area appear inviting/welcoming?		
No Dog Mess, Littering or Nuisance?		
No Vandalism?		
Play area secure and set back from busy roads?		
Total Score		Comments:

### Scoring Guide:

- 5: Very good quality of setting that is welcoming and presentable
- 4: Good quality of setting that lacks one of the characteristics
- 3: Some good characteristics but maybe not optimally sited or is not as welcoming or presentable due to neglect
- 0-2: Poor quality of environment for play space.

Accessibility	Y = 1 N = 0	Comments
Close to public transport links (bus stops)?		
Paths in good condition?		
Adjacent roads have safe crossing points (where applicable)?		
Entrance and layout accessible to all? <i>Ensure no impassable gates for wheelchair users, that paths are of requisite width, and gradients of paths and their surfaces are suitable for wheelchair users)</i>		
Total Score		Comments:



### Scoring Guide:

4 or 5: Good accessibility with few impediments to physical entry and navigation  
 3: Reasonably accessible but perhaps lacking close access to public transport or where access is only good for those without mobility issues and is not accommodating for wheelchair users.  
 0-2: Limited or poor accessibility for a range of users. Could deter people from using it.

Maintenance & Security	Y = 1 N = 0	Comments
Fencing/gates in good condition?		
Litter bins?		
Lighting?		
Is site overlooked by housing/offices or public buildings? (For supervision purposes)		
Is play equipment in good condition?		
<b>Total Score</b>		<b>Comments:</b>

### Scoring Guide:

4-5: Very good. Site may be readily visible to public which aids supervision of play, and has well maintained equipment/enclosures and supporting infrastructure.  
 3: Good standard of maintenance/security, that is either lacking a few features or is representative of a space that may be darker or more secluded.  
 0-2: Sub-par and demonstrative of either poor siting/layout/design and or lack of appropriate maintenance.

Functionality & Adaptability	Yes = 1 No = 0	Comments
Is there seating or benches for adults/children?		
Are there picnic tables?		
Is there shelter from the weather (e.g- via structures to screen from rain, or trees to provide shade from sun)?		
Does play equipment cater to a variety of age groups?		
Can the space be used for a variety of methods of play/social interaction?		
Are there opportunities for risky or challenging play?		
Are there sensory play opportunities?		
<b>Total Score</b>		<b>Comments:</b>

### Scoring Guide:

5-7: Very good space that can serve a variety of age groups, and people with mobility issues, as well as providing general amenity benefits.  
 4: Good space with a variety of amenities that perhaps is suitable for a limited age group of children. Conversely, it may be very adaptable but lacks conveniences that would add to the comfort of those using it.  
 3: Fair standard of space that may be designed for a few limited activities and/or lacks any amenities within the vicinity.  
 0-2: Poor or substandard space with very limited usability that means it is generally only frequented by a specific demographic.



Natural Environment/Greenspace	Y = 1 N = 0	Comments
Are there trees/bushes/shrubs?		
Is there short (or mown) grass?		
Is there long grass (a habitat for wild flowers)?		
Are there sunny, shady, sheltered areas (all 3 required)?		
Is the site free from traffic pollution?		
Is the site free from noise pollution?		
Total Score		Comments:

#### Scoring Guide:

5-6: Good quality environment with variety of natural features and capability to support biodiversity  
 3-4: Reasonable quality environment with some natural features but may not be as diverse or offer much habitat/biodiversity value  
 2: Homogenous area of Greenspace with little diversity.  
 0-1: Poor quality Greenspace that is severely lacking in variety and quality of ecological/environmental assets and is unengaging for all ages.

#### Challenge and Risky Play Assessment

The following types of play are considered to have an elevated element of risk/challenge:

Balancing/Hanging/Swinging/Climbing/Cycling/Skating/Scooting

- BMX/Cycle Track
- Skate Park
- Gliding/Zip Lines
- Climbing (Frames/Monkey Bars/Cargo Nets) – Increased risk will generally apply to equipment tailored to older age groups, however adventure frames still offer modest risk for younger users.
- Swinging (depending on nature of swings) – standing ones/tyre swings are riskier than basket swings and therefore increase score.

If the play area meets three or more of the bullet points above, for an age group, then it should score a 4 or 5 (depending on the variety/number or options available for the child).

If a play area meets two of the bullet points for an age demographic, a score of 3 would be appropriate.

Any play spaces that achieve only one bullet point will score (at best) a 2, and this would only be given where there is more than one type of risky play (e.g. differing types of swings or climbing frames). Anything less will score 1 for that age demographic.

*\*Please note that the 0-5 year demographic below has been coloured red to indicate its total exemption from assessment. This is because children of this age are more vulnerable and likely to have heavily supervised/assisted play with an adult. Later ages facilitate a more 'hands-off' form of supervision where children have more autonomy in their methods of play.*

Challenge and Risky Play Assessment						
Score (Mark corresponding box with an 'X')	1 Low CR Value	2	3	4	5 High CR Value	Comments to Justify Score
0-5 years						
6-11 years						
12-15 years						
16-17 years						



Physical Play	0-5 years	6-11 years	12-15 years	16-17 years	Comments
Running, skipping, hopping					
Climbing					
Swinging					
Sliding					
Jumping					
Balancing					
Crawling					
Rocking					
Rotating or spinning					
Gliding (e.g – flying fox)					
Ball play area					
BMX/Cycle track					
Skate park					
Inclusive for a variety of physical abilities					
<b>Total Scores:</b>					<b>Comments:</b>

Creative Play	0-5 years	6-11 years	12-15 years	16-17 years	Comments
Loose parts – large and small					
Chalking, drawing or painting					
Sound making items					
Pretend play – places and materials					
Performance area					
Inclusive for a range of differing abilities					
<b>Total Scores:</b>	5	5	5	3	<b>Comments:</b>

Social Play	0-5 years	6-11 years	12-15 years	16-17 years	Comments
Quiet places to sit/think/chat					
Places to hide					
Interaction of children of different ages and abilities					
<b>Total Scores:</b>					<b>Comments:</b>

<b>Total combined score (Physical/Creative/Social) for each age range</b>					<b>Total:</b>
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## 9.15.2 Appendix 2 – Open Space Audit

### APPENDIX G – OPEN SPACE AUDIT SURVEYOR SHEET

1	Name of Surveyor(s)		
2	Date & Time of Survey		
3	Weather Conditions		
4	Site ID & Site Name		
5	Primary Land Use		
<b>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA</b>		<b>SURVEYOR'S ASSESSMENT</b>	
<b>ACCESSIBLE AND WELL CONNECTED</b>		Score	Comment
A1	Fit for purpose core paths	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
A2	Fit for purpose other paths	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
A3	Equal access for all, including wheelchair accessible (no adverse gradients, barriers to access etc)	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
A4	Connects with other transport modes e.g. public transport, cycle network / cycle parking, car parking	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
A5	No barriers to access	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
A6	Entrances are well located and safe	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
A7	Effective signage / interpretation appropriate for the site	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
A8	4G / free WiFi access / mobile reception	N/A Y / N	
<b>ACCESS SCORE (1 = low, 5 = high)</b>		1 2 3 4 5	
<b>ATTRACTIVE AND APPEALING PLACES</b>		Score	Comment
P1	Welcoming entrances and attractive boundary features	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P2	Low levels of litter	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P3	Clean and free from dog fouling	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P4	Are there general waste bins / dog waste / mixed recycling	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	

P5	Public toilets	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P6	Well located furniture of good quality (benches / picnic tables / shelter)	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P7	Does there appear to be lighting (e.g. of paths, sports areas etc.)	N/A Y / N	
P8	Planting such as trees, woodland, shelter belt, shrubs, open grass, flower beds, natural vegetation	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P9	Appropriately managed vegetation (grass, trees, bushes, shrubs etc.)	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P10	Pleasing views	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P11	Provides intimate / secluded space	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P12	Strong, positive character / identity	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
P13	Cultural features such as monuments, statues, artwork etc	N/A Y / N	
<b>PLACE SCORE (1 = low, 5 = high)</b>		1 2 3 4 5	
<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</b>		Score	Comment
H1	Is there a sports pitch such as formal / informal pitch, goalposts etc.	N/A Y / N	
H2	Is there an equipped play area	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
H3	Provide for a diverse range of play, sport, outdoor activities and recreational opportunities for a range of ages	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
<b>HEALTH SCORE (1 = low, 5 = high)</b>		1 2 3 4 5	
<b>COMMUNITY VALUE</b>		Score	Comment
C1	Good sense of personal security	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
C2	Absence of any signs of anti-social behaviour e.g. vandalism	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
C3	Good levels of natural surveillance	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
C4	Close proximity to community facilities e.g. shops	N/A 1 2 3 4 5	
C5	Presence of food-growing activities e.g. allotments, raised beds etc.	N/A Y / N	



C6	Would this site be good for growing food in the future - Y/N, not scored	Y / N		
	<b>COMMUNITY SCORE (1 = low, 5 = high)</b>	1 2 3 4 5		
	<b>BIODIVERSITY</b>	Score		Comment
B1	Does the space connect to the wider habitat / other green spaces	N/A 1 2 3 4 5		
B2	<b>NESBRE C Biodiversity Score - double weighted</b>	N/A 1 2 3 4 5		
	<b>BIODIVERSITY SCORE (1 = low, 5 = high)</b>	1 2 3 4 5		
	<b>ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES</b> Approx. %	Score		Comment
E1	% Tree cover %	N/A 1 2 3 4 5		
E2	% Shrub cover %	N/A 1 2 3 4 5		
E3	% Grass cover %	N/A 1 2 3 4 5		
E4	% Open water cover %	N/A 1 2 3 4 5		
E5	% Impervious surface cover %	N/A 1 2 3 4 5		
E6	Benefit to pollinators %	N/A 1 2 3 4 5		
	<b>ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES SCORE (1 = low, 5 = high)</b>	1 2 3 4 5		
	<b>Total Score for the Site - out of 25:</b> (Note Ecosystem Services was experimental data and not included in overall site scoring)			
6	Site Description:			
7	Problems:			
8	Suggested Improvements:			
9	Frequency of Use	H M L		
10	Priority for Action	H M L		
11	Further Comments			



