

## Chapter 5

# Typology and hierarchy

**5.1** The GI Framework encourages the open space network to be assessed through grouping types of accessible greenspace and then viewing these by a hierarchy. The following chapter sets out how this approach has been applied for Herefordshire.

## Categorisation by typology

**5.2** Each open space has been assigned a primary typology based on key characteristics and functionality. The typology for each open space was assessed and amended as necessary following site visits. Descriptions of the typologies of open spaces in Herefordshire are set out below.

### Accessible greenspace

**5.3** These open spaces are aligned with those set out in the GI Framework, which offer a range of features recreation (formal or informal) and are primarily accessible to the public.

### Amenity greenspace

**5.4** Accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. This can include multi-functional spaces, which offer space for quiet relaxation as well as a range of amenities and activities for visitors. This also includes opportunities for informal activities close to home or work. Amenity greenspace may include children's play, youth and/or outdoor sports facilities.

**Figure 5.1: Example of amenity greenspace at Aylestone Park, Hereford**



## Natural and semi-natural greenspace

**5.5** These spaces provide access to nature, wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness. This includes areas of natural and semi-natural open space that are accessible via public rights of way, although access across the whole site may be limited.

**Figure 5.2: Example of natural and semi-natural greenspace at Shelwick Common, north of Hereford**



## Green corridors and chains

**5.6** These spaces provide opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.

**5.7** These greenspaces offer alternative provision for residents but access may be limited (e.g. members only) or they may have limited appeal for formal or informal recreation.



**Figure 5.3: Example of a green corridor at the Great Western Cycle Way, Hereford**



## Incidental greenspace

**5.8** These are small areas of greenspace less than 0.5ha and includes large road verges, small greens within residential suburbs and other areas of incidental greenspace usually within the built environment.

**Figure 5.4: Example of incidental greenspace at Deerhurst Drive, Hereford**



## Other open space provision

### Civic spaces

**5.9** These are areas, often hard surfaces, designed for pedestrians, including civic and market squares. This type of space of open space has less of a recreational role and is therefore less important to the overall provision of publicly accessible open space. Civic spaces have not been identified across Herefordshire, although two open spaces were visited as part of the audit work to give an indication of the type of functions they provide.



**Figure 5.5: Example of civic space at Eign Gate, Hereford**



## Provision for children and teenagers

**5.10** Provision for children and teenager sites are areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

**Figure 5.6: Example of provision for children and teenagers at Aylestone Park, Hereford**



## Allotments

**5.11** Opportunities for those people who wish to, to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

## Outdoor sports provision

**5.12** Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics, or countryside and water sports.

## Cemeteries and churchyards

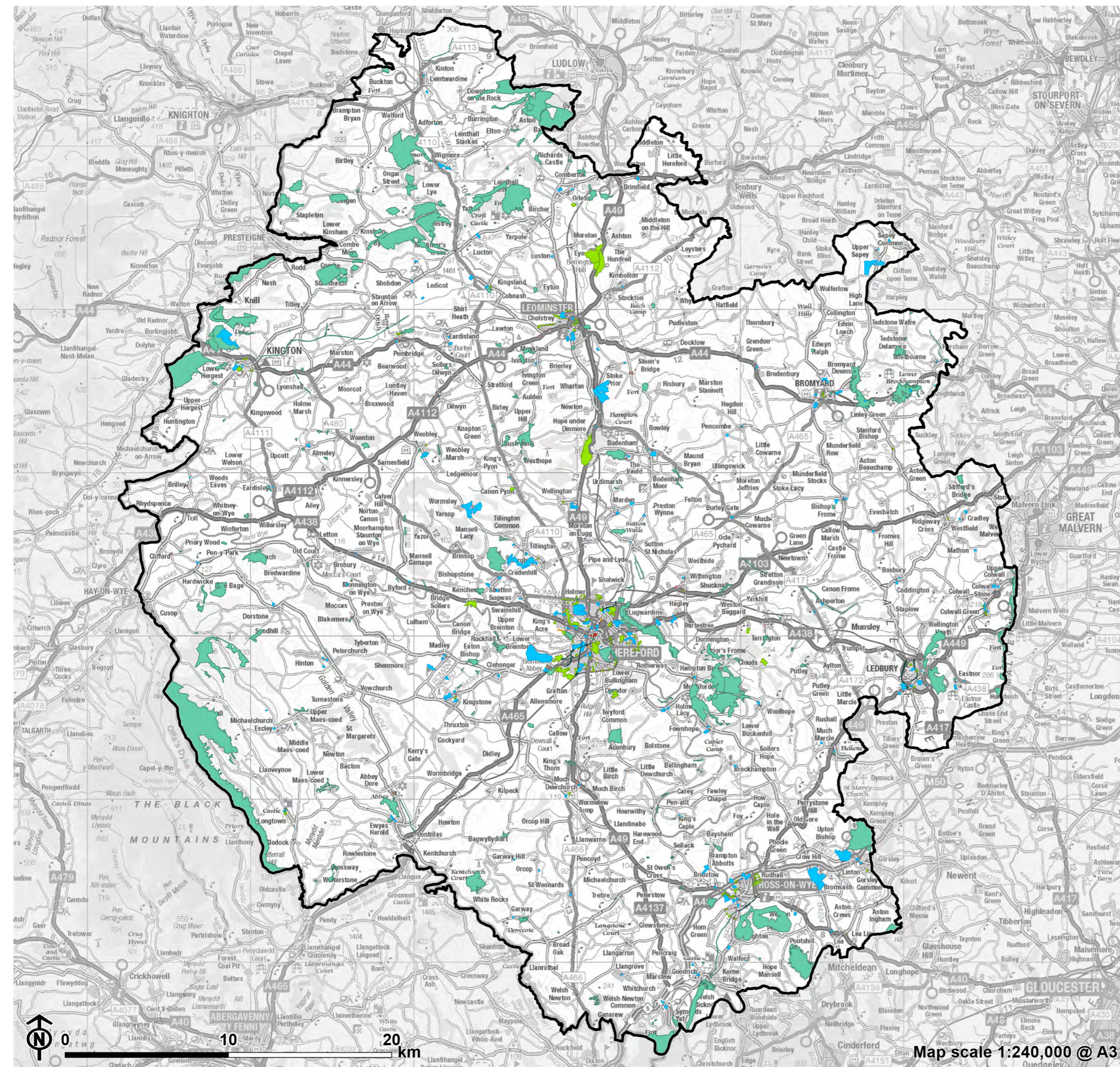
**5.13** Burial of the dead and a space for quiet contemplation, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

**5.14** Figure 5.7: Open space by primary typology in Herefordshire **Figure 5.7** to **Figure 5.13** show open space by primary typology across Herefordshire and by settlement.



Figure 5.7: Open space by primary typology in Herefordshire

- Herefordshire boundary
- Greenspace**
- Primary typology**
- Allotments
- Amenity greenspace
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Civic space
- Green corridors or chains
- Incidental greenspace
- Natural and semi natural
- Outdoor sports facility
- Provision for children and teenagers



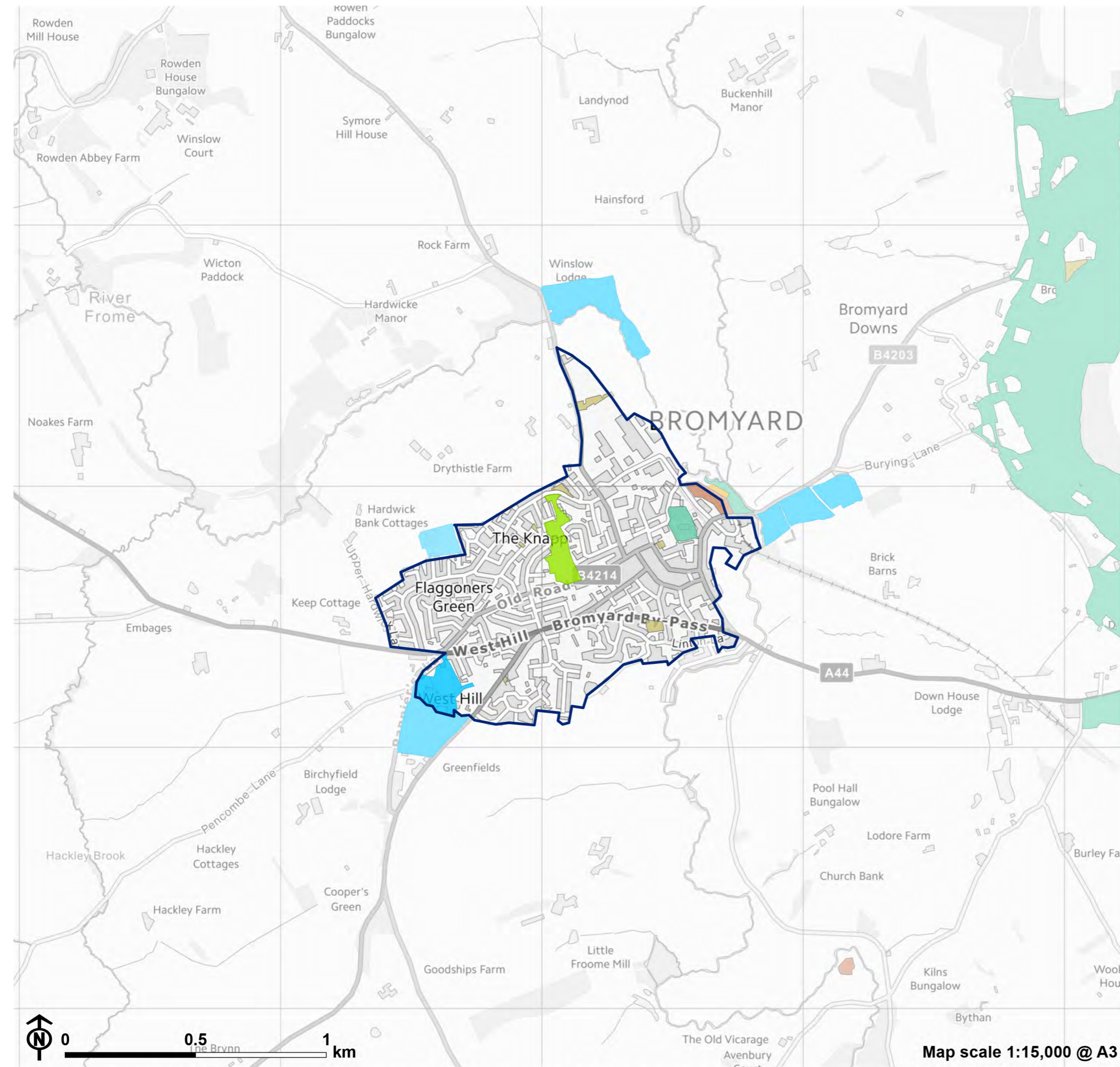
Source: Herefordshire Council, Natural England, Ordnance Survey

Map scale 1:240,000 @ A3



**Figure 5.8: Open space by primary typology in Bromyard**

- Herefordshire boundary
- Settlement boundary
- Primary typology**
  - Allotments
  - Amenity greenspace
  - Cemeteries and churchyards
  - Civic space
  - Green corridors or chains
  - Incidental greenspace
  - Natural and semi natural greenspace
  - Outdoor sports facility
  - Provision for children and teenagers



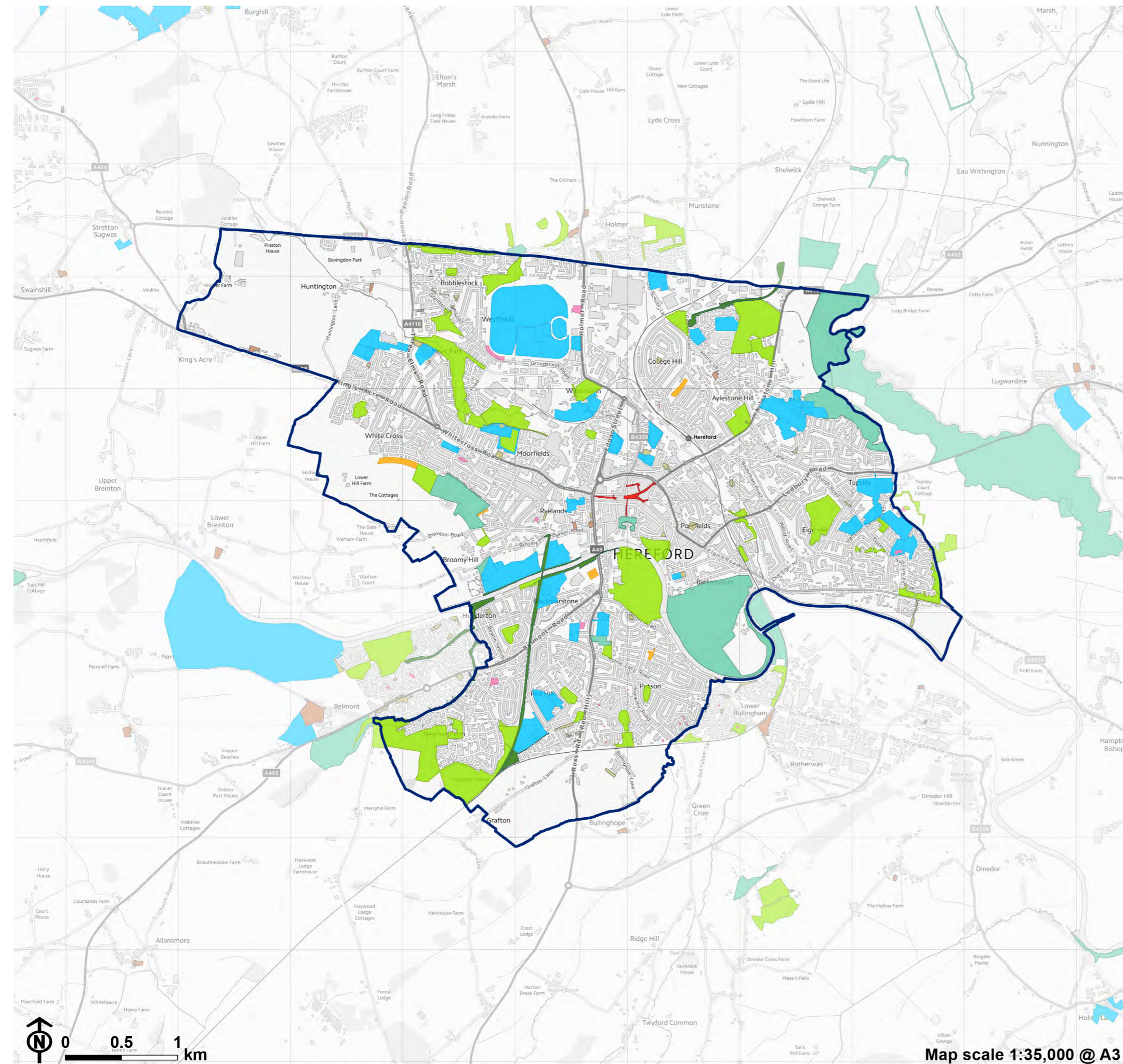
Source: Herefordshire Council, Natural England, Ordnance Survey

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**Figure 5.9: Open space by primary typology in Hereford**

- Herefordshire boundary
- Settlement boundary
- Primary typology**
  - Allotments
  - Amenity greenspace
  - Cemeteries and churchyards
  - Civic space
  - Green corridors or chains
  - Incidental greenspace
  - Natural and semi natural greenspace
  - Outdoor sports facility
  - Provision for children and teenagers



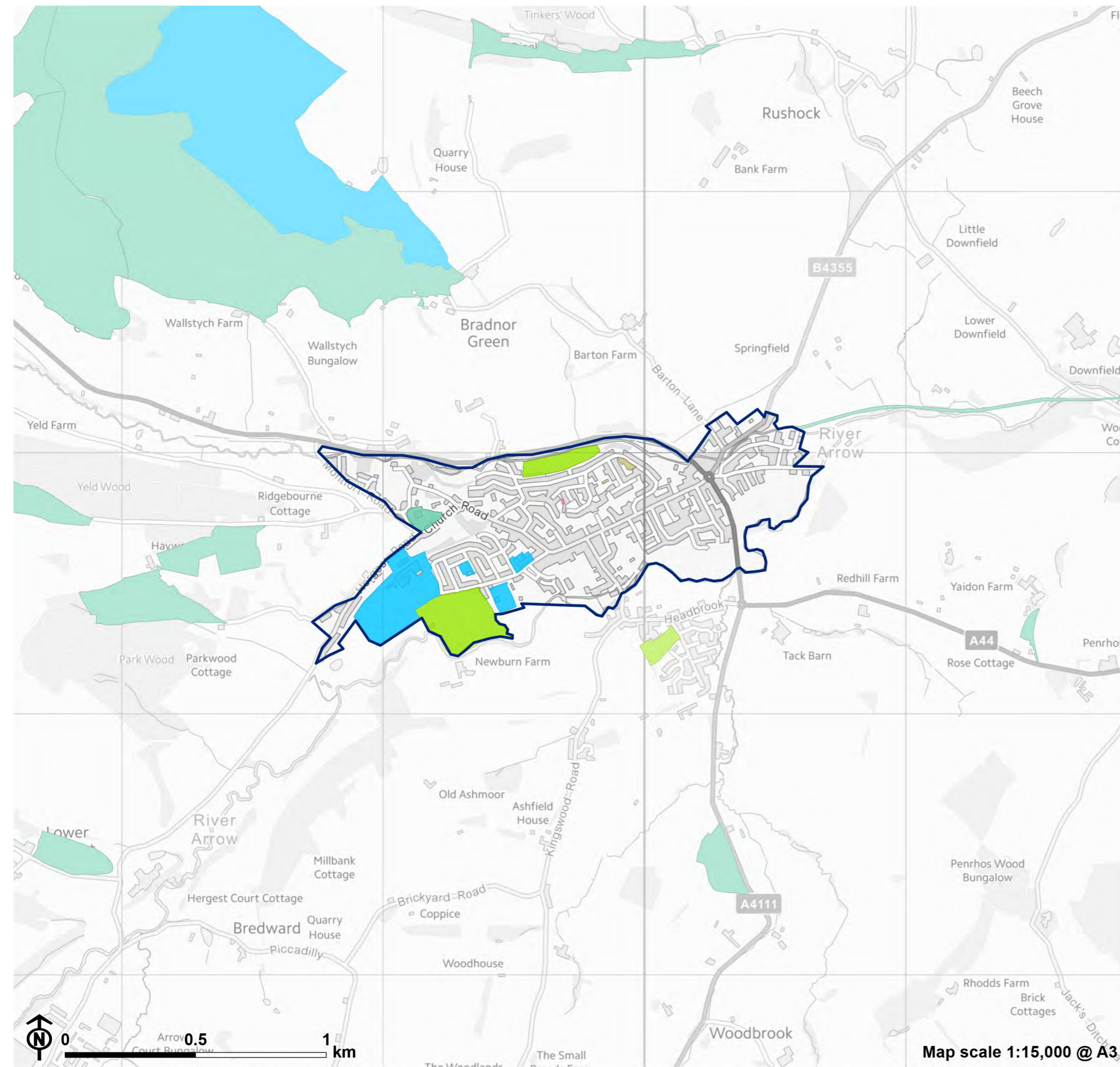
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Source: Herefordshire Council, Natural England, Ordnance Survey



**Figure 5.10: Open space by primary typology in Kington**

-  Herefordshire boundary
-  Settlement boundary
- Primary typology**
-  Allotments
-  Amenity greenspace
-  Cemeteries and churchyards
-  Civic space
-  Green corridors or chains
-  Incidental greenspace
-  Natural and semi natural greenspace
-  Outdoor sports facility
-  Provision for children and teenagers



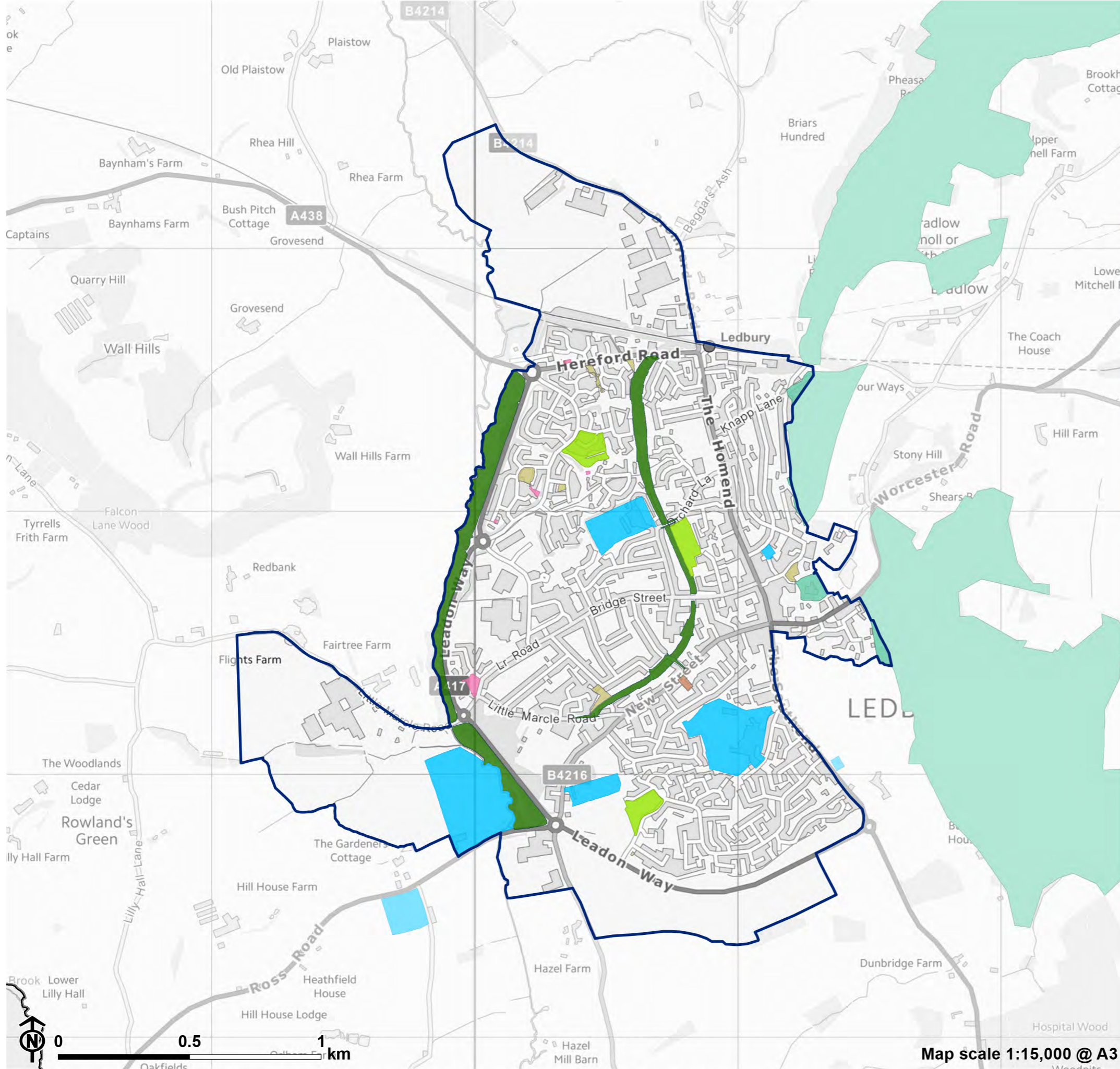
Source: Herefordshire Council, Natural England, Ordnance Survey

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**Figure 5.11: Open space by primary typology in Ledbury**

-  Herefordshire boundary
-  Settlement boundary
- Primary typology**
-  Allotments
-  Amenity greenspace
-  Cemeteries and churchyards
-  Civic space
-  Green corridors or chains
-  Incidental greenspace
-  Natural and semi natural greenspace
-  Outdoor sports facility
-  Provision for children and teenagers



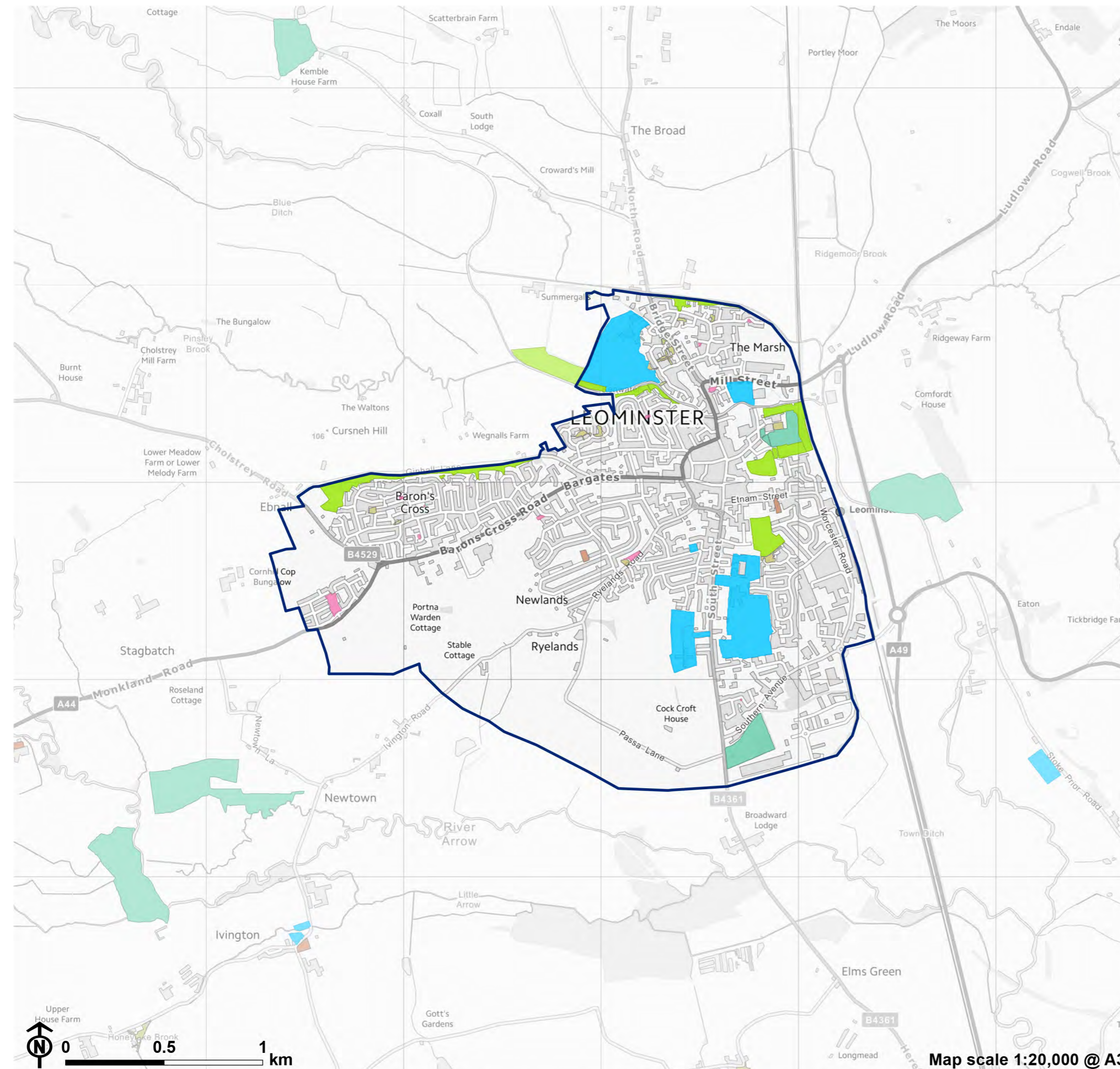
Source: Herefordshire Council, Natural England, Ordnance Survey

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**Figure 5.12: Open space by primary typology in Leominster**

- Herefordshire boundary
- Settlement boundary
- Primary typology**
  - Allotments
  - Amenity greenspace
  - Cemeteries and churchyards
  - Civic space
  - Green corridors or chains
  - Incidental greenspace
  - Natural and semi natural greenspace
  - Outdoor sports facility
  - Provision for children and teenagers

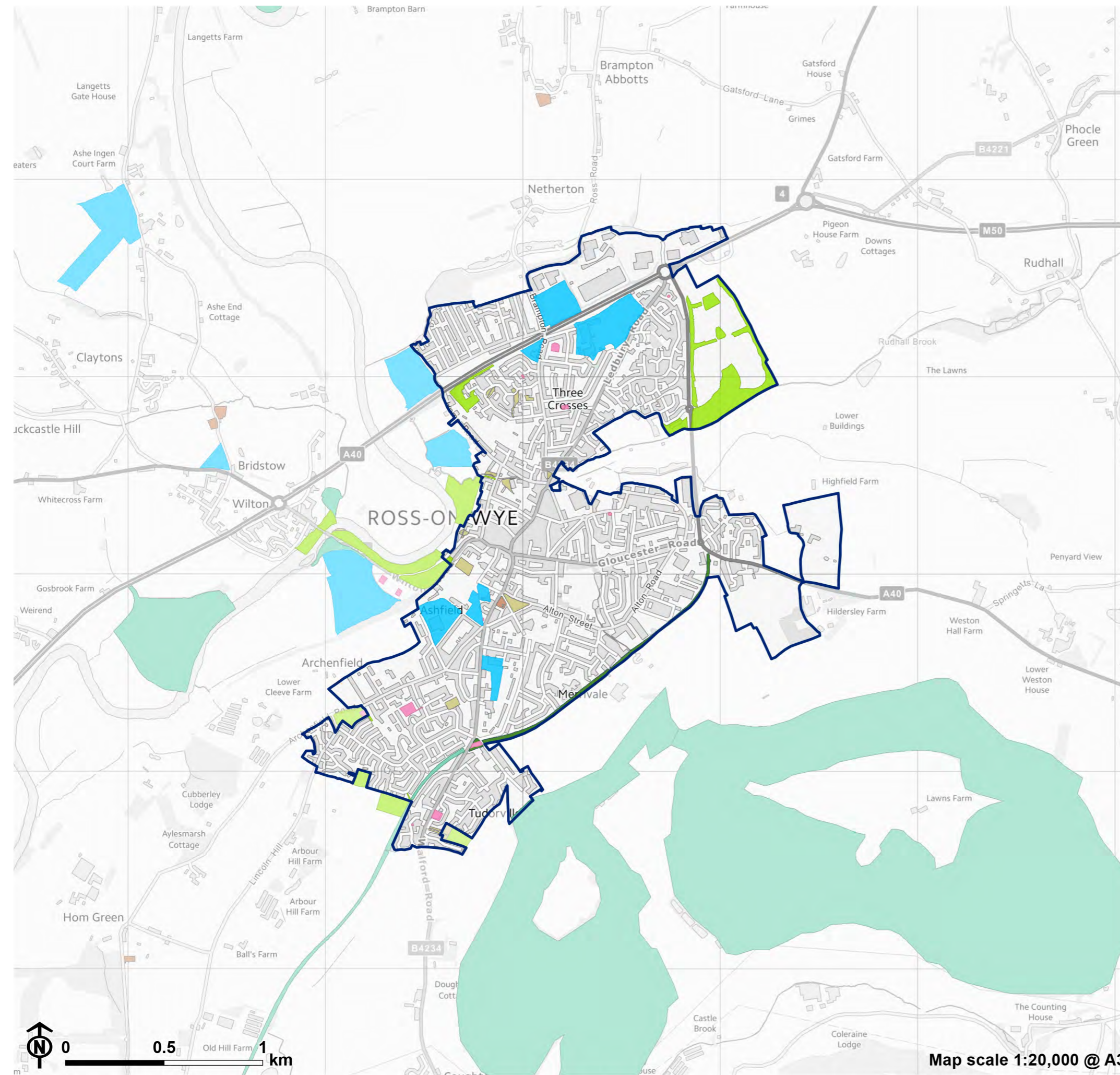


Source: Herefordshire Council, Natural England, Ordnance Survey

Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3



**Figure 5.13: Open space by primary typology in Ross-on-Wye**



- Herefordshire boundary
- Settlement boundary
- Primary typology**
- Allotments
- Amenity greenspace
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Civic space
- Green corridors or chains
- Incidental greenspace
- Natural and semi natural greenspace
- Outdoor sports facility
- Provision for children and teenagers

Source: Herefordshire Council, Natural England, Ordnance Survey

Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

## Developing a hierarchy

**5.15** In order to develop a framework for analysis of the open spaces and set appropriate standards, a detailed hierarchy has been developed. The hierarchy recognises that open spaces of different sizes would be expected to provide a different ‘offer’ to users. For instance, users will be more likely to travel further to reach a larger site with more facilities than a small area with no facilities.

**5.16** For the purpose of this assessment, a hierarchy has been set for sites categorised as accessible greenspace (i.e. amenity greenspaces, natural and semi-natural greenspace and green corridors and chains). The hierarchy is based on those defined by Natural England for accessible greenspaces with Fields in Trust guidance used to develop a hierarchy for provision for children and teenagers.

**5.17** The hierarchies used to assess provision of accessible greenspaces are set out in **Table 5.1**.

**Table 5.1: Accessible greenspace hierarchies**

Level of hierarchy	Size
Doorstep	0.5-1.99ha
Local	2-9.99ha
Neighbourhood	10-19.99ha
Wider neighbourhood	20-99.99ha
District	100-499.99ha
Sub-regional	500ha or over

**5.18** The hierarchies used to assess provision for children are set out in **Table 5.2**.

**Table 5.2: Provision for children and teenagers hierarchies**

Level of hierarchy	Size
Doorstep	0.01ha
Local	0.04ha
Neighbourhood	0.1ha



# Chapter 6

## Quantity analysis

### Current provision

**6.1** Following the assignment of a primary typology and hierarchy to each of the sites, **Table 6.1** and **Table 6.2** summarise the quantity of provision by typology and hierarchy within Herefordshire. This includes all sites, regardless of whether they were audited. **Table 6.3** shows the quantity of play spaces.

**6.2** The results show that the most common types of open space within Herefordshire are cemeteries and churchyards and natural and semi-natural greenspace. Cemeteries and churchyards, although many, tend to be relatively small, with an average site size of less than 0.5ha. Natural and semi-natural greenspaces include some much larger sites. This typology covers 16831ha, which makes up over 90% of all the open space in Herefordshire. Many of the large natural and semi-natural greenspace are areas of dedicated CRoW open access land or common land where access can be partially restricted due to a lack of access infrastructure despite legal access to the land.

**6.3** Incidental greenspace account for 231 open spaces across Herefordshire, but, as these are small sites, with an average size of just 0.16ha. Incidental greenspace plays a more important role in some of the larger settlements, making up 10% of open space land cover in Bromyard and 7% in Ross-on-Wye. This is compared to 0.14% in the rural district.

**6.4** Doorstep accessible greenspace is the most common type of accessible greenspace, and accounts for over 40% of these open spaces, although this makes up less than 1% of the area covered by accessible greenspace.

6.5 A breakdown of open space quantity by settlement is shown in the area profiles in Chapter 9.

**Table 6.1: Count and area of open space according to primary typology**

Primary typology	Count	Area
Amenity greenspace	96	457.19ha
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	259	7,563.51ha
Green corridors and chains	10	33.24ha
Incidental greenspace	224	35.71ha
Civic space	6	1.22ha
Provision for children and teenagers	119	10.54ha
Allotments	6	3.53ha
Outdoor sports provision	239	926.94ha
Cemeteries and churchyards	282	106.05ha

**Table 6.2: Count and area of accessible greenspace according to hierarchy**

Hierarchy	Count	Area
Subregional level (over 500ha)	2	1421,79ha
District level (100-500ha)	20	3393,38ha
Wider neighbourhood level (20-100ha)	37	2033.57ha
Neighbourhood level (10-20ha)	36	482.65
Local level (2-10ha)	123	572.04ha

Hierarchy	Count	Area
Doorstep level (0.5-2ha)	147	150.51ha

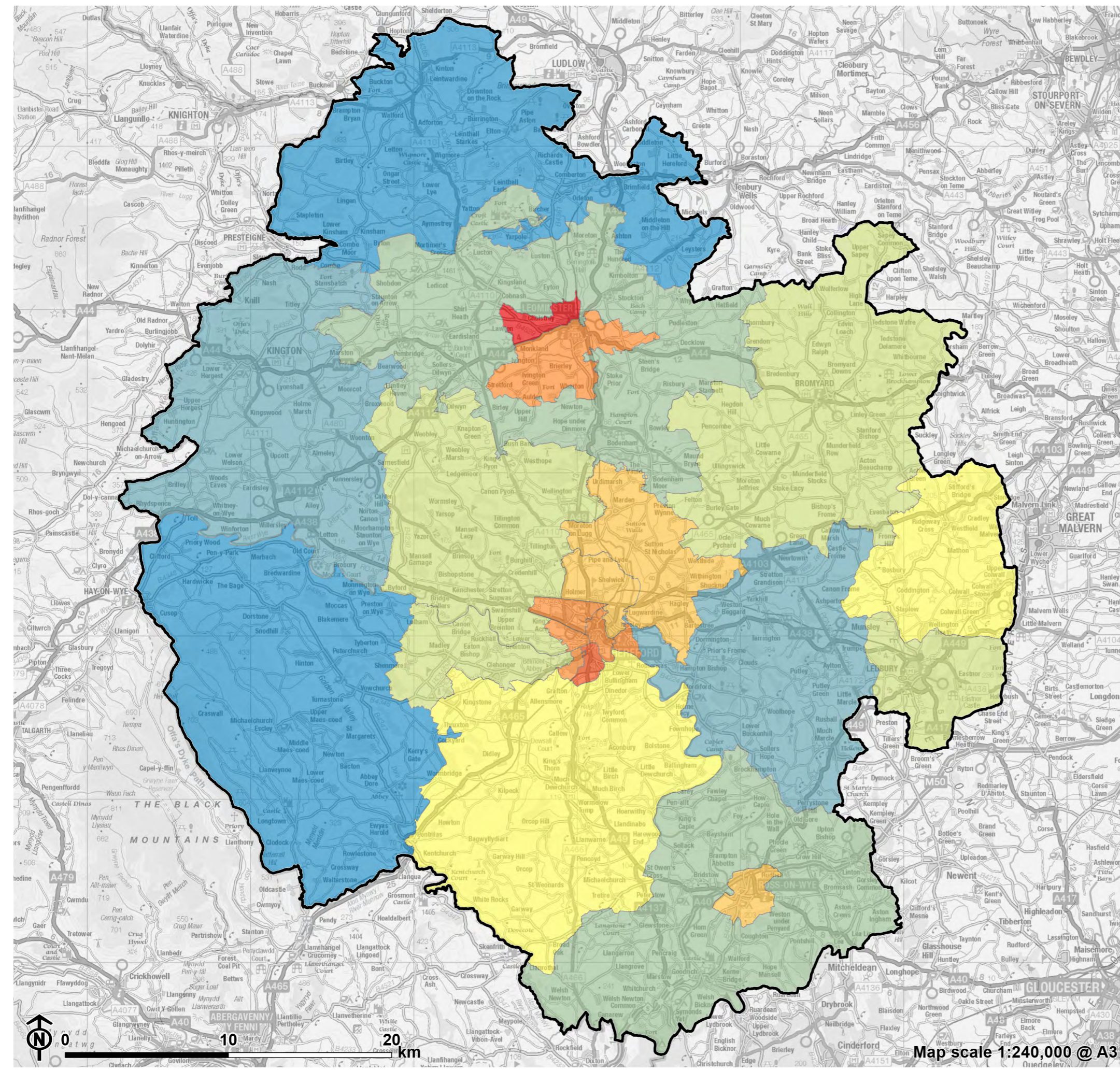
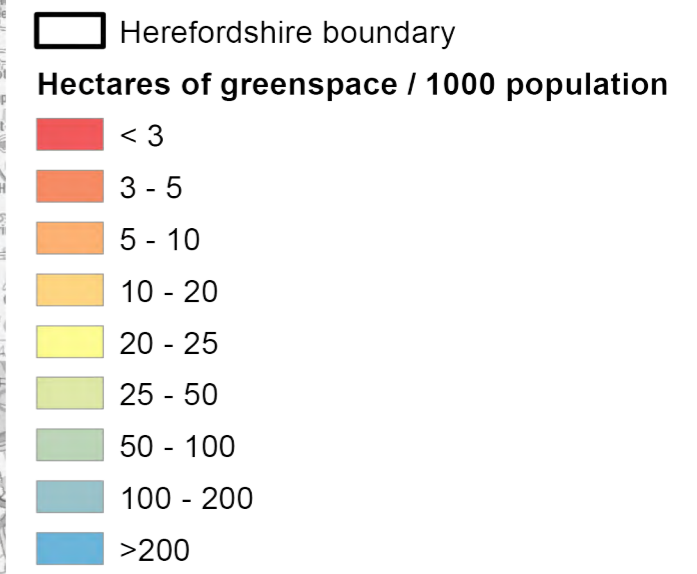
**Table 6.3: Count and area of provision for children and teenagers according to hierarchy**

Play hierarchy	Count	Area
Doorstep	49	0.96ha
Local	78	5.88ha
Neighbourhood	46	10.11ha

**6.6 Figure 6.1** below shows the distribution of accessible greenspace compared to population across the county. The highest quantity of accessible greenspace per 1000 of the population, is found in the west and north of the county. The lowest quantity, compared to population, is around north Leominster and south Hereford.



Figure 6.1: Quantity of accessible greenspace per 1000 population



Source: Herefordshire Council, Office for National Statistics

Map scale 1:240,000 @ A3



# Setting quantity standards

## Accessible greenspace

6.7 The Natural England Green Infrastructure Standards define a quantity of standard of 3ha of accessible greenspace per 1000 of the population.

6.8 Table 6.4 sets out how each location compares to the 3ha per 1000 of the population standard. Hereford and Kington exceed this standard as do the rural areas. However, Bromyard, Ledbury, Leominster, and Ross-on-Wye fall below the standard.

**Table 6.4: Current provision of accessible greenspace in Herefordshire**

Location	Area per 1000 of the population	Above/below 3ha per 1000 of the population
Hereford	4.04ha	+0.96
Bromyard	0.97ha	-2.03
Kington	3.07ha	+0.07
Ledbury	1.44ha	-1.76
Leominster	1.61ha	-1.39
Ross-on-Wye	1.63ha	-1.37
Rural areas	88.18ha	+85.18
Herefordshire as a whole	41.85ha	+38.85

6.9 Although the 3ha per 1000 of the population exceeds the current provision levels across settlements, it should be used as an aspiration to improve access

to accessible greenspace across the county. Opportunities may present themselves through improved access and functionality of other types of open spaces (e.g. incidental green space, outdoor sports facilities and cemeteries and churchyards) and promoting use of the network of public rights of way.

**6.10 Table 6.5** sets out how the quantity of all open space within each of the locations. This includes all accessible greenspaces, allotments, provision for children and teenagers, outdoor sports facilities, incidental greenspace and civic spaces. It shows that even with this additional provision, Bromyard and Ledbury continue to fall below the 3ha standard.

**Table 6.5: Current provision of all open space in Herefordshire**

Location	Area per 1000 of the population	Above/below 3ha per 1000 of the population
Hereford	6.21ha	+3.21
Bromyard	2.05ha	-0.95
Kington	6.06ha	+3.06
Ledbury	2.80ha	-0.20
Leominster	3.87ha	+0.87
Ross-on-Wye	3.12ha	+0.12
Rural areas	97.72ha	+94.72
Herefordshire as a whole	47.28ha	+44.28

**6.11** Although rural areas appear to be performing strongly in terms of quantity of accessible greenspace per 1000 head of the population, many of these sites fall within the natural and semi-natural greenspace typology and are therefore sensitive to recreational pressure.



## Provision for children and teenagers

**6.12** The Fields in Trust provides a quantity standard for play provision of 0.25ha per 1000 of the population.

**6.13 Table 6.6** shows the quantity of open spaces offering provision for children and teenagers across Herefordshire. The quantity is shared by 1000 of the population within the 0 – 14 age range and is compared to the Fields in Trust standard of 0.25ha per 1000 of the population.

**Table 6.6: Current provision for children and teenagers across Herefordshire**

Location	Area per 1000 of the population (age 0-14)	Above/below 0.25ha per 1000 of the population
Hereford	0.52ha	+0.26
Bromyard	0.59ha	+0.34
Kington	0.30ha	+0.05
Ledbury	0.60ha	+0.35
Leominster	0.66ha	+0.41
Ross-on-Wye	0.85ha	+0.6
Rural areas	0.51ha	+0.26
Herefordshire as a whole	0.53ha	+0.28

## Allotments

**6.14** The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) have suggested a national standard of 0.125ha per 1000 of the population, based on an average plot size of 250m<sup>2</sup>.

**6.15 Table 6.7** shows the quantity of allotments within the county. Overall, there is an under provision of allotments throughout Herefordshire.

**Table 6.7: Current provision of allotments across Herefordshire**

Location	Area per 1000 of the population	Above/below 0.125ha per 1000 of the population
Hereford	0.055ha	-0.070
Bromyard	0.039ha	-0.086
Kington	0ha	-0.125
Ledbury	0ha	-0.125
Leominster	0ha	-0.125
Ross-on-Wye	0ha	-0.125
Rural areas	0ha	-0.125
Herefordshire as a whole	0.018ha	0.107