



# Camden Play Strategy

## Camden Council

**Draft Final Report**

Prepared by LUC

November 2025

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Camden Play Strategy

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## Executive Summary

Play is fundamental to the physical and emotional development of children and young people. The benefits of play contribute to children's activity levels, cognitive development, mental health, emotional well-being, social development, and their connection to the natural environment [See reference 1 and reference 2]. Internationally, children's right to play is recognised within Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This legislation places a responsibility on governments to respect, protect and fulfil the right to play for all children.

London Borough of Camden (LBC) lies in central London and is the ninth most densely populated area of London's 33 local authority areas. One third of children in the borough are above a healthy weight by the end of primary school. Although Camden has a roughly average deprivation score, the most deprived areas in Camden are concentrated in the centre and south-east of the borough.

To improve the understanding of play provision within the borough LBC commissioned LUC to map and audit the play provision. The objectives of the study are to:

- Update the evidence base for play spaces in the borough.
- Audit and assess the quantity, quality, accessibility and value of play spaces, spatially identifying deficits and surpluses.
- Set appropriate local standards.
- Provide evidence in a strategic context to inform future related strategies, planning policy and developer contributions.

A data compilation and mapping exercise was undertaken encompassing all existing play provision, sport and recreational infrastructure and underutilised open spaces within the borough. A total of 275 sites of play provision were identified in the borough. 180 sites were visited for audits.

The play spaces are recorded as one of four typologies:

- Doorstep Playable Space (ages 0-5)
- Local Playable Space (ages 0-11)
- Neighbourhood Playable Space (all ages)
- Youth Space (age 12+)

The mapping of play provision accessibility in LBC was completed by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) in accordance with their methodology for mapping open space deficiencies across London. There is low access to doorstep play spaces across the borough, with all wards having at least 60% of their area in an area of deficiency. There is better access to larger play sites including local and neighbourhood play spaces.

Key barriers to access include the A41 Finchley Road between West and North Camden, the intersection of railway lines around Kings Cross, Euston and West Hampstead, and a number of A roads in South Camden.

The existing play provision was audited for both quality and value, using the Play England Standards, the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) inspection regulations and Field in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play.

- **Value** relates to the presence of various features and facilities, value to the community, location and standard of design; and
- **Quality** covers aspects relating to management and the condition of features and facilities.

Results of the quality and value analysis indicate that most of the play provision in Camden is performing its basic function, including meeting health and safety standards, providing secure access and delivering basic features such as benches and litter bins.

Benchmark scores are proposed for each play typology, to identify current needs for improvement and prioritise investment and enhancement. Notable areas where play provision is shown to be performing below the benchmark standard are:

- In the south of West Camden, particularly south of the Euston-Watford railway line.
- In the south and east of Central Camden.

The site quality and value scores are combined with the play needs mapping to identify specific sites or broader geographic areas where enhancement of play provision would provide the greatest benefits for the community. Key areas are:

- Kilburn ward: South of the Euston-Watford railway line
- North Camden: Fewer play spaces across the area. Specific sites falling below the benchmark are noted north of the Gospel Oak to Barking line.
- Camden Town: East of Camden High Street / Eversholt Street

■ King's Cross: South of Euston Road and east of Judd Street

New development should address the deficiency of play space across the borough and therefore provide publicly accessible play space. At a minimum, this should meet the needs of the existing community and accommodate future population growth. The importance of long term maintenance should also be considered to ensure that equipment can be maintained at a high quality throughout its life cycle.

Where formal play provision cannot be provided on-site, off-site provision, including the creation of new facilities or improvements to existing provision, may be acceptable to LBC. Any off-site play provision should demonstrate that it can meet the needs of both existing and future residents.

The charging approach used to calculate financial contributions for provision of play space by LBC should allow for off-site contributions and long term maintenance of play sites.

It is recommended that an action plan is developed by LBC to identify relevant stakeholders and LBC teams to effectively address the identified play needs. The findings of this study should be used as the starting point when identifying priority play sites for future investment and enhancement.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### Overview

**1.1** London Borough of Camden Council (herein referred to as the ‘Council’) commissioned LUC to map and audit play provision within the borough. The aim of this document is to define an approach to improving access to play across Camden. The findings will provide the Council with the evidence base to increase:

- access, quality and design of play spaces.
- use of public spaces to promote opportunities for play and physical activity.
- safety of play equipment.
- opportunities for inclusive play spaces; and
- community cohesion and reduce social isolation.

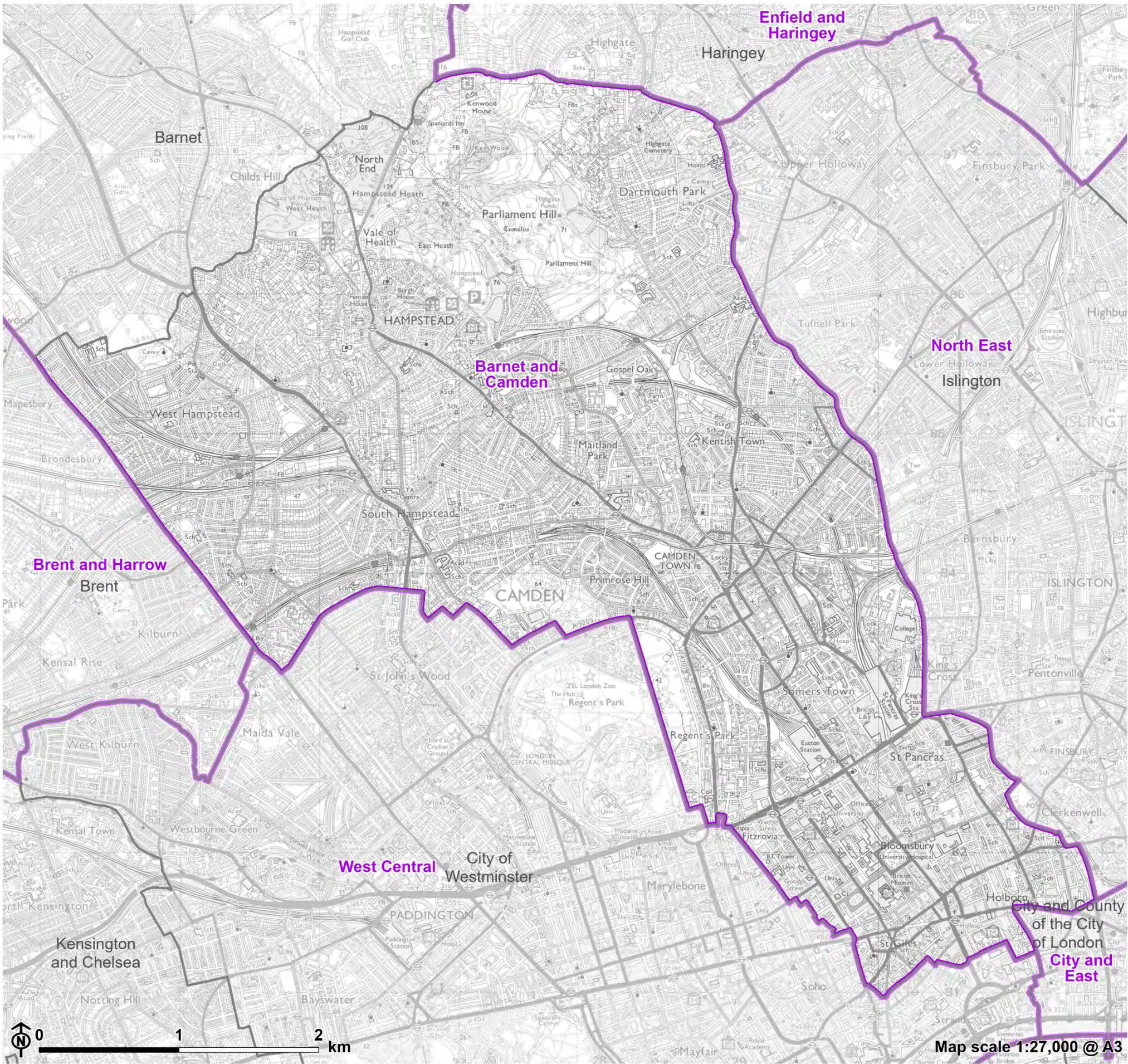
**1.2** London Borough of Camden (LBC) is a borough in central London. The borough is bordered to the west by Brent, with Barnet and Haringey bordering the north and Islington to the east. Westminster borders the south of the borough. The borough is subdivided into 20 wards. The borough ranks 9<sup>th</sup> highest in population density of London’s 33 local authority areas [See reference 3], with an estimated population of 210,000 in 2021 [See reference 4]. The population has decreased by 4.6% between 2011 to 2021, which is the opposite of the regional trend for London, where the population increased by 7.7% [See reference 5].

**1.3** The Greater London Authority (GLA) guidance for play and informal recreation (Policy S4 Play and informal recreation) states that London Boroughs should ‘prepare Development Plans that are informed by a needs assessment’ [See reference 6]. An audit of existing play and informal recreation opportunities and the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision should be included in the assessment. The guidance also states to address identified needs, strategies should be produced on play and informal recreation facilities and opportunities, supported by Development Plan policies.

**1.4** The guidance is informed by the recognition that safe and stimulating play is essential for children and young people’s mental and physical health and

wellbeing and development. Consideration of play provision and identifying increased opportunities for play and informal recreation are recommended. Provisions should encourage inclusive, easily accessible play catering to different age groups and wherever possible grassed and wooded area.

Figure 1.1: Greater London Context



Camden Play Strategy  
London Borough of Camden



Figure 1.1: Greater London context

- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Greater London Authority Assembly constituencies

## Scope

**1.5** This document considers all play provision within LBC, which includes play provision within parks and open spaces, as well as ‘standalone’ play provision in other locations.

**1.6** There is a wide variety of form and setting of play provision which should be considered. Examples of other types of play provision that are excluded from this strategy include:

- Supervised play sessions.
- Play in schools, play groups, etc.
- Formal sports provision for organised use (e.g. club use).
- Soft play centres; and
- Incidental areas of grass or greenspace that are not designed or equipped play provision. However, the potential supporting role and benefits of incorporating natural and informal play areas as part of equipped play provision is considered.

**1.7** LBC play provision has been categorised in accordance with the Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation [\[See reference 7\]](#) typologies:

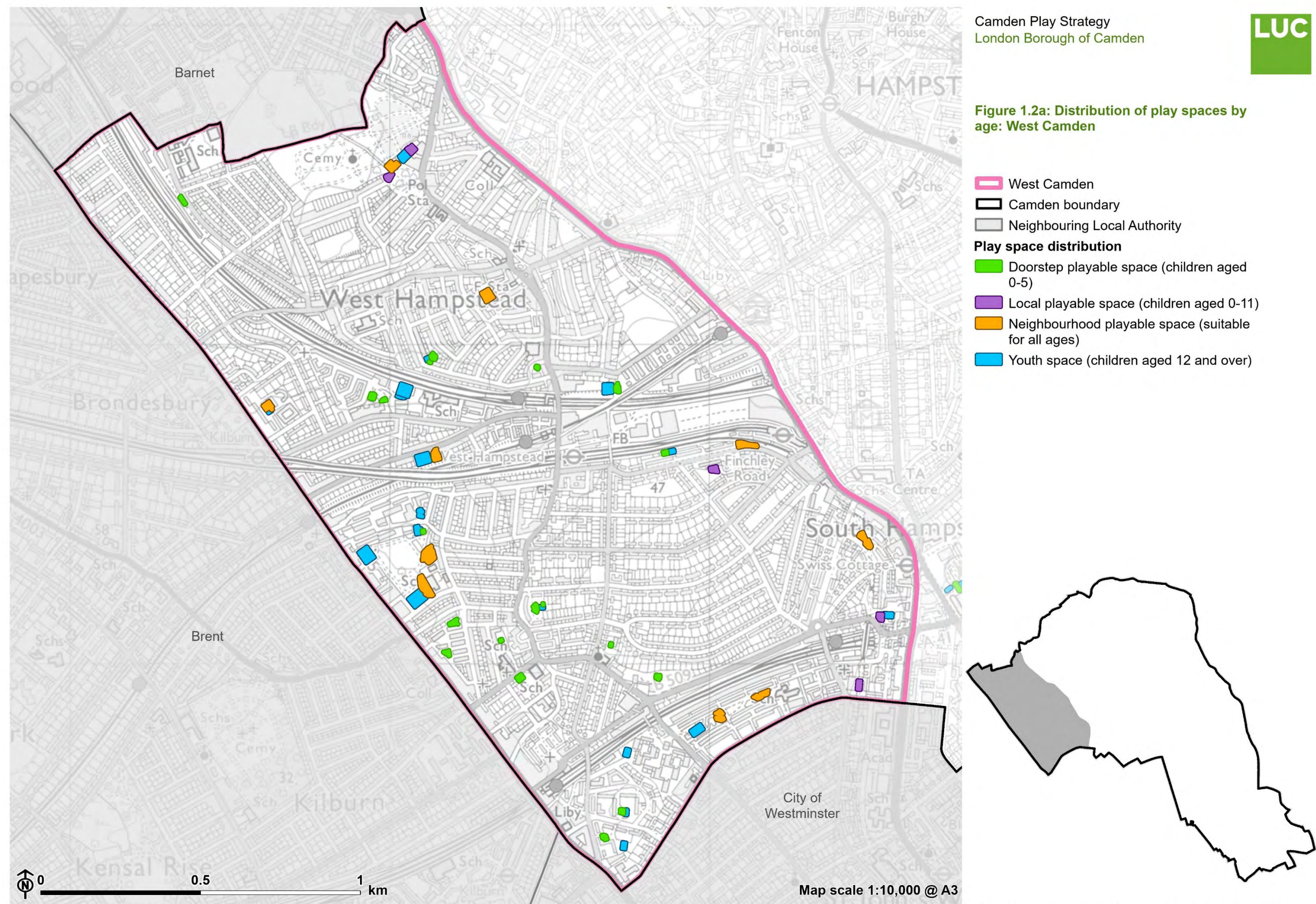
- Doorstep Playable Space – A site including play features for young children, and places for carers to sit and talk. Suitable for children aged 0-5.
- Local Playable Space – A site with landscaping and equipment so that children aged from birth to 11 can play and be physically active, whilst their carers can sit and talk. Suitable for children aged 0-11.
- Neighbourhood Playable Space – A site with a combination of secluded and open areas, landscaping and equipped play so that children aged from birth to 11 can play and be physically active, whilst their carers can sit and talk. The site often includes youth facilities. Suitable for all ages.
- Youth Space – Social space for young people aged 12 and over to meet, hang out and take part in informal sport or physical recreational activities. Suitable for children aged 12+.

**1.8** **Figures 1.2a-e** show the distribution of these play space categories across the borough.

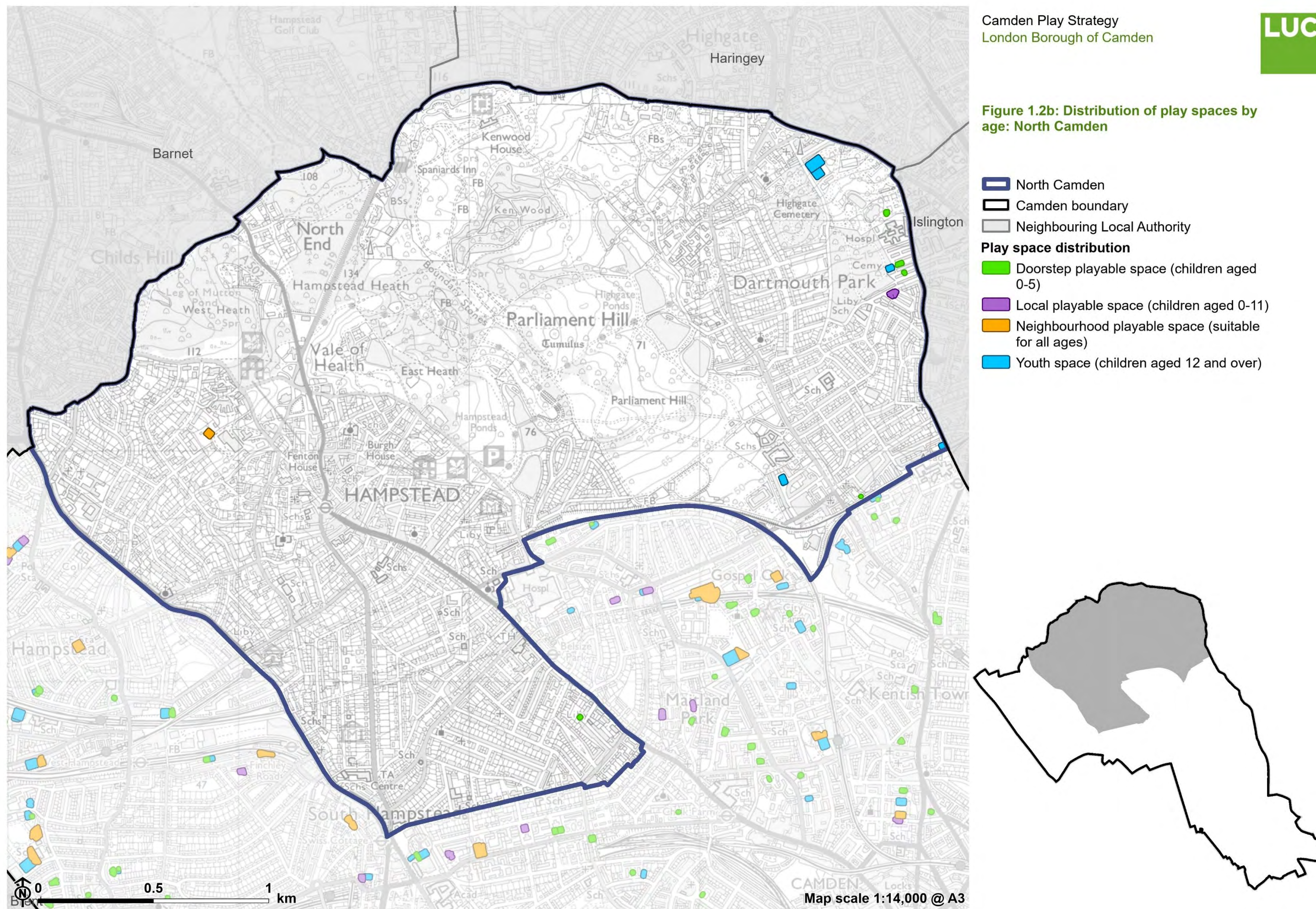
**1.9** For the purposes of this document, the following terminology is defined as follows:

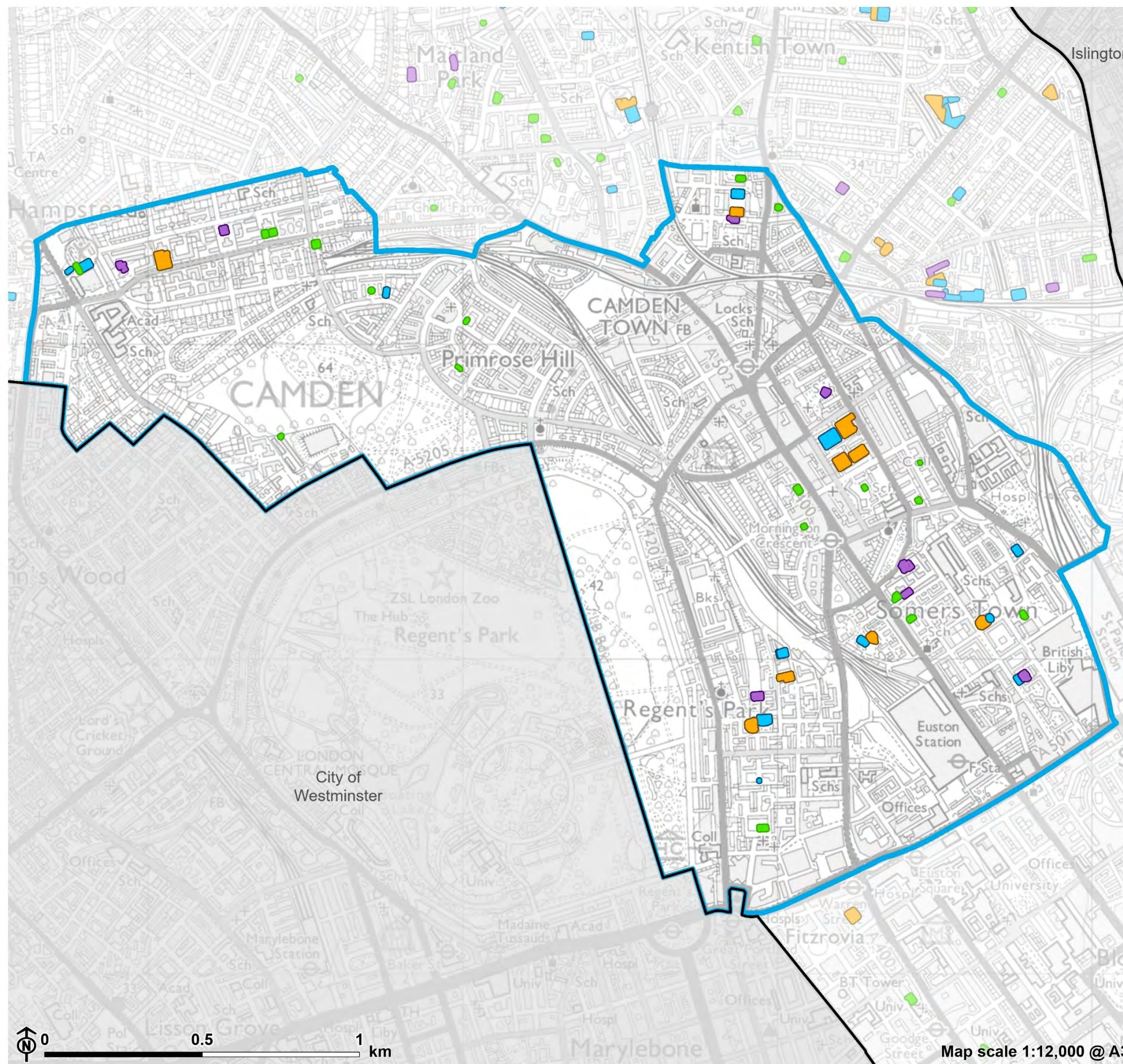
- Play provision – Play equipment which is publicly accessible.
- Other play / sports provision - Equipment designed to provide social or active spaces. For example, a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), skate park or teen shelter.
- Play site – A publicly accessible open space which contains at least one item of play provision.
- Open space – Publicly accessible space which does not contain specific equipment to encourage play.

Figure 1.2: Distribution of Play Spaces by age



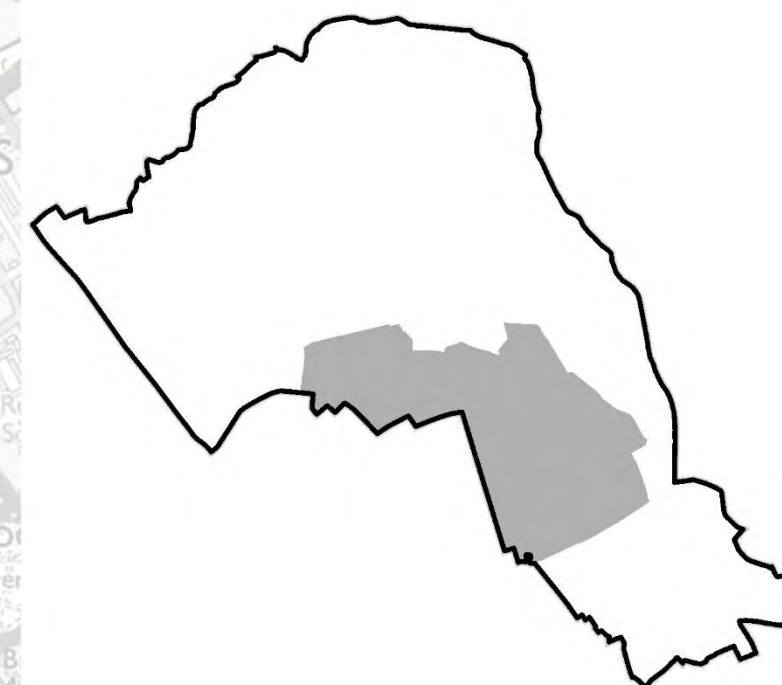
**Figure 1.2b: Distribution of play spaces by age: North Camden**

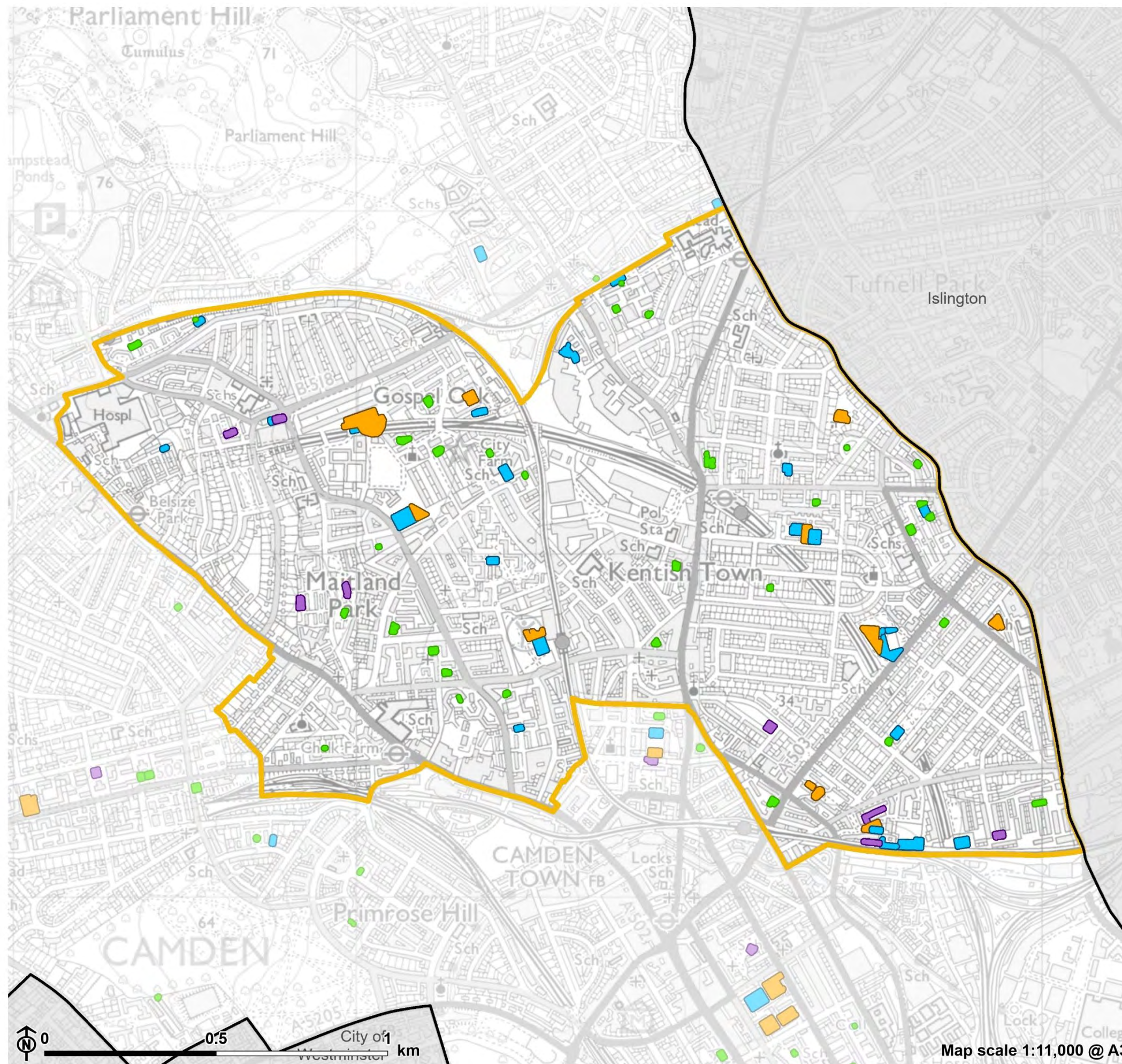




**Figure 1.2c: Distribution of play spaces by age: Central Camden**

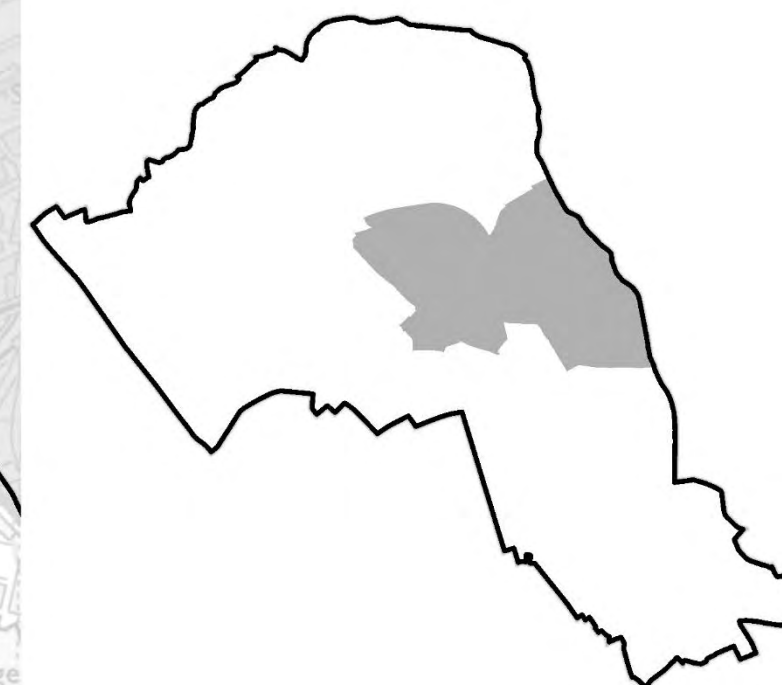
- Central Camden
- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Play space distribution**
- Doorstep playable space (children aged 0-5)
- Local playable space (children aged 0-11)
- Neighbourhood playable space (suitable for all ages)
- Youth space (children aged 12 and over)





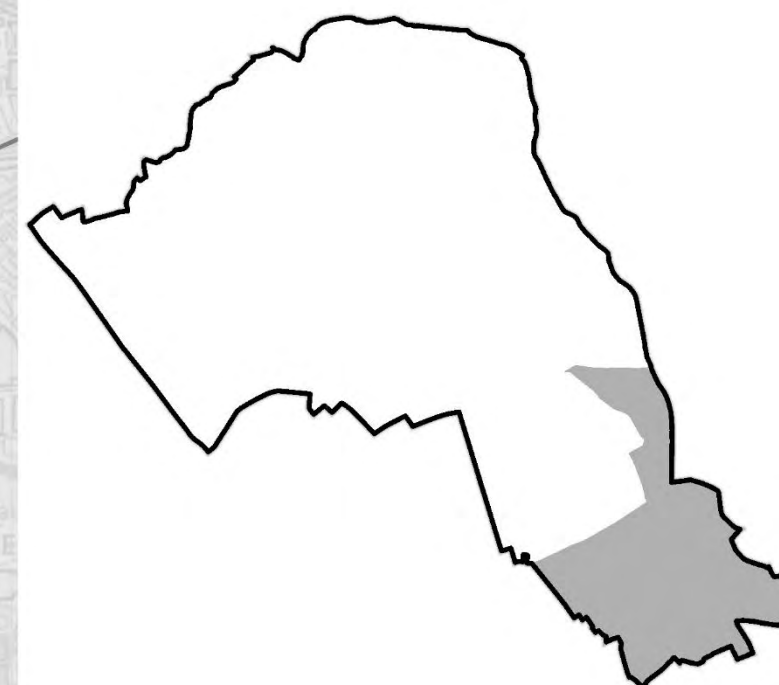
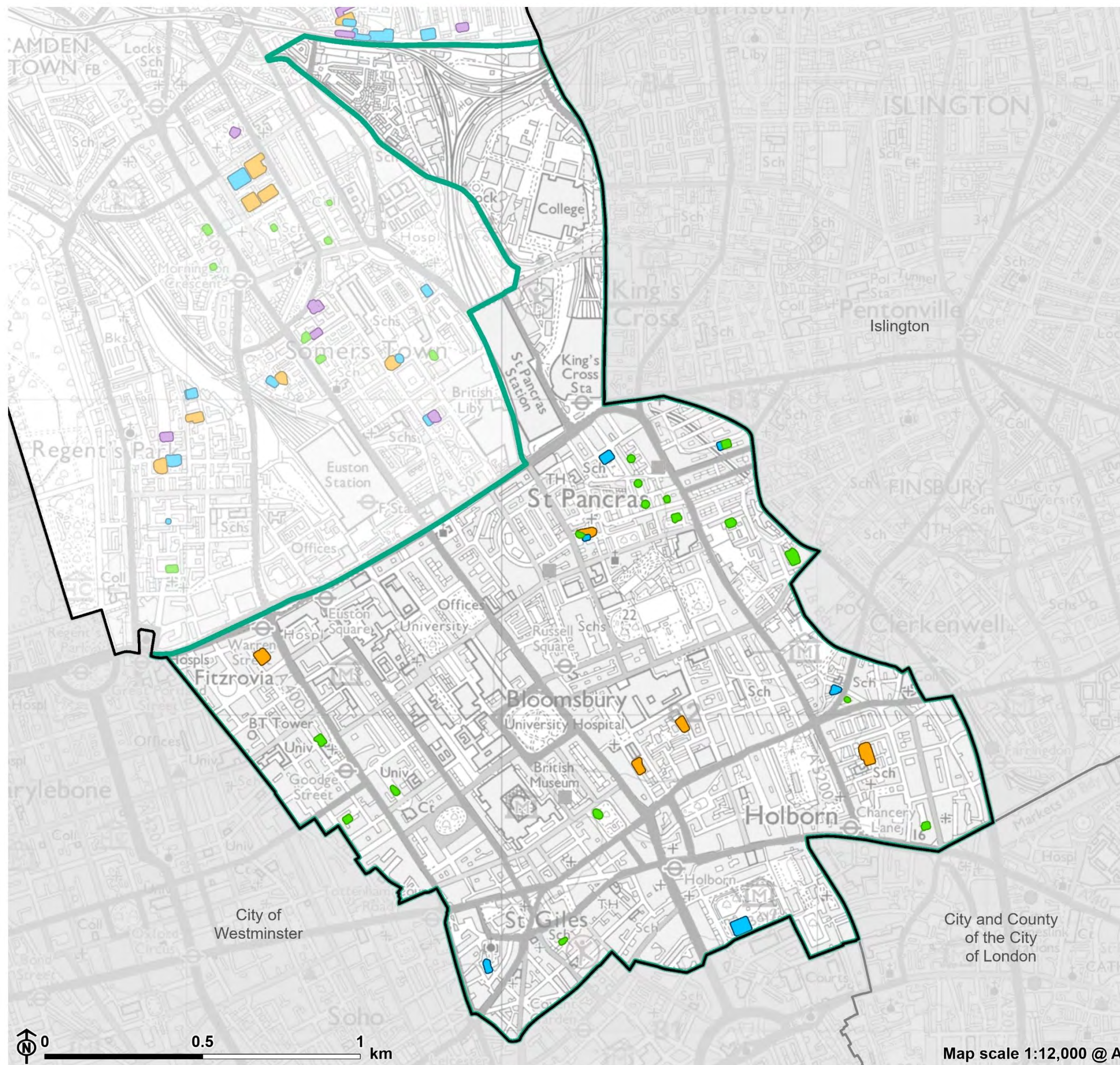
**Figure 1.2d: Distribution of play spaces by age: East Camden**

- East Camden
- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Play space distribution**
- Doorstep playable space (children aged 0-5)
- Local playable space (children aged 0-11)
- Neighbourhood playable space (suitable for all ages)
- Youth space (children aged 12 and over)



Map scale 1:11,000 @ A3

Figure 1.2e: Distribution of play spaces by age: South Camden



## Summary of approach

**1.10** The project methodology has been divided into three distinct stages, as outlined below:

- **Phase 1: Mapping** – The first stage of the Study included comprehensive mapping of the borough's play provision. This data compilation and mapping exercise encompassed all existing play provision, sport and recreational infrastructure (i.e. outdoor gyms), and underutilised open spaces within the borough. A summary of the data compilation process is provided in **Figure 1.3**.
- **Phase 2: Assessment** – An assessment was undertaken of the existing play provision within the borough, determining its quality in relation to Play England standards, assessing their compliancy with Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) inspection regulations, and classifying them in line with Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play. This resulted in the creation of an evidence base that could be used to monitor and evaluate the quality and quantity of places within the borough, and work to identify sites requiring improvement. An audit form and scoring system for play provision was created that ensured the quality of each site was assessed in relation to Play England standards and the RPII inspection regulations. Site audits were undertaken to record specific play affordances and to assess the design, value, and maintenance of play provision / features. Other on-site play / sports provision and key opportunities for play enhancement were noted for each site as necessary.
- **Phase 3: Visioning** – Conceptual plans were produced for a selection of currently underutilised sites as part of a visioning exercise. A framework was also created to guide the design of future play provision within the borough, in response to future funding opportunities.

**Figure 1.3: Data compilation process**

## Defining play

**1.11** Play is critically important in the physical and emotional development of children. It is fundamental in supporting individuals to connect with their environment and develop inter- and intrapersonal skills.

**1.12** To define play can be difficult, as it can vary significantly between individuals. Play England – Charter for Play uses the definition ‘what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons’ [See reference 8]. In 2004, the Play Work Principles Scrutiny Group developed a professional and ethical framework for playworkers and play work [See reference 9]. Play Work Principles one and two also offer a definition of play:

- All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological, and social necessity, and is

fundamental to the healthy development and well-being of individuals and communities.

- Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.

**1.13** As play is a creative act, characteristics and behaviours of play are both broad and diverse. Play behaviours may include running, jumping, chasing, rules-based games/invented games, play fighting, shouting, role-playing, imagination and fantasy, creating and destroying, use of objects and loose parts, and risk-taking.

**1.14** However, it is important to define play separately from organised activities, groups, clubs, and classes which often have external rules and conditions, which are generally defined by adults.

**1.15** Play can be loosely grouped into three main activities and behaviours that encourage development in children: imaginative, physical and social play. These activities and behaviours can be more specifically categorised across the various development stages in children **[See reference 10]**:

- Pre-symbolic play – 0-12 months
- Manipulative play – 0-12 months
- Attunement play – 0-3 years
- Object play – 12-18 months
- Symbolic play – 12-18 months
- Body play & movement – 2 months-1.5 years
- Construction play – 12 months onwards
- Imaginative play – 18 months-3 years
- Creative play – 1.5 years onwards
- Highly active games e.g. chasing, rough and tumble – 1.5 years onwards
- Social play – 2-8 years
- Pretend play, representational play, dramatic play – 3-8 years
- Language Play – 4 years onwards
- Games with rules, competition, risk taking, gaming – 8 years onwards.

**1.16** These listed development changes are viewed as fundamental for healthy physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of children. Therefore, play provision should be designed to encourage, promote and facilitate play that supports these developmental changes.

## Benefits of play

**1.17** This document emphasises, alongside a rich evidence base, the importance of play for children and young people's wellbeing, health and development.

### Play for Change [See reference 11]

Discussion of play has been consistently undervalued in public policy for children, which tends to focus on children's development into adulthood while overlooking the importance of the physical, social, cultural and emotional worlds that children both inhabit and create in their daily lives.

**1.18** Key benefits of play coincide with a child's physical, mental and emotional health, wellbeing and development. Play Scotland [See reference 12] and Play England [See reference 13] have issued reports that evidence these benefits. The key findings of this research can be summarised as follows:

- **Physical activity:** play encourages movement and healthy development. Active play is the most common form of physical activity for children outside of school, and those that walk and play together tend to have greater levels of activity in other areas of their lives.
- **Physical development:** play can help to develop strong bones, muscle strength, lung capacity and sophisticated physical skills and co-ordinated movements from an early age.
- **Cognitive development:** play can help to support progression of language and problem-solving skills, gaining perspective, memory and creativity from an early age.
- **Mental health and emotional wellbeing:** play can improve mental health and support psychological development which helps children to express themselves. It encourages the exploration of confusing or painful feelings and builds resilience from understanding of relationships and experiencing positive feelings and reactions. Imaginative play can particularly develop emotional wellbeing, self-control, control of fear and anxiety and empathy.

- **Social development:** play can help facilitate connections with others, as it often is a social experience, shared with others. Children can create and establish and strengthen friendships through play.
- **Connection to the natural environment:** outdoor play and contact with nature can improve a child's ability to concentrate and be self-disciplined, gather information and understand their local environment.

## Structure of the report

**1.19** The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2** sets out the strategic context and policy drivers for the project. This section provides a review of relevant international, national, regional and local policies and strategies and key considerations within LBC.
- **Chapter 3** sets out the importance and need for play provision in LBC. This includes a summary of population, health and wellbeing characteristics of the area and a summary of community insight and engagement relating to play provision.
- **Chapter 4** provides an overview of the type and amount of play provision within the borough and how this is currently managed.
- **Chapter 5** sets out the approach to assessing the accessibility of play provision, and a summary of findings.
- **Chapter 6** sets out the approach to assessing the quality and value of play provision, the results of the audit in LBC, and a summary of findings.
- **Chapter 7** provides an overview of the study's findings and sets out priorities and recommendations for the future development of play provision in Camden.
- **Appendix A:** Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation SPG – Playable Play Typologies.
- **Appendix B:** Wider play policy context.
- **Appendix C:** Changes in Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) boundaries.
- **Appendix D:** Projected changes in age 18 and under population.
- **Appendix E:** LBC play sites.
- **Appendix F:** Survey form questions
- **Appendix G:** Play site typology benchmark scoring.

■ **Appendix H:** Quality and value categories – visual examples.

## Chapter 2

### Planning Policy and Strategic Context

#### International policy

##### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**2.1** Adopted by the UK in 1992, this convention acts as a statement of children rights, covering civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to [\[See reference 14\]](#). All rights within the convention are linked with no right being considered more important than the other. However, an article of particular relevance is that of Article 31: Leisure, play and culture. The article states:

1. States parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

## National policy

### 25 Year Environment Plan

**2.2** The government's 25 Year Environment Plan (YEP) adopts a natural capital approach with the aim of improving the environment within a generation [\[See reference 15\]](#). This plan sets out ten goals and six key areas to achieve this overarching vision. The following goals and actions of relevance to the Study include:

- Goal 6: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.
- Chapter 3: Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing.

**2.3** The use of greenspace to help people improve their health and wellbeing is focused on the need to improve connections between people and the environment. A core aspect of which is supporting and encouraging children to be close to the natural environment. The role of greenspaces as a tool to tackle mental health illness, provide educational opportunities or as inter-generational social space is also emphasised within the plan.

### National Planning Policy Framework

**2.4** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied [\[See reference 16\]](#). The NPPF sets out requirements for open space assessment, including the importance of considering open space, green infrastructure and sports provision in the development of local plans. Policies of particular relevance to this Study include:

- **Policy 2.** Achieving sustainable development.
- **Policy 8.** Promoting healthy and safe communities; and
- **Policy 12.** Achieving well-designed places.

**2.5** These policies aim to promote developments that provide safe, green and accessible public spaces, enhancing the health and social wellbeing of communities now and in the long term. In particular, attention should be paid to the availability of opportunities for sport and physical activity, given their significant impact on health and wellbeing.

**2.6** NPPF Paragraph 103 states that “*access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.*”

**2.7** NPPF Paragraph 104 sets out the only circumstances in which open space can be developed for different uses. It outlines that existing open space should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

**2.8** National Planning Practice Guidance provides further detail on the development and implementation of policies within the NPPF [\[See reference 17\]](#). Guidance of most relevance includes:

- Guidance for open space, sport and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local greenspace; and
- Planning Practice Guidance ‘Natural environment’.

## Regional

### The London Plan

**2.9** The London Plan is the Spatial Development Strategy for the city of London. The plan forms the overarching strategic plan for the city, setting out the economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of London over the next 20-25 years [\[See reference 18\]](#).

**2.10 Policy S4:** Play and informal recreation sets out the GLA’s guidance for play and informal recreation in London. **Section A** of the policy states that Boroughs should:

1. Undertake needs assessments of children and young person’s play and informal recreation facilities when preparing Development Plans.  
Assessments should include an audit of existing play and informal recreation

opportunities and the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision. Boroughs should consider cross-borough collaboration where possible.

2. Produce strategies on play and informal recreation facilities and opportunities, supported by Development Plan policies, to address identified needs.

**2.11 Section B** details that development proposals for schemes that are likely to be used by children and young people should:

3. Increase opportunities for play and informal recreation and enable children and young people to be independently mobile.
4. For residential developments, incorporate good-quality, accessible play provision for all ages. At least 10 square meters of play space should be provided per child that:
  - a) Provides a stimulating environment;
  - b) Can be accessed safely from the street by children and young people independently;
  - c) Forms an integral part of the surrounding neighbourhood;
  - d) Incorporates trees and/or other forms of greenery;
  - e) Is overlooked to enable passive surveillance; and
  - f) Is not segregated by tenure.
5. Incorporate accessible routes for children and young people to existing play provision, schools and youth centres, within the local area, that enable them to play and move around their local neighbourhood safely and independently.
6. For large-scale public realm developments, incorporate incidental play space to make the space more playable.
7. Not result in the net loss of play provision, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no ongoing or future demand. Where published, a borough's play and informal recreation strategy should be used to identify ongoing or future demand for play provision.

**2.12** Where on-site formal play provision is not feasible, off-site alternatives, such as the development of new facilities or enhancement of existing ones, may be considered acceptable, provided they effectively meet the needs of both existing and future residents. Such provision must be secured through an

appropriate financial contribution. Off-site play spaces should be located ideally within 400 metres of the development and are generally more suitable for older children.

**2.13** Further London Plan policies which should be considered in the development of policy and consideration of proposals in the provision of play and informal recreation include:

- Policy GG1: Building strong and inclusive communities
- Policy GG3: Creating a healthy city
- Policy D5: Inclusive design
- Policy D8: Public realm
- Policy G1: Green Infrastructure
- Policy G4: Open space
- Policy G5: Urban Greening
- Policy G6: Biodiversity and access to nature
- Policy G7: Trees and Woodlands
- Policy S1: Developing London's social infrastructure.

## Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation 2012

**2.14** The Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation 2012 [\[See reference 19\]](#) is Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) originally created to support the London Plan Policy 3.6: Children and Young People's Play and Informal Recreation Facilities. However, following the update of the London Plan the SPG now supports Policy S4 Play and informal recreation.

**2.15** The SPG aims to support local authorities, developers, community groups and consultants in creation, improvement and management of high-quality play and informal recreation within children-friendly neighbourhoods. To achieve this, the SPG sets out to:

- Assist in identifying current and future play provision needs and exploring how these can be addressed.
- Offer guidance and a practical tool to calculate play requirements for housing developments, along with a framework to ensure sufficient on-

and off-site provision is made to meet the needs arising from new development.

- Address accessibility considerations in both new and existing play spaces and provide advice on selecting appropriate locations.
- Provide guidance on effective community involvement and engagement processes.
- Share best practice on cost-effective use of resources and securing sustainable revenue streams for maintenance and management, including through developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Set out benchmark standards to help local authorities develop their own tailored play standards.
- Encourage and support the review and development of local play strategies; and
- Showcase inspiring design examples of sustainable play spaces in high-density urban areas.

**2.16** The SPG details several key elements for consideration when looking to ensure the provision of good quality places for play. These key elements include:

- Space
- Location and accessibility
- An environment that encourages healthy lifestyles
- Inclusion
- Diversity in lifetime neighbourhoods
- Playable space in a child-friendly city
- Access to nature
- Safety and security
- Management and maintenance.

**2.17** A set of playable space typologies are provided within the SPG which set out the varying needs of different age groups. The SPG provides recommendations in terms of minimum size, example facilities, expectations for

supervision, and suggestions for suitable locations (See **Appendix A** for further details). The playable space typologies detailed within the SPG include:

- Doorstep Playable Space – aimed at children aged 0-5.
- Local Playable Space – aimed at aged 0-11.
- Neighbourhood Playable Space – aimed at children of all ages; and
- Youth Space – children aged 12 and above.

**2.18** The SPG outlines a set of benchmark standards for evaluating play spaces and informal recreation areas in both new developments and existing facilities. These standards consider key aspects such as accessibility, location, the quantity of play provision, age-appropriateness, and provide illustrative examples of different types of play facilities.

**2.19** In terms of consultation, the SPG encourages informal engagement methods, such as observing children at play, to better understand what elements are effective and what may be lacking. It also highlights more active approaches, including initiatives like the 'Slow Build' method, where contractors gradually adapt and reconfigure play elements over two to three years to respond to the evolving needs of children and young people.

**2.20** The SPG provides a standardised approach to calculating developer contributions:

- Costs of on-site provision – Consists of two elements – play space provision (design, layout, landscaping and equipment) and maintenance, supervision, and management.
- Costs of off-site provision – Level of contribution should be no less than the level of contribution which would be made if provision was to be made on-site. However, consideration should also be given to the type of provision which will be required and whether other costs such as land costs may be involved if new play space is to be provided.

**2.21** The SPG requires that all new residential developments projected to generate more than 10 children, based on child occupancy assessments, must include appropriate play space within the development. For schemes with an estimated child occupancy of fewer than 10 children, a financial contribution towards nearby play provision is expected as an alternative.

**2.22** The SPG provides details to help determine the need for on-site provision, off-site provision, or any off-site contribution, based on age range and distance from existing provision (See **Table 2.1**).

**Table 2.1: Provision of play space to meet the needs of new development**

Provision	Distance	Under 5s	5-11	12+
Existing provision	Within 100 m	On-site or off-site contribution	Off-site contribution	Off-site contribution
Existing provision	Within 100-400 m	On-site	On site or off-site contribution	On site or off-site contribution
Existing provision	Within 400-800 m	On-site	On-site	On-site or off-site contribution
No existing provision	Within 100 m	On-site	Off-site provision	Off-site provision
No existing provision	Within 100 – 400 m	On-site	On-site	On site or off-site provision
No existing provision	Within 400 – 500m	On-site	On-site	On-site

**2.23** The requirement for play provision provided by new developments is set out in **Table 2.2**.

**Table 2.2: Requirement for play provision in new developments**

No. of children	10 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 79	80+
Size of space required	100-300 m <sup>2</sup>	300-500 m <sup>2</sup>	500-800 m <sup>2</sup>	800 m <sup>2</sup> +
Facilities for under 5s	On-site doorstep playable space	On-site local playable space	On-site local playable space	On-site local or neighbourhood playable space

No. of children	10 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 79	80+
<b>Facilities for 5-11s</b>	Off-site within 400m	On-site local playable space	On-site local playable space	On-site local or neighbourhood playable space
<b>Facilities for 12+</b>	Off-site within 800m	Off-site within 800m	Off-site within 800m or on-site subject to size and local circumstances	On-site youth space
<b>Possible variation to reflect existing provision</b>	If area is deficient in play space for 5-11s, some onsite facilities should be provided	If area is within 400m of existing facilities for 5-11s, an off-site contribution may be considered if in accordance with play strategy	If area is deficient in spaces for 12+, some on-site facilities or new offsite provision should be provided within 800m	If area is within 800m of existing facilities for 12+, an off-site contribution may be considered if in accordance with play strategy

**2.24** The SPG includes examples of age-appropriate play facilities, along with recommended walking distance guidelines that consider potential barriers to movement and accessibility.

## Play Streets

**2.25** Play Streets enable roads to be temporarily closed for the specific purpose of children's play, allowing young people the opportunity to play safely outside their homes [See reference 20]. A Play Street Order (PSO) is the formal approval required to facilitate such closures. PSOs can be obtained through an application submitted by an individual or organisation, with applicants required to meet specific criteria and comply with the conditions set out in the order. To be eligible for a Play Street closure, the road or street must:

- Not include a commercial establishment.
- Not be on a bus route or trunk route.
- Not have a high volume of traffic.
- Not have scaffolding, construction, tripping hazards, or other safety concerns present like the placement of any other structure on the highway during its use.
- Not be in close proximity to a park that could accommodate the activities being requested; and
- Not adjacent to a hospital.

## Local

### Camden Local Plan 2016-2031

**2.26** The Camden Local Plan sets out the Council's planning policies for the period 2016 to 2031 [\[See reference 21\]](#). The plan sets out the local vision for the borough with three core objectives:

- Developing new solutions with partners to reduce inequality and improve health and wellbeing.
- Creating conditions for and harnessing the benefits of economic growth
- Investing in our communities to ensure sustainable neighbourhoods

**2.27** Relevant strategic objectives listed in the plan for play space provision include:

- To improve and protect Camden's Metropolitan Open Land, parks and open spaces, and protect and enhance biodiversity, in addition to providing for new habitats and open space.
- To improve health and wellbeing of Camden's population and reduce health inequalities through good spatial planning, supporting healthier lifestyles and environmental improvements, as well as ensuring appropriate access to health facilities.
- To promote and protect the high levels of amenity and quality of life that makes Camden such an attractive, successful and vibrant place for residents, workers and visitors.

**2.28** The plan highlights the importance of play spaces as child-friendly features and the importance of having dedicated children's play spaces nearby to households. As well as spaces that can encourage social interaction and community care for younger and older people. The importance of play in tackling child obesity is also outlined in the plan.

**2.29** Provision and enhancement of open space is outlined, with play spaces identified as an important tool in supporting the development of children and young people. **Policy A2** Open space states that the Council '*will protect, enhance and improve access to Camden's parks, open spaces and other green infrastructure*'. In order to protect the open spaces, the council will:

- consider development for alternative sports and recreation provision, where the needs outweigh the loss and where this is supported by an up-to-date needs assessment.
- tackle deficiencies to open space through enhancement measures; and
- give priority to play facilities and the provision of amenity space which meet residents' needs where a development creates a need for different types of open space.

**2.30** In Appendix 1: Infrastructure table item 26 lists 'Improvements to the quality and access of playspace for children and young people', with new and refurbished playspace for children and young people stated borough wide, taking account of deficiency areas.

## Draft New Camden Local Plan

**2.31** Camden Council is currently in the process of updating their local plan. Consultation on the Proposed Submission Draft April 2025 closed in June 2025 [\[See reference 22\]](#).

**2.32 Policy SC4:** Open Space sets out the Council's guidance for protecting, enhancing and improving access to Camden's public open spaces. Section D of the policy states that the Council will:

- give priority to play facilities and the provision of amenity space which meets residents' needs where a development creates a need for different types of open space; and
- tackle deficiencies in public open space through enhancement measures.

**2.33** Section E of the policy states that the Council will:

- ensure that all new or enhanced public open space is designed, where appropriate, to provide opportunities for physical activity and play.

**2.34** The plan outlines that play space provision will be expected to comply with the London Play standards and should be designed to be welcoming, safe, accessible and inclusive for a range of ages and needs.

**2.35** Providing new open space, and opportunities for play, recreation and sports are central to **Policy DS1: Delivering Healthy and Sustainable Development**. Delivering new play facilities and improving access are included in all three policy areas, South, West and Central Camden.

## We Make Camden

**2.36** We Make Camden [\[See reference 23\]](#) sets out an updated long-term plan for making the Borough, fairer, inclusive, healthier and more sustainable. The new strategy builds on the earlier Camden 2025 strategy and lessons from the pandemic.

**2.37** The vision sets out the ambitions of the Council which includes achieving healthy, sustainable neighbourhoods by 2030. Parks and open spaces are identified as playing an important role in promoting health and wellbeing, as well as other public spaces.

**2.38** The vision outlines that Camden should be a 'green, clean, vibrant, accessible and sustainable place'. To achieve this, open spaces must be maintained or enhanced, and communities empowered to address the climate emergency and improve public spaces.

## Camden Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-30

**2.39** The Camden Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out the shared principles, ambitions and short-term priorities of the Camden Health and Wellbeing Board for improving health and wellbeing and addressing health inequalities [\[See reference 24\]](#).

**2.40** The strategy highlights the importance of access to outdoor, sports and physical activity to help people live in connected, prosperous and sustainable communities. It emphasises the need to create conditions that promote healthy lifestyles and facilitate improvements in physical and mental health.

## Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2014)

**2.41** Camden Council commissioned an assessment of open space, indoor and outdoor sports in the Borough in 2013 [\[See reference 25\]](#). The aim of the study was to produce a robust evidence base to inform future policies and decisions on existing and future development proposals. The study also identified needs for new and upgraded open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.

**2.42** Areas identified as deficient in public open space, but specifically children's play provision was mapped. 66 open spaces audited contained some form of children's play provision, 86% of children's play areas were assessed as being of 'good' quality, 14% 'fair' and 0% 'poor'.

**2.43** The analysis of level of play provision and the child population across individual wards reveals significant disparities in available play space. For instance, Highgate and Regent's Park offers relatively high levels of provision, with 175.6 square metres and 108.1 square metres per child respectively. In contrast, wards such as Frognal and Fitzjohns have very limited provision, at just 0.2 square metres per child. These differences are influenced by several factors, such as Highgate's proximity to Hampstead Heath and the limited availability of informal recreation space in Frognal and Fitzjohns. Overall, most wards fall below the borough-wide average of 26.5 square metres per child. This is largely due to the concentration of informal play provision in a few wards—namely Highgate (37%), Regent's Park (25%), and Camden Town (24%).

**2.44** The study presents a proposed standard for formal children's play that states children's play provision should be of a high quality and offer a range of facilities appropriate to the size of the space. Based on projected child population figures for 2025, there is an identified need for an additional 4,600 square metres of play space. It is recommended that provision aligns with the GLA standard of 10 square metres per child (equivalent to 0.15 hectares per 1,000 population). Within this overall standard, a specific allocation for formal play space is also advised, set at 0.65 square metres per child (or 0.01 hectares per 1,000 population).

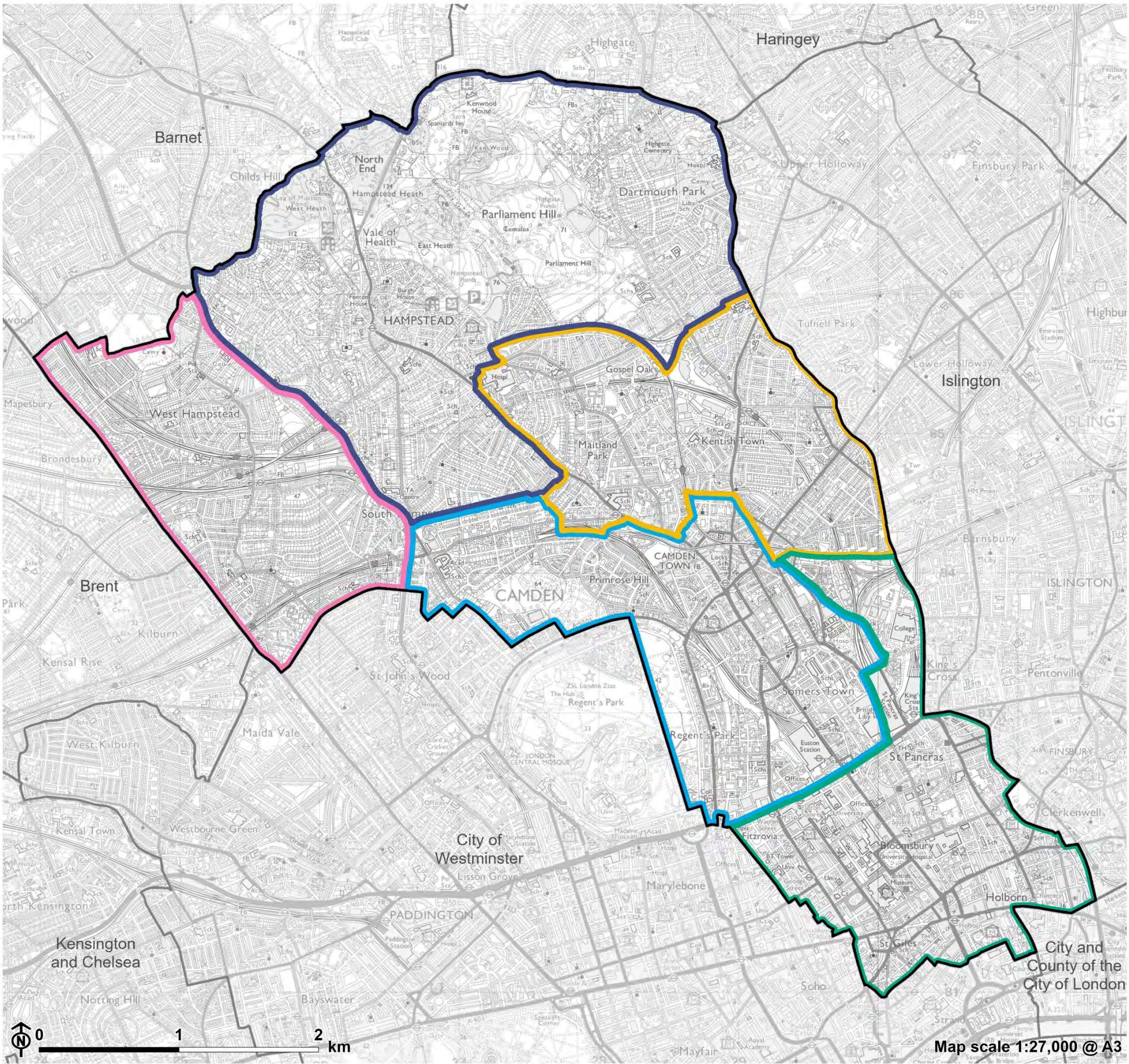
**2.45** The following play spaces access standards were recommended:

- All residents within the Borough should have access to a formal children's play provision within 400 m from home.

**2.46** The study set out a series of sub-areas, which will also be used in this study are shown on **Figure 2.1** and are:

- Central Camden
- East Camden
- North Camden
- South Camden
- West Camden

Figure 2.1: Camden Sub-areas



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Figure 2.1: Camden Sub-areas

- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Sub-area**
  - Central Camden
  - East Camden
  - North Camden
  - South Camden
  - West Camden

## Chapter 3

# Understanding the Need for Play Provision in Camden

**3.1** The following section reviews the social and environmental characteristics of LBC to help further understand the need for play in the borough.

**3.2** The chapter analyses data available from the latest ONS Census (2021) [\[See reference 26\]](#) and the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 [\[See reference 27\]](#). **Appendix C** outlines the differences in the LSOA boundaries between these two datasets.

## Population

**3.3** The latest ONS Census (2021) indicates that the total population of the borough was 210,136 in 2021. Approximately 44,035 (21%) residents were recorded as being under the age of 19. In 2025, the GLA estimate the total population of the borough to be 218,800, with 53% female and 47% male [\[See reference 28\]](#). **Figure 3.1** indicates the distribution of population density across the borough. The percentage of the population aged 19 or under is shown on **Figure 3.2**.

**3.4** In 2024 LBC had a population density of 9,961 persons per square kilometre. This is 183% larger than the England average of 450 people per square kilometre. LBC is the ninth most densely populated area in England, with London Borough of Tower Hamlets the highest (16,787 per square kilometre).

**3.5** The ONS Census 2021 indicates that 54% of the LBC population identified as British, and 24% identified as a non-UK national identity. 60% of people identified as White, with 18% identifying as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh and 9% identifying as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African.

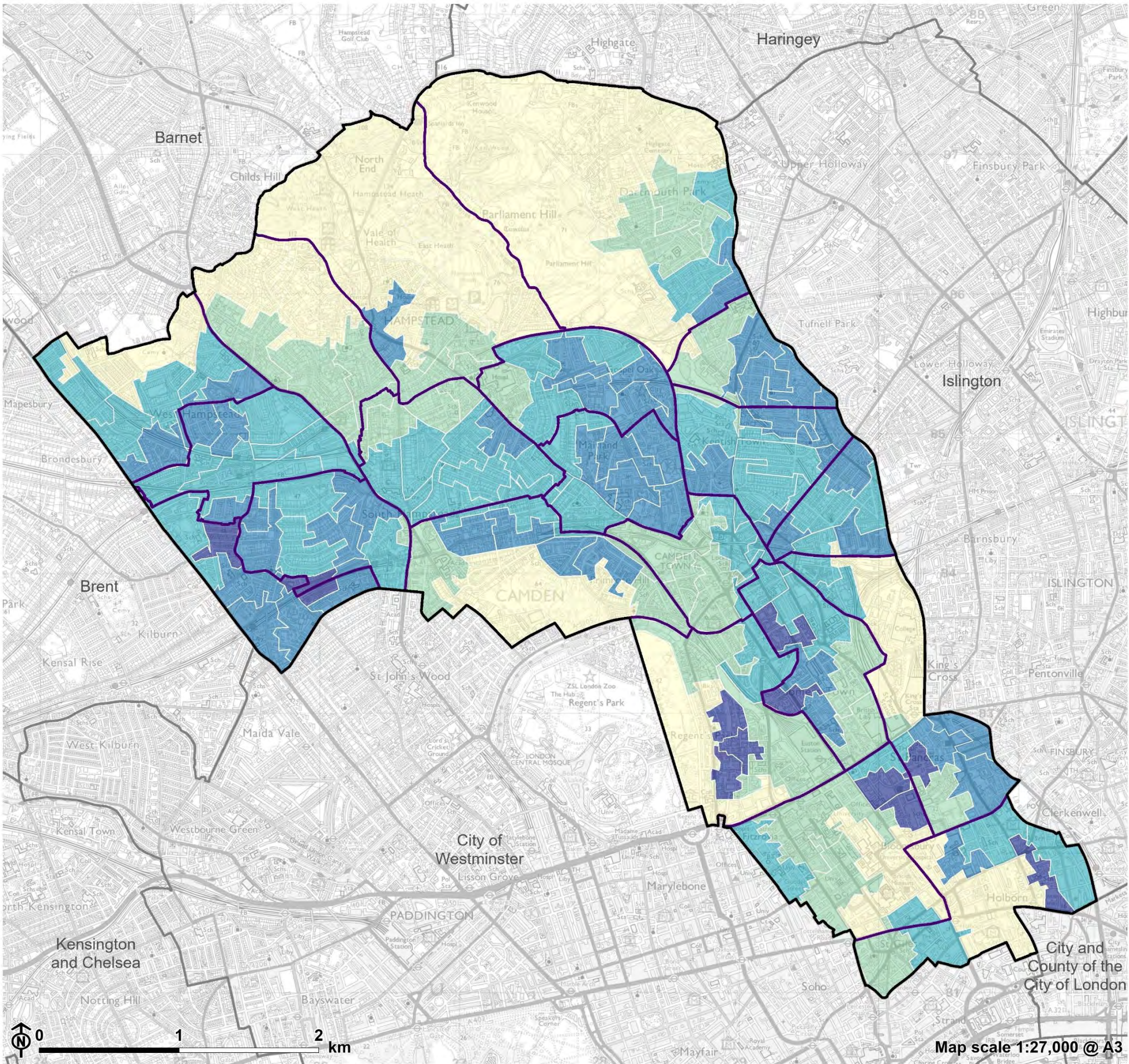
## Population change

**3.6** The population size of the borough has decreased by 4.6% decline in the ten year period between the ONS Census in 2011 and 2021, from 220,300 in 2011 to 210,100. Camden was one of the one local authority areas in London to

see a population decline, against a London average of a 7.7% population increase **[See reference 29]**.

**3.7** The housing-led population projections published by the GLA in 2022 **[See reference 30]** estimate a small 2.4% increase from 2022 to 2040 for people of all ages in Camden. In comparison, the population of those aged 19 and under is predicted to decline from 21% of the population in 2022 to 16% of the population in 2040 (a decrease of 8,820 people). Across the borough's wards people aged 19 and under are expected to decrease during this period, with a slight increase only being seen in Regent's Park (3.9%). **Appendix D** summarises the estimated percentage change in 19 and under population by ward from 2022-2040 by five year increments.

Figure 3.1: Population density



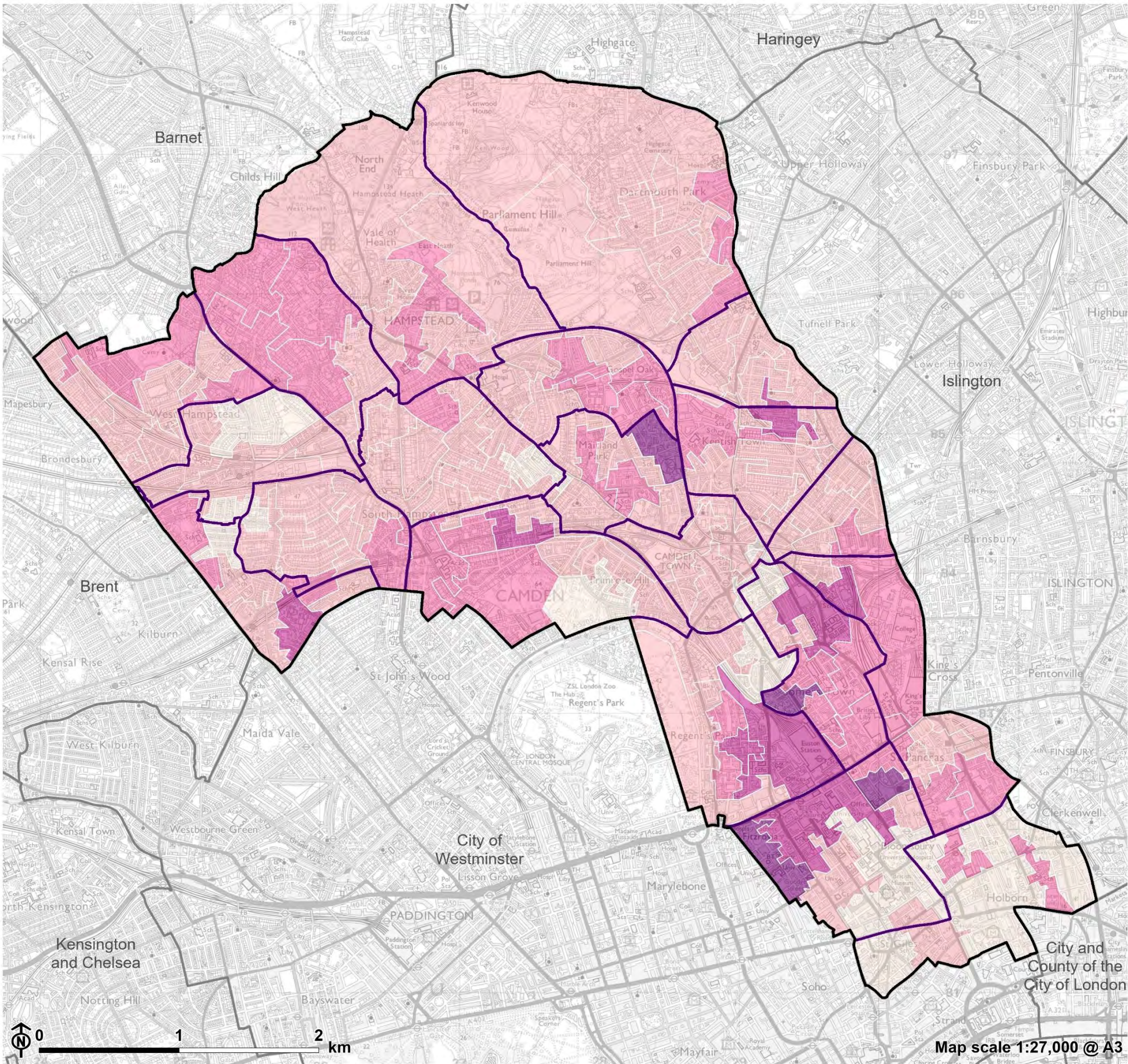
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Figure 3.1: Population density

- Camden boundary
  - Neighbouring Local Authority
  - Ward
- The number of normal residents per square kilometre
- Less than 6,000
  - 6,000 - 10,000
  - 10,000 - 15,000
  - 15,000 - 22,000
  - 22,000 - 32,000

Figure 3.2: Child population density



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Figure 3.2: Child population density

- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Ward
- Percentage of population aged under 19 on Census Day 2021
  - Less than 15%
  - 15 - 22%
  - 22 - 27%
  - 27 - 30%
  - 30 - 40%

## Health, deprivation and anti-social behaviour trends

**3.8** The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) provides a set of relative measures of deprivation for small geographic neighbourhood areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas or LSOAs) across England. The IMD are based on seven domains of deprivation including 'Income', 'Employment', 'Education, Skills and Training', 'Health and Disability', 'Crime', 'Barriers to Housing and Services' and 'Living Environment'. Two supplementary domains focus on particular groups of need: Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index.

### Health

**3.9** **Figure 3.3** shows the deprivation in LBC according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Health and Disability deprivation domain. One of the borough's LSOAs is within the worst 20% of LSOAs (down from three in 2015) in terms of health deprivation.

**3.10** The average life expectancy in the borough is 82.7 for males and 87 for females, both above the regional averages of 80.7 (male) and 84.5 (female). Inequality in life expectancy varies across the borough, with performance against health indicators being largely dependent on area. Camden has one of the highest inequalities in life expectancy in the country. The average life expectancy for the most deprived areas is 12.6 years lower for men and 10.6 years lower for women compared to the least deprived areas [\[See reference 31\]](#). The borough's under 75 mortality rate from all causes, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer are all better than the England average. The estimated levels of excess weight in those aged 18+ are better than the English average.

**3.11** Levels of smoking during pregnancy and GCSE attainment are better than the average for England. The rate of alcohol specific hospital admissions among those under 18 is also better than the average for England [\[See reference 32\]](#).

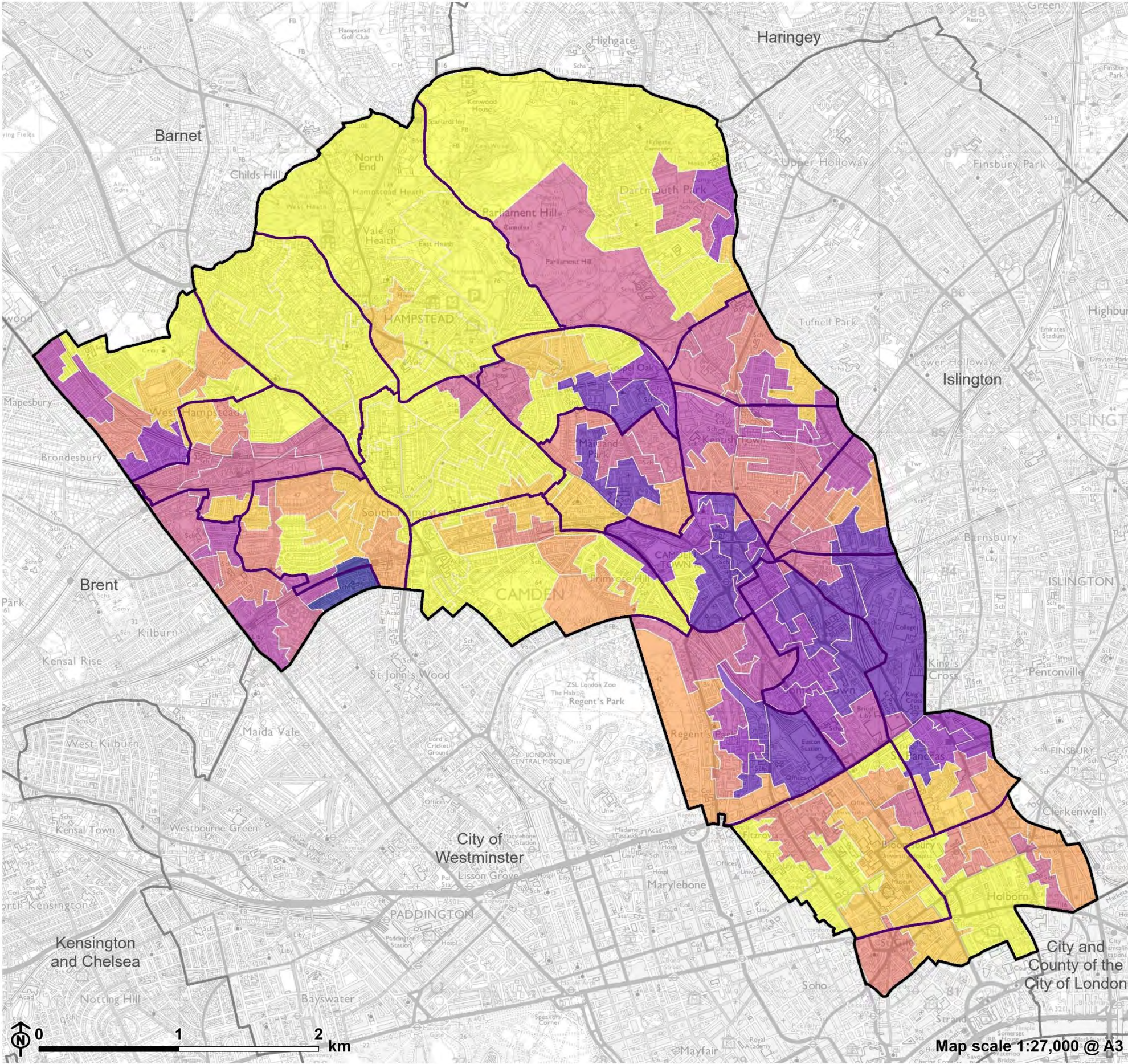
**3.12** In terms of childhood health, over 1 in 5 children are above a healthy weight by reception, rising to 1 in 3 by end of primary school. However, some wards have particularly high percentages of higher weights – approximately half of all children in Year 6 in Camden Town, Kilburn and Haverstock are overweight or obese [\[See reference 33\]](#).

**3.13** Government and health professional guidelines state that children aged five to 18-years-old need at least one hour each day of 'moderate to vigorous physical activity' to be healthy and well. In Camden 51.1% of children and young people met this requirement in 2023-24, higher than both the London (47.3%) and national (47.8%) averages. However, 26.6% of children and young people in Camden are categorised as less active, averaging less than 30 minutes a day [\[See reference 34\]](#).

**3.14** The number of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in the borough (14%) is slightly lower than the national average (15%) [\[See reference 35\]](#). Those with disabilities are known to have higher rates of physical inactivity and obesity. Guidelines issued by the Chief Medical Officer (CMOs) in February 2022 state that disabled children and young people should be getting 20 minutes of exercise a day and undertaking strength and balance activities three times a week.

**3.15** In Camden, an estimated one in five children aged 11-16 and 23% of 17-19-year-olds have a mental health condition. The Camden Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire found that 38% of Year 5 and 6 children worry about their mental health. Mental health disorders in Camden are 33% higher than the national average [\[See reference 36\]](#).

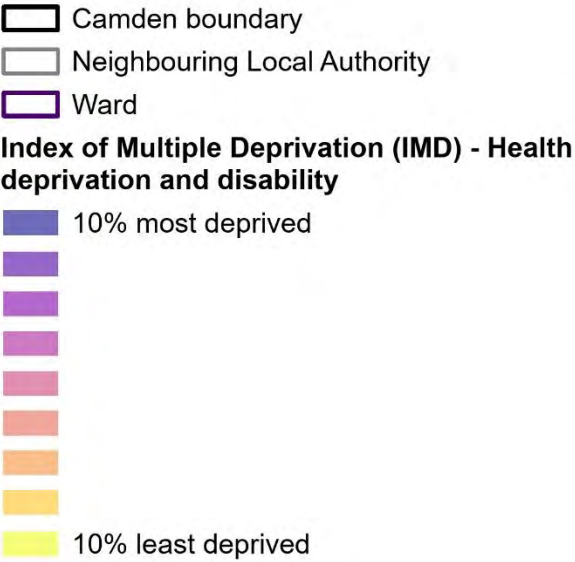
Figure 3.3: Health Deprivation



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Figure 3.3: Health Deprivation



## Deprivation

**3.16** Child poverty is measured as the share of children living in households with income below 60% of the median and can be either before or after housing costs. Camden's high housing costs mean that it is one of the local authorities with the greatest gap between before and after housing cost poverty rates. In 2023 19% of children in Camden were living in relative poverty before housing costs. This rises to 39% (2 in 5 children) after housing costs, the fourth highest rate of child poverty after housing costs in London [\[See reference 37\]](#).

**3.17** There are children in poverty in every ward in Camden, however some wards have traditionally had much higher levels of poverty. In the south of the borough the rates of relative poverty before housing costs are significantly higher. Holborn and Covent Garden (43.4%) and St Pancras and Somers Town (38.2%) have the highest levels, while in the north Hampstead Town (3.3%) and Frognal (4.3%) rates are much lower.

**3.18** The effects of childhood poverty are known to harm children's health, social and emotional wellbeing, education, and achievement in later life [\[See reference 38\]](#). Children living in poverty are more likely to be deprived of opportunities for play due to a lack of family outings, relaxed time for play, extracurricular activities, school trips, and toys at home. The inability of children to play freely and engage in normal play activities is referred to as 'play deprivation'. The effects of which have been shown to inhibit social and emotional learning and can damage early child development.

**3.19** According to IMD 2019, Camden has a roughly average deprivation score, falling 138 out of 317 local authority areas in England. None of the most deprived 10% of LSOAs within the country are within LBC. **Figure 3.4** shows the most deprived areas in Camden are concentrated in the centre and south-east of the borough, within Gospel Oak, Haverstock, Kilburn, Camden Town, St Pancras & Somers Town, Regent's Park, King's Cross and Holborn & Covent Garden wards.

**3.20** Living Environment deprivation within the borough is shown on **Figure 3.5**. The data indicate concentrations of the most deprived Living Environments in Bloomsbury, Holborn & Covent Garden, St Pancras & Somers Town and Regent's Park. The data ONS census 2021 indicates that approximately 9.5% of households were overcrowded (had too few bedrooms for their needs). While this is lower than the London average (11%) it is much higher than the England average (4.4%). This also hides inequalities across the borough, with

Bloomsbury having the highest level of overcrowding (25%) and Highgate and Hampstead having 1-2% overcrowded households [\[See reference 39\]](#).

**3.21** The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. This is indicated on **Figure 3.6**. The data show concentrations of the highest deprivation in King's Cross, St Pancras & Somers Town, Camden Town and Haverstock wards. 13 of the 133 LSOAs in Camden are in the most deprived 10% of LSOAs nationally.

Figure 3.4: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

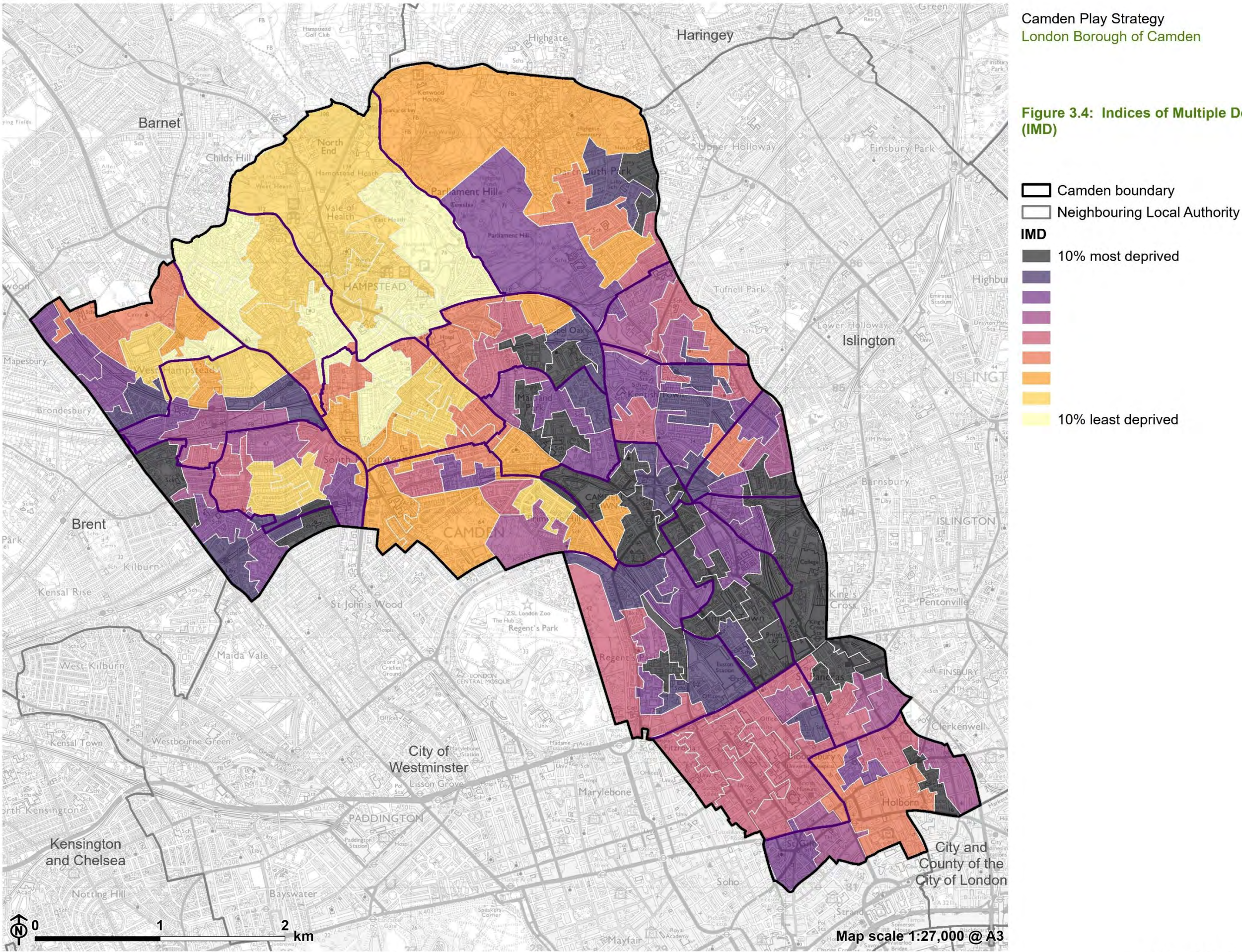
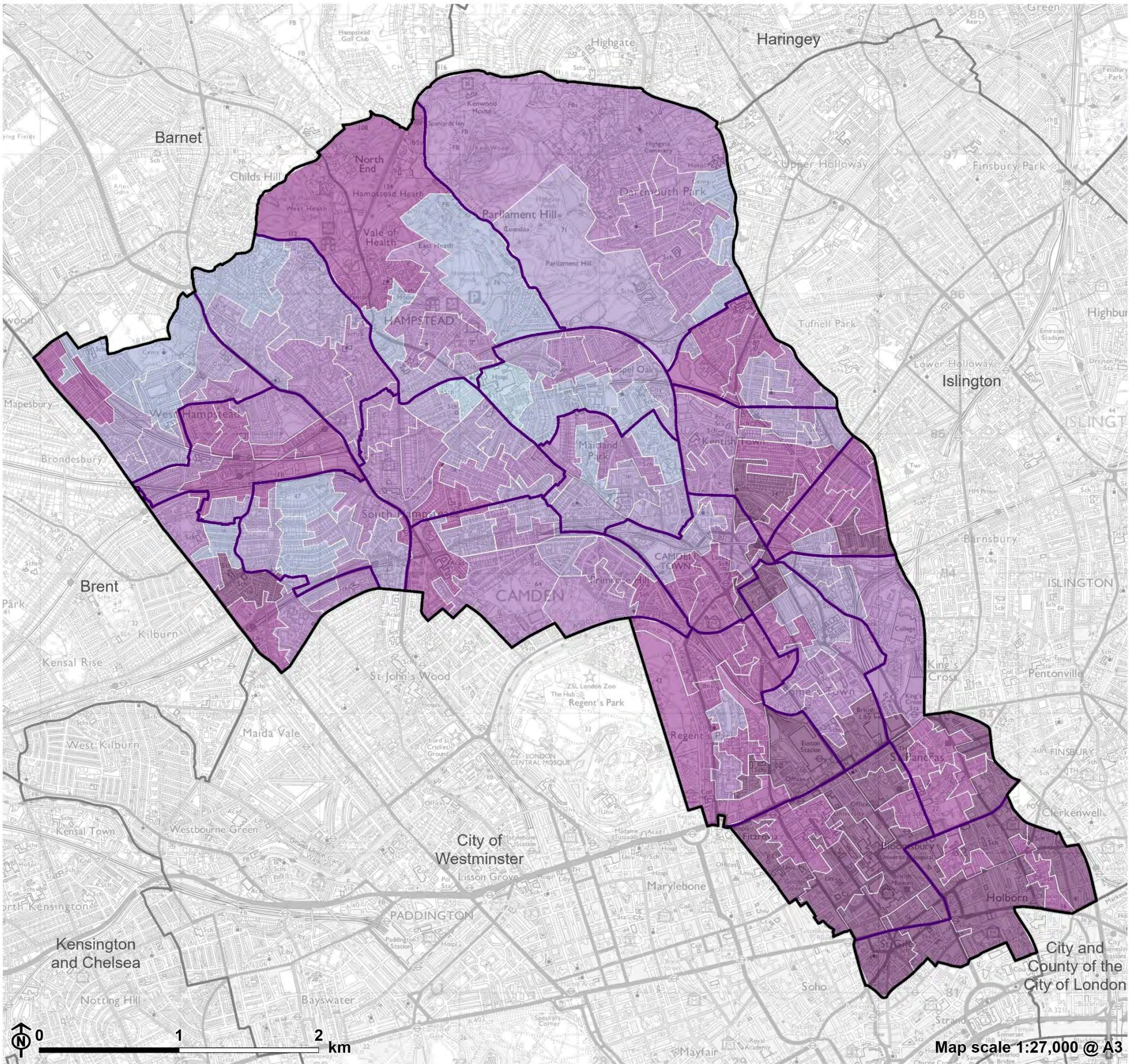


Figure 3.5: Living Environment Deprivation



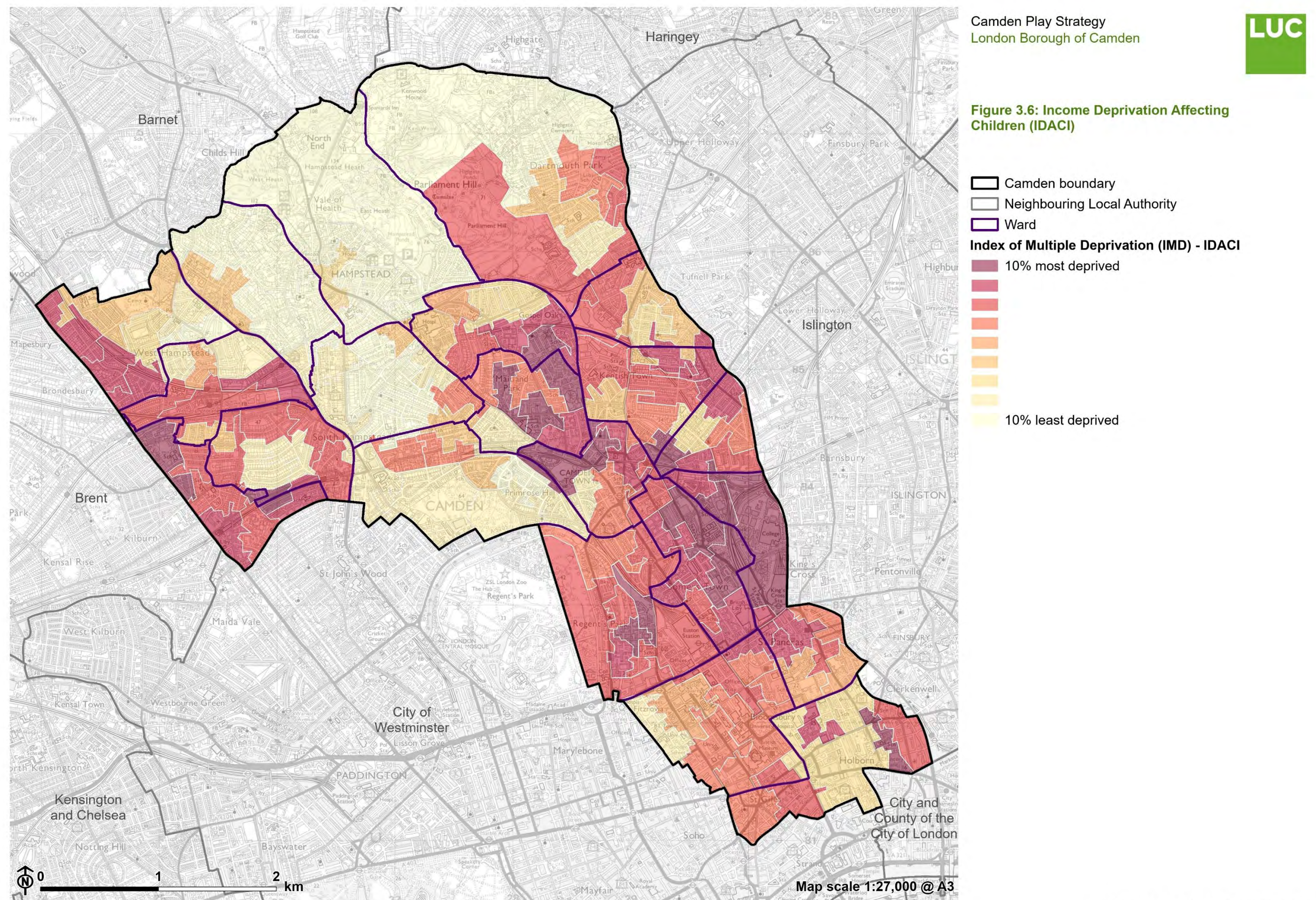
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Figure 3.5: Living Environment Deprivation

- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - Living environment
  - 10% most deprived
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - 10% least deprived

Figure 3.6: Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI)



## Open space provision

**3.22** Open space plays a considerable role in the provision of play space in communities. Both in the form of providing space for more conventional ‘formal’ play space and non-formal opportunities for play provided by open space environments. Within the London Borough of Camden there is 2.7 ha of open space provision per 1,000 population including 1.8 ha of public park provision per 1,000 population. Removing Hampstead Heath from the calculations results in 1.4 ha of open space provision per 1,000 population and 0.6 ha of public park provision. This is above the London standard of 1.2 ha per 1,000 residents [\[See reference 40\]](#).

**3.23** However, this hides the variation in open space provision by ward across the borough, with less than 0.5 ha per 1,000 population in Belsize, Cantelowes, Haverstock, Kentish Town and Swiss Cottage.

**3.24** This issue is further exacerbated given that in 2021 86.6% of households in Camden were recorded as living in some kind of flat or apartment, compared with 22.2% in England [\[See reference 41\]](#). Only 13.4% of Camden households lived in a whole house compared with an England average of 77.4%. As a result of this, a considerable number of residents are unlikely to have access to their own private garden or open space.

## Crime and anti-social behaviour

**3.25** The State of the Borough 2025 report [\[See reference 42\]](#) identifies that Camden has the second highest crime rate in London after Westminster, primarily driven by an increase in thefts. Hate crime offences have declined 8% since 2023, however antisemitism offences have continued to increase by 26% compared to 2023.

**3.26** Fears of crime and anti-social behaviour can act as significant barriers to the use of greenspaces. These issues can be especially detrimental to low income families [\[See reference 43\]](#). Collectively, these issues of inequality are likely to deeply affect the wellbeing of disadvantaged children. Communities should be empowered to engage with local play space [\[See reference 44\]](#). The Camden Green Spaces team support a number of initiatives including the Parks for Health Initiative [\[See reference 45\]](#).

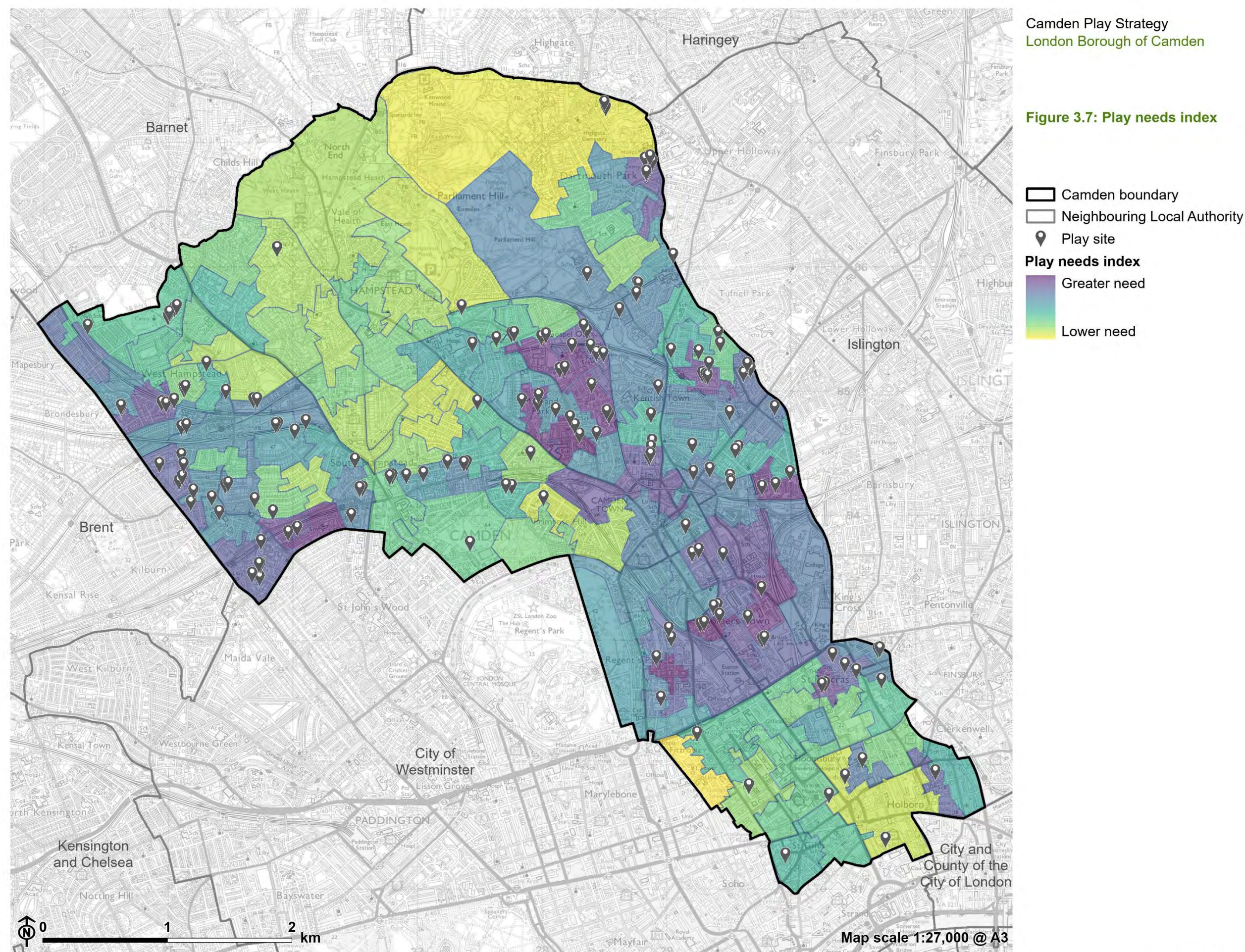
## Combined play needs

**3.27** A Play Needs Index was created to highlight the overall need for play across LBC. This tool combined IMD population data with IMD Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), and IMD Health Deprivation and Disability domains. The IMD population data is a collection of population estimates and projection for all ages. The IDACI measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. The IMD datasets measure markers of deprivation for individual LSOAs across Camden.

**3.28** The findings of the Play Needs Index are shown in **Figure 3.7**. LSOA's highlighting the highest need for play are located in the following wards:

- Camden Square
- Fortune Green
- Gospel Oak
- Haverstock
- Kentish Town South
- Kilburn
- Regent's Park
- St Pancras and Somers Town

Figure 3.7: Play needs index



## Chapter 4

### Overview of Play Provision in Camden

**4.1** This section provides an overview of play provision in LBC. The types of play provision included in the Study are listed below in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Play and Sports Provision by Age**

Play provision Ages 0 to 5	Play provision Ages 5 to 11	Play provision Ages 11+	Other play / sports provision
Playground	Adventure playground (supervised)	MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area)	Bowls
Parks climbing stones	Playground	Wheels park	Tennis court
Water activities	Housing play area	BMX track	Outdoor gym
	Housing ball games area	Trim trails	Artificial pitches
	Parks play area	Informal kickabout	Grass pitches with football / rugby posts and line markings
	Parks ball games area	Teen shelter	Promoted / measured walking / jogging routes

**4.2** This study assesses all play provision within the borough; including play provision owned and managed by the Council, housing associations, and privately owned sites. Each of these entities has been included to provide an understanding of play provision forming the current baseline.

**4.3** Play sites were identified using a combination of the following data sources:

- Play sites data layer shared by London Borough of Camden
- Open Street Map
- OS Open Greenspace
- Aerial imagery
- Local knowledge of London Borough of Camden officers

**4.4** A total of 275 publicly accessible or restricted access (e.g. residents only) sites of play provision were identified in the borough. Of these 180 sites were visited of which 11 sites were unable to be audited due to the site being closed and 12 sites were found as no longer being used for play. The sites audited were assessed for:

- 'quality' (aspects relating to management and the condition of features and facilities); and
- 'value' (the presence of various features and facilities, and the value to the local community).

**4.5** A list of all LBC play sites considered as part of this study is included within **Appendix E**. 11 sites that were unable to be accessed and were omitted from the quality and value assessment audits. However, these sites have been mapped as part of LBC's existing provision and included within the accessibility assessment.

**4.6 Figures 1.2a-e** indicate the distribution of publicly accessible and restricted access play provision identified in the borough.

**4.7** During our survey 12 sites were found to no longer contain play equipment or offer any provision for play. These sites have been excluded from the quality and value score assessment, as well as the accessibility assessment.

# Chapter 5

## Accessibility of Play Provision

**5.1** Accessibility catchment areas have been set for each type of play provision identified in LBC. These are expressed as straight line 'walk-time' distances, recognising the likely distance people are willing to travel to reach different types of play facility. These are informed by good practice guidance and the results of the needs assessment (shown in Table 5.1 below). Areas that fall outside of the proposed catchments are considered to be areas deficient in good, local access to equipped play facilities.

**Table 5.1: Play space hierarchy and corresponding access buffer distances**

Typology	Age category	Access buffer distance
Doorstep Playable Space	0-5	100m
Local Playable Space	0-11	400m
Neighbourhood Playable Space	All ages	800m
Youth Space	12+	800m

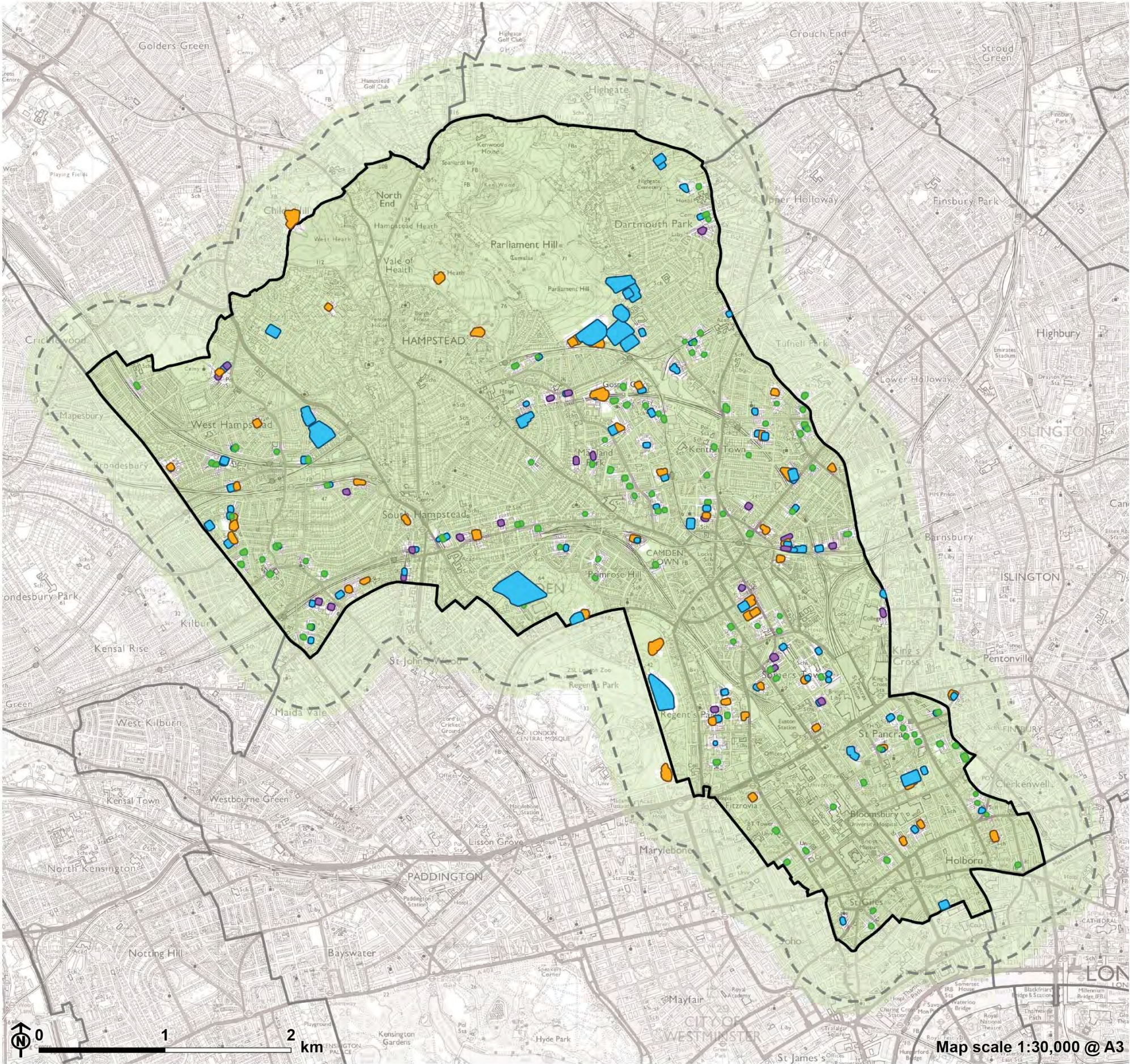
## Applying Areas of Deficiency

**5.2** Areas of deficiency in access to each of the play typologies have been developed by Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL). Walk time distances along highway routes were calculated from the access point to each park. A mapped location 'point' for each play park was overlapped with the OS open space dataset which includes shapefiles for parks and open spaces and the access points to enter these parks. Where play parks were not within a park held within the OS open space dataset, aerial imagery was used to identify access points. The application of areas of deficiency was applied only to play sites within the borough. This analysis was used to indicate areas which have poor access to different types of play sites. The areas of deficiency were not applied to open spaces, and therefore areas of poor access may coincide with the borough's larger parks and open spaces. Areas of Deficiency for each of the

play typologies and a map showing the cumulative deficiencies are shown on **Figures 5.1a-d.**

**5.3** Maps were also analysed in order to develop an understanding of accessibility across the borough, taking into account major physical features that would be considered to form barriers to access.

Figure 5.1: Hierarchies and areas of deficiency

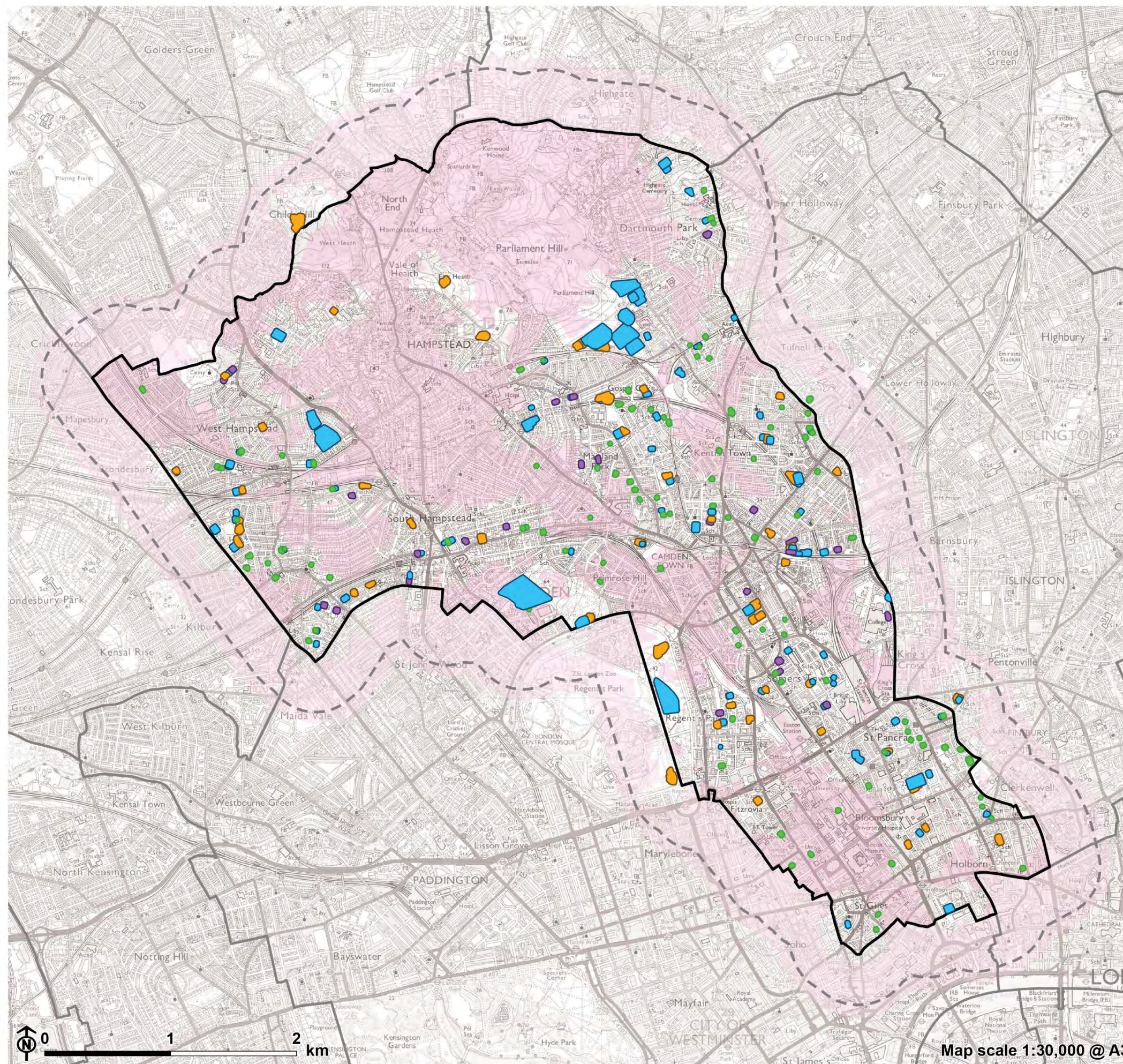


Camden Play Strategy  
London Borough of Camden



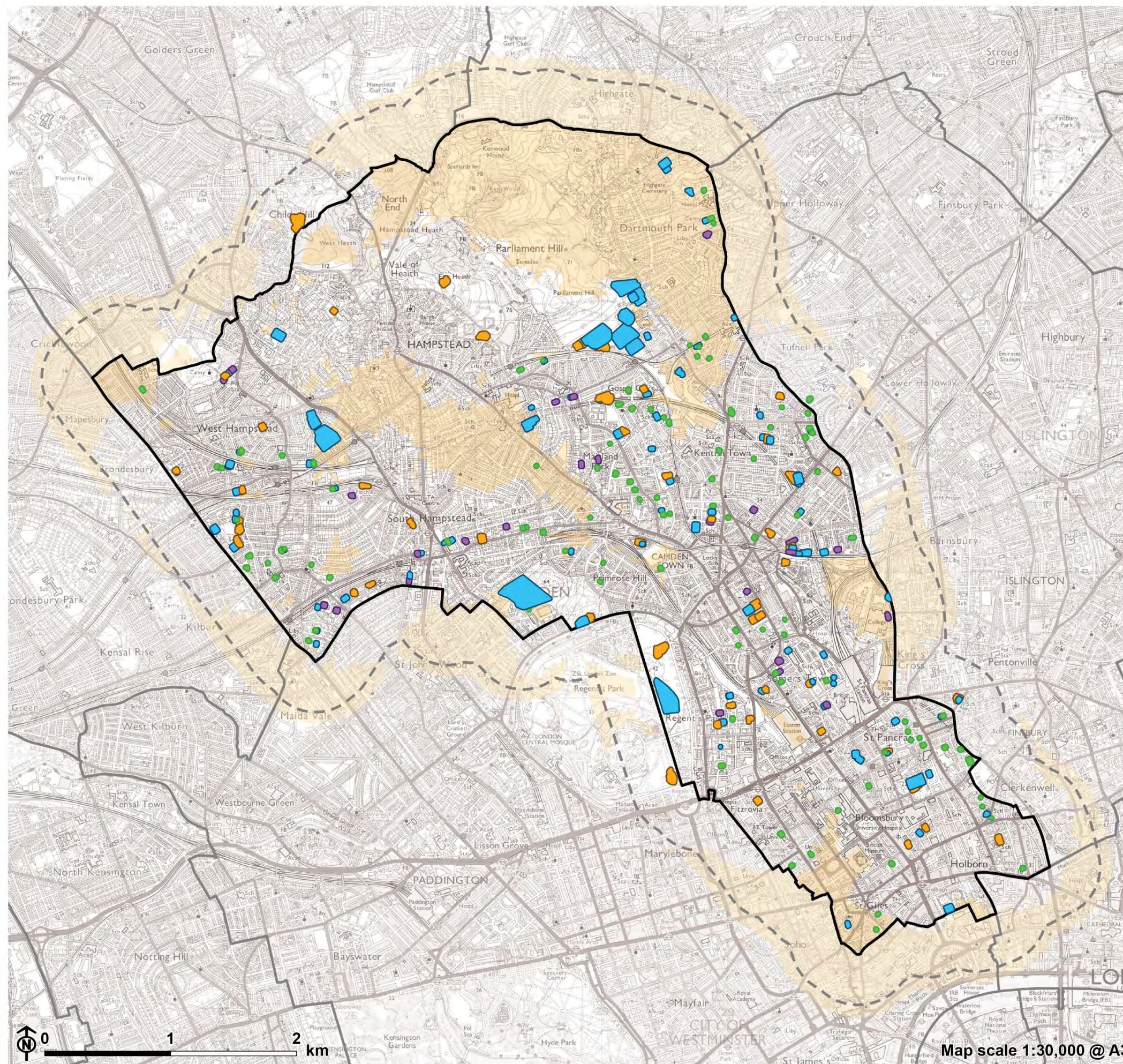
Figure 5.1a: GiGL Area of Deficiency (AoD)  
-100m Walking Distance to Doorstep  
Playable Space

- Camden boundary
- Camden boundary 400m buffer
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Play space typology**
  - Doorstep playable space (children aged 0-5)
  - Local playable space (children aged 0-11)
  - Neighbourhood playable space (suitable for all ages)
  - Youth space (children aged 12 and over)
- GiGL network analysis model AoD**
  - Play Space AoD (100m from Doorstep Playable Space)



**Figure 5.1b: GiGL Area of Deficiency (AoD)  
-400m Walking Distance to Local Playable  
Space**

- Camden boundary
- Camden boundary 400m buffer
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Play space typology**
  - Doorstep playable space (children aged 0-5)
  - Local playable space (children aged 0-11)
  - Neighbourhood playable space (suitable for all ages)
  - Youth space (children aged 12 and over)
- GiGL network analysis model AoD**
  - Play Space AoD (400m from Local Playable Space)



**Figure 5.1c: GiGL Area of Deficiency (AoD)  
-800m Walking Distance to Neighbourhood  
Playable Space**

- Camden boundary
- Camden boundary 400m buffer
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Play space typology**
  - Doorstep playable space (children aged 0-5)
  - Local playable space (children aged 0-11)
  - Neighbourhood playable space (suitable for all ages)
  - Youth space (children aged 12 and over)
- GiGL network analysis model AoD**
  - Play Space AoD (800m from Neighbourhood Playable Space)

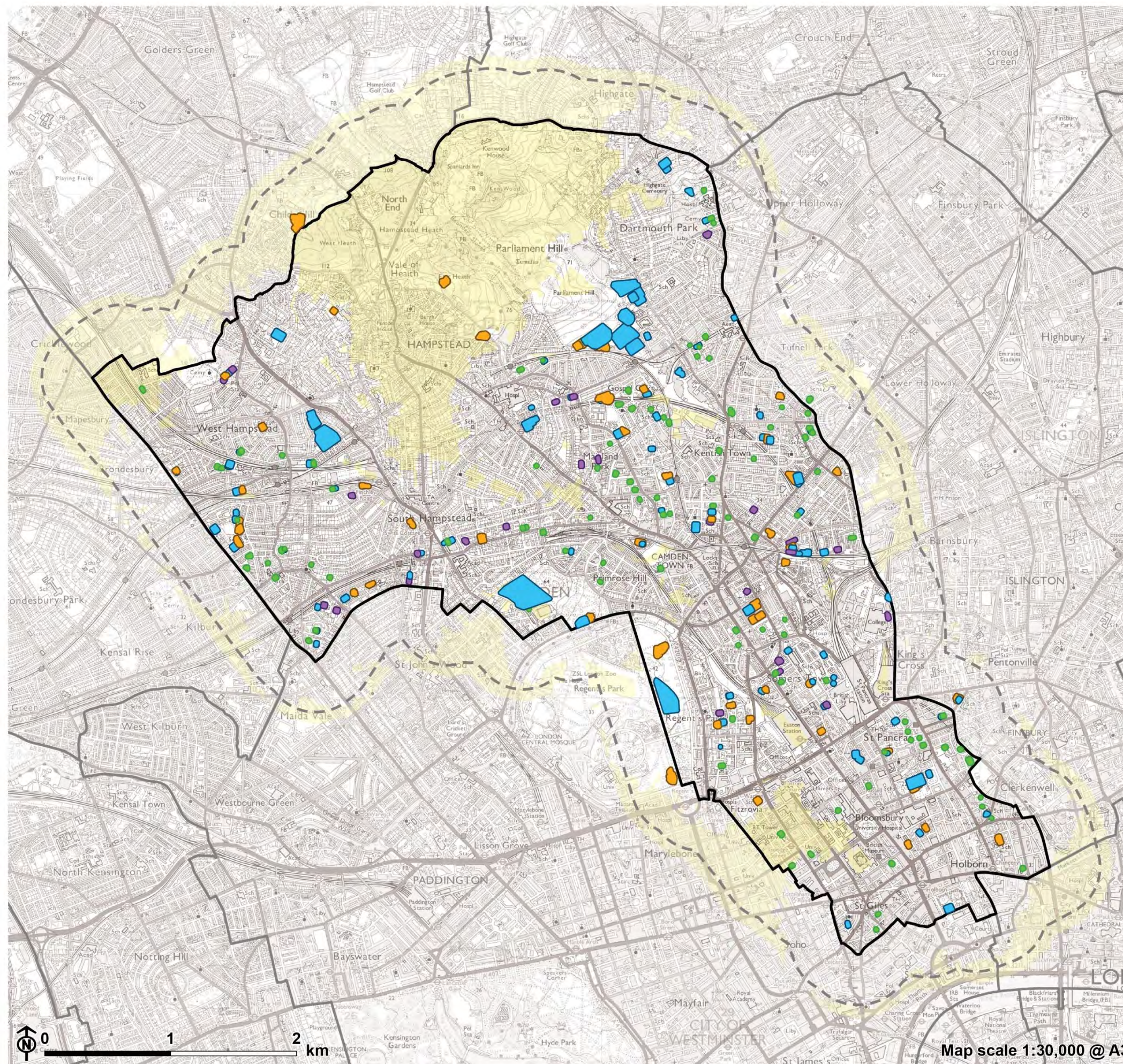


Figure 5.1d: GiGL Area of Deficiency (AoD)  
-800m Walking Distance to Youth Space

- Camden boundary
- Camden boundary 400m buffer
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Play space typology**
  - Doorstep playable space (children aged 0-5)
  - Local playable space (children aged 0-11)
  - Neighbourhood playable space (suitable for all ages)
  - Youth space (children aged 12 and over)
- GiGL network analysis model AoD**
  - Play Space AoD (800m from Youth Space)

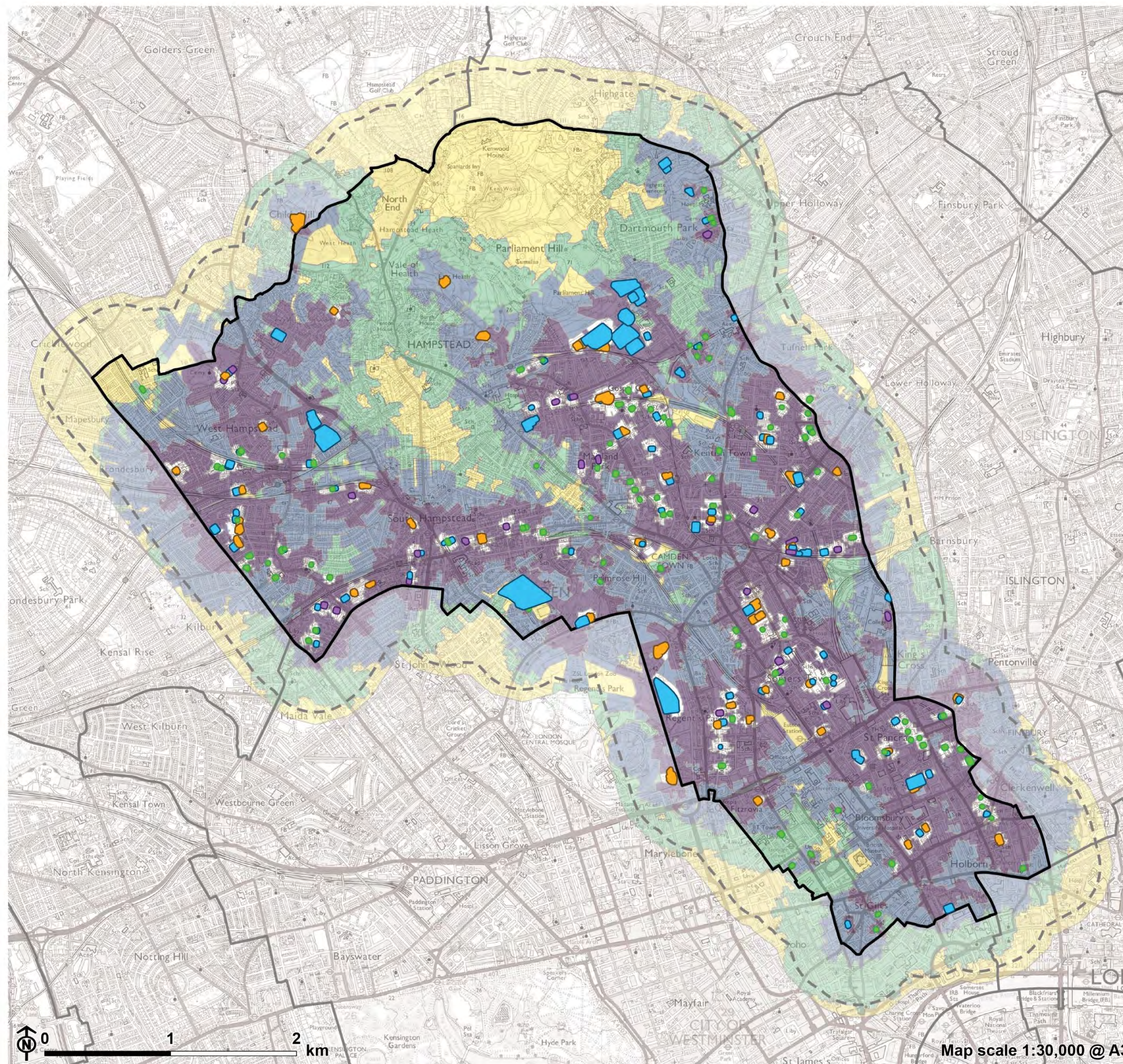


Figure 5.1e: GiGL Area of Deficiency (AoD) -  
GiGL Cumulative AoD

- Camden boundary
- Camden boundary 400m buffer
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Play space typology**
  - Doorstep playable space (children aged 0-5)
  - Local playable space (children aged 0-11)
  - Neighbourhood playable space (suitable for all ages)
  - Youth space (children aged 12 and over)
- GiGL network analysis model AoD**
  - GiGL Cumulative AoD
    - Deficient in 1 level of the hierarchy
    - Deficient in 2 levels of the hierarchy
    - Deficient in 3 levels of the hierarchy
    - Deficient in 4 levels of the hierarchy

Summary of results

Existing play provision

**5.4** Following the application of ‘Areas of Deficiency’ (AoD) for each type of play park through Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL)’s network analysis modelling, it is possible to identify to what extent areas across LBC have poor access to play parks. Analysis has been undertaken to understand which areas are within the catchment of one equipped play facility, multiple equipped play facilities and areas that do not have good local access to equipped play facilities. The hierarchies and Area of Deficiency for the play spaces are shown in **Figures 5.1a-d**.

**5.5** Figure 5.1a demonstrates there are considerable gaps in access to small doorstep playable spaces across the borough. No doorstep play areas are recorded in Frognal, Belsize or Frognal wards. The A41 Finchley Road is a barrier to access between West and North Camden.

**5.6** There is no or limited access to local playable spaces within Holborn & Covent Garden, Hampstead Town, Frognal and Kentish Town North wards. When combined with the doorstep play similar deficiencies in access are found within Hampstead Town and Frognal.

**5.7** The only areas shown as deficient in access to Neighbourhood play spaces is the north-east of Highgate ward. Youth spaces are similarly well represented across the borough, with gaps in provision in the north around Hampstead Town and a small area of Bloomsbury ward.

**5.8** Table 5.2: Percentage area by ward that is in Area of Deficiency (AoD) for each hierarchy of play space**Table 5.2** below shows the percentage area of each ward that is in an area of deficiency as mapped using GiGL’s network modelling approach.

**Table 5.2: Percentage area by ward that is in Area of Deficiency (AoD) for each hierarchy of play space**

Ward	Doorstep % AoD	Local % AoD	Neighbourhood % AoD	Youth % AoD
Belsize	98.9	84.3	58.5	28.1

Ward	Doorstep % AoD	Local % AoD	Neighbourhood % AoD	Youth % AoD
Bloomsbury	94.6	62.3	15.5	27.8
Camden Square	81.0	3.8	0.1	0.0
Camden Town	89.7	45.0	6.1	5.5
Fortune Green	92.2	52.6	15.1	18.0
Frognal	98.9	74.2	29.0	29.3
Gospel Oak	77.1	12.2	11.0	1.1
Hampstead Town	99.0	77.6	21.9	87.0
Haverstock	84.0	38.2	13.1	4.5
Highgate	93.1	68.1	81.6	42.9
Holborn and Covent Garden	91.2	25.9	13.9	0.0
Kentish Town North	82.9	27.3	37.8	0.3
Kentish Town South	87.5	28.3	7.1	4.6
Kilburn	78.2	17.9	2.1	0.0
King's Cross	88.3	21.8	26.3	3.2
Primrose Hill	86.4	42.9	10.2	3.2

Ward	Doorstep % AoD	Local % AoD	Neighbourhood % AoD	Youth % AoD
Regent's Park	88.2	27.7	2.6	2.6
South Hampstead	91.2	40.9	7.3	0.2

**5.9 Table 5.2** confirms that there is low access to doorstep playable space across Camden with all wards having at least 70% of their area in an Area of Deficiency (AoD) for this type of space. Eight wards have over 90% of their area in an AoD for doorstep playable space: Belsize, Bloomsbury, Fortune Green, Frognal, Hampstead Town, Highgate, Holborn and Covent Garden, and South Hampstead.

**5.10** There is better access to local playable spaces within Camden across all wards. Camden Square, Gospel Oak and Kilburn have less than 20% of their area in AoD for local play. The wards with the largest area in AoD for local play are Belsize, Frognal and Hampstead Town, with 70% or more.

**5.11** Access to neighbourhood play space is good across the borough. The majority of the wards have 30% or less of their area in AoD for neighbourhood play spaces. Belsize and Highgate are the outliers with over 50% of their area in AoD for neighbourhood play spaces.

**5.12** Access to youth space is also good across most of Camden. The majority of wards have 30% or less of their area in youth AoD. Only Hampstead Town and Highgate have over 40% of their area in AoD for youth spaces.

**5.13** Potential barriers to play provision access within the borough, including major roads, primary roads, railway tracks and watercourses. All of the sub-areas are shown to have some potential barriers. These are most apparent in Central Camden with the intersection of railway lines and A roads around Kings Cross/St Pancras and Euston stations, West Camden with the intersection of three major railway lines and the A41, and a number of A roads in South Camden.

## Chapter 6

# Quality and Value of Play Provision in Camden

## Developing an approach

**6.1** The study provides an assessment of quality and value of play provision across LBC. The quality and value audit approach takes into account a range of criteria, providing the opportunity to assess the range of play facilities on offer and their condition.

**6.2** Where play provision is located within a wider site, the characteristics of the surrounding site are considered. This approach provides the opportunity to undertake a strategic assessment of play provision across the borough. It also enables the identification of priority sites for future investment, whereby maximising the benefit that the network can provide for the community.

**6.3** Criteria have been defined as relating to quality or value, whereby:

- 'Value' relates to the presence of various features and facilities, value to the community, location and standard of design; and
- 'Quality' covers aspects relating to management and the condition of features and facilities.

**6.4** Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated. For example, an open space may be high quality (by virtue of it being well maintained and in good condition), but if it is not accessible or does not have an appropriate level of facilities for the type of site, it may be of low value. Conversely, an open space could have an appropriate level of facilities (high value), but the condition of the site could still fall short (low quality).

**6.5** Scoring for most of the criteria in the quality and value assessment is based on a scale of 1 to 5. Quality scores broadly translate as:

- 1 = Very poor
- 2 = Poor
- 3 = Fair
- 4 = Good

■ 5 = Very good.

**6.6** Value scores can be broadly described as 1 = poor / lower value to 5 = higher value. For some criteria a value score of 1 is added to account for the presence of the feature. The survey used in the assessments is provided in **Appendix F**.

## Developing Quality and Value ‘Benchmark’ Standards

**6.7** The purpose of undertaking the site audits is to provide a strategic assessment of the quality and value of sites and gain an understanding of deficiencies in access to high quality / value sites. The scores can then be used as part of a quality and value benchmarking process. The performance of play spaces can be tested against the benchmark scores; highlighting where they sit in relation to an agreed standard that represents what should be considered an acceptable good quality /high value site. This process can help to identify current needs for improvement and prioritise investment and enhancement in a strategic way.

**6.8** Separate benchmark scores are proposed for each play typology. This reflects the differing performance of different types of play sites – with large better equipped neighbourhood sites expected to perform better than smaller doorstep sites. A separate benchmark value is proposed for standalone MUGA sites in this assessment. Again, this reflects differences in the overall scores which may be obtained by this type of site which is relatively unequipped compared to play area type sites.

**6.9** Development of the proposed quality and value standards are based on the calculation of the mean averages of the results of the play space audits. The proposed standards are shown in **Table 6.1**.

**Table 6.1: Play space quality and value standards**

Play typology	Quality standard	Value standard
Doorstep playable space	45	43
Local playable space	54	54
Neighbourhood Playable Space	55	57

Play typology	Quality standard	Value standard
Youth space	42	37
MUGA	39	35

**6.10** The scores take account of what can reasonably be expected from a play space within the area, and the levels of maintenance that should be expected for the type of facilities and features present.

## Application of quality and value standards

**6.11** Once the sites are tested against the benchmarks, they are assessed against an agreed standard for quality and value. Sites are then identified as falling into one of the four categories, shown below:

- Higher quality, higher value (++)
- Higher quality, lower value (+-)
- Lower quality, higher value (-+)
- Lower quality, lower value (--).

**6.12** The categories can provide a broad indication of the type of management approach that may be needed across any given area or site (summarised below).

### Higher quality / Higher value (++)

**6.13** These sites represent the best play spaces within the borough, offering the greatest value to local communities. Future management should seek to maintain the standards to ensure sites continue to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

**6.14** These sites would likely not be considered a priority in terms of future enhancement, however, improvements and enhancement to these sites may still be appropriate.

### High Quality / Lower Value (+ -)

**6.15** The audit found these sites to be achieving a sufficient standard for quality, most likely with sufficient levels of maintenance. Features and facilities are likely to be in good condition, or a good state of repair. Value for these sites fall short of what should be expected. For instance, through a lack of suitable features, facilities, and opportunities for informal recreation.

**6.16** These sites should be prioritised for future works to enhance the sites value, for instance through the provision of appropriate features and facilities and implementing appropriate design interventions.

### Lower Quality / Higher Value (-+)

**6.17** These spaces meet or exceed the proposed standard for value but fall short on the proposed quality standard. These sites will most likely contain the features and attributes that is expected of a play space, but their condition may be poor, and the site may be failing to achieve the expected standards of management and maintenance. Play features may be tired, broken, or beyond their useful life.

**6.18** These sites provide most opportunity for 'quick wins' of improving play provision through enhanced management and maintenance and repair of equipment. A lack of good management and maintenance can also impact perceptions of safety; therefore, work should also be undertaken to ensure play spaces are welcoming and feel safe for use by the local community.

### Lower Quality / Lower Value (--)

**6.19** Enhancing both the quality and value of these sites should be considered a priority, particularly in areas which suffer from a deficiency in access to, or quantity of, publicly accessible play space.

## Mapping quality / value performance of play space

**6.20** A colour coding system has been applied as part of strategic mapping exercises to understand any spatial patterns of the performance of sites and to identify priority areas for enhancement.

**Table 6.2: Symbology for quality and value performance**

Symbol and colour coding	Description
++	Higher quality / Higher value
+-	Higher quality / Lower value
-+	Lower quality / Higher value
--	Lower quality / Lower value

## Summary of results

**6.21 Figures 6.1a-e** provide a detailed overview of the performance of play provision against the benchmark standard. In general, the borough forms a patchwork of differing quality / value play sites. However, notable areas in which play provision is shown to be performing below the benchmark standard are:

- In the south of West Camden, particularly south of the Euston-Watford railway line.
- In the south and east of Central Camden.

**6.22** Further information on play provision performance is detailed within **Appendix G**, where an overview of each playable space typology performance is detailed by sub-area. Visual examples of the four categories of quality and value are provided in **Appendix H**.

Figure 6.1: Quality and value scores

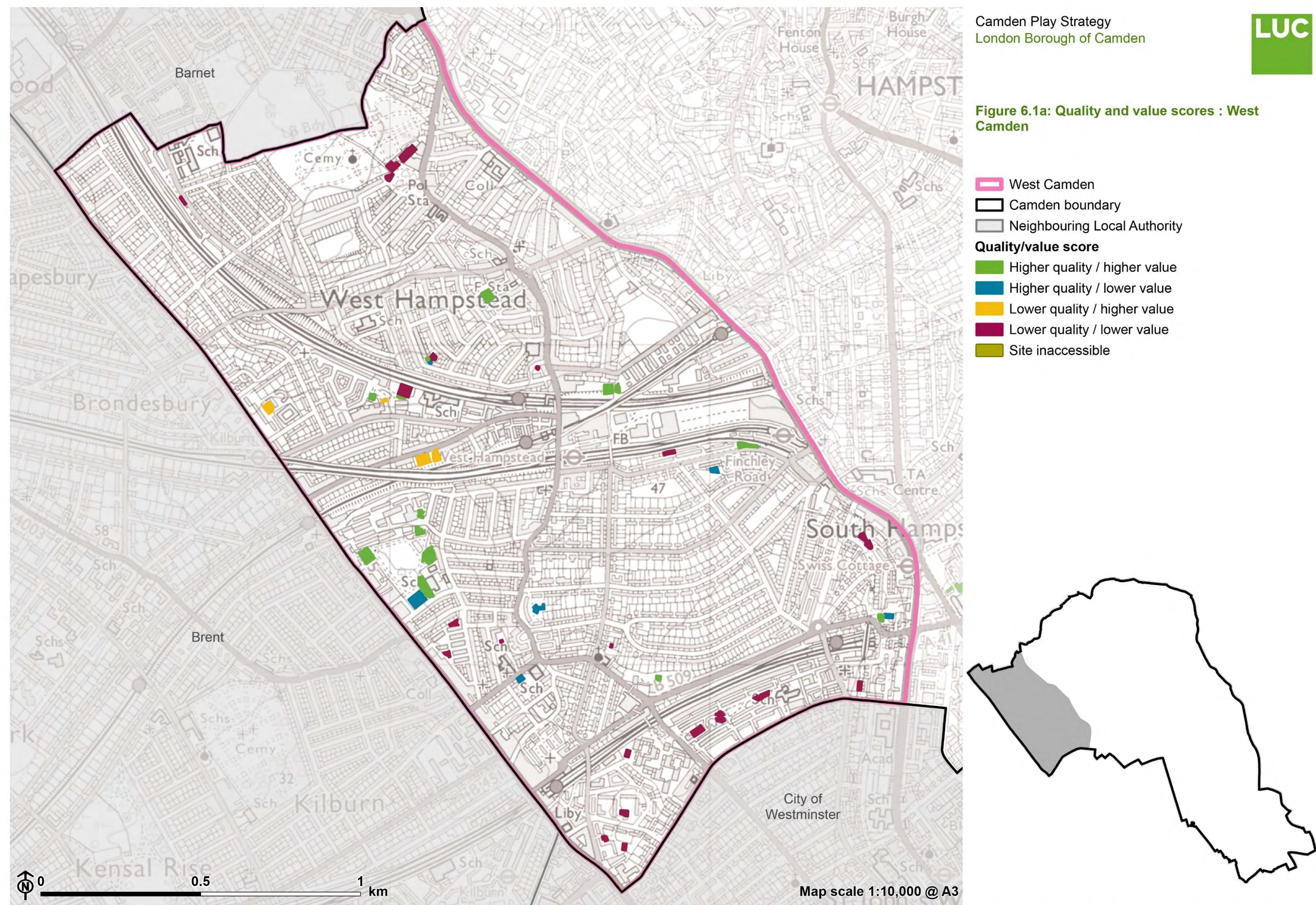
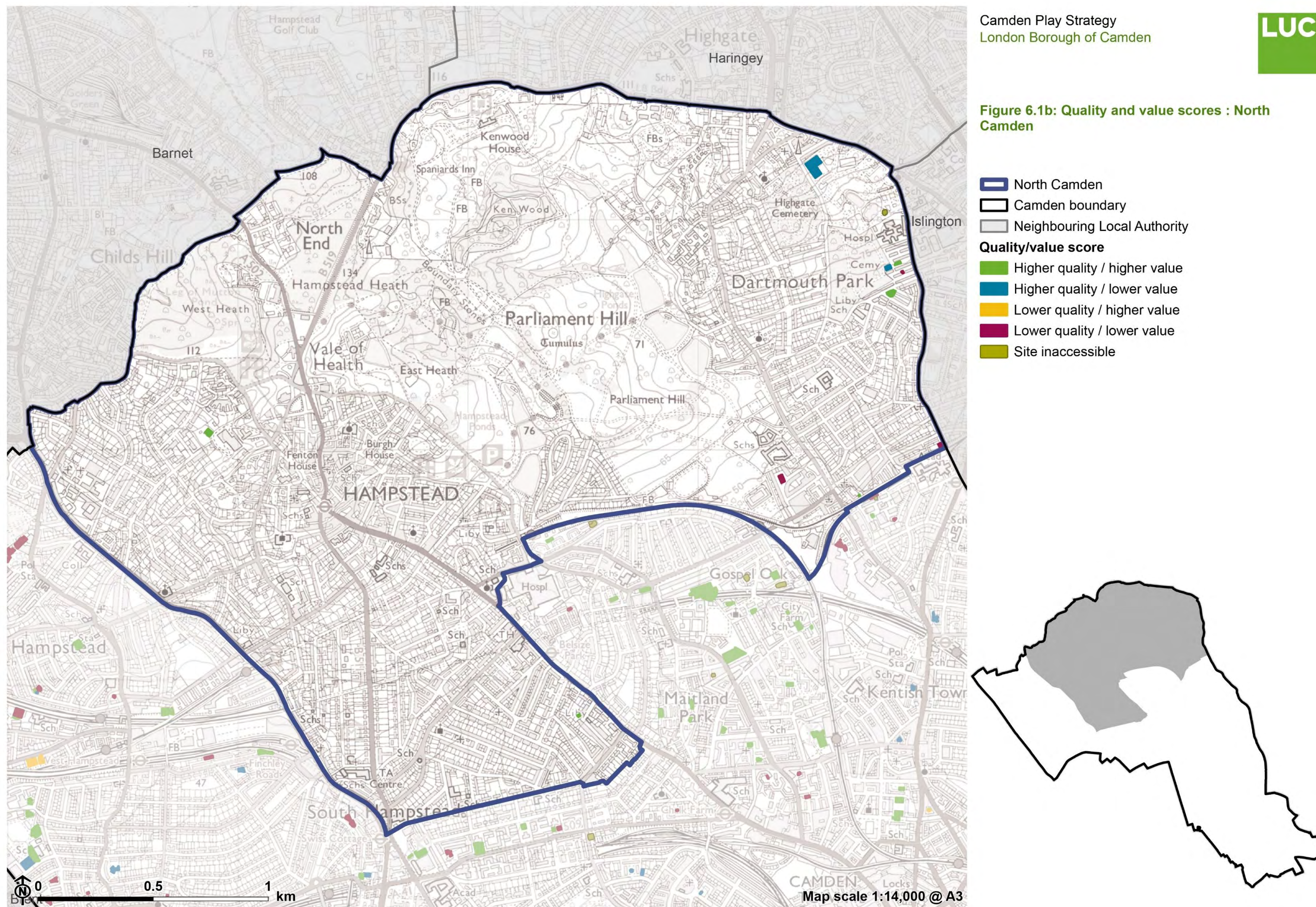


Figure 6.1b: Quality and value scores : North Camden



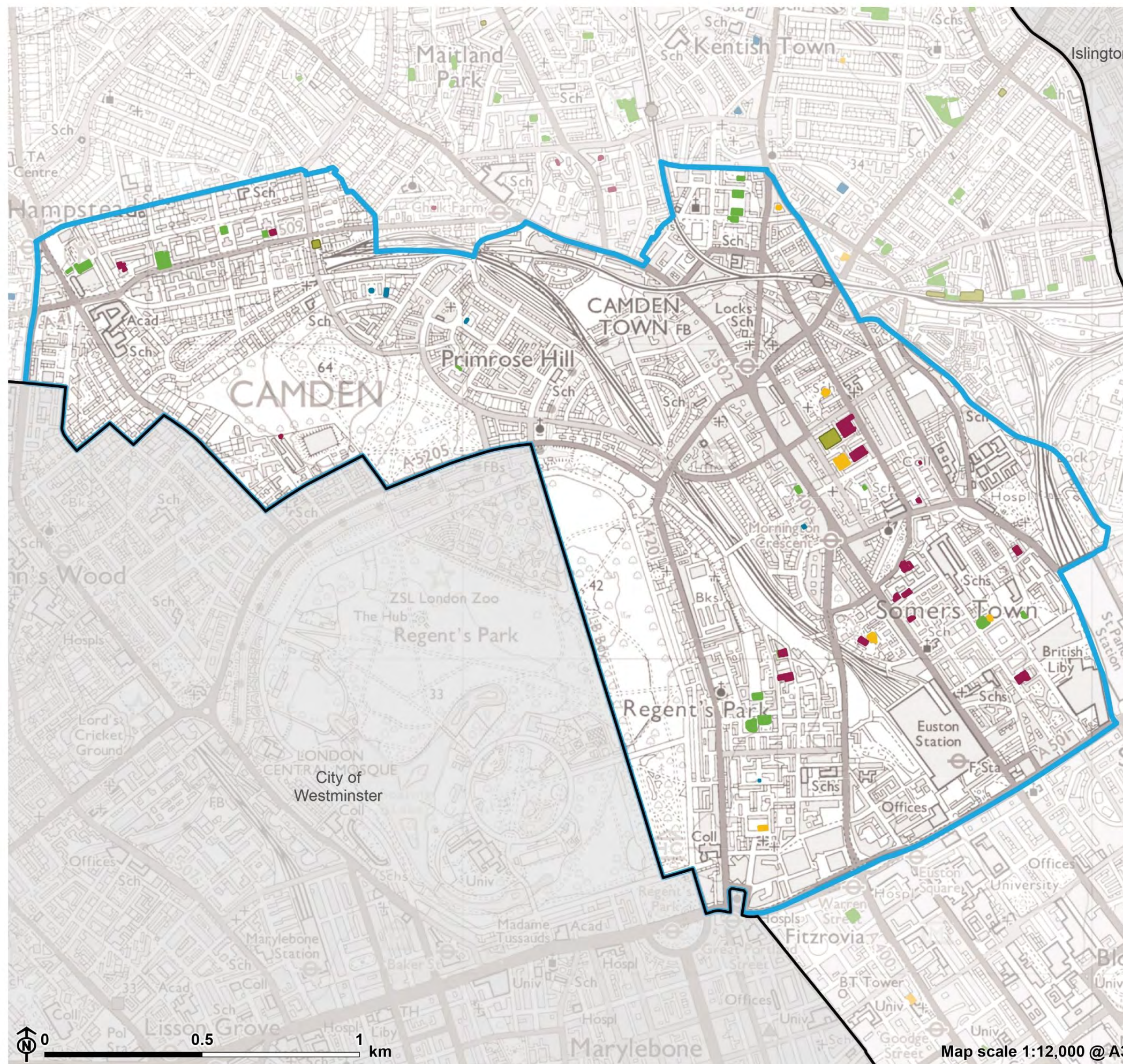
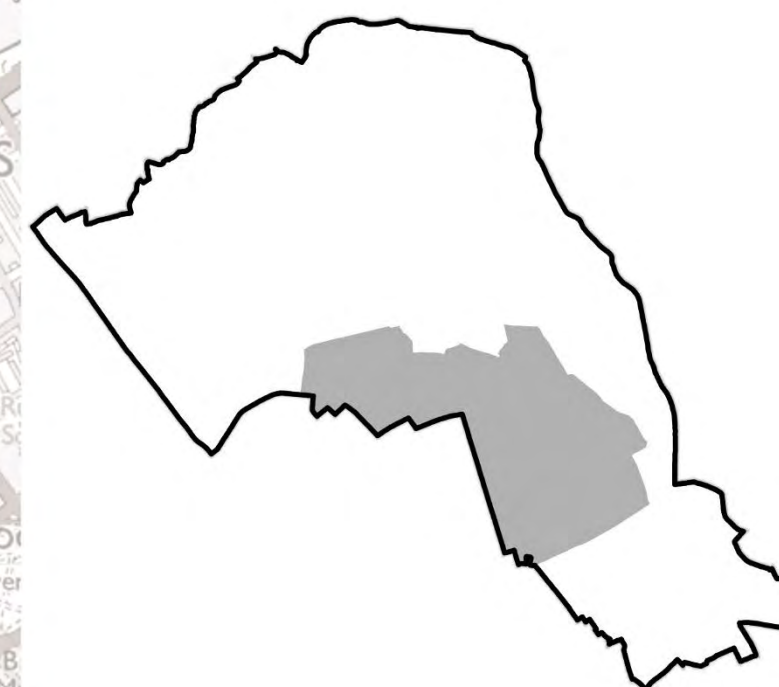
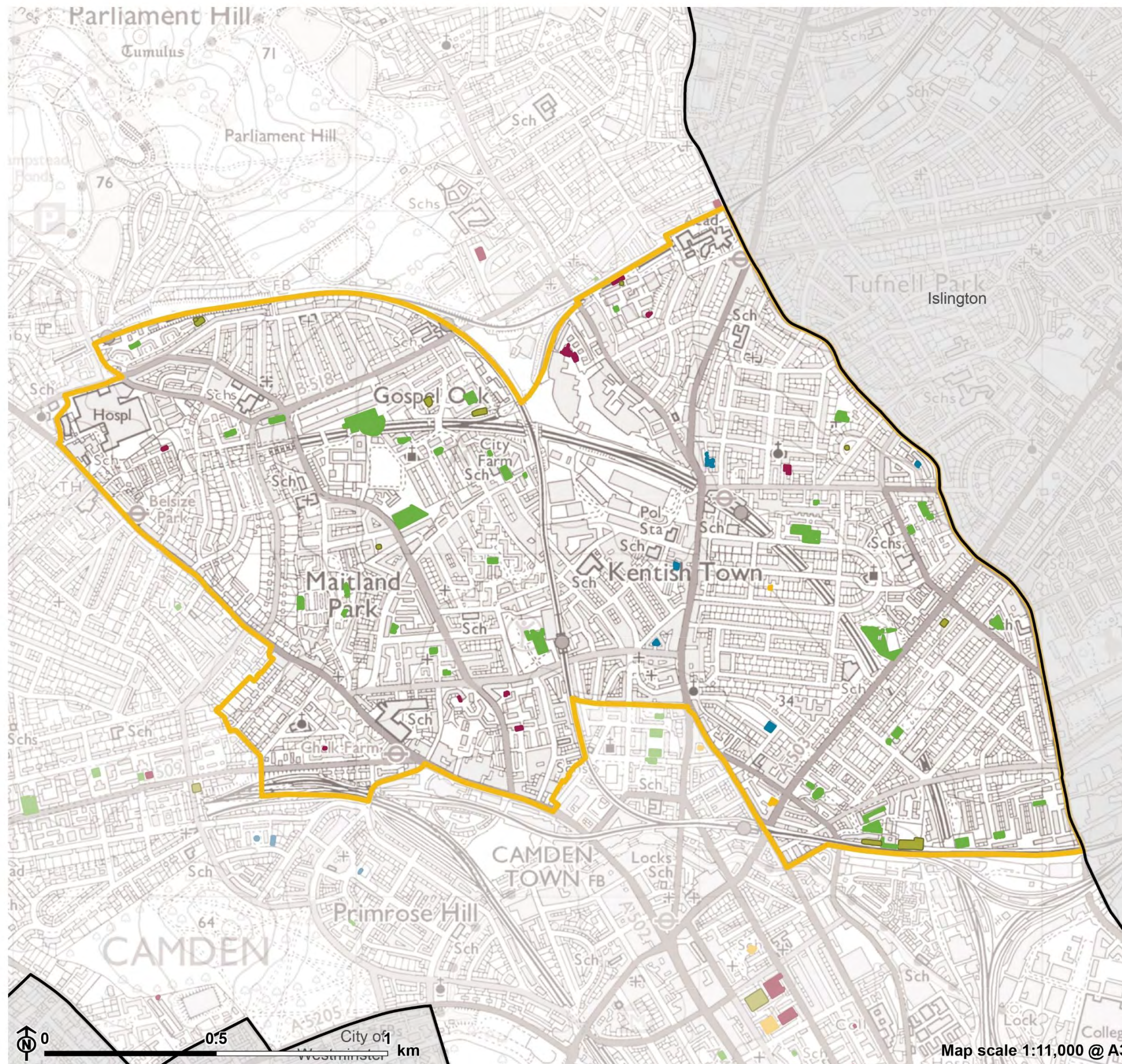


Figure 6.1c: Quality and value scores :  
Central Camden

- Central Camden
- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Quality/value score**
- Higher quality / higher value
- Higher quality / lower value
- Lower quality / higher value
- Lower quality / lower value
- Site inaccessible

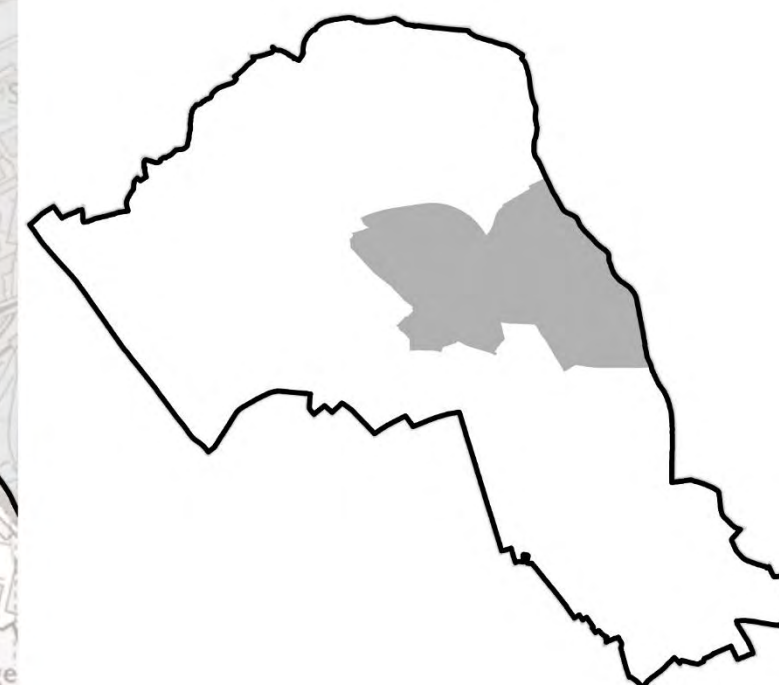


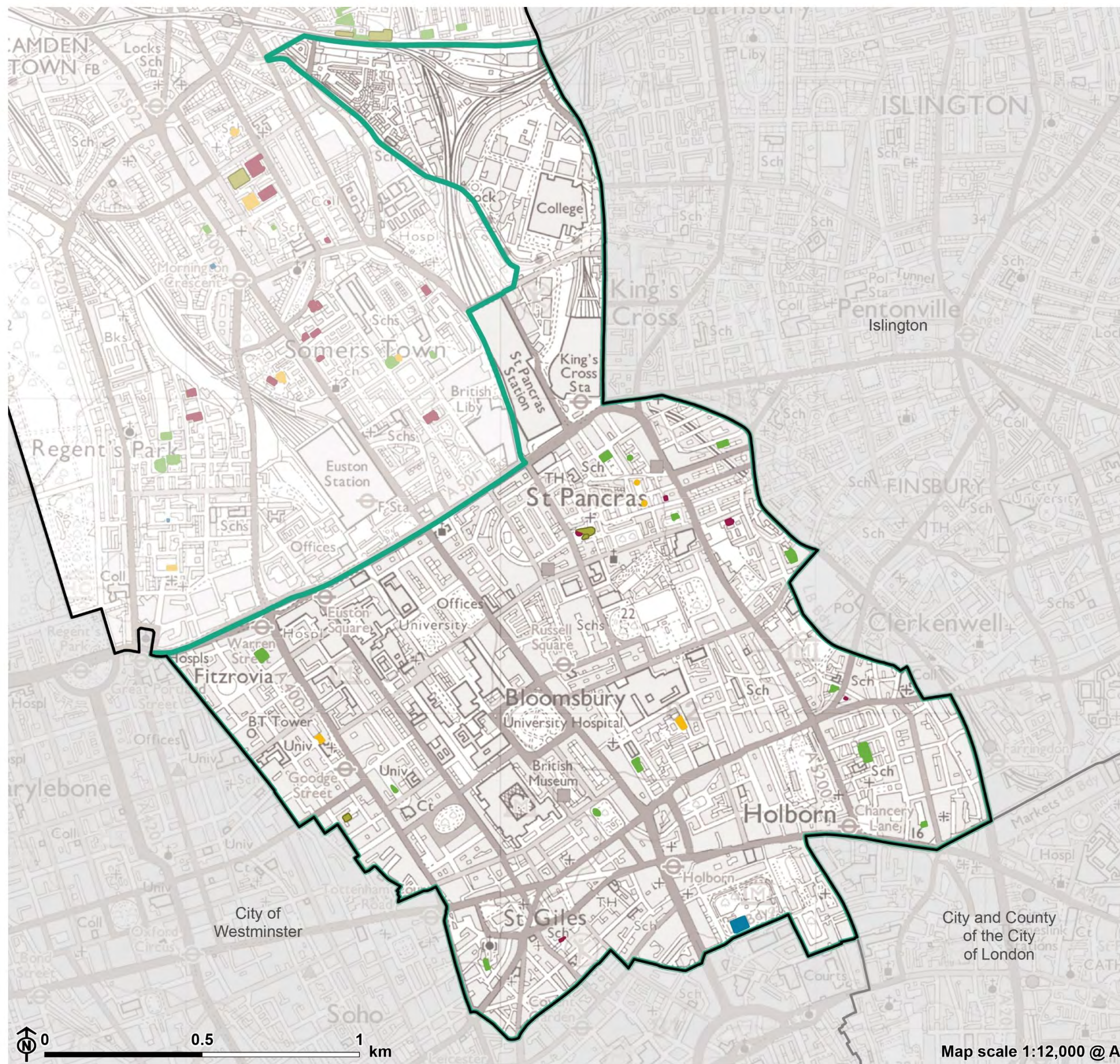
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**Figure 6.1d: Quality and value scores : East Camden**

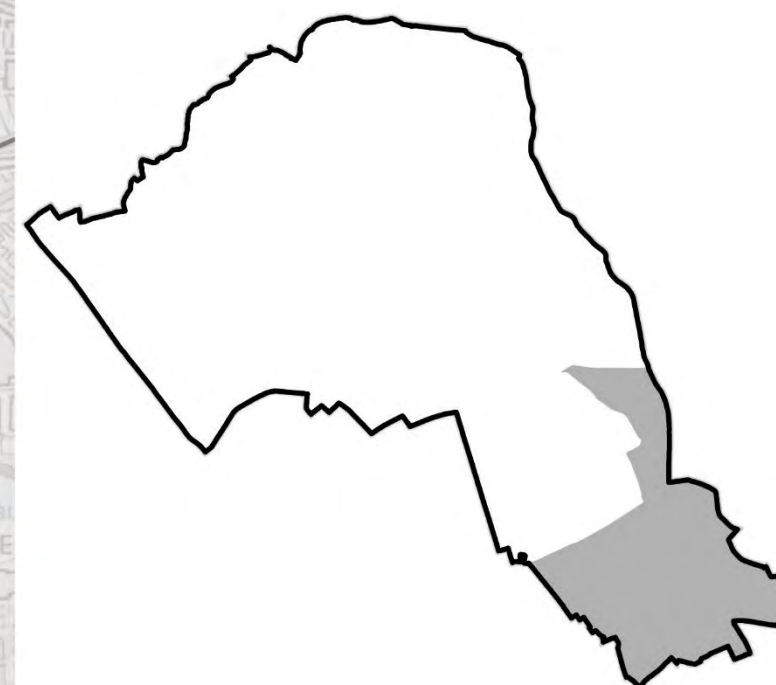
- East Camden
- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Quality/value score**
- Higher quality / higher value
- Higher quality / lower value
- Lower quality / higher value
- Lower quality / lower value
- Site inaccessible





**Figure 6.1e: Quality and value scores : South Camden**

- South Camden
  - Camden boundary
  - Neighbouring Local Authority
- Quality/value score**
- Higher quality / higher value
  - Higher quality / lower value
  - Lower quality / higher value
  - Lower quality / lower value
  - Site inaccessible



## Chapter 7

# Priorities and Recommendations for Play in Camden

**7.1** This chapter outlines key findings from the study for each Sub Area identified within Camden: West, North, South, East, Central. Interpretation of these findings will inform management priorities and provide overarching policy recommendations for future play space enhancement in Camden.

## Prioritising areas for enhancement

**7.2** The results of the audit should be used to identify specific sites or broad geographic areas where enhancement of play provision and opportunity to utilise open space would provide the greatest benefits for the communities they serve.

**7.3** **Figure 7.1a-e** provides a collective overview of the key mapping outputs from the study in order to help prioritise areas for play enhancement. The map includes the combined play needs mapping (utilising IMD population data, Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, and Health Deprivation and Disability domains), and site quality and values scores.

## West Camden

**7.4** A number of the play spaces which fall below the quality and value benchmarks are also located in areas of greatest play needs, including:

- Abbey Estate 1 (60)
- Alexandra & Ainsworth Estate (62 and 201)
- Harben Road Estate 1 (65)
- Hilgrove Estate 1 (66)
- Kilburn Gate Estate (69 and 70)
- Kingsgate Road Estate (71 and 71)
- Maygrove Peace Park MUGA (193)
- Mortimer Estate & MUGA (76 and 77)

- St Mary's Mews Estate (80)
- Westcroft Close Estate (85)

## North Camden

**7.5** There are fewer play spaces in North Camden than in other areas of the borough. Two play spaces are shown which fall below the quality and value benchmarks within areas of greatest play need. These are both located in the south-east of the sub-area:

- Highgate New Town Estate 1 (97)
- Lissenden Gardens (103)

## Central Camden

**7.6** A number of play spaces fall below the quality and value benchmarks within areas of greatest play need. There is a concentration east of Camden High Street / Eversholt Street:

- Amptill Square Estate (16)
- College Place Estate (20 and 21)
- Goldington Street Estate (25)
- Mayford (26, 27 & 195)
- Ossulston Estate (28 and 29)
- Somers Town Estate (31)

**7.7** Other play spaces within Central Camden which also fall below the benchmark standards are:

- Augustus House MUGA (10)
- Clarence Gardens (9)
- Estate 1-158 Dorney (121)
- Regents Park Nursery (136)

## East Camden

**7.8** A small number of play spaces fall below the quality and value benchmarks within areas of greatest play need in East Camden. These are:

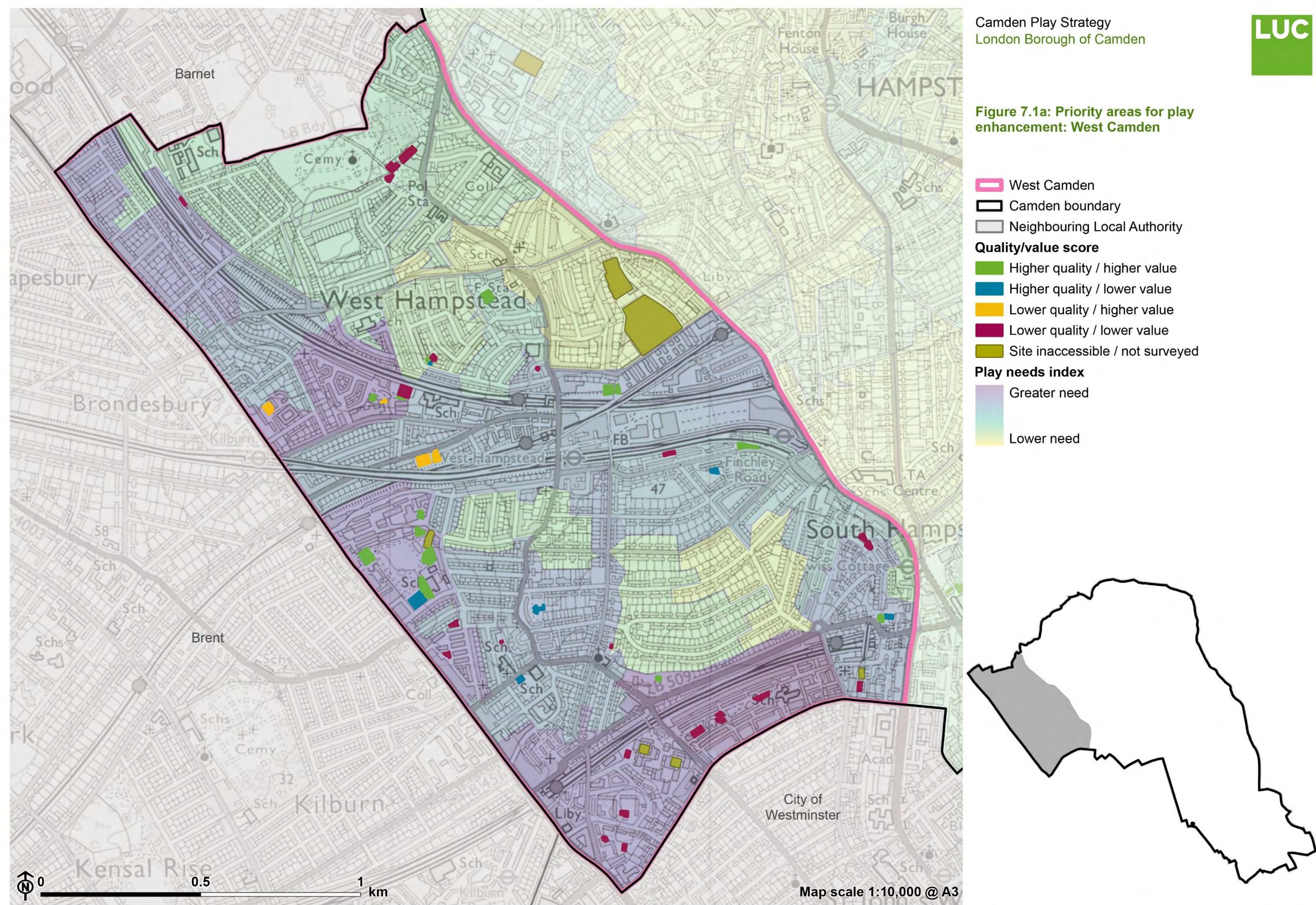
- Carrol & Sanderson Close Estate (94)
- Denton Estate (39)
- Dunboyne Road Estate (40)
- Ingestre Road Estate (99 and 101)
- New Harmood Estate (49)
- Willingham Terrace Estate (113)

## South Camden

**7.9** There is a small concentration of play spaces which fall below the quality and value benchmarks within areas of greatest play need south of Euston Road and east of Judd Street:

- Estate 1-166 Cavendish Mansions (126)
- Bramber Green / Judd Street Open Space (146)
- Cromer Street Estate 1 (87)

Figure 7.1: Priority areas for play enhancement



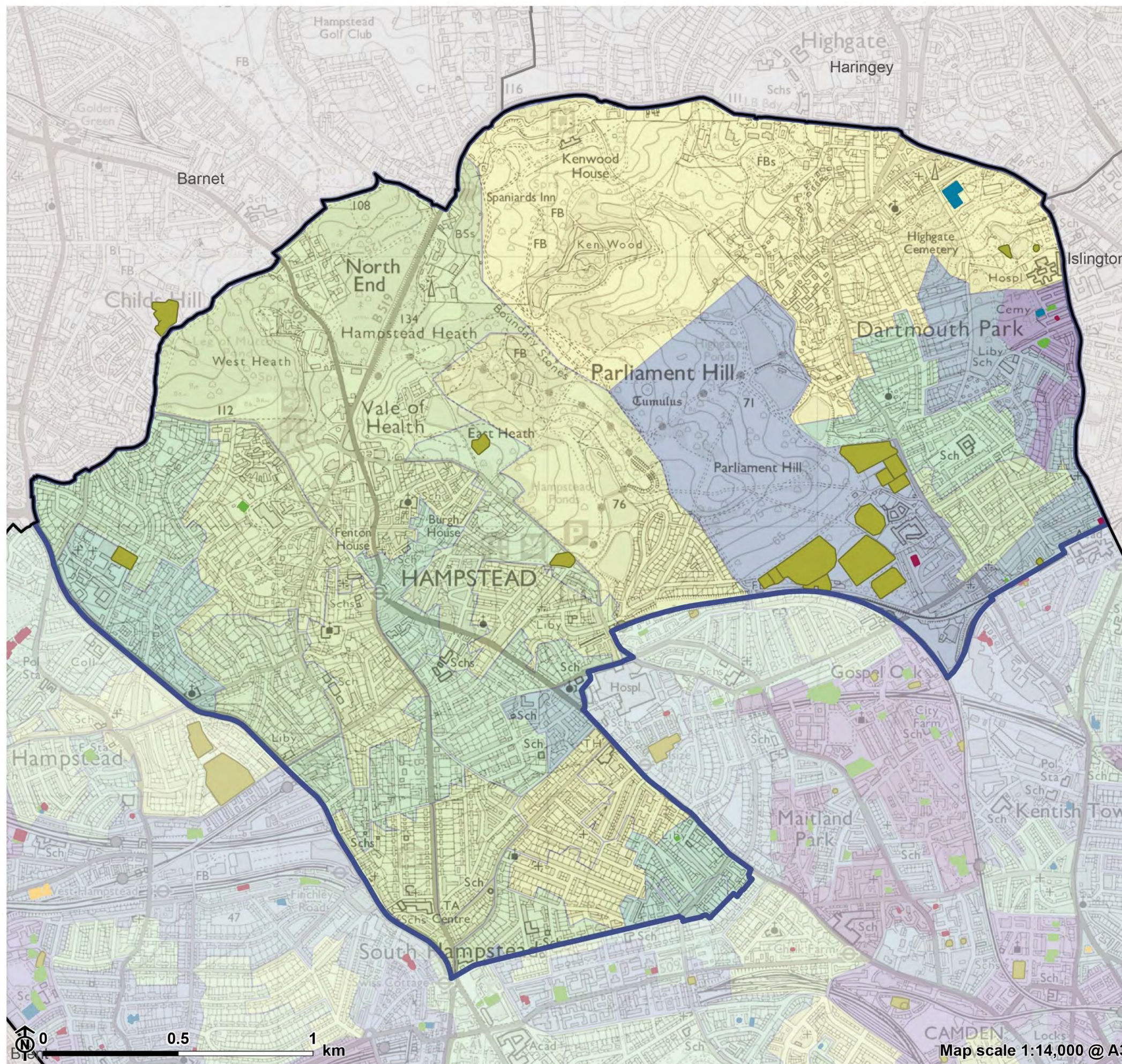
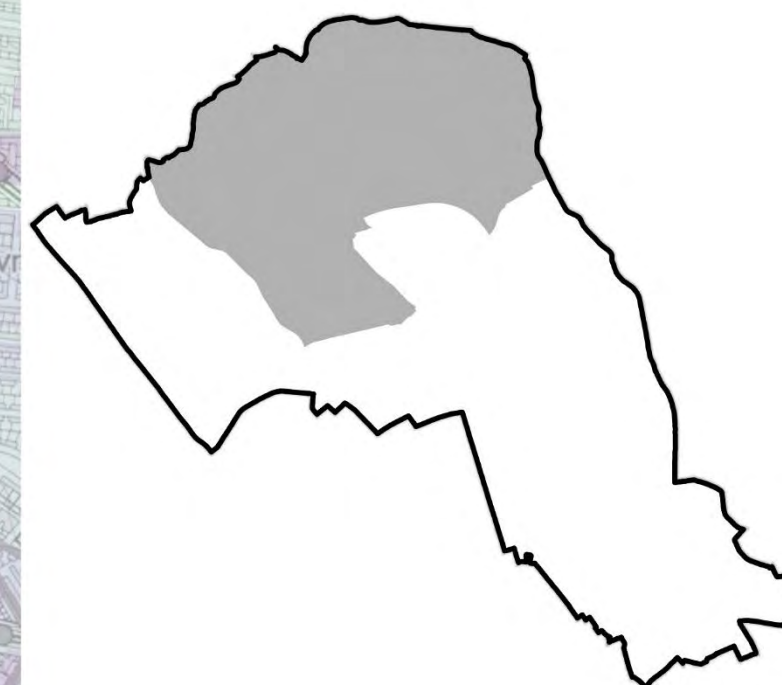
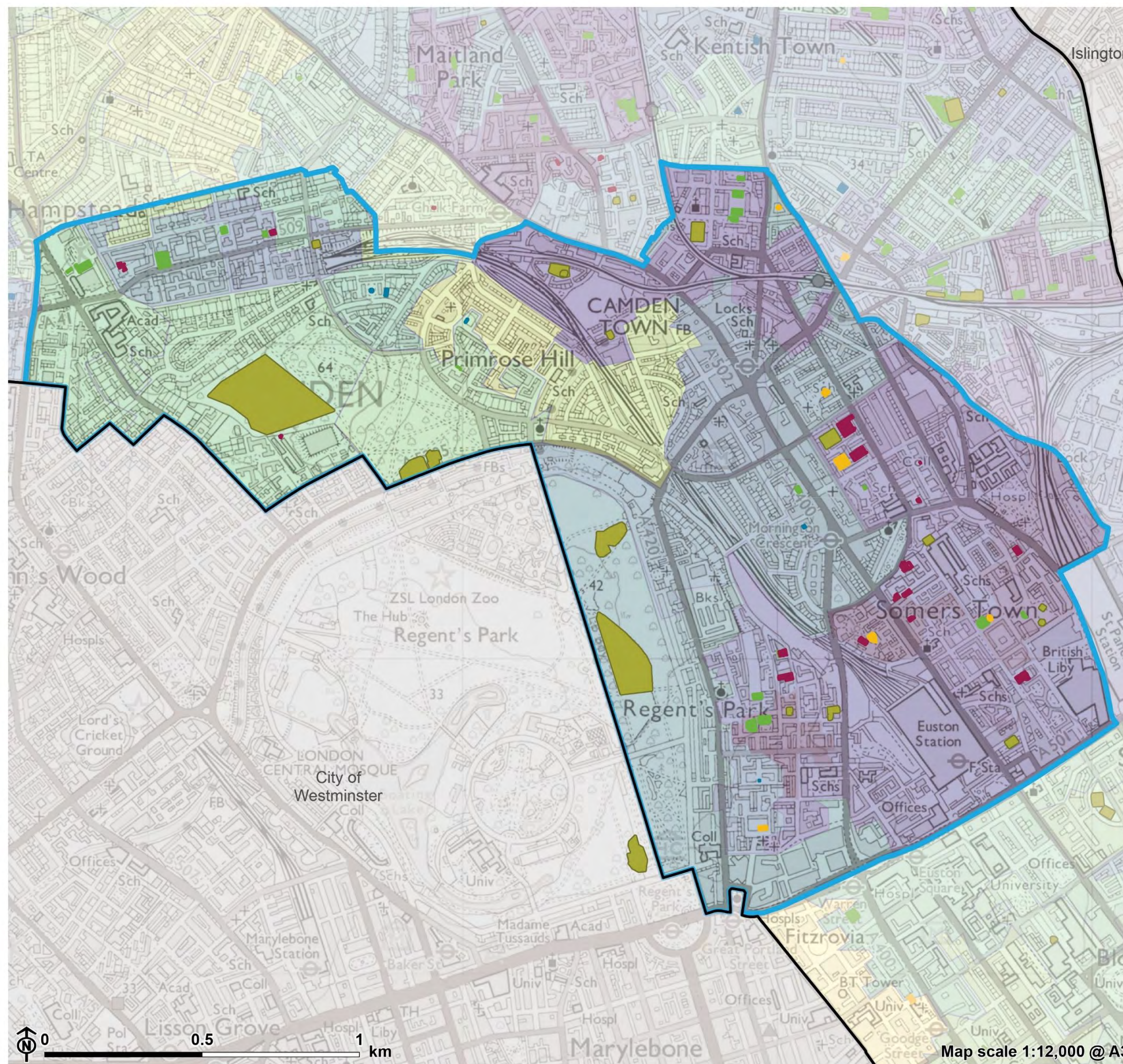


Figure 7.1b: Priority areas for play enhancement: North Camden

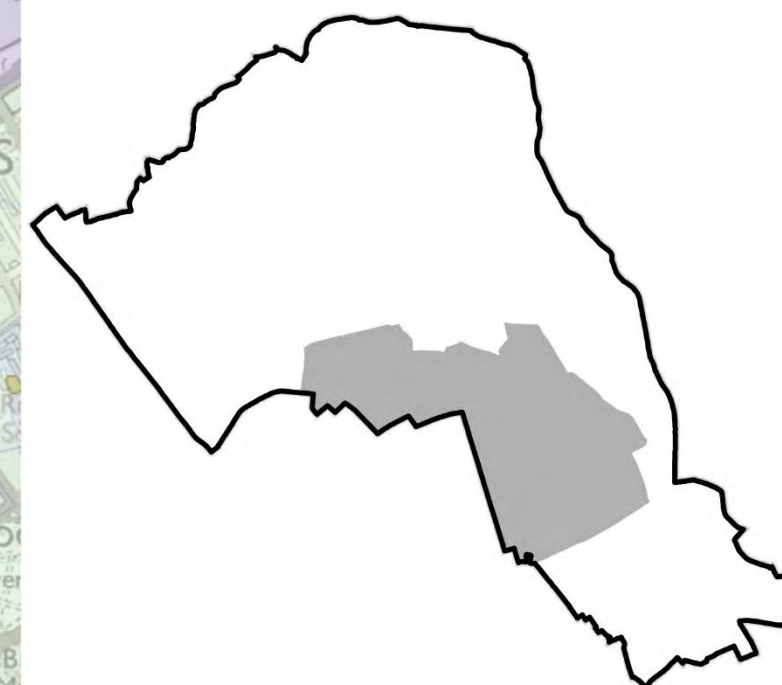
- North Camden
- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Quality/value score**
  - Higher quality / higher value
  - Higher quality / lower value
  - Lower quality / higher value
  - Lower quality / lower value
  - Site inaccessible / not surveyed
- Play needs index**
  - Greater need
  - Lower need





**Figure 7.1c: Priority areas for play enhancement: Central Camden**

- Central Camden
- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Quality/value score**
- Higher quality / higher value
- Higher quality / lower value
- Lower quality / higher value
- Lower quality / lower value
- Site inaccessible / not surveyed
- Play needs index**
- Greater need
- Lower need



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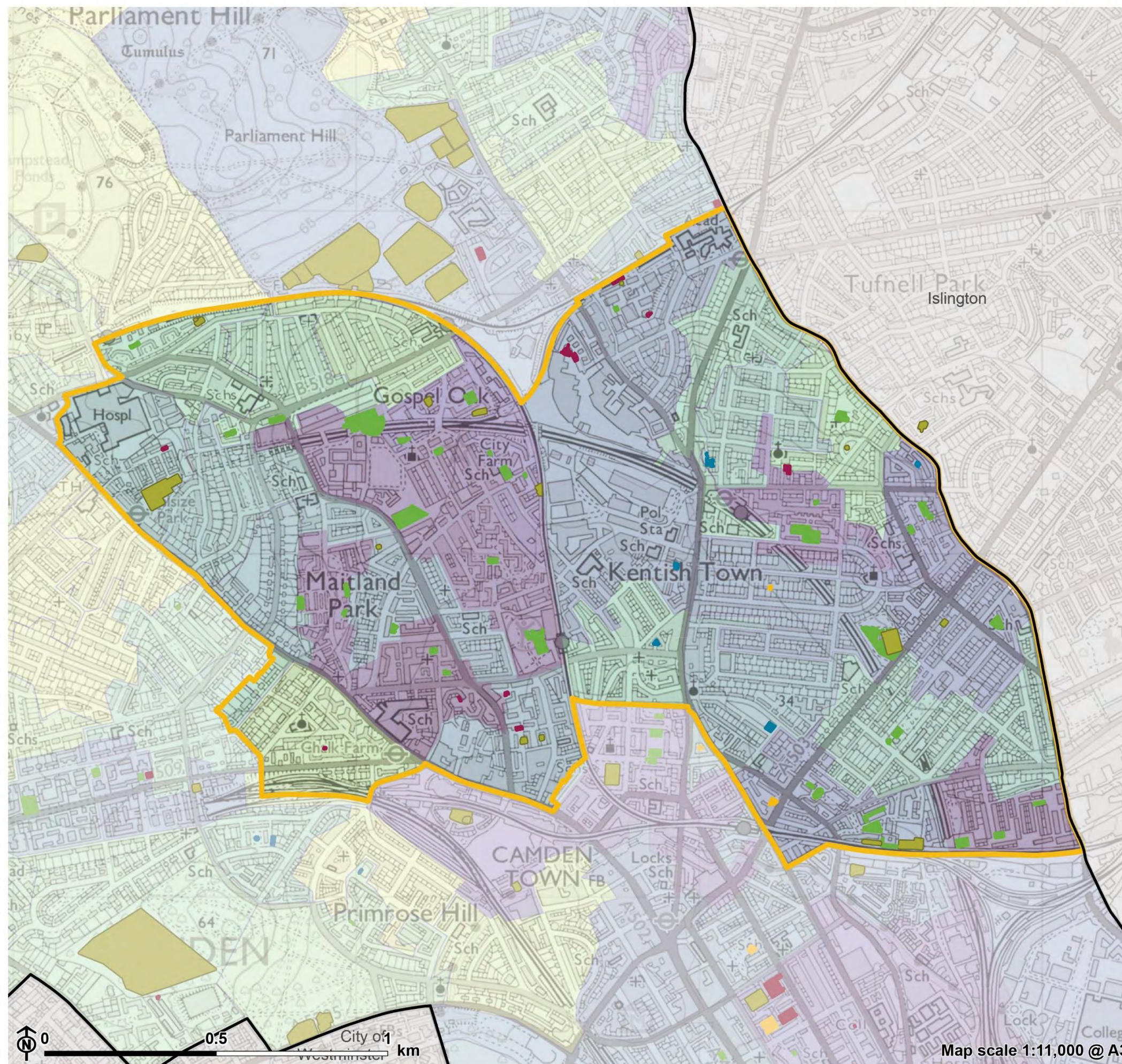
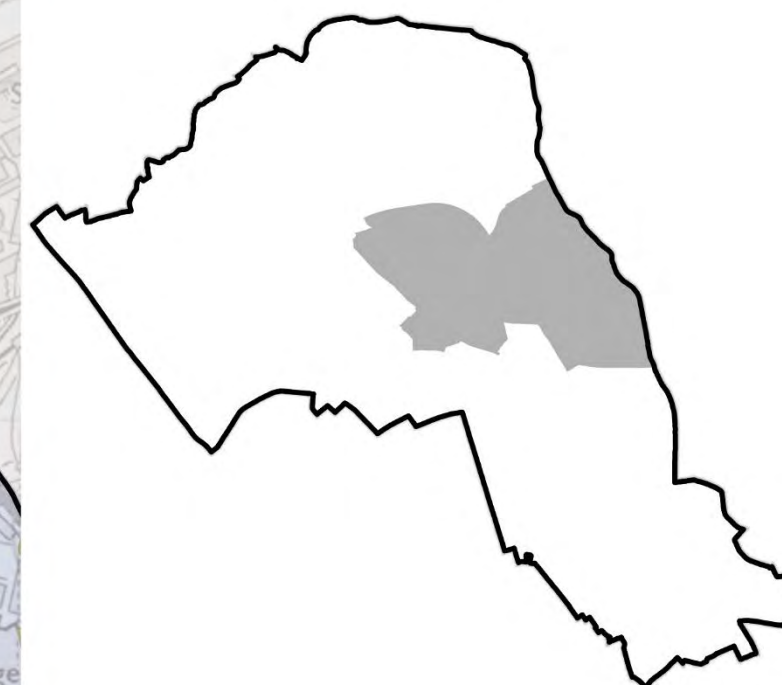


Figure 7.1d: Priority areas for play enhancement: East Camden

- East Camden
- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Quality/value score**
- Higher quality / higher value
- Higher quality / lower value
- Lower quality / higher value
- Lower quality / lower value
- Site inaccessible / not surveyed
- Play needs index**
- Greater need
- Lower need



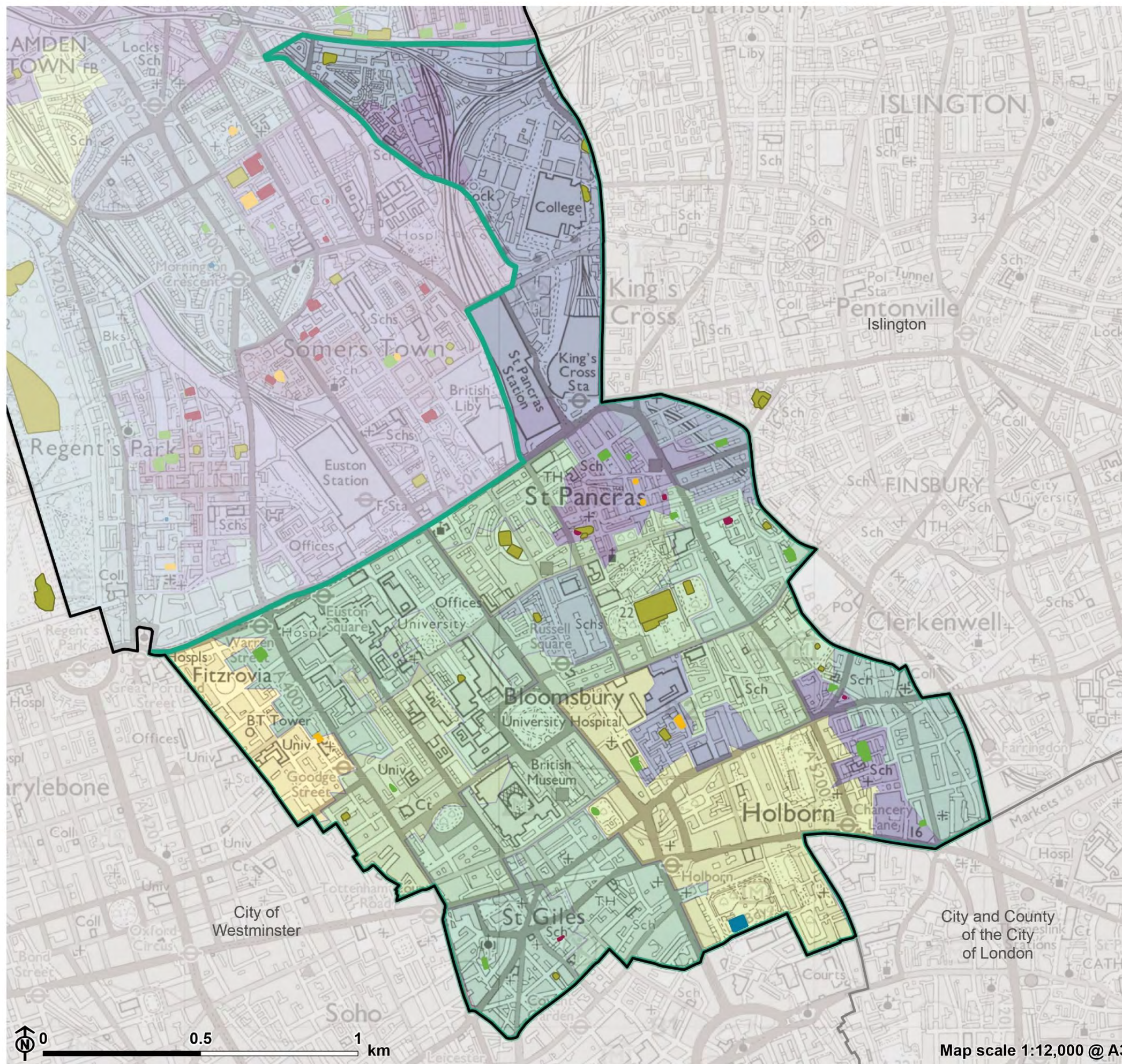
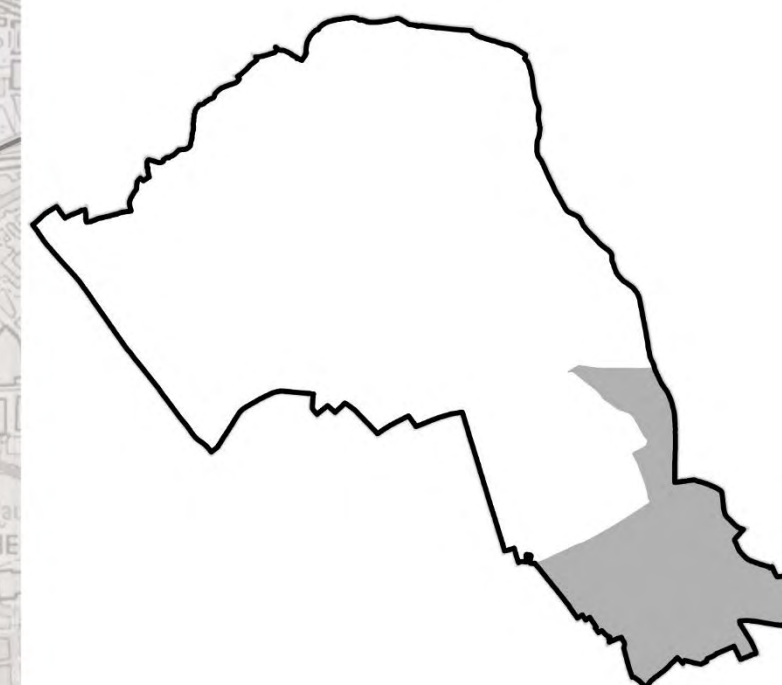


Figure 7.1e: Priority areas for play enhancement: South Camden

- South Camden
- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Quality/value score**
- Higher quality / higher value
- Higher quality / lower value
- Lower quality / higher value
- Lower quality / lower value
- Site inaccessible / not surveyed
- Play needs index**
- Greater need
- Lower need



Map scale 1:12,000 @ A3

**7.10** A proposed method for analysing play provision that can be used in conjunction with **Figures 7.1a-e** to prioritise areas / play spaces for enhancement is set out below.

## Key stages for evaluating existing play provision to inform future investment and prioritisation

### Stage 1: Assess accessibility

#### Options / considerations for prioritising areas / sites for enhancement

**7.11** Assess deficiency mapping to identify areas deficient in access to a variety of play typologies.

**7.12** In areas which are deficient in access to a variety of high quality play typologies, consideration should be given to:

- Ensuring existing play provision meets the required quality and value standards.
- Address any potential barriers to existing play provision. Ensuring accessibility to the Borough's communities.
- Creating play provision to meet deficits. Typology of play provision to be informed by the quantity, accessibility, and quality and value of nearby typologies.
- Ensuring play provision caters and encourages play for all genders.

### Stage 2: Consider the performance of play spaces against the proposed quality and value standards

#### Options / considerations for prioritising areas/sites for enhancement

**7.13** Consider options for applying management approaches and enhancement funding to address poor performance against the quality and value benchmarks.

## Stage 3: Consider the borough's Play Needs Index

### Options / considerations for prioritising areas/sites for enhancement

**7.14** Focus improvements / enhancements on low quality and value sites within areas of high play need. Account for future changes in child population.

## Stage 4: Scrutinise site audit forms

### Options / considerations for prioritising areas/sites for enhancement

**7.15** Use audit forms to provide detail on quality, value and informal recreation scores. Develop an outline list of potential interventions / enhancements.

## Policy and delivery

**7.16** Future policies for the management of the network should seek to ensure that new development addresses the deficiency of play space across the borough. New development should therefore provide publicly accessible play space, that as a minimum, meets the needs of the existing community and accommodates future population growth. The importance of long term maintenance should also be considered to ensure that equipment can be maintained at a high quality throughout its life cycle.

**7.17** Where formal play provision cannot be provided on-site, off-site provision, including the creation of new facilities or improvements to existing provision, may be acceptable to LBC. Any off-site play provision should demonstrate that it can meet the needs of both existing and future residents.

**7.18** The charging approach used to calculate financial contributions for provision of play space by LBC should allow for off-site contributions and long term maintenance of play sites.

**7.19** To aid in the delivery of the priorities and recommendations made within this report, it is recommended that an action plan is developed by LBC. The action plan should look to identify relevant stakeholders and LBC teams to effectively address identified play needs. The findings of this study should be used as the starting point when identifying priority play sites for future investment and enhancement.

## Appendix A

### Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation SPG – Playable Play Typologies

#### Doorstep Playable Space

##### Description

- A landscaped space including engaging play features for young children, and places for carers to sit and talk
- Parental/guardian supervision

##### Minimum Size

- 100m<sup>2</sup>

##### Age Group

- 0-5

##### Example of Facilities

- Landscaping
- Climbable objects
- Fixed equipment
- Seating for carers
- Sand and water feature (if possible)

##### Location

- Residential areas including housing estates
- Pocket Parks
- Public Squares

## Local Playable Space

### Description

- A landscaped space with landscaping and equipment so that children aged from birth to 11 can play and be physically active and they and their carers can sit and talk.
- Flexible use.
- No formal supervision.

### Minimum Size

- 300m<sup>2</sup>

### Age Group

- 0-11

### Example of Facilities

- Landscaping to create natural feel, including changes of level.
- Equipment integrated into the landscaping, that allows children to swing, slide and climb.
- Multi games / ball walls
- Kick about area.
- Basketball nets.
- Seating area away from equipment.
- Sand (if possible).

### Location

- Residential areas including housing estates.
- Local Parks.

## Neighbourhood Playable Space

### Description

- A varied natural space with secluded and open areas, landscaping and equipment so that children aged from birth to 11 can play and be physically active and they and their carers can sit and talk, with some youth facilities.
- Flexible use
- May include youth space.
- May be supervised.

### Minimum Size

- 500m<sup>2</sup>

### Age Group

- All ages

### Example of Facilities

- Landscaping to create natural feel, including changes of level.
- Equipment integrated into the landscaping, that allows children to swing, slide and climb.
- Seating area away from equipment
- Bike, skate and skateboard facilities.
- Kick about area
- Basketball nets
- Hard surface area (if possible)
- Sand if possible.
- Water feature (if possible)
- Shelter plus basketball net, small wheeled facility or climbing wall/boulder for young people.

## Location

- Larger residential areas and housing estates
- Local Parks
- District Parks
- School playgrounds

## Youth Space

### Description

- Social space for young people aged 12 and over to meet, hang out and take part in informal sport or physical recreational activities.
- No formal supervision

### Minimum Size

- 200m<sup>2</sup> +

### Age Group

- 12+

### Example of Facilities

- Space and facilities for informal sport or recreation activity (e.g. table tennis table, multi-use sports areas (MUSA), MUGA, climbing walls or boulders, wheeled sports area, skatepark or BMX track, traversing wall, exercise trails, outdoor exercise/fitness equipment)
- Kick about area
- Seating areas on the edge of the activity space
- Landscaping
- Outdoor stage
- Youth Shelter

## Location

- Larger residential areas and housing estates
- Adjacent to community facilities
- Local Parks
- District Parks
- Town centres

## Appendix B

### Wider play policy context

#### Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation 2012

##### Age-appropriate play facilities

##### Children under 5 (walking distance 100m)

- Small age-appropriate equipped play area
- Public open spaces with potential for informal play.

##### Children 5-11 (walking distance 400m)

- Equipped age-appropriate play area
- Public open spaces with potential for informal play
- Kickabout areas
- Adventure playgrounds
- Skatepark, bike park or other wheeled facility.

##### Young people 12+ (walking distance 800m)

- Adventure playgrounds
- Sport or recreation space that is open access (e.g. ball court, basketball court, multi-use games area)
- Skatepark, bike park or other wheeled facility
- Fitness trails or other age-appropriate equipped areas
- Outdoor stage
- Youth shelters.

## Making London Child-Friendly: Designing Places and Streets for Children and Young People

**B.1** The Making London Child-Friendly report has been created to ensure that children and young people's needs are taken into account as new development is built across London. The report sets out a series of indicators, principles, examples of best practice and recommendations to help make London a more child-friendly city [\[See reference 46\]](#).

**B.2** A key theme of the report is the importance of independent mobility. Independent mobility is described as 'the freedom children and young people have to occupy and move around the public realm without adult supervision'. The design of the built environment is the biggest factor influencing this freedom. Well-designed development allows children and young people ease of access to the city's social and physical infrastructure, and in turn results in positive outcomes to wellbeing.

**B.3** The report details a four lens approach to improving independent mobility alongside a set of guiding principle for each lens, these include:

### Policy

- An inter-departmental approach of child friendliness should be pursued at the borough level and embedded across multiple departments and strategies. The primary objective of which should be to facilitate independent mobility for children and young people.
- The development of policy affecting children and young people should seek to engage with their views as part of the commission process.

### Participation

- Children and young people should be engaged in the process of design and planning from the earliest possible stages, including pre-design consultation.
- Participation needs to be understood as a long-term process ensuring post-intervention feedback and analysis means co-creation is not limited to the design of a space, but also its management and iterative changes.

## Management

- Residential building management should ensure that children and young people are able to move between private, communal and public spaces (from the home to the street) without relying on adult presence.

## Design

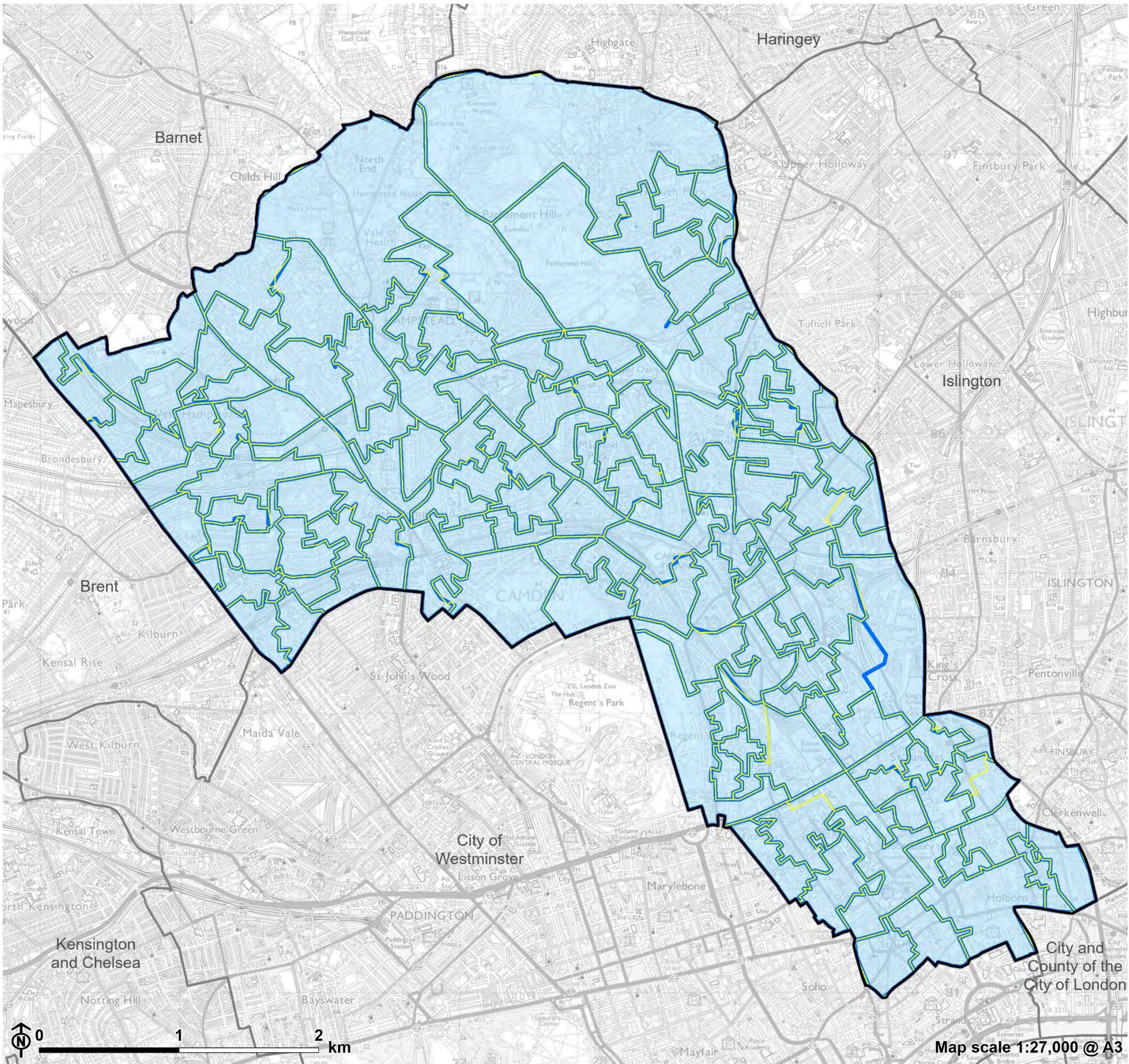
- New developments, renewal projects and public realm improvements should encourage and facilitate the independent mobility of children and young people.
- Wider connectivity should be provided to allow for access to nearby streets, cycle lanes, bus stops and train stations. If this is not possible, nearby child-friendly routes should be identified and efforts made to ensure access between the development and the route.

## Appendix C

### Changes in LSOA boundaries

**C.1** The most recent LSOA boundaries, utilised in the latest 2021 Office of National Statistics census, are shown in blue, and the LSOA boundaries used in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 are shown in yellow.

Figure C.1: Changes in LSOA boundaries 2019-2021



Camden Play Strategy  
London Borough of Camden



Figure C.1: Changes in LSOA boundaries 2019-2021

- Camden boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- IMD 2019
- Census 2021

## Appendix D

### Projected changes in age 18 and under population

**D.1** Table D.1 presents the GLA's projected changes in the population of those 18 and under in Camden from 2022 to 2040, based on their 2022-based housing-led projections.

**Table D.1: Percentage change in 19 and under population by ward (2022-2040)**

Ward	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	Total Percentage Change
Belsize	2504	2375	2145	1999	1965	-21.5%
Bloomsbury	3348	2865	2855	2802	2732	-18%
Camden Square	1370	1387	1251	1153	1120	-18%
Camden Town	1174	1110	1045	991	981	-16%
Fortune Green	2285	2175	1985	1836	1783	-21.9%
Frognaal	1811	1847	1770	1697	1672	-7.6%
Gospel Oak	2420	2313	2092	1940	1926	-20%
Hampstead Town	1677	1585	1462	1391	1386	-17%
Haverstock	2585	2405	2130	1926	1836	-28.9%
Highgate	2130	1932	1715	1569	1516	-28.8%

Ward	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	Total Percentage Change
Holborn & Covent Garden	2023	1850	1672	1544	1482	-26.7%
Kentish Town North	1319	1238	1117	1033	1011	-23%
Kentish Town South	2267	2099	2080	2004	1962	-13%
Kilburn	2726	2535	2276	2064	1958	-28%
King's Cross	2491	2393	2269	2189	2141	-14%
Primrose Hill	2771	2601	2410	2294	2244	-19%
Regent's Park	2777	2484	2332	2708	2888	+3.9%
St Pancras & Somers Town	3268	2830	2658	2466	2376	-27.9%
South Hampstead	2434	2268	2087	1922	1834	-24.6%
West Hampstead	1851	1789	1739	1662	1834	-0.9%

## Appendix E

### LBC play sites

**E.1** Provided as a separate document. See Appendix **Table E1**.

# Appendix F

## Survey form questions

## Appendix G

### Play site typology benchmark scoring & survey results

**G.1** Benchmark scores were calculated for each playable space typology. The 'performance' of each typology was then assessed, comparing the average score for each playable space type within the area against the benchmark score for each typology. Appendix **Table G1**, provided in a separate document, provides an summary of the results for each survey section as well as the final scores and benchmark values for each site, alongside the full survey results and calculated benchmark scores for each typology.

## Appendix H

### Quality and value categories: visual examples

**H.1** Existing examples of the four quality and value categories within Camden are provided below. Examples have been gathered from a selection of play sites within the borough, offering a snapshot of the various quality and value aspects within a play space of each category.

#### Higher quality, higher value (++)

**H.2** Figures H1.1 shows the higher quality and higher value play space at Lismore Circus, Gospel Oak ward. A popular site, with a variety of play equipment and spaces.

**Figure H.1: Lismore Circus - higher quality, higher value (++)**





## Higher quality, lower value (+-)

**H.3** Figure H.2 shows the higher quality and lower value play space at Rochester Terrace, in Kentish Town South ward, east Camden.

**Figure H.2: Rochester Terrace - higher quality, lower value (+-)**



## Lower quality, higher value (-+)

**H.4** Figure H.3 shows the lower quality and higher value play space at Gamages Estate, located in Holborn and Covent Garden ward, south Camden.

**Figure H.3: Gamages Estate - Lower quality, higher value (-+)**



## Lower quality, lower value (--)

**H.5** Figure H.4 shows the lower quality and lower value play space at Victoria Mansions, West Hampstead in west Camden.

**Figure H.4: Victoria Mansions - lower quality, lower value (--)**



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