Tree Risk Management Plan

Version 2.0 – September 2016

North Somerset Council

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the revision

North Somerset Council's Tree Risk Management Plan (TRMP) was adopted in 2011 (Decision No. 10/11 DE 123). The purpose of the TRMP is to demonstrate the way which North Somerset Council addresses its duty of care as a tree owner. The adopted process meets our legal responsibilities but it is also intended to reassure local residents and visitors that the risk from trees is dealt with appropriately in the district.

This is the TRMP's first significant revision reflecting knowledge and experience gained through its practical application since 2011.

The 2011 TRMP provided valid information about tree benefits and the core principles of sensible risk management, and incorporated guidance contained in the National Tree Safety Group's document *Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*. This revision does not alter those principles and so the TRMP is retained as a supporting document (Appendix 6). However, rather than rewrite the TRMP, a more concise working document has been prepared which updates five key areas:

1. Implementation of a revised set of strategic objectives;

2. Implementation of a revised proactive tree survey and inspection regime;

3. The management of risk to an acceptable level by using competent contractors;

4. Implementation of prioritisation of work instructions issued to contractors;

5. The maintenance of records of the adopted strategy/policy, inspections and works performed.

1.2 The balancing of duties and resources

It is necessary to repeat the key message from the TRMP that it is widely held that the risk of harm from trees is low and that our procedures need to be proportionate to that risk. Because the risk from trees in general is low, it would be disproportionate for us to proactively inspect every tree in our ownership. Tree risk management will also need to be balanced with our tree officers' other duties, which are necessary and valued by the community. For example, they make decisions on tree work applications, investigate unauthorised work to protected trees and planning condition breaches, comment on development applications, organise tree planting and aftercare, and deal with high hedges and hedgerow removal complaints. This means that prioritisation of sites to be proactively surveyed is crucial, and it also means that certain types of sites will not be proactively surveyed at all. Instead, they may be surveyed on an ad-hoc basis as a reaction to public enquiries and concern.

1.3 Retained risk management tool and tolerable risk threshold

The risk management tool Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) continues to be used as our methodology for evaluating risk. Central to this tool is the notion of setting a 'tolerable' level of risk.

The 2011 TRMP has set the level of tolerable risk of harm from trees in North Somerset at 1 in 10,000 and this revision retains that principle, as it reflects common views around acceptable levels of risk in our society. Our management decisions are informed by balancing the risk of harm from trees against this tolerable level of risk.

2. Revision of the key strategic objectives

2.1 Objectives of risk based tree management

The key principle of the tree risk management plan is that it follows a risk based management approach. This approach will enable us to deliver our revised strategic objectives:

1. **Retain and improve tree benefits**
   We retain and grow trees in our district because of the wide ranging benefits they provide to local residents, businesses and visitors.

2. **Focussed inspections on highest use areas**
   Trees in general pose a relatively low risk to people so it is appropriate to focus resources on areas with highest use where harm is most likely to occur. Other priority areas may be added e.g. places with vulnerable users such as play areas and Children's centres.

3. **Meeting legal requirements**
   Legislation and case law clearly indicates that tree owners must demonstrate a proactive approach to tree risk management. This does not mean that it is necessary to inspect all trees; and most trees do not need detailed or regular inspections.

4. **Minimise impact of financial constraints**
   Cost effective tree management is essential. Unnecessary and low priority tree work is a waste of resources and reduces tree benefits. It is therefore to be avoided.

3. Implementation of the proactive tree survey and inspection regime

3.1 The basis for the risk management tool

In 2011, the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) system was selected as the tool to manage tree risk in North Somerset Council. The methodology is clearly laid out at the QTRA website (www.qtra.co.uk) and is explained in detail in our original TRMP.

The system moves the management of tree risk away from labelling trees as either 'safe' or 'unsafe'. Instead, QTRA allows the risk assessor to identify and analyse the risk in terms of land use, likelihood of tree failure and the potential consequences.

In order for us to incorporate QTRA into our management of many thousands of trees and implement a defensible risk management tool, we have considered the following issues:

- Land use and proactive/reactive surveying
- Survey frequency
- Staff competency and qualification

3.2 Proactive and reactive surveying

Basic, proactive surveys are carried out on trees located in our busiest streets, parks and open spaces. Additionally, we will proactively survey trees for the schools which have subscribed to our tree risk management service.

Basic, reactive surveys supplement proactive surveys, and originate from North Somerset Council Tree Officers responding to enquiries from the public and/or through their own travelling across the district, or from colleagues working in the public realm.

Detailed inspections are normally carried out when the basic visual tree survey highlights issues which require further investigation. The decision to make a detailed inspection will only ever be made by a Tree Officer.

In all other instances, Officers working in the public realm and carrying out their normal duties, can only be reasonably expected to notice blatant defects such as a leafless tree in summer or a large and visually obvious broken branch.

This approach is considered proportionate to the risk posed by trees especially when considering that reactive inspections are taking place in conjunction with the planned proactive surveys of our busiest areas.

3.3 Assessment of land use and prioritisation of sites for proactive surveying

Tree surveying is a critical task in delivering tree risk management. Deciding where to survey is also essential. It is not possible to survey every tree managed by North Somerset Council, and it would not be proportionate to the generally low risk of harm from tree failure.

Nonetheless, it is well established that tree owners must demonstrate that they have taken reasonable and proportionate steps to ensure that land users/visitors/passers-by are reasonably safe. In this context, it should be noted that complete safety is not considered achievable.

These circumstances mean that it is appropriate to focus resources on areas where the risk from trees is likely to be highest. In order to deliver this objective it is most appropriate to categorise locations and sites in terms of likelihood of occupancy, and then arrange them in order of highest to lowest. A decision can then be made regarding which sites can realistically be proactively surveyed with the available staff resources. This ensures a consistent approach to tree management across the district. It helps lead a proportionate and affordable approach to site inspections and tree work, whilst retaining tree benefits, because sites with low occupancy rates automatically fall outside the need to be proactively and regularly surveyed.

Our land can be divided into the following entities:

- public highways,
- public buildings (including schools),
- open spaces,
- off-road pedestrian/cycle routes.

A hierarchy of land use has been developed which reflects vehicle and visitor numbers, as well as speed limits.

In assessing occupancy levels and vulnerability to impact, QTRA does not require exact occupancy numbers. The cost of acquiring data for usage of our land is disproportionate to the risk of harm from trees in general. Instead QTRA advises that an estimate of usage is made within one of six ranges, with 1 being the range with most occupants and almost constant use. Where readily available, evidence of occupancy of our land informs our assessment of land usage range.

Users of our land may be divided into persons and vulnerable persons. A vulnerable person is someone who, due to their age, physical/mental ability and lack of responsibilities cannot be expected to assess their surroundings and react to danger in a reasonable way. Our most vulnerable group of users is children, and we have decided that we have an enhanced duty of care to this group. We apply a reduced trigger level for remedial tree works in child-specific areas (ie Land Use Range 1 – constant use), which ensures that the risk to children is kept low. Child-specific areas are locations where we expect a concentration of children, and include formal play areas, leisure centre forecourts and school grounds.

The following addresses key issues relating to each land category:

Public highway and public buildings

Public highways in North Somerset are split into a hierarchy in line with national guidance. The hierarchy is based on an assessment of road character, transport connections, traffic count (where available), speed limits and type of vehicles carried (*ie* bus routes).

Motorways and motorway slip roads fall within hierarchy code 1 and are maintained by the Highways Agency. We do not survey these roads.

We proactively survey council owned trees along roads that fall within hierarchy codes 2 to 4b, because these have the highest occupancy rates. Code 2 to 3 roads range from strategic routes such as an A road, to main and secondary distributor routes. 4a and b roads are link roads which connect villages in rural areas, and residential or industrial estates in urban areas. Roads in category 4c to 6 have low traffic numbers meaning that proactive surveys are not undertaken.

Pedestrian footways, cycle paths and off-road cycle routes are not currently included in the highway hierarchy. Census data is not available for these. We survey highway cycle paths where these are considered significant commuter routes.

North Somerset Council manages children's centres throughout the district, and some centres have outdoor space allocated for play. The outdoor spaces are proactively surveyed to ensure the risk to children is reduced. Children's centres are surveyed using Land Use Range 1.

We survey schools which have bought our Tree Risk Management package, using Land Use Range 1, unless agreed otherwise with the head teacher.

Appendix 1 includes details of the roads, cycle routes, schools and children's centres that are proactively surveyed. No other highways or public buildings will be proactively surveyed.

Public Rights of Way in woodlands

Whilst the risk of harm from falling trees on public rights of way (PROWs) is low, we have decided that public footpaths and bridleways in our managed woodlands shall be proactively surveyed. This forms part of management objectives set by the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme, which the council aim to adhere to.

Appendix 1 includes a list of woodlands where PROWs are proactively surveyed.

Open spaces

Many of our open spaces are used frequently by a high number of people. Evidence from a 2007 survey of users of our green spaces identified the level of usage of the different types of spaces (Appendix 2).

This information was used to inform our decision that the following open spaces are proactively surveyed:

- Formal parks
- Community Parks
- Sports and recreational areas/ leisure centre grounds
- Strawberry Line

The evaluation of occupancy levels for users in our open spaces includes an on-site assessment of how different parts of an open space are used. For example, some sites will have some areas where visitors are likely to congregate and remain for quite some time (*e.g.* for a picnic), and some areas where they will not. The tree surveyor will use their experience and knowledge of the site to judge occupancy levels, and the reasoning will be documented in the survey.

Appendix 2 contains an explanation of the types of open spaces, and a list of the spaces that we survey proactively. No other open space land will be proactively surveyed.

Play Spaces

North Somerset Council manages a number of formal play areas in the district. Some play areas on council land are leased out to town and parish councils, and these will not be surveyed by us, unless the parish councils have purchased the play area inspection service from the council.

We proactively survey trees on our land which are located within falling distance of a formal play space, irrespective of whom manages the play area.

We use Land Use Range 1 for trees in formal play areas, and within falling distance of these.

Appendix 2 contains a list of the play spaces and surrounding trees which are proactively surveyed by us.

Schools

All North Somerset Council schools are invited to participate in a tree risk management programme administered by the Council's Tree Officers.

All trees within the school's boundary are visually inspected, and we use Land Use Range 1 to show enhanced duty of care towards children. In cases where for example playing fields include inaccessible areas or are in very occasional use, the Land Use Range may reflect this, following discussions with the site manager.

Inspection reports are forwarded to the school head teachers who are responsible for carrying out the recommended remedial tree works.

A list of the schools that are currently signed up to this service is at Appendix 1. Our service standard for the tree risk management service to schools is at Appendix 3.

Private trees within falling distance of the sites that we survey proactively

We note and action privately owned trees which at the time of the proactive survey show obvious and gross defects, pose an unacceptable risk to users of the highway or public land. Examples of this would be a dead and decaying tree, or a large broke branch within falling distance of the highway. We do not enter private land to assess the trees.

3.4 Summary of the assessment of land use and prioritisation of sites for proactive surveys

Table 1 below outlines the roads and sites which are proactively surveyed:

Priority site category					QTRA Land Use Range
Proactively surveyed	**Public Highways, cycle routes, PROWs**	**Public buildings**	**Open Spaces**	**Schools**	
YES	Road hierarchy 2: Strategic routes, heavily trafficked roads between primary destinations	Children's Centre outdoor areas	Play areas	Schools which have signed up to our tree risk management service	1
	-Road hierarchy 3: Main and secondary distributor routes, routes between strategic routes and secondary destinations, main routes within urban areas. -Road hierarchy 4a and 4b: Link roads and local access roads -High use commuter cycle routes. -PROWs in our woodlands		Formal parks sports/recreation areas; community parks; Strawberry Line		1-4
NO	Road hierarchy 4c to 5: Estate roads, rural through routes, access roads		Natural areas; Neighbourhood open space		5
NO	Road hierarchy 6: Lanes				5-6

Table 1 – Site categories and priority of surveying

3.5 Inspection frequency

Proactive inspections are carried out on a four-year-interval, which has worked successfully to date. Exceptions will apply to this and the Tree Officer may make a subjective decision to refine the inspection frequency dependent on the circumstances at the time of the survey. The reasoning behind any changes will be recorded and implemented.

An annual dead tree survey is undertaken along our most busy highways. A list of these roads is at Appendix 1.

3.6 Staff competency

At North Somerset Council our staff are divided into two categories:

Qualified staff

These are our Tree Officers and they carry out the proactive, technical inspections. They are qualified to at least level 3 in arboriculture; have passed the three-day Lantra Award Professional Tree Inspection qualification; and are licensed QTRA users, or are working towards a license under supervision of a licensed user.

Qualified staff make final decisions on remedial work and timescales. They also instruct and monitor contractors. They are responsible for all aspects of tree risk management.

Other staff

Some staff working in the public realm are able to carry out low level inspections and reporting of suspect defects with basic training.

Area Officers come across tree issues as part of their work life. They are trained on the one-day Lantra Award Basic Tree Survey and Inspection course, and will therefore have basic understanding of trees, as well as knowledge to be able to identify obvious hazards in trees. This approach supports the main task carried out by the qualified staff.

Area officers and other staff trained to have a basic understanding of trees, report suspect trees to qualified staff, who then carry out a survey of the trees if necessary, and make the final decision on remedial works and timescales.

A log of training undertaken by inspecting officers is at Appendix 4.

4 Management of risk to an acceptable level by using competent tree work contractors

4.1 Using competent contractors

A well-functioning tree risk management system depends on using competent contractors to undertake remedial tree work where required.

4.2 Our contractors

Our tree works are contracted to Glendale which won the Parks and Street Scene Contract tender in 2013. Their health and safety competency and professional qualifications of the tree work division were assessed as part of the tender process.

Tree work is a high risk profession, and competency in carrying out the work, as well as carrying out risk assessments of tasks and sites, are essential components. The risk is not only high to the operatives, but also to property and members of the public. Management of traffic and pedestrians is paramount to run a safe and efficient work area.

Our tree gang operatives are required to have certificates of competency relating to the tasks they perform or they need to be closely supervised by operatives who do. They are also required to be trained in highway traffic management. Compliance is monitored by the tree officers at monthly operational meetings.

Glendale is an Arboricultural Association ARB Approved Contractor, which is a professionally recognised benchmark for tree work contracting. It means that Glendale has been assessed by the Arboricultural Association and has met and continues to uphold their standards with regards to worksite safety, regulation compliance and quality of work.

4.3 Monitoring of contractor work

Regular ad hoc checks of the tree gang operatives' site specific risk assessments and traffic management set-up are undertaken by the Tree Officers, and any issues are discussed on site and rectified as appropriate. Records of rectifications are held on the council's computer system.

A monthly operational meeting is held with the Glendale tree gang supervisor where identified issues are discussed, and action points regarding health and safety and standard of work checked. Minutes of these meetings are held on the council's computer system.

5 Implementation of prioritisation of work instructions issued to our contractor

5.1 From unacceptable risk to tolerable risk

When our Tree Officers identify trees that pose an unacceptable risk to people (that is, when the risk of harm is greater than 1 in 10,000), instructions will be made to our contractor for work which reduces the risk to tolerable or acceptable levels of risk. This might mean that a tree is pruned to deal with a localised defect such as a rotten branch, or it may mean that the entire tree has to be felled due to more extensive structural problems. The decision is made by the Tree Officer at the time of the assessment.

5.2 Prioritising works that relate to unacceptable risk

We instruct a large amount of tree work to Glendale. This includes both dangerous trees and work which does not relate to risk of harm from tree failure, such as removal of branches that obstruct the highway, or pruning of trees that are causing actionable damage to private property. It is therefore crucial that we have a system of prioritising these instructions, to ensure that the highest risks are dealt with before any other works.

Emergency works to trees which have already partly failed, or where the risk is so great that immediate works are necessary, are phoned through to the tree gang immediately. The gang will attend site and begin work as soon as practicably possible.

Works which are not an emergency but where the risk of harm is greater than 1 in 10,000, are sent through to our contractor in a list format together will all other jobs. Our contractor is required to make every effort to deal with the urgent, high risk jobs before any other work is seen to. At times, for example when traffic management equipment and extra staff have to be organised, and there may be a delay in getting the high risk tree work done, lower priority work may be carried out even though the higher risk work has not yet been seen to. This is considered good use of our resources.

Priority works and their progression are discussed in the monthly operational meetings with Glendale, where performance issues are reviewed and actioned if required.

6 Maintenance of records of the adopted strategy/policy, inspections and works performed

6.1 An auditable system of records management

An essential corner stone of a reliable risk management system is the records management method. Records of inspections, decisions, and work instructions are necessary to be able to demonstrate continuity within the system.

All our records are stored electronically on the council's computer system.

Proactive inspections

An annual calendar of proactive inspections is maintained by the Principal Tree Officer. This includes main inspection sites: highways, Children's centres, open spaces and schools. The inspecting Tree Officers update the calendar with information including date of survey, date that remedial works were instructed, and date that remedial works were completed.

Each Tree Officer is responsible for the records made for each site they surveyed or was the lead surveyor on.

In the field, survey records are made on QTRA templates. These field notes are stored electronically. A separate remedial works list is emailed to Glendale. Glendale return a signed copy of the works list once all remedial works are complete. This copy is stored electronically with the field notes for each site.

Reactive inspections resulting from enquiries logged through CRM/Confirm

Where a survey is the result of an enquiry which has been received by our call centre or via our website, and so logged on our customer software CRM and Confirm, records are made in the notes section of that enquiry for storage. Recorded information includes a basic QTRA risk calculation and whether or not any action was required. This allows easy retrieval of records, available under an address or the reporting resident's name. If a detailed inspection is required, the results are recorded in a separate spreadsheet, stored on the council's computer system.

Other reactive ad hoc inspections

Detailed records for trees which are inspected on an ad hoc basis are kept in a separate spreadsheet. The information is normally more in-depth than the records on Confirm. QTRA refers to these as individual inspections.

Contract monitoring

Records of contract monitoring are kept electronically, and updated by Tree Officers. Records include minutes from the monthly operational meetings, rectification notices and ad hoc work site inspections.

Staff training and CPD

Records of staff training, QTRA licensing and other CPD relating to tree risk management are kept electronically and updated regularly by the Principal Tree Officer.

7 Review

7.1 Review of land use

A review of land use and sites for proactive surveying will take place whenever new or revised information regarding occupancy levels is available.

7.2 Review of the risk management plan

There will be a formal review of this plan every five years.

Additionally, this plan will be informally reviewed on a regular basis by the Principal Tree Officer with relevant staff. Issues will be discussed and resolved as necessary. Appendix 5 contains a list of alterations and amendments made to this document.

Appendix 1

Roads, cycle routes, woodland PROWs, children's centres and schools

Tables 2 - 4 below shows the routes which are proactively surveyed.

Highways which are proactively surveyed		
Highway hierarchy	**Description**	**Locations**
2	Heavily trafficked roads between primary destinations, speed limits usually in excess of 40mph	See maps
3	Routes between strategic routes and secondary destinations, main routes within urban areas (speed limits of 40mph and less); routes between secondary destinations and other traffic centres, secondary routes within urban areas (speed limits usually 30mph or less)	See maps
4a to 4b	Link roads and local access roads. Principal and secondary distributor roads through estates, principal connector roads between villages and main roads, principal and secondary connector roads between small villages and main roads	See maps

Annual dead tree surveys are carried out along these routes	
Route	**Destination**
A38	Bristol - Winscombe
A368	Banwell - Blagdon
A369	Bristol - Portishead
A370	WsM - Bristol
A371	Airport roundabout WsM – Sidcot

B3124	Clevedon - Portishead
B3128	Bristol - Clevedon
B3130	Clevedon – Nailsea – Winford
B3133	Clevedon - Langford
B3440	WsM
Toll Road	Kewstoke Road, WsM

Commuter cycle routes which are proactively surveyed	
Cycle path stretch	**Location**
Somerset Avenue/Herluin Way	WsM
Festival Way along A370	Long Ashton

Children's centres which are proactively surveyed	
Centre	**Location**
Ashcombe (Ashcombe Primary)	WsM
Banwell, Winscombe and Sandford	Banwell
Castle Batch	WsM
Locking Castle and Locking (The Campus)	WsM
Milton and Old Worle	WsM
The For All Healthy Living Centre Children's Centre	WsM
Little Waves Community Centre (Windwhistle Primary)	WsM
Oldmixon Family Centre	Uphill
Yeo Valley (at St Andrew's Primary)	Congresbury
Clevedon	Clevedon
Crockerne (at Crockerne Primary)	Pill
Long Ashton	Long Ashton
Nailsea and Backwell	Nailsea
Portishead (at St Barnabas Centre)	Portishead
Yatton Moor (at Yatton Infant School)	Yatton

Woodland PROWs which are proactively surveyed	
Woodland	**Location**
Abbots Pool	Abbots Leigh
Eastwood	Portishead
Nowhere Wood	Nailsea
Strawberry Wood	Clevedon
Weston Woods	WsM

Schools subscribing to our Tree Risk Management package at the time of writing and which are proactively surveyed (an up-to-date list is available on request from the Tree Team)		
School	**Location**	**Subscription years**
All Saints Primary	Clevedon	2016-2020
Ashcombe Primary	WsM	2016-2020
Backwell C of E Junior	Backwell	2016-2020
Banwell Primary	Banwell	2016-2020
Becket Primary	WsM	2016-2020
Birdwell School Academy	Long Ashton	2016-2020
Blagdon Primary	Blagdon	2016-2020
Burrington C of E Primary	Burrington	2016-2020
Castle Batch Primary	WsM	2016-2020
Churchill Academy and Sixth Form	Churchill	2013-2017
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary	WsM	2016-2020
Court de Wyck C of E Primary	Claverham	2016-2020
Flax Bourton C of E Primary	Flax Bourton	2016-2020
Golden Valley Primary	Nailsea	2016-2020
Gordano Academy	Portishead	2016-2020
Hannah Moore	Nailsea	2013-2017
High Down Infant	Portishead	2016-2020
High Down Junior	Portishead	2016-2020
Hillside Infants	WsM	2013-2017
Hutton C of E Primary	Hutton	2016-2020
Kewstoke Primary	Kewstoke	2016-2020
Locking Primary	Locking	2014-2018
Mary Elton Primary	Clevedon	2016-2020
Mead Vale Primary	WsM	2016-2020
Milton Park Primary	WsM	2016-2020
Oldmixon Primary	WsM	2016-2020
Portishead Primary	Portishead	2013-2017
Ravenswood Primary	Nailsea	2013-2017
Sandford Primary	Sandford	2016-2020
St Anne's C of E Primary	Hewish	2015-2019
St Francis Catholic Primary	Nailsea	2016-2020
St Joseph's Catholic Primary	Portishead	2013-2017
St Katherine's School	Pill	2016-2020
St Mark's C of E/ Methodist Ecumenical Primary	WsM	2016-2020
St Martin's C of E Primary	WsM	2016-2020
St Mary's C of E Primary	Portishead	2016-2020
St Nicholas Chantry C of E Primary	Clevedon	2016-2020
St Peter's C of E Primary	Portishead	2014-1018
Uphill Primary	Uphill	2016-2020
Walliscote Primary	WsM	2016-2020
West Leigh Infant	Backwell	2016-2020
Westhaven	WsM	2016-2020
Windwhistle Primary	WsM	2016-2020
Winford C of E Primary	Winford	2016-2020
Winscombe Primary	Winscombe	2016-2020
Wrington C of E Primary	Wrington	2016-2020

Yatton Federated Schools (Infant & Junior)	Yatton	2016-2020

Roads, cycle paths, Children's Centres, and PROWs not mentioned in the tables above **will not** be proactively surveyed.

Highway network - carriageways

- 2
- 3a
- 3b
- 4ar
- 4au
- 4br
- 4bu

Surveyed road network - overview

North Somerset Council

Scale: 1:100000
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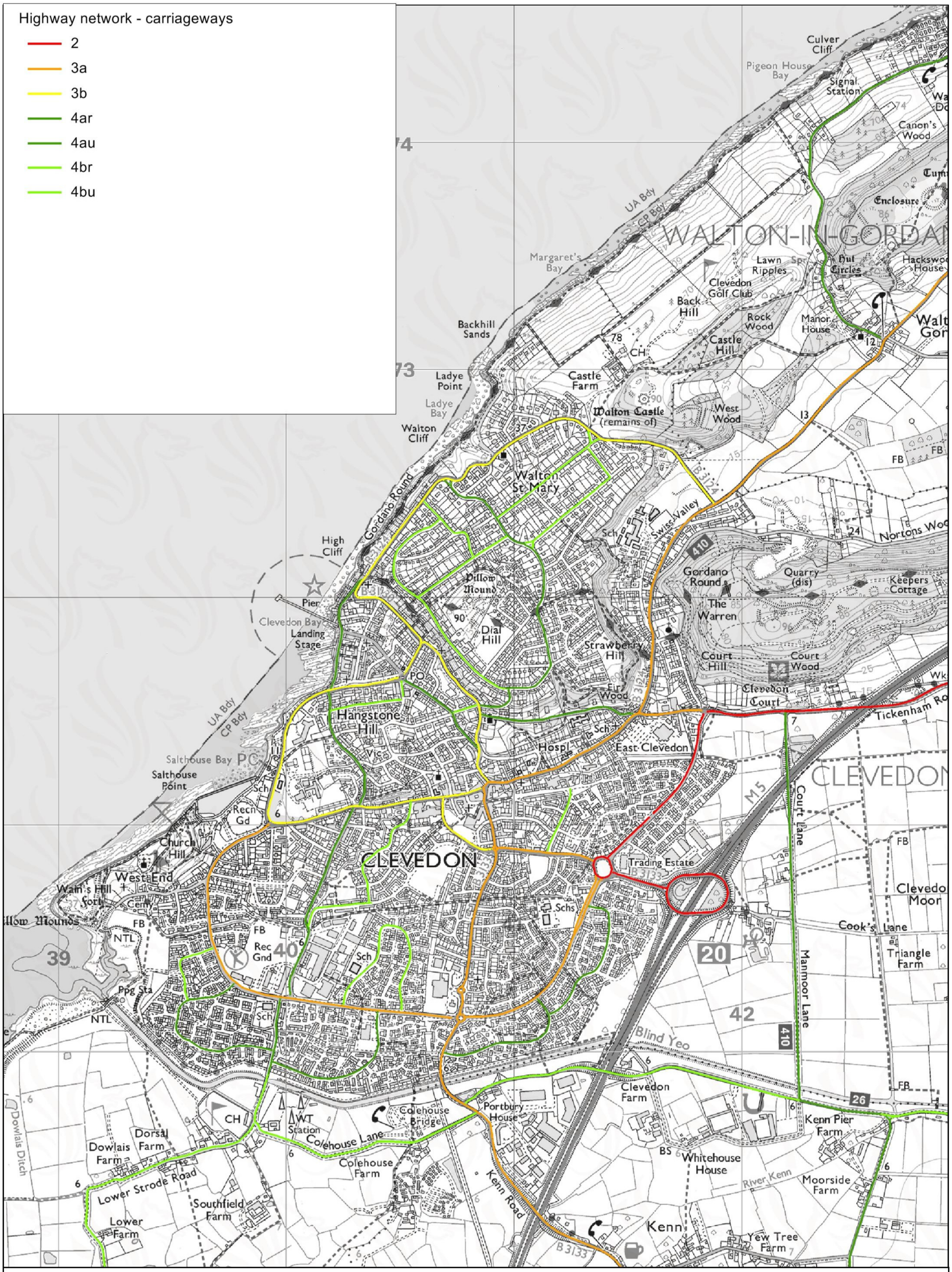
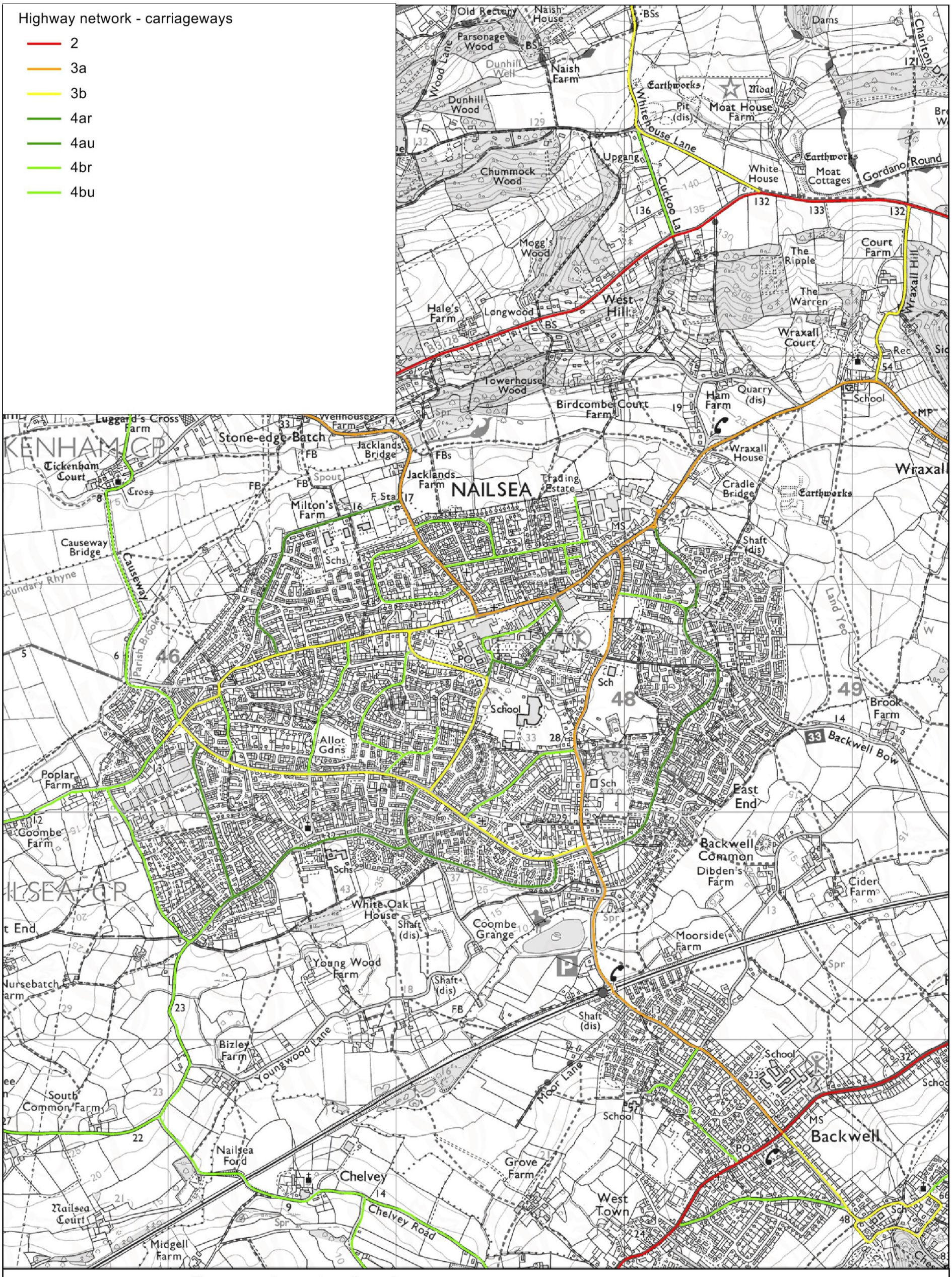
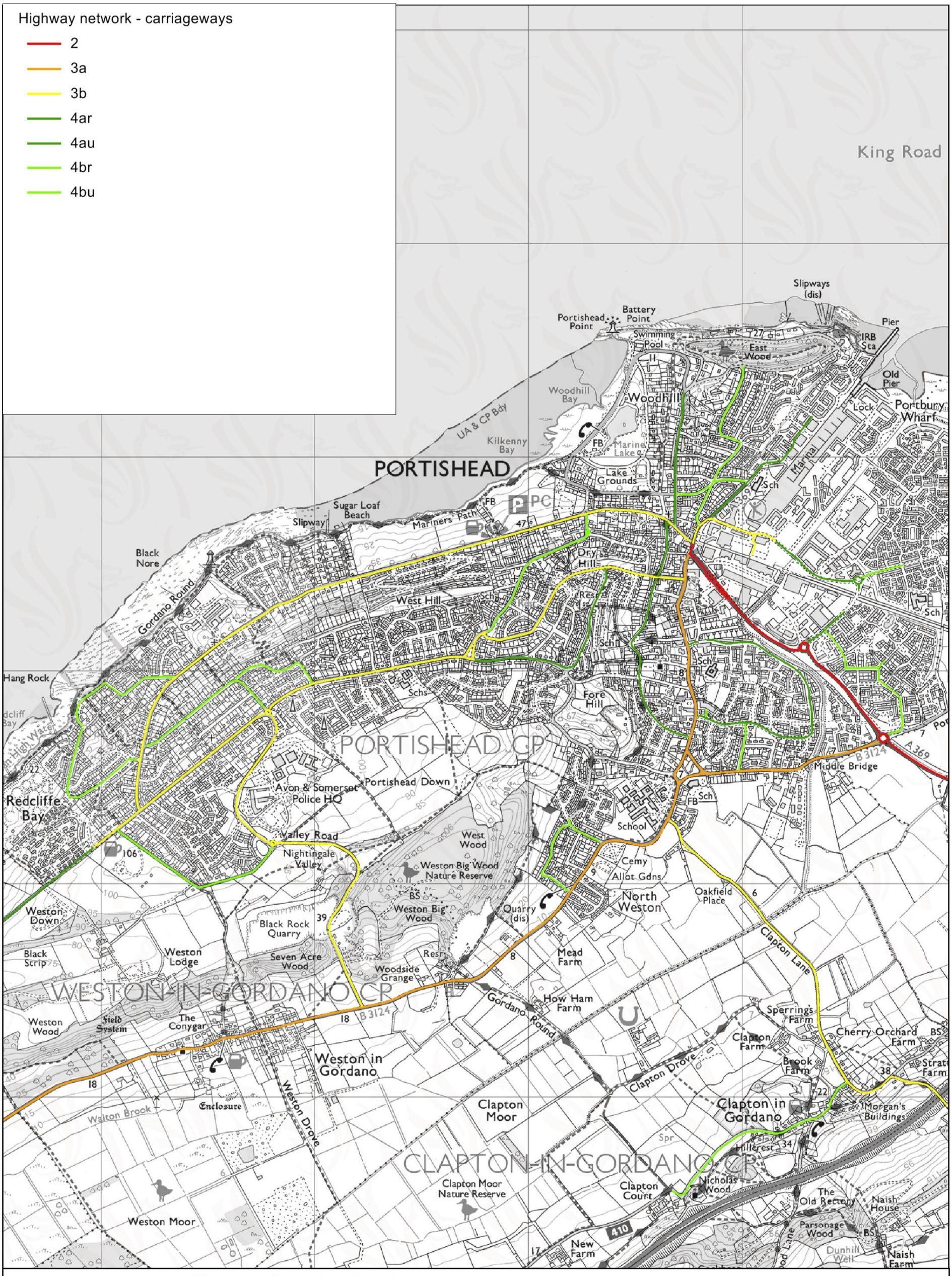
Date: 15 September 2016
Time: 12:48:34

N







Surveyed road network

Portishead detail

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Date: 15 September 2016
Time: 13:07:36

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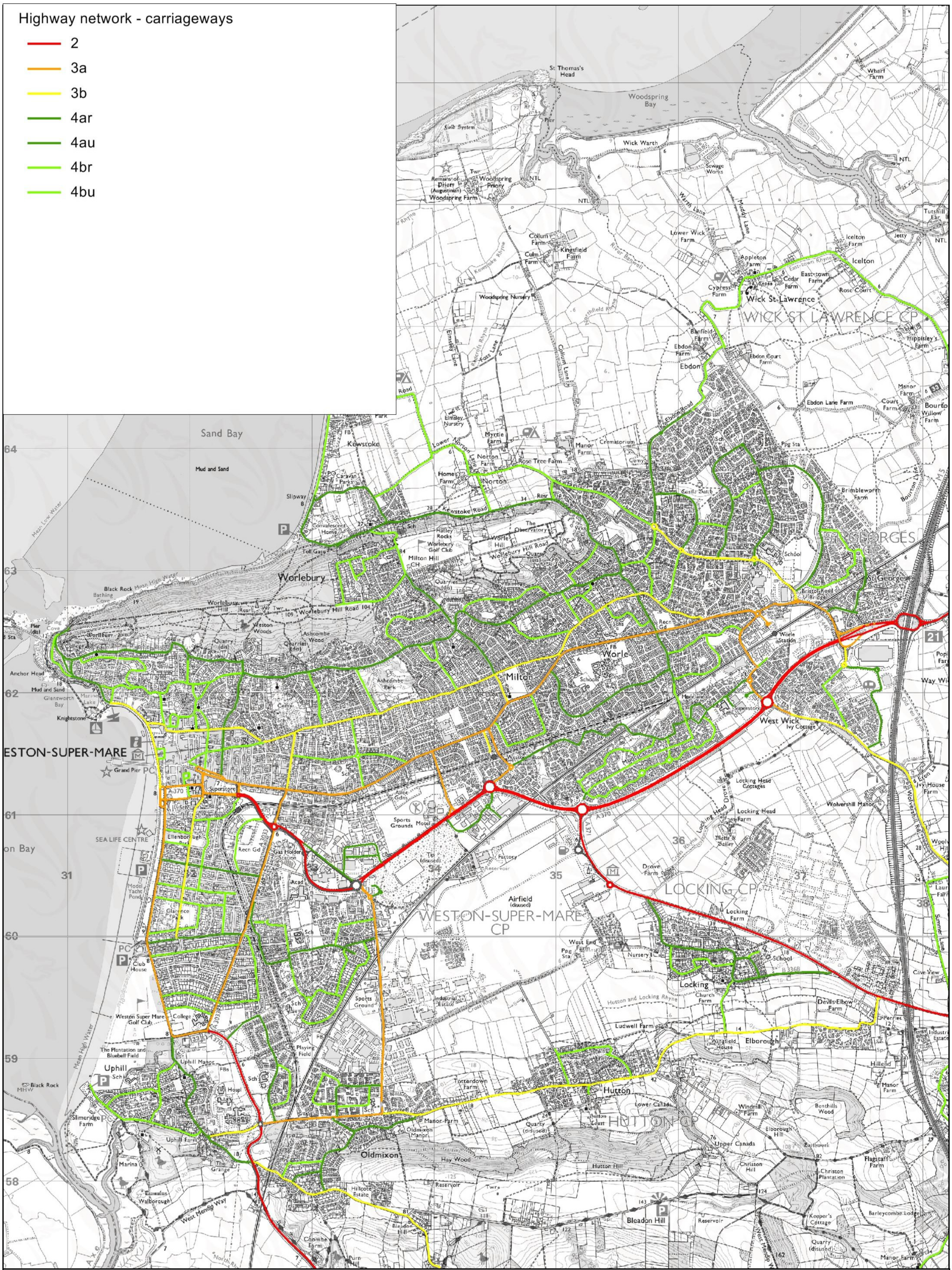

Surveyed road network

Weston-super-Mare detail

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Date: 15 September 2016
Time: 13:10:45

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Appendix 2

Open spaces

The results of a survey undertaken in 2007, of users of our green spaces, shows the level of usage of the different types of spaces (table 5). We have used this data to decide which sites will be proactively surveyed (table 6). Beaches and seafronts are excluded as there are no trees at those locations.

Type of green space	Frequency of use by individuals					Total annual visits	% of visitors that spent more than one hour
	Every day / most days	1-2 times per week	1-2 times per month	3 – 4 times per year	Once per year		
Formal park	10,600	20,800	34,200	28,500	6,300	**5,291,000**	49%
Local park and sports / recreational areas	8,300	19,500	21,500	19,200	8,800	**4,261,400**	47.9%
Residential open spaces	9,700	11,600	10,700	11,700	5,500	**3,724,200**	39.4%
Natural Areas	9,700	12,500	26,200	30,400	5,500	**4,222,500**	66.5%
Beaches and seafronts	11,300	22,800	42,400	44,900	6,300	**5,875,000**	70.5%

Table 5 – Survey results of green space usage in North Somerset

Open Spaces which <u>are</u> proactively surveyed (trees within formal play areas not managed by NSC are not surveyed by NSC)		
North Somerset Typology	**Primary purpose**	**Locations**
Formal Parks and Public Gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for recreation in a formal setting where horticultural practices dominate. Visitors drawn from within and outside the area	**Weston-super-Mare** Alexandra Parade Beach Lawns Clarence Park West Clarence Park East Ebdon Road Corner Grove Park Madeira Cove Milton Rose Garden Prince Consort Gardens Town Square Worle High Street **Clevedon** Alexandra Gardens Green Beach Lake Grounds Pier Copse Salthouse Fields Sunhill Park **Portishead** Gallingale Garden Tydenham Garden The Orchard **Nailsea** Millennium Park
Community Parks	Informal green spaces offering opportunities for recreation and biodiversity used by local people from, and beyond, the immediate neighbourhood	**Weston-super-Mare** Ashcombe Park Jubilee Park **Nailsea** Trendlewood Way **Pill** Pill Park
Outdoor sports facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports	**Weston-super-Mare** Ashcombe Park tennis courts Baytree Recreation Ground Clarence Park East Drove Recreation Ground Hutton Moor Recreation Ground

		Oldmixon Recreation Ground Worle Recreation Ground **Clevedon** Churchill Avenue Dial Hill Cricket Ground Hazel Close Salthouse Fields Strode Road **Nailsea** Fryth Way Millennium Park **Portishead** Lake Grounds **Pill** Watchhouse Hill
Green Corridors	Linear strips of land that connect open spaces allowing for the movement of people and wildlife	Strawberry Line
Formal Play Areas	Formal areas with purpose built play equipment and surface	**Portishead** Avon Way Blackdown Road - Town Council management Brampton Way Charlcombe Rise Cheviot Meadow Hallets Way Lake Grounds - Town Council management Merlin Park – Town Council management Nightingale Rise Parish Wharf Stonechat Green The Vale Trinity MUGA **Pill** St Katherine's Park Watchhouse Hill MUGA **Wraxall** The Elms Elm Lodge Road Yeo Valley Road **Nailsea** Pound Lane Scotch Horn - Town Council management The Perrings

		Trendlewood **Clevedon** Cherry Avenue Esmond Grove Kenn Moor Drive Teignmouth Road Valley Road Salthouse Skate park – Town Council ownership Salthouse Fields Strode Road **Yatton** Grange Farm Road Horse Castle **Weston-super-Mare** Ashcombe Pak Upper and Lower – Town Council management Broadway Play – Town Council management Broadway Skate – Town Council management Bronte Close – Alliance Homes ownership Byron Rec – Town Council management Canberra Road – Town Council management Castle Batch – Town Council management Clarence Park West – Town Council management Coniston Green – Town Council management Dartmouth Close – Alliance Homes ownership Eastern Green Kent Avenue Locking Castle Statues Locking Castle Pelicans Lynch Farm – Town Council management Maltlands – Town Council management Mendip Gate Plumley Park North Plumley Park South Saxon Court The Hedges The Park The Shrubberies Walford Avenue West Wick Wyvern Close – Town Council management Weston Woods 2 x play areas Weston Woods bike track Uphill Recreation Ground **Flax Bourton** Farleigh Green – Parish Council ownership

		Backwell Oatfield Estate - Parish Council ownership Moor Lane - Parish Council ownership **Congresbury** King George V playing field - Parish Council ownership Millenium Green - Parish Council ownership **Wrington** Church Walk - Parish Council ownership Wrington recreation ground - Parish Council ownership **Winscombe** Observatory Fields **Winford** Higher Winford - Parish Council ownership Vee Lane - Parish Council ownership **Dundry** Dundry play area - Parish Council ownership

Table 6 – Open spaces which are proactively surveyed

Table 7 below lists open spaces which are not proactively surveyed.

Open Spaces which are NOT proactively surveyed		
North Somerset Typology	**Primary purpose**	**Locations**
Neighbourhood Open Space	Informal green spaces offering opportunities for recreation and biodiversity used by residents of the local neighbourhood	**Weston-super-Mare** Byron Rec Canberra Road Castle Batch Jubilee Park Lime Close Lynch Farm Milton Road Garden Maltlands Powis Close Railway Triangle Shrubberies 3 Shrubberies 4 Shrubberies 5 The Foyer The Village Green Uphill Recreation

		Ground **Clevedon** Cherry Avenue Hazell Close Hillside Road Hither Green Ladye Bay Marshalls Field Teignmouth Road **Portishead** Avon Way Badger Rise Battery Point Blackdown Road Brampton Way Hallets Way Kilkenny Fields Merlin Park The Vale **Pill** Bank Place Ham Green Watchhouse Hill **Long Ashton** Theynes Croft **Nailsea** Blackthorn Way Cricket Field Pound Lane Rhyne View Sedgemoor Close The Perrings Trendlewood Way Uplands **Yatton** Horsecastle Farm **Langford** Rowan Way Spider Park
Natural areas	Informal open spaces with few man-made structures, offering opportunities for tranquil recreation and reconnection with nature.	**Weston-super-Mare** Pilgrims Way Wood The Tips Uphill Hill Weston Woods **Portishead**

		Eastwood Lindsey Close **Leigh Woods** Abbots Pool **Nailsea** Nowhere Wood **Clevedon** Dial Hill Dowlais Farm Ladye Bay Poets Walk Strawberry Woods

Table 7 – Open spaces which are not proactively surveyed

Appendix 3

Tree Risk Management Service to Schools

Service scheme summary:

We will carry out a risk assessment of the trees on the school estate in line with our own Tree Risk Management Plan, and advise what needs to be done to keep children and others beneath them reasonably safe.

Schools, like all landowners, have a legal 'duty of care' to ensure that users and neighbours of their land are reasonably safe[1]. Schools, as a place of work, must also ensure that risks to employees and contractors are reduced as far as is 'reasonably practicable'[2].

If an accident happens, a tree owner would need to demonstrate that they have taken reasonable and effective steps to identify trees which could place people or property at risk, and have managed those risks accordingly.

North Somerset Council's adopted Tree Risk Management Plan is a robust and defendable system of tree risk management operated by trained and experienced tree risk managers, and this contract will mean that a school is included within it.

The Plan implements the National Tree Safety Group guidance 'Common Sense Risk Management of Trees', published in December 2011[3]. The Plan also adopts the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methodology to assess the risk of harm from trees.

The council's tree risk management plan operates continually and includes a risk survey of your school's tree population every four years. The school will then receive a report detailing remedial tree work that is needed to be carried out at the school's cost.

By being within the council's own Tree Risk Management Plan, and by carrying out recommended remedial tree work the school will be able to demonstrate it has met its duty of care in respect of trees.

[1] The Occupiers Liability Act 1957 & 1984
[2] The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
[3] http://www.ntsg.org.uk

Who can join?

All schools within North Somerset can join the scheme.

Period of the Scheme

The Scheme runs for a period of four academic years.

Premiums

Premiums will be calculated on the basis of the number of trees within the school grounds. The cost per tree is currently £4.80.

What the Scheme covers

- A dedicated tree officer contact, responding to queries by the school staff regarding tree risk, providing expert tree risk management advice, where necessary and at any time.

- One full risk assessment survey of all trees on the school estate, with detailed individual tree inspections carried out where necessary.

- Maintenance of accurate records of surveys and inspections as well as recommendations for tree work.

- Provision of a copy of the survey results and work recommendations within two weeks of the inspection, and as requested.

- Advice on instructing a tree work contractor, if required.

- Urgent site visits and ad-hoc safety inspections where necessary.

What the Scheme does not cover

- The cost of remedial tree work, which must be met by the school. However, tree work will only be recommended if it is found that a tree poses an unacceptably high risk of causing harm. Your existing trusted tree work contractor can carry out any remedial work we specify, or we can help you seek quotes, appoint a competent contactor and monitor their work for safety.

- Risk management of trees not under the ownership of the school or North Somerset Council. However, we will take in to account risks to children from neighbour's trees and assist in finding a solution with the tree owner where that risk is too high.

- Tree risk management for schools that have not bought the tree risk management service. If a maintained school chooses to remain outside of the council's tree risk management plan, alternative arrangements must be made and CYPS notified of those arrangements.

Benefits of the Scheme

- A cost effective way of managing the risk of harm from tree failure and meeting the duty of care in respect of trees.

- The QTRA method leads to reduced costs of tree work, as work is only recommended where the risk is deemed unacceptable in relation to an agreed threshold. This in turn leads to long term retention of the benefits that trees provide.

- A dedicated tree officer contact available throughout the academic year and school holidays, to no extra cost.

Appendix 4

Log of training

Key (current employees): JC – Jason Cox, Tree Officer; JF – John Flannigan, Community and Environment Service Area Manager; JM - James McCarthy, Tree Officer; LS – Linda Saretok, Principal Tree Officer;

Date	Document / training	By	Trainee	Notes
14/09/2009	QTRA Licensed User Training	QTRA Ltd	IM, LS, JC	
15/09/2009	Practitioners Guide to VTA	QTRA Ltd	IM, LS, JC	
16/09/2010	QTRA Update Training	QTRA Ltd	IM, LS, JC	Bespoke training at North Somerset sites
01/07/2011	QTRA Benchmarking exercise	IM	IM, LS, JC	In-house Tree Officer team exercise
06 to 08/09/2011	Professional Tree Inspection 3 Day Course	Arboricultural Association / Lantra	IM	
11/11/2011	QTRA Practice Note revision V4.01 discussion	IM	LS, JC	In-house update session
01/12/2011	Q&A email to Mike Ellison	IM	LS, JC	Email to Mike Ellison of QTRA to resolve specific questions and issues
16 to 18/05/2012	Professional Tree Inspection 3 Day Course	Arboricultural Association / Lantra	JC and LS	
10/10/2013	QTRA Update Training V5.0	QTRA Ltd	JC, JF, LS	Updated QTRA calculator. Risk of Harm for all possible combinations of target, size and Probability of Failure have now been calculated using Monte Carlo simulations. Risk of Harm cannot be calculated without the manual calculator or software application.
4/3/2014	QTRA licensed User Training	QTRA Ltd	JH	
5/3/2014	Practitioners Guide to VTA	QTRA Ltd	JH	
9-11/7/2014	Professional Tree Inspection 3 Day Course	Arboricultural Association / Lantra	JH	
28/7/2015	QTRA Licensed user training	QTRA Ltd	JM	

29/7/2015	QTRA Probability training	QTRA Ltd	JC, JM, LS	Bespoke training day at NSC sites

Appendix 5

Amendments and Alterations to Document

Key (current employees): JC – Jason Cox, Tree Officer; JF – John Flannigan, Community and Environment Service Area Manager; JM - James McCarthy, Tree Officer; LS – Linda Saretok, Principal Tree Officer;

Date	By		Section	Amendment