



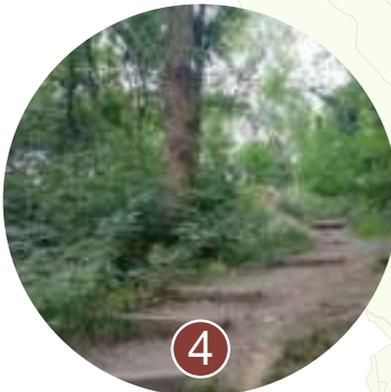
3  
PEBBLE-DASH FLATS



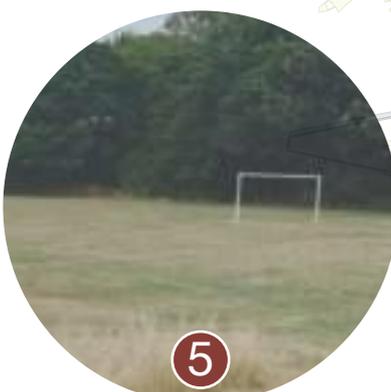
1  
NEWFIELD GREEN



2  
NEWFIELD GREEN - OPEN SPACE  
GLEADLESS RD



4  
WOODLANDS

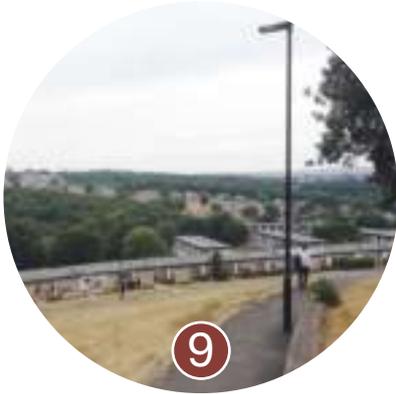


5  
FOOTBALL PITCH



6  
MAISONETTES, CONSTABLE





9  
SANDS CLOSE



8  
HERDINGS SHOPS



8  
HERDINGS NEW BUILD



7  
INCIDENTAL GREEN SPACE

On 20th July 2018, we conducted a site visit in Gleadless, led by the Neighbourhood Officer from the Newfield Green Housing Office. This helped us to establish our own observational opinions about the design of Gleadless Valley.

We were impressed with the views, and the quantity of green space, however the quality of these spaces were lacking. We saw few play facilities, benches or landscaping - just unused grass verges. The ancient woodlands at the heart of the Valley were the main reason for the estate. However, now much of Gleadless Valley turns its back on the woodlands, and some residents use it for fly-tipping. The Neighbourhood Officer suggested that a café or visitor centre might help to make the woodland into more of an attraction again.

The lack of off-road parking provision is apparent throughout the estate, so that narrow residential roads are cluttered with parked cars.

The estate was quiet, with a few more people around Newfield Green and Herdings Park. Sands Close and Middle Hay felt particularly empty and isolated up at the top of the hill.

Further site visits were conducted over the coming few years exploring other areas of the Valley including Gaunt, Springs, Plowright and Rollestine Woods.



## Retail

1. Newfield Green
2. Gaunt Shopping Centre
3. Herdings shops
4. Gleadless Road shops
5. Co-op
6. Premier

## Pubs and Bars

1. The Blackstock
2. The Wyvern
3. Horse and Groom
4. John O Gaunt
5. Nailmakers Arms
6. Bagshaw Arms

## Medical

1. Gleadless Medical Centre
2. Physiotherapy and Pharmacy
3. Gleadless Valley Pharmacy
4. GP Surgery

## Religious

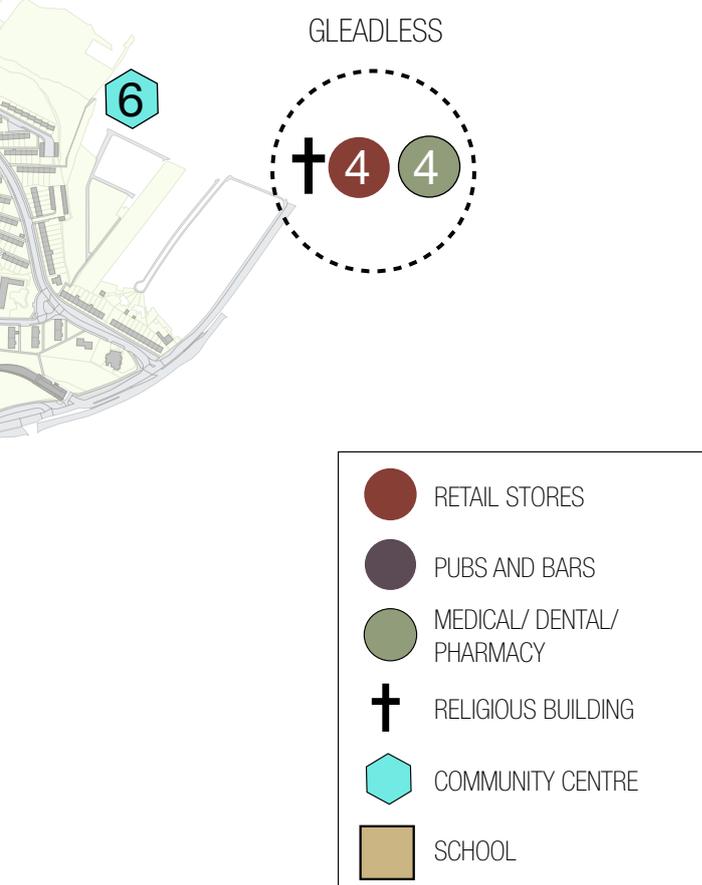
1. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
2. Gleadless Valley Church
3. Gleadless Valley Methodist Church
4. St Anthony's RC Church
5. Gleadless Methodist Church

## Community Centres

1. Newfield Green Library
2. Terry Wright Centre
3. Reach Herdings
4. SYSA Boxing Gym
5. Norton Oakes Cricket Club
6. Carlton Social Club

## Schools

1. Bankwood Primary
2. Newfield Secondary
3. Valley Park Primary
4. Norton Free School
5. Arbourthorne Primary
6. Springs Academy



Gleadless Valley has two main hubs; Newfield Green is the largest centre with 14 retail units, including a co-op, Heron foods, a pharmacy, and a number of betting shops and pawnbrokers. Also located at Newfield Green is the library, and medical clinic, and a pub.

Gaunt Shopping precinct has more closed units, and contains a Nisa Local, a pharmacy, health and beauty stores and takeaways.

Meanwhile, just outside of the Valley, Gleadless Road and Gleadless Townend have a combined total of 59 retail units.

There are 5 pubs within (or just outside) of Gleadless Valley, and these host various community coffee mornings, family fun days and evening events such as live music and discos. The churches also host gatherings and training services, whilst 'Reach' Community Centre, and the Terry Wright Centre provide venues for street dance, a local history society and Youth groups.

There are two primary schools within the Valley, and two secondary schools close by. At these schools, roughly 30 - 40 % of students achieve 5 GCSEs at Grade C and above, whilst 60% of pupils at the primary schools meet expected performance standards.

It is apparent that sports and fitness facilities are particularly poorly provisioned within Gleadless Valley. There is also the Boxing Gym, some playing fields and a bowls club concentrated in Herdings, but little provision throughout the rest of Gleadless Valley.

*(Data and analysis from 2018)*



NEWFIELD GREEN PRECINCT  
PLOWRIGHT

THE LARGEST SHOPPING PRECINCT IN GLEADLESS VALLEY IS NEWFIELD GREEN. THIS HOUSES A CO-OP, HERON FOODS, POST OFFICE, BLACKSTOCK PUB, PHARMACY, COMMUNITY HALL, CARPET SHOP, FAST FOOD OUTLET, HARDWARE STORE, PAWN SHOP, TWO BOOK MAKERS AND AN E-CIGARETTE SHOP. WE OBSERVED THREE EMPTY RETAIL UNITS (OUT OF 14, GIVING AN OCCUPANCY RATE OF 79%)



CO-OP  
CONSTABLE ROAD

THERE IS A STAND ALONE CO-OP STORE ON CONSTABLE ROAD. THIS IS A REASONABLE SIZE, MODERN BUILT CONVENIENCE FOOD STORE. IT HAS SOME 6 CAR PARKING SPACES (ONE DISABLED), AND A POST OFFICE FACILITY



## GAUNT SHOPPING CENTRE IRONSIDE

THE GAUNT SHOPPING CENTRE INCLUDES: NISA LOCAL, ONE EMPTY UNIT, TWO FAST FOOD OUTLETS, REACH CENTRE, COMMUNITY HUB, PHARMACY. THERE IS ONLY ONE EMPTY UNIT OUT OF SEVEN, WHICH GIVES AN OCCUPANCY RATE OF 85%. THE TWO FAST FOOD OUTLETS ONLY OPEN AT NIGHT AND HAVE SHUTTERS DOWN DURING THE DAYS WHICH GIVES A FEELING OF THE PRECINCT BEING LESS OCCUPIED THAN IT IS.

## MORLAND ROAD HERDINGS

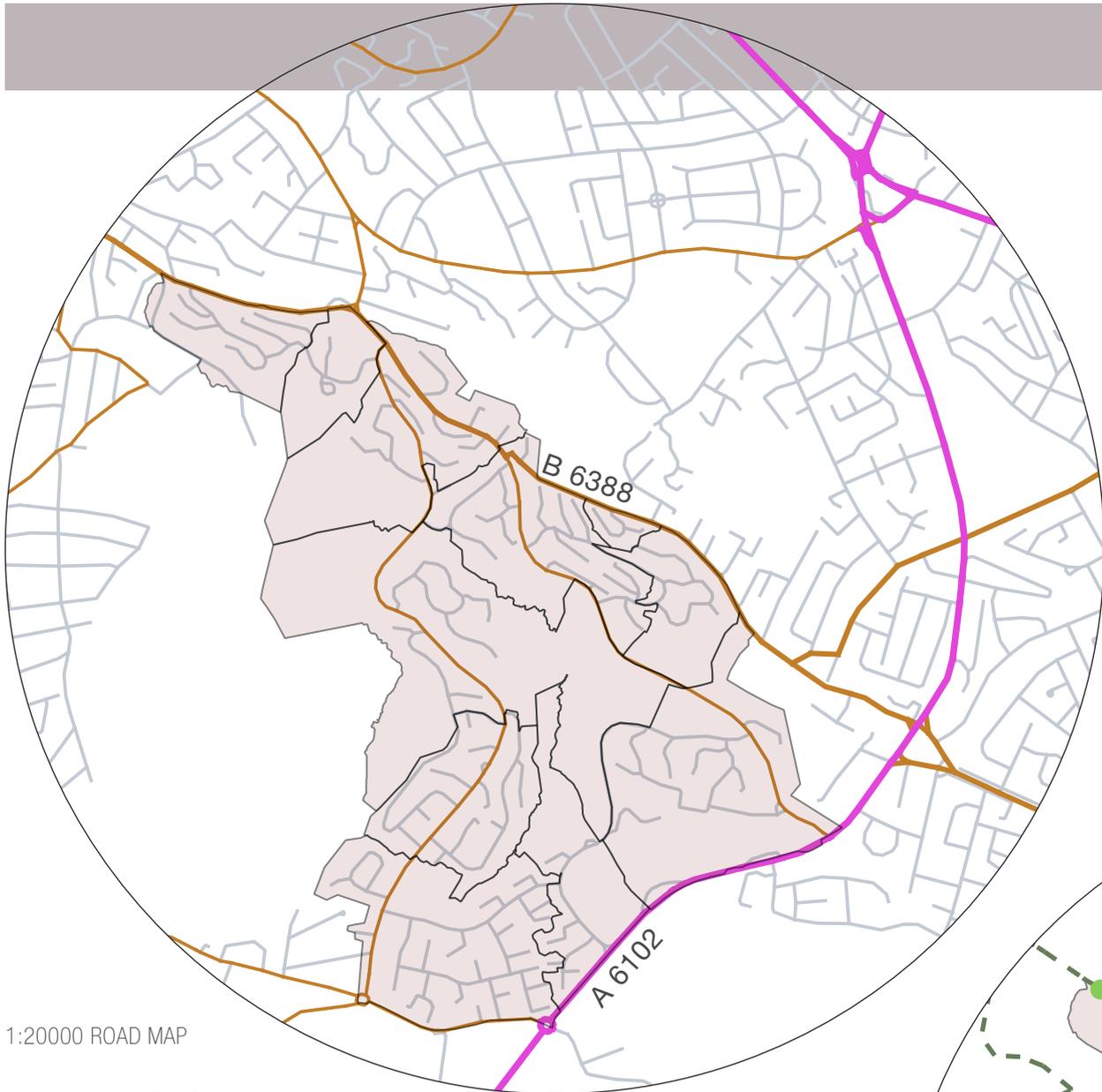
ON MORLAND ROAD THERE IS A COLLECTION OF FOUR UNITS HOUSING: A GYM, ONE EMPTY RETAIL UNIT; HAIRDRESSERS AND A LIFESTYLE CONVENIENCE RETAIL STORE (GIVING AN OCCUPANCY LEVEL OF 75%).

Gleadless Valley has several local centres for retail. The roads in Gleadless Valley are too secondary to provide the busy-roadside-frontage that would attract any larger format grocery or comparison goods retailers. Consequently across Gleadless Valley are smaller convenience formats.

There are no chain cafes or restaurants. There are three pubs which are all open and active (The Blackstock, and The Wyvern). In many neighbourhoods similar to Gleadless Valley pubs have struggled in recent times, for Gleadless Valley to still sustain three pubs could be described as 'overperforming'.

We have read and heard concerns about the diversity of grocery retail and the dependence on smaller format grocery stores (there are two Co-op stores, Nisa Foods, Lifestyle, Heron Foods, and a local independent store).

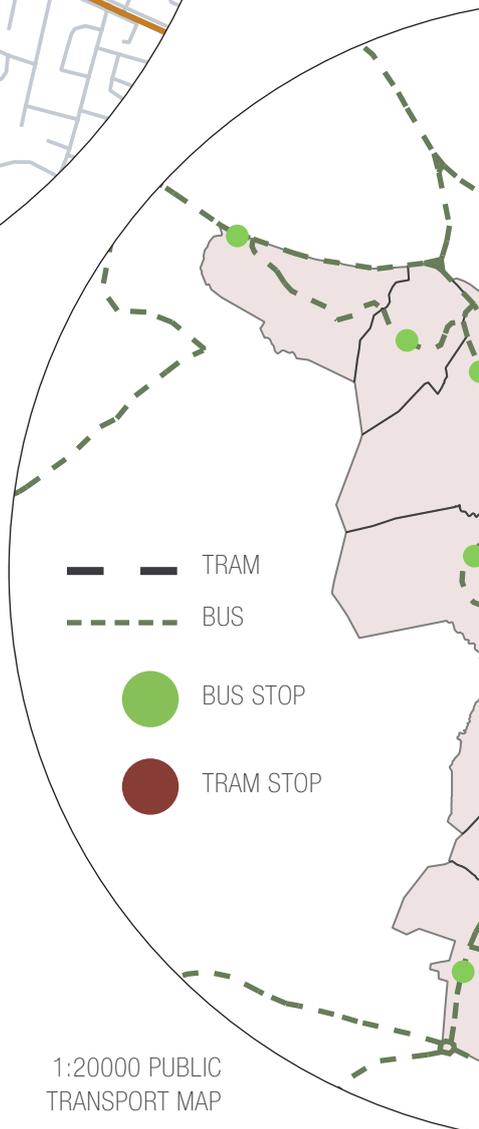
The retail sector has experienced a decade long squeeze owing to competition from online retail and before that the move towards larger out of town formats. Many retail precincts and local centres across the country are struggling. For Gleadless Valley to have a vacancy rate at 20% suggests there is not anything significantly wrong with the scale and location of the current retail offer but that higher occupancy rates should be targeted.



1:20000 ROAD MAP

-  A-ROAD
-  B-ROAD / MAIN ROAD
-  MINOR ROAD

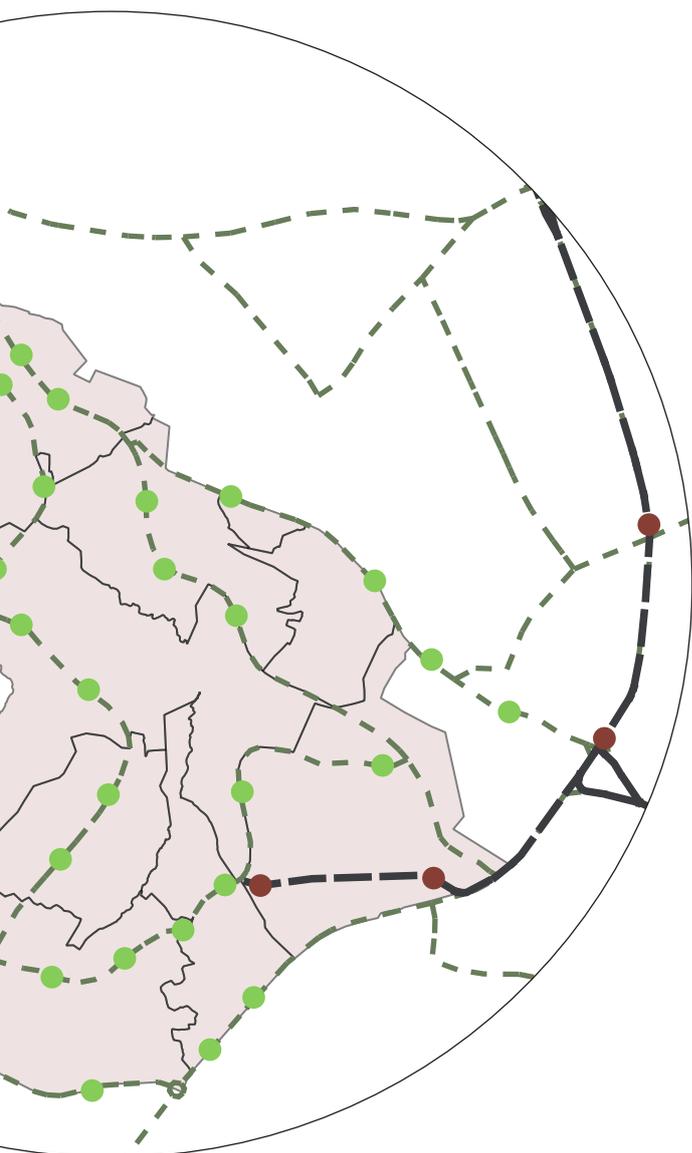
FOOTPATHS - GLEADLESS VALLEY HAS MANY FOOTPATHS LINKING ROADS, HOWEVER SEVERAL INVOLVE STEEP RAMPS OR STAIRCASES. PATHS THROUGH THE WOODS ARE THE ONLY CONNECTION WITHIN THE CENTRE OF THE 'TRIANGLE' OF DEVELOPMENT



-  TRAM
-  BUS
-  BUS STOP
-  TRAM STOP

1:20000 PUBLIC TRANSPORT MAP

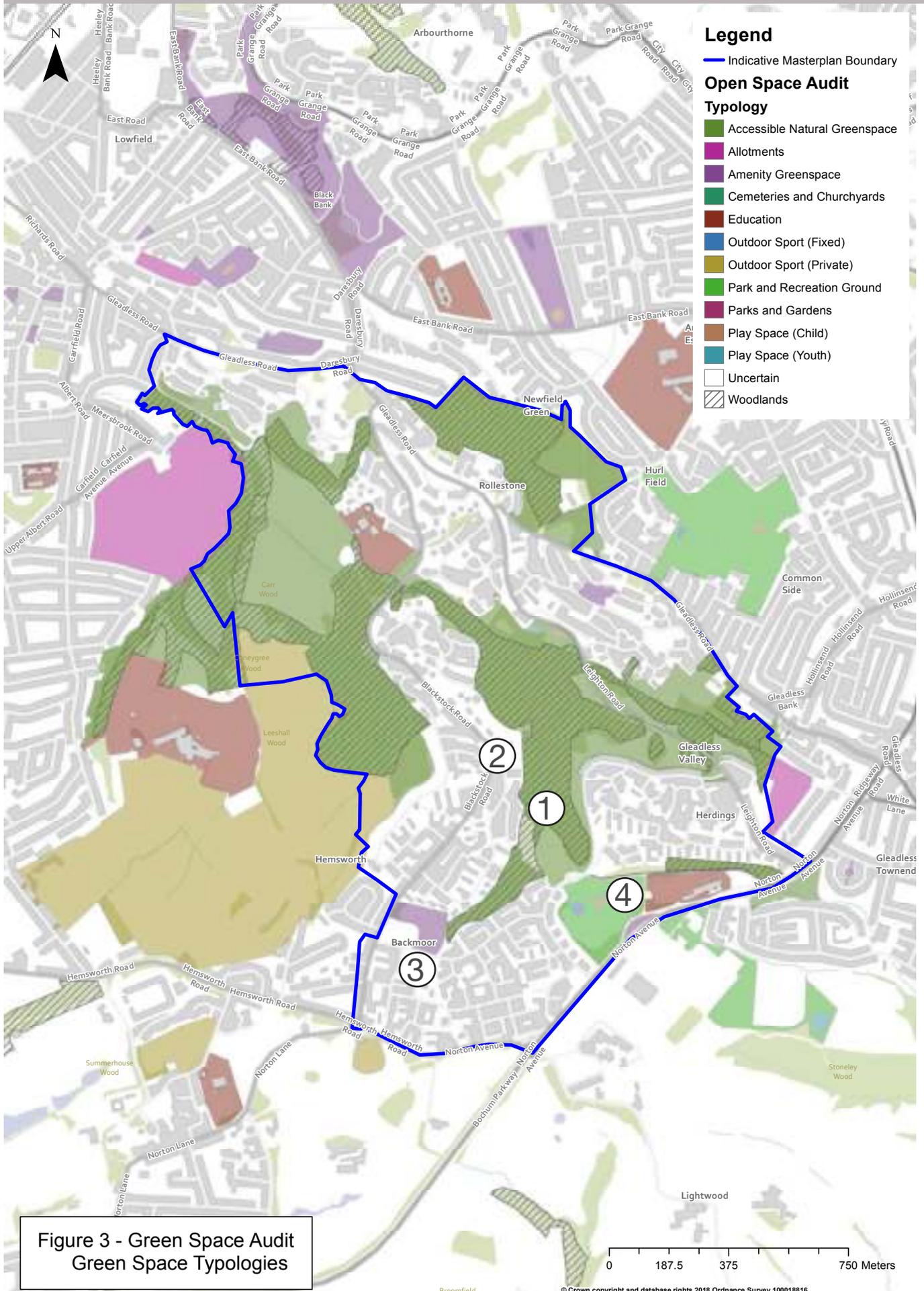




Gleadless Valley is wedged between the A6102 and the B6388, which runs between Gleadless and the City Centre. Many of the roads are cul-de-sacs, and road integration is poor within the Valley, partially due to the steep terrain and woodland, and partially due to the design of many dead-end roads. This type of development encourages less surveillance and casual interaction than a grid of interconnected streets.

The estate benefits from good bus routes along the main roads through the estate and a tram terminus at Herdings that runs to the city centre and Meadowhall. There are a total of nine bus services running through the estate from four different providers and these run at a frequency of every 10 minutes to every hour. All the buses go to the city centre. Some residents felt that bus routes were lacking to other parts of the city, and focussed only on the centre.

There are many public footpaths throughout the estate, but several climb steeply and are lined with railings or interspersed with stairs. There is little cycling infrastructure.





'THE LUMB' WOODLAND SITS AT THE HEART OF THE VALLEY

THERE ARE POCKETS OF GREEN SPACE ALL OVER GLEADLESS VALLEY. HOWEVER, MUCH OF THIS IS WASTED GRASSLAND, AND WITH NO SPECIFIC ROLE OR PLAY FACILITY, THESE SPACES FEEL EMPTY AND LOST



HERDINGS PARK IN THE SOUTH OF THE VALLEY IS THE MOST PROVISIONED SPACE, WITH MULTI-USE GAMES AREA AND SOME LANDSCAPING



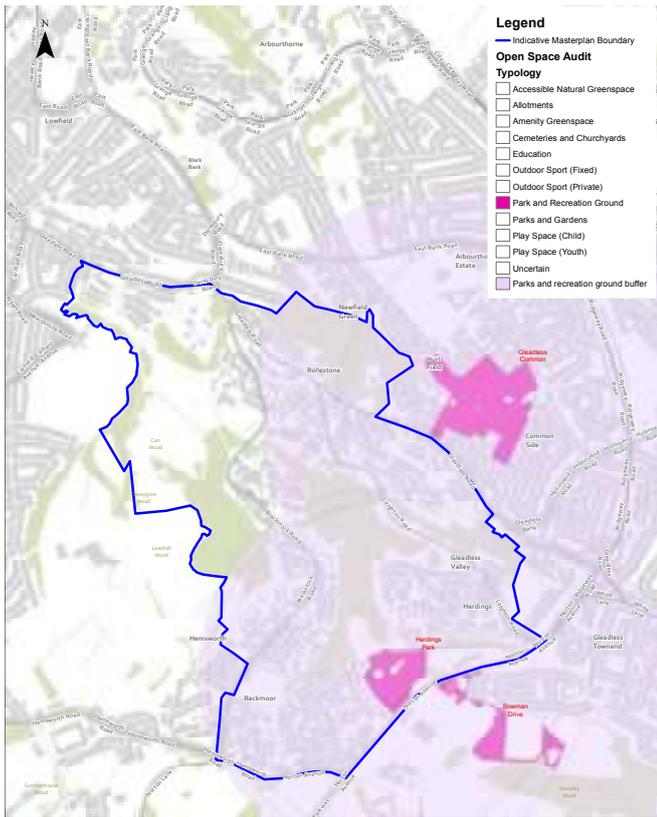
The topography and green environment are the dominant features of the Gleadless Valley.

The predominant type of green space in Gleadless Valley is accessible green space such as woodlands. Woodlands alone add up to an area in excess of 1600 hectares.

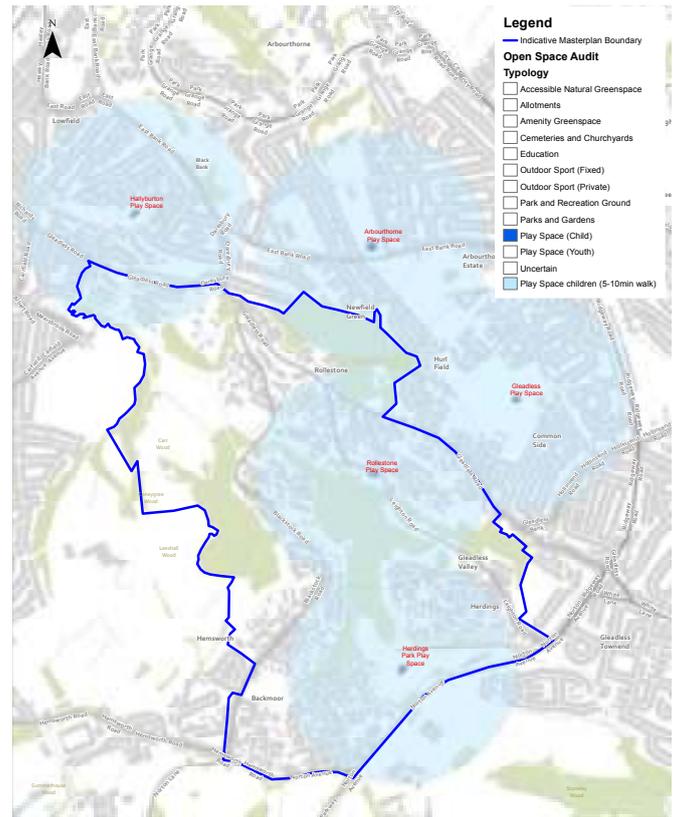
Formal provision of play space adds up to approximately 700 square metres (provided at Herdings Park and Rollestone Park) with a further 475 square metres outside the area but accessible split between Gleadless Common to the east and the BMX track to the south. This is still significantly below planning requirements.

## HERDINGS PARK

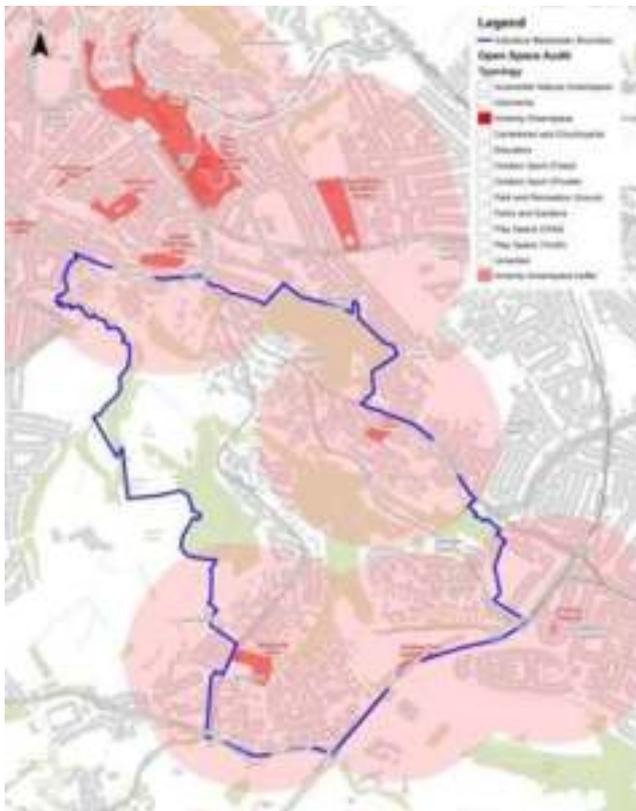
- The park benefits from extensive views out across the valley below and has strong links to the wider area via the tram-stop and the bus terminal, adjacent to the entrance point on Raeburn Road
- The surrounding houses/ flats and the open nature of the site means the park benefits from passive surveillance.
- The park is about to receive investment in play equipment.



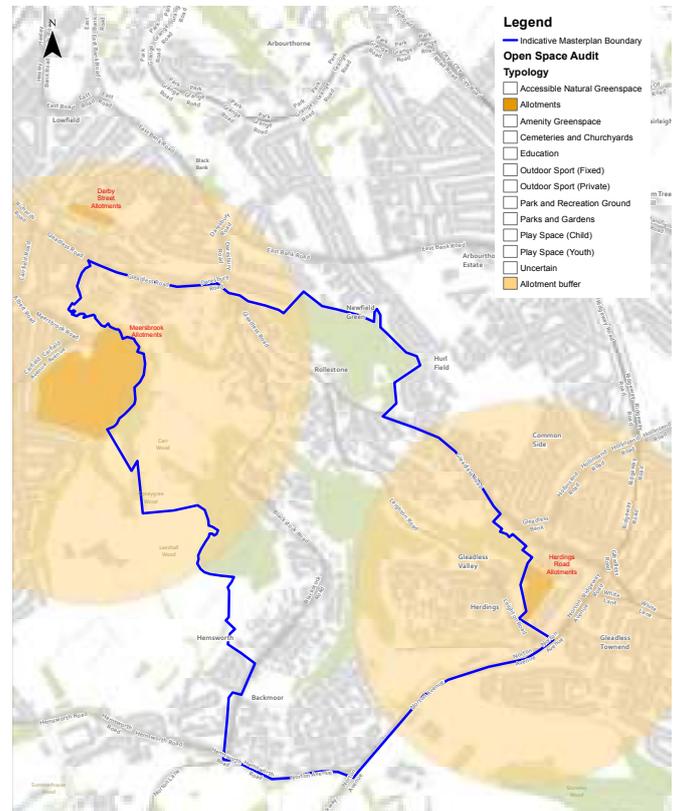
PARKS AND RECREATION GROUNDS: ONLY HERDINGS PARK WITHIN VALLEY, AND GLEADLESS COMMON OUTSIDE



PLAY SPACE OR CHILDREN: CURRENTLY 2 PROVIDED WITHIN VALLEY



AMENITY GREEN SPACE: SITES LARGER THAN 0.4 HECTARES FOR INFORMAL LOCAL LEISURE



ALLOTMENTS; TWO SITES JUST OUTSIDE OF VALLEY

In order to review the provision of green spaces within the Gleadless Valley Masterplan area it is necessary to consider the distribution of each type within the area and the allocation of each type against standard measurements used within the Sheffield Development Framework, Core Strategy.

The strategy recommends that a minimum of 4 hectares of open space is provided per 1000 head of population. This should comprise a minimum 1.3 hectares of formal open space and sports and recreation facilities that may include:

- Youth/ adult sports provision which can be used by the public (excluding golf courses),
- Children's play space;

Additionally 2.7 hectares of informal open space and sports and recreational facilities that may include:

- Parks and gardens, natural and semi natural green spaces and woodland,
- Cemeteries and graveyards,
- Allotments.

The population for Gleadless Valley ward has a population of approx 21,000 and within this the population for the Gleadless Valley Masterplan area is approx 9,500, so slightly less than half.

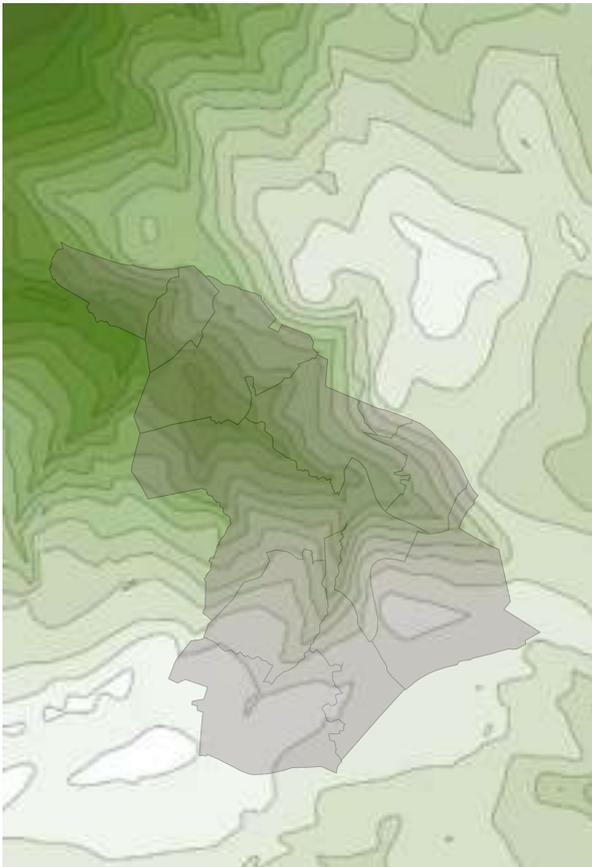
Based on the estimated population of the whole ward, this would require a minimum 27.3 hectares of formal open space and 56.7 hectares of informal open space and sports and recreational facilities.



HOUSING ROWS FOLLOW THE CONTOURS OF THE HILL

IRONSIDE IS ON A RIDGE BOUNDED BY SLOPES ON BOTH SIDES

FLATTER LAND TO THE SOUTH SUPPORTS HERDINGS PARK AND DENSER BLOCKS OF TERRACED HOUSING



THE DARKER GREEN SHOWS LOWER LAND  
(TEXT AND DRAWINGS FROM GREEN SPACE AUDIT)

In considering green space within Gleadless Valley it is important to acknowledge the role of topography. Sheffield is a Pennine city which is partly defined by, and owes its existence to, the local landscape of hills and river valleys. However, this topography is particularly pronounced within Gleadless Valley and, with few relatively flat areas suitable for housebuilding, has informed the distribution of buildings and landscape. It is no coincidence that the extent of ancient woodland cover coincides with the steeper landforms. This in turn shapes the use and accessibility of the different areas of greenspace.

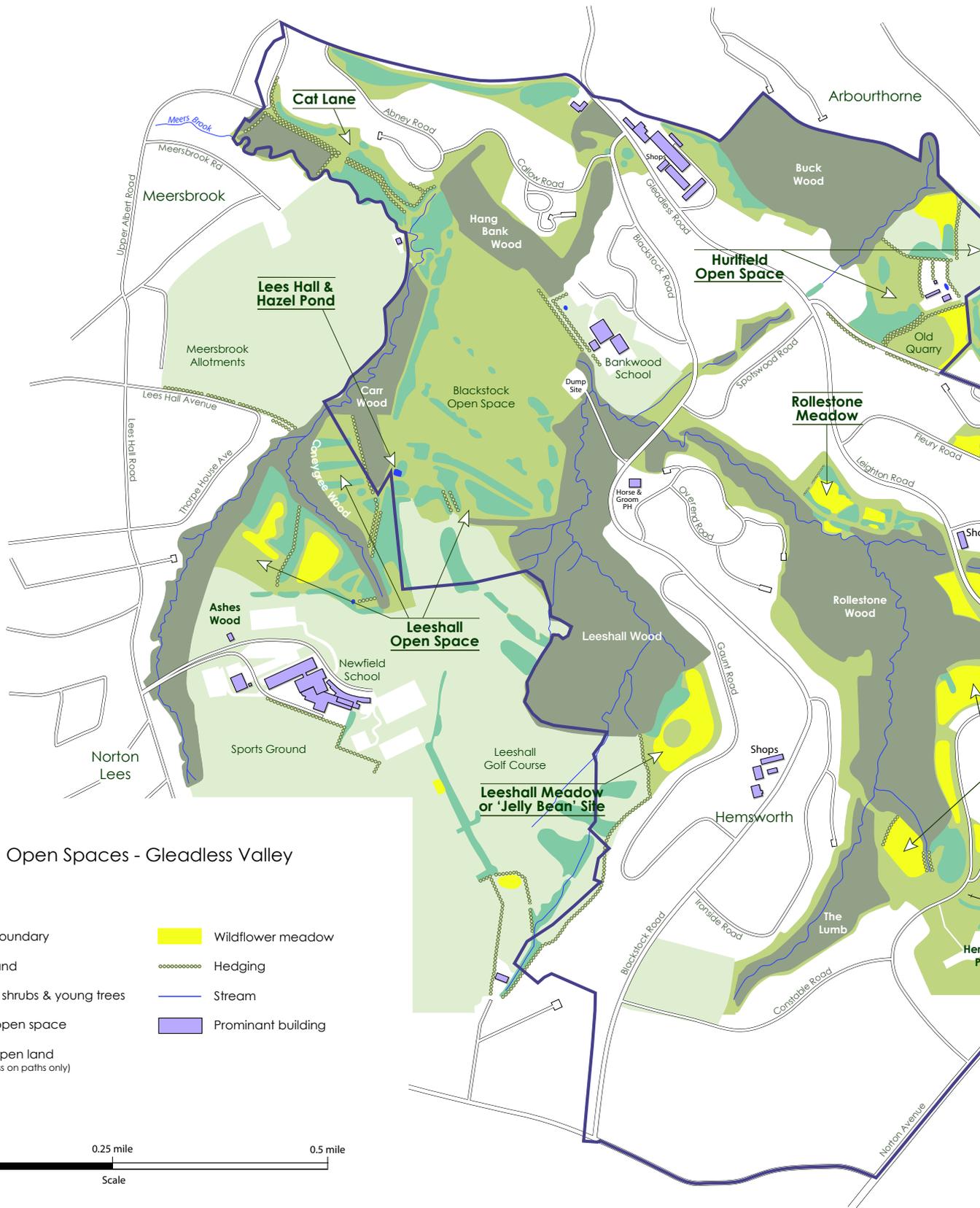
Gleadless Valley is the source of a number of watercourses, most notably the Meersbrook. These run through often deep channels incising woodlands and provide a remarkable environment on the doorstep of a large residential population. The watercourses help to shape a unique environment and offer significant ecological benefits. However, they also attract abuse such as fly tipping and in many locations, the levels of management are not enough to prevent this - further reinforcing their apparent invisibility.

The nature of the varying topography and incised character of the water courses makes it difficult to manage connections such as footpaths, cycleway or bridleways presenting a number of construction and management challenges.

The topography has greatly influenced the environment within Gleadless Valley. It has provided a magnificent setting for the residential neighbourhoods, ensured the preservation of a rich natural landscape resource and afforded multiple impressive views out to the surrounding landscape. With these benefits come challenges, not least to access and circulation, the distribution of uses and services, and the potential for new development.

THE VALLEY LIES BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY 400 FT ABOVE SEA LEVEL AT THE LOWEST POINTS, AND UP TO 700 FT ABOVE SEA LEVEL AT ITS HIGHEST POINTS. THREE HILLS CREST AROUND THE VALLEY - ONE WITHIN HERDINGS (700 FT), ONE AT THE TIP OF CONSTABLE (750 FT) AND ONE TO THE NORTH IN ARBOURTHORNE.

SLOPES ARE PARTICULARLY STEEP AND INACCESSIBLE BETWEEN IRONSIDE AND HERDINGS, AND WITHIN MIDDLE HAY, SANDS CLOSE AND SPRING MOUNT



**Woods and Open Spaces - Gleadless Valley**

- Key**
- Study boundary
  - Woodland
  - Area of shrubs & young trees
  - Public open space
  - Other open land (i.e. access on paths only)
  - Wildflower meadow
  - Hedging
  - Stream
  - Prominent building



## Habitats in Gleadless Valley

This map shows the valley's main greenspaces and habitats. The greenspaces have varying terrain, with steep slopes in places and some stream sections in small steep sided ravines.

The wildlife-rich 'naturalistic' greenspaces include the following key habitats:

- Ancient Woodlands (areas of woodland since at least 1600) – A Sheffield Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority habitat.
- Wildflower-rich Meadows – consisting of the UK & Sheffield BAP Priority Habitats of Lowland Hay Meadow and Lowland Acidic Grassland.
- Species-rich Hedgerows - UK & Sheffield BAP Priority Habitat
- Streams - Sheffield BAP Priority Habitat
- Small Ponds (main pond at Lees Hall) - Sheffield BAP Priority Habitat
- Traditional Orchard Remnants (2 small sites at Lees Hall and 1 small site south east side of Gleadless/Blackstock Road junction) - UK & Sheffield BAP Priority Habitats
- Mosaic of trees, shrub thickets and more open habitats outside the woodland - valuable habitat for birds, including UK & Sheffield BAP priority species (e.g. Bullfinch), and other fauna.



Most of the above are remnants from the valley's former rural landscape, with some of the woods dating back to at least the 1400s, and as such are part of the City's green heritage. These areas have a variety of archaeological features, principally related to past woodland industries, farming and the movement of materials, livestock and people.



WATER COURSES



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



DECIDUOUS, MOSTLY ANCIENT, WOODLAND



GOOD QUALITY SPECIES-RICH UNIMPROVED AND ACIDIC GRASSLAND, SHOW THE AREAS OF WILDFLOWER-RICH GRASSLAND



LOCALLY DESIGNATED WILDLIFE SITES –  
WOODLAND (DARK GREEN) AND GRASSLAND



PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
SERVICE SITES

## Ecology

The Gleadless Valley landscape includes woodlands, wildflower meadows, hedgerows, streams, areas with a mixture of open habitats, shrubby areas and scattered mature trees and a few small ponds and orchard areas. These provide homes for local wildlife as well as creating attractive amenity space for residents.

An extensive path network provides access to and through these green spaces. You can find out more about the existing footpaths and green wildlife corridors, as well as proposals for green route improvements, within Chapter 2 of the main masterplan document and the Green Space Strategy.

The maps opposite show the areas of land within Gleadless Valley with the greatest ecological and green heritage value.

The first map also highlights the Meers Brook water courses which run through the base of the Valley and shape the distinct topography.

This includes:

- Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Open Spaces designated by the City Council
- A Local Nature Reserve designated by Natural England
- Habitats which are priorities for conservation, and all support species that are priorities for conservation, within the UK and Sheffield Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP & LBAP).

Gleadless Valley contains Woodland and Grassland areas which are designated within Sheffield's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).



BLUEBELLS IN THE HEART OF LEESHALL WOOD



ROLLESTONE MEADOW IN JULY



NEWFIELD HALL ORCHARD, NEWFIELD GREEN



ACIDIC GRASSLAND - HERDINGS MEADOWS EARLY JUNE



GVWT VOLUNTEERS PATH MAINTENANCE AT NETHER SPRING – CUTTING BACK EDGE VEGETATION TO KEEP THE PATH OPEN WITH GOOD SIGHT LINES



VISITING VETERAN OAKS DURING A SPRING GUIDED WOODLAND WALK IN LEESHALL WOOD

The environment and ecology of Gleadless Valley is championed, enhanced and looked after also by the active group Gleadless Valley Wildlife Trust.

The images on the left, kindly provided by the Gleadless Valley Wildlife Trust, depict areas of natural beauty and ecological value within the Valley as well as volunteers' activities across the Valley.