Knowsley Council

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KNOWSLEY'S

LOCAL PLAN

BASELINE INFORMATION REPORT 2026

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Baseline Information Report 2026

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Mapping
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1. INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE BASELINE REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the social, environmental and economic baseline for Knowsley to inform the new Local Plan, following the Government guidance on gathering baselining information. It builds a picture of current conditions, the trends shaping the borough, and the constraints and opportunities relevant to future plan-making.[1]

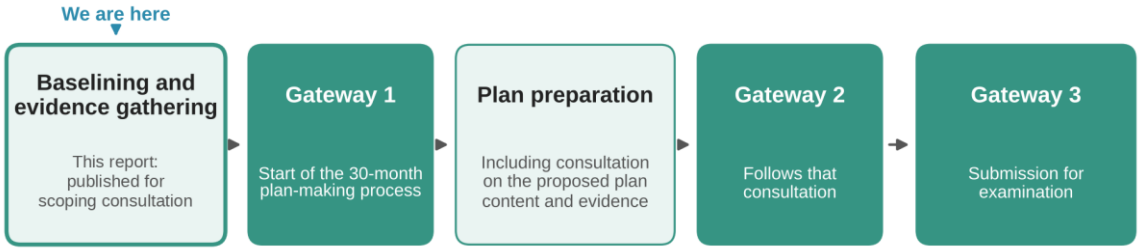
1.2 Gathering this baseline is one of the first steps in plan-making: the national guidance advises that it is carried out before Gateway 1 and the start of the 30-month plan-making process. It also helps to meet the survey of area requirement in section 13 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and will inform the scoping of the plan's Strategic Environmental Assessment.[2]

1.3 The baseline report will be kept under review as the Local Plan progresses. It draws on the most recent suitable and reliable information available at the time of preparation, proportionate to the purpose of baselining. National guidance recognises that comprehensive information will not necessarily be available at this early stage and advises authorities to draw on locally or sub-nationally produced data where appropriate. Where additional or updated evidence materially changes the understanding of an issue, the relevant part of the baseline will be reviewed.

POLICY AND PLAN-MAKING CONTEXT

1.4 The new Local Plan is being prepared under the reformed plan-making system that follows the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, in which a plan is prepared over a 30-month process that includes three gateway assessments (Figure 1).[3] National policy is set by the National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026).[4] At city region level, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is preparing a Spatial Development Strategy (Towards a Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region up to 2040, draft November 2023, with a further draft in preparation)[5] and adopted its fourth Local Transport Plan[6] in April 2026. Locally, the adopted development plan includes the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (adopted January 2016) and the saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan.[7]

Figure 1: Where this baseline sits in the plan-making process



Source: national guidance on gathering baselining information.

[1] MHCLG, Gathering baselining information to inform a local plan.
[2] MHCLG, 30-month local plan process: an overview.
[3] Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.
[4] MHCLG, National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026).
[5] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Towards a Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region up to 2040 (November 2023).
[6] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Local Transport Plan 4 and Delivery Plan 2026-2040 (adopted April 2026).
[7] Knowsley Council, Local Plan: Core Strategy (adopted January 2016); Knowsley Council, Unitary Development Plan (2006), saved policies.

EVIDENCE SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS

1.5 Each table, figure and map states its source and date, and the Data Register at Appendix A records the main datasets used, with their publisher and currency. Several sources carry limitations that affect how they should be read, notably the timing of Census 2021 during a national lockdown, the sample size of the Annual Population Survey at local authority level and the experimental status of the Department for Transport connectivity statistics.[8] These limitations are stated where the data is used. Datasets differ in reference period, geography and method, so differences between figures do not necessarily indicate inconsistencies where the measures, populations or periods differ.

THE PLAN AREA

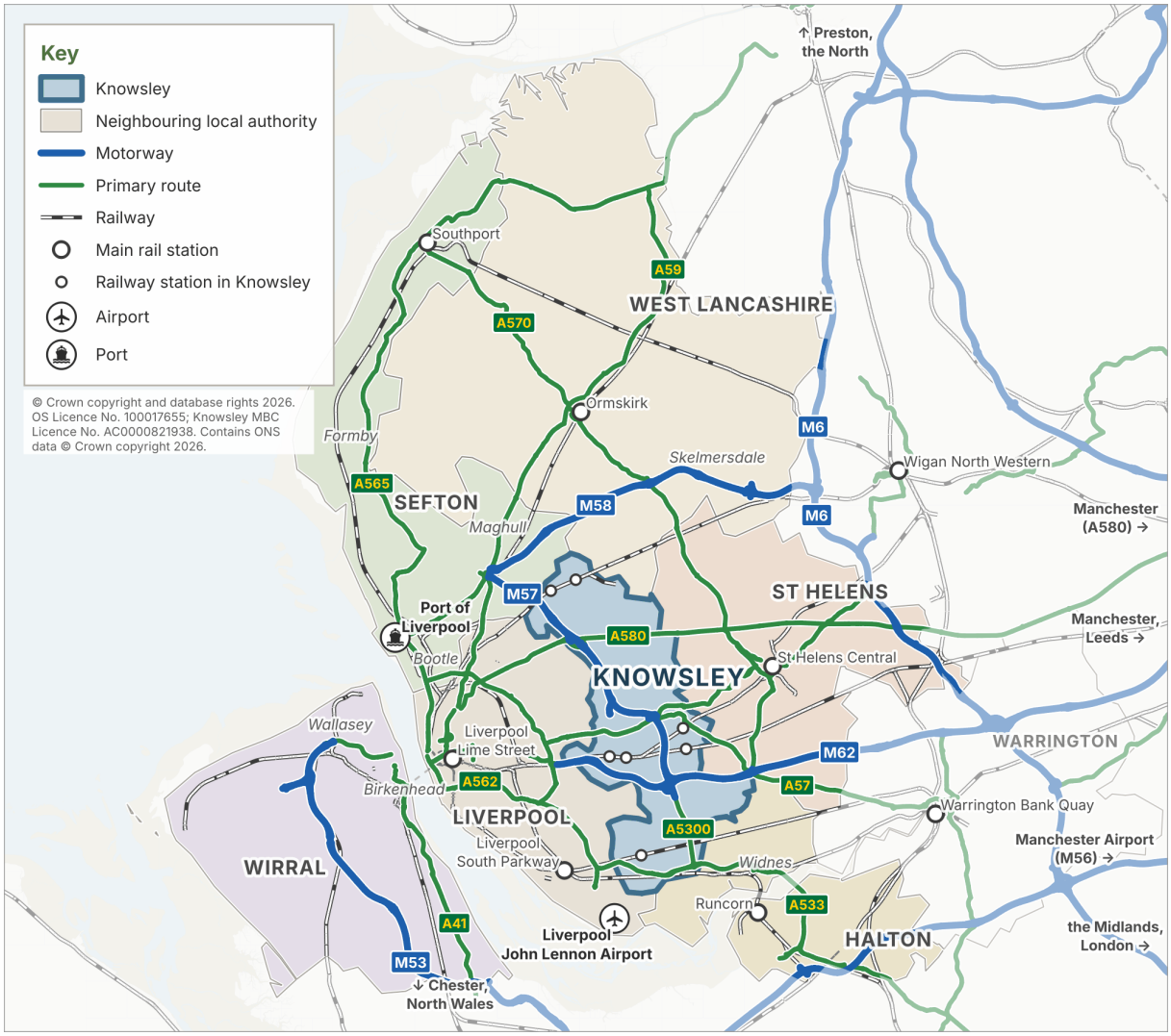
1.6 Knowsley is a metropolitan borough in the Liverpool City Region, in the North West of England. Its mid-2025 population was 163,723. It is bordered by Liverpool to the west, Sefton and West Lancashire to the north, St Helens to the east and Halton to the south (Figure 2).[9]

1.7 Knowsley is made up of several settlements, some of them separated by areas of open land and countryside: Huyton, Prescot, Whiston, Halewood and Kirkby (Figure 3). There are further distinct communities within the urban areas, among them Stockbridge Village, Roby, Page Moss, North Huyton and Tower Hill. Figure 4 shows the settlements and their influence areas, and Figure 5 and Figure 6 show the civil parishes and the electoral wards.

1.8 Knowsley Village sits to the southeast of Kirkby while the villages of Cronton and Tarbock are notable for their more rural character. The countryside and urban fringe areas of the borough are designated as Green Belt.

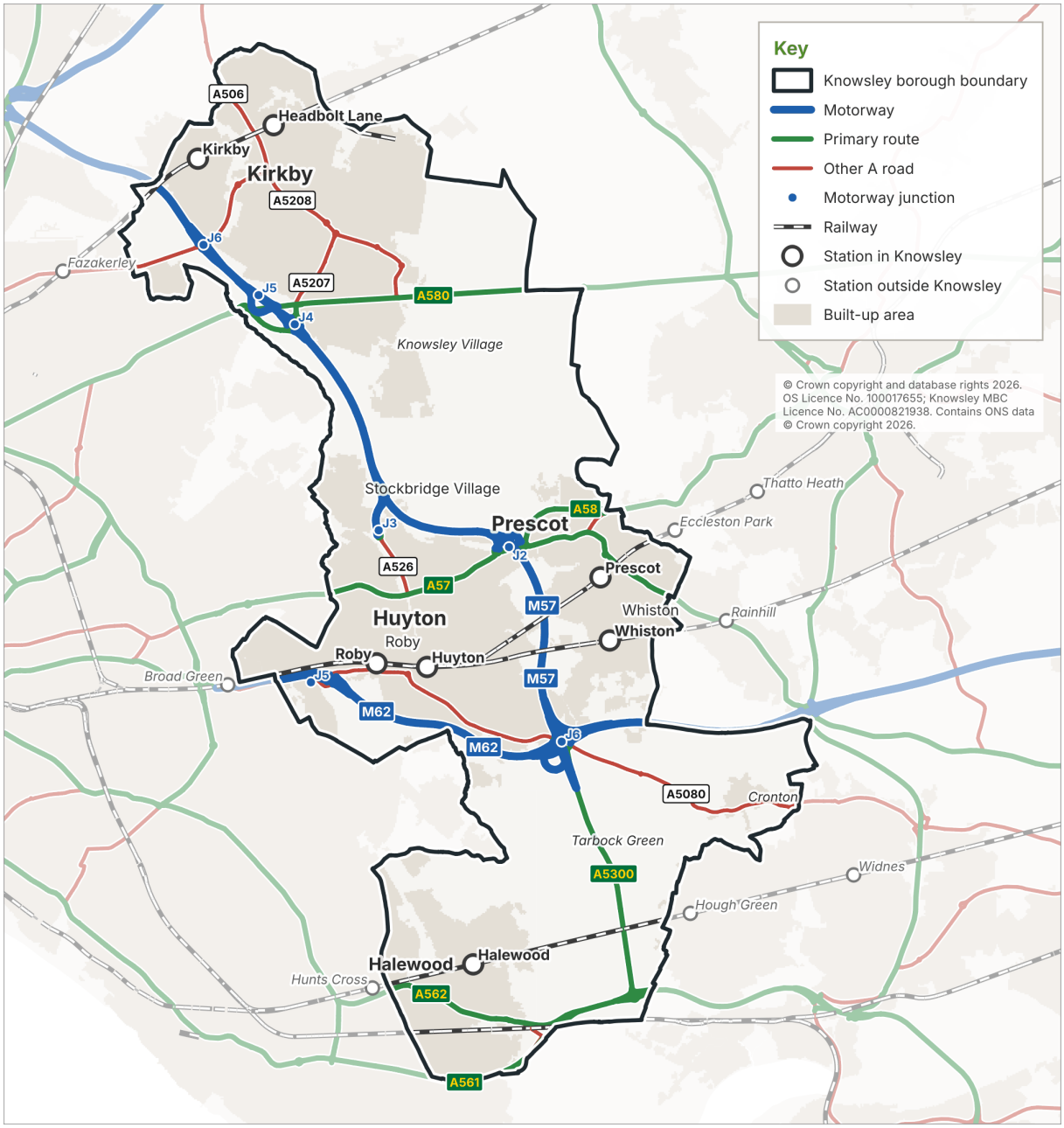
[8] ONS, Annual Population Survey, via Nomis; DfT, Connectivity Statistics.
[9] ONS, Population estimates for England and Wales: mid-2025, published 29 July 2026.

Figure 2: Knowsley in context with neighbouring authorities



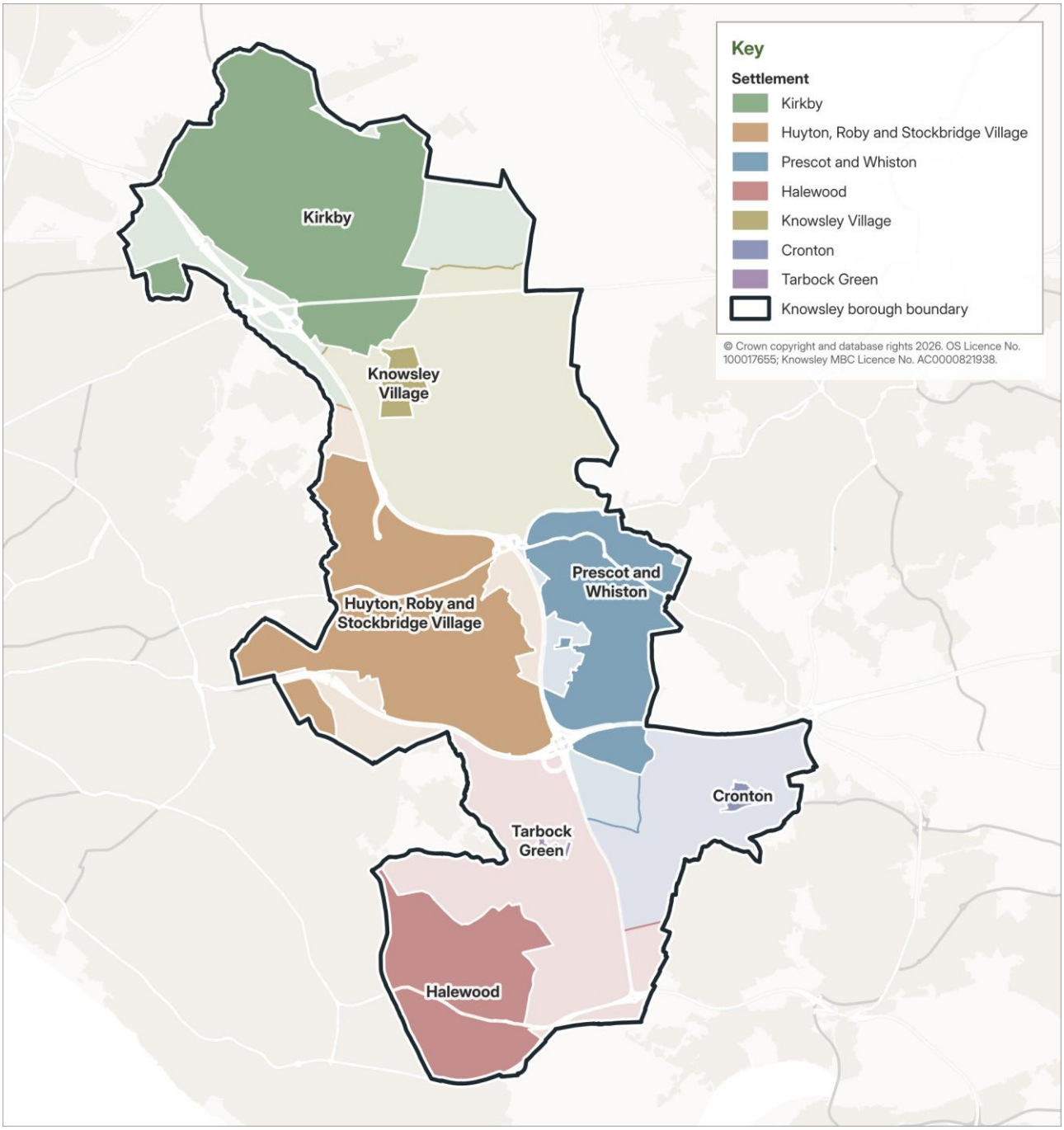
Source: OS Open Zoomstack, OS Open Built Up Areas and OS Boundary-Line, 2026.

Figure 3: Knowsley in context: boundary, settlements and strategic networks



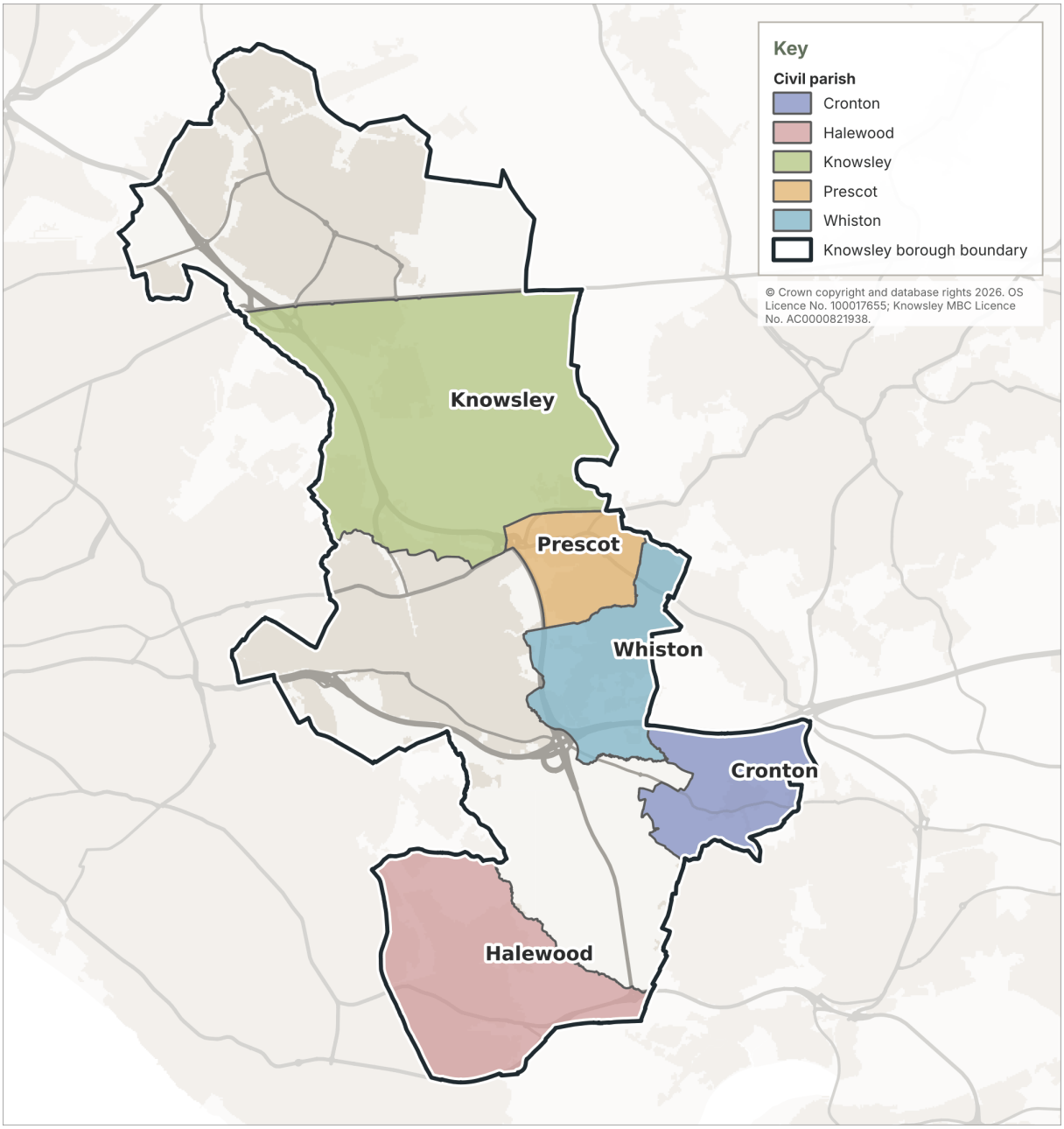
Source: OS Open Zoomstack, OS Open Built Up Areas and OS Boundary-Line, 2026.

Figure 4: Settlement areas



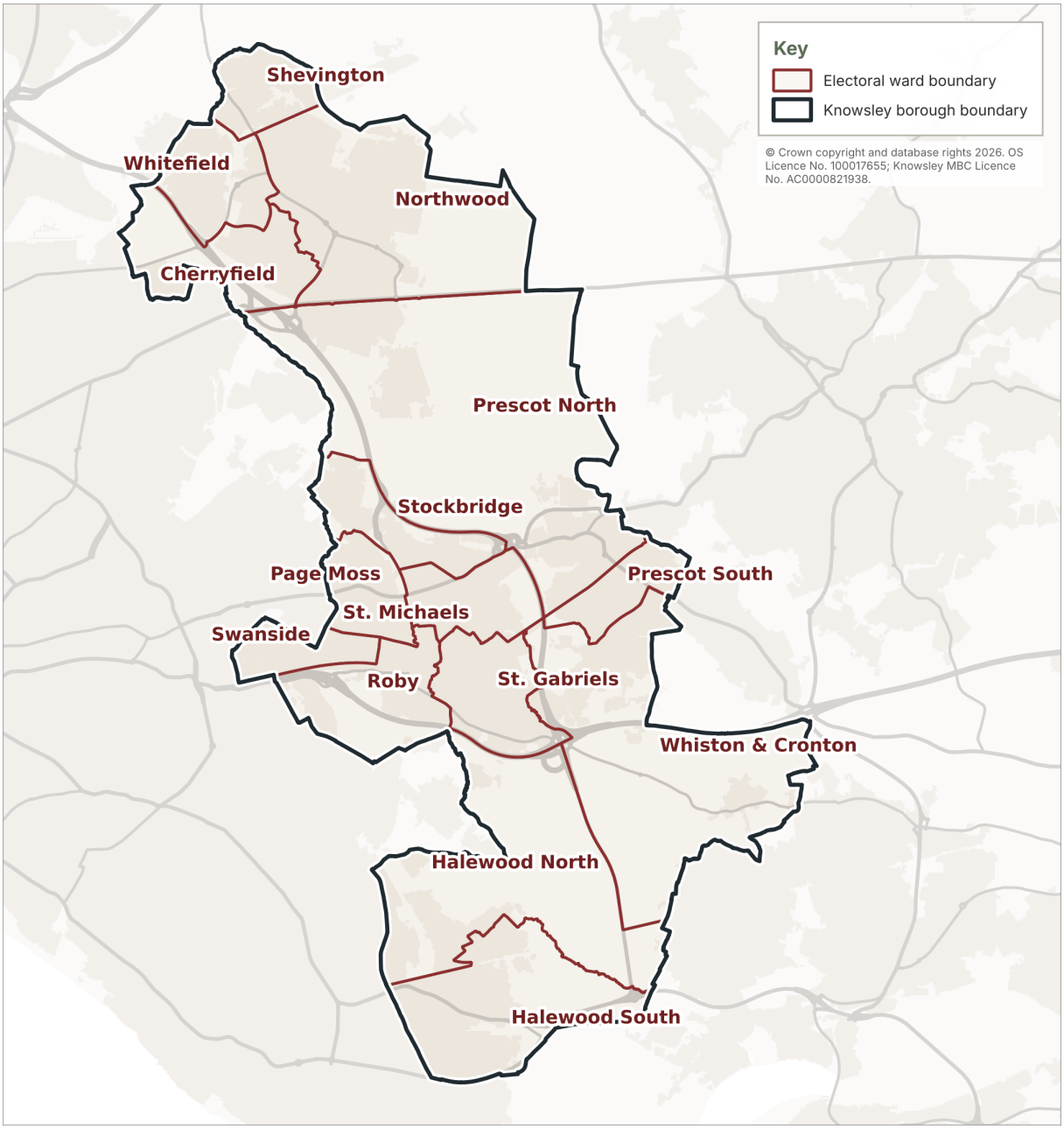
Source: Knowsley MBC.

Figure 5: Civil parishes



Source: OS Boundary-Line, 2026.

Figure 6: Electoral wards



Source: OS Boundary-Line, 2026.

2. POPULATION, COMMUNITIES AND INEQUALITIES

Key baseline data sources used in this section:

- ONS, Population estimates for England and Wales, mid-2025
- ONS, Census 2021, Table TS007 (Age structure)
- ONS, Census 2021, Table TS017 (Household size)
- ONS, 2022-based Subnational Population Projections
- ONS, 2022-based household projections for England
- ONS, How life has changed in Knowsley: Census 2021
- ONS, Census 2021, Tables TS066 (Economic activity) and TS067 (Qualifications)
- MHCLG, English Indices of Deprivation 2025
- OHID, Public Health Profiles (Fingertips)
- DESNZ, Sub-regional fuel poverty statistics 2024
- NHS England, Patients Registered at a GP Practice
- ONS, Annual Population Survey, via Nomis

POPULATION AND POPULATION CHANGE

2.1 The most recent estimate of Knowsley's population is 163,723 (mid-2025). This is an increase of 17,820 people, or 12.2%, since mid-2011, and of 8,745 since mid-2021, with the 2021 Census full count recording 154,519 usual residents.

2.2 The context of that growth matters as much as its scale. Across England and Wales the population grew by only 0.4% in the year to mid-2025, the slowest rate since mid-2020, and only 75% of local authorities grew at all, compared with more than 94% in each of the three preceding years. The North West recorded the highest regional growth rate in England. Knowsley therefore continued to experience population growth during a period in which growth slowed substantially across much of England and Wales.[10]

Table 1: Population change, mid-2011 to mid-2025

Area	Mid-2011	Mid-2025	Change	Change (%)
Knowsley	**145,903**	**163,723**	**+17,820**	**+12.2**
Halton	125,722	131,912	+6,190	+4.9
Liverpool	465,656	507,915	+42,259	+9.1
St Helens	175,405	189,890	+14,485	+8.3
Sefton	273,969	287,583	+13,614	+5.0
Wirral	319,837	329,896	+10,059	+3.1
North West	7,055,961	7,772,854	+716,893	+10.2
England	53,107,169	58,834,812	+5,727,643	+10.8

Source: ONS mid-year population estimates, mid-2025 edition.

Long-run population change

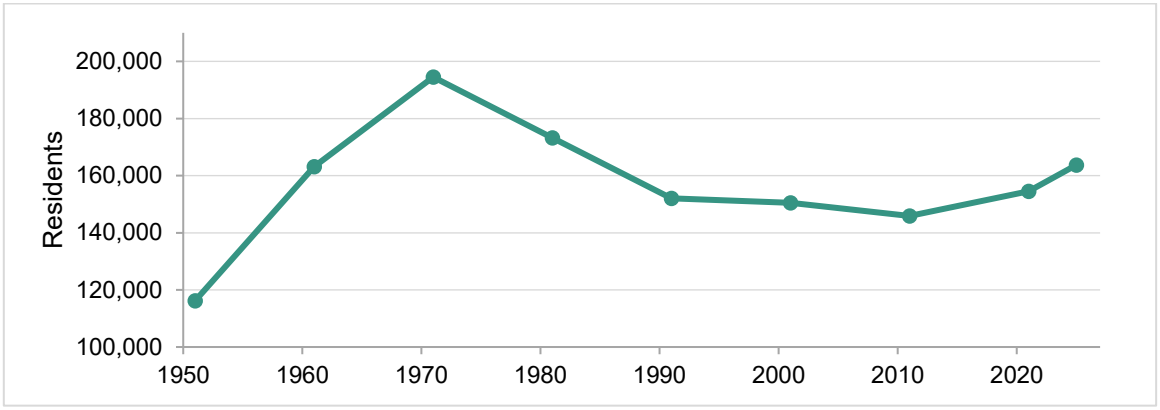
2.3 Knowsley's population has followed a long arc. The area grew rapidly through the middle of the twentieth century as Liverpool overspill housing was built, and the population of the area now within the borough rose from about 116,000 in 1951 to a peak of about 194,500 in 1971. It then fell for four decades, by nearly a quarter, to about 145,900 at the 2011 Census, before rising again to 154,500 in 2021 and an estimated 163,700 by mid-2025. The borough is now larger than it was in 1961, though still well below its 1971 peak.

2.4 Figures for 1951 to 2011 are census counts reconstructed to the current borough boundary; 2021 is the Census 2021 count and 2025 is the ONS mid-year estimate, which is on a slightly different basis. The borough was created in 1974, so the earlier figures are reconstructions for

[10] ONS, Population estimates for England and Wales: mid-2025, sections 1, 5 and 6.

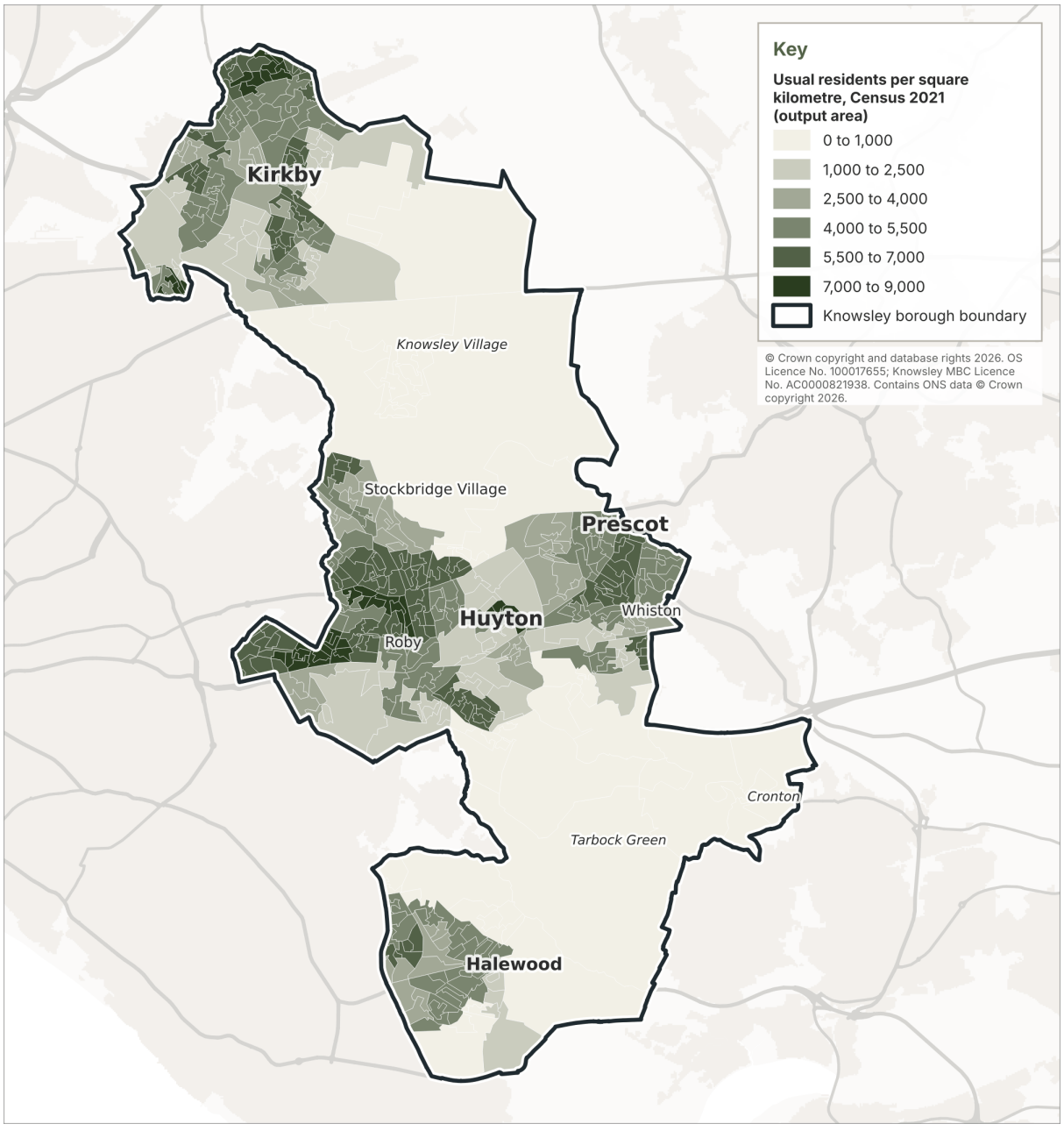
the same area. Figure 8 shows how population density varies across the borough by output area.

Figure 7: Knowsley's resident population, 1951 to 2025



Source: census counts reconstructed to the current borough area (GB Historical GIS / A Vision of Britain through Time), 1951 to 2011; Census 2021; ONS mid-year population estimate, 2025.

Figure 8: Population density by output area, 2021



Source: ONS, Census 2021.

AGE STRUCTURE

2.5 28,984 Knowsley residents were aged 65 or over in mid-2025, which is 17.7% of the population. That sits below the England figure of 19.1%, so Knowsley remains comparatively young, but its share has risen by 1.9 percentage points since mid-2011 (from 15.8%), less than England's rise of 2.7 points (from 16.4%).

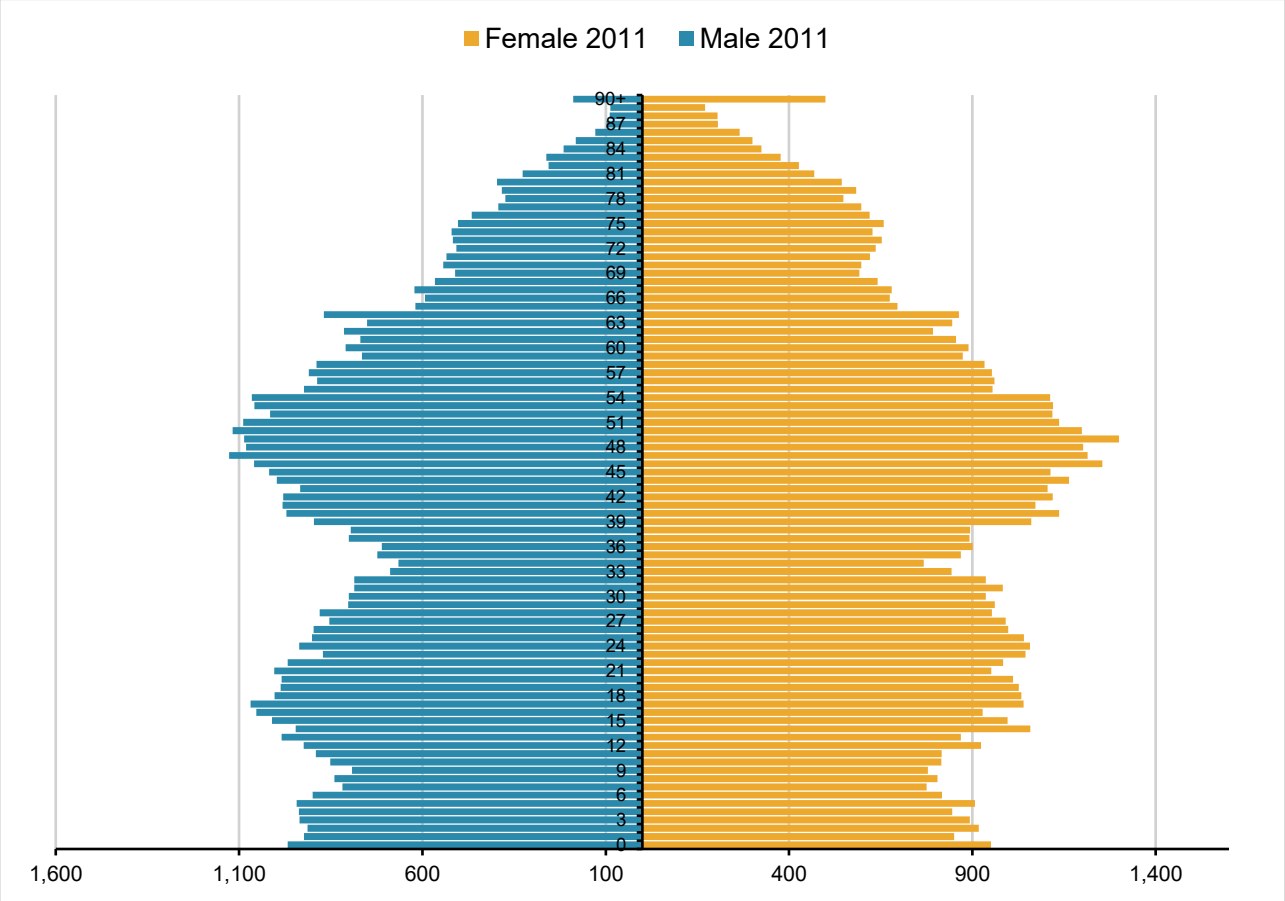
2.6 The age profile has changed in two directions at once. Compared with 2011, there are more people aged 27 to 42 and 55 to 78, and fewer aged 16 to 26 and 43 to 54. The largest increase is among those aged 60 to 75 (29,685 against 21,372).

Table 2: Knowsley population by age band, mid-2025

Age band	Residents	% of total
0 to 4	9,830	6.0
5 to 9	10,592	6.5
10 to 15	12,008	7.3
16 to 24	15,364	9.4
25 to 29	10,310	6.3
30 to 44	36,307	22.2
45 to 59	28,766	17.6
60 to 64	11,562	7.1
65 to 74	16,878	10.3
75 to 84	8,853	5.4
85 and over	3,253	2.0

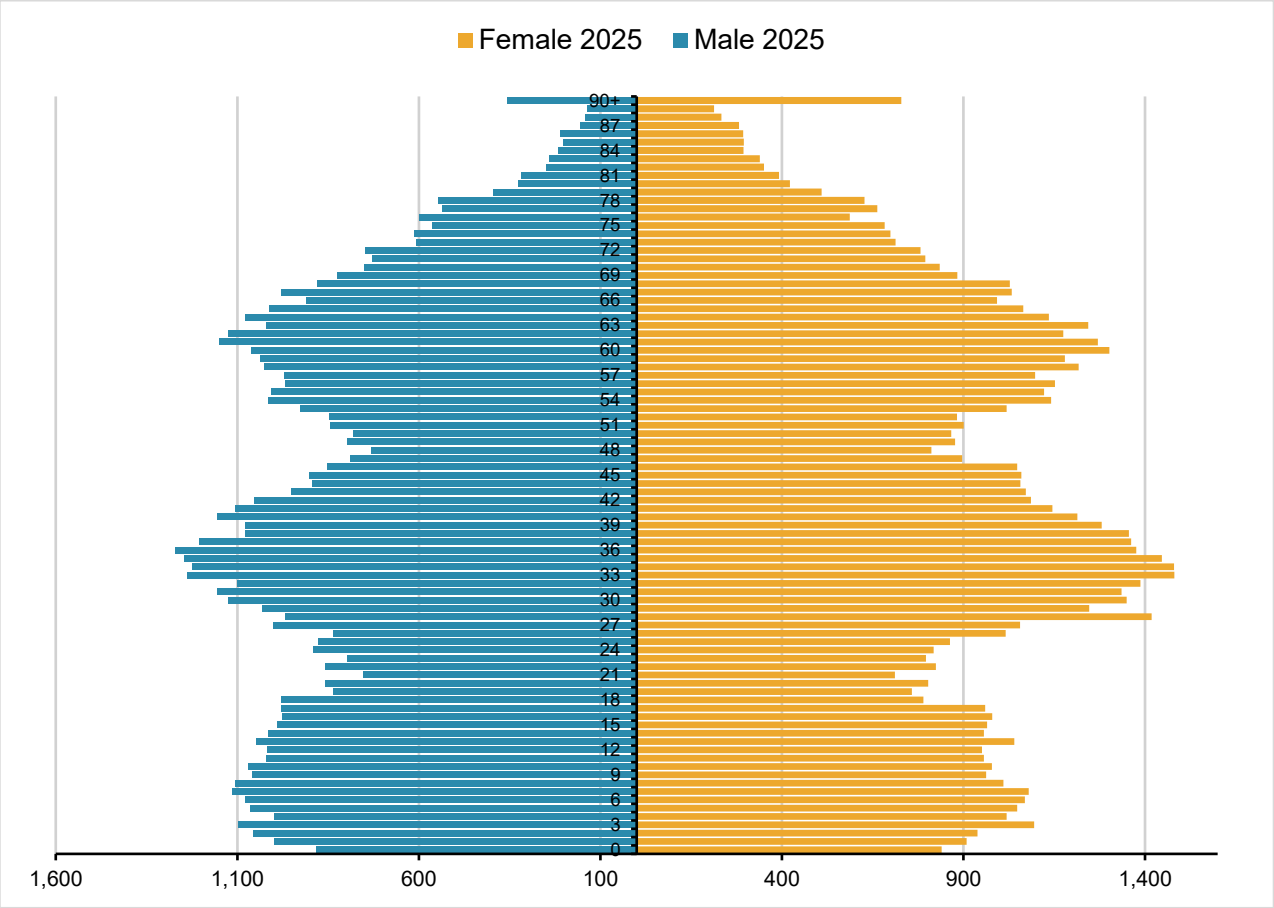
Source: ONS mid-2025 population estimates, single year of age aggregated by the Council to the age bands shown.

Figure 9: Population age structure by single year of age and sex, 2011



Source: ONS mid-year population estimates, mid-2025 edition (mid-2011 estimates). Age 90 includes all persons aged 90 and over.

Figure 10: Population age structure by single year of age and sex, 2025



Source: ONS mid-year population estimates, mid-2025 edition. Age 90 includes all persons aged 90 and over.

2.7 The single-year-of-age data behind Figure 9 and Figure 10 also supports precise school-age and working-age cohort cuts, sharper than the standard Census age bands used elsewhere in this report. Table 3 sets these out for 2025. Of the working-age total, 3,895 residents (2.4% of the population) are aged 16 to 17, sixth form or further-education age, a subset of working age rather than additional to it.

Table 3: School-age and working-age population cohorts, Knowsley 2025

Cohort	Ages	Residents	% of population
Early years (pre-school)	0-3	7,814	4.8%
Primary school age	4-10	14,656	9.0%
Secondary school age	11-15	9,960	6.1%
Working age	16-65	104,385	63.8%
Pension age	66 and over	26,908	16.4%
Total	**All ages**	**163,723**	**100.0%**

Source: ONS mid-year population estimates, single year of age, mid-2025 edition, aggregated by the Council to standard school-age and working-age cohorts.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

2.8 The 2021 Census also shows the actual distribution of household sizes, rather than the projected average used below. Single-person and two-person households are each just under a third of all households, at 31.2% and 31.4% respectively, followed by three-person households at 18.7%. The distribution has shifted only modestly since 2011: four, five and six-person households have all become slightly less common, offset by small rises in one, two and three-person households.

Table 4: Household size, Knowsley 2011 and 2021 (%)

Household size	2011 (%)	2021 (%)
1 person	31.1	31.2
2 people	31.0	31.4
3 people	17.6	18.7
4 people	13.6	12.8
5 people	5.0	4.3
6 people	1.5	1.1
7 people	0.2	0.3
8 or more people	0.1	0.1

Source: ONS, Census 2011 Table QS406EW and Census 2021 Table TS017 (household size), Knowsley.

POPULATION AND HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS

2.9 The 2022-based subnational population projections (SNPP) show Knowsley growing from 157,107 in 2022 to 189,233 by 2047, around 20% over 25 years, with the fastest proportional growth among residents aged 65 and over. The mid-2025 actual population estimate was 163,723, against a mid-2025 figure of 162,282 on the same SNPP projection series.[11]

Table 5: Projected population of Knowsley by broad age group, 2022 to 2047

Broad age group	2022	2047	Change (%)
Children (0-15)	31,016	33,469	+7.9
Working age (16-64)	99,166	120,669	+21.7
Older (65+)	26,925	35,096	+30.3
All ages	157,107	189,233	+20.4

Source: ONS, 2022-based Subnational Population Projections for England, migration category variant on 2023 local authority geographies. Figures are rounded independently, so the age groups may not sum exactly to the total.

Table 6: Projected households, 2022 to 2047

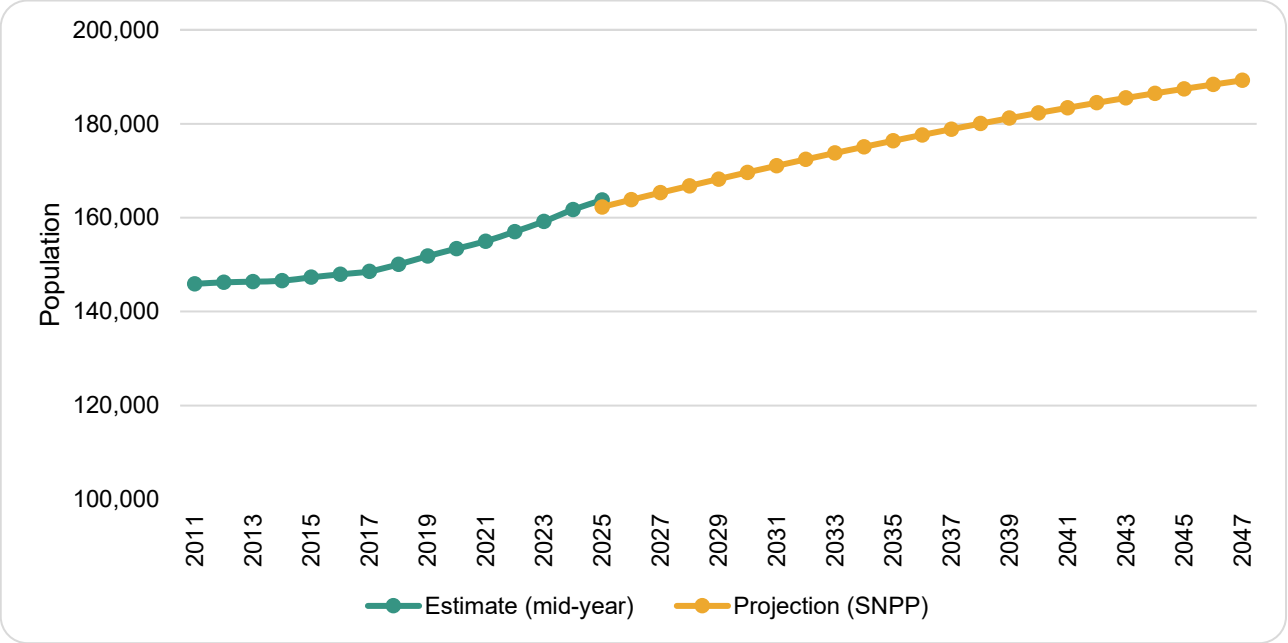
Area	2022	2047	Change	Change (%)	HH size 2047
Knowsley	**66,556**	**84,261**	**+17,705**	**+26.6**	**2.24**
Liverpool	207,840	253,918	+46,078	+22.2	2.16
St Helens	81,266	97,079	+15,813	+19.5	2.11
Halton	56,069	66,343	+10,274	+18.3	2.10
Sefton	123,597	144,749	+21,152	+17.1	2.10
Wirral	143,788	167,001	+23,214	+16.1	2.05
England	23,540,824	28,899,324	+5,358,500	+22.8	2.19

Source: ONS 2022-based household projections for England, migration category variant on 2023 local authority geographies. Change is calculated from the unrounded projections.

2.10 Knowsley's projected household growth of 26.6% to 2047 is the highest in the Liverpool City Region and above the England figure of 22.8%. Average household size falls from 2.35 to 2.24 over the same period.

[11] ONS, 2022-based Subnational Population Projections for England; ONS, Population estimates for England and Wales, mid-2025.

Figure 11: Knowsley population: estimates and 2022-based projection



Source: ONS mid-year population estimates, mid-2025 edition; ONS 2022-based Subnational Population Projections, migration category variant on 2023 local authority geographies.

CHANGE SINCE THE 2011 CENSUS

2.11 ONS published a Census change over time series comparing the 2011 and 2021 Censuses on a single, consistent basis: 2011 figures are rebased to 2021 output area boundaries and reclassified to 2021 output classifications, so they differ from figures quoted from the 2011 Census at the time.

2.12 To show how change varied across the borough without dividing it into places, this report groups neighbourhoods by how deprived they are on the Indices of Deprivation 2025. Each of the borough's 507 output areas takes the national deprivation decile of the neighbourhood (lower layer super output area) it sits in, giving four groups: the most deprived tenth nationally (40 neighbourhoods), deciles 2 and 3 (22), deciles 4 and 5 (11) and deciles 6 to 9 (27). No Knowsley neighbourhood is in the least deprived tenth. The grouping uses current deprivation, so it shows how the neighbourhoods that are most deprived today have changed, not how deprivation itself has moved.

2.13 Over the decade the borough's population grew 5.9% and its households 7.7% (Table 7 and Figure 12). Growth was fastest in the neighbourhoods in deciles 4 and 5, where population rose 9.6% and households 13.4%, and slowest in the most deprived tenth and in deciles 6 to 9, where population rose 5.0% in each.

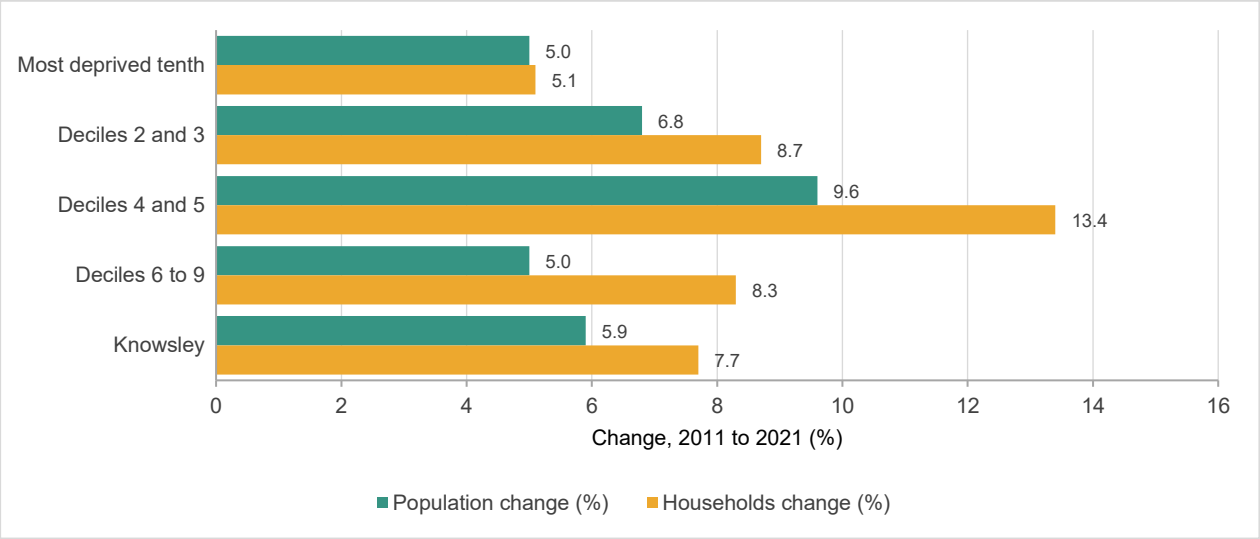
2.14 The groups also show the gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods narrowing on several measures. In the most deprived tenth, the share of residents aged 16 and over with no qualifications fell 10.5 percentage points, the share in employment rose 5.3 points and the share of households with no car or van fell 8.5 points; in deciles 6 to 9 the equivalent changes were 5.5, 0.7 and 2.1 points. The most deprived neighbourhoods still start from a weaker position on each of these measures.

Table 7: Change by neighbourhood deprivation group, 2011 to 2021 Census

Measure	Most deprived tenth	Deciles 2 and 3	Deciles 4 and 5	Deciles 6 to 9	Knowsley
Neighbourhoods (LSOAs)	40	22	11	27	100
Population, 2021	59,395	32,774	18,728	43,629	154,517
Population change (%)	+5.0	+6.8	+9.6	+5.0	+5.9
Household change (%)	+5.1	+8.7	+13.4	+8.3	+7.7
No qualifications, 2021 (% of residents aged 16+)	33.9	27.1	21.8	17.6	26.2
Change (percentage points)	-10.5	-8.2	-8.9	-5.5	-8.4
In employment, 2021 (% of residents aged 16+)	49.0	57.1	58.5	62.7	55.9
Change (percentage points)	+5.3	+2.7	+1.7	+0.7	+3.1
No car or van, 2021 (% of households)	45.4	31.2	22.8	14.6	31.2
Change (percentage points)	-8.5	-5.4	-4.4	-2.1	-5.9
Private rented or living rent free, 2021 (% of households)	15.2	17.4	15.2	10.7	14.5
Change (percentage points)	+3.7	+4.2	+4.4	+1.8	+3.4
Under-occupied by two or more bedrooms, 2021 (% of households)	28.4	36.9	41.2	49.7	37.6
Change (percentage points)	-0.3	+1.4	+2.8	+3.5	+1.6

Source: ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, Census change over time, output area tables TS008, TS017, TS045, TS052, TS054, TS066 and TS067 (2011 rebased to 2021 output areas); MHCLG, English Indices of Deprivation 2025. Groups are sums of output areas, each taking the national deprivation decile of its neighbourhood. Knowsley is the published local authority figure in the Census change over time dataset (154,517 usual residents in 2021, against 154,519 in Census 2021 Table TS001); because of disclosure control in 2021, the groups sum to slightly different 2021 totals. Percentage point changes are calculated from unrounded figures.

Figure 12: Population and household change by neighbourhood deprivation group, 2011 to 2021 Census (%)



Source: ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, Census change over time, output area tables TS008 and TS017; MHCLG, English Indices of Deprivation 2025; as Table 7.

2.15 Between 2011 and 2021 households grew faster than population in every group of neighbourhoods, consistent with smaller average household sizes.

2.16 Population and age: Knowsley's median age fell from 40 to 39, the only Liverpool City Region authority where it fell (Halton, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral each rose two years; the North

West and England rose one; Liverpool was flat). The population aged 65 and over rose 1.2 percentage points, against 2.1 in England, and the population aged 75 and over fell 0.4 points. The city region's largest gain in 25 to 34 year olds (+2.5 points) and largest fall in 15 to 24 year olds (-2.7) both sit in Knowsley.[12]

2.17 Ethnicity: the share of residents in the White ethnic group fell from 97.2% to 95.3%, against falls from 90.2% to 85.6% in the North West and from 85.4% to 81.0% in England. Knowsley remains less ethnically diverse than the region or the country, although the number of residents in other ethnic groups rose from 4,035 to 7,284.[13]

2.18 Education: residents with no qualifications fell 8.4 percentage points, from 34.7% to 26.2%, the largest fall of any Liverpool City Region authority and nearly double England's 4.4 points; residents qualified to level 4 or above rose 8.3 points, from 15.5% to 23.8%. The borough's level remains behind England's (26.2% against 18.1% with no qualifications; 23.8% against 33.9% at level 4 and above), but the direction of travel is faster than the country's. The fall was largest in the most deprived tenth of neighbourhoods, at 10.5 points, and smallest in deciles 6 to 9, at 5.5 points, so the gap between them narrowed.[14]

2.19 Health: age-standardised bad health fell 1.2 points, the largest fall in the city region, and very bad health 0.2 points, equal largest with Liverpool and St Helens; disability limiting day-to-day activities a lot fell 2.8 points, again the largest. The 2021 levels remain the worst or near-worst in the city region (bad health 6.8% against England's 4.1%; very bad health 2.2% against 1.2%; disabled and limited a lot 13.0% against 7.5%). Unpaid care is the exception: Knowsley has the city region's highest rate of heavy unpaid caring, 4.3% providing 50 or more hours a week against England's 2.7%. The 50-hour share fell 0.3 points while England's was unchanged, but the share caring for 20 to 49 hours a week rose 0.5 points to 2.9%, against a rise of 0.3 points to 1.8% in England; on that band Knowsley is both the highest in the city region and falling further behind.[15]

2.20 Labour market: Knowsley's resident employment share rose 3.1 percentage points, the largest rise in the Liverpool City Region (Liverpool rose 0.2 points; St Helens fell 0.1, Sefton 0.6, and Halton and Wirral 0.8 each), while England's fell 1.5; economic inactivity was flat at +0.2 points against +2.7 in England. This cannot be read without the furlough caveat: Census 2021 was taken on 21 March 2021, during the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and furloughed workers were counted as in employment. The definition of employment did not change, but pandemic conditions affect comparisons with 2011. The same conditions applied in every comparator area, although they may have affected local labour markets differently. Within the borough the gain was concentrated in the most deprived neighbourhoods: the employment share rose 5.3 points in the most deprived tenth, against 0.7 points in deciles 6 to 9.[16]

2.21 Car ownership: households with no car or van fell 5.9 percentage points, from 37.1% to 31.2%, the second largest fall in the city region after Liverpool and two and a half times England's 2.3 points. The fall was largest in the most deprived tenth of neighbourhoods, down 8.5 points to 45.4%, and smallest in deciles 6 to 9, down 2.1 points to 14.6%, so the most deprived neighbourhoods still have about three times the no-car rate. The number of cars and vans available to households rose from 55,152 to 68,290 (Census 2021 Table TS045A), an

[12] ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, tables TS007a_MA, TS007_RA11a and TS007_RA101A.
[13] ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, table TS021_EG6A.
[14] ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, table TS067_HQ6A.
[15] ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, tables TS037ASP_HIG, TS038ASP_D4A and TS039ASP_IC5A.
[16] ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, table TS066_EAS4A.

increase of 23.8%, and the number of households with at least one car or van rose by 17.8%.[17]

2.22 Housing: households under-occupying by two or more bedrooms rose 1.6 points to 37.6%, widening the gap above England's rate from 1.7 to 2.0 points, rising most in deciles 6 to 9 (+3.5 points) and falling slightly in the most deprived tenth (-0.3); homes with four or more bedrooms rose 1.1 points borough-wide. Overcrowding fell over the same period: households with fewer bedrooms than they need fell from 4.1% to 2.9%, below the North West (3.3%) and England (4.4%) rates in 2021. Tenure moved as it did nationally: mortgaged ownership down 4.5 points, outright ownership up 2.5, private renting and living rent free together up 3.4 (ONS reports private renting alone up 4.6 points), social renting down 1.4; within the borough, the share renting privately or living rent free grew by between 3.7 and 4.4 points in deciles 1 to 5, against 1.8 points in deciles 6 to 9. The housing stock is de-terracing (terraced -3.6 points, detached +2.0, semi-detached +1.7), and households without central heating fell from 3.4% to 1.5%, the same as England's figure to one decimal place and one of the few measures where Knowsley now sits at the national average.[18]

DEPRIVATION

2.23 On the Indices of Deprivation 2025, 40 of Knowsley's 100 neighbourhoods fall within the most deprived 10% nationally. The borough ranks 13th of 296 districts on average deprivation score, and joint 7th (with Burnley) on the proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived decile. Within the Liverpool City Region only Liverpool ranks as more deprived on average score, and Knowsley has the highest proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of the six authorities (Table 8).[19]

Table 8: Indices of Deprivation 2025, Liverpool City Region authorities

Authority	Average score	Rank of average score	Neighbourhoods in most deprived 10% (%)	Rank of proportion
Liverpool	37.1	9	36.8	12
Knowsley	**36.2**	**13**	**40.0**	**7**
Halton	31.1	31	31.3	16
St Helens	29.0	46	23.1	29
Wirral	27.5	58	23.4	28
Sefton	25.2	80	18.9	44

Source: MHCLG English Indices of Deprivation 2025, File 10 (local authority district summaries, version 2), IMD sheet. Ranks are out of 296 districts, where 1 is the most deprived.

[17] ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, table TS045_NC3A, as above; vehicle numbers from Census 2011 table KS404EW (sum of all cars or vans) and Census 2021 table TS045, via Nomis.
[18] ONS, Census 2011 and 2021, tables TS052_ORB6A, TS054_HHT5A, TS050_NB5A, TS044_AT3A/AT5A and TS046_HT3A.
[19] MHCLG, English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (File 10).

Table 9: Knowsley deprivation by domain, Indices of Deprivation 2025

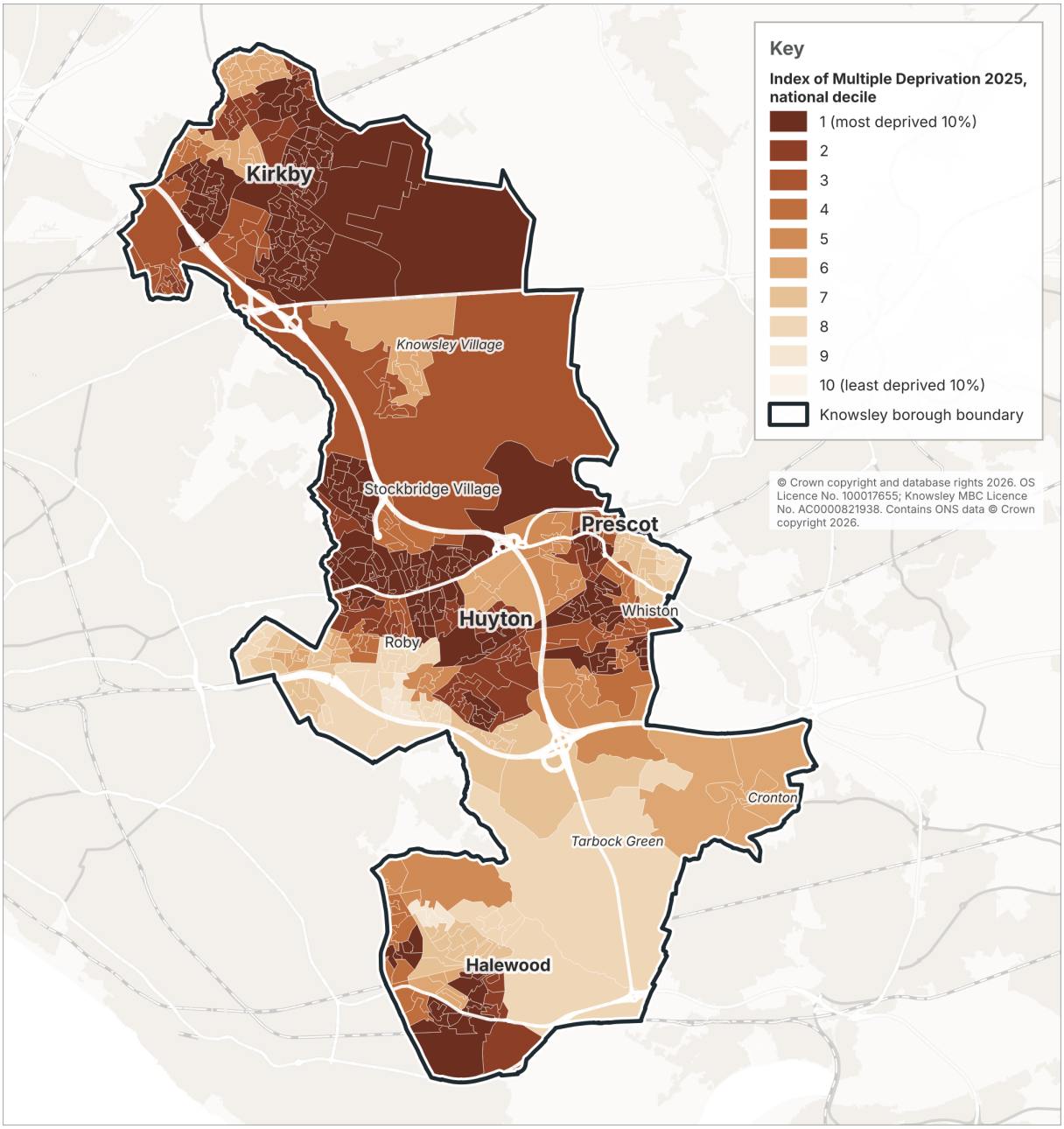
Domain	Rank in England (of 296, where 1 is most deprived)
Health and disability	3
Employment	4
Education, skills and training	7
Income	25
Crime	72
Barriers to housing and services	222
Living environment	254
Overall (average score)	13

Source: MHCLG English Indices of Deprivation 2025, File 10 (local authority district summaries, version 2), rank of average score.

2.24 The pattern across domains is as important as the overall rank. Knowsley is third worst in England for health and disability and fourth for employment, yet it ranks 222nd for barriers to housing and services and 254th for living environment. Relative deprivation in Knowsley is therefore concentrated in the health, employment and education domains rather than in housing access or environmental quality.

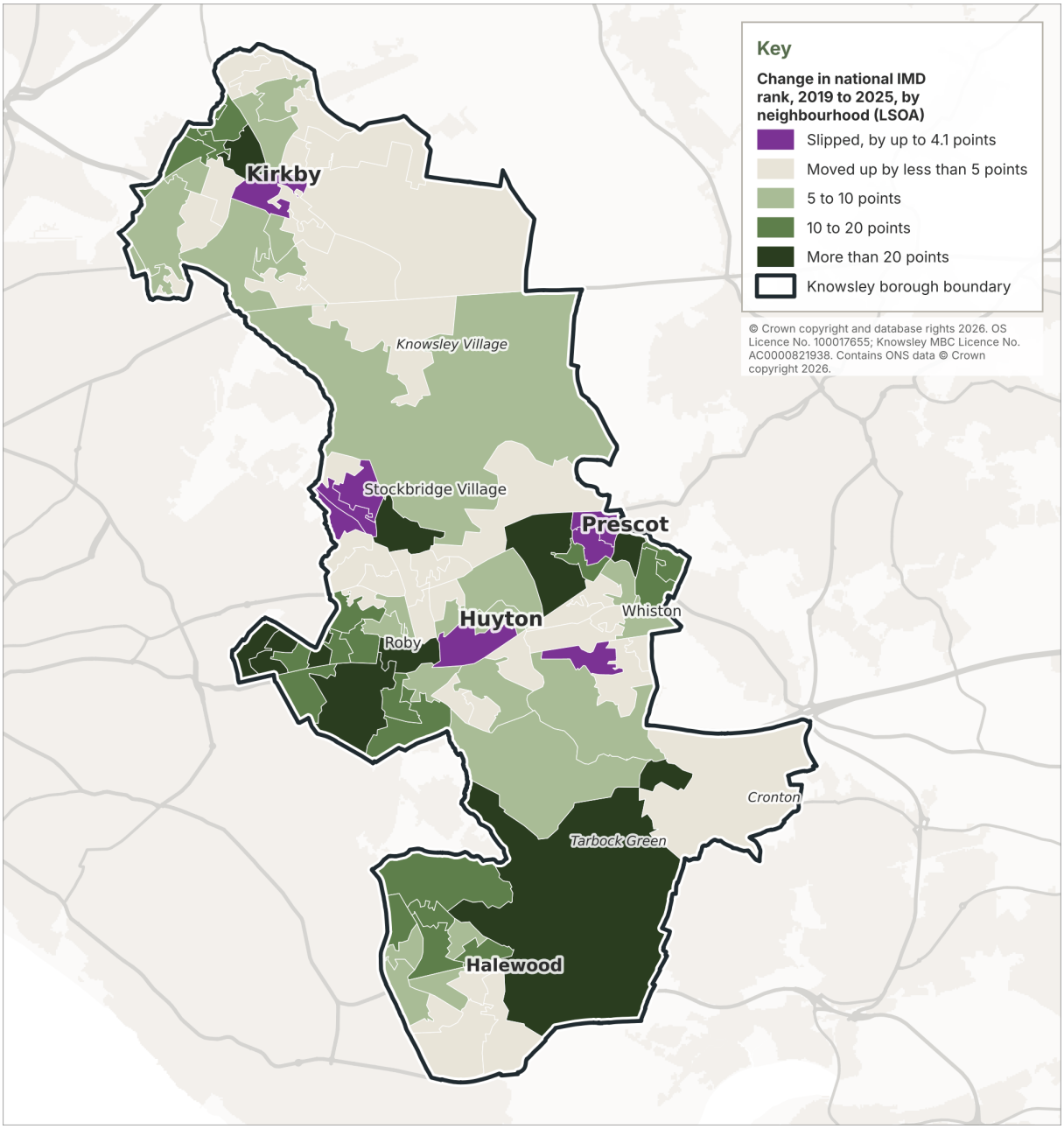
2.25 Deprivation is not spread evenly. It is concentrated in particular neighbourhoods, with others considerably less deprived. Figure 14 shows how each neighbourhood's national rank changed between 2019 and 2025. Figure 15 combines deprivation with population density, showing where the most deprived neighbourhoods are also the most densely populated.

Figure 13: Knowsley's neighbourhoods by IMD 2025 decile



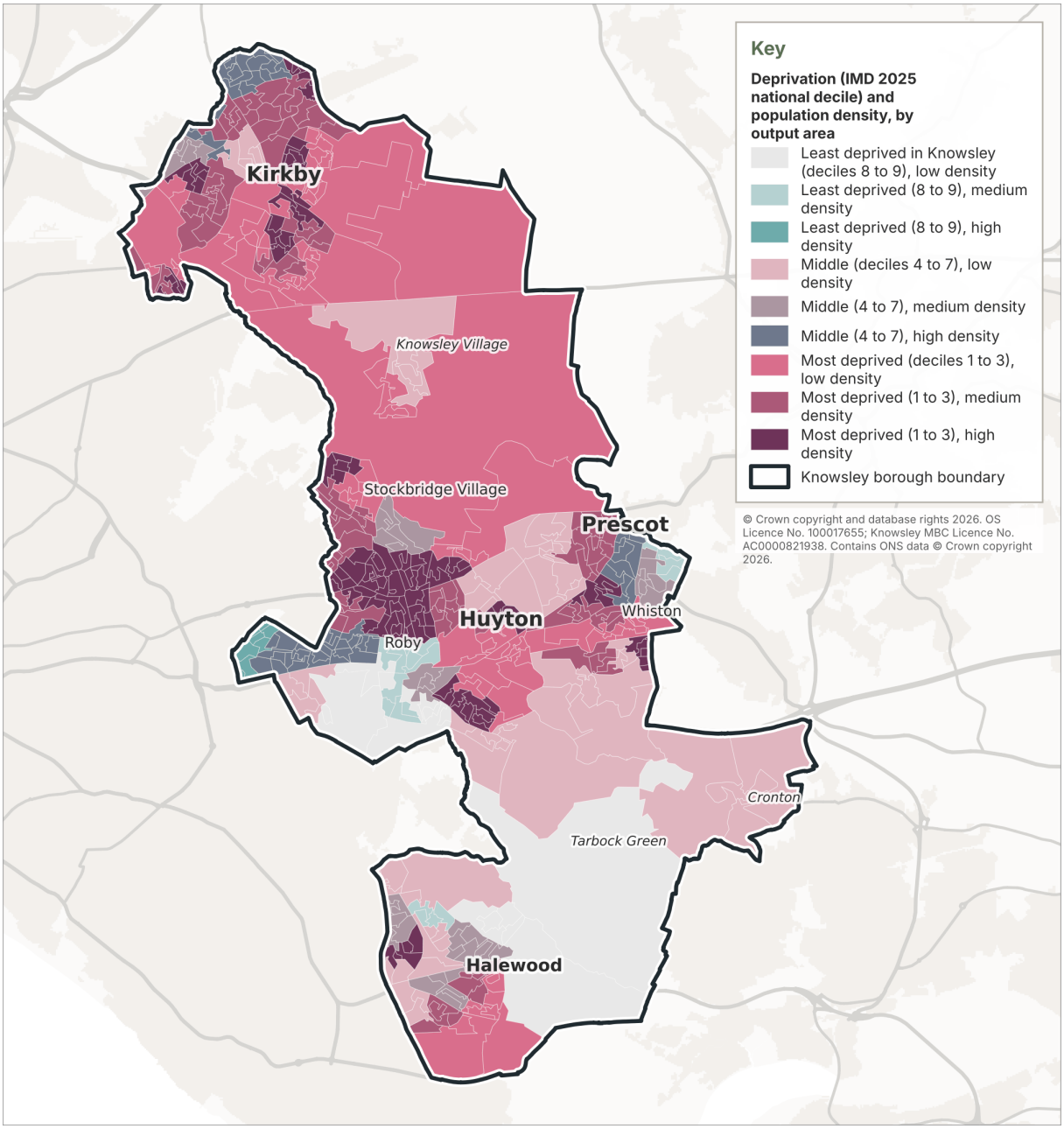
Source: MHCLG, English Indices of Deprivation 2025.

Figure 14: Change in deprivation rank by neighbourhood, 2019 to 2025



Source: MHCLG, English Indices of Deprivation 2019 and 2025. Ranks are relative, and neighbourhood boundaries and methods changed between the two editions, so a change in rank does not by itself show that deprivation has risen or fallen.

Figure 15: Deprivation and population density by output area



Source: MHCLG, English Indices of Deprivation 2025; ONS, Census 2021.

HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND LIFE EXPECTANCY

2.26 Life expectancy at birth in Knowsley is 77.7 years for men and 80.9 for women (2025). Both figures sit below the England averages of 80.0 and 83.8, gaps of 2.3 and 2.9 years respectively.[20]

[20] OHID, Fingertips public health profiles, indicator 90366.

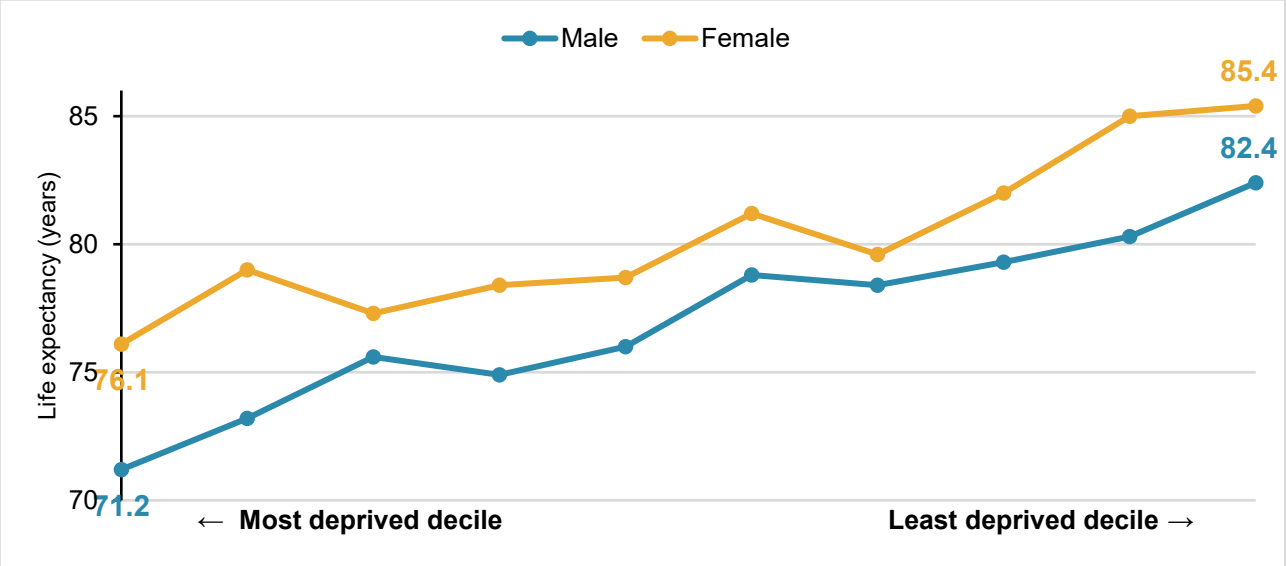
Table 10: Life expectancy at birth, 2025, Knowsley and comparators

Area	Male	Female	Difference
Knowsley	**77.7**	**80.9**	**3.2**
Halton	76.9	82.6	5.7
Liverpool	77.5	81.1	3.6
St Helens	77.0	81.0	4.0
Sefton	78.7	83.0	4.3
Wirral	78.5	82.3	3.8
England	80.0	83.8	3.8

Source: OHID Public Health Profiles (Fingertips), indicator 90366; single-year estimates for 2025, based on provisional mortality and population data.

2.27 The gradient within the borough is steeper than the gap with England. Men living in Knowsley's most deprived tenth of neighbourhoods have a life expectancy of 71.2 years, compared with 82.4 years in the borough's least deprived tenth, a difference of 11.2 years (2022 to 2024). For women the gap is 9.3 years. For men, the gap in life expectancy within Knowsley is roughly five times the size of the borough's gap with the national average in 2025; for women it is about three times.[21]

Figure 16: Life expectancy at birth by deprivation decile within Knowsley, 2022 to 2024



Source: OHID Public Health Profiles (Fingertips), indicator 90366, life expectancy at birth by LSOA 2021 deprivation decile within Knowsley, 2022 to 2024.

WIDER HEALTH AND DEPRIVATION INDICATORS

2.28 Life expectancy is only the headline of the borough's health position. A wider range of health and wellbeing indicators is set out in Table 11. Healthy life expectancy, the years a person can expect to live in good health, is 54.0 years for men and 53.7 for women (2022 to 2024), more than twenty years short of overall life expectancy. Under-75 mortality from cardiovascular disease was 84.0 per 100,000 and from cancer 136.4 per 100,000 in 2025 (all persons, age-standardised); the suicide rate was 11.7 per 100,000 over 2023 to 2025.

2.29 An estimated 8.7% of households were in fuel poverty in 2024 (the low-income low-energy-efficiency measure); the housing stock and its energy efficiency are discussed in section 7.

[21] OHID, Fingertips public health profiles, life expectancy at birth by LSOA deprivation decile, 2022 to 2024 pooled.

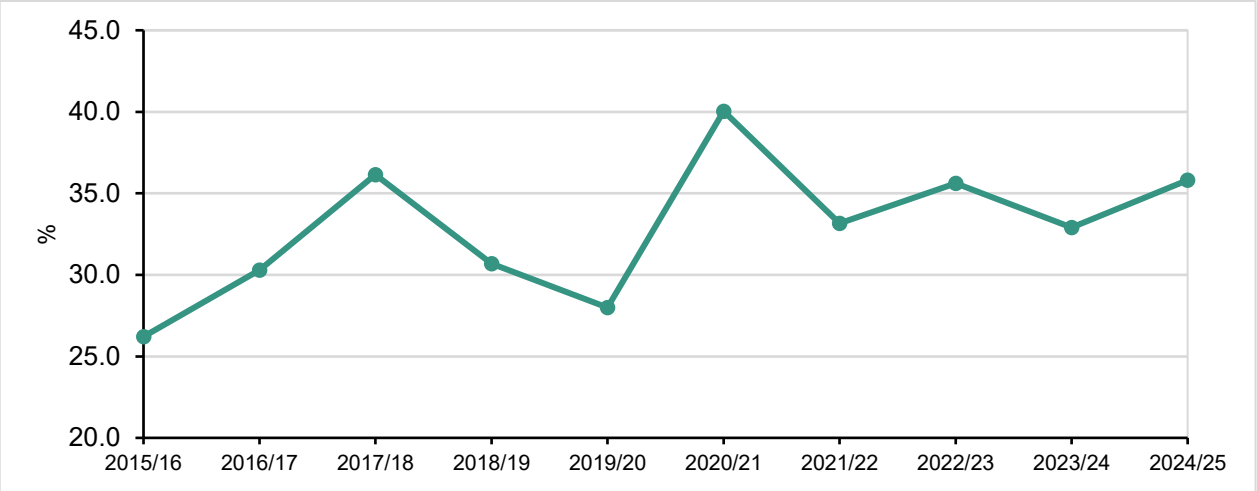
Table 11: Wider health, mortality and deprivation indicators

Indicator	Value	Period
Healthy life expectancy, male	54.0 years	2022-24
Healthy life expectancy, female	53.7 years	2022-24
Under-75 mortality, cardiovascular	84.0 per 100,000	2025
Under-75 mortality, cancer	136.4 per 100,000	2025
Suicide rate	11.7 per 100,000	2023-25
Fuel poverty (LILEE)	8.7% of households	2024
Patients registered with a GP	174,194 (23 practices)	Sep 2026

Source: OHID Public Health Profiles (Fingertips), indicators 90362, 40401, 40501 and 41001 (mortality rates for all persons); DESNZ sub-regional fuel poverty statistics 2026 (2024 data); NHS England, Patients Registered at a GP Practice, September 2026 (Knowsley sub-ICB location, 01J).

2.30 Adult obesity prevalence has risen since 2015/16, though the year-on-year series is volatile: it peaked at 40.0% in 2020/21 before easing to 32.9% in 2023/24 and rising again to 35.8% in 2024/25. This is a small-area survey estimate with wide confidence intervals, 32.3% to 39.3% in 2024/25, so short-term movements should be read as broadly consistent with a rising trend rather than as precise year-on-year change.

Figure 17: Adult obesity prevalence, Knowsley 2015/16 to 2024/25



Source: OHID Public Health Profiles (Fingertips), adult obesity prevalence, Knowsley, persons.

EDUCATION, SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

2.31 This section draws on two sources for qualifications. The Annual Population Survey gives the current level for working age residents; the Census gives the longer trend for all residents aged 16 and over.

2.32 The survey figures show the current level of qualifications, not a trend. The Annual Population Survey is a sample survey with wide confidence intervals at local authority level, and the apparent movement against the January to December 2024 release, which recorded 35.0% at RQF4 and above and 10.0% with no qualifications, is within the survey's sampling error and should not be read as a real change. Where a trend statement is needed, the Census below is the sound basis for it because it is a full count.

Table 12: Highest qualification level of working age residents, January to December 2025

Level	Knowsley (number)	Knowsley (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
RQF Level 4 and above	**27,800**	**30.7**	**45.7**	**48.6**
RQF Level 3 and above	53,100	58.5	66.5	69.0
RQF Level 2 and above	71,800	79.2	86.1	87.0
RQF Level 1 and above	74,500	82.2	88.7	89.3
Other qualifications	4,400	4.9	3.6	4.4
No qualifications	**11,800**	**13.0**	**7.7**	**6.3**

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, January to December 2025. Numbers and percentages are for residents aged 16 to 64. Note that this is a different measure from the Census figure below: the Census measure covers all usual residents aged 16 and over and therefore includes older residents who left education before the current qualification framework.

Levels: RQF Level 4 and above: higher education, e.g. HNC, CertHE, foundation degree, university degree, Master's or PhD; RQF Level 3 and above: A-level standard or higher, e.g. A levels, T Levels, BTEC National, advanced apprenticeship, or any higher-education qualification; RQF Level 2 and above: GCSE grades 4-9 / A-C standard or higher, e.g. GCSEs, BTEC First, intermediate apprenticeship, or any higher qualification; RQF Level 1 and above: basic/entry GCSE standard or higher, e.g. GCSE grades 1-3 / D-G, Level 1 certificates, or any higher qualification; Other qualifications: qualifications that do not fit neatly into the RQF levels above, including some overseas, vocational or professional qualifications.

2.33 The Census gives the longer view on skills, on a different and fuller basis, and it is more favourable.

2.34 Table 13 compares the fall in residents with no qualifications between 2011 and 2021 across the city region. Knowsley still has a higher share of residents with no qualifications, and a lower share with higher-level qualifications, than England as a whole.

Table 13: Residents with no qualifications, 2011 to 2021, Knowsley and comparators

Area	No qualifications 2011 (%)	No qualifications 2021 (%)	Change (pp)
Knowsley	**34.7**	**26.2**	**-8.4**
Halton	26.9	21.0	-5.9
Liverpool	28.7	22.3	-6.4
Sefton	25.1	19.7	-5.4
St Helens	27.9	21.4	-6.4
Wirral	23.4	17.9	-5.5
North West	24.8	19.5	-5.3
England	22.5	18.1	-4.4

Source: ONS, Census 2011 and Census 2021 (Table TS067 / 2011 equivalent). Change is calculated from unrounded percentages.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND LONG-TERM SICKNESS

2.35 The Annual Population Survey gives the current position on participation in the labour market. One point of definition affects how every figure taken from it should be read: the survey publishes counts for residents aged 16 and over and the corresponding rates for residents aged 16 to 64. The two are not on the same base. Adding the economically active count to the economically inactive count does not give the working age population, and dividing a count by its rate does not give a meaningful denominator. Comparisons between areas should use the rates. The inactivity count and rate are both for residents aged 16 to 64, but they are rounded survey estimates and should not be used to work out population figures.

Table 14: Economic activity and inactivity, July 2025 to June 2026

Measure	Knowsley (number)	Knowsley (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Economically active	**75,600**	**77.5**	**77.6**	**79.2**
In employment	72,900	74.5	74.3	75.6
of which employees	65,500	67.2	65.8	65.9
of which self-employed	6,600	6.5	8.2	9.3
Unemployed	suppressed	suppressed	4.3	4.5
Economically inactive	**21,000**	**22.5**	**22.4**	**20.8**
of which long-term sick (% of inactive)	**9,500**	**45.4**	**33.8**	**29.0**
of which student (% of inactive)	5,200	24.7	24.7	26.0
of which looking after family or home (% of inactive)	3,400	16.0	16.7	17.7
of which wants a job (% of inactive)	3,500	16.6	18.7	21.6
of which does not want a job (% of inactive)	17,600	83.4	81.3	78.4

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, July 2025 to June 2026, from the Nomis 2021-based local authority profile for Knowsley. Economic activity and employment counts are for residents aged 16 and over; the corresponding rates are for residents aged 16 to 64. Inactivity counts and rates are both for residents aged 16 to 64. The Knowsley unemployment rate is suppressed by the source because the sample is too small for a reliable estimate, and the female figure is disclosive; the claimant count in section 8 (Figure 64) carries the unemployment evidence instead.

2.36 Two figures in Table 14 are of note. 45.4% of Knowsley's economically inactive residents are long-term sick, against 29.0% nationally, a gap of 16.4 percentage points. In addition, 83.4% of economically inactive residents do not want a job, against 78.4% nationally.

Table 15: Workless households, January to December 2025

Measure	Knowsley	North West	Great Britain
Workless households (number)	8,500	384,900	3,009,200
Workless households (% of households)	**19.0**	**16.3**	**14.4**
Children in workless households (number)	6,000*	192,900	1,487,800
Children in workless households (%)	18.4*	13.8	11.9

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey households by combined economic activity status, January to December 2025. Includes only households with at least one person aged 16 to 64. The rate has fallen from 22.0% at January to December 2023, a fall of three percentage points.

HOW THIS VARIES ACROSS THE BOROUGH

2.37 Within the borough the age profile varies far more than the borough average suggests. The younger neighbourhoods are concentrated in and around Kirkby, while Halewood has the oldest profile, and at neighbourhood level the difference is wider than the gap between Knowsley and England. Growth has not simply followed the largest places: over the last census decade, 2011 to 2021, Prescot parish grew fastest, by 13.0%, while Whiston parish, which contains most of the Halsnead allocation, fell by 0.5%.

2.38 Disadvantage is unevenly spread. The most concentrated deprivation is in and around Kirkby and in parts of Huyton, including communities such as Stockbridge Village, while the rural south of the borough and the villages are markedly less deprived, although Halewood contains pockets of high deprivation (Figure 13); no part of the borough falls in the least deprived tenth nationally. The pattern is specific to health, employment and education rather than to housing access or the local environment, which are relative strengths. The borough's rank of 13th of 296 districts is measured on the population-weighted average of neighbourhood deprivation scores; other summary measures give slightly different ranks, and this measure is used consistently throughout.

3. RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Key baseline data sources used in this section:

- Environment Agency, flood map for planning and risk of flooding from surface water
- Environment Agency, Water Framework Directive catchment data
- Liverpool City Region, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2023)
- Knowsley Council, Level 1 (2009, with Sefton Council) and Level 2 (2012) Strategic Flood Risk Assessments
- DESNZ, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024
- Environment Agency, storm overflow (Event Duration Monitoring) annual returns 2024 and 2025
- Defra, Air Quality Management Areas dataset (April 2026); Knowsley Council, Air Quality Annual Status Report 2026 and Air Quality Strategy 2024-2027
- SP Energy Networks, Capacity Heatmap and Distribution Network Options Assessment
- Environment Agency, Historic Landfill Sites; Mining Remediation Authority, coal mining Development High Risk Area

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

3.1 Greenhouse gas emissions in Knowsley were estimated at 757 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO2e) in 2024, 49.8% lower than the 1,508 kt CO2e recorded in 2005 (Table 16). The fall is slightly larger than in England (46.4%) and the North West (46.5%). Per resident, emissions were 4.65 tonnes in 2024, close to the England figure of 4.67 tonnes and below the North West figure of 4.95 tonnes (Table 17).

3.2 Most of the reduction since 2005 has come from industry, where emissions fell by 68.5%, and from homes, where they fell by 55.0%. Transport emissions have fallen much less, by 16.2%, and transport is now the borough's largest source of emissions: 316 kt CO2e in 2024, or 41.7% of the total, against 34.2% in England (Figure 18).

3.3 Transport emissions per resident, at 1.94 tonnes, are the highest of the six Liverpool City Region authorities, ahead of Halton (1.60) and St Helens (1.50), and above the North West (1.57) and England (1.60) figures. The M57 and M62, which cross the borough, contribute to this. Motorways account for 111 kt CO2e, 35.2% of the borough's transport emissions, and this is the only road type where emissions are higher than in 2005, by 5.6%; emissions on A roads and minor roads have fallen by 21.9% and 27.4% (Table 18). DESNZ advises that transport estimates "are based on the distribution of traffic, therefore some of the emissions within each area represent through traffic, or part of trips into or out of the area, whether by residents or non-residents."

3.4 DESNZ also publishes carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities, which leave out motorways, diesel railways, sites in the emissions trading schemes and land use. On this measure Knowsley's emissions were 567 kt CO2 in 2024, or 3.49 tonnes per resident, 55.2% lower than in 2005 but above the England figure of 3.28 tonnes (Table 19). Transport is the sector where emissions have fallen least. Transport is covered in section 4 and the energy performance of homes in section 7.

3.5 The Council declared a climate emergency in January 2020, with a target of net zero for its own estate and services by 2040. Its draft Net Zero Delivery Plan 2026-2030 reports the Council's own emissions at 7,567 tonnes CO2e in 2024/25, 74% lower than in 2009/10, and the Knowsley Place Climate Delivery Plan 2025-2030 puts the Council's share at 1.1% of borough-wide emissions.[22] Borough-wide action is set out in the Place Climate Delivery Plan, which follows the Combined Authority's target of net zero by 2035 or sooner. Two of its

[22] Knowsley Council, Net Zero Delivery Plan 2026-2030; Knowsley Council, Knowsley Place Climate Delivery Plan 2025-2030.

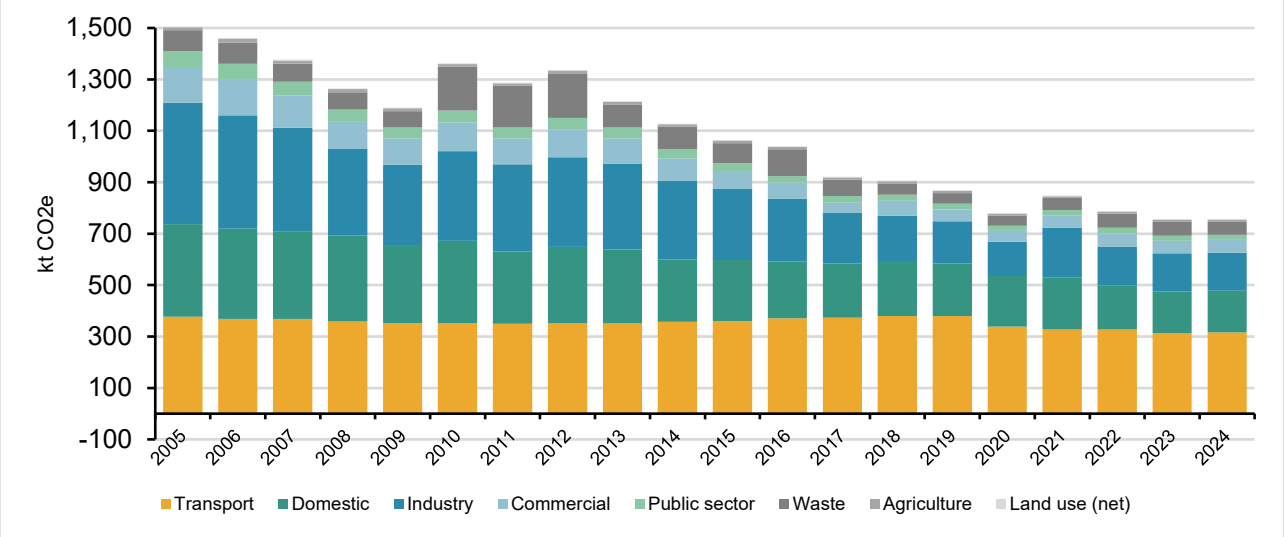
actions bear directly on the new Local Plan's energy policies: a Local Area Energy Plan, to show where new energy infrastructure needs to go, and connection to low carbon heat networks as heat network zones are rolled out (Table C1).

Table 16: Greenhouse gas emissions by sector, Knowsley, 2005 to 2024 (kt CO2e)

Sector	2005	2019	2023	2024	Change 2005 to 2024 (%)
Industry	471.7	163.8	147.7	148.8	-68.5
Commercial	139.3	46.2	48.5	49.9	-64.2
Public sector	61.4	22.5	20.0	19.4	-68.3
Domestic	360.7	204.2	163.1	162.2	-55.0
Transport	376.6	379.9	312.4	315.6	-16.2
Waste	81.4	41.4	54.4	49.8	-38.9
Agriculture	12.0	8.8	8.5	7.9	-34.5
Land use, land use change and forestry (net)	4.3	2.3	2.7	3.0	-31.0
Total	**1,507.5**	**869.0**	**757.4**	**756.5**	**-49.8**

Source: DESNZ, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024 (published 25 June 2026), Table 1.1. Territorial emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, with energy use allocated to the end user. Excludes aviation, shipping, exported fuels and fluorinated gases. 2019 is shown as the last year before the pandemic.

Figure 18: Greenhouse gas emissions by sector, Knowsley, 2005 to 2024 (kt CO2e)



Source: DESNZ, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024, Table 1.1.

Table 17: Greenhouse gas emissions per resident, 2024, Knowsley and comparators

Area	Total (kt CO2e)	Per resident (t CO2e)	Transport per resident (t CO2e)	Transport share (%)	Change in total since 2005 (%)
Knowsley	**756.5**	**4.65**	**1.94**	**41.7**	**-49.8**
Halton	617.0	4.69	1.60	34.1	-68.1
Liverpool	1,663.5	3.27	0.99	30.2	-54.5
Sefton	1,161.2	4.06	0.91	22.4	-40.3
St Helens	1,016.6	5.38	1.50	27.8	-55.1
Wirral	1,059.0	3.22	1.09	33.7	-52.4
Liverpool City Region (six authorities)	6,273.8	3.90	1.20	30.7	-53.6
North West	38,333.9	4.95	1.57	31.7	-46.5
England	273,672.3	4.67	1.60	34.2	-46.4

Source: DESNZ, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024, Table 1.1. Per resident figures use the population column in the same table. Liverpool City Region is the sum of the six authorities; North West and England are the published totals.

Table 18: Transport emissions by source, Knowsley (kt CO2e)

Source	2005	2019	2024	Share of transport 2024 (%)	Change 2005 to 2024 (%)
Motorways	105.2	120.3	111.0	35.2	5.6
A roads	87.2	77.2	68.1	21.6	-21.9
Minor roads	179.8	177.3	130.5	41.3	-27.4
Diesel railways	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.6	-13.3
Other transport	2.4	3.0	4.2	1.3	73.6
Total transport	**376.6**	**379.9**	**315.6**	**100.0**	**-16.2**

Source: DESNZ, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024, Table 1.1. Electricity used by road vehicles is counted in the electricity totals of other sectors, not in transport.

Table 19: Carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities, 2024

Area	2024 (kt CO2)	Per resident 2024 (t CO2)	Per resident 2005 (t CO2)	Change in total since 2005 (%)
Knowsley	**566.6**	**3.49**	**8.49**	**-55.2**
Halton	490.2	3.73	9.91	-58.9
Liverpool	1,468.1	2.88	6.56	-50.6
Sefton	863.7	3.02	5.50	-43.3
St Helens	673.6	3.57	8.00	-52.0
Wirral	876.1	2.66	5.95	-53.3
England	192,360.5	3.28	7.29	-47.8

Source: DESNZ, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024, Table 2.1 (subset dataset). Carbon dioxide only; excludes motorways, diesel railways, emissions trading scheme sites and land use, land use change and forestry, so the totals are not comparable with Table 1.1.

FLOOD RISK

3.6 Flood risk is baselined from both fluvial and surface-water sources. 403 hectares fall within Flood Zones 2 and 3, and surface-water (pluvial) flood risk affects 1,199 hectares (314 ha high, 204 ha medium and 681 ha low risk). The Liverpool City Region Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Part A, November 2023), prepared for the Spatial Development Strategy, provides strategic flood evidence across the city region. It notes that it “is not intended to replace any existing flood related strategy documents such as the Level 1 and 2 SFRAs

prepared by the constituent local planning authorities (LPAs) for local plan making and in the determination of planning applications", so it does not supersede the borough's own SFRA.[23]

3.7 The borough's own Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is in two parts: a Level 1 assessment prepared jointly with Sefton Council (Atkins, final report June 2009) and a Level 2 assessment of sites being considered for allocation (Capita Symonds, October 2012).[24] The Level 1 assessment was prepared under the former Planning Policy Statement 25 and the Level 2 assessment under the March 2012 Framework. Both predate current national policy, so a new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be needed to support the new Local Plan.

3.8 The Environment Agency's surface water depth bands show where flooding would be deepest. At a 1% annual chance or greater (the high and medium bands), about 205 hectares of the borough would flood deeper than 0.2 metres and 28 hectares deeper than 0.6 metres; at a 0.1% annual chance, about 584 hectares would flood deeper than 0.2 metres. Figure 19 and Figure 20 map the flood zones and surface water flood risk. A borough-wide assessment of the functional floodplain and of flood risk allowing for climate change will be provided by the update to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Table 20: Flood risk and water

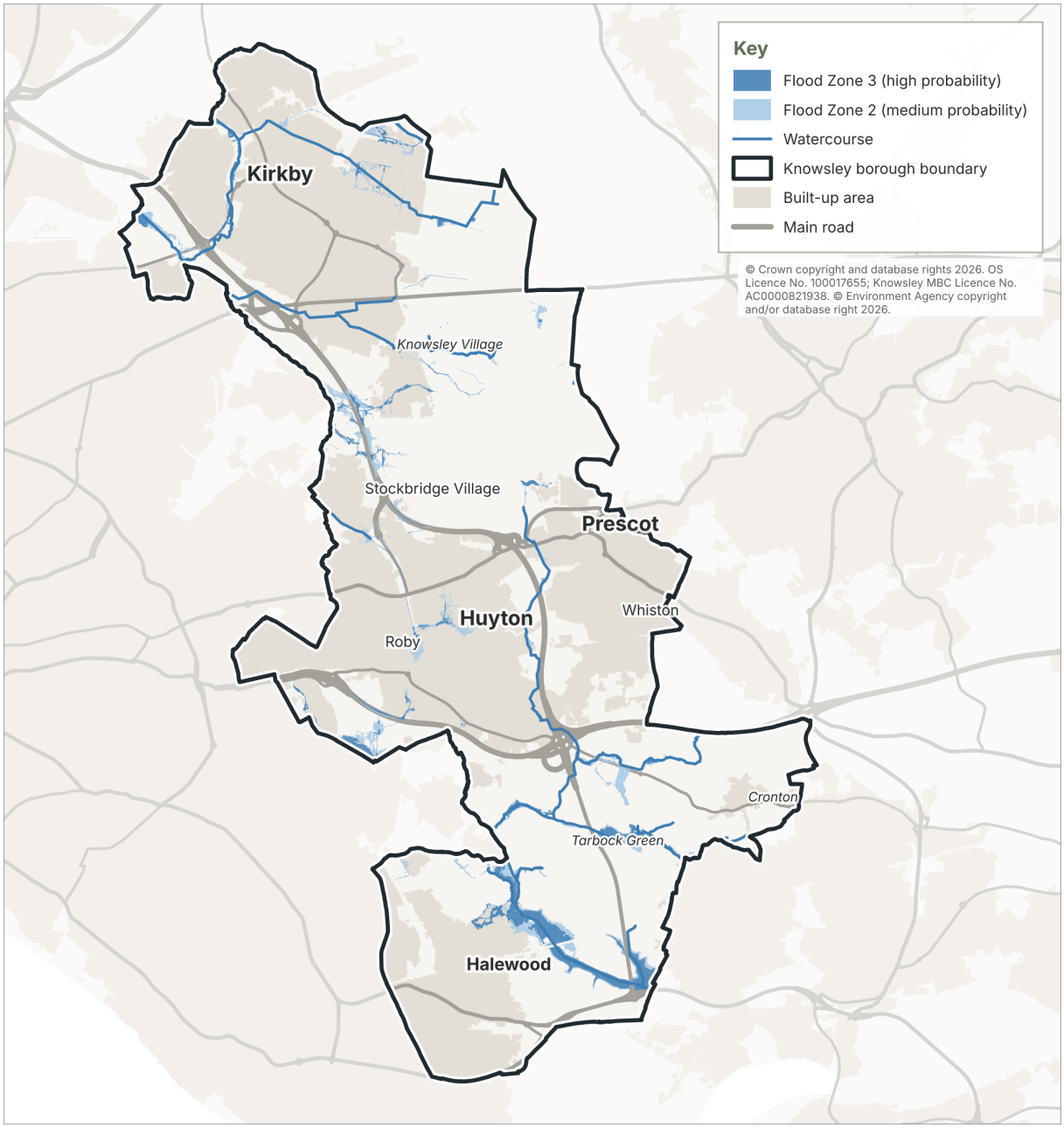
Measure	Value
Flood Zones 2 and 3	403 ha
Surface-water flood risk: high	314 ha
Surface-water flood risk: medium	204 ha
Surface-water flood risk: low	681 ha
Surface-water flood risk: total	1,199 ha
Watercourses at 'Moderate' WFD status	8 of 8 (2019 and 2022)
Source Protection Zones	5,903 ha

Source: Environment Agency flood map for planning (national dataset downloaded 15 July 2026) and risk of flooding from surface water; EA Water Framework Directive catchment data (cycle 3, 2019 and 2022 classifications); LCR Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2023.

3.9 **Further evidence:** An updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is required to support preparation of the new Local Plan. The baseline will be updated when this evidence becomes available.

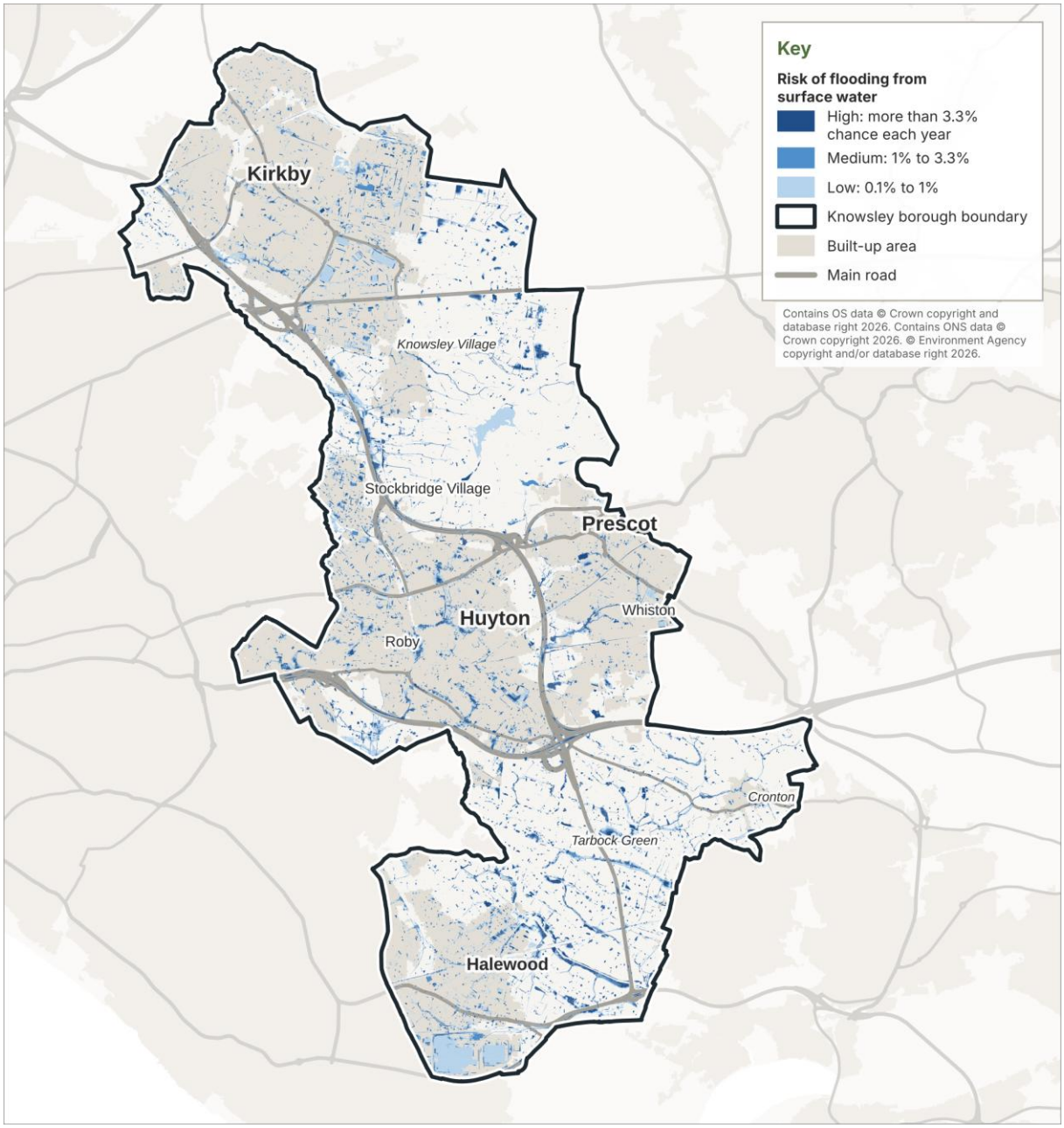
[23] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Part A (November 2023).
[24] Knowsley and Sefton Councils, Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Atkins, June 2009); Knowsley Council, Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Capita Symonds, October 2012).

Figure 19: Flood risk: Environment Agency flood zones



Source: Environment Agency, Flood Map for Planning, 2026.

Figure 20: Flood risk: surface water



Source: Environment Agency, Risk of Flooding from Surface Water, 2026.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT

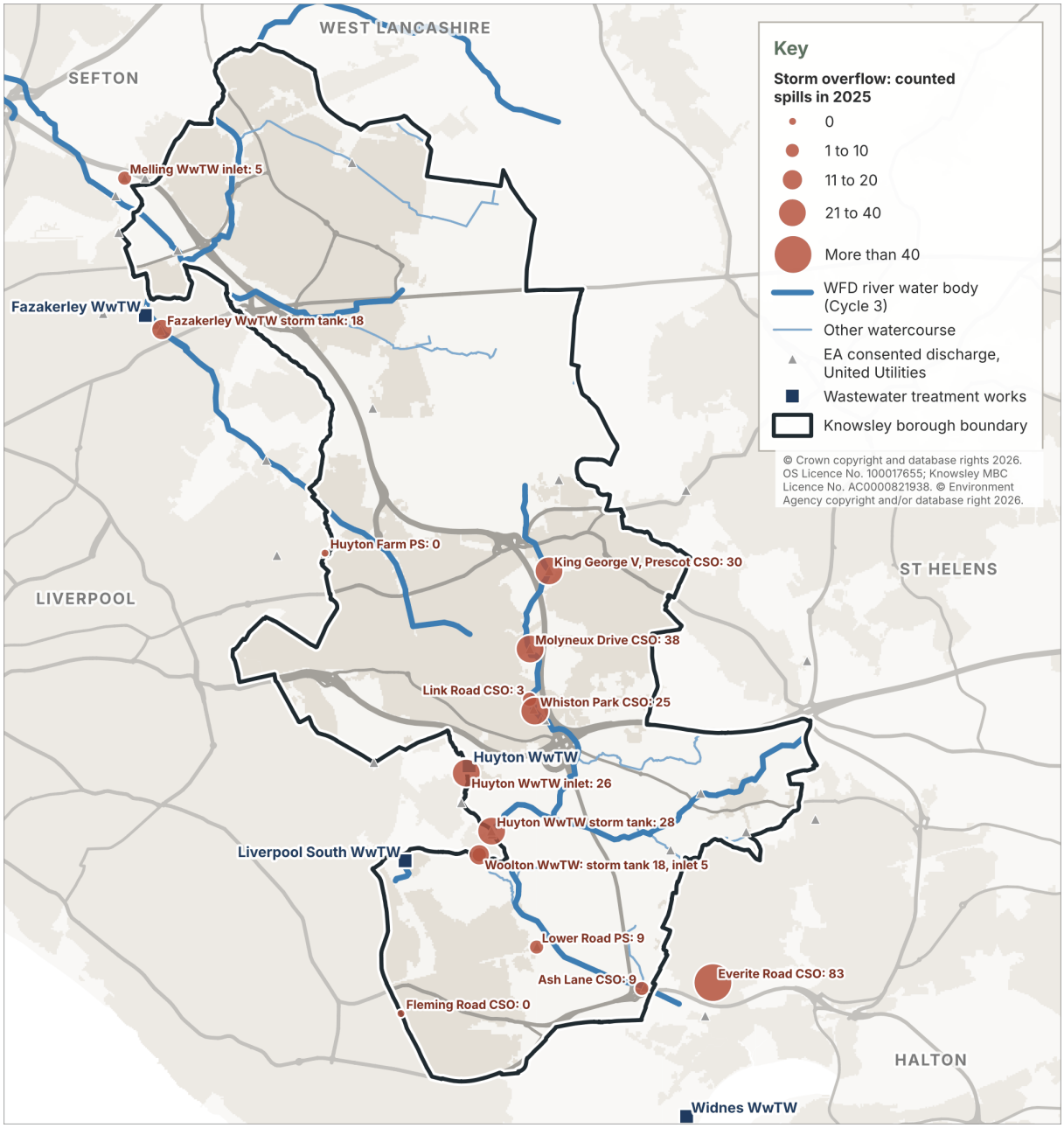
3.10 All eight Water Framework Directive river water bodies that cross the borough (including the Alt and Ditton Brook) are at 'Moderate' ecological status on the latest Environment Agency classification (2022 for five of them, 2019 for the other three).[25] Source Protection Zones, which safeguard groundwater used for supply, cover 5,903 hectares.

3.11 Storm overflows release diluted sewage into these watercourses when the sewer network is overwhelmed, usually in heavy rain. The Environment Agency's 2025 storm overflow return lists eight United Utilities overflows inside the borough and seven more within 1 km of it. The most active inside the borough in 2025 were Molyneux Drive CSO (38 spills), King George Prescot CSO (30), the storm tank at Huyton wastewater treatment works (28) and Whiston Park (Eccleston Pk) CSO (25), discharging mainly to the Prescot Brook and Ditton Brook systems (Figure 21). Counts vary with rainfall: the same four recorded 34, 40, 57 and 43 spills

[25] Environment Agency, Catchment Data Explorer, Water Framework Directive classifications.

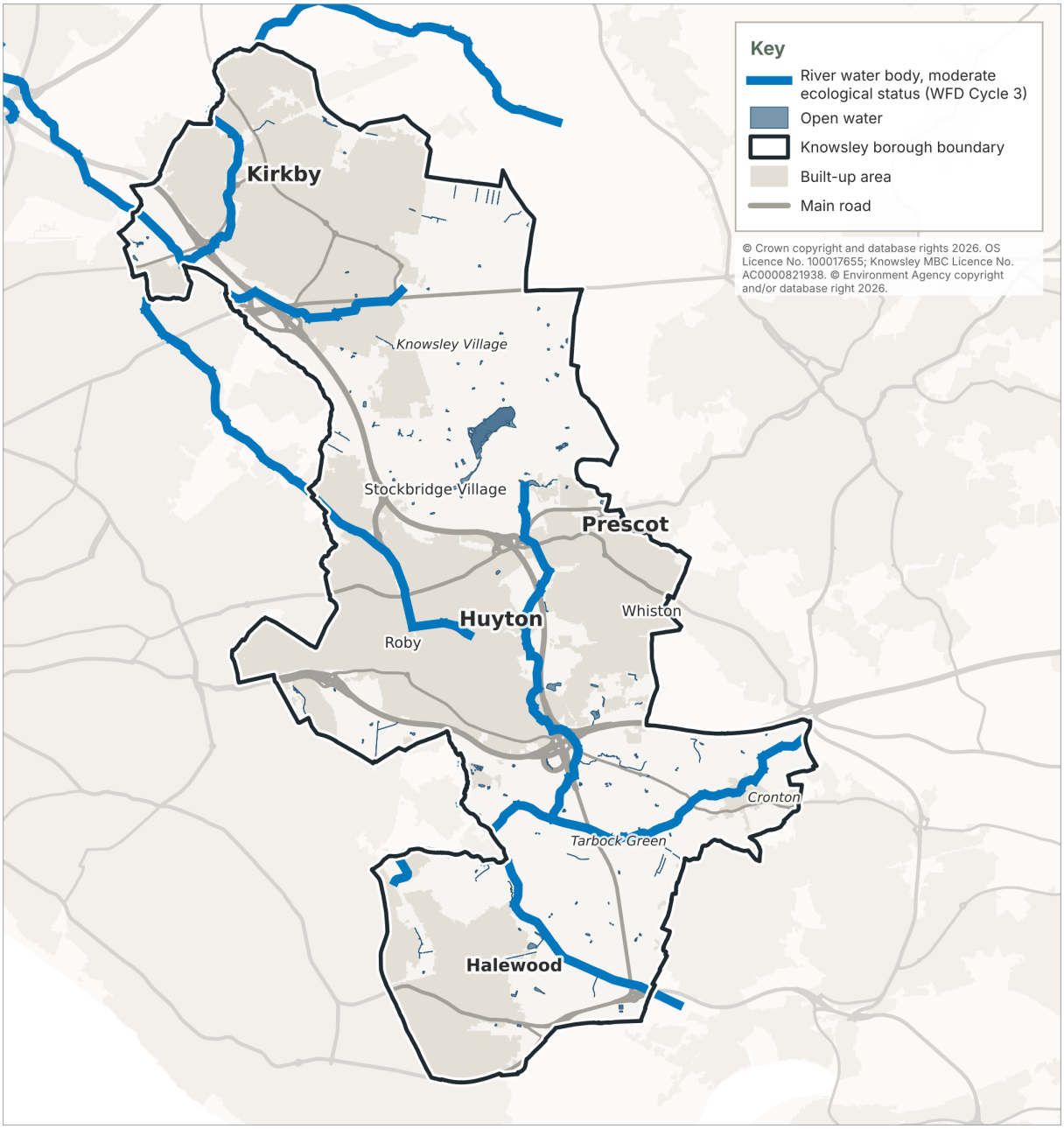
in 2024, although the monitor at Molyneux Drive operated for only 13% of that year. The return records how often overflows operate, not water quality, so it does not by itself explain the river water bodies' 'Moderate' ecological status. Figure 22 shows the ecological status of the river water bodies and Figure 23 the groundwater Source Protection Zones. Further information on groundwater vulnerability and aquifer designations will be obtained through the plan-making process.

Figure 21: Storm overflows and receiving watercourses, 2025



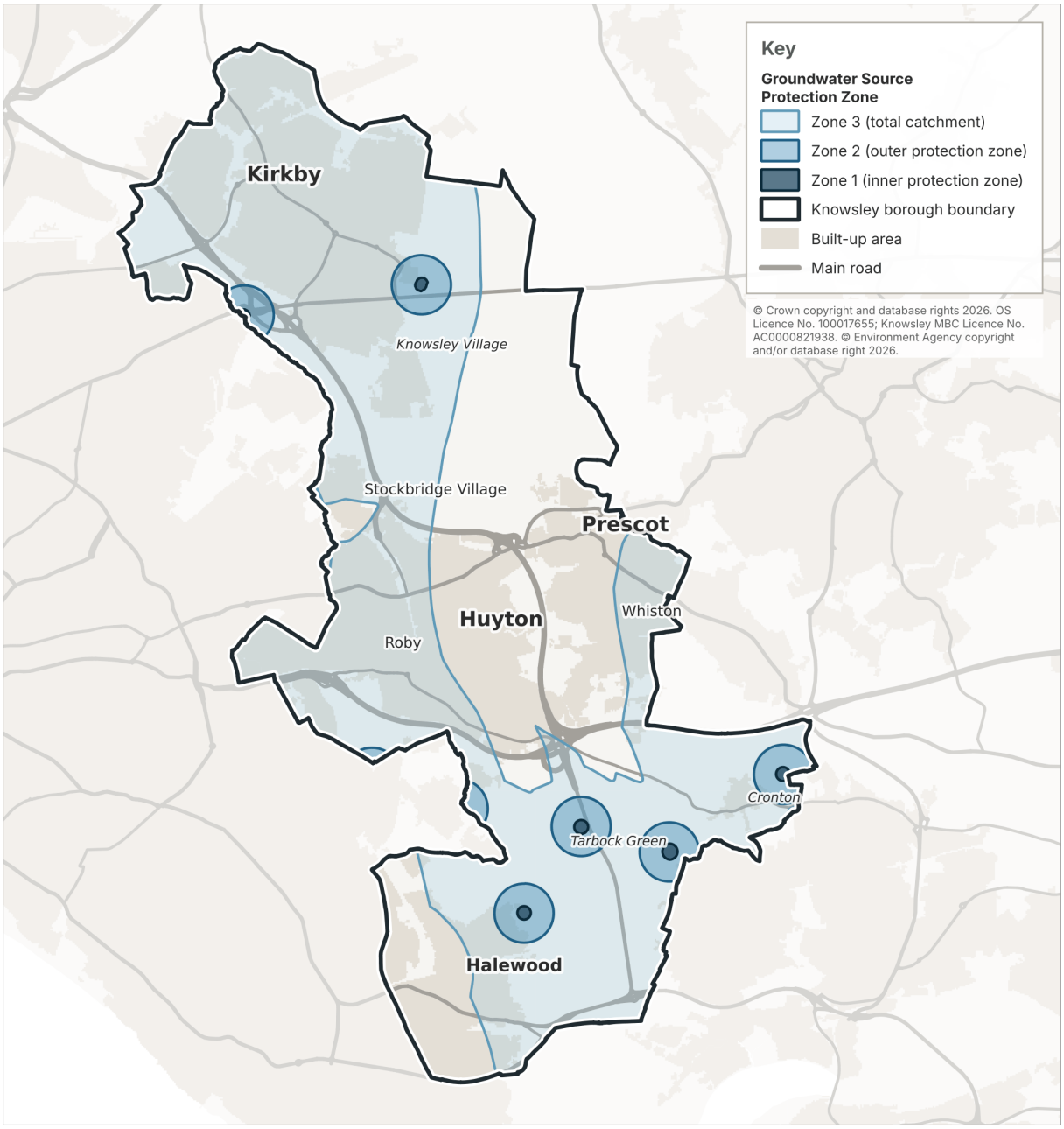
Source: Environment Agency, storm overflow Event Duration Monitoring 2024 and 2025, and Water Framework Directive river water bodies.

Figure 22: Water Framework Directive river water bodies by ecological status



Source: Environment Agency, Water Framework Directive classification, Cycle 3 (2019). Downholland (Lydiate/Cheshires Lines) Brook, which is shown but does not cross the borough, was classified as Poor in 2022.

Figure 23: Groundwater Source Protection Zones



Source: Environment Agency, Source Protection Zones, 2026.

AIR QUALITY

3.12 Knowsley has no declared Air Quality Management Area. Defra's Air Quality Management Area dataset (April 2026) lists none in the borough. The Council's Air Quality Strategy 2024-2027 includes supporting the reduction of emissions from transport, which is the borough's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions (Table 16).

3.13 The Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report, dated June 2026, reports monitoring in 2025. Nitrogen dioxide is measured with diffusion tubes at 35 sites in Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot and Halewood; the three automatic stations were decommissioned in September 2021, so there is no continuous monitoring and no local particulate monitoring. Every site met the annual mean objective of 40 µg/m3 in 2025. The highest annual mean was 27.4 µg/m3, at a kerbside site at the Whitefield Lane / Cronton Road junction in Huyton, the area of concern named in earlier reports; the same site recorded 46.7 µg/m3 in 2021 (values at the monitoring location, before any correction for distance to where people live).

3.14 The Air Quality Strategy 2024-2027 sets four priorities: reducing domestic, commercial and industrial emissions; reducing emissions from transport; raising awareness and encouraging behaviour change; and improving indoor air quality. For planning, it commits the Council to "*Continue to take account of air quality when deciding planning applications and seek appropriate mitigation where necessary",* to promote electric vehicle charging in new development, and to review smoke control areas "with the intention of extending them borough wide".[26]

RENEWABLE AND LOW-CARBON ENERGY

3.15 The borough's domestic electricity consumption was around 200 GWh in 2024 (194 GWh on standard meters and 6 GWh on Economy 7 meters). On housing energy performance, 67.9% of the domestic stock (on the most recent certificate for each property) is rated band C or above, or 77.9% counting only certificates less than ten years old (section 7), and an estimated 8.7% of households are in fuel poverty (section 2).

3.16 Knowsley is served by SP Energy Networks under its SP Manweb licence, through 21 primary substation groups and 8 grid (132kV) groups, 29 in total. Demand capacity is reported Green in 27 of the 29 groups on SP Energy Networks' Capacity Heatmap;[27] two primary groups, Bedburn and Kelco/Palco, could not be matched with confidence to the capacity, demand forecast or low carbon technology datasets, so no figure is reported for them. This indicates a generally favourable position for new demand connections, although individual connections remain subject to assessment by SP Energy Networks; the position is different for new generation and storage connections such as solar or battery projects. Six of the borough's eight grid groups, covering 99% of its area, are flagged red or amber for generation capacity: four red and two amber. Only two of these six have a matching entry on SP Energy Networks' Distribution Network Options Assessment register, the formal record of planned interventions; the dominant group, covering 44.5% of the borough, has a fault level mitigation scheme committed for 2027/28. The other four groups, covering roughly half of Knowsley between them, have no such entry, which is a genuine evidence gap rather than a sign that no plan exists. Seven confirmed generation or storage connections above 1MW currently sit within the borough, including an 80MW battery storage project at Kirkby Moss targeted for energisation in 2028/29 and a 20MW solar farm at New Cut Lane, Kirkby, not due to energise until 2037. SP Energy Networks' own headroom modelling shows demand headroom already negative for close to a quarter of the demand rows recorded across the borough's network groups between 2026 and 2050.

LAND CONTAMINATION AND COAL MINING

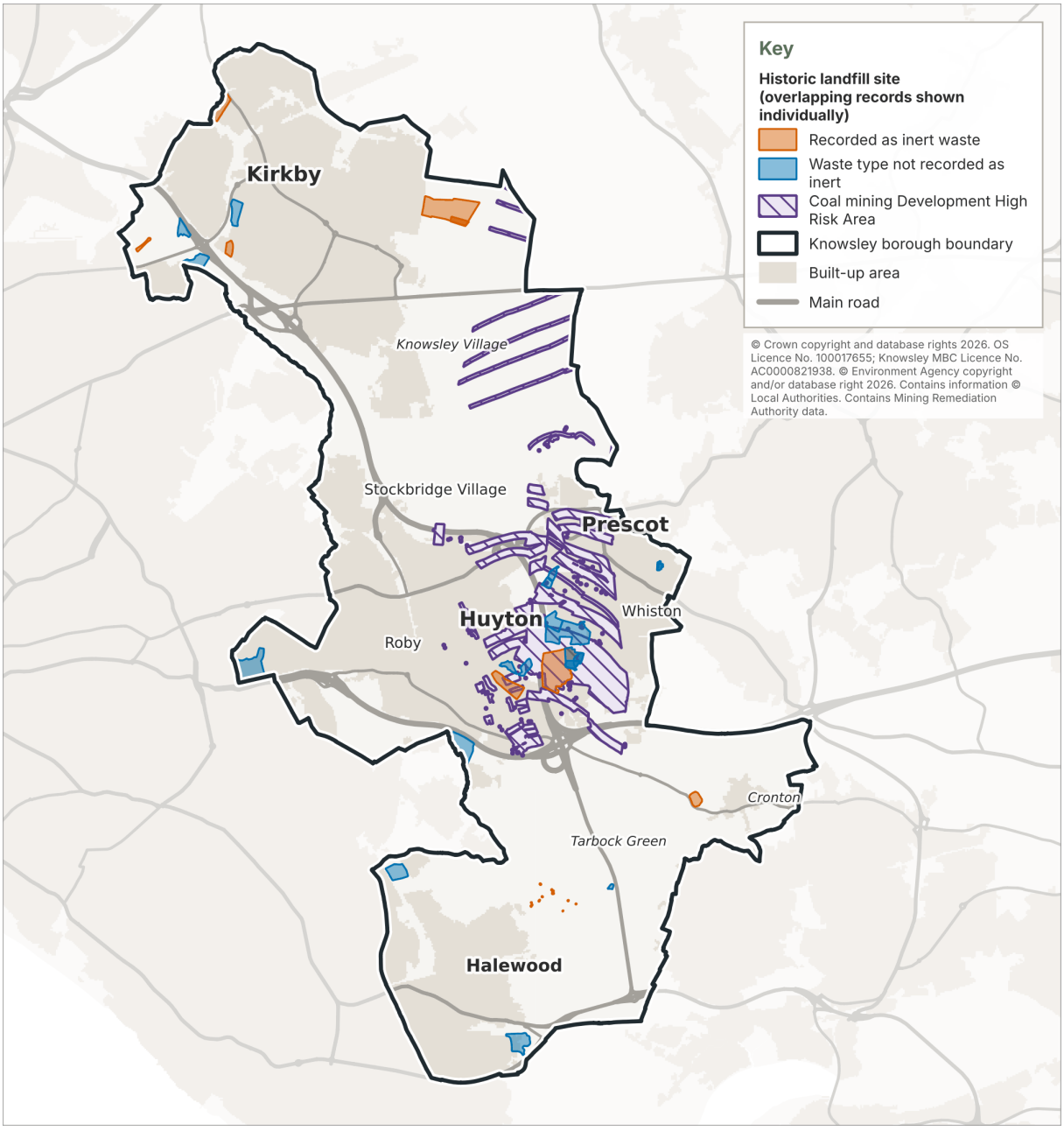
3.17 The Council maintains a public register under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. There are currently no entries on the register, meaning that no land within Knowsley has been formally determined as contaminated land under the Part 2A regime. This does not indicate an absence of potentially contaminated land within the borough, as land may be affected by contamination without meeting the statutory definition for determination under Part 2A. As an indicator of past uses that can give rise to contamination, the Environment Agency's Historic Landfill Sites dataset[28] records 31 former landfill sites wholly or partly within the borough, covering approximately 189 hectares, 11 of which are recorded as having accepted inert waste. Historic landfill records can be incomplete, and inclusion in the dataset does not

[26] Defra, Air Quality Management Areas spatial dataset, all pollutants; Knowsley Council, Air Quality Annual Status Report (June 2026), section 3 and Table A.4; Knowsley Council, Air Quality Strategy 2024-2027 (October 2024), priorities 1 to 4.
[27] SP Energy Networks, network capacity heatmap and headroom data (SP Manweb), open data portal; SP Energy Networks, Distribution Network Options Assessment (SP Manweb).
[28] Environment Agency, Historic Landfill Sites.

mean the land is contaminated land under Part 2A. The Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy[29] dates from 2014.

3.18 Past coal mining affects much of the borough. The Mining Remediation Authority (formerly the Coal Authority) records about 4,570 hectares of Knowsley, just over half the borough, as coal mining reporting area. Of this, 473 hectares is Development High Risk Area, where past coal mining may pose a risk to new development and most planning applications need a coal mining risk assessment, subject to published exemptions; it lies mainly around Huyton, Prescot and Whiston, with a narrower band running north through Knowsley Village to the east of Kirkby. Twenty-three of the 107 SHLAA 2026 sites touch a Development High Risk Area. Mineral resources and safeguarding are set out in section 9. Figure 24 maps the historic landfill sites and the coal mining Development High Risk Area.

Figure 24: Historic landfill sites and the coal mining Development High Risk Area



Source: Environment Agency, Historic Landfill Sites, 2026; Mining Remediation Authority, 2026.

[29] Knowsley Council, Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2014).

HOW THIS VARIES ACROSS THE BOROUGH

3.19 The environmental conditions in this section have distinct geographies. Surface water flood risk is more extensive than river flood risk, affecting 1,199 hectares against 403 hectares in Flood Zones 2 and 3 (Table 20). The most active storm overflows in 2025 discharge mainly to the Prescot Brook and Ditton Brook systems (Figure 21). The coal mining Development High Risk Area lies mainly around Huyton, Prescot and Whiston, with a narrower band running north through Knowsley Village to the east of Kirkby.[30] The highest nitrogen dioxide reading in 2025 was at the Whitefield Lane and Cronton Road junction in Huyton, below the annual mean objective. Capacity for new generation and storage connections is constrained in six of the borough's eight electricity grid groups, which together cover 99% of its area.

[30] Mining Remediation Authority (formerly the Coal Authority), coal mining data: Development High Risk Areas.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

Key baseline data sources used in this section:

- NHS England, Patients Registered at a GP Practice
- DfE, School Capacity (SCAP) statistics 2024/25
- Liverpool City Region, Strategic Infrastructure Plan, initial engagement draft (October 2023); IDP utilities position statements (SP Energy Networks, Cadent, United Utilities)
- United Utilities, Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023, sewer catchment boundaries 2025 and domestic consumption 2023; Defra, Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations return (data at 2022); Environment Agency, storm overflow annual returns 2024 and 2025; Ofwat, Cost change draft determination 2026
- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, 5-Year Clinical and Strategic Commissioning Plan and Population Health Improvement Plan 2026-2031 (Joint Forward Plan)
- Ofcom, Planned Network Deployments 2026
- ONS, Census 2021, Table TS061 (Method of travel to work)
- ONS, Census 2021, Table TS045 (Car or van availability)
- ONS, Census 2021 origin-destination data (ODWP01EW)
- DfT, Road traffic statistics
- DfT, Connectivity Statistics (Experimental Statistics), October to December 2024
- Knowsley Council, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (October 2025)
- Ofcom, Connected Nations (fixed broadband coverage)

INFRASTRUCTURE CONTEXT

4.1 Infrastructure to support growth (including education, health, transport, utilities, energy and green infrastructure) is delivered by a range of bodies. In Knowsley, strategic transport sits with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (including Merseytravel), health with the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, and education, utilities and energy with the Council and utility providers. This differs from two-tier areas where a county council leads on much of this.

4.2 The Council secures developer contributions towards infrastructure through section 106 planning obligations. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out what infrastructure is needed to support planned growth.

TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL PATTERNS

Travel to work and car availability

4.3 At the 2021 Census, driving a car or van was by far the most common way of getting to work, used by 51.0% of employed residents, with a further 6.2% travelling as a car passenger. Working mainly from home had risen to 21.4%, reflecting the timing of the census. Bus and train carried only 9.2% between them (bus 6.7%, train 2.5%). Active travel accounted for 8.7% (on foot 7.0%, cycle 1.7%).

Table 21: Method of travel to work, 2021

Method	Residents	% of workers
Driving a car or van	35,442	51.0
Work mainly at or from home	14,880	21.4
On foot	4,880	7.0
Bus, minibus or coach	4,655	6.7
Passenger in a car or van	4,322	6.2
Train	1,758	2.5
Taxi	1,340	1.9
Bicycle	1,188	1.7
Other (incl. motorcycle, metro)	1,030	1.5
All in employment aged 16+	69,495	100.0

Source: ONS Census 2021, Table TS061 (method of travel to work), Knowsley.

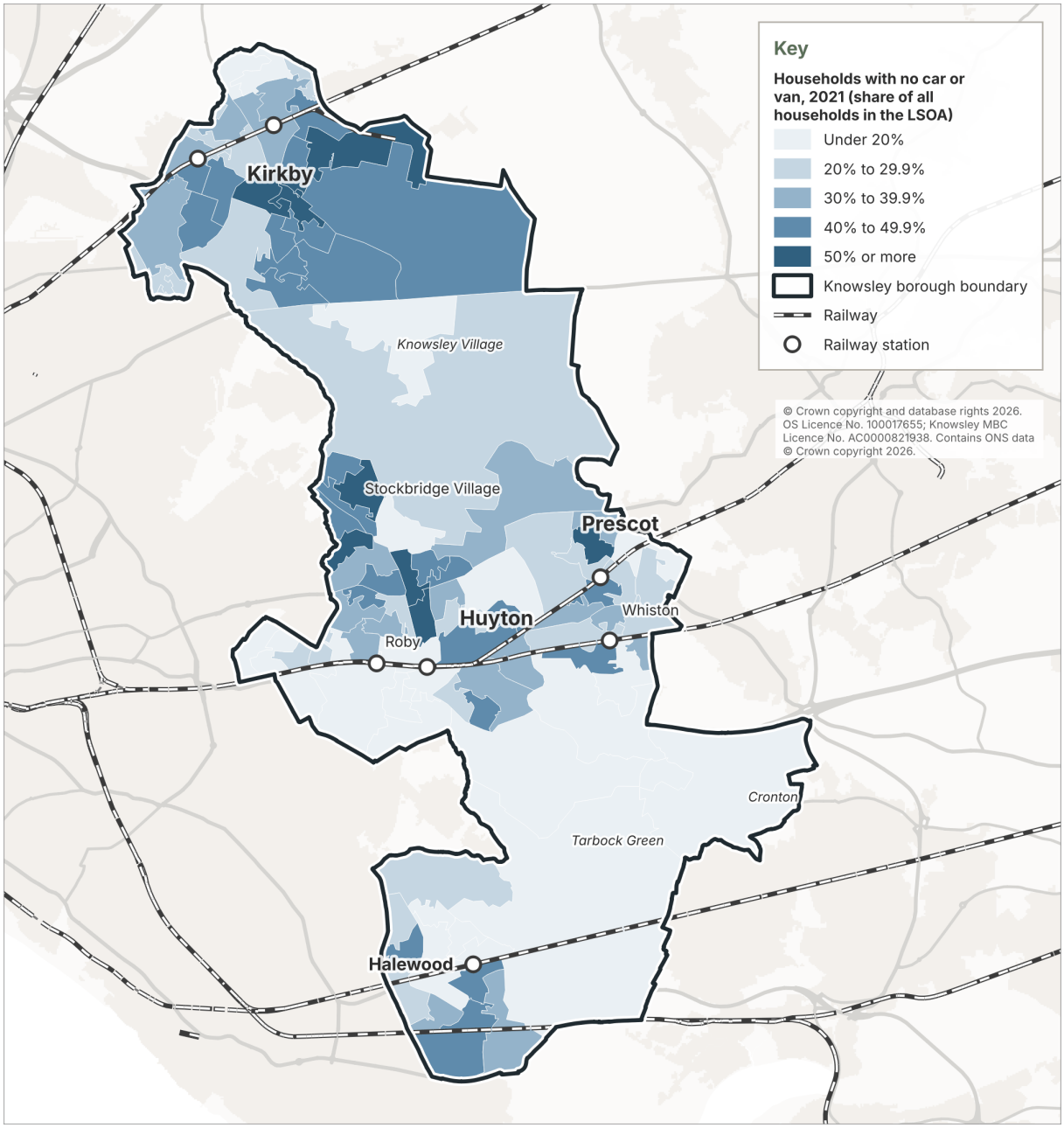
4.4 Car availability has risen but remains below the national picture. In 2021, 31.2% of Knowsley households had no car or van, down from 37.1% in 2011 but still well above the England figure of 23.5%. A further 41.2% had one car, 22.2% two, and 5.4% three or more. Car availability tracks deprivation closely: across the borough's 100 neighbourhoods (LSOAs) the share of households without a car rises with the Index of Multiple Deprivation score (correlation 0.95). The neighbourhoods with the lowest car availability are not, however, the least accessible: on the DfT connectivity statistics (see Accessibility by mode and purpose below) the quarter of neighbourhoods with the highest share of households without a car score higher, on average, for access by public transport and on foot than the quarter with the lowest share.

Table 22: Households with no car or van, 2021, Knowsley and comparators

Area	Households with no car/van (%, 2021)
Knowsley	**31.2**
Halton	23.8
Liverpool	40.1
Sefton	26.4
St Helens	23.2
Wirral	25.1
North West	24.7
England	23.5

Source: ONS, Census 2021, Table TS045.

Figure 25: Households with no car or van by neighbourhood (LSOA), 2021



Source: ONS, Census 2021, Table TS045.

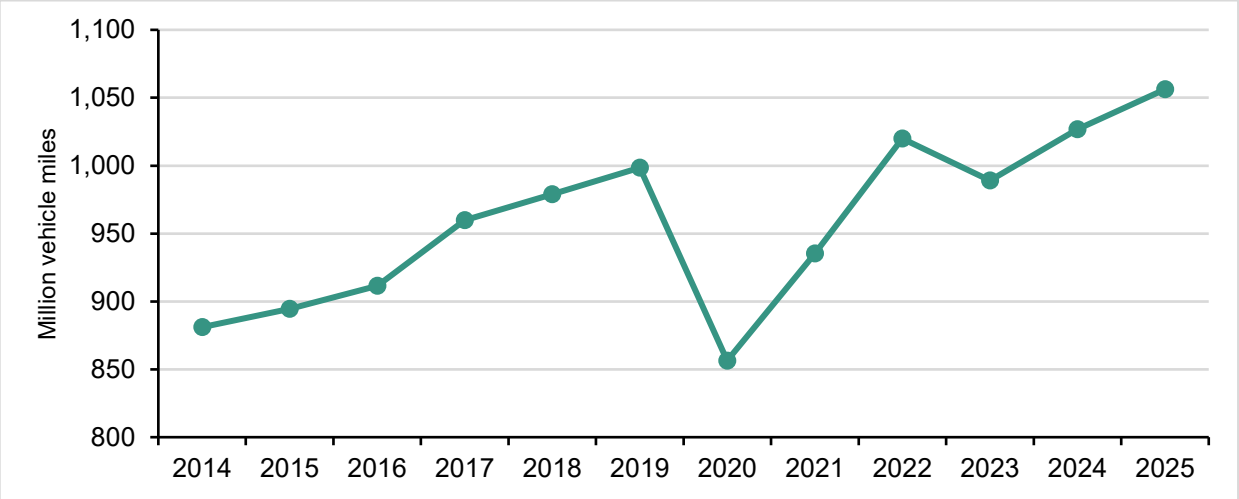
4.5 The share of households without a car ranges from 7% to 56% across the borough's 100 neighbourhoods (LSOAs), and in eight of them at least half of households have no car or van.

Road traffic

4.6 Road traffic in Knowsley reached 1,056 million vehicle miles in 2025, above the 2024 figure of 1,027 and well above the 2020 low of 856. Traffic has more than recovered from the pandemic.[31]

[31] DfT, Road Traffic Statistics (table TRA8901, motor vehicle traffic by local authority, vehicle miles), published 20 May 2026.

Figure 26: Road traffic (million vehicle miles), Knowsley



Source: DfT, Road Traffic Statistics, table TRA8901 (2025 edition, published 20 May 2026), all motor vehicles, Knowsley.

Table 23: Road traffic, 2025

Area	Million vehicle miles
Liverpool	1,374
Wirral	1,118
Knowsley	**1,056**
St Helens	871
Sefton	751
Halton	665

Source: DfT Road Traffic Statistics, 2025 edition. All motor vehicles.

4.7 At count point level, the busiest section of road in the borough in 2025 was the M57 between junctions 3 and 4, carrying about 112,700 motor vehicles a day (a DfT estimate rolled forward from the 2024 manual count of 110,676). Of the 59 DfT count points in Knowsley with a 2025 figure, 20 were counted in 2025 and 39 are DfT estimates based on earlier counts (Figure 28).

Electric vehicle charging

4.8 Knowsley has the lowest rate of public electric vehicle chargers of any Liverpool City Region authority: 92 public chargers at 1 July 2026, 56.6 per 100,000 population (DfT's rate uses ONS mid-2024 population estimates), against 61.1 in Sefton and 195.7 in Liverpool.[32]

Commuting patterns

4.9 Census origin-destination data[33] show that around 15,300 people both live and work in Knowsley: 35.3% of residents who travel to a fixed workplace work in the borough, and 34.5% of jobs at fixed workplaces in Knowsley are filled by residents (Table 24). Of those who commute across the boundary, the largest flows are with Liverpool (39% of workers commuting in, and 56% of residents commuting out), followed by St Helens and Sefton. Flows across the boundary are almost balanced: 28,985 workers commute in and 28,064 residents commute out, a small net inflow of about 900.

[32] DfT, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Statistics, table EVCI0102 (July 2026).
[33] ONS, Census 2021 origin-destination data, table ODWP01EW (location of usual residence and place of work), Nomis bulk download, released 26 October 2023.

Table 24: Commuting self-containment, Knowsley 2021

Measure	Value
Live and work in Knowsley (internal)	15,298 workers
Commute in from elsewhere	28,985 workers
Commute out to elsewhere	28,064 workers
Jobs filled by residents (self-containment)	34.5%
Residents with a fixed workplace who work in Knowsley	35.3%

Source: ONS, Census 2021 origin-destination statistics, table ODWP01EW.

4.10 Two Census sources describe home working and they measure different things. Table TS061 records 14,880 residents (21.4%) working mainly at or from home (Table 21). The origin-destination table does not identify home workers separately: it combines them with people who have no fixed place of work in a single category coded to the home authority, so its figures should not be read as a home-working count.

4.11 The Office for National Statistics advises that Census 2021 travel to work data should be interpreted with caution. Census Day (21 March 2021) occurred during a period of national COVID-19 restrictions when people were encouraged to work from home where possible. As a result, travel to work patterns, modes of travel and commuting distances recorded by the Census may not be fully representative of longer-term travel behaviour. This caveat applies to all travel to work data presented in this section.

Table 25: Top external commuting inflows (where in-commuters live), 2021

Area	Workers commuting in	% of external inflow
Liverpool	11,361	39.2
St Helens	5,487	18.9
Sefton	3,481	12.0
Halton	1,913	6.6
Wirral	1,522	5.3

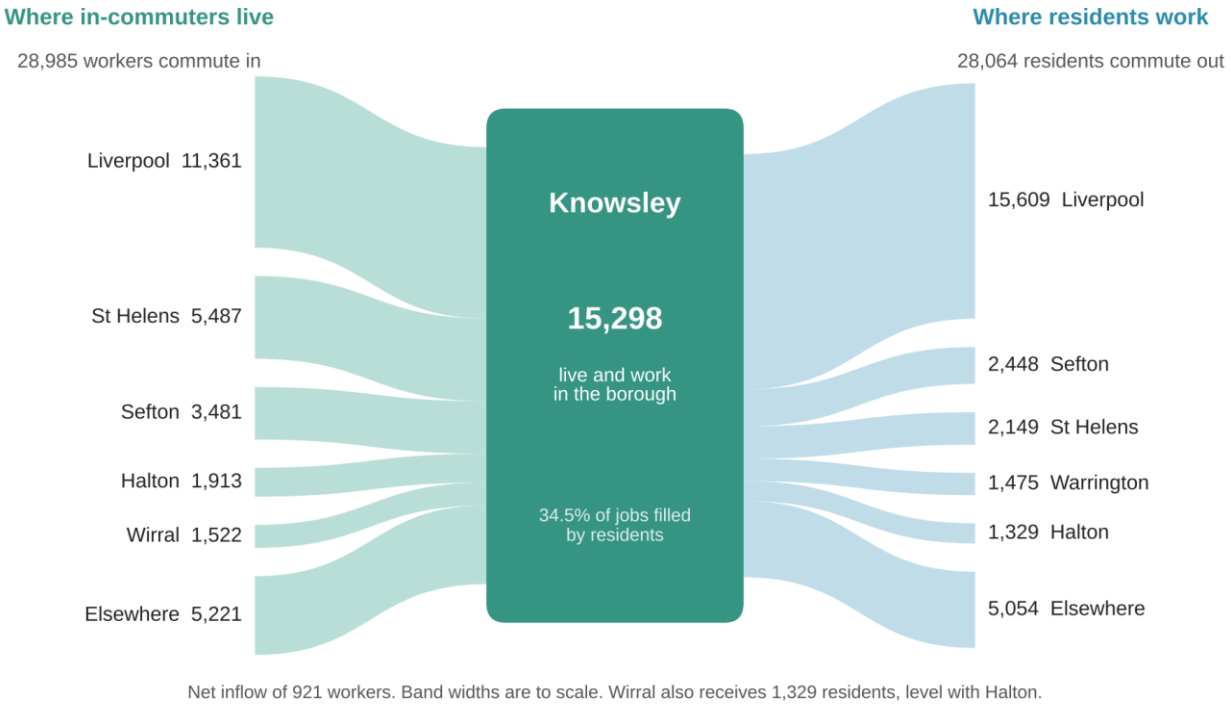
Source: ONS, Census 2021 origin-destination statistics, table ODWP01EW.

Table 26: Top external commuting outflows (where residents work), 2021

Area	Residents commuting out	% of external outflow
Liverpool	15,609	55.6
Sefton	2,448	8.7
St Helens	2,149	7.7
Warrington	1,475	5.3
Halton	1,329	4.7

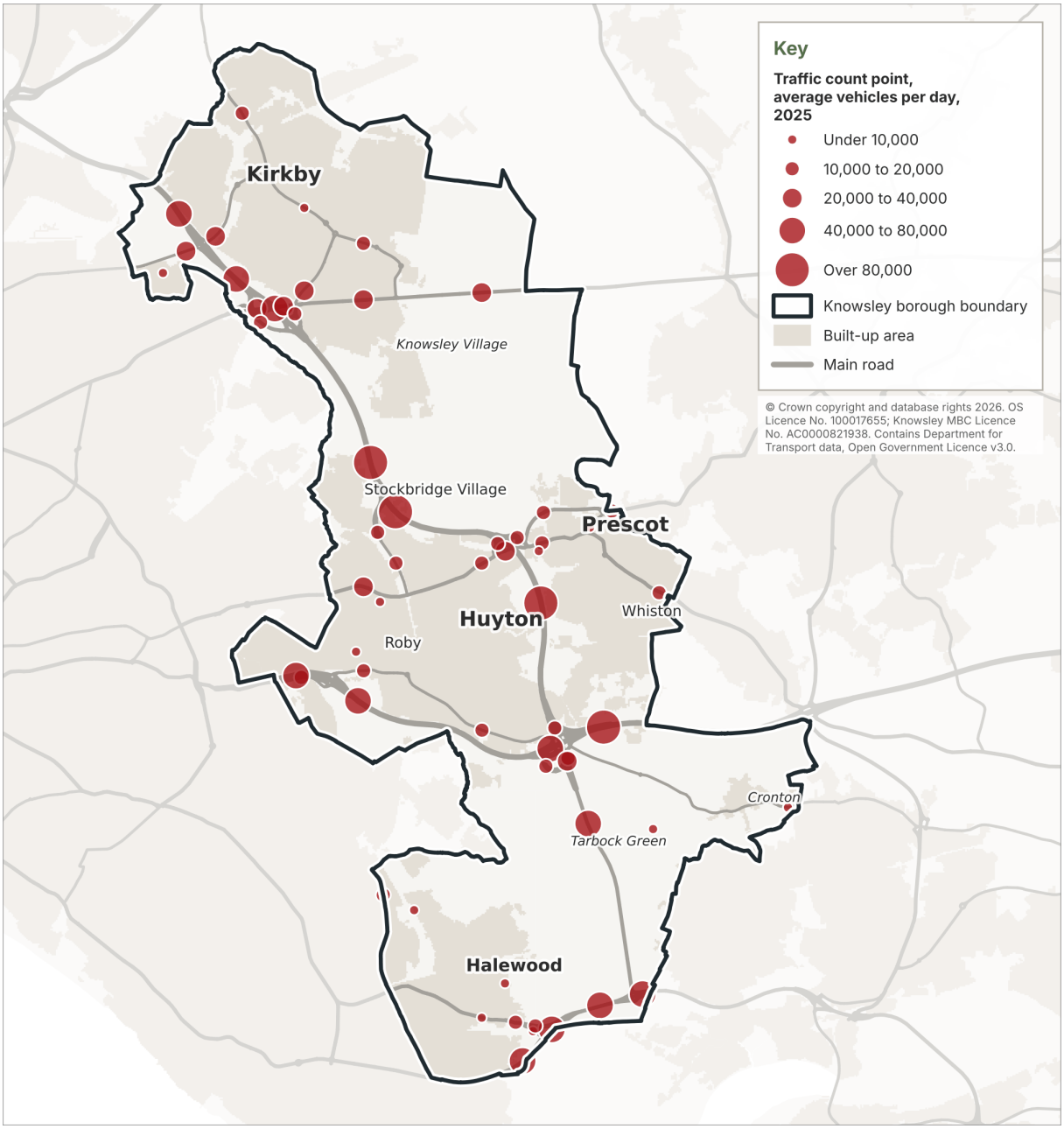
Source: ONS, Census 2021 origin-destination statistics, table ODWP01EW. Wirral also receives 1,329 Knowsley residents (4.7%), level with Halton.

Figure 27: Commuting flows to and from Knowsley, 2021



Source: ONS, Census 2021, origin-destination table ODWP01EW. "Elsewhere" is the remainder of each total after the five largest flows shown.

Figure 28: Road traffic flows at count points, 2025



Source: DfT, road traffic statistics, 2025.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

Bus reform

4.12 Bus services across the Liverpool City Region are moving to a franchised model following the Mayor's 2023 decision to bring them back into public control:[34] franchised services started in St Helens on 6 September 2026 and were scheduled to start in Wirral in October 2026, with Knowsley, Liverpool and Sefton to follow in the second tranche from September 2027 and the whole city region network under public control by the end of 2027. Routes, frequencies, fares and standards will be set locally rather than commercially, with the stated aim of closer integration with rail and simpler, tap-and-go ticketing. The Bus Service Improvement Plan (2022, revised January 2024)[35] was prepared before the franchising decision took effect.

4.13 The Combined Authority's bus network data identifies 113 bus services operating in Knowsley, calling at 718 stops within the borough (Figure 32). The National Cycle Network extends for

[34] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Merseytravel, bus franchising announcements, 2023 to 2026.
[35] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Bus Service Improvement Plan, 2022 (revised January 2024).

approximately 19 kilometres through Knowsley, comprising routes 62, 56 and 862 and associated links, of which around 88% is traffic-free (Figure 34).[36]

4.14 In addition, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority active travel mapping identifies approximately 71 kilometres of existing local cycling routes across the borough, comprising shared-use paths (42 kilometres), traffic-free routes (22 kilometres), signed routes, segregated cycle lanes and cycle lanes. The mapped network also identifies approximately 8 kilometres of routes classified as under construction, which are excluded from the existing network total (Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Active Travel route data for Knowsley, May 2025).

4.15 The Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, published in October 2025, identifies 18 primary and 16 secondary cycle routes, nine missing links and eight Core Walking Zones containing 111 walking routes for prioritised improvement.

Accessibility by mode and purpose

4.16 The Department for Transport's Connectivity Statistics measure how easily residents can reach employment, education, healthcare, shopping, and leisure and community facilities, and other homes, by walking, cycling, public transport and car. They are calculated from journey planning over the actual transport network and service timetables, are scored from 0 to 100, and cover October to December 2024. They measure the opportunity to reach destinations, not the journeys people actually make.

4.17 On this measure Knowsley's output areas score 66.9 on average (the published district score is 66.7) against an England and Wales output area mean of 63.9, placing it at the 50th percentile of all 188,880 output areas nationally, and it sits above the national mean on every mode. By journey purpose (Table 27) access to healthcare (65.5 against 57.7) and to employment (62.8 against 57.5) is comparatively strong; employment accessibility is at the 65th percentile overall and the 79th percentile by car. The exception is leisure and community accessibility, the only purpose on which Knowsley scores below the national mean, overall (59.3 against 61.7, the 40th percentile) and for walking, cycling and car travel, although it is slightly above the mean by public transport; Kirkby and Halewood are weakest, at the 34th and 35th percentiles. Within the borough, connectivity is highest in the most deprived neighbourhoods, which are also the most densely populated; the correlation with the Index of Multiple Deprivation is positive.

Table 27: Connectivity to services by journey purpose, all modes, Knowsley and England and Wales, 2024

Journey purpose	Knowsley	England and Wales	Difference	Knowsley percentile
Employment	62.8	57.5	+5.3	65th
Education	65.2	61.4	+3.7	50th
Healthcare	65.5	57.7	+7.8	58th
Leisure and community	59.3	61.7	-2.4	40th
Shopping	71.5	69.9	+1.7	42nd
Residential (visiting other homes)	72.7	65.7	+7.1	68th
All purposes	66.9	63.9	+3.1	50th

Source: DfT, Connectivity Statistics (prepublication v1.0.0, 21 August 2025), October to December 2024, output area scores; Experimental Statistics. Knowsley is the mean of its 507 output area scores and England and Wales the mean of all 188,880 output areas. Differences are calculated from unrounded scores.

4.18 Access varies more within the borough than between Knowsley and the country. Across Knowsley's 507 output areas, healthcare scores range from 31.3 to 88.7 and education scores

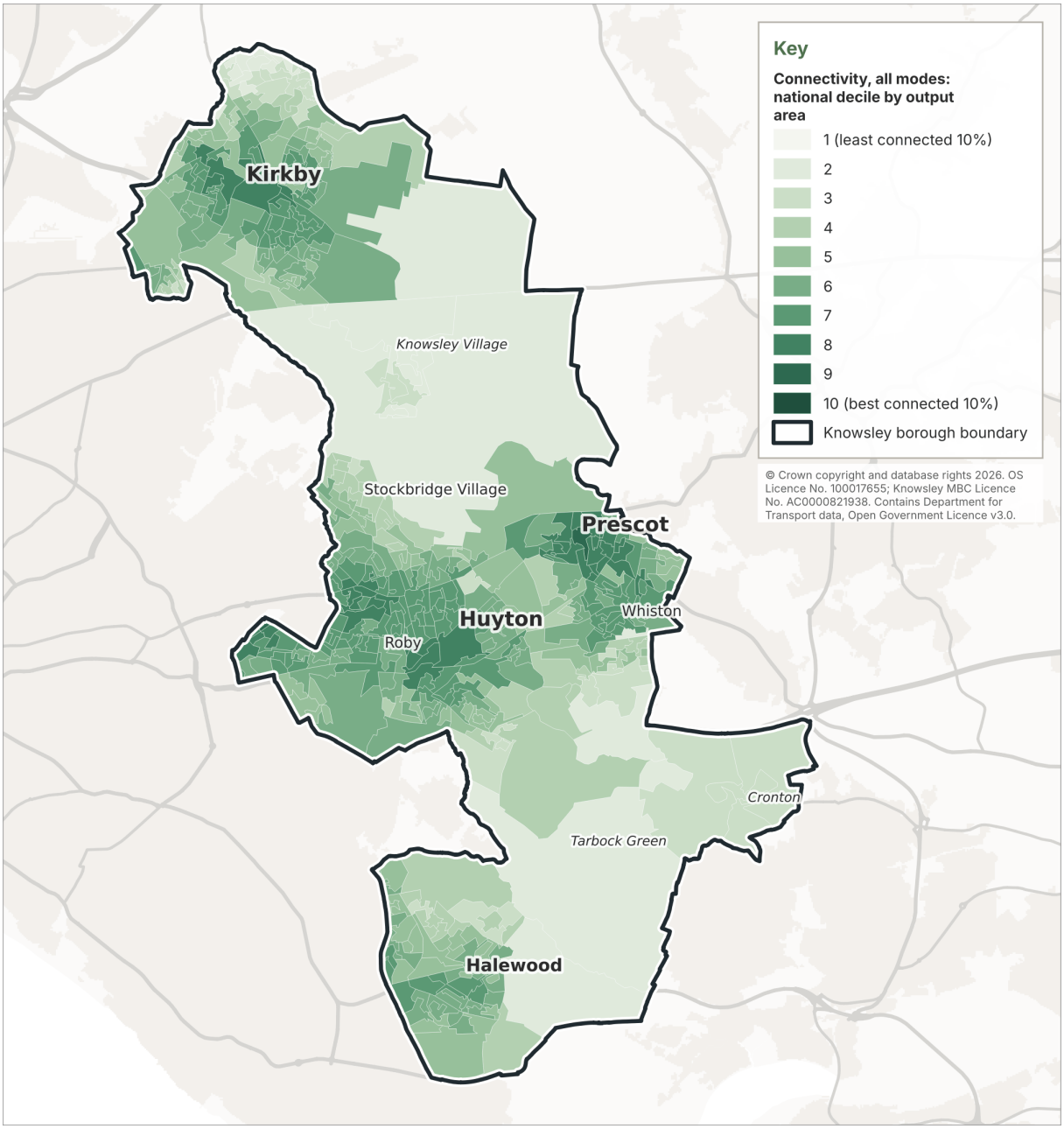
[36] Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, National Cycle Network.

from 30.5 to 82.6. Access to healthcare is weakest in Halewood (57.3) and Kirkby (60.8), against a borough mean of 65.5.

4.19 Rail station walking catchments have also now been measured along the actual road and footpath network, including steps, footbridges and subways, rather than estimated as a straight line circle, which overstates the land within reach by around two and a half times. On the network measure, 580 hectares (6.7% of the borough) and 13,672 homes (18.7% of the borough's dwellings) lie within an 800 metre walk of a station, against 1,419 hectares (16.4%) and 28,204 homes (38.5%) within the straight line circle. Whiston station is well placed on foot, with almost half of Whiston's residents within a measured 800 metre walk, but with two trains an hour (one each way in the Northern timetable for 17 May to 12 December 2026)[37] it does not meet the Framework's well connected threshold; the constraint there is the timetable, not the walk. All of Knowsley lies within the Liverpool Travel to Work Area, which ranks ninth of the 155 areas wholly or partly in England by gross value added in 2023, so the Framework's top 80 condition is met and train frequency decides whether a station is well connected. Figure 29 shows overall connectivity by output area, Figure 30 connectivity by mode and Figure 31 the measured 800 metre walking catchments around the stations. Figure 33 shows the walking network and public rights of way.

[37] Northern Trains, timetables for 17 May to 12 December 2026.

Figure 29: Connectivity, all modes, national decile by output area

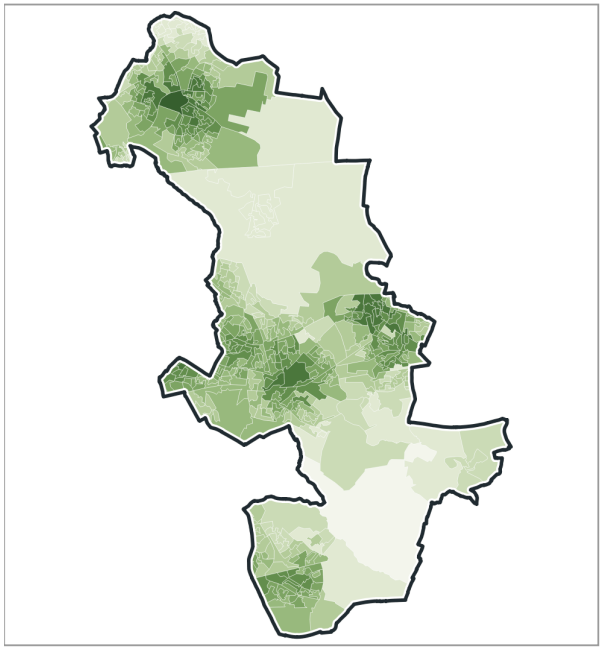


Source: DfT, Connectivity Statistics (Q4 2024).

Figure 30: Connectivity by mode, national decile by output area

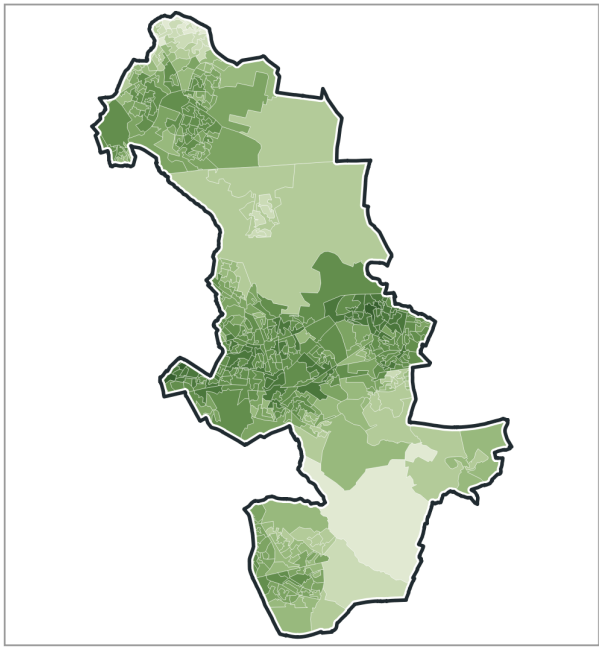
Walking

Knowsley mean 61.9, England and Wales 61.1; 43rd percentile, median decile 5



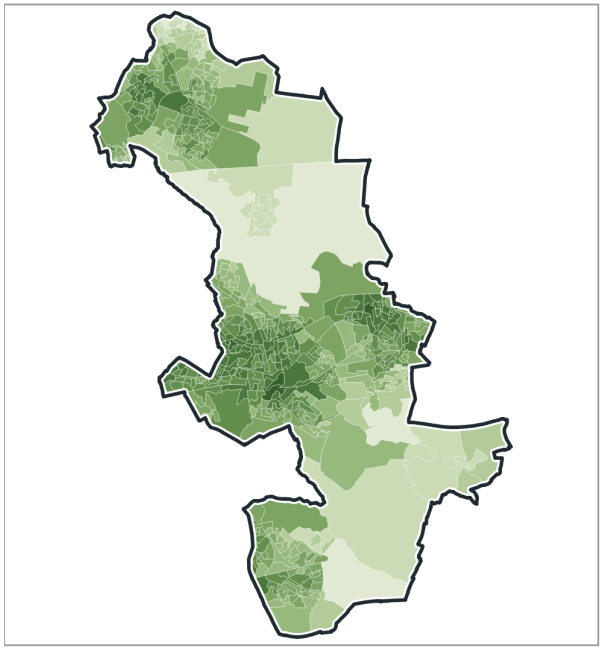
Cycling

Knowsley mean 71.9, England and Wales 68.3; 56th percentile, median decile 6



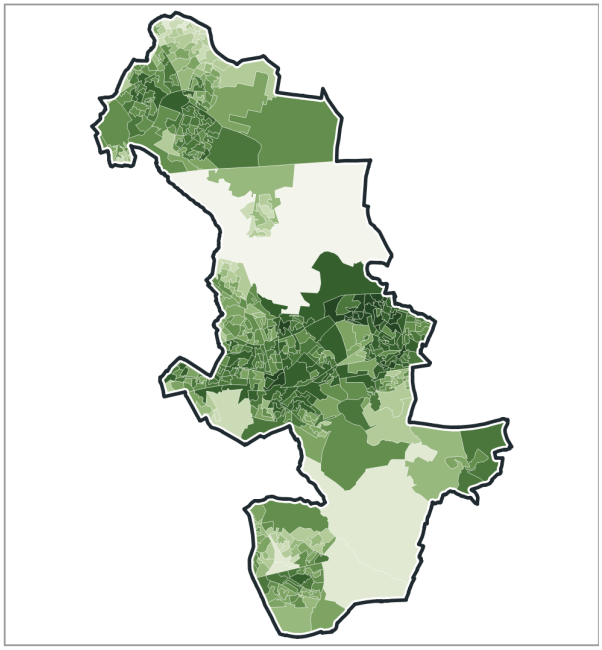
Public transport

Knowsley mean 69.8, England and Wales 65.1; 56th percentile, median decile 6



Driving

Knowsley mean 88.0, England and Wales 84.4; 63rd percentile, median decile 7



Key

Connectivity score, national decile

1 (least connected 10%)
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10 (best connected 10%)

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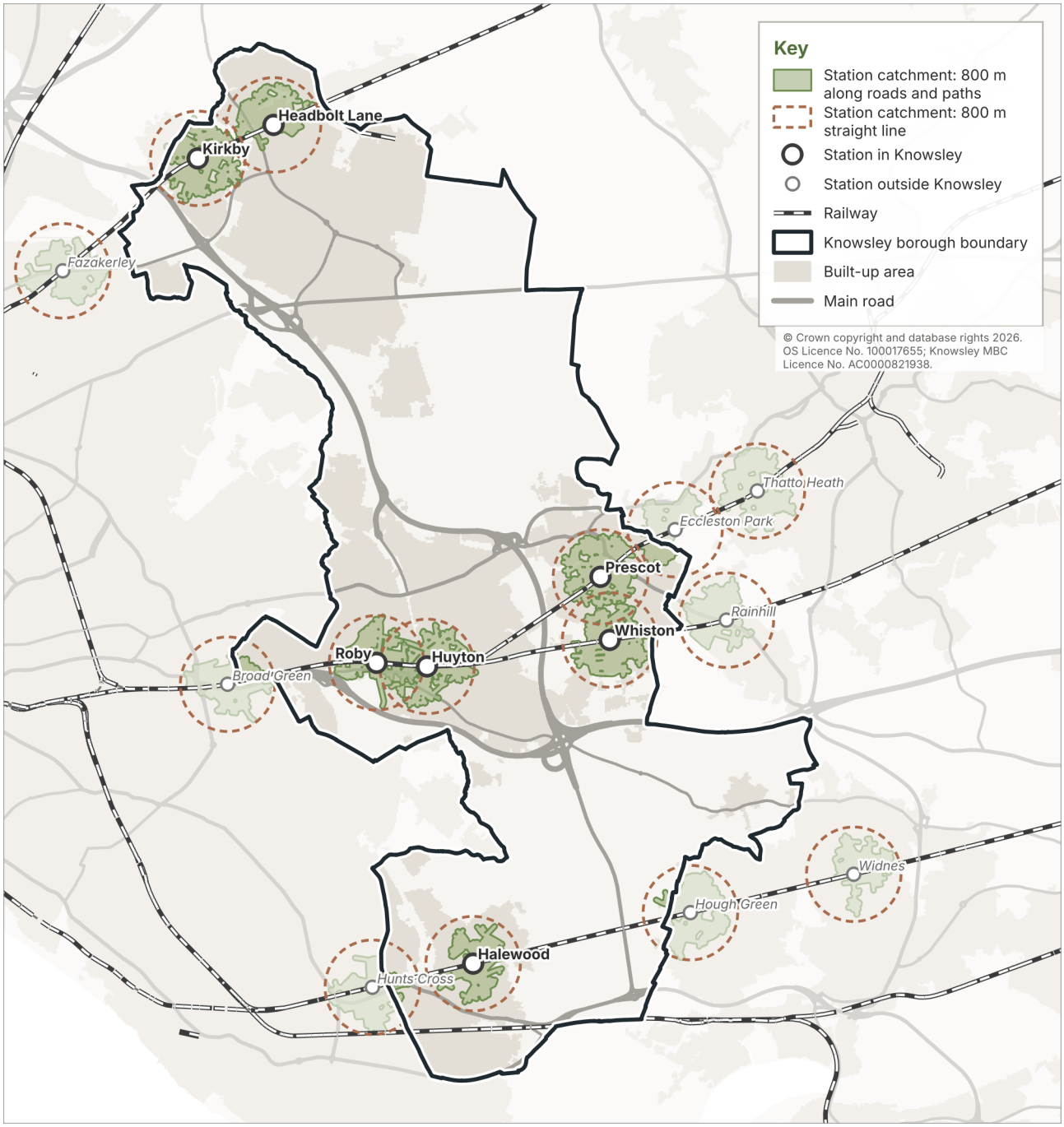
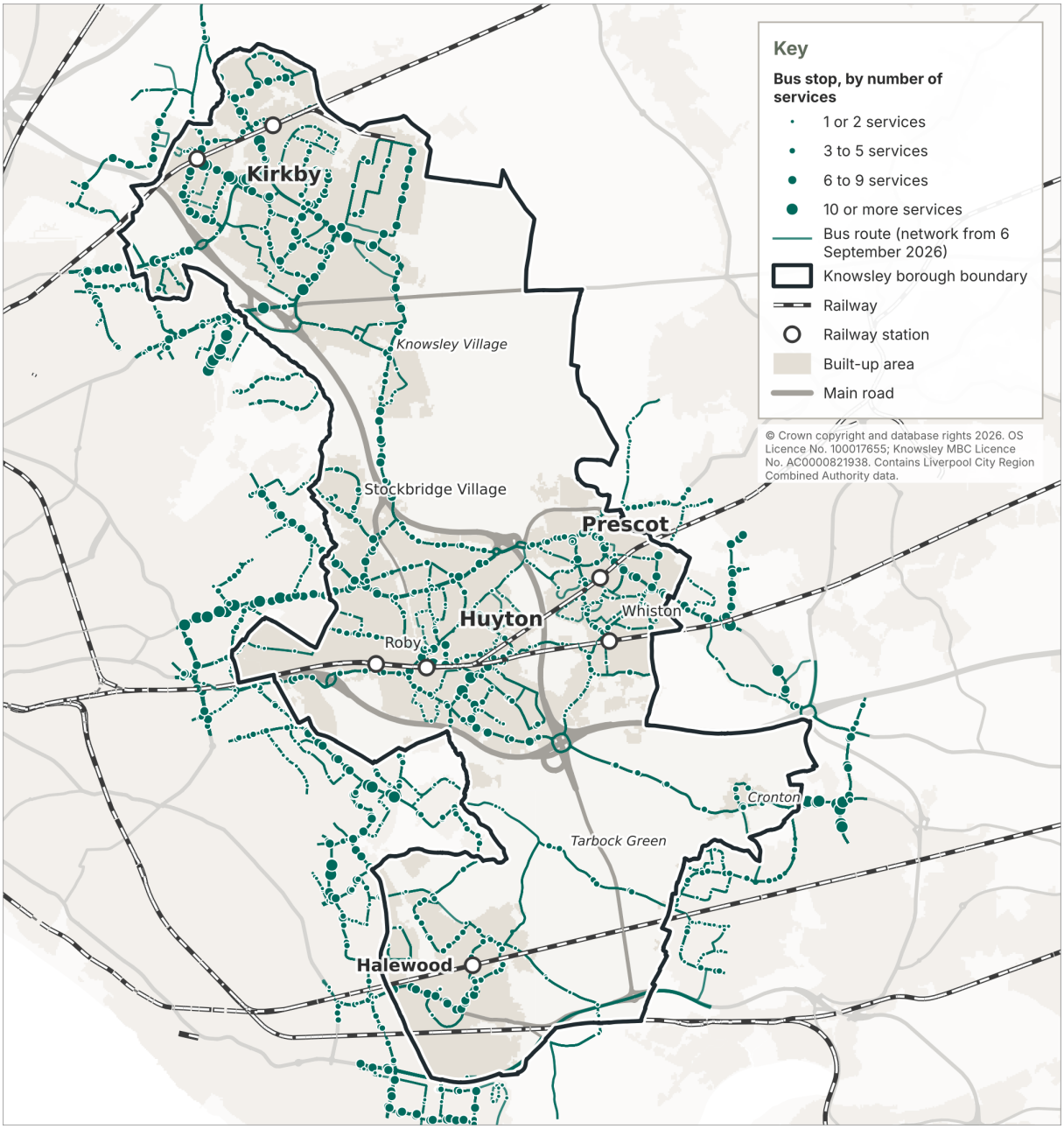
Source: DfT, Connectivity Statistics (Q4 2024).

Figure 31: Railway station walking catchments, 800 metres



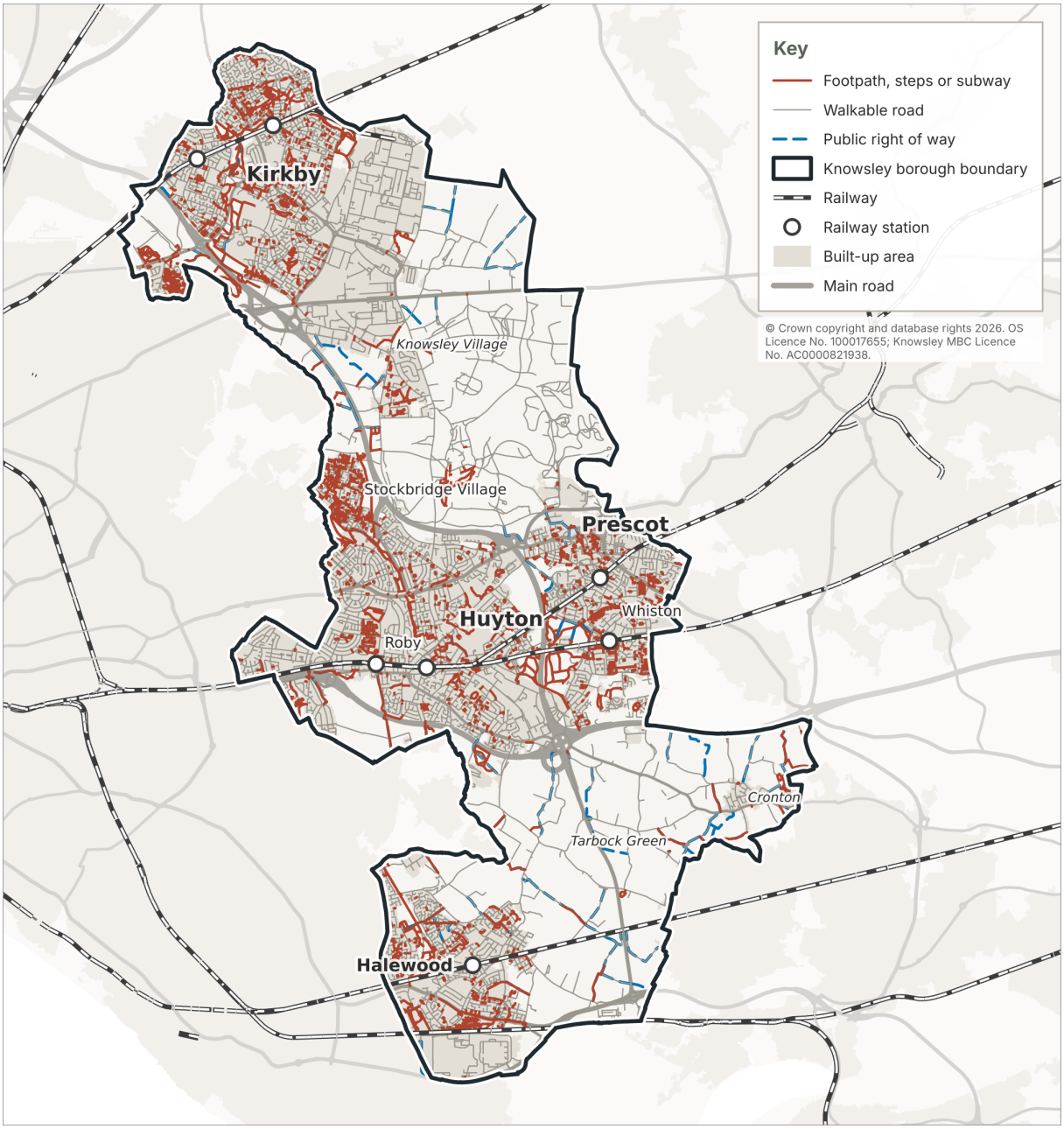
Source: OS MasterMap Highways Network.

Figure 32: Bus network and stops by number of services



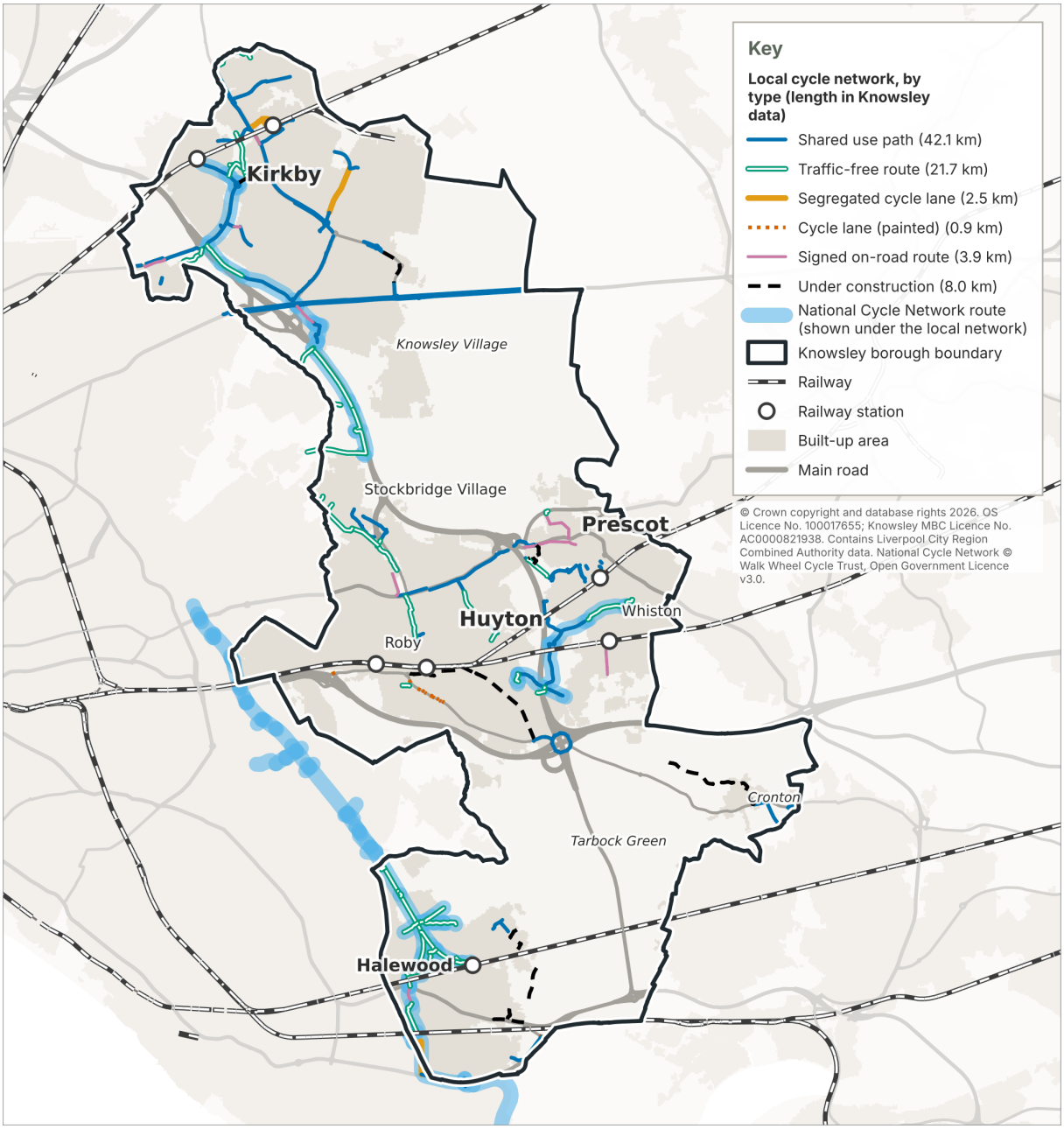
Source: Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, bus network, September 2026.

Figure 33: Walking network and public rights of way



Source: OS MasterMap Highways Network; Knowsley MBC.

Figure 34: Existing cycle network in Knowsley



Source: Liverpool City Region Combined Authority; Walk Wheel Cycle Trust.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT INVESTMENT

4.20 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority adopted its fourth Local Transport Plan in April 2026, together with a Delivery Plan covering 2026 to 2040.[38] Its vision is clean, safe and accessible transport for moving people and goods, and it sets five goals: good, clean job growth and opportunity for all; net zero carbon and an improved environment, with the city region's net zero target brought forward five years to 2035; improved health, safety and quality of life; transport infrastructure that is well maintained and resilient; and the ability to plan and respond to uncertainty and change and be innovative. It identifies poor rail connectivity and quality of service on City Line routes to the east of Liverpool, including the Huyton corridor, towards St Helens, Wigan and Warrington, and it identifies limited sustainable travel choices to areas of growth, naming Knowsley Industrial Park alongside Wirral Waters, Liverpool Waters, Daresbury and east Runcorn.

[38] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Local Transport Plan 4 and Delivery Plan 2026-2040 (adopted April 2026).

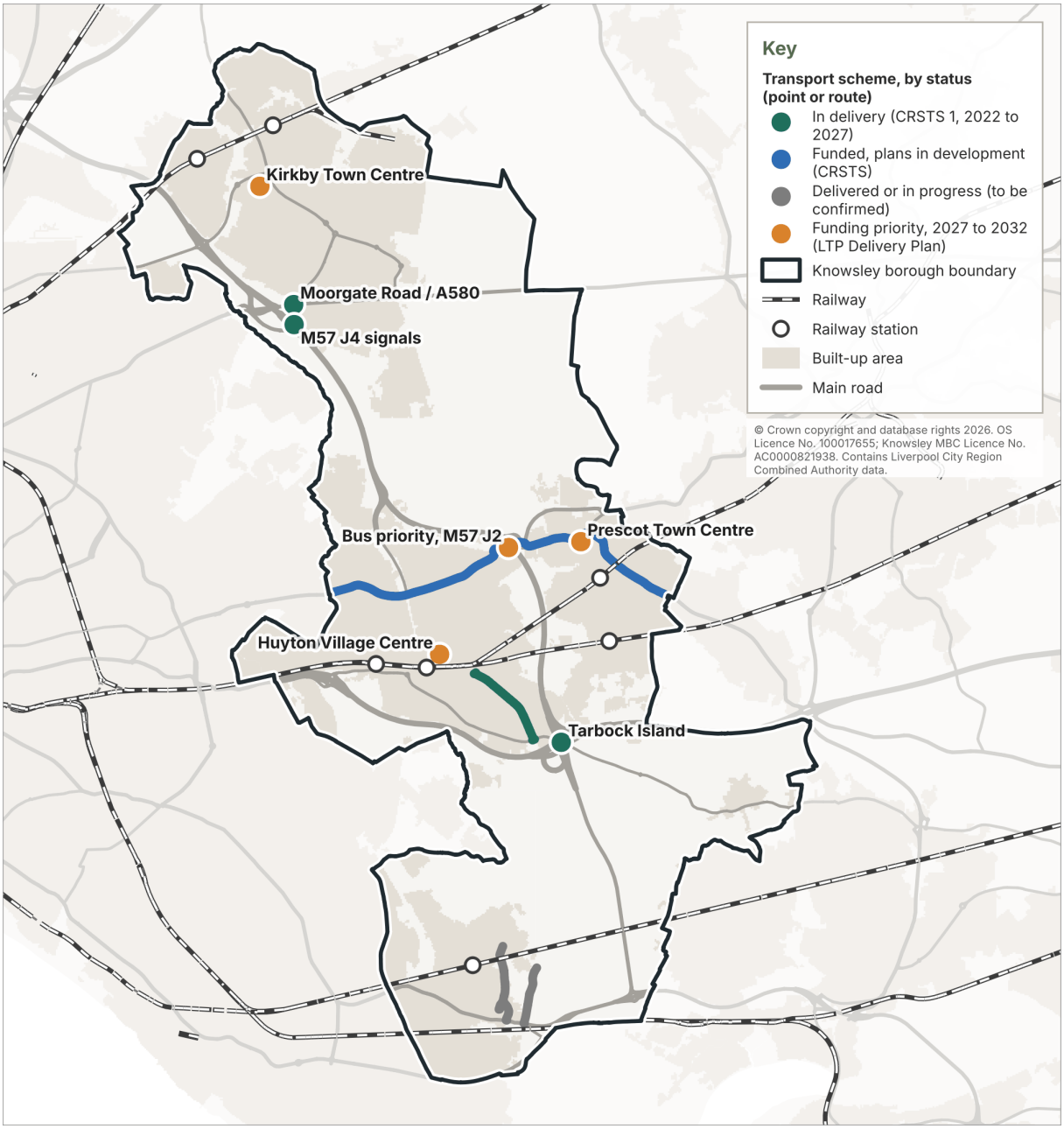
4.21 Five schemes in Knowsley are named in the Delivery Plan's list of Transport for City Regions funding priorities[39] for the imminent delivery period, 2027 to 2032: active travel works and a multi-modal transport hub at Huyton Village Centre; active travel improvements in Prescot Town Centre and in Kirkby Town Centre; the Knowsley Bus Priority and Prescot Gateway scheme, supporting bus movement through motorway junction 2 of the M57 in support of the 10A Green Bus Route; and cycle lanes and walking improvements at motorway junction 4 of the M57 on the A580 East Lancashire Road. The Liverpool City Region Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan separately identifies the Knowsley Cycle Route (Kirkby to Speke) as a Phase 3 route.[40] The list is overprogrammed against the funding allocation by 15%, so not every scheme on it is certain to go ahead.

4.22 Several schemes are being delivered with City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement funding, which runs to 2027. At October 2026, the Council's scheme pages reported the following position.[41] The £12.2 million Huyton Active Travel Corridor includes a new cycleway on Wilson Road between Huyton Business Park and Huyton Village Centre, and capacity works at Tarbock Island, junction 6 of the M62, a project of about £10 million. An active travel and capacity scheme at junction 4 of the M57, Moorgate Road and the A580 is being delivered in two phases, the second signalising junction 4. The 10A Green Bus Route between Liverpool, Knowsley and St Helens is the first route in the Combined Authority's £32 million Green Bus Routes programme,[42] for which plans are being developed. Highway works serving the East of Halewood allocations, funded by up to £4.4 million of section 106 contributions and £2.5 million of Settlement funding, have been programmed since 2023.

4.23 These schemes and the five priorities for 2027 to 2032 are mapped schematically at Figure 35, at junction and centre points and along road alignments. They show where each scheme is, not its design extent.

[39] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Local Transport Plan Delivery Plan 2026-2040 (April 2026), Transport for City Regions funding priorities.
[40] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
[41] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement annual report 2024/25.
[42] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Green Bus Routes programme.

Figure 35: Committed and planned transport schemes



Source: Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Local Transport Plan Delivery Plan (April 2026); Knowsley Council. Locations are schematic.

FREIGHT, LOGISTICS AND RAIL CONNECTIVITY

4.24 Storage distribution (Use Class B8) accounts for 54.4% of employment floorspace completed in Knowsley over the Core Strategy plan period to date (2010-11 to 2025-26) and 57.1% over the last five years. Transportation and storage accounts for 7.6% of employee jobs in the borough, compared with 5.1% in England, giving a location quotient of 1.49.[43] The Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Supply study records 27 hectares of employment land committed specifically for B8 distribution in Knowsley.[44]

4.25 Knowsley contains an operational rail freight terminal at Woodward Road within Knowsley Industrial Park, operated by Potter Space.[45] The site extends to over 21 acres (approximately 8.5 hectares) and includes around 165,000 square feet of warehouse floorspace. The terminal is connected to the rail network and has road access to the M57 and M62. The Liverpool City

[43] ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2024, via Nomis.
[44] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Strategic Housing and Employment Land Supply (October 2023).
[45] Potter Space, Knowsley rail freight terminal.

Region Local Transport Plan identifies the facility as one of the city region's multi-modal freight interchanges.[46]

4.26 Of the approximately 792.5 hectares of employment land designated in the adopted development plan, around 3.1 hectares (0.4%) lies within an 800 metre walking catchment of a railway station meeting the National Planning Policy Framework definition of a well-connected station. This land is within the catchment of Prescot station.

UTILITIES

4.27 Electricity network capacity is set out in section 3. Demand capacity is Green in 27 of the 29 network groups covering Knowsley, while capacity for new generation and storage connections is constrained in six of the eight grid groups. Some larger development sites may require network reinforcement; infrastructure requirements identified for Halsnead Garden Village include a new primary substation and seven secondary substations. Figure 40 shows the grid supply points and supply areas.

4.28 Cadent is undertaking investment in the gas distribution network, including approximately 6,260 metres of pipe upgrades in Knowsley during 2024/25 (Figure 39). Further information from infrastructure providers on network capacity, headroom and site-specific requirements will inform the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

4.29 Wastewater from Knowsley is treated at five United Utilities wastewater treatment works (Table 28 and Figure 36): Fazakerley, Huyton, Liverpool (Sandon), Liverpool South and Widnes. Fazakerley and Huyton each serve approximately 64,000-66,000 Knowsley residents and together serve around four-fifths of the borough's population. All of Kirkby drains to Fazakerley. These population estimates are derived by assigning 2024 neighbourhood populations to the United Utilities sewer catchments in which they are located.

4.30 United Utilities' Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023 assesses risks within each drainage area for 2020, 2030 and 2050. For wastewater treatment capacity, Huyton, Fazakerley and Liverpool (Sandon) are recorded as having 'No concern' in each assessment year, while Liverpool South and Widnes are identified as a 'Potential area of focus'. The Huyton drainage area is identified as an 'Area of focus' for internal and external sewer flooding and sewer collapse. By 2050, all drainage areas serving the borough except Liverpool South are identified as an 'Area of focus' for internal sewer flooding (Figure 37).[47]

4.31 The Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations return for 2022 indicates that loads received by the five treatment works ranged from 67.5% of reported capacity at Widnes to 90.4% at Huyton and 95.8% at Liverpool (Sandon) (Table 28).[48] These figures provide an indication of treatment load but do not represent site-specific development capacity. At Fazakerley, the reported load was 77.9% of capacity in 2022; Ofwat's 2026 assessment[49] also records exceedance of the works' dry weather flow permit in three of the six years between 2019 and 2024.

4.32 United Utilities has identified investment requirements at Fazakerley Wastewater Treatment Works associated with forecast growth in its catchment. In April 2026, it sought £25.7 million of investment for works associated with 11% catchment growth. Ofwat's draft determination in August 2026 did not accept the growth-related investment case on the basis presented; the

[46] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Local Transport Plan 4: core document (April 2026).
[47] United Utilities, Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023.
[48] Defra, Wastewater treatment in England: data for 2022 (Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations return).
[49] Ofwat, Cost change draft determination 2026: United Utilities.

final determination is due in December 2026.[50] Fazakerley serves all of Kirkby and parts of Huyton, Stockbridge Village, Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village.

4.33 United Utilities has previously advised that water supply is meeting Liverpool City Region's needs and that projected growth does not raise strategic water-supply infrastructure issues, subject to demand management and leakage reduction. Previous infrastructure evidence identified water-pressure issues in the Kirkby area, although this position requires updating. United Utilities' Water Resources Management Plan 2024 identifies the Knowsley boreholes as unused sources to be retained.[51] In 2023, household water use averaged approximately 253 litres per day per metered household in Knowsley, ranging from 244 litres in the Huyton, Stockbridge Village, Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village areas to 269 litres in Kirkby.

Table 28: Wastewater treatment works serving Knowsley

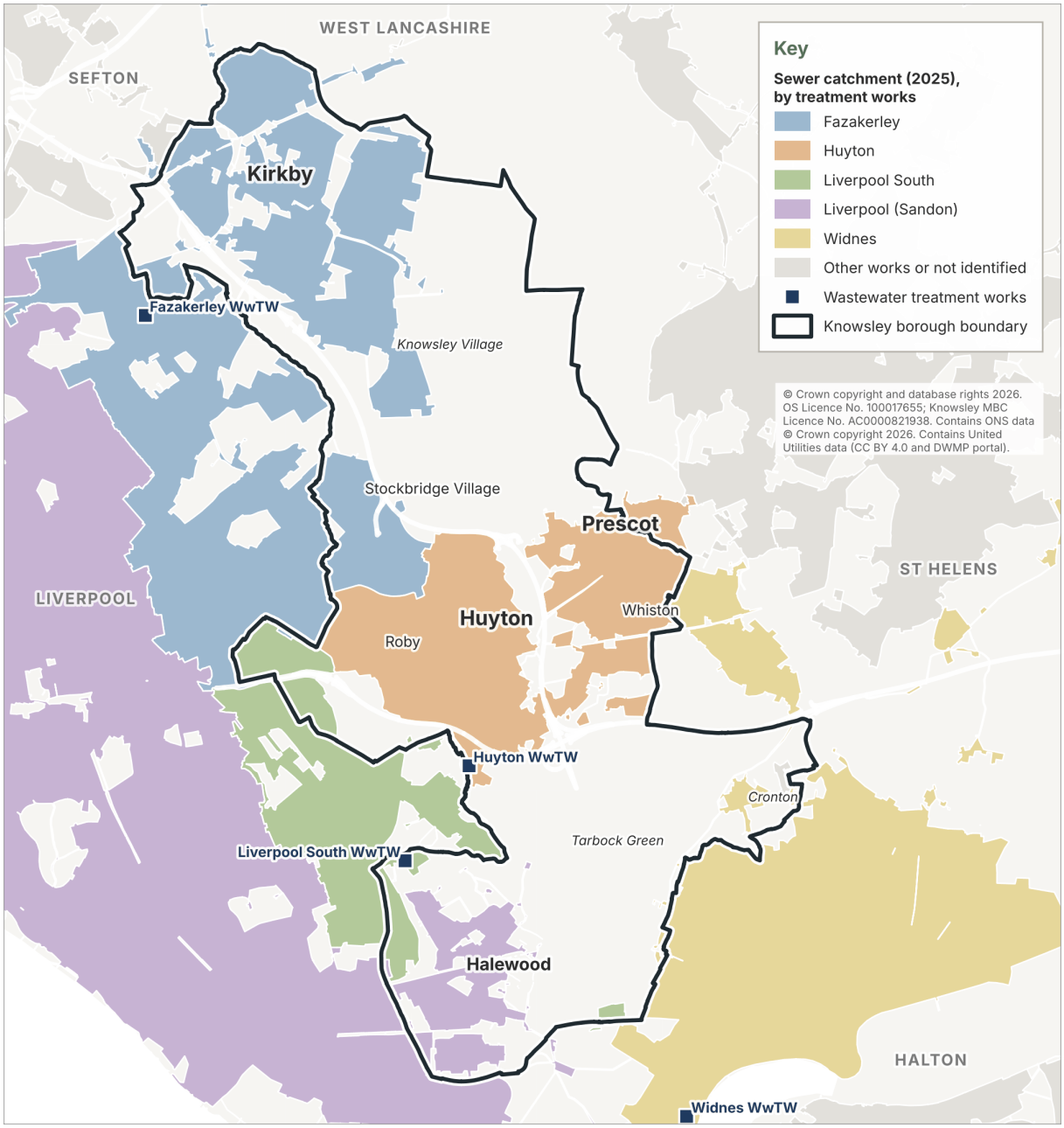
Works	In the borough?	Knowsley residents served, 2024 (approx.)	DWMP 2023 treatment capacity risk (2020, 2030 and 2050)	UWWTR 2022 load (PE)	UWWTR 2022 capacity (PE)	Load as % of capacity
Fazakerley	No	66,285	No concern	156,739	201,093	77.9%
Huyton	Yes, on the boundary	64,100	No concern	82,592	91,405	90.4%
Liverpool (Sandon)	No	15,257	No concern	664,250	693,484	95.8%
Liverpool South	Yes	12,707	Potential area of focus	48,384	64,372	75.2%
Widnes	No	4,216	Potential area of focus	77,524	114,908	67.5%
Total		162,565				

Source: United Utilities, DWMP 2023 and sewer catchment data (2025); Defra, Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations Article 15 return (2022 data); ONS mid-2024 population estimates.

Note: DWMP treatment capacity risk is unchanged across the 2020, 2030 and 2050 assessment years shown. Resident figures are approximate and are derived by assigning LSOA populations to sewer catchments. UWWTR load and capacity are expressed as population equivalent (PE) and provide an indicative measure of treatment capacity rather than site-specific development capacity.

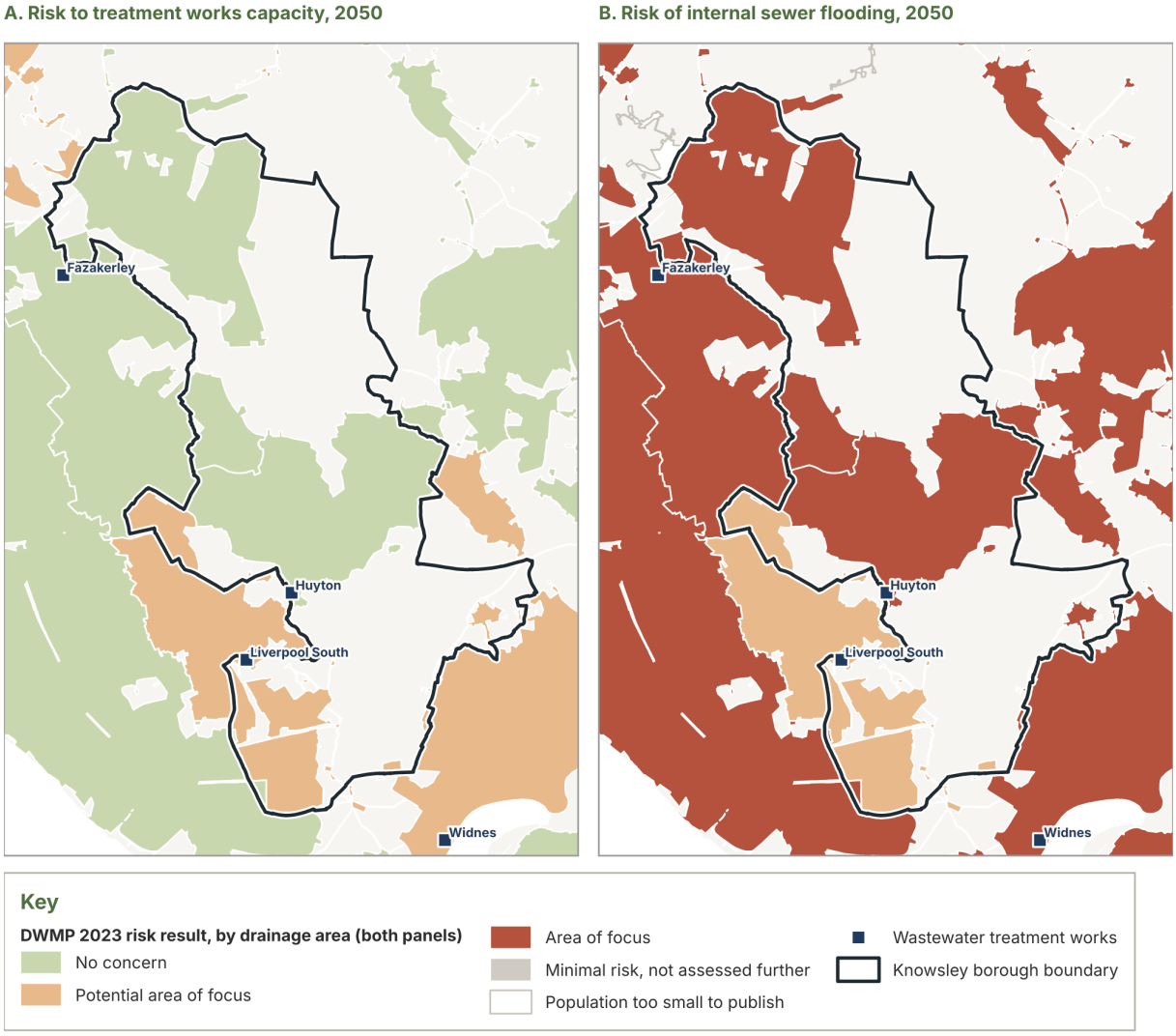
[50] Ofwat, Cost change draft determination 2026: United Utilities (August 2026).
[51] United Utilities, Water Resources Management Plan 2024.

Figure 36: Wastewater treatment works and catchments serving Knowsley



Source: United Utilities, sewer catchments 2025 and Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023; ONS, mid-2024 population estimates.

Figure 37: DWMP 2023 risk to treatment works capacity and of internal sewer flooding, 2050



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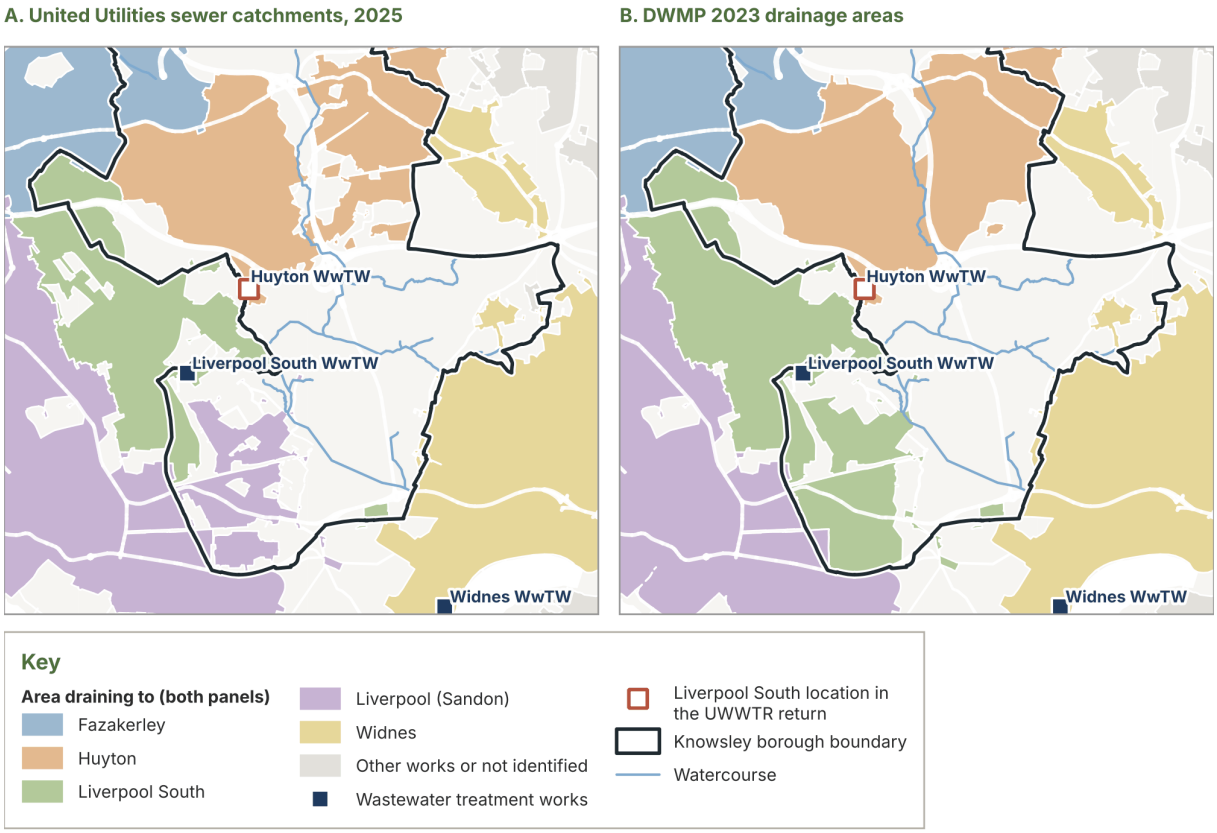
Source: United Utilities, Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023.

Wastewater treatment by area

4.34 Wastewater drains to different treatment works across the borough. Kirkby drains to Fazakerley, while Huyton and Stockbridge Village are principally served by Huyton and Fazakerley. Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village drain predominantly to Huyton, with smaller areas served by Fazakerley and Widnes. Halewood is served by the Liverpool treatment works. United Utilities' published sewer catchment and DWMP drainage area datasets differ on whether parts of Halewood drain to Liverpool (Sandon) or Liverpool South, and Figure 38 shows the two datasets side by side. Further information will be obtained as the Local Plan evidence base develops.

Figure 38: Halewood in the 2025 sewer catchments and the DWMP 2023 drainage areas



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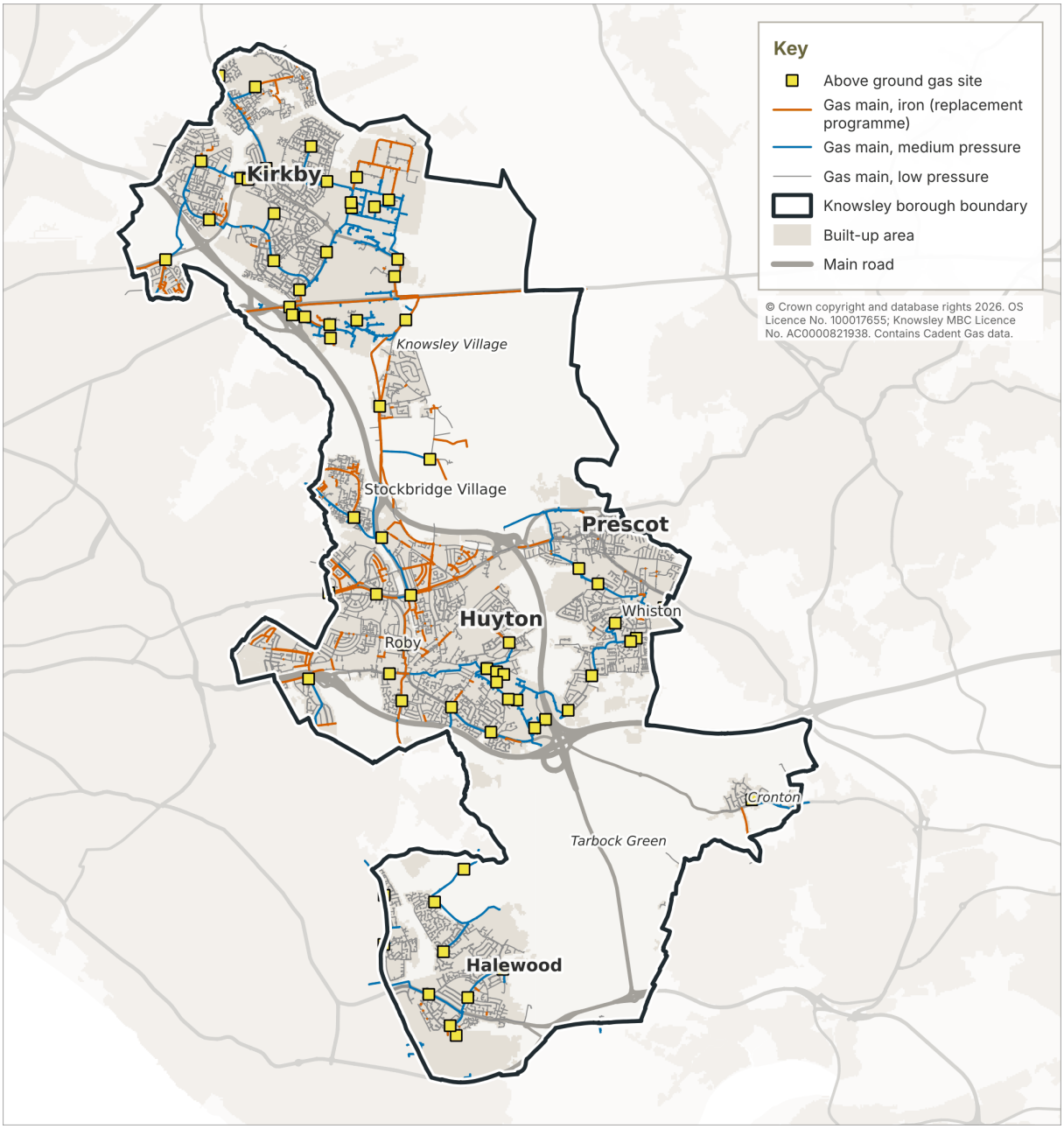
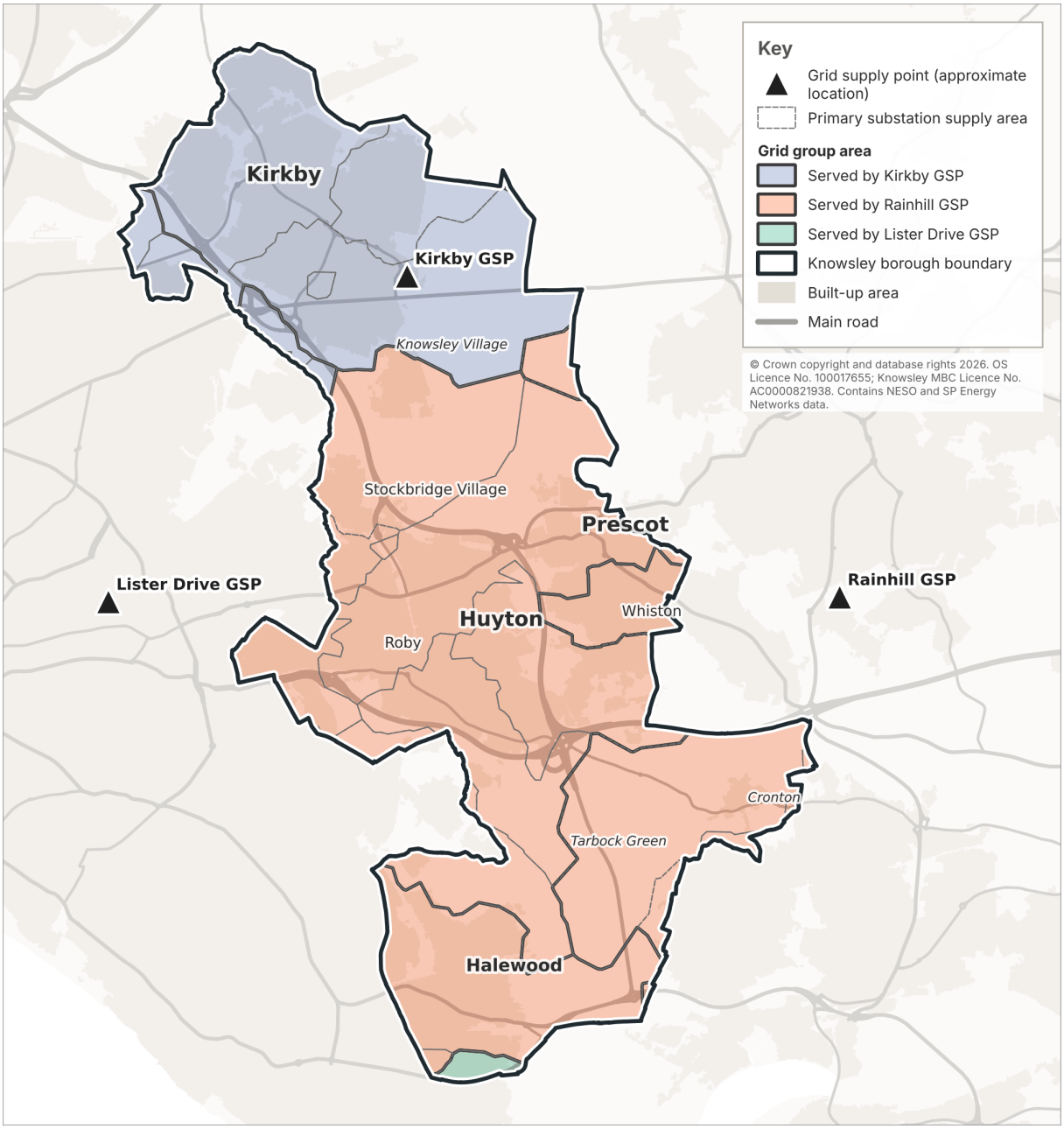
Source: United Utilities, sewer catchments 2025 and Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023; Defra, Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations return, 2022.

Figure 39: Gas network



Source: Cadent Gas, 2026.

Figure 40: Electricity supply network: grid supply points and supply areas



Source: NESO, Future Energy Scenarios 2024; SP Energy Networks, 2026.

EDUCATION AND SEND

4.35 The Department for Education's School Capacity (SCAP) return for 2024/25 shows the borough holding an overall surplus of school places: 1,274 primary places (8.7%) and 697 secondary places (10.4%).[52] Seven of the fifty primary schools are at or over capacity, so the surplus is unevenly distributed across the borough's planning areas. The primary surplus was 6.6% in 2022/23 and has since risen as places were added at existing schools (Westvale, Plantation and St Laurence's primary schools in 2024/25) while pupil numbers fell. The secondary surplus has risen from 7.6% in 2023/24.

[52] DfE, School capacity, academic year 2024/25.

Table 29: School capacity, 2024/25 (DfE SCAP)

Phase	Schools	Places	On roll	Surplus	Surplus %	At/over capacity
Primary	50	14,634	13,360	1,274	8.7	7
Secondary	6	6,697	6,000	697	10.4	2

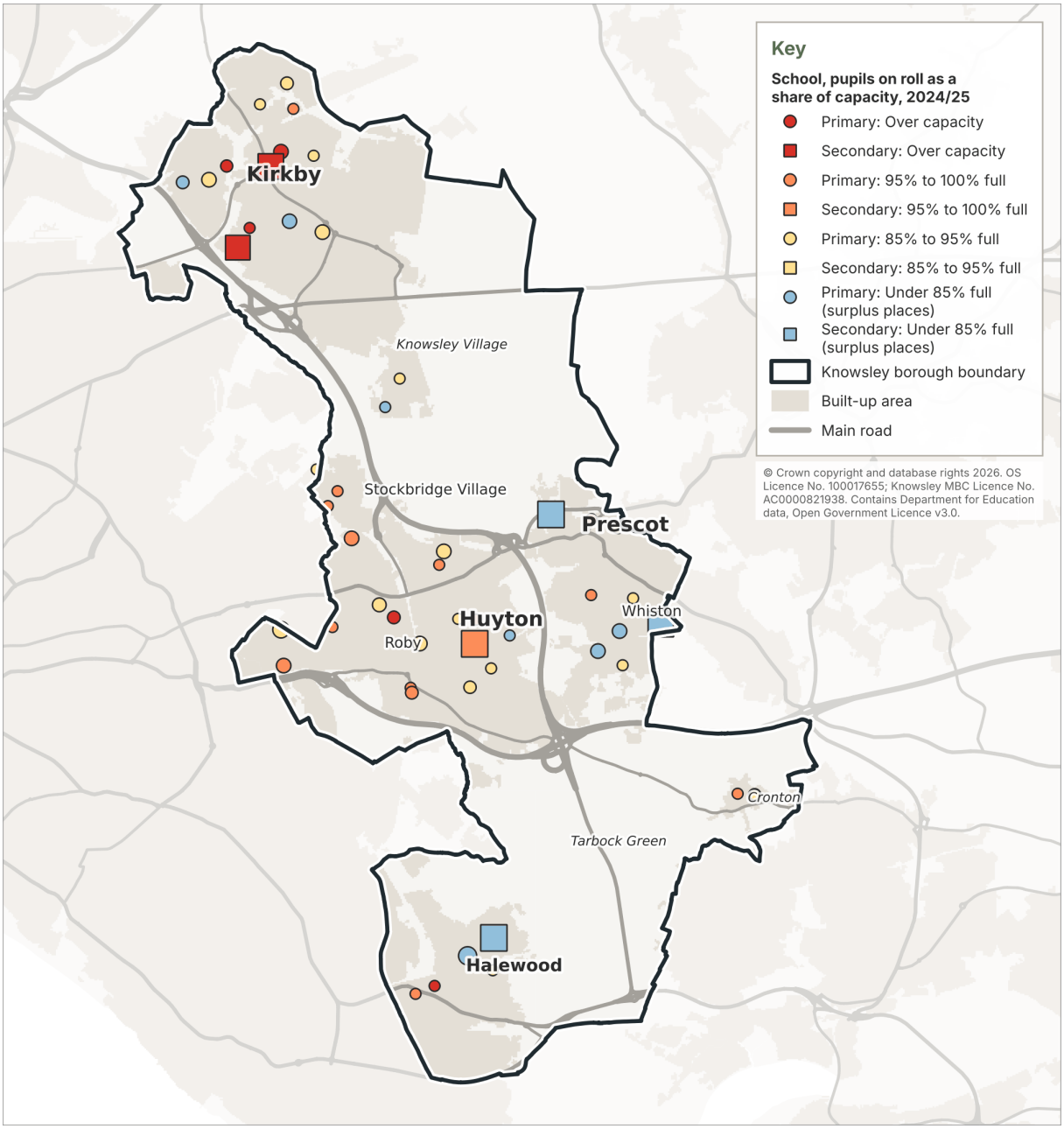
Source: DfE, School Capacity (SCAP) statistics, academic year 2024/25 (Knowsley, E08000011). Surplus = school places less pupils on roll.

4.36 The Department for Education's separate unfilled places measure, which counts only spare places in schools with room, is higher, at 1,321 primary and 781 secondary places, because it does not net off the pupils in the nine schools at or over capacity (47 primary and 84 secondary pupils). The largest overcapacity is at All Saints Catholic High School (58 pupils) and Kirkby High School (26).

4.37 Provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is planned through the Council's SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023-2028.[53] In 2024/25 the borough's four special schools had 774 pupils on roll against 639 places (DfE School Capacity statistics), and provision is concentrated in a few sites. Further evidence on the capacity needed for specialist SEND provision will be obtained as the Local Plan evidence base develops. Figure 41 shows pupils on roll against capacity at each school in 2024/25.

[53] Knowsley Council, Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Sufficiency Plan 2023-2028.

Figure 41: School places, 2024/25



Source: DfE, school capacity statistics 2024/25.

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

4.38 Primary care in the Knowsley sub-ICB location is provided through 23 GP practices, with 173,812 registered patients at September 2026. There were 90.66 full-time equivalent (FTE) fully qualified GPs, equivalent to 52.16 FTE per 100,000 registered patients. This represents approximately 1,917 registered patients per FTE GP, compared with 1,944 across Cheshire and Merseyside and 2,143 across England (Table 30). Registered patient populations do not correspond directly with local authority resident populations, as GP practice populations can extend across administrative boundaries. These workforce figures do not measure premises or appointment capacity.

Table 30: Primary care provision and GP workforce, September 2026

Indicator	Knowsley	Cheshire and Merseyside	England
GP practices	23	-	-
Registered patients	173,812	2,786,577	63,009,910
Fully qualified GP FTE	90.66	1,433.68	29,400.06
Fully qualified GP FTE per 100,000 patients	52.16	51.45	46.66

Source: NHS England, General Practice Workforce, 30 September 2026, Table 2. Note: FTE means full-time equivalent. Fully qualified GPs exclude GPs in training. Registered patient populations relate to GP registrations and do not correspond directly with local authority resident populations. The registered patient count is the figure published in the GP workforce series; NHS England's Patients Registered at a GP Practice, September 2026 records 174,194 patients at the same 23 practices, the figure used in Table 11. The two series are compiled separately.

Hospital and acute healthcare

4.39 Whiston Hospital is the principal acute hospital within Knowsley and forms part of Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. It is a general acute hospital providing accident and emergency, critical care, maternity and a range of medical and surgical services.

4.40 NHS England's Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) records the Whiston Hospital site as extending to 13.9 hectares and comprising seven buildings with a total gross internal floor area of 109,393 m². The whole of this floorspace is classified as core estate, with 94,334 m² recorded as occupied floor area. The site includes 67,147 m² of clinical space, 353 single patient bedrooms with en-suite facilities and 30 isolation rooms. The hospital also provides 2,783 parking spaces, including 125 designated disabled spaces and 10 electric vehicle charging points (Table 31).

Table 31: Whiston Hospital estate

Indicator	Whiston Hospital
Site type	General acute hospital
Land area	13.9 ha
Buildings	7
Gross internal floor area	109,393 m²
Core gross internal floor area	109,393 m²
Occupied floor area	94,334 m²
Clinical space - other	67,147 m²
Single patient bedrooms with en-suite facilities	353
Isolation rooms	30
Parking spaces	2,783
Designated disabled parking spaces	125
Electric vehicle charging points	10

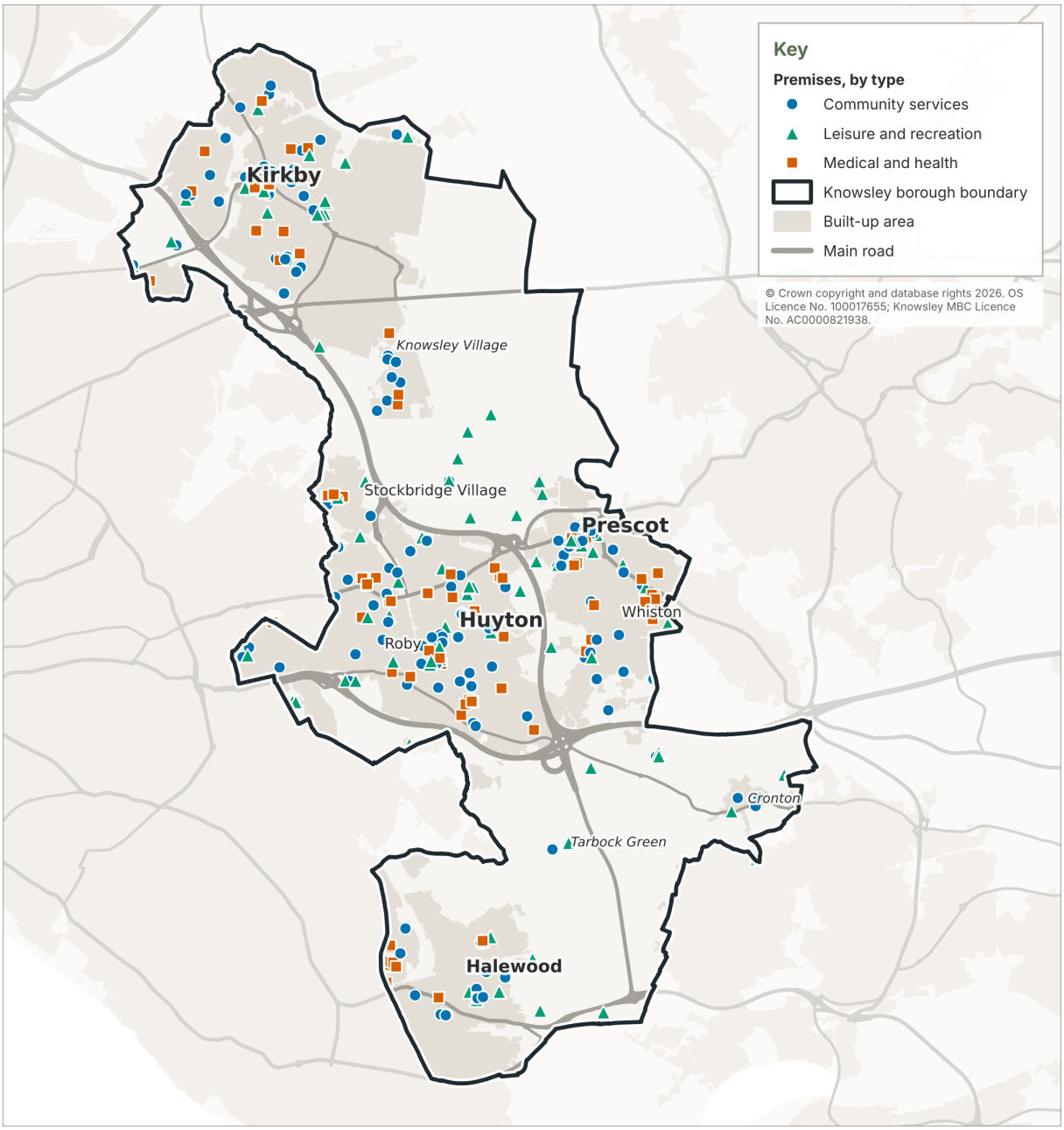
Source: NHS England, Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) 2025/26 - Site Data, Whiston Hospital (RBN01). Note: ERIC records Whiston Hospital as a whole-site Private Finance Initiative (PFI) site. The number of single patient bedrooms should not be interpreted as the total number of hospital beds.

4.41 Published NHS hospital bed, occupancy and critical-care capacity statistics are principally reported at NHS Trust rather than individual hospital-site level. These measures are therefore not used to quantify capacity specifically at Whiston Hospital in this baseline.

4.42 Evidence prepared for major development sites has identified requirements for additional primary-care capacity in parts of the borough. The East of Halewood masterplan, for example,

identified insufficient existing GP premises capacity to accommodate the additional demand arising from the development.[54]

Figure 42: Health, community and leisure premises



Source: OS AddressBase Premium, July 2026.

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

4.43 Fixed broadband coverage in Knowsley is high. At January 2026, gigabit-capable broadband was available to 97.0% of premises, full-fibre broadband to 93.7% and superfast broadband to 99.3%. This compares with 88.4%, 81.3% and 97.8% respectively across England (Table 32).

[54] Knowsley Council, East of Halewood Masterplan Document (approved June 2020).

Table 32: Fixed broadband coverage, January 2026 (percentage of premises)

Area	Gigabit	Full fibre	Superfast
Knowsley	**97.0**	**93.7**	**99.3**
Halton	96.0	88.7	99.5
Liverpool	91.6	88.0	96.6
St Helens	96.9	94.5	98.8
Sefton	88.3	84.2	98.8
Wirral	96.4	94.4	99.5
England	88.4	81.3	97.8

Source: Ofcom Connected Nations update, Spring 2026 (January 2026 snapshot).

4.44 Ofcom's 2026 planned network deployment data indicates that gigabit-capable coverage in Knowsley could increase from 97.0% to 97.1% by January 2029 if all reported operator deployment plans are realised (Table 33). Across the Liverpool City Region, forecast coverage ranges from 94.2% in Sefton to 99.0% in Liverpool. Ofcom identifies 158 postcodes in Knowsley that would remain without gigabit-capable coverage under this scenario.

Table 33: Gigabit coverage now and forecast to January 2029

Area	January 2026 (%)	January 2029 (%)	Change	No coverage 2029 (postcodes)
Knowsley	**97.0**	**97.1**	**+0.1**	**158**
Halton	96.0	96.9	+0.9	171
Liverpool	91.6	99.0	+7.4	75
St Helens	96.9	97.6	+0.7	223
Sefton	88.3	94.2	+5.9	216
Wirral	96.4	96.4	+0.0	210

Source: Ofcom, Connected Nations - Planned Network Deployments 2026, all reported deployment plans.

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

4.45 Further evidence: Information on developer contributions and infrastructure funding is not yet available. This evidence will be incorporated as the Local Plan evidence base develops.

5. PLACEMAKING, DESIGN AND HERITAGE

Key baseline data sources used in this section:

- Historic England, National Heritage List for England
- Historic England, Heritage at Risk Register
- Knowsley Council, Local Plan Monitoring Report
- Ordnance Survey, OS MasterMap Topography Layer and Building Height Attribute
- Ordnance Survey, AddressBase Premium

HERITAGE ASSETS

5.1 Knowsley's historic environment includes 106 listed buildings, comprising one Grade I, four Grade II* and 101 Grade II listed buildings (Table 34). The borough also contains 15 conservation areas and two Grade II registered parks and gardens, and no Scheduled Monuments within Knowsley. The Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER), maintained by MEAS, holds 1,998 records of sites, buildings, structures, areas and landscape features in Knowsley (September 2026).[55]

Table 34: Listed buildings by grade

Grade	Number
Grade I	1
Grade II*	4
Grade II	101
All listed buildings	106

Source: Historic England, National Heritage List for England.

CONSERVATION AREAS AND ARTICLE 4 DIRECTIONS

5.2 Knowsley has 15 conservation areas. Seven have conservation area appraisals dating from 2012 or later, while the remaining eight were last appraised in 2005 (Table 35). Three conservation areas are subject to Article 4 directions: Huyton Church (St Michael's), Ingoe Lane in Kirkby and Knowsley Village. Figure 43 maps the historic environment.

Table 35: Conservation area appraisal status

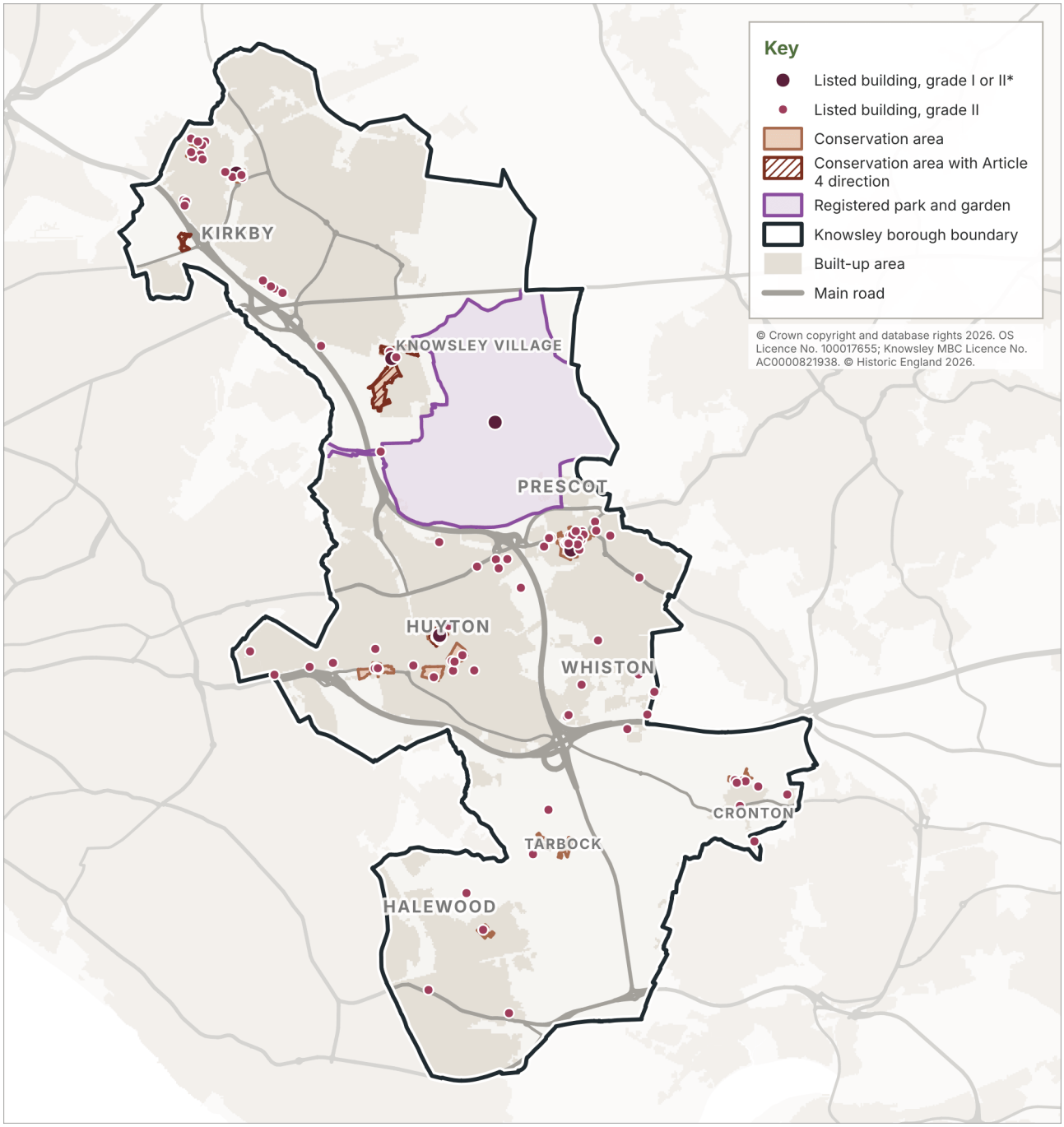
Conservation area	Latest appraisal	At risk	Article 4
North Park Road	2018	No	No
South Park Road, Kirkby	2018	No	No
Town End, Cronton	2017	No	No
Roby	2015	No	No
Victoria Road and Huyton Church	2015	No	No
The Orchard	2014	No	No
Prescot Town Centre	2012	Yes	No
Halewood Village	2005	No	No
Huyton Church (St Michael's)	2005	No	Yes
Ingoe Lane, Kirkby	2005	No	Yes
Knowsley Village	2005	No	Yes
Old Hall Lane, Kirkby	2005	No	No

[55] MEAS, Historic Environment Record (HER)

Conservation area	Latest appraisal	At risk	Article 4
Ribblers Lane, Kirkby	2005	No	No
Tarbock Green	2005	No	No
Tarbock Village	2005	No	No

Source: Knowsley Local Plan Monitoring Report 2025-26; Historic England, Heritage at Risk Register.

Figure 43: Designated heritage assets



Source: Historic England, National Heritage List for England; Knowsley Council.

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS AND OTHER HISTORIC CONSIDERATIONS

5.3 Two registered parks and gardens, both Grade II, lie wholly or partly in Knowsley: Knowsley Park (about 977 hectares in the borough) and the eastern edge of Croxteth Hall Park (about 10 hectares), most of which lies in Liverpool. These form part of the borough's designated historic environment alongside its listed buildings and conservation areas.

HERITAGE AT RISK

5.4 Two heritage assets in Knowsley are included on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register: Prescot Town Centre Conservation Area and the Church of St Chad, Old Hall Lane, Knowsley.[56] Prescot Town Centre Conservation Area is assessed as being in poor condition, with low vulnerability and an improving trend. The Church of St Chad, a Grade II* listed place of worship, is assessed as being in poor condition (priority C: slow decay, no solution agreed). Both entries are unchanged in the 2026 Register, published on 5 November 2026.

DESIGN

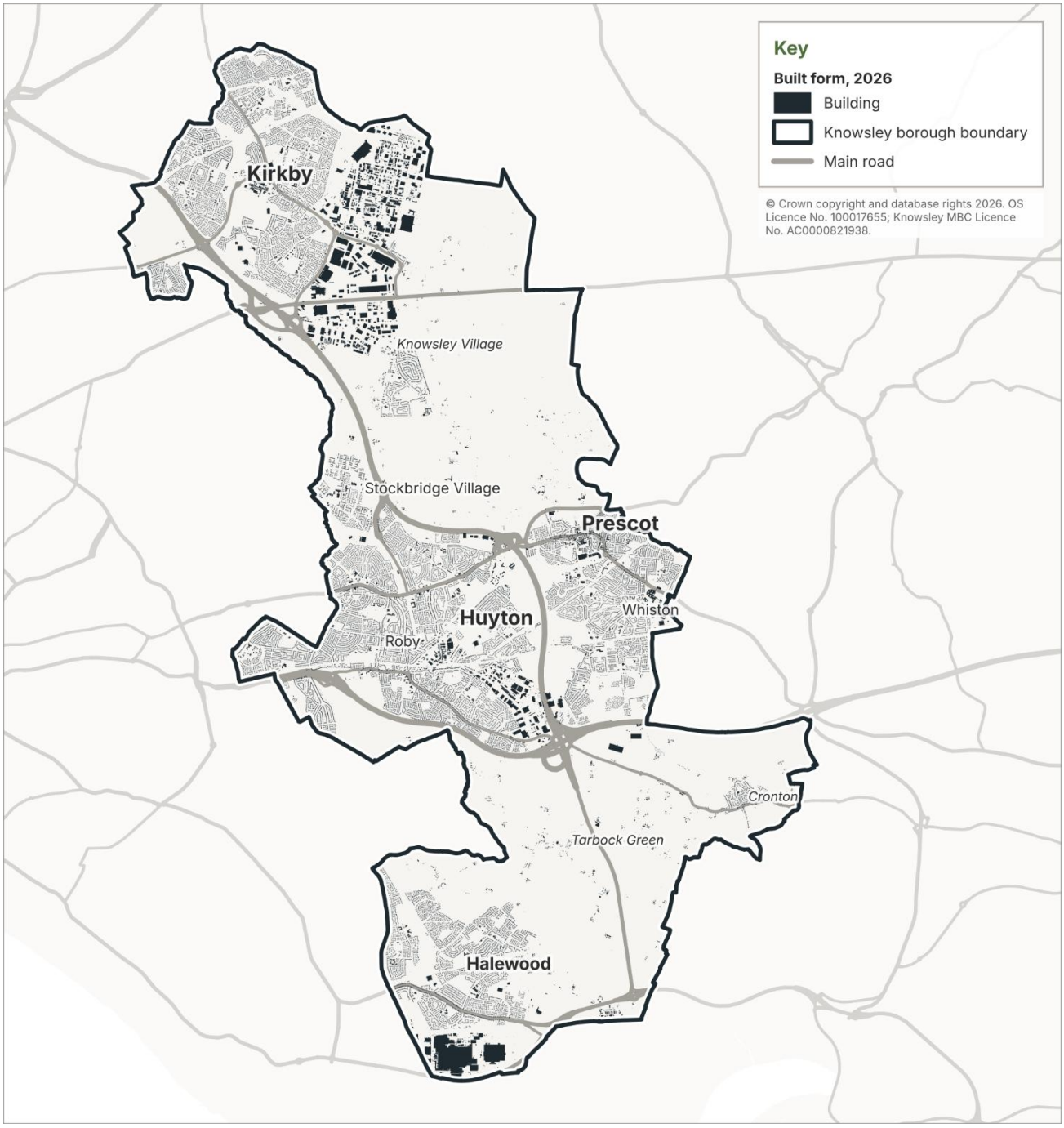
5.5 The spatial data below provide an initial borough-wide baseline of built form and settlement characteristics, including the distribution, scale, height, use and residential composition of development across Knowsley. These datasets provide an initial evidence base for understanding the borough's physical character. More detailed evidence on townscape, character areas, streetscape quality, urban design and place identity will be incorporated as the Local Plan evidence base develops.

5.6 There are approximately 104,305 buildings within Knowsley, with a combined footprint of around 766 hectares, equivalent to 8.9% of the borough (Figure 44). Most buildings have relatively small footprints, with 94% covering less than 100 square metres. Larger-footprint buildings are concentrated principally within industrial and business areas in Kirkby, south Huyton and Halewood.

5.7 The Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project's Knowsley report (2011)[57] records that, with the exception of Prescot and a few other smaller older settlements, most existing development in the borough took place between the 1920s and the mid-1970s, much of it as Liverpool overspill. Based on 2003 mapping, it classifies about 35% of the borough (2,775 hectares) as residential, 30% (2,592 hectares) as field systems, 9% as recreational and ornamental, 8% (714 hectares) as industrial, 5% as commercial and 4% as civil. Natural England's National Character Areas, which give a broad description of landscape and built character, are set out in section 6.

[56] Historic England, Heritage at Risk Register.
[57] National Museums and English Heritage, The Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project (2011)

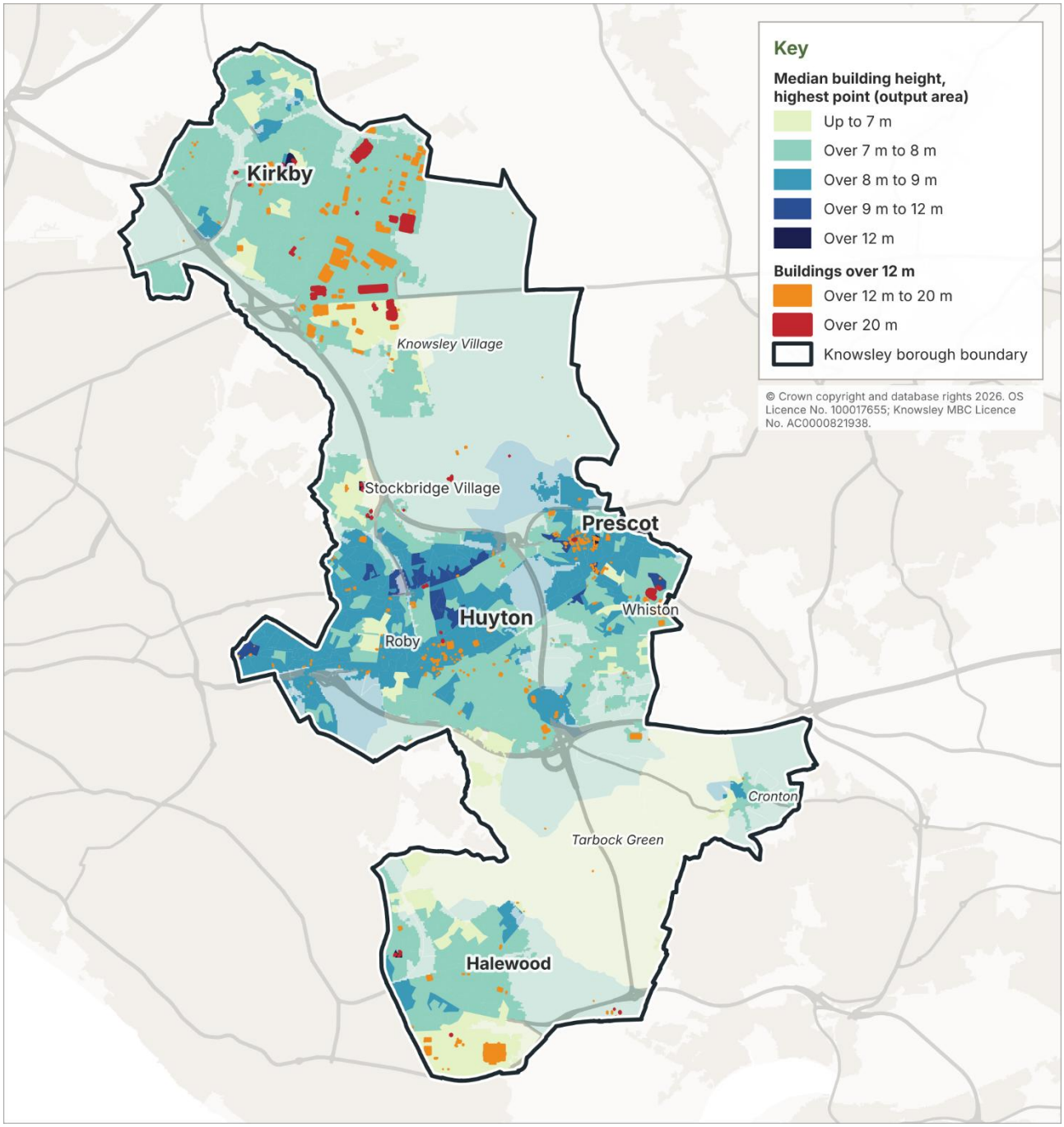
Figure 44: Built form, 2026



Source: OS MasterMap Topography Layer, October 2026.

5.8 Available building-height data indicate that Knowsley is predominantly low-rise (Figure 45). Excluding small structures without an address, such as garages and sheds, a height is recorded for 69,952 buildings. Of these, 65% have a maximum height of 8 meters or less and 99% are 12 meters or less. In 309 of the borough's output areas the median building height is between 7 and 9 meters, and in a further 131 it is between 8 and 9 meters. Output areas with a higher median area concentrated in Huyton and Roby, and Prescot. A total of 650 buildings have a recorded height greater than 12 meters, including 74 greater than 20 meters. Buildings over 20 metres are principally located in Halewood, Kirkby and Stockbridge Village, while most of those between 12 and 20 metres are in Huyton and Roby, Prescot and Kirkby.

Figure 45: Median building height by output area, 2026

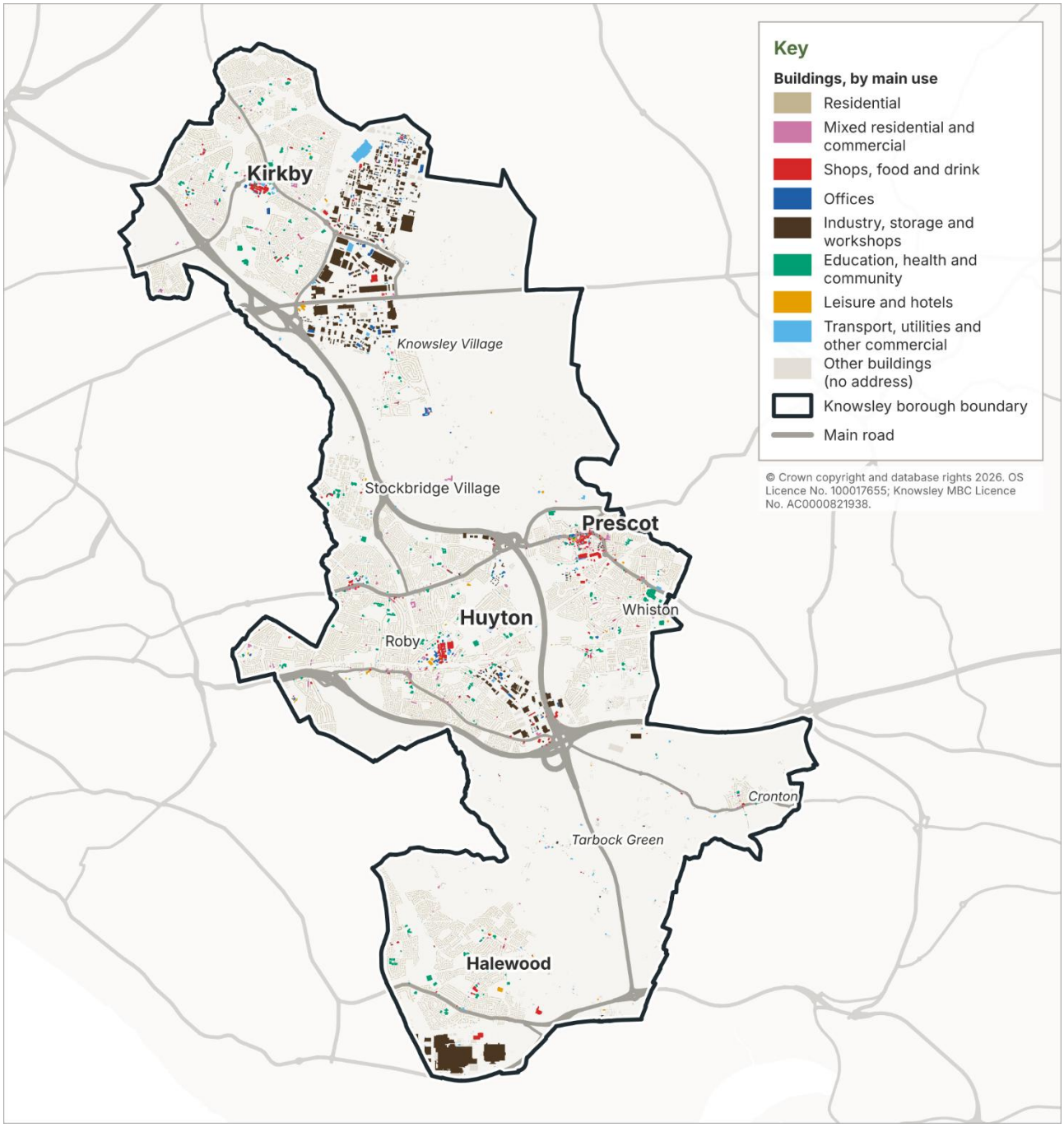


Source: OS MasterMap Topography Layer, October 2026; OS MasterMap Topography Layer Building Height Attribute, April 2026; OS Open Built Up Areas.

Note: Building height is measured to the highest point of the roof above ground level. Shading shows the median height of the buildings in each output area, and buildings over 12 meters are shown individually. Buildings without an address and with a footprint less than 50 sqm, mainly garages, sheds and outbuildings are excluded; a height is recorded for 97% of he remaining buildings. The height bands shown are illustrative and do not represent building storeys.

5.9 Residential buildings account for 64% of buildings in the borough and 52% of the total building footprint (Figure 46). Buildings identified as industrial, storage or workshop uses account for less than 1% of buildings but approximately 23% of the total building footprint, reflecting the larger scale of individual buildings within these uses. These buildings are concentrated principally in Kirkby, south Huyton and Halewood. Buildings in retail use are concentrated within and around the town centres of Huyton, Kirkby and Prescot.

Figure 46: Buildings by main use, 2026

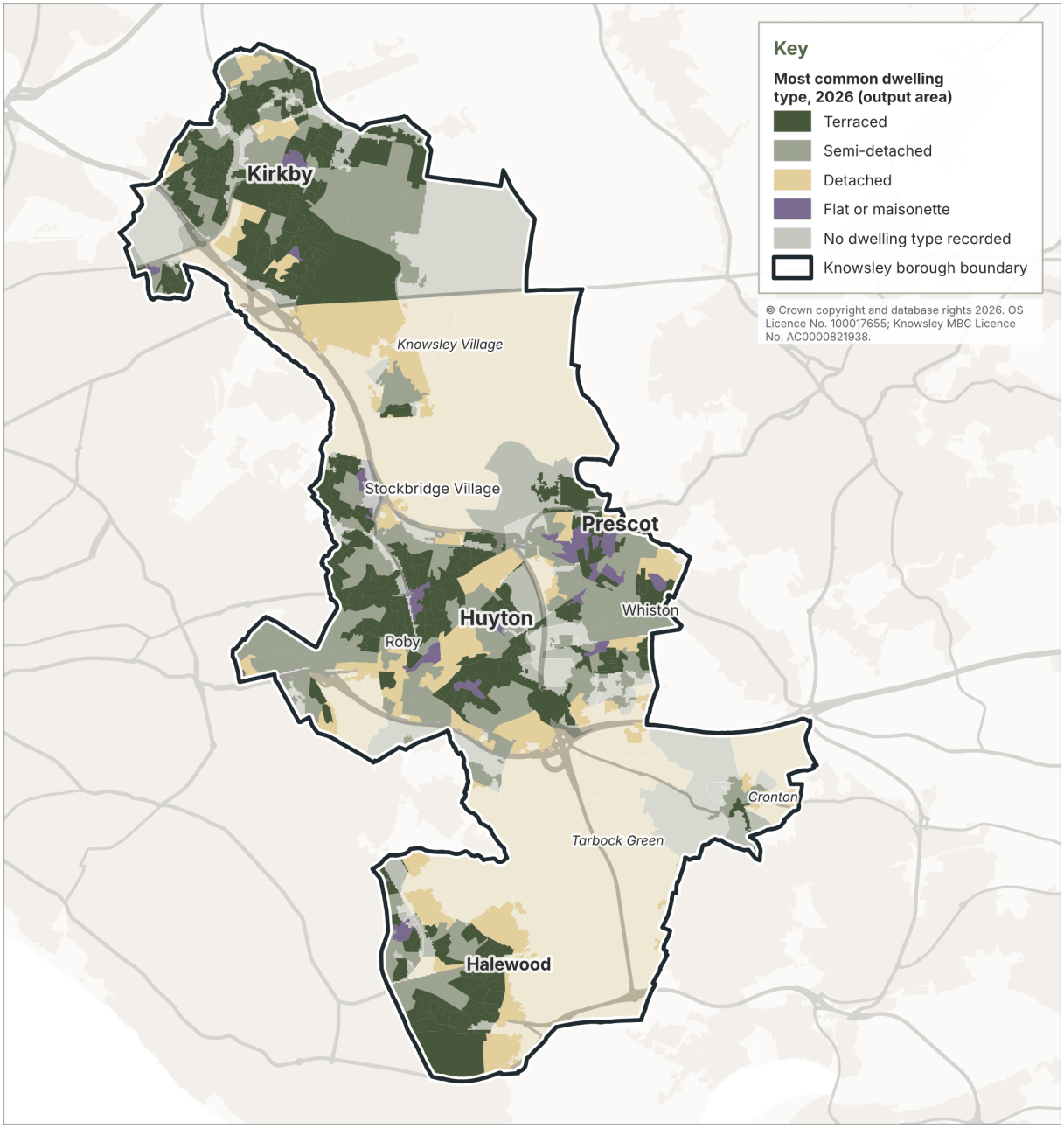


Source: OS MasterMap Topography Layer, October 2026; OS AddressBase Premium, July 2026.

Note: Building use has been derived from the addresses associated with each building. Buildings containing both residential and commercial addresses are classified as mixed use. Ancillary addresses, including canteens and cash machines, do not determine the principal use. Buildings of 5,000 square metres or more containing an industrial or storage address are classified as industrial.

5.10 OS AddressBase Premium records 73,060 residential addresses in Knowsley. Of these, 40% are terraced properties, 35% semi-detached, 14% detached and 10% flats or maisonettes. Terraced housing is the most common dwelling type in 240 of the borough's 507 output areas, while semi-detached housing is the most common in 180 (Figure 47). Flats or maisonettes are the most common dwelling type in 30 output areas, including a concentration in and around Prescot town centre.

Figure 47: Most common dwelling type by output area, 2026



Source: OS AddressBase Premium, July 2026; OS Open Built Up Areas.

Note: Figure 47 shows the dwelling type accounting for the largest number of residential addresses within each output area. Paler shading identifies parts of output areas outside the mapped built-up area.

6. GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDSCAPE AND GREEN BELT

Key baseline data sources used in this section:

- Natural England / Defra, MAGIC designations and priority habitats
- Natural England / Defra, Open Data Geoportal (constraint layers)
- MEAS / Merseyside BioBank, Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites
- Ordnance Survey, Open Greenspace
- Historic England, National Heritage List (Scheduled Monuments; Registered Parks & Gardens)
- MHCLG planning.data.gov.uk, Green Belt (mapped boundary), December 2025

GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPEN SPACE

6.1 Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace identifies 225 green-space sites in Knowsley, covering approximately 680 hectares on a net basis.[58] The mapped sites include parks and gardens, playing fields, play spaces, sports facilities, allotments, cemeteries and religious grounds. Parks and gardens, playing fields and play spaces account for 139 sites covering approximately 453 hectares, while managed sports facilities account for 43 sites covering approximately 211 hectares, including around 164 hectares of golf courses. A further 43 sites covering approximately 25 hectares comprise allotments, cemeteries and religious grounds (Table 36). The dataset is a mapped inventory and does not show the quality, public access or adequacy of these spaces.

Table 36: Green space by broad type

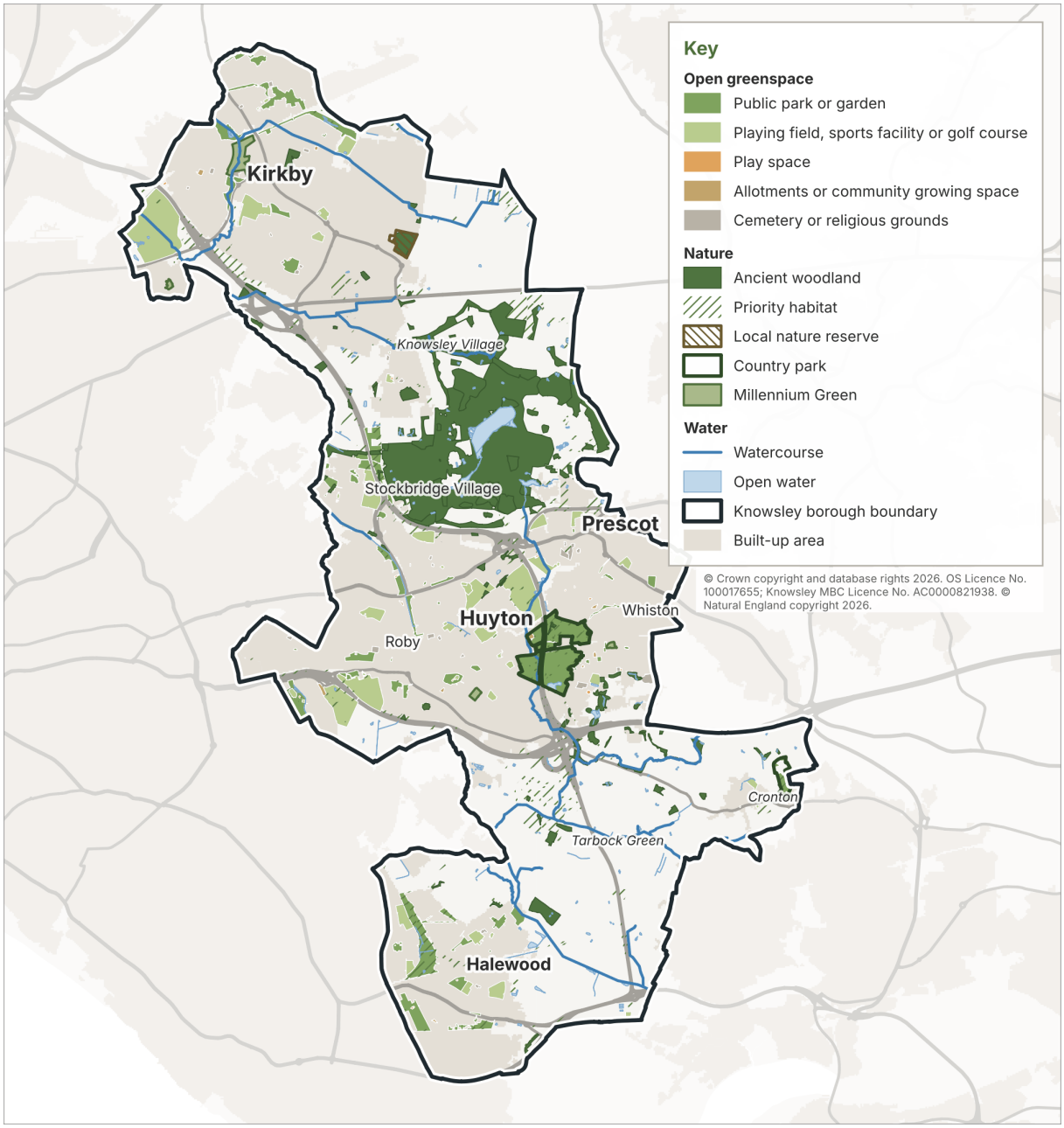
Category	OS Open Greenspace type	Sites	Area (ha)
Parks, playing fields and play spaces (access arrangements vary)	Public park or garden	72	354.1
	Playing field	25	93.9
	Play space	42	4.8
	Subtotal	**139**	**452.8**
Sports facilities, access usually managed (club, membership or booking)	Golf course	5	163.6
	Other sports facility	23	43.9
	Bowling green	10	3.1
	Tennis court	5	0.5
	Subtotal	**43**	**211.1**
Green space with a primary function other than public recreation	Religious grounds	29	14.4
	Cemetery	4	6.0
	Allotments or community growing space	10	4.7
	Subtotal	**43**	**25.1**
All green space	**Total (sum of types)**	**225**	**689.0**
	Total net of overlapping sites		**679.9**

Source: Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace (April 2026 release).

6.2 Further evidence: A current assessment of open-space quantity, quality, accessibility and need, together with an updated Playing Pitch Strategy/Assessment is not yet available. This evidence will be incorporated as the Local Plan evidence base develops.

[58] Ordnance Survey, OS Open Greenspace.

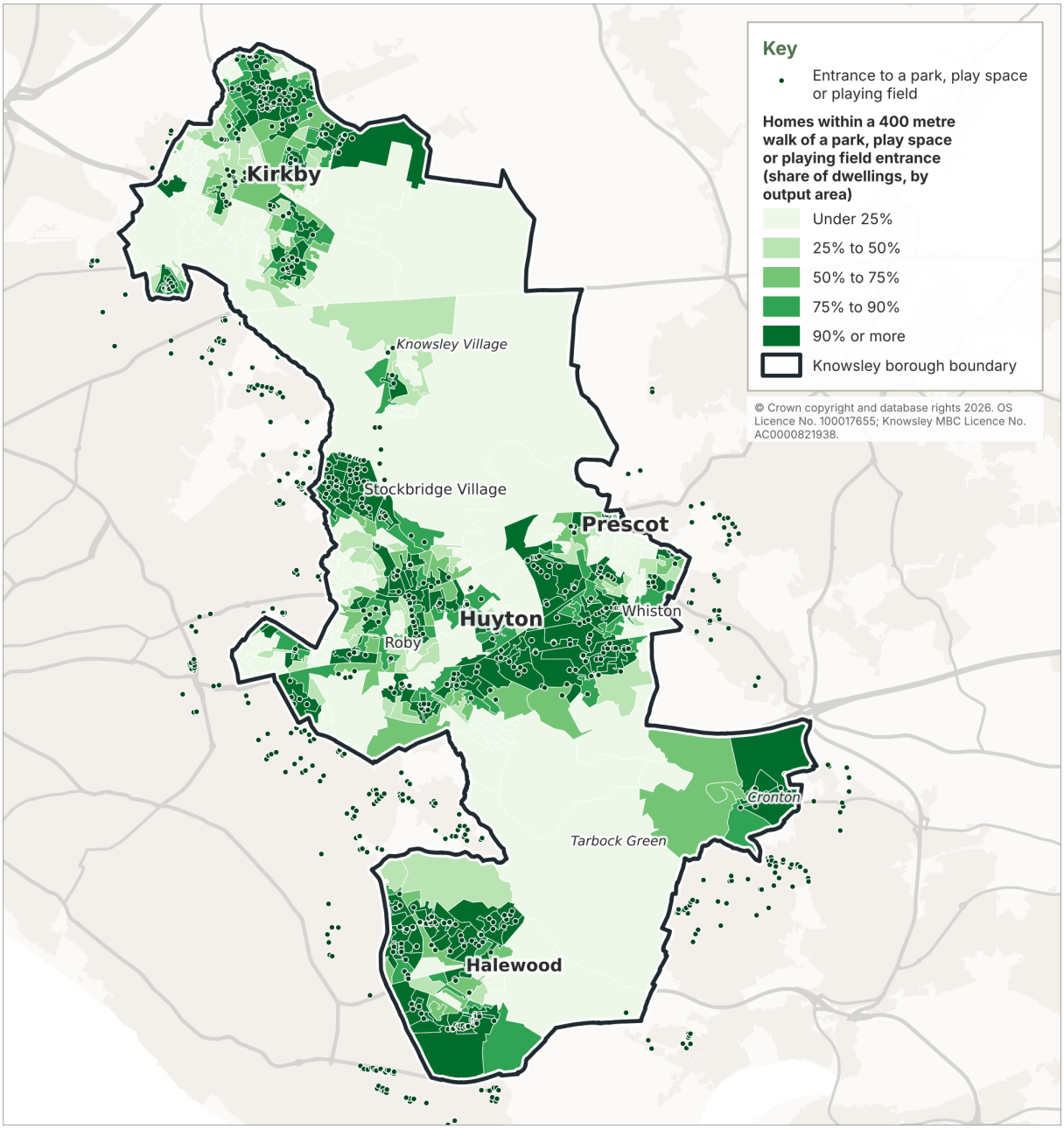
Figure 48: Green and blue infrastructure



Source: OS Open Greenspace and OS Open Rivers, 2026; Natural England.

6.3 Based on walking routes along the road and footpath network to OS Open Greenspace access points for parks and gardens, play spaces and playing fields, including sites immediately outside the borough boundary, 57% of Knowsley homes (residential addresses in OS AddressBase Premium, July 2026) are within a 400 metre walk of an access point and 94% are within an 800 metre walk (Figure 49). These figures measure proximity to mapped green-space access points and do not assess the quantity, quality or capacity of individual spaces. The 400 metre and 800 metre distances are analytical measures used for this baseline and do not represent adopted local or national accessibility standards. Figure 48 maps the green and blue infrastructure.

Figure 49: Homes within a 400 metre walk of a park, play space or playing field entrance



Source: OS Open Greenspace, OS MasterMap Highways Network and OS AddressBase Premium, 2026.

BIODIVERSITY, GEODIVERSITY AND NATURE RECOVERY

6.4 There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar sites or National Nature Reserves (NNR) within Knowsley. The borough contains one statutory Local Nature Reserve, Acornfield Plantation in Kirkby, covering approximately 12.3 hectares. The Mersey Estuary SPA, Ramsar site and SSSI lies outside the borough, approximately 1.6 km from its southern boundary.

6.5 At the local level, Knowsley contains 75 Local Wildlife Sites covering approximately 1,472 hectares and six Local Geological Sites covering approximately 7.7 hectares (Table 37). Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites are non-statutory Local Sites identified for their substantive nature conservation or geological interest.

Table 37: Local and designated sites

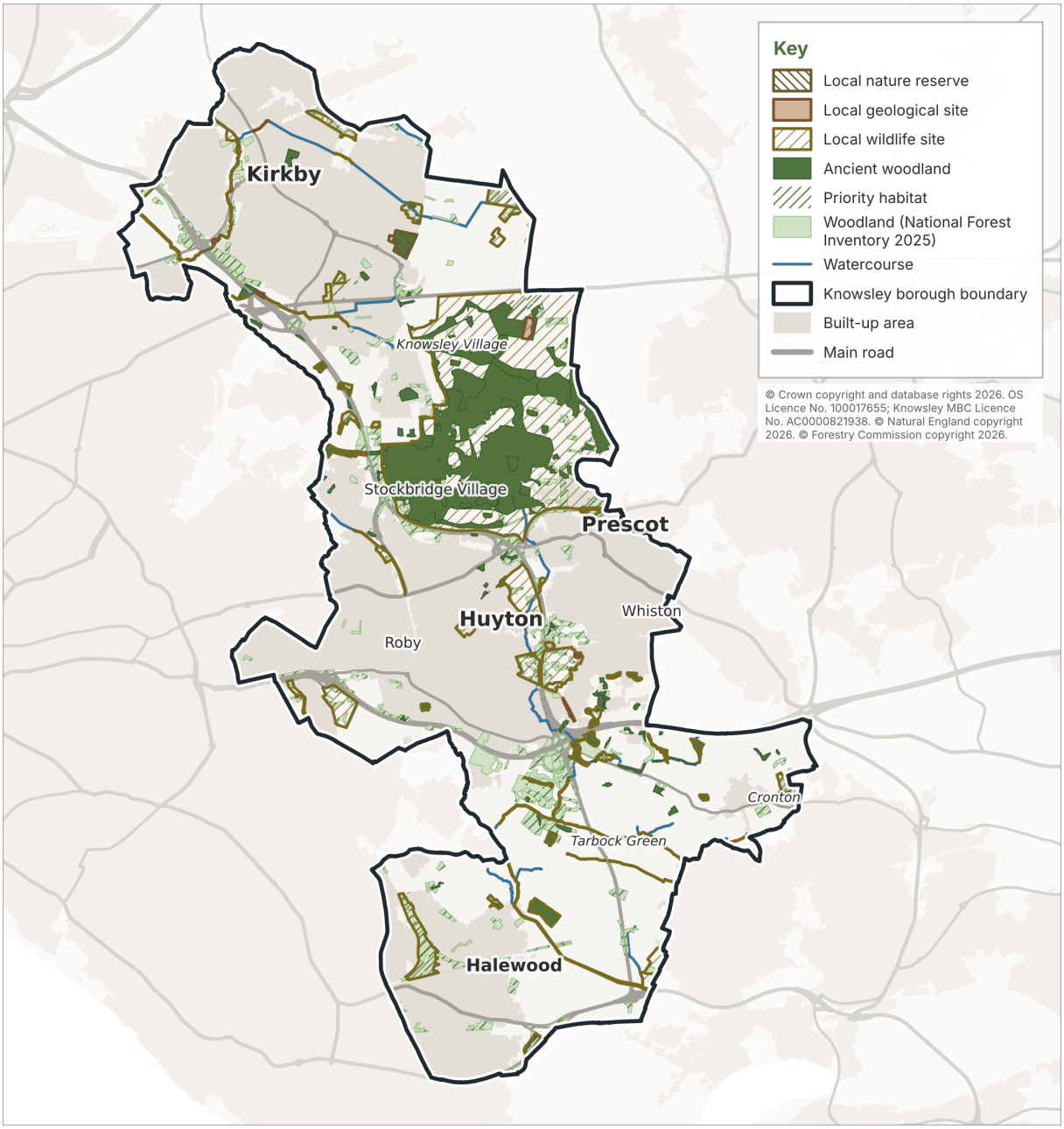
Site type	Number	Area (ha)
Local Wildlife Sites	75	1,472
Local Nature Reserves	1	12.3
Local Geological Sites	6	7.7
Registered Parks & Gardens (both Grade II)	2	986
Scheduled Monuments	0	-
SSSI / SAC / SPA / Ramsar / NNR (within borough)	0	-

Source: MEAS / Merseyside BioBank, Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites (2024); Natural England.

6.6 The Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy was approved in March 2026. Its Local Habitat Map identifies areas where action to create, restore or enhance habitat could make a particular contribution to nature recovery. Within Knowsley, approximately 1,727 hectares are identified as opportunities for woodland creation and approximately 1,526 hectares as core biodiversity opportunity areas.[59] Figure 50 maps the local designated sites and habitats, and Figure 51 the Local Nature Recovery Strategy opportunity areas. Figure 52 shows Natural England's National Habitat Network.

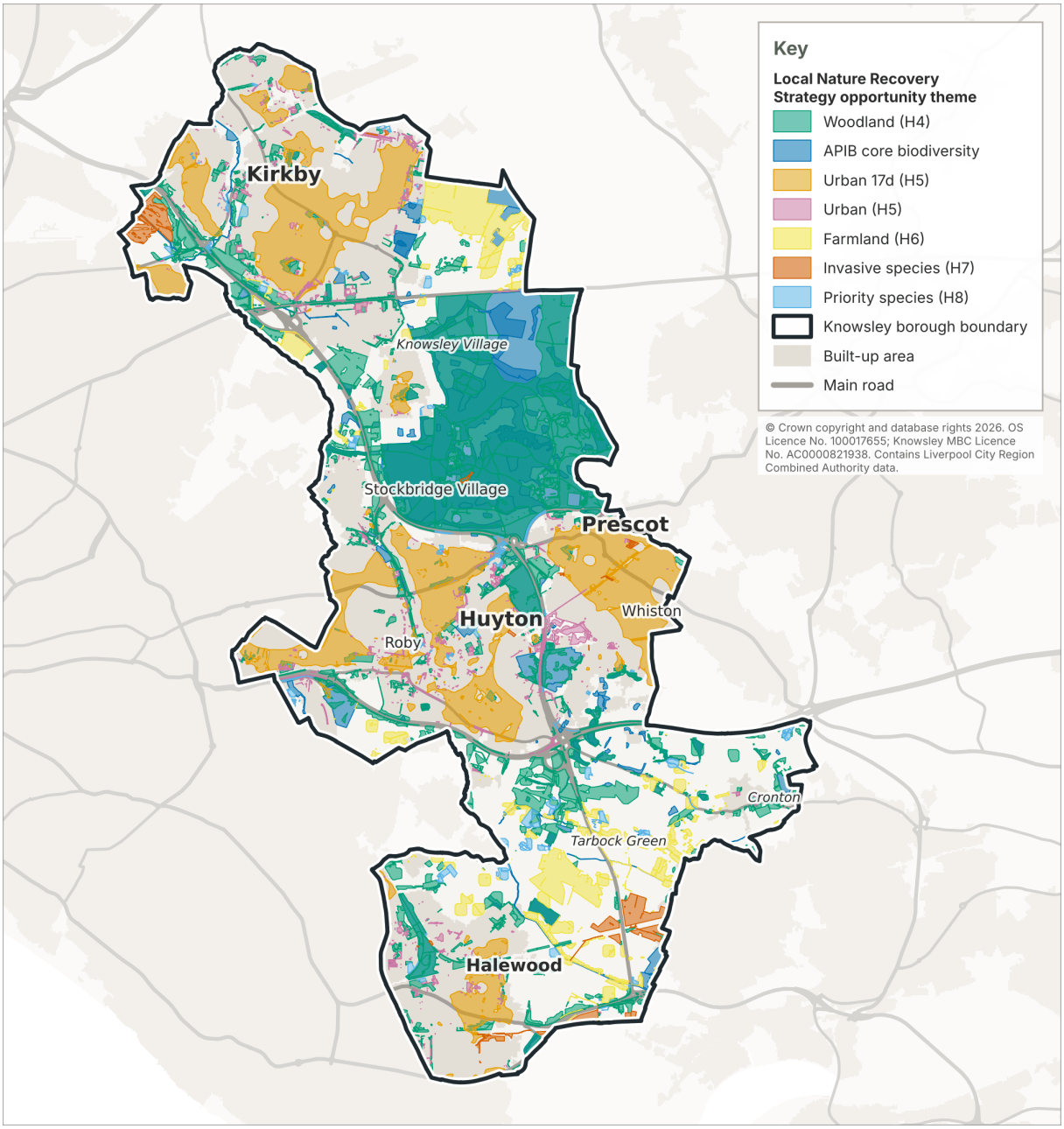
[59] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Local Nature Recovery Strategy (approved March 2026).

Figure 50: Local designated sites and habitats



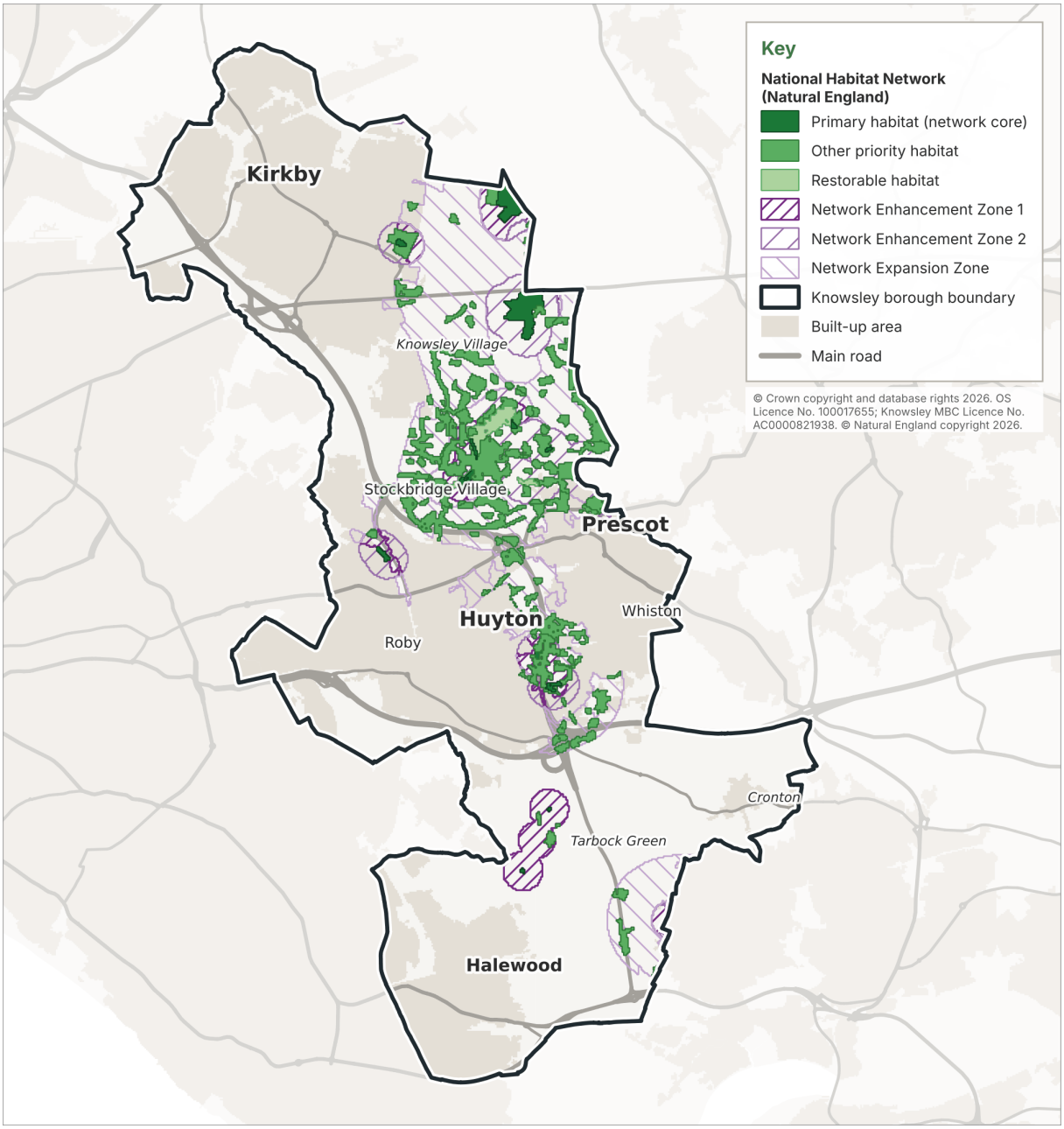
Source: Knowsley Council and MEAS, local wildlife and geological sites, 2026; Natural England; Forestry Commission, National Forest Inventory 2025.

Figure 51: Local Nature Recovery Strategy opportunity areas



Source: Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy, 2026.

Figure 52: National Habitat Network



Source: Natural England, Habitat Networks (England), 2026.

DESIGNATED SITES, HABITATS AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

6.7 Table 38 sets out the area of the borough covered by the principal environmental designations and constraints. Several of them overlap, so the areas should not be added together.

Table 38: Environmental designations, land characteristics and constraints, area within Knowsley

Designation / constraint	Area (ha)
Source Protection Zones	5,903
Green Belt (mapped boundary, planning.data.gov.uk)	4,224
National Habitat Network	2,284
Priority Habitat	815
Ancient Woodland	696
OS Open Greenspace	680
Flood Zones 2 and 3	403
Agricultural land covered by detailed survey (post-1988)	269

Source: MHCLG, Green Belt (planning.data.gov.uk), December 2025; Natural England, Ancient Woodland Inventory, 2026; Environment Agency.

LANDSCAPE

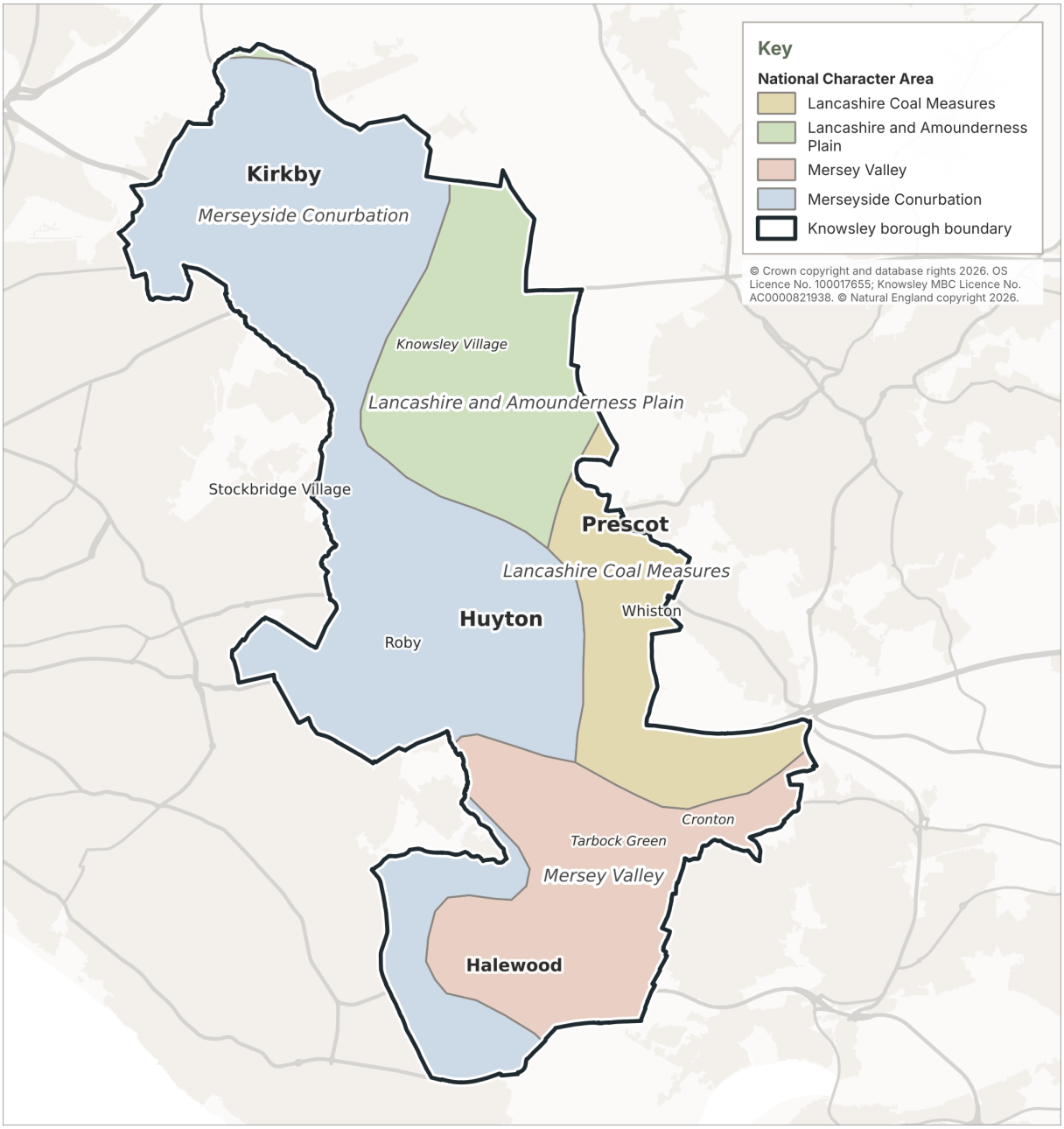
6.8 The borough falls within four of Natural England's National Character Areas: NCA 58 Merseyside Conurbation (about 4,520 hectares), covering most of Kirkby, Huyton and Roby, Stockbridge Village and part of Halewood; NCA 60 Mersey Valley (about 1,620 hectares), covering Tarbock and much of Halewood; NCA 32 Lancashire and Amounderness Plain (about 1,520 hectares), covering most of Knowsley Park and the land east of Kirkby; and NCA 56 Lancashire Coal Measures (about 990 hectares), covering most of Whiston and Prescot and the countryside north of Cronton.

6.9 The Council's Landscape Character Assessment (September 2007) provides a borough-wide assessment of Knowsley's rural landscapes. It identifies six landscape character types (urban fringe farmland, urban fringe amenity land, urban fringe farmed river plain, urban fringe parkland, low sandstone hills and urban fringe farmed parkland) and seven landscape character areas. These sit within four National Character Areas: Simonswood Moss and Knowsley Estate (Lancashire and Amounderness Plain); Halsnead Estate and Cronton Pex Hill (Lancashire Coal Measures); Kirkby Golf Course and Knowsley Village/M57 Corridor (Merseyside Conurbation); and Tarbock (Mersey Valley). The assessment focused on the identification and description of landscape character and did not extend to the evaluation stage, such as the preparation of landscape management guidelines or assessments of landscape capacity. As the assessment was prepared in 2007, it predates the adoption of the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (2016) and subsequent changes to the borough's Green Belt. Consequently, it should be viewed as a valuable baseline resource, although it does not reflect more recent patterns of development and landscape change within the borough.

6.10 Natural England's detailed post-1988 agricultural land classification surveys cover 269 hectares of the borough, from 11 survey reports. Of this, 104 hectares is Grade 2 and 53 hectares Grade 3a, so about 157 hectares of surveyed land is best and most versatile agricultural land; 37 hectares is Grade 3b and 5 hectares Grades 4 and 5. The remaining 70 hectares is recorded as "Other" or "Not Surveyed". The rest of the borough has only the provisional 1:250,000 classification, which is not reliable at site level. There are no nationally designated landscapes (National Parks or National Landscapes) in the borough.

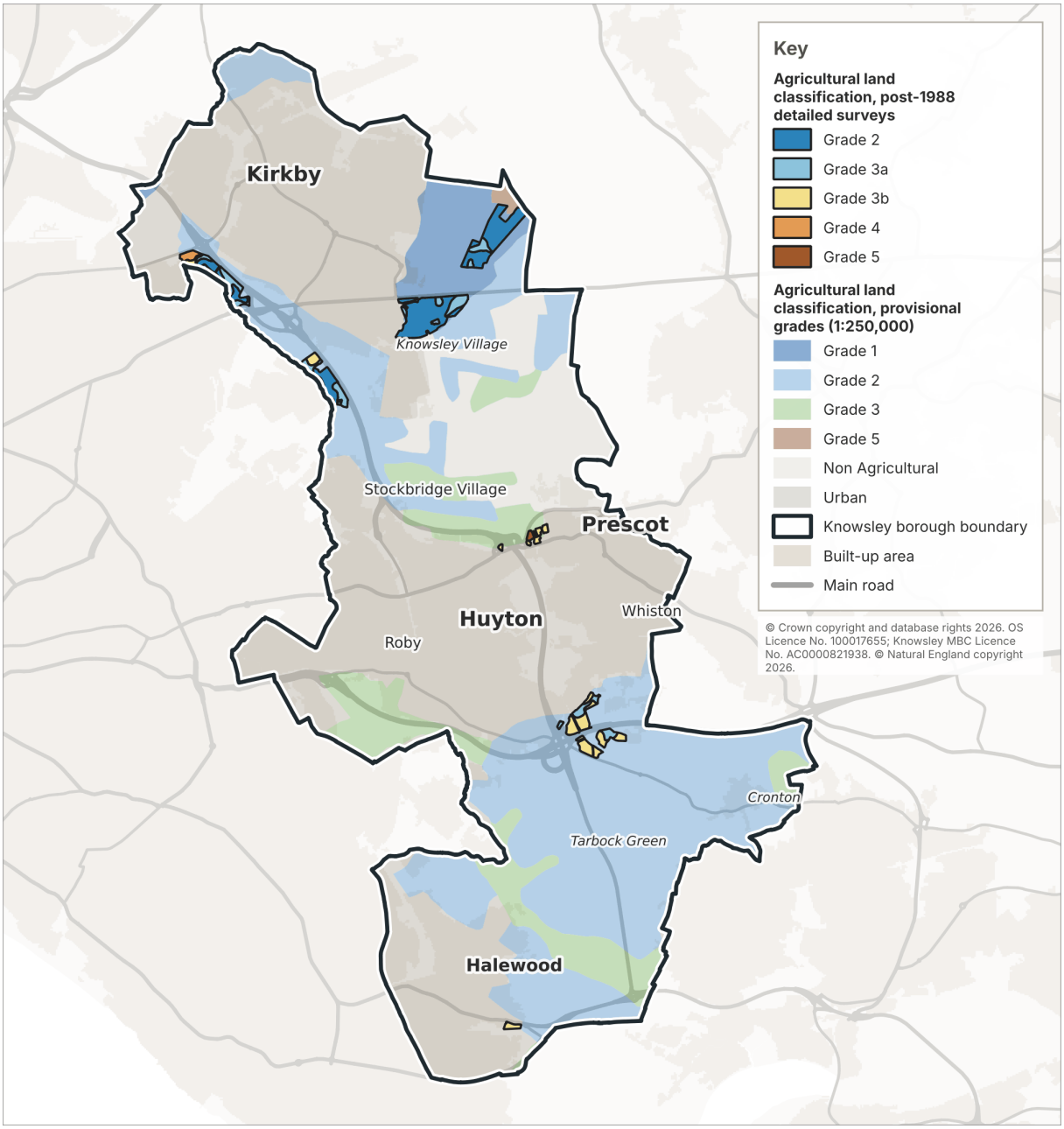
6.11 Beyond the surveyed sites, the only borough-wide grading is Natural England's provisional agricultural land classification at 1:250,000. It shows 366 hectares of Grade 1 and 2,760 hectares of Grade 2 land in the borough, and 2,559 hectares of Grades 1 and 2 within the Green Belt, 61% of the Green Belt's area. The provisional series does not distinguish Grade 3a from 3b and is not reliable for individual sites (Figure 54). Figure 53 shows the National Character Areas. Further information on local landscape character will be obtained through the plan-making process.

Figure 53: National Character Areas



Source: Natural England, National Character Areas.

Figure 54: Agricultural land classification



Source: Natural England, Agricultural Land Classification (post-1988 surveys and provisional grades).

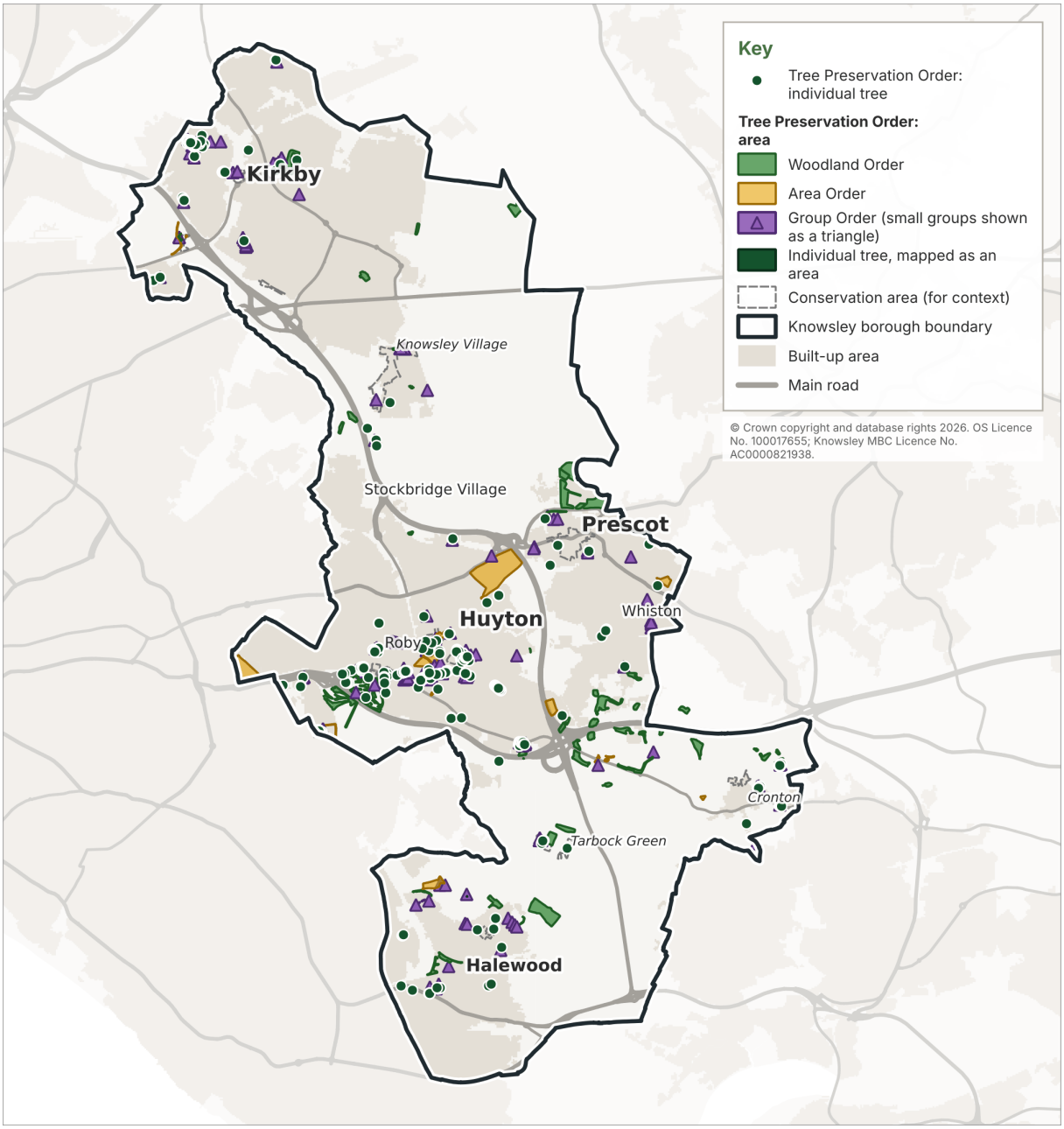
TREES AND WOODLAND

6.12 Natural England's revised Ancient Woodland Inventory records 126 parcels of ancient woodland, 696 hectares, within the borough. Tree preservation orders are mapped at Figure 55.

6.13 The Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory records 289 trees in Knowsley: 283 veteran trees, one ancient tree and five veteran trees recorded as lost.[60] Of these records, 270 are within the Knowsley Park registered park and garden and 280 within the Green Belt; the most common species are sweet chestnut, beech and oak. The inventory is a record of trees that people have reported, not a complete survey, and the Woodland Trust does not claim that it lists every ancient or veteran tree, so others may be found when sites are surveyed. The inventory is relevant when sites are assessed, because these trees cannot be replaced.

[60] Woodland Trust, Ancient Tree Inventory.

Figure 55: Tree Preservation Orders



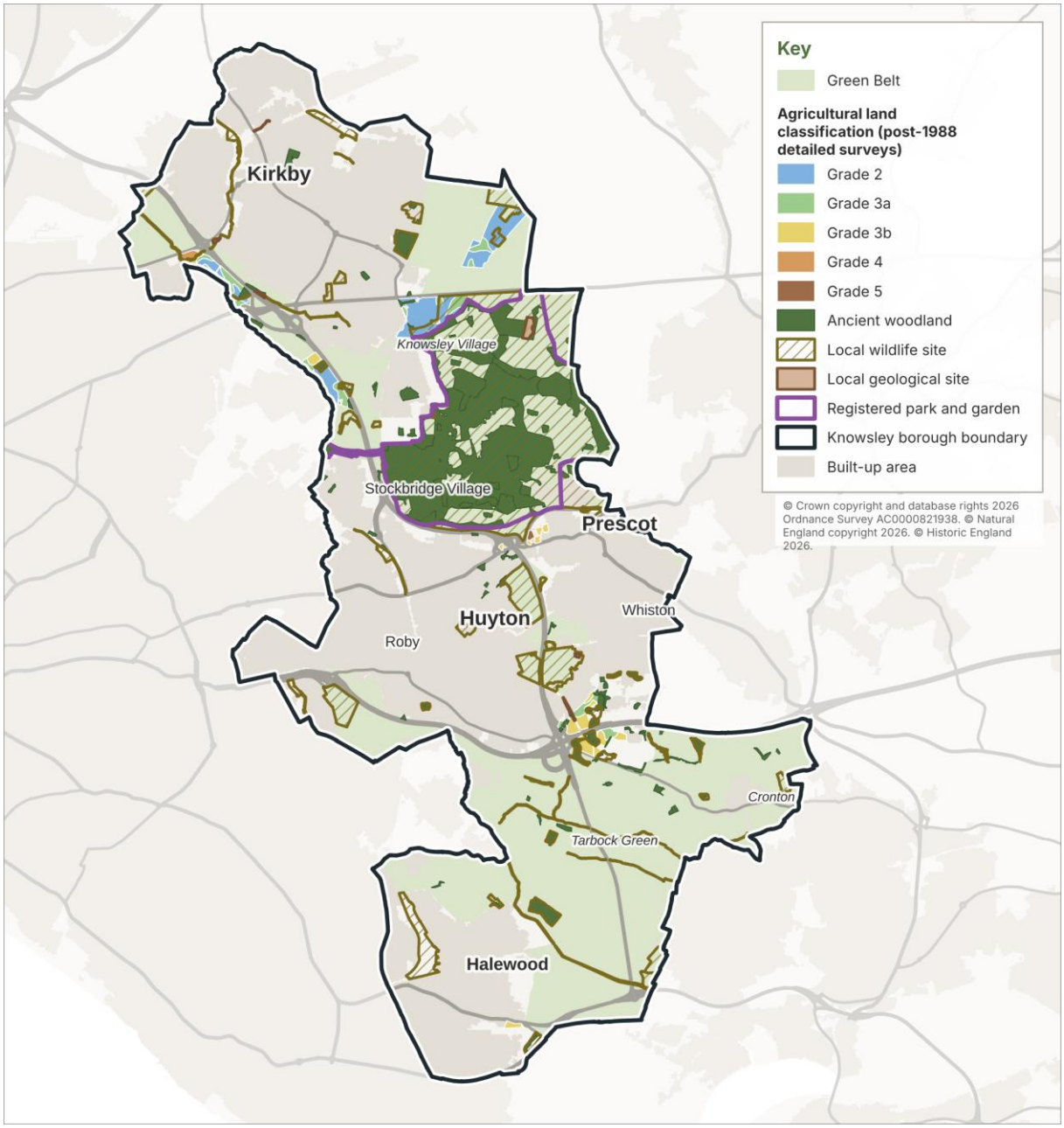
Source: Knowsley Council, Tree Preservation Orders, 2026.

GREEN BELT

6.14 Green Belt covers 4,224 hectares, 48.8% of the borough, just under half.

6.15 This section records the extent of the Green Belt. It does not assess the purposes the Green Belt serves or consider any change to its boundaries. Whether evidence on the Green Belt beyond this baseline is needed will depend on the subsequent consideration of spatial options as the plan progresses. Figure 56 maps the Green Belt.

Figure 56: Green Belt and environmental designations



Source: Knowsley MBC; Natural England; Historic England.

ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

6.16 The evidence identifies opportunities as well as constraints. The Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies opportunity areas in Knowsley of 1,727 hectares for woodland creation and 1,526 hectares for core biodiversity. The constraints include the Green Belt, ancient woodland and local wildlife sites, and the likelihood, on the provisional classification, that much of the Green Belt is best and most versatile agricultural land.

7. HOUSING, HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Key baseline data sources used in this section:

- MHCLG, Live tables on dwelling stock (including vacants)
- ONS, Ratio of house price to workplace-based earnings
- ONS, Price Index of Private Rents, UK: monthly price statistics
- MHCLG, Planning Practice Guidance: Housing and economic development needs assessments
- Knowsley Council, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2026 (base date 31 March 2026, published October 2026), with Appendix D housing trajectory
- MHCLG, Housing Delivery Test 2025
- Knowsley Council, Affordable Housing Need Model 2026 (working model, not yet validated)
- DLUHC, Energy Performance Certificates open data
- MHCLG, Traveller Caravan Count
- Knowsley Council, Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2022-2026
- Knowsley Council, Supporting Independent Living in Knowsley: Extra Care strategy (March 2016)
- Knowsley Council, Local Plan Monitoring Report
- MHCLG, Statutory homelessness statistics

HOUSING STOCK AND TENURE

7.1 At the 2021 Census, 59.5% of Knowsley households were owner-occupiers, a further 0.8% were in shared ownership, 25.3% were social renters and 14.3% private renters. Figure 58 shows dwelling density by output area.

Table 39: Housing tenure, Knowsley 2021

Tenure	Households	%
Owned	39,286	59.5
Shared ownership	543	0.8
Social rented	16,687	25.3
Private rented	9,461	14.3
Lives rent free	96	0.1

Source: ONS, Census 2021, Table TS054.

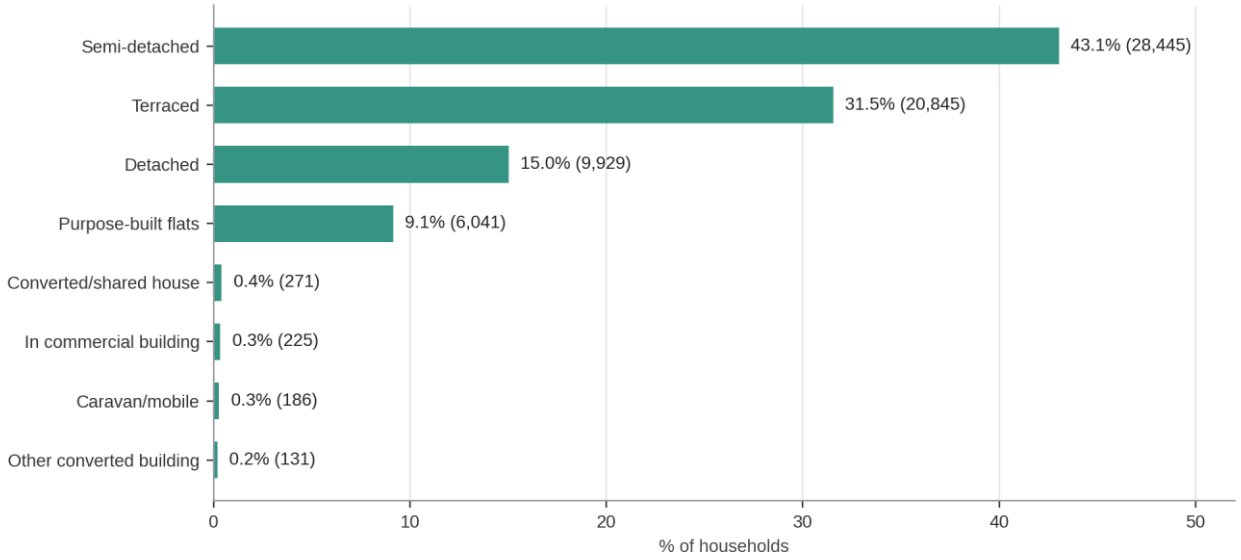
7.2 By type, 43% of Knowsley households live in semi-detached homes, 32% in terraced homes, 15% in detached homes and 9% in purpose-built flats.

Table 40: Accommodation type, Knowsley 2021

Accommodation type	Households	%
Detached	9,929	15.0
Semi-detached	28,445	43.1
Terraced	20,845	31.5
Purpose-built flats	6,041	9.1
Converted/shared house	271	0.4
Other converted building	131	0.2
In commercial building	225	0.3
Caravan/mobile	186	0.3

Source: ONS, Census 2021, Table TS044. Counts are households by the type of accommodation they occupy, not dwellings.

Figure 57: Households by accommodation type, Knowsley 2021



Source: ONS, Census 2021, Table TS044.

Dwelling stock and vacancy

7.3 Knowsley's dwelling stock was 72,058 in 2025. The vacancy rate was 2.71%, up slightly from 2.60% in 2024 and below the England rate of 2.92%. Long-term vacants rose more sharply, from 673 to 865 dwellings, an increase of 192 (28.5%) in a single year, although still below the 912 and 972 recorded in 2021 and 2022.

7.4 The Council's own monitoring records 1,719 empty homes at the end of 2025-26, of which 1,397 are privately owned, and 92 empty homes were brought back into use during the year. The Council and MHCLG figures are measured on different bases and at different dates. The MHCLG series is used here for comparability across the city region, with the Council's figures providing local detail on tenure and duration.[61] Homes lost to demolition and change of use fell to 9 in 2025-26 from 101 the year before, with no demolitions recorded in the year. The 2024-25 figure of 101 comprises 98 demolitions and three losses through change of use (95 net of change-of-use gains).

Table 41: Dwelling stock and vacancy, Knowsley

Year	Dwelling stock	Total vacants	Vacancy rate (%)	Long-term vacants
2021	69,671	1,922	2.76	912
2022	70,170	2,068	2.95	972
2023	70,871	1,871	2.64	800
2024	71,597	1,860	2.60	673
2025	72,058	1,951	2.71	865

Source: MHCLG Live Table 125 and Live Table 615. Stock figures (31 March) for 2022 to 2025 are provisional, and 2024 has been revised; vacant dwellings are counted in October of each year (Live Table 615, June 2026 edition).

Energy performance of homes

7.5 Energy Performance Certificate records give a picture of the energy performance of homes that have a certificate; they are not a survey of housing condition. 53,234 Knowsley properties have an EPC on record (the most recent certificate for each property), and 67.9% of them are rated band C or above. 14,483 of these certificates were more than ten years old at 13 August 2026 and have therefore expired; on the 38,751 properties whose most recent certificate is less than ten years old, 77.9% are band C or above.

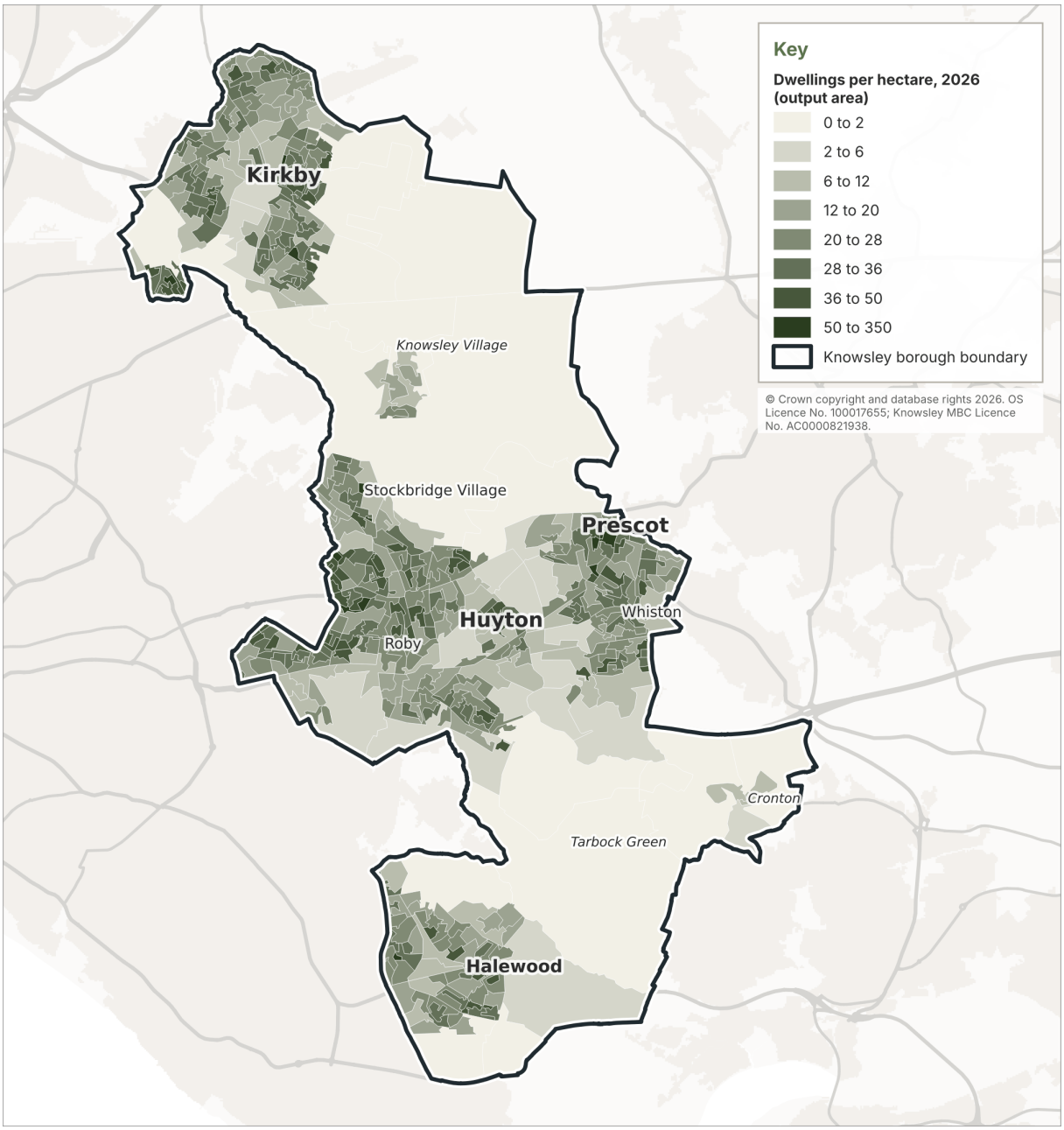
[61] MHCLG, Live Table 615.

Table 42: Domestic EPC band distribution

EPC band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Properties (most recent EPC)	285	9,742	26,114	12,859	3,403	624	207	53,234

Source: DLUHC Energy Performance Certificates open data. Includes certificates more than ten years old.

Figure 58: Dwelling density by output area, 2026



Source: OS AddressBase Premium, July 2026.

HOUSING MARKET AND AFFORDABILITY

7.6 In 2025 the median house price to residence-based earnings ratio in Knowsley was 5.19, meaning the typical home cost around five times typical annual earnings for residents. Knowsley is more affordable than England as a whole (7.64) and is one of the more affordable authorities in the city region on this basis. On a workplace basis (i.e. relative to what people earn from jobs located in Knowsley), the ratio is lower still, at 4.99, reflecting the higher workplace earnings set out in section 8 (Table 59); England's workplace-based ratio is 7.63 (Table 46).

7.7 The median price paid for a home in Knowsley was £195,000 in the year ending September 2025, below the North West (£221,000) and England (£300,000) medians (Table 43). Prices have risen faster than anywhere else in the city region over the last ten years: by 63.9% since the year ending September 2015, against 55.1% in the North West and 42.9% in England. Over the latest year the rise was 2.6%.

Table 43: Median house price, year ending September, 2015 to 2025

Area	2015	2020	2025	Change 2015 to 2025 (%)
Knowsley	**£119,000**	**£159,950**	**£195,000**	**63.9**
Halton	£125,000	£153,416	£195,500	56.4
Liverpool	£120,000	£132,000	£180,000	50.0
Sefton	£148,000	£176,000	£230,000	55.4
St Helens	£120,000	£144,000	£189,998	58.3
Wirral	£142,000	£166,000	£217,500	53.2
North West	£142,500	£174,000	£221,000	55.1
England	£209,950	£250,000	£300,000	42.9

Source: ONS, Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2025 (published 26 March 2026), workplace-based ratio tables, Table 5a (local authorities) and Table 1a (North West and England), median price paid, year ending September; derived from HM Land Registry Price Paid Data.

7.8 Private rental affordability, measured as mean private rent as a proportion of the median income of private-renting households (modelled for local authorities), was 23.1% in Knowsley in the year ending March 2024, against 36.3% for England.[62]

Table 44: Private rental affordability, Knowsley and comparators, financial year ending 2024

Area	Rent as % of household income, FYE 2024
Knowsley	**23.1**
Halton	21.0
Liverpool	25.0
St Helens	25.4
Sefton	27.5
Wirral	27.4
England	**36.3**

Source: ONS, Private rental affordability, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, financial year ending 2024 (2024 edition, published 18 August 2025, the latest available), Table 4 for local authorities (incomes scaled using ASHE) and Table 3 for England.

7.9 Private rents have risen quickly. ONS estimates the average monthly private rent in Knowsley at £863 in October 2026, 10.7% higher than a year earlier, the fastest annual rise of the six city region authorities, and 44.3% higher than in October 2021. Rents remain below the North West (£979) and England (£1,472) averages (Table 45).

[62] ONS, Private rental affordability, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, financial year ending 2024.

Table 45: Average monthly private rent, October 2021 to October 2026

Area	October 2021	October 2025	October 2026	Annual change to October 2026 (%)
Knowsley	**£598**	**£780**	**£863**	**10.7**
Halton	£566	£711	£756	6.4
Liverpool	£641	£873	£919	5.2
Sefton	£671	£899	£942	4.7
St Helens	£568	£761	£817	7.4
Wirral	£633	£812	£865	6.5
North West	£690	£927	£979	5.6
England	£1,091	£1,416	£1,472	4.0

Source: ONS, Price Index of Private Rents, UK: monthly price statistics (published 18 November 2026), Table 1, average monthly rental price, all property types. Official statistics, not seasonally adjusted, rounded to the nearest £1.

Table 46: House price to earnings ratio, 2025, Knowsley and comparators (residence- and workplace-based)

Area	Residence-based ratio (median)	Workplace-based ratio (median)
Knowsley	**5.19**	**4.99**
Halton	5.56	5.24
Liverpool	4.85	4.68
Sefton	6.23	6.96
St Helens	5.09	5.69
Wirral	5.72	6.13
North West	5.9	5.92
England	7.64	7.63

Source: ONS, House price to residence-based earnings ratio; ONS, House price to workplace-based earnings ratio (both 2025 current editions, released 26 March 2026).

HOUSING NEED

7.10 The Government's standard method[63] currently gives a minimum annual Local Housing Need of 631 dwellings for Knowsley. This is derived under the Planning Practice Guidance, using a baseline of 0.8% of the existing dwelling stock, adjusted for affordability using the mean median workplace-based affordability ratio over the five most recent years. It is not the housing requirement, which will be set through the Local Plan.

Table 47: Local Housing Need, standard method

Area	Dwelling stock 2025	Affordability ratio	Adjustment factor	LHN (a year)
Knowsley	**72,058**	**5.496**	**1.0942**	**631**
Halton	59,616	5.09	1.0171	485
Liverpool	234,391	4.742	1.0	1,875
St Helens	86,673	5.55	1.1045	766
Sefton	133,194	6.67	1.3173	1,404
Wirral	153,370	6.73	1.3287	1,630

Source: MHCLG, Standard Method for Local Housing (Planning Practice Guidance), calculated on MHCLG Live Table 125 (2025, provisional) and ONS median workplace-based affordability ratios for 2021 to 2025.

[63] MHCLG, Planning Practice Guidance: Housing and economic needs assessment, standard method.

Unmet housing need

7.11 Whether there is unmet housing or other need in the wider area, and what it would mean for Knowsley, has not yet been established; it will be considered through the Local Plan evidence base and work with neighbouring authorities.

HOUSING DELIVERY

7.12 The Local Plan Core Strategy provides for a minimum of 8,100 new dwellings between 2010 and 2028, an average of 450 dwellings a year. Policy CS3(1) states that this "is a minimum net figure, accounting for conversions, changes of use to and from residential use, and clearance of dwellings via demolition", so delivery is compared with it on a net basis. By the end of 2025-26, 8,611 net additional dwellings had been completed, 106.3% of the full eighteen-year requirement with two years still to run, and 1,411 more than the 7,200 implied by the annual average over the sixteen years to date. Gross completions over the same period were 9,599. Net delivery exceeded 450 in 11 of the 16 years.[64]

7.13 The series divides into two distinct periods. The first six years, from 2010-11 to 2015-16, averaged 299 net a year and fell below 450 in five years out of six. From 2016-17 onwards net delivery averaged 682 a year.

7.14 Between 2016-17 and 2021-22, affordable homes made up between 14% and 36% of completions, 23% overall. From 2022-23 the share was 32%, then 52, 51 and 64%, 49% overall, about twice the earlier rate. Over the recorded decade the average is 33%. The 2025-26 share is 64.2%: 373 affordable homes of 581 gross completions.

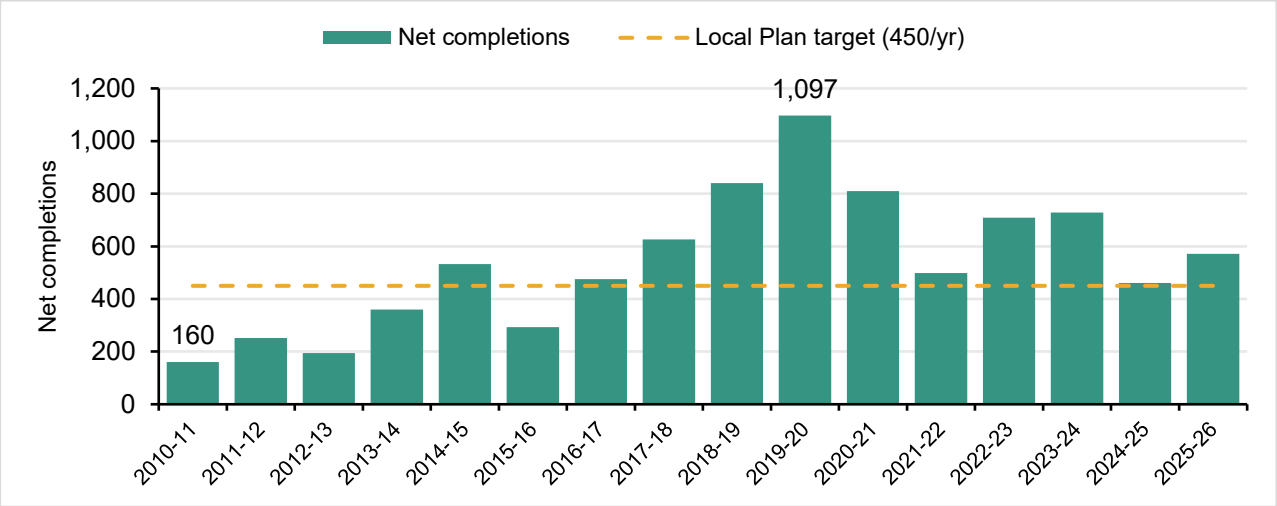
Table 48: Housing completions, 2010-11 to 2025-26

Monitoring year	Gross completions	Net completions	Affordable	Affordable (%)	Net against 450 target
2010-11	365	160	not recorded	not recorded	-290
2011-12	355	252	not recorded	not recorded	-198
2012-13	255	195	not recorded	not recorded	-255
2013-14	358	360	not recorded	not recorded	-90
2014-15	616	533	not recorded	not recorded	+83
2015-16	310	293	not recorded	not recorded	-157
2016-17	557	475	102	18.3	+25
2017-18	684	626	245	35.8	+176
2018-19	838	840	117	14.0	+390
2019-20	1,090	1,097	340	31.2	+647
2020-21	836	810	157	18.8	+360
2021-22	498	499	92	18.5	+49
2022-23	738	709	233	31.6	+259
2023-24	962	729	504	52.4	+279
2024-25	556	461	283	50.9	+11
2025-26	581	572	373	64.2	+122
Total	**9,599**	**8,611**			**+1,411**

Source: Knowsley MBC.

[64] Knowsley Council, Local Plan Monitoring Reports, 2015-16 to 2025-26 editions.

Figure 59: Net housing completions against the Local Plan target, 2010-11 to 2025-26



Source: Knowsley MBC.

7.15 Knowsley's 2025 Housing Delivery Test measurement was 245% (1,888 homes delivered against 772 required over 2022-23 to 2024-25), against 253% in the 2024 measurement.[65] No delivery-test consequence applies, and the standard 5 per cent buffer is used in the supply calculation below (Table 49).

HOUSING LAND SUPPLY

7.16 The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2026[66] identifies 3,103 dwellings on deliverable sites for 2026/27 to 2030/31, against the Local Housing Need of 631 dwellings a year. With the standard 5% buffer the annual requirement is 662.55 dwellings, so this is 4.68 years of supply (Table 49), below the five years required. In total the SHLAA identifies land for 6,356 dwellings over fifteen years, to 31 March 2041: 71 deliverable sites with capacity for 4,695 dwellings and 36 developable sites with capacity for 1,661. Almost half of the five-year supply (1,516 dwellings, 48.9%) is on sites already under construction, and almost a third (989) is on sites without planning permission (Table 50).

Table 49: Five-year housing land supply calculation, 2026/27 to 2030/31

Row	Element	Calculation	Figure
A	Basic requirement	Five years of Local Housing Need, 2026/27 to 2030/31 (631 x 5)	3,155
B	Buffer	5% of A	157.75
C	Five-year requirement including the buffer	A plus B	3,313
D	Annual requirement	C divided by 5	662.55
E	Supply	Commitments, allocations and SHLAA sites	3,103
F	Years of supply	E divided by D	4.68

Source: Knowsley Council, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2026.

Table 50: Housing trajectory by source of supply, 2026/27 to 2040/41

Year	Under construction	Allocations	Sites with planning permission	Sites without planning permission	Total
2026/27	468	0	54	0	522
2027/28	379	0	2	86	467
2028/29	286	68	151	225	730

[65] MHCLG, Housing Delivery Test: 2025 measurement.
[66] Knowsley Council, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2026 (base date 31 March 2026, published October 2026).

Year	Under construction	Allocations	Sites with planning permission	Sites without planning permission	Total
2029/30	218	85	64	237	604
2030/31	165	145	29	441	780
Years 1 to 5	**1,516**	**298**	**300**	**989**	**3,103**
2031/32	72	108	0	345	525
2032/33	72	88	0	239	399
2033/34	73	72	58	428	631
2034/35	72	72	19	322	485
2035/36	72	56	0	243	371
Years 6 to 10	**361**	**396**	**77**	**1,577**	**2,411**
2036/37	72	36	0	146	254
2037/38	44	36	0	146	226
2038/39	0	22	0	130	152
2039/40	0	0	0	110	110
2040/41	0	0	0	100	100
Years 11 to 15	**116**	**94**	**0**	**632**	**842**
Total, 2026/27 to 2040/41	**1,993**	**788**	**377**	**3,198**	**6,356**

Source: Knowsley Council, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2026.

Figure 60: Housing trajectory by source of supply, 2026/27 to 2040/41 (dwellings, forecast)



Source: Knowsley Council, SHLAA 2026 (base date 31 March 2026).

EXISTING ALLOCATIONS AND COMMITMENTS

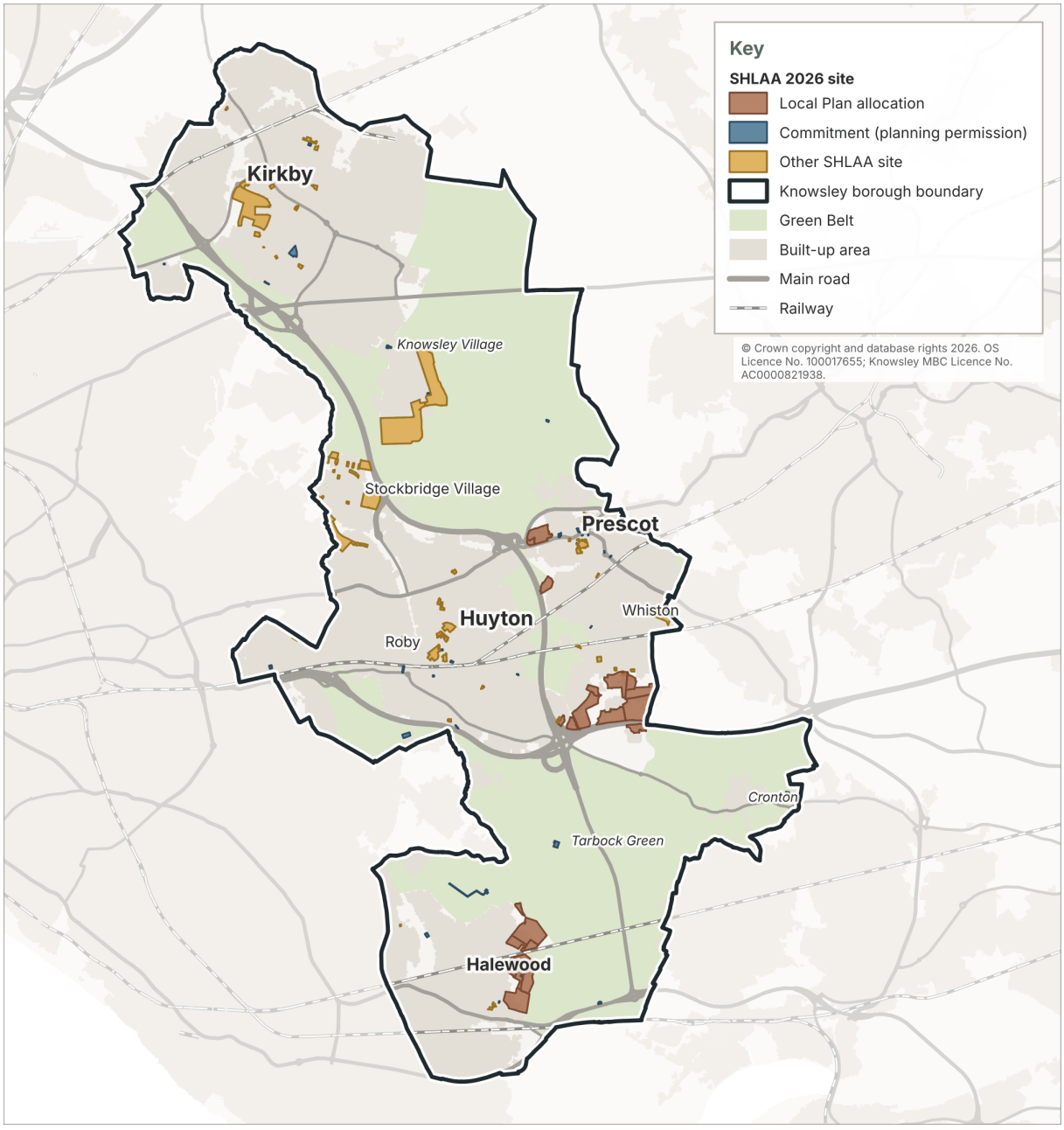
7.17 In the SHLAA 2026, 1,692 dwellings have been built of 3,474 dwellings of capacity across the seven Local Plan allocations, or 49%. Three allocations are complete and a fourth, Land bounded by A58, Prescot, is nearly so, but the two largest sites are less than half built and Carr Lane, Prescot has not started.

Table 51: Delivery against Local Plan housing allocations

Allocation	Built	Remaining	% built	Trajectory ends
Knowsley Lane	154	0	100	Complete
Edenhurst Avenue	124	0	100	Complete
Former Kirkby Stadium, Valley Road	266	0	100	Complete
Land bounded by A58, Prescot	204	23	90	2026/27
East of Halewood	443	534	45	2030/31
South of Whiston (Halsnead)	501	1,137	31	2038/39
Carr Lane, Prescot	0	88	0	2030/31
Total	1,692	1,782	49	

Source: Knowsley MBC, SHLAA 2026.

Figure 61: Housing supply and allocations



Source: Knowsley Council, SHLAA 2026.

HOUSING MIX AND SPECIALIST HOUSING NEEDS

7.18 Single-person and two-person households each make up just under a third of all households (Table 4), the population aged 65 and over is projected to grow by 30.3% between 2022 and 2047 (Table 5), and the Census records far more households under-occupying their homes than overcrowded (section 2).

Specialist housing

7.19 The Council's Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2022-2026 records eight Extra Care schemes in Knowsley providing 566 self-contained apartments, all social rented or shared ownership and allocated through the Council's Extra Care Allocations Policy.[67] It records a further 50 units planned at The Watch Factory, Prescot, and a new scheme of 77 units at Halewood. Further information on current Extra Care provision will be obtained as the Local Plan evidence base develops. The Council's earlier Extra Care strategy (March 2016) found that "an additional 182 units of Extra Care are required by 2020, rising (cumulatively) to 557 by 2040".[68] That assessment predates the 2021 Census and the 2022-based projections, under which the population aged 65 and over grows by 30.3% between 2022 and 2047, faster than any other broad age group (Table 5).

Homelessness and temporary accommodation

7.20 The Council assessed 1,054 households as owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty in 2025-26 (the sum of the four quarterly returns; 1,148 in 2024-25), and 94 households were in temporary accommodation at March 2026 (71 at December 2025).[69]

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople provision

7.21 There are no authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches or Travelling Showpeople sites in Knowsley. Separately, the MHCLG Traveller Caravan Count of January 2026 recorded no caravans in the borough.[70]

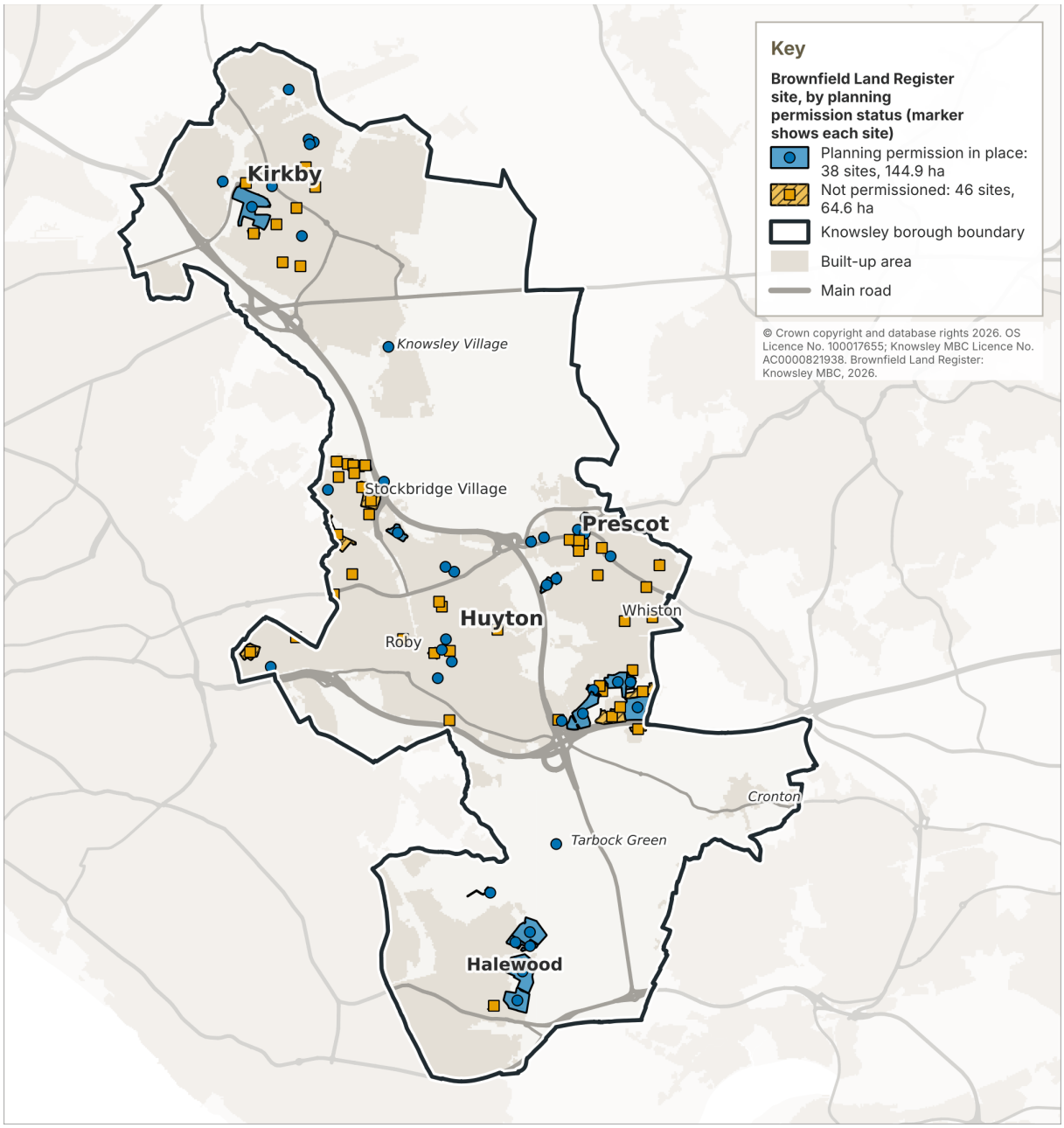
PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND AND BROWNFIELD CAPACITY

7.22 The Council maintains a Brownfield Land Register in accordance with national planning requirements. The 2026 Register identifies 84 previously developed sites, covering about 209.5 hectares, with an estimated capacity of between 6,433 and 6,549 dwellings. The Register records the estimated net dwelling capacity of each site, including large permissioned sites such as Land south of Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby (800 dwellings) and East of Halewood Plot 3 (730 dwellings). It is compiled on a different basis from the SHLAA, so the two totals are not directly comparable; sites can appear in both, so the totals should not be added together. The sites are distributed across the borough and range from small infill opportunities to larger redevelopment and regeneration locations.

7.23 The availability, suitability, achievability and deliverability of sites is considered through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) process and does not imply that all identified sites will necessarily come forward for development within the plan period. Figure 62 illustrates the distribution of Brownfield Land Register sites across the borough.

[67] Knowsley Council, Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2022-2026.
[68] Knowsley Council, Supporting Independent Living in Knowsley: Extra Care Strategy (March 2016).
[69] MHCLG, Statutory homelessness live tables (H-CLIC).
[70] MHCLG, Traveller Caravan Count, January 2026.

Figure 62: Knowsley's Brownfield Register



Source: Knowsley MBC, Brownfield Land Register 2026.

8. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, EMPLOYMENT, RETAIL AND LEISURE

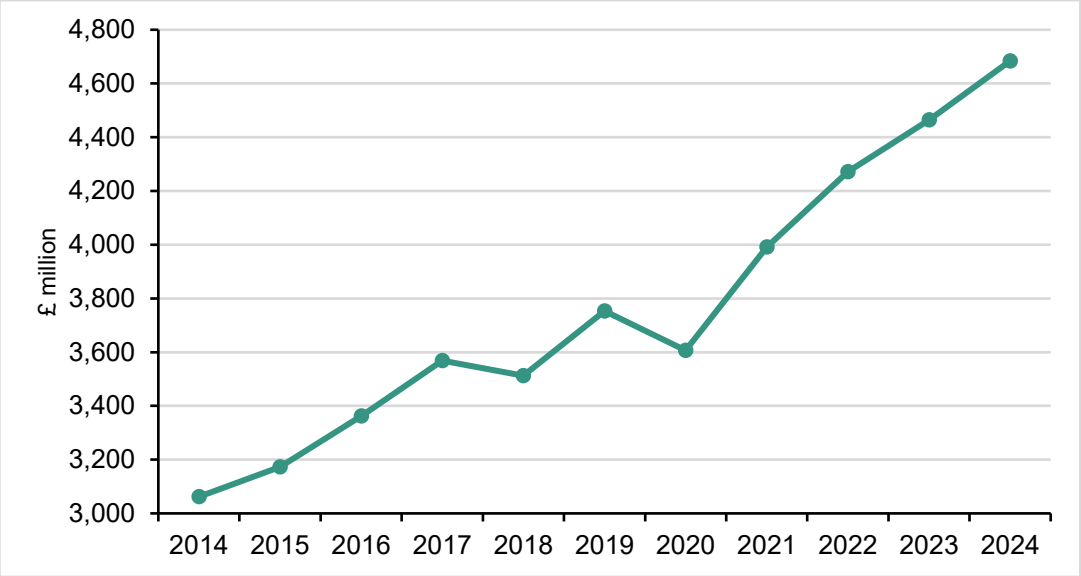
Key baseline data sources used in this section:

- ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2024
- ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)
- ONS, Jobs Density
- ONS/DWP, Claimant Count (Nomis dataset NM_162_1)
- VOA, Non-domestic rating: stock of properties
- Knowsley Council, Local Plan Monitoring Reports
- LCRCA, Towards a Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region up to 2040 (draft, November 2023)
- Department for Business and Trade, The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy (June 2025, updated June 2026)

ECONOMIC PROFILE

8.1 Economic output, measured as gross value added (GVA, balanced, at current basic prices), rose from £3.5 billion in 2018 to £4.7 billion in 2024 (Figure 63), an increase of 33% in cash terms.

Figure 63: Economic output (GVA), Knowsley



Source: ONS, Regional gross domestic product: local authorities, 1998 to 2024 (published 23 September 2026), Table 1, gross value added (balanced) at current basic prices, pounds million.

BUSINESS AND SECTOR PROFILE

8.2 The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) records approximately 66,000 employee jobs in Knowsley in 2024. The largest sectors are human health and social work, manufacturing and wholesale and retail (Table 52). Manufacturing accounts for 15.2% and transport and storage for 7.6% of employee jobs (Table 52).

Table 52: Employment by industry, Knowsley 2024

Industry (SIC)	Jobs	% of employee jobs
Human health and social work activities	15,000	22.7
Manufacturing	10,000	15.2
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	9,000	13.6
Transportation and storage	5,000	7.6
Education	5,000	7.6

Industry (SIC)	Jobs	% of employee jobs
Administrative and support service activities	4,500	6.8
Construction	4,000	6.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3,500	5.3
Accommodation and food service activities	2,500	3.8
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2,000	3.0
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,750	2.7
Information and communication	1,250	1.9
Other service activities	800	1.2
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	700	1.1
Real estate activities	500	0.8
Financial and insurance activities	200	0.3
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	75	0.1
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	30	0.0
Mining and quarrying	10	0.0

Source: ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2024 (provisional, published 28 October 2025), employee jobs by broad industry (SIC 2007 section), via Nomis (dataset NM_189_1).

8.3 Professional, scientific and technical activities, information and communication, and financial and insurance activities together provide 7.5% of employee jobs in Knowsley (5.3%, 1.9% and 0.3%), against 17.8% in England (9.6%, 4.8% and 3.4%).

8.4 The UK Government's Modern Industrial Strategy identifies eight priority growth sectors: advanced manufacturing, clean energy industries, creative industries, defence, digital and technologies, financial services, life sciences, and professional and business services. The National Planning Policy Framework requires plan-making authorities to have regard to relevant national policies and strategies affecting economic growth and productivity. Manufacturing accounts for 15.2% of employee jobs in Knowsley (Table 52).

8.5 In 2026, Knowsley contained 3,460 registered enterprises operating from 4,330 local units. These measures describe different aspects of the business base and should not be used interchangeably. An enterprise represents a business as a whole, whereas a local unit represents an individual operating site. Businesses operating from multiple premises are therefore counted once as an enterprise but multiple times as local units.

8.6 The business base is characterised by a predominance of smaller firms, with 87.1% of enterprises employing fewer than ten people. However, Knowsley records a higher proportion of medium-sized enterprises than the North West average (2.6% against 1.7%), and the same proportion of large enterprises (0.4%). Relative to England, the borough's local units are over-represented (location quotient above 1) in transport and storage, manufacturing, health, waste management, construction, education, administrative and support services and other services (Table 53).

Table 53: Business base, Knowsley 2026

Measure	Knowsley 2026	North West 2026
Enterprises (businesses)	**3,460**	**272,085**
of which micro (0 to 9 employees)	87.1%	88.4%
of which small (10 to 49)	9.7%	9.4%
of which medium (50 to 249)	2.6%	1.7%
of which large (250 or more)	0.4%	0.4%
Local units (individual sites)	**4,330**	**319,345**
of which micro (0 to 9 employees)	78.9%	83.0%
Sectors over-represented vs England (LQ greater than 1)	Transport and storage, health, manufacturing, waste, construction, education, administrative and support, other services (local units)	

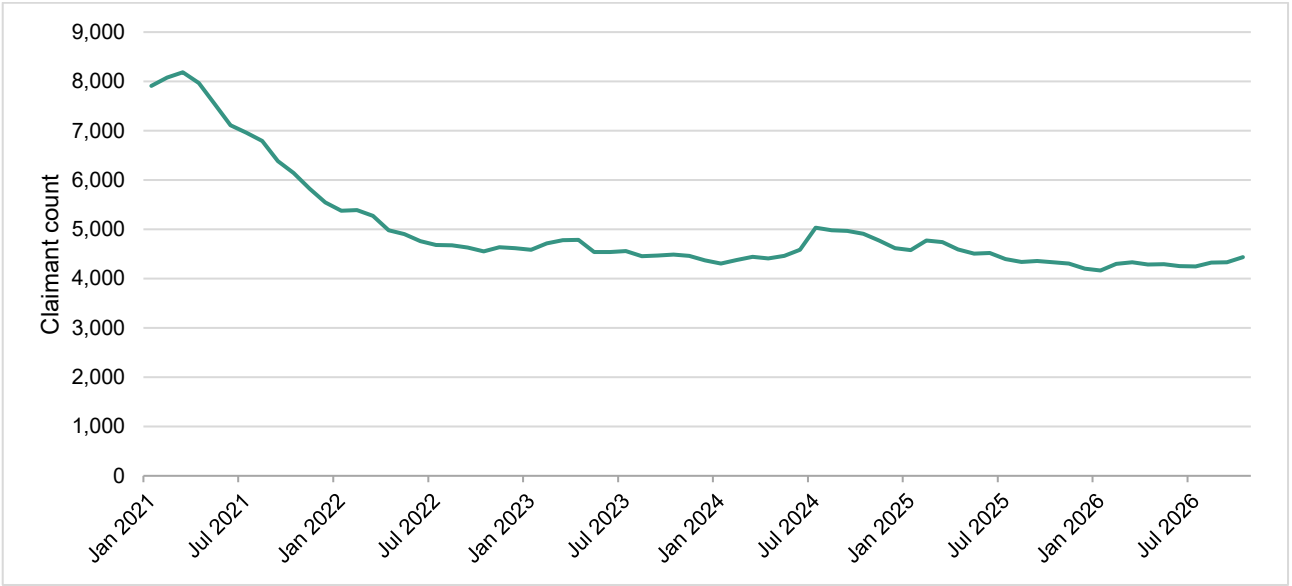
Source: ONS, UK Business Counts 2026 (Inter-Departmental Business Register), enterprises and local units by employment size band and broad industry, via Nomis (datasets NM_142_1 and NM_141_1).

EMPLOYMENT, WORKLESSNESS AND OCCUPATIONS

8.7 Economic activity, inactivity and long-term sickness among residents, and their qualifications, are set out in section 2 (Table 12 to Table 15), because they describe the borough's population. This section sets out the claimant count and the occupations of residents in work.

8.8 The out-of-work claimant count gives a more current reading of the labour market than the 2021 Census. In October 2026 there were 4,435 people claiming out-of-work benefits in Knowsley, a rate of 4.3% of the working-age population. The Indices of Deprivation 2025 records Knowsley as 4th worst of 296 districts on the employment-deprivation domain (Table 9).

Figure 64: Claimant count, Knowsley, January 2021 to October 2026



Source: ONS/DWP, Claimant Count by sex and age (Nomis dataset NM_162_1), all persons aged 16 and over, not seasonally adjusted.

8.9 The age breakdown changes the reading of the headline figure. Relative to the regional and national comparators, Knowsley's higher claimant rate is most pronounced among younger residents. Among those aged 18 to 21 the rate is 10.9%, against 7.3% in the North West and 6.6% in Great Britain: about one in ten. Among residents aged 25 to 49 it is slightly below the North West figure (4.5% against 4.7%), and among those aged 50 and over, at 2.8%, it is the same as the North West and slightly below Great Britain (3.0%) (Table 54). The difference from the region is therefore concentrated in the youngest age groups.

Table 54: Claimant count by age and sex, October 2026

Group	Knowsley (number)	Knowsley (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Aged 16 and over	**4,435**	**4.3**	**4.2**	**4.0**
Aged 16 to 17	10	0.3	0.2	0.2
Aged 18 to 24	**1,060**	**9.0**	**6.7**	**6.0**
Aged 18 to 21	**725**	**10.9**	**7.3**	**6.6**
Aged 25 to 49	2,480	4.5	4.7	4.3
Aged 50 and over	885	2.8	2.8	3.0
Males	2,480	5.1	4.9	4.5
Females	1,955	3.7	3.5	3.4

Source: ONS/DWP, Claimant Count, October 2026, as published in the Nomis 2021-based local authority profile for Knowsley. Rates are claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16 to 64; rates by age use residents of the same age (aged 50 and over: residents aged 50 to 64). Counts are rounded to the nearest five. Aged 18 to 21 is a subset of aged 18 to 24 and is not additional to it.

8.10 The occupational profile on the survey basis, using the 2020 Standard Occupational Classification, shows smaller shares than nationally in the highest occupational groups and larger shares in all the others. 42.6% of working Knowsley residents are in the top three occupational groups, against 54.0% nationally, a gap of 11.4 percentage points. Each of the other broad groupings is above the North West and Great Britain shares. The share in elementary occupations, at 10.6%, is above the North West (9.5%) and Great Britain (9.1%). Survey estimates for Knowsley carry wide confidence intervals and move noticeably between overlapping survey years, so the direction of the gap at the top of the profile is more reliable than its exact size.

Table 55: Employment by occupation (SOC 2020), Knowsley residents, July 2025 to June 2026

Occupation	Knowsley (number)	Knowsley (%)	North West (%)	Great Britain (%)
Major groups 1 to 3	**30,900**	**42.6**	**51.2**	**54.0**
1 Managers, directors and senior officials	5,900	8.1	9.7	11.5
2 Professional occupations	16,400	22.6	27.2	27.3
3 Associate professional occupations	8,600	11.7	14.1	15.1
Major groups 4 to 5	**15,300**	**21.1**	**18.2**	**17.2**
4 Administrative and secretarial	8,900	12.2	9.9	9.0
5 Skilled trades	6,400	8.8	8.3	8.2
Major groups 6 to 7	**12,900**	**17.8**	**15.2**	**14.2**
6 Caring, leisure and other service	7,300	10.0	9.4	8.6
7 Sales and customer service	5,600	7.7	5.7	5.6
Major groups 8 to 9	**13,400**	**18.5**	**15.4**	**14.5**
8 Process, plant and machine operatives	5,600	7.7	5.9	5.4
9 Elementary occupations	7,800	10.6	9.5	9.1

Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey, July 2025 to June 2026, accessed via Nomis. Numbers and percentages are for residents aged 16 and over in employment. This is a different classification from the Census NS-SeC profile below and the two are not directly comparable.

8.11 The 2021 Census socio-economic classification (NS-SeC) covers all residents aged 16 and over, including those who have never worked, the long-term unemployed and full-time students (Table 56). It is not directly comparable with the survey-based occupation estimates in Table 55.

Table 56: Occupational profile (NS-SeC), Knowsley 2021

NS-SeC group	% of residents 16+
L1, L2 and L3 Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	7.1
L4, L5 and L6 Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	16.8
L7 Intermediate occupations	13.4
L8 and L9 Small employers and own account workers	8.1
L10 and L11 Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6.0
L12 Semi-routine occupations	14.3
L13 Routine occupations	15.8
L14.1 and L14.2 Never worked and long-term unemployed	12.8
L15 Full-time students	5.7

Source: ONS, Census 2021, Table TS062.

SOCIAL VALUE SECURED THROUGH DEVELOPMENT

8.12 Fusion21 monitors the social value delivered through development in Knowsley. Across 46 developments where social value was secured through the planning process, recorded outcomes between April 2021 and March 2026 demonstrate significant benefits for local communities. During this period, 784 Knowsley residents were employed on these developments, with a further 60 employed as apprentices, while contractors engaged 137 Knowsley businesses. In local schools, 62 careers advice and guidance sessions, totalling 327 hours, supported 579 young people. Developers also supported 28 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and provided donations totalling £109,910.

8.13 These figures are derived from social value monitoring data supplied by Fusion21 to Knowsley Council in 2026. They represent a snapshot of social value outcomes secured through development between April 2021 and March 2026 and relate to the construction phase only. The employment figures include both new recruits and existing Knowsley residents employed on the developments, with apprenticeships reported separately. Data is not available by year due to changes in Fusion21's reporting methodology in 2023. Additional evidence of social value outcomes is expected to emerge as the Local Plan progresses.

JOBS AND JOBS DENSITY

8.14 At 0.69 jobs per resident of working age, Knowsley's jobs density sits below the England average of 0.86 and below both Halton and Liverpool. Jobs density fell from 0.70 in 2023 to 0.69 in 2024; the published job count was 70,000 in both years, while the working-age population grew. Commuting into and out of the borough is set out in section 4 (Table 24 to Table 26).

Table 57: Jobs and jobs density, 2023 and 2024

Area	Total jobs 2024	Density 2023	Density 2024
Knowsley	**70,000**	**0.70**	**0.69**
Halton	70,000	0.87	0.86
Liverpool	317,000	0.91	0.92
St Helens	71,000	0.65	0.61
Sefton	101,000	0.58	0.60
Wirral	122,000	0.62	0.62
North West	3,992,000	0.83	0.82
England	31,789,000	0.87	0.86

Source: ONS Jobs Density, via NOMIS. Density is jobs per resident aged 16 to 64. Values as published on 21 April 2026 (2023 revised, 2024 provisional).

EARNINGS

8.15 Median gross weekly pay for full-time workers living in Knowsley was £762.00 in 2026 (provisional), below the England figure of £815.50 and the North West figure of £765.80 (Table 58). On a workplace basis (i.e. jobs located in Knowsley, regardless of where the employee lives), median gross weekly pay was £830.00, above every Liverpool City Region comparator and above both the England (£817.00) and North West (£764.80) averages (Table 59). The gap between the workplace-based and residence-based figures was £68.00 a week.

Table 58: Median gross weekly pay (residence-based), full-time workers, 2026, Knowsley and comparators

Area	Median gross weekly pay (£, residence)
Knowsley	**762.0**
Halton	719.5
Liverpool	758.1
Sefton	772.4
St Helens	766.6
Wirral	773.4
North West	765.8
England	815.5

Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), 2026 (provisional, published 22 October 2026), Table 8.1a (place of residence by local authority), median gross weekly pay, full-time workers.

Table 59: Median gross weekly pay (workplace-based), full-time workers, 2026, Knowsley and comparators

Area	Median gross weekly pay (£, workplace)
Knowsley	**830.0**
Halton	747.0
Liverpool	772.9
Sefton	709.1
St Helens	642.0
Wirral	749.8
North West	764.8
England	817.0

Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), 2026 (provisional, published 22 October 2026), Table 7.1a (place of work by local authority), median gross weekly pay, full-time workers.

8.16 Hourly pay removes the effect of differences in hours worked. On that basis Knowsley workplaces pay 1.5% above the Great Britain figure. The median hourly pay of Knowsley residents is below the North West figure and 8.8% below Great Britain, so any statement of the earnings gap should say which basis it is measured on.

Table 60: Median hourly pay excluding overtime, full-time employees, 2026

Basis	Knowsley (£)	North West (£)	Great Britain (£)
Workplace	21.19	19.63	20.87
Residence	19.03	19.64	20.86

Source: ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2026 (provisional, published 22 October 2026), Tables 7.6a (place of work) and 8.6a (place of residence), median hourly pay excluding overtime, full-time employees.

EMPLOYMENT LAND AND PREMISES

8.17 The Local Plan Monitoring Report records the supply of available employment land, concentrated in the borough's industrial and business parks.

Table 61: Employment land available by location (2025/26)

Employment location	Total land available (ha)
Knowsley Industrial and Business Parks	69.83
South Prescot	3.37
All Principal Regeneration Areas (subtotal)	73.20
Other locations	65.57
Total	**138.77**
Local Plan Core Strategy requirement (for comparison)	**164**

Source: Knowsley MBC.

8.18 Knowsley Industrial and Business Parks hold 69.83 hectares, 50.3% of the supply, and 29.78 hectares, 57.1%, of the land available within five years. In 2025-26, 2.31 of the 2.52 hectares developed (91.7%) was at the Parks, and over the plan period they account for 81.36 of the 82.21 hectares developed within the Principal Regeneration Areas (99.0%) and 256,239 of the 260,212 square metres of floorspace (98.5%). Four of the six Principal Regeneration Areas, North Huyton and Stockbridge Village, Kirkby Town Centre, Tower Hill and Prescot Town Centre, hold no employment land supply, and those at North Huyton and Stockbridge Village and at Tower Hill recorded no employment floorspace over the plan period.[71]

8.19 The Valuation Office Agency rating list records the number and rateable value of non-domestic properties, but not their floorspace. At 31 March 2026 the borough held 3,210 properties on the rating list, with a total rateable value of £130.6 million. The stock is weighted towards industry, with 1,150 industrial properties carrying £73.0 million of rateable value.

Table 62: Non-domestic property stock by sector, 31 March 2026

Sector	Property count	Rateable value (£000s)
Industry	1,150	72,959
Retail	890	19,284
Other	760	31,633
Offices	420	6,758
All rating-list properties	3,210	130,633

Source: VOA, Non-domestic Rating: Stock of Properties, 2026 (published 14 May 2026), tables SOP3 to SOP7, Knowsley local authority rows, position at 31 March 2026. Property counts are rounded to the nearest 10, so the sector counts sum to 3,220. The tables give property counts and rateable value, not floorspace.

8.20 The total employment land supply in April 2026 was 138.77 hectares across 55 records (54 sites), against a Local Plan Core Strategy requirement of 164 hectares, a shortfall of 25.23 hectares. The five-year position is the opposite, with 52.15 hectares available against 45.5 required, a surplus of 6.65 hectares.

8.21 Over the plan period 123.63 hectares have been developed, an average of 7.73 hectares a year against the Core Strategy requirement of 9.11 hectares, giving a cumulative shortfall of around 22 hectares, or 15%. In 2025-26, 2.52 hectares came forward, of which 2.31 hectares was within the Principal Employment Areas and the balance outside them.

[71] Knowsley Council, Local Plan Monitoring Report 2025-26.

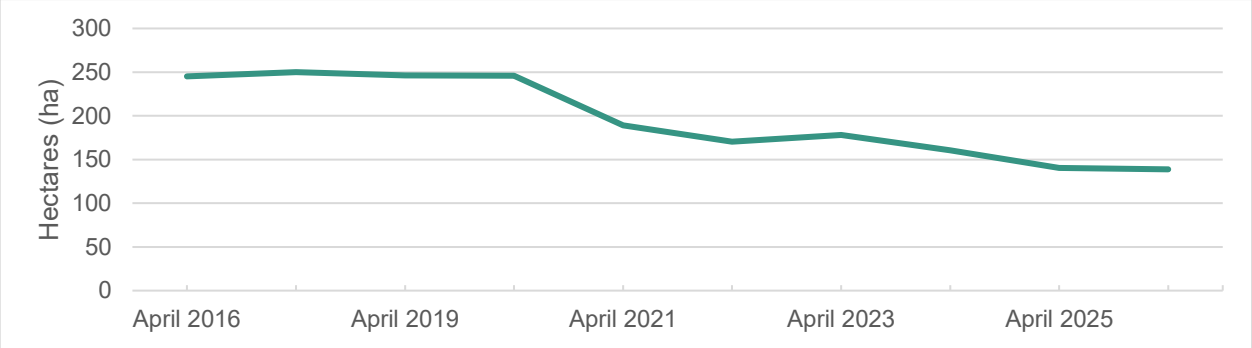
Table 63: Employment land supply and delivery

Measure	Value
Total land available (April 2026)	138.77 ha across 54 sites
Available within five years	52.15 ha
Core Strategy requirement (total)	164 ha
Balance against requirement	minus 25.23 ha
Core Strategy requirement (five years)	45.5 ha
Balance (five years)	plus 6.65 ha
Developed 2025-26	2.52 ha
of which within Principal Employment Areas	2.31 ha
Developed 2010-11 to 2025-26	123.63 ha, or 7.73 ha a year
Annual target	9.11 ha

Source: Knowsley MBC.

8.22 The supply has fallen over the plan period, from the 238.71 hectares recorded when the Core Strategy was adopted to 138.77 hectares in April 2026, and it has fallen in each of the last three monitoring years, from 178.00 hectares in April 2023 (Figure 65). Over the same period 123.63 hectares was developed for employment and 25.30 hectares was removed from the supply, 11.05 hectares through expired planning permissions and 14.25 hectares through development for other purposes.

Figure 65: Total employment land supply



Source: Knowsley MBC.

Table 64: Employment land supply by category, April 2026

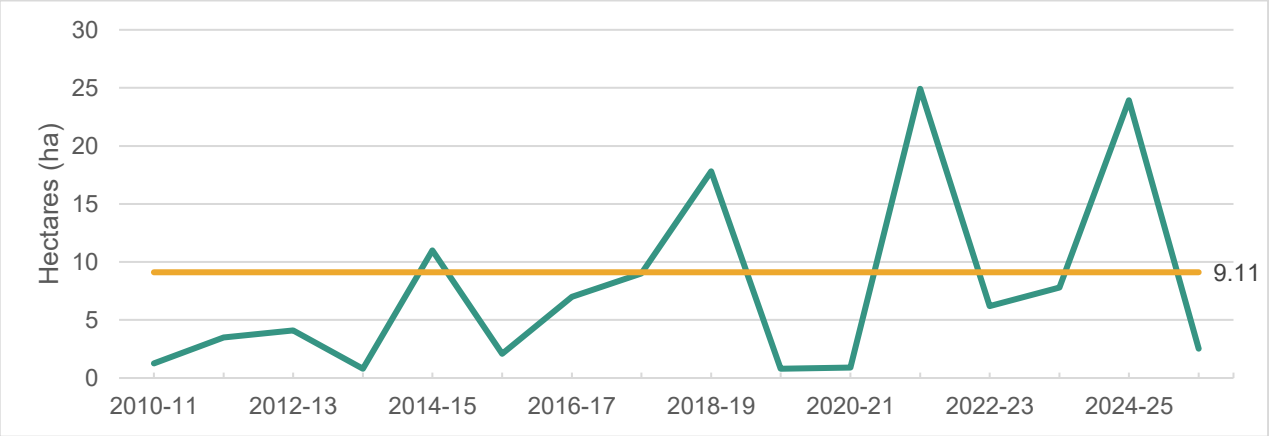
Category	Land available (ha)	Sites
UDP allocations (under construction and planning permissions)	27.98	17
UDP allocations (expansion land)	22.82	3
UDP Regional Investment Site: Kings Business Park	6.24	1
UDP South Prescot Action Area	3.37	3
Non-allocated expansion land	13.57	7
Land with remodelling potential	22.85	12
Sustainable Urban Extensions	30.37	4
Other employment sites, including under construction and planning permissions	11.57	8
Total	**138.77**	**54**

Source: Knowsley MBC. The category counts sum to 55 records, which relate to 54 sites.

8.23 Take-up varies widely from year to year and depends on a few large schemes (Figure 66). It has ranged from 0.8 to 24.92 hectares a year, and four of the sixteen years have met the 9.11 hectare annual requirement. The five-year average of 13.07 hectares for 2021-22 to 2025-26

is above the requirement and includes 2021-22 (24.92 hectares) and 2024-25 (23.94 hectares).

Figure 66: Employment land developed, 2010-11 to 2025-26 (ha)



Source: Knowsley MBC.

8.24 The floorspace delivered is mainly storage and distribution and general industrial (Table 65). Storage and distribution (B8) accounts for 54.4% of the 454,901 square metres of employment floorspace completed over the plan period and 57.1% over the last five years, while office and light industrial floorspace (Class E(g) and its predecessor B1) accounts for 8.6% and 3.1%.

Table 65: Employment floorspace completed by use class (square metres)

Use class	2025-26	2021-22 to 2025-26	Share (%)	2010-11 to 2025-26	Share (%)
E(g) / B1	1,197	7,575	3.1	39,097	8.6
B2 general industrial	3,545	97,380	39.8	166,684	36.6
B8 storage and distribution	5,264	139,599	57.1	247,297	54.4
Other	0	0	0.0	1,823	0.4
Total	**10,006**	**244,554**	**100.0**	**454,901**	**100.0**

Source: Knowsley MBC. E(g) / B1 combines Class B1 completions before 1 September 2020 and Class E(g) completions after that date.

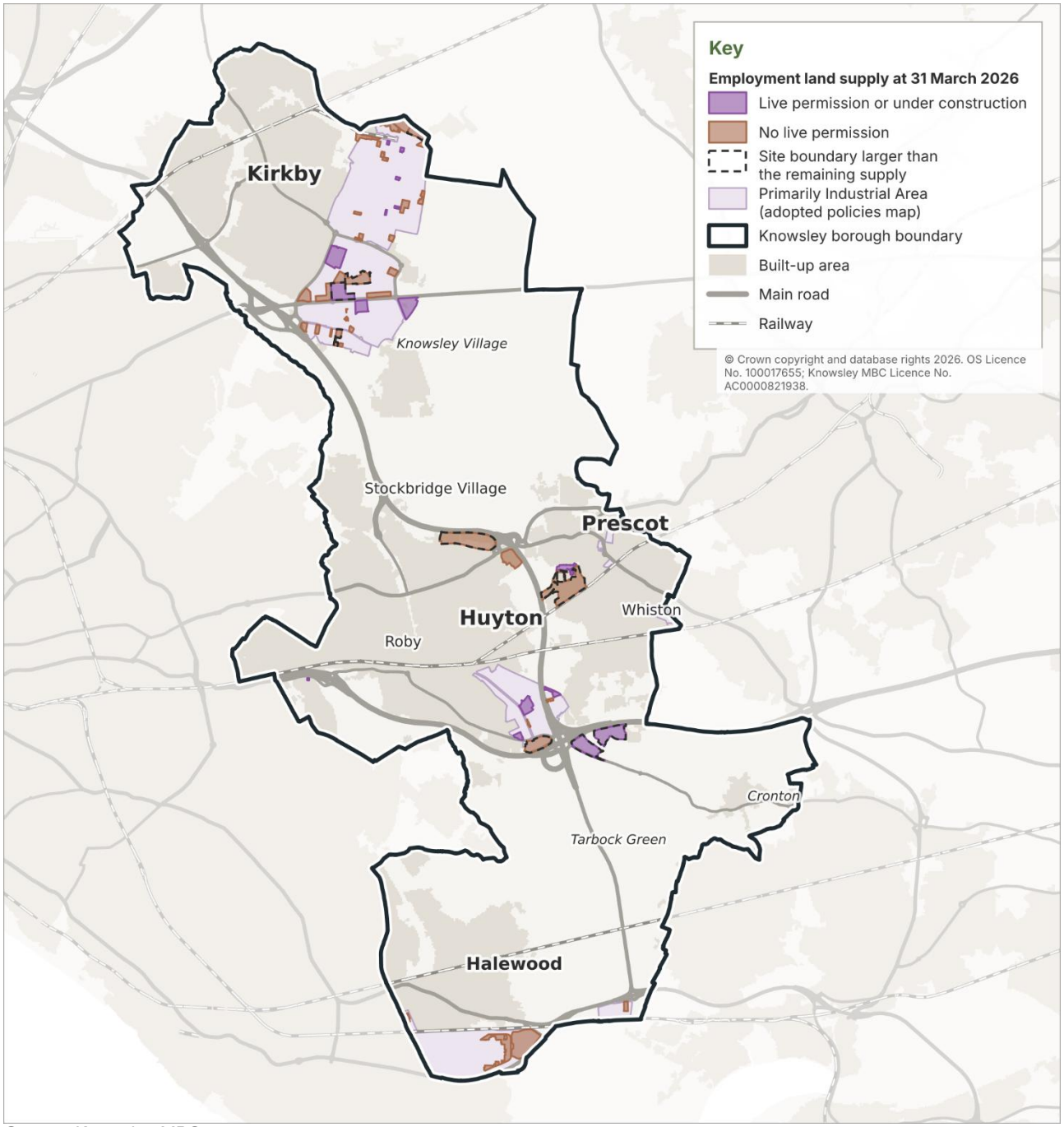
8.25 The Local Plan Monitoring Report measures the employment land "removed from the borough's supply - either because planning permission for employment uses has lapsed, or because the land has been used for other purposes." Over the five monitoring years 2021-22 to 2025-26 reported in the Local Plan Monitoring Report, 6.63 hectares have been removed from the supply through expired planning permissions and land developed for other purposes; none was recorded in 2021-22, and the largest single-year figure was in 2023-24, when 2.76 hectares of employment land was developed for other uses.

Table 66: Employment land lost, Knowsley (ha)

Monitoring year	Planning permission expired (ha)	Land developed for other purpose (ha)	Total (ha)
2022-23	0.43	0.38	0.81
2023-24	0.00	2.76	2.76
2024-25	1.70	0.43	2.13
2025-26	0.02	0.91	0.93
Last five years, 2021-22 to 2025-26	2.15	4.48	6.63
Plan period, 2010-11 to 2025-26	11.05	14.25	25.30

Source: Knowsley MBC.

Figure 67: Employment land supply, 2025-26



Source: Knowsley MBC.

STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS

8.26 The adopted development plan identifies approximately 792.5 hectares of designated employment land within Knowsley through Core Strategy and saved Unitary Development Plan policies. Employment land is designated as Primarily Industrial Areas, Land for Employment Development, and the Regional Investment Site at Kings Business Park. Current monitoring data indicate that approximately 138.8 hectares of employment land remains available within and beyond these designations. Figure 68 maps the existing adopted employment designations, Action Areas and Sustainable Urban Extensions.

Table 67: Employment land designations in the adopted development plan

Designation	Parcels	Area (ha)
Primarily Industrial Area (saved UDP Policy EC3)	15	769.6
Land for Employment Development (saved UDP Policy EC2)	35	105.8
Regional Investment Site, Kings Business Park (saved UDP Policy EC4)	1	20.3
Sum of designated parcels	51	895.6
Less overlap between designations	-	minus 103.1
Designated employment land, overlaps removed	-	792.5

Source: Knowsley MBC. Areas are rounded, so they may not sum to the totals.

8.27 The largest Primarily Industrial Areas are Knowsley Industrial Park North (257.5 hectares), Jaguar Land Rover, Halewood (138.8 hectares), Knowsley Industrial Park South (120.8 hectares), Knowsley Business Park (119.5 hectares) and Huyton Business Park (93.3 hectares). Table 68 sets out the individual Primarily Industrial Areas.

Table 68: Primarily Industrial Areas, adopted designation areas

Industrial area	Area (ha)	Note
Knowsley Industrial Park North	257.5	Contains the rail freight terminal at Woodward Road
Jaguar Land Rover, Halewood	138.8	Emerging Spatial Development Strategy strategic employment site SE6
Knowsley Industrial Park South	120.8	
Knowsley Business Park	119.5	Two parcels; recorded in the LCR Economic Opportunities Framework as home to 800 businesses and 15,000 jobs
Huyton Business Park	93.3	Three parcels; named in Core Strategy Policy CS4(2)
Lower Road, Halewood	14.1	
Coppice Farm	8.5	Also designated as Land for Employment Development E2
Stoney Lane	6.8	
Fleming Road, Halewood	4.7	
Watchmakers Factory	2.8	
Warrington Road	1.4	
Pottery Fields	1.3	
Total	769.6	15 parcels across 12 named areas

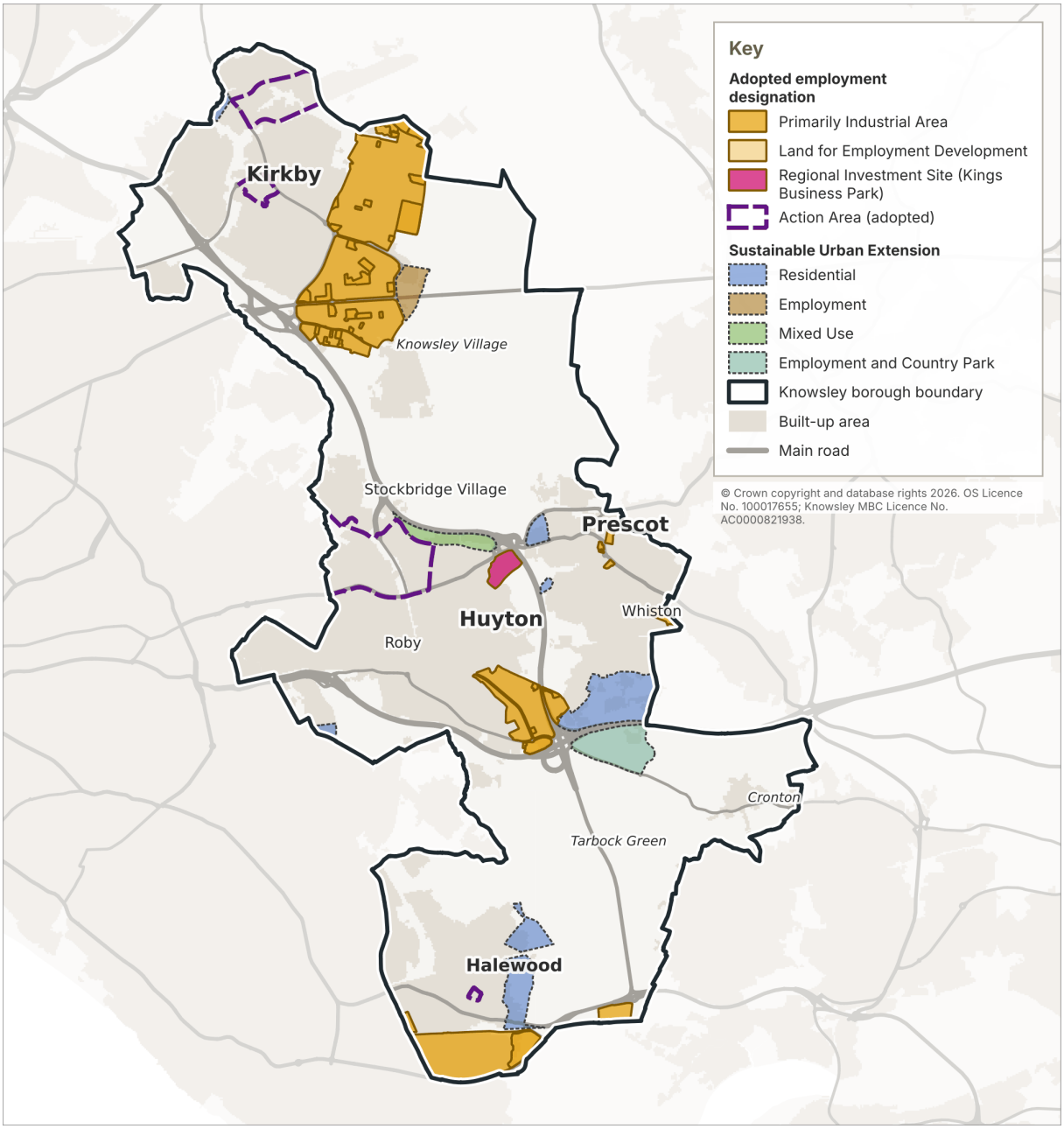
Source: Knowsley MBC. Areas are rounded, so they may not sum to the totals.

8.28 The Liverpool City Region Economic Opportunities Framework lists Knowsley Business Park and Halsnead among the city region's manufacturing and logistics locations, and describes Earlsfield Park as an opportunity site targeting advanced manufacturing and R&D. It refers to Huyton as a possible emerging cluster for digital and creative industries.[72]

8.29 The draft Spatial Development Strategy, which is still in preparation, identifies strategic employment sites including Jaguar Land Rover, Halewood (site SE6, Table 68). It does not form part of the adopted development plan.

[72] Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Economic Opportunities Framework.

Figure 68: Employment land: existing adopted designations



Source: Knowsley Council, adopted policies map (Core Strategy and saved UDP).

RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRE VITALITY

8.30 Core Strategy Policy CS6 establishes a hierarchy comprising Huyton, Kirkby and Prescot town centres; Halewood (Ravenscourt), Liverpool Road / Page Moss and Stockbridge Village district centres; and local centres, which Appendix B of the Core Strategy divides into six major and 18 medium local centres. Appendix B also identifies 16 minor parades which fall below the hierarchy but remain locally important for local service provision.

8.31 The Council has surveyed these centres annually since 2021, together with Cables Retail Park, recording the occupation and use of commercial units. Unless otherwise stated, the figures in this section relate to ground-floor commercial units and exclude residential and upper-floor units. Prescot Shopping Centre also contains commercial units at first-floor level, which are reported separately in the Prescot profile.

8.32 Across all centres surveyed, vacancy increased from 10.1% in 2021 to 12.5% in 2025, on a broadly stable stock of around 800 ground-floor commercial units. Town-centre vacancy

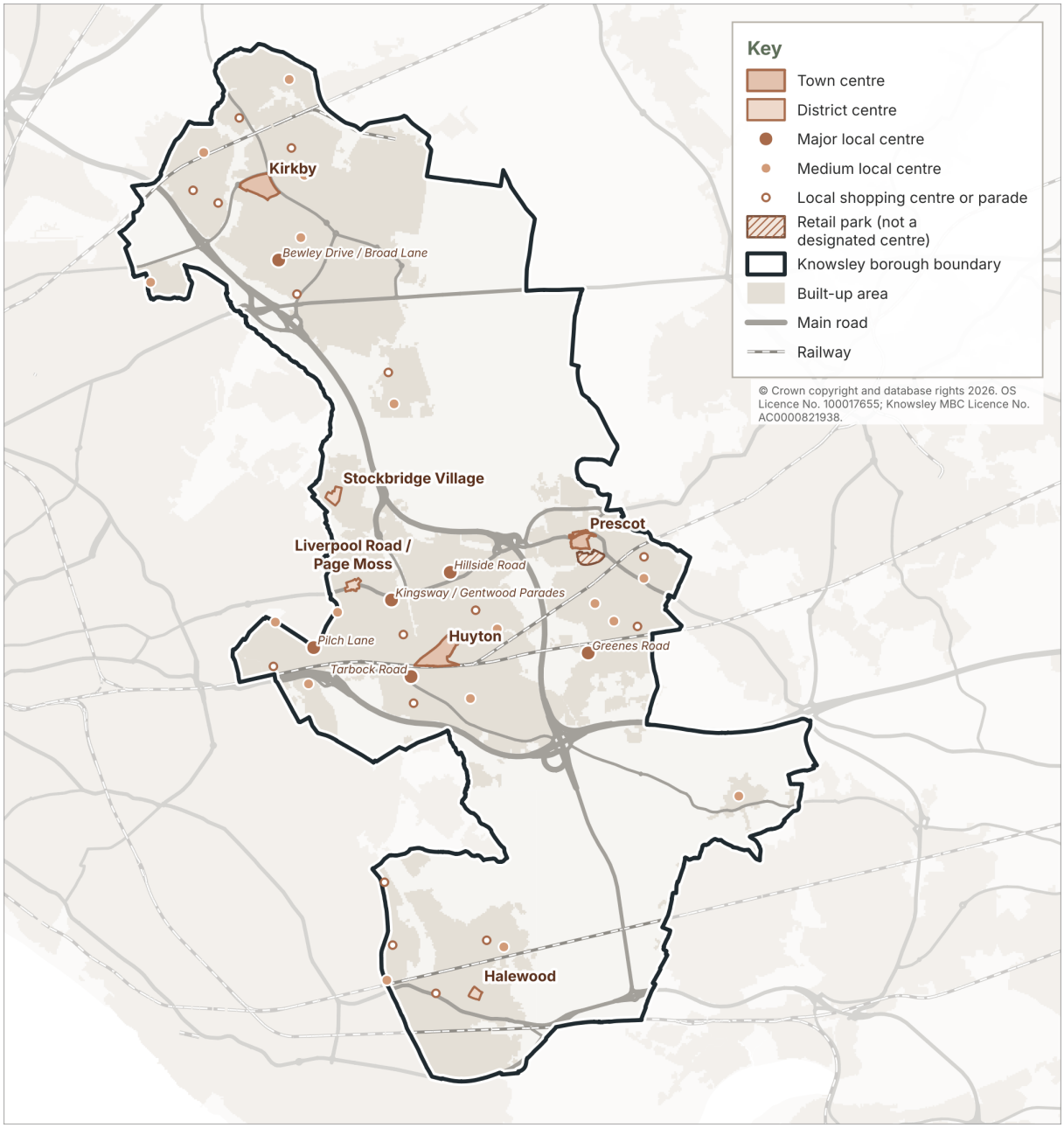
increased from 14.3% to 18.1%, while vacancy in minor parades increased from 3.6% to 14.5%. Major local centres recorded the lowest vacancy rate, at 2.0% in 2025.

Figure 69: Knowsley's retail hierarchy



Source: Knowsley MBC.

Figure 70: Knowsley's retail centres



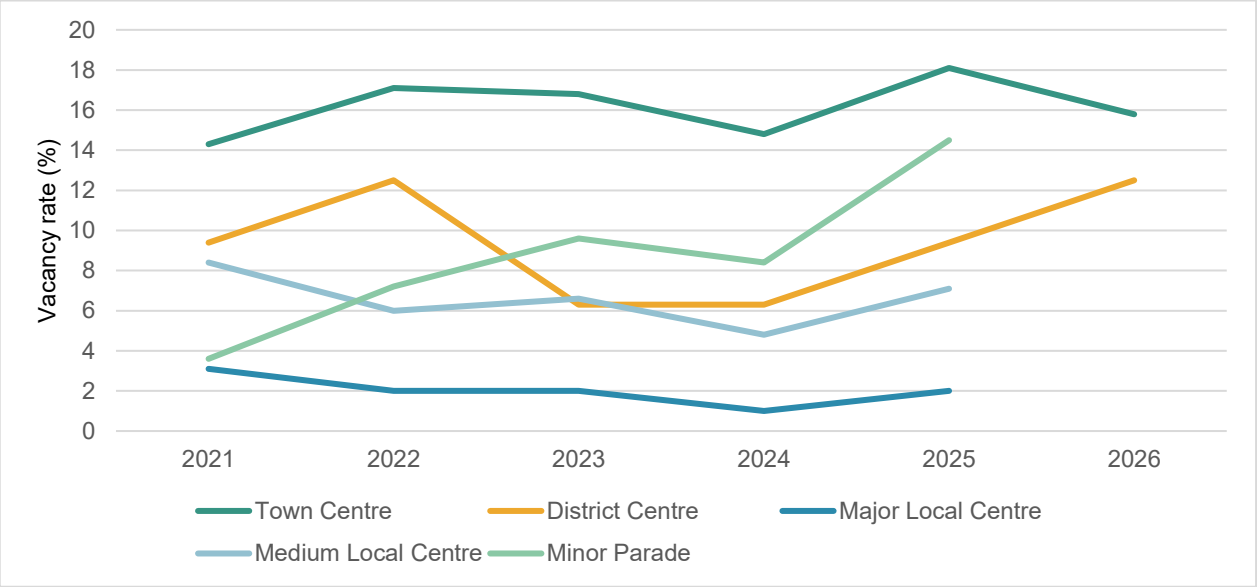
Source: Knowsley MBC.

Table 69: Borough-wide vacancy, ground floor units in all surveyed centres, 2021 to 2025

Year	Commercial units	Occupied	Vacant	Vacancy rate (%)
2021	791	711	80	10.1
2022	800	710	90	11.3
2023	800	711	89	11.1
2024	797	722	75	9.4
2025	799	699	100	12.5

Source: Knowsley MBC.

Figure 71: Vacancy rate (by type, ground floor units), 2021 to 2026 (2026: town and district centres only)

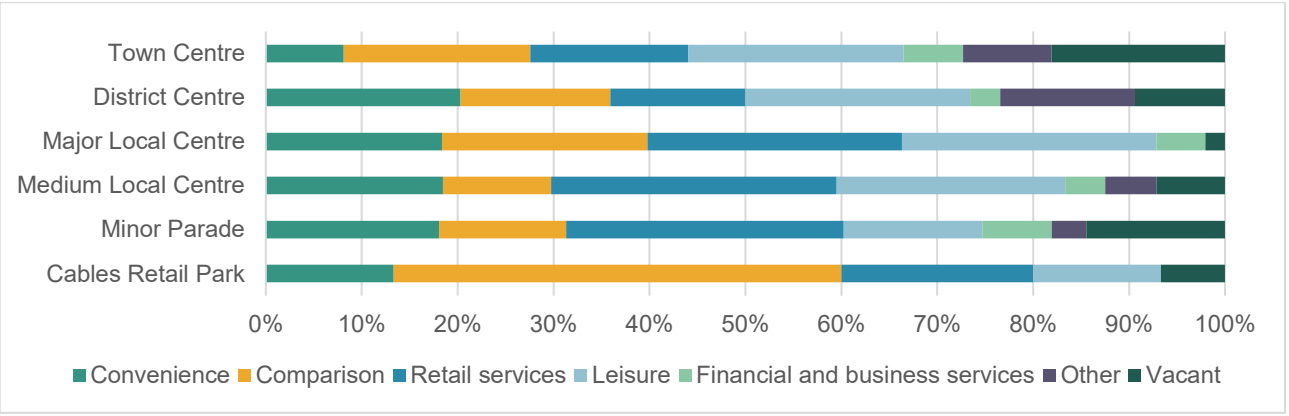


Source: Knowsley MBC. Only the town and district centres, Greenes Road and Cables Retail Park were resurveyed in 2026.

8.33 The 2026 survey revisited the three town centres, three district centres, Greenes Road and Cables Retail Park. The borough-wide and tier figures therefore use 2025, the latest year in which all centres were surveyed. Across the three town centres, vacancy fell from 18.1% in 2025 to 15.8% in 2026, while vacancy across the three district centres increased from 9.4% to 12.5%. The individual centre profiles below report the latest available position.

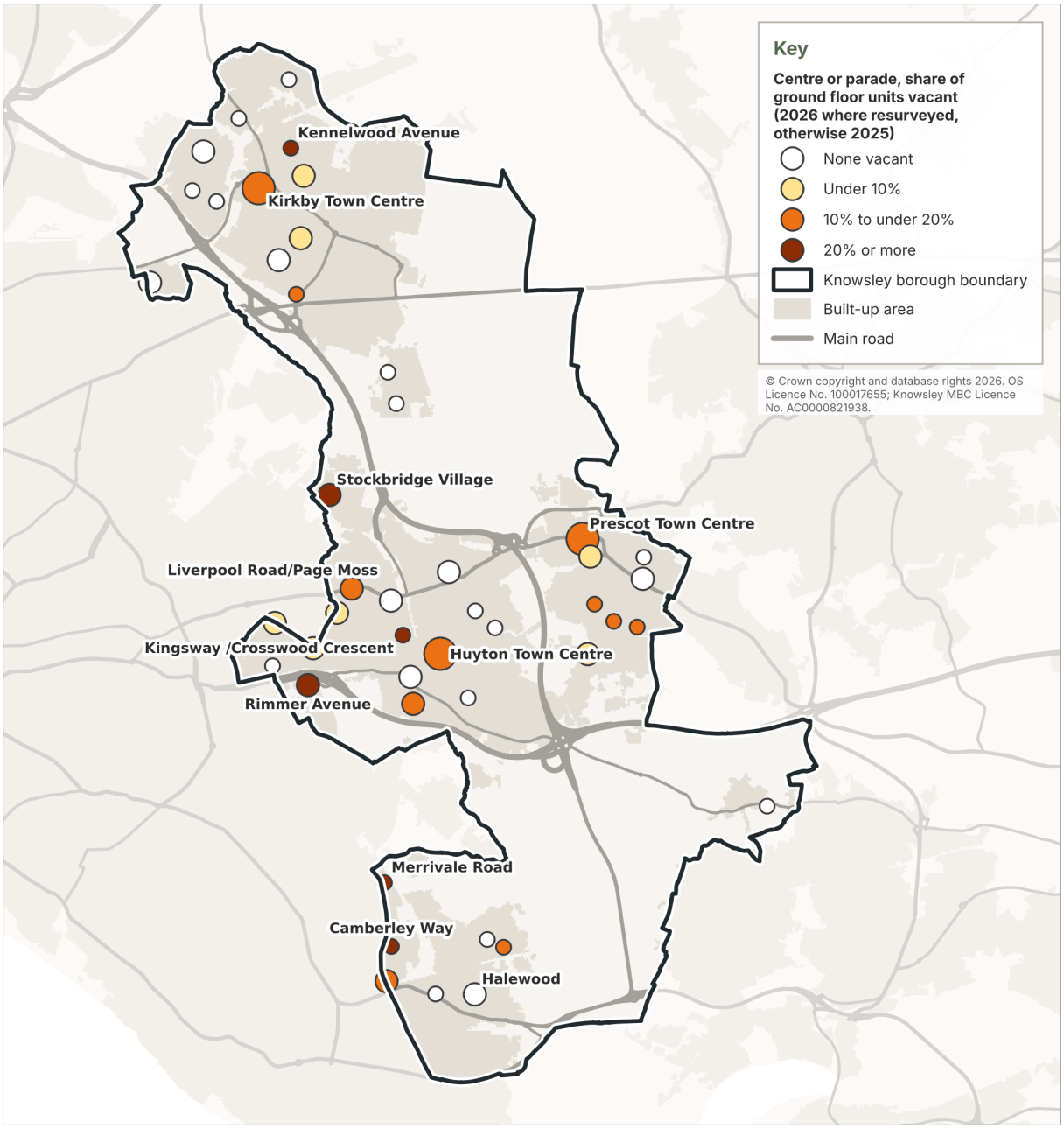
8.34 The composition of centres also varies by tier. Across all designated centres, retail services and leisure account for a larger share of occupied units than convenience and comparison retail combined. Comparison retail is concentrated in the town centres and at Cables Retail Park. Use classes are recorded in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, as amended. The convenience, comparison, service and other categories in Tables 71 to 74 are survey groupings of these recorded uses. Changes in the recorded sui generis 'other' and Class E(c)(iii) other services categories partly reflect improvements in survey classification rather than changes on the ground.

Figure 72: Composition, 2025



Source: Knowsley MBC.

Figure 73: Vacancy in centres and parades



Source: Knowsley Council, retail gazetteers 2025 and 2026.

RETAIL HIERARCHY TESTING

8.35 The Core Strategy Appendix B defines quantitative criteria for each tier of the adopted retail hierarchy. Table 70 compares the latest survey results with these criteria for the 29 designated centres to which quantitative thresholds apply. The 30th designated centre, Admin Road / South Boundary Road (medium local centre), is not tested because no units remain. The Council's Town Centre Uses SPD (2022) also provides guidance on concentrations of hot food takeaways, payday lending, pawnbroking and gambling uses; these are identified where relevant below. For hot food takeaways, the SPD thresholds are "More than 5% of units within town centres being hot food takeaways" and "More than 10% of units within district, major or medium local centres, or local shopping centres / parades being hot food takeaways".

8.36 The adopted quantitative criteria are:

- Town centres: more than 50 occupied retail and service units; at least 10 convenience units; and at least one supermarket or superstore.

- District centres: between 20 and 50 occupied retail units; at least 10 service operators; around five convenience units; and at least one supermarket or superstore.
- Major local centres: at least 12 occupied units; at least six service operators; and at least two convenience stores.
- Medium local centres: at least eight occupied units; at least four service operators; and at least one convenience store.

Table 70: Retail hierarchy threshold test, 2025 survey and 2026 resurvey, ground floor units

Centre	Tier	Occupied	Service ops	Convenience	Supermarkets	Outcome 2025	Outcome 2026
Huyton Town Centre	Town	101	48	11	3	Meets all criteria	Meets 2 of 3
Kirkby Town Centre	Town	89	38	11	4	Meets all criteria	Meets all criteria
Prescot Town Centre	Town	114	81	8	1	Meets 2 of 3	Meets 2 of 3
Halewood (Ravenscourt)	District	17	6	4	2	Meets 1 of 4	Meets 1 of 4
Liverpool Road / Page Moss	District	25	13	7	2	Meets all criteria	Meets all criteria
Stockbridge Village	District	16	7	2	1	Meets 1 of 4	Meets 1 of 4
Bewley Drive / Broad Lane	Major Local	13	6	2	1	Meets all criteria	n/s
Greenes Road	Major Local	23	18	4	0	Meets all criteria	Meets all criteria
Hillside Road	Major Local	12	6	4	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Kingsway / Gentwood Parades	Major Local	19	12	3	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Pilch Lane	Major Local	18	8	3	1	Meets all criteria	n/s
Tarbock Road	Major Local	11	7	2	0	Meets 2 of 3	n/s
Baileys Lane	Medium Local	5	5	0	0	Meets 1 of 3	n/s
Copple House Lane	Medium Local	10	8	1	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Dragon Drive	Medium Local	8	6	2	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Glovers Brow	Medium Local	13	9	2	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Hampton Drive	Medium Local	6	3	1	0	Meets 1 of 3	n/s
Longview Drive	Medium Local	9	7	1	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Mackets Lane	Medium Local	9	7	2	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Manor Farm Road	Medium Local	9	5	2	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Molyneux Drive	Medium Local	7	3	2	0	Meets 1 of 3	n/s
Moorfield	Medium Local	7	4	2	0	Meets 2 of 3	n/s
Old Rough Lane	Medium Local	14	7	2	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Page Moss / Dinas Lane	Medium Local	10	6	3	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Park Brow Drive	Medium Local	13	9	3	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Rimmer Avenue	Medium Local	7	3	1	0	Meets 1 of 3	n/s

Centre	Tier	Occupied	Service ops	Convenience	Supermarkets	Outcome 2025	Outcome 2026
Sugar Lane	Medium Local	8	4	3	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Swanside Parade	Medium Local	11	5	3	0	Meets all criteria	n/s
Warrington Road	Medium Local	10	6	1	0	Meets all criteria	n/s

Source: Knowsley MBC. n/s: not resurveyed in 2026. For district centres, 'around five convenience units' has been applied as five or more; on that basis Halewood (Ravenscourt), with four, does not meet that criterion. If four were treated as around five, Halewood (Ravenscourt) would meet two of the four criteria; the overall outcome would not change.

8.37 Twenty of the 29 centres tested met all the criteria for their designated tier in 2025. Nine did not: Prescot Town Centre; Halewood (Ravenscourt) and Stockbridge Village district centres; Tarbock Road major local centre; and Baileys Lane, Hampton Drive, Molyneux Drive, Moorfield and Rimmer Avenue medium local centres. Of the town and district centres resurveyed in 2026, the hierarchy outcome remained unchanged except at Huyton, where the number of convenience units fell below the adopted threshold.

TOWN CENTRE PROFILES: HUYTON, KIRKBY AND PRESCOT

How the Core Strategy defines a town centre

Town Centres as identified in Policy CS6 are centres which can achieve or maintain the following thresholds to meet local needs during the plan period:

- a main centre within Knowsley offering in excess of 50 occupied retail units and/or service sector operators offering a range of non-retail services such as banks, building societies and restaurants and local public facilities such as a library, together with;
- a minimum of 10 convenience units with at least one being a supermarket or superstore.

Source: Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (January 2016), Appendix B Detailed Definitions.

8.38 The three town centres differ in their size and composition. Comparison retail has declined across all three since 2021, while food, beverage and leisure uses have increased. The following profiles summarise their occupancy, composition and performance against the adopted hierarchy criteria.

Huyton Town Centre

8.39 Huyton is the borough's central town centre, in the Roby and St Gabriels wards. It has a rail station on the Liverpool to Manchester and Liverpool to Wigan lines and a bus station. Core Strategy Policy CS6(4)(c) directs new comparison goods shopping in Huyton to complement regeneration opportunities within the existing centre. A Huyton Village Masterplan SPD is in place.[73]

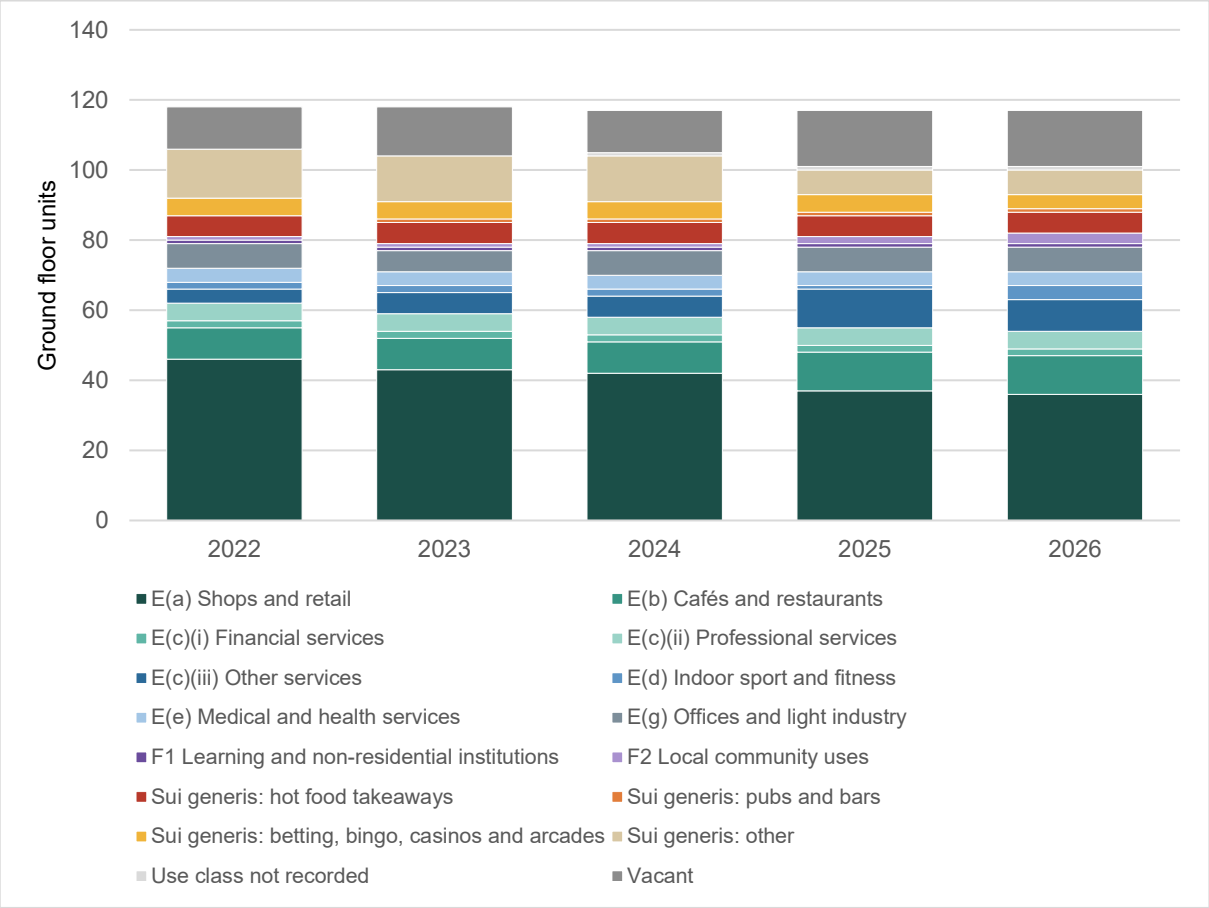
Table 71: Huyton Town Centre: units, occupancy and composition, ground floor units, 2021 to 2026

Year	Units	Occ	Vac	Vac %	Conv	Comp	Service	Other
2021	120	107	13	10.8	12	33	43	19
2022	118	106	12	10.2	12	32	44	18
2023	118	104	14	11.9	12	29	46	17
2024	117	105	12	10.3	12	27	47	18
2025	117	101	16	13.7	11	24	48	17
2026	117	101	16	13.7	9	24	49	18

Source: Knowsley MBC. Use categories sum to one fewer than occupied units in 2024, 2025 and 2026 because one occupied unit in each year has no use category recorded in the gazetteer.

[73] Knowsley Council, Huyton Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document 2017-2028.

Figure 74: Huyton Town Centre: ground floor units by use class, 2022 to 2026



Source: Knowsley MBC, retail centre monitoring surveys. Ground floor units; residential units excluded. Use classes as defined from 1 September 2020.

8.40 Huyton met all three adopted town-centre criteria in 2025, with 83 occupied retail and service units (101 occupied units including other town centre uses), 11 convenience units and three supermarkets. In the 2026 resurvey, vacancy remained at 13.7% (16 of 117 units), while the number of convenience units fell from 11 to nine. Huyton therefore met two of the three adopted criteria in 2026. The number of Class E(a) shop units fell from 46 in 2022 to 36 in 2026, while cafés, restaurants and other service uses increased.

Kirkby Town Centre

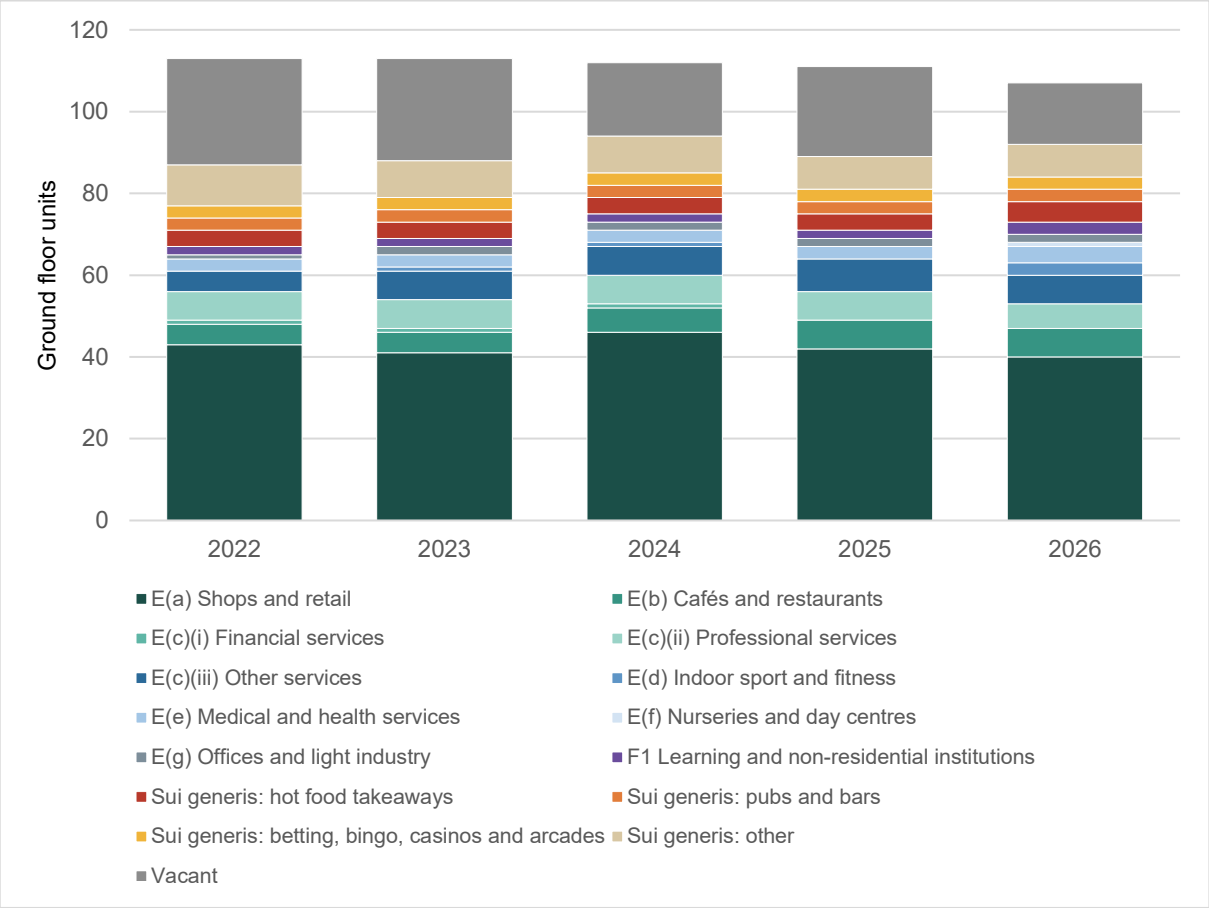
8.41 Kirkby serves the north of the borough and is physically separated from the rest of Knowsley by Green Belt. It is served by Kirkby rail station, about 800 metres west of the centre boundary, on the Merseyrail Northern line, which since 2023 has continued to Headbolt Lane; it has a bus station and the largest number of comparison units of the three town centres (30 in 2025).

Table 72: Kirkby Town Centre: units, occupancy and composition, ground floor units, 2021 to 2026

Year	Units	Occ	Vac	Vac %	Conv	Comp	Service	Other
2021	103	86	17	16.5	10	32	34	10
2022	113	87	26	23.0	12	32	34	9
2023	113	88	25	22.1	12	30	36	10
2024	112	94	18	16.1	11	35	37	10
2025	111	89	22	19.8	11	30	38	10
2026	107	92	15	14.0	10	25	44	13

Source: Knowsley MBC. Use categories sum to one fewer than occupied units in 2024 because one occupied unit has no use category recorded in the gazetteer.

Figure 75: Kirkby Town Centre: ground floor units by use class, 2022 to 2026



Source: Knowsley MBC, retail centre monitoring surveys. Ground floor units; residential units excluded. Use classes as defined from 1 September 2020.

8.42 Kirkby met all three adopted town-centre criteria in both 2025 and 2026. Vacancy fell from 19.8% in 2025 (22 of 111 ground-floor commercial units) to 14.0% in 2026 (15 of 107 units); the number of units recorded fell from 111 to 107. The 2026 survey recorded 10 convenience units, at the adopted threshold, and three supermarkets. Comparison units fell from 30 in 2025 to 25 in 2026, while service uses increased.

Prescot Town Centre

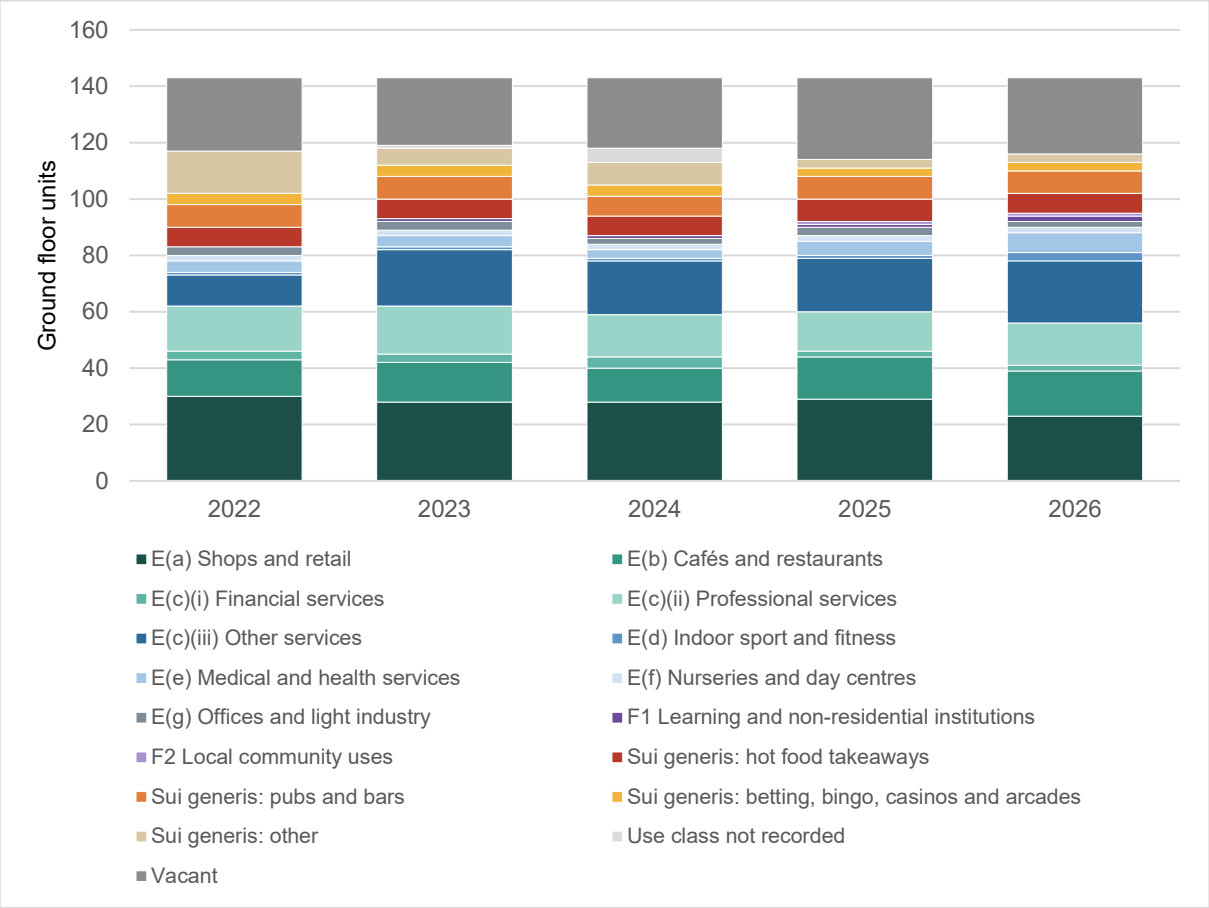
8.43 Prescot is the borough's historic town centre and the only one whose core is a conservation area. It has the Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot Library and Prescot Museum (which share The Prescot Centre in Prescot Shopping Centre) and the largest concentration of professional and financial services in the borough, and is served by Prescot rail station, about 500 metres south of the centre boundary.

Table 73: Prescot Town Centre: units, occupancy and composition, ground floor units, 2021 to 2026

Year	Units	Occ	Vac	Vac %	Conv	Comp	Service	Other
2021	141	119	22	15.6	9	19	84	7
2022	143	117	26	18.2	9	16	86	6
2023	143	119	24	16.8	9	15	87	8
2024	143	118	25	17.5	8	16	84	8
2025	143	114	29	20.3	8	18	81	7
2026	143	116	27	18.9	8	14	86	8

Source: Knowsley MBC. Use categories sum to two fewer than occupied units in 2024 because two occupied units have no use category recorded in the gazetteer.

Figure 76: Prescot Town Centre: ground floor units by use class, 2022 to 2026



Source: Knowsley MBC, retail centre monitoring surveys. Ground floor units; residential units excluded. Use classes as defined from 1 September 2020.

8.44 Prescot recorded the highest vacancy rate of the three town centres in 2025, at 20.3% (29 of 143 ground-floor commercial units). Vacancy fell to 18.9% in 2026. The centre met two of the three adopted town-centre criteria in both years: it exceeded the occupied retail and service unit threshold and contained a supermarket, but recorded eight convenience units against the adopted threshold of 10.

8.45 For consistency with borough-wide monitoring and the hierarchy assessment, Table 73 relates to ground-floor commercial units. Prescot Shopping Centre also contains 15 first-floor commercial units. Including these units gives a total of 158 commercial units across the town centre, of which 38 were vacant in 2025 (24.1%) and 36 in 2026 (22.8%). The first-floor units are reported separately so that the ground-floor figures remain comparable with the other centres. Class E(a) shop units fell from 30 in 2022 to 23 in 2026, while cafés, restaurants and other service uses increased.

8.46 Core Strategy Policies CS6 and CS14 seek to improve links between Prescot Town Centre and Cables Retail Park, which is described below.

District centres

How the Core Strategy defines a district centre

District Centres as identified in Policy CS6 are centres which can achieve or maintain the following thresholds to meet local needs within the catchment area of the centre during the plan period:

- between 20-50 occupied retail units, including a minimum of 10 local service operators offering non-retail services, such as banks, building societies and restaurants, as well as local public facilities such as a library, together with;
- around five convenience units, at least one of which being a supermarket or superstore.

Source: Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (January 2016), Appendix B Detailed Definitions.

8.47 The adopted Core Strategy identifies Halewood (Ravenscourt), Liverpool Road / Page Moss and Stockbridge Village as district centres.

8.48 Halewood (Ravenscourt) contained 17 commercial units in 2025 and 2026, all of which were occupied. In 2025 it recorded six service operators, four convenience units and two supermarkets and therefore met one of the four quantitative criteria for a district centre. In 2026 it again met one of the four criteria, with service operators falling from six to five. The centre has recorded 17 commercial units in each survey since 2021.

8.49 Liverpool Road / Page Moss was the only district centre to meet all four adopted criteria in 2025, with 25 occupied units, 13 service operators, seven convenience units and two supermarkets. Vacancy increased from 7.4% in 2025 to 11.1% in 2026, but the centre continued to meet all four criteria. Four hot food takeaways were recorded in 2025 (4 of 27 units, 14.8%), above the Town Centre Uses SPD guidance threshold.

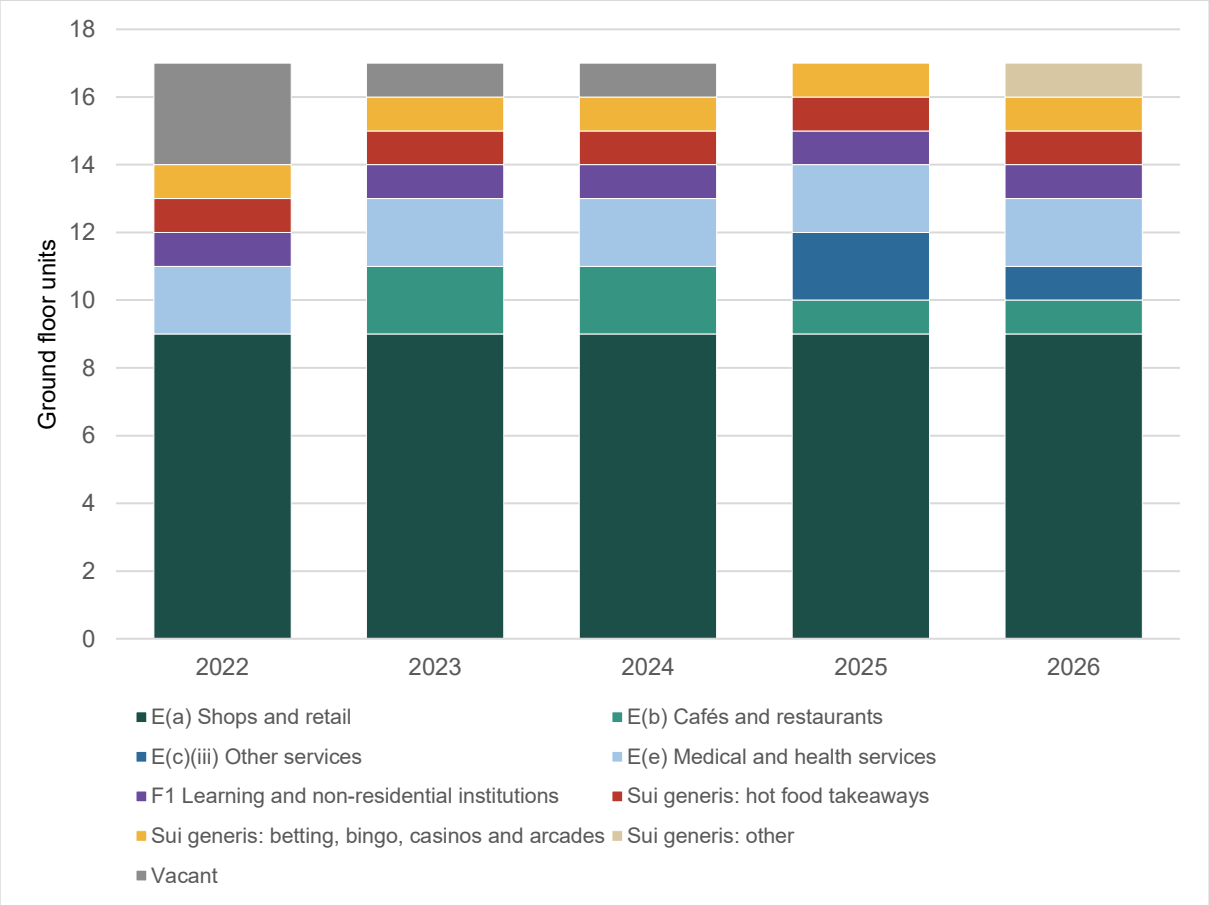
8.50 Stockbridge Village contained 20 commercial units in 2025, of which 16 were occupied, giving a vacancy rate of 20.0%. It met one of the four adopted district-centre criteria. In the 2026 resurvey, vacancy increased to 25.0% (five units) and the centre again met one of the four criteria. Class E(a) shop units fell from seven in 2022 to five in 2025 and 2026.

Table 74: District centres: units, occupancy and composition, ground floor units, 2021 to 2026

Centre	Year	Units	Occ	Vac	Vac %	Conv	Comp	Service	Other
Halewood (Ravenscourt)	2021	17	16	1	5.9	4	5	5	2
	2022	17	14	3	17.6	4	5	3	2
	2023	17	16	1	5.9	4	5	5	2
	2024	17	16	1	5.9	4	5	5	2
	2025	17	17	0	0.0	4	5	6	2
	2026	17	17	0	0.0	4	5	5	3
Liverpool Road / Page Moss	2021	27	26	1	3.7	7	3	14	2
	2022	27	26	1	3.7	7	3	14	2
	2023	27	26	1	3.7	7	3	14	2
	2024	27	26	1	3.7	7	3	14	2
	2025	27	25	2	7.4	7	3	13	2
	2026	27	24	3	11.1	7	3	13	1
Stockbridge Village	2021	20	16	4	20.0	3	3	6	4
	2022	20	16	4	20.0	2	3	7	4
	2023	20	18	2	10.0	2	4	7	5
	2024	20	18	2	10.0	2	4	7	5
	2025	20	16	4	20.0	2	2	7	5
	2026	20	15	5	25.0	2	2	7	4

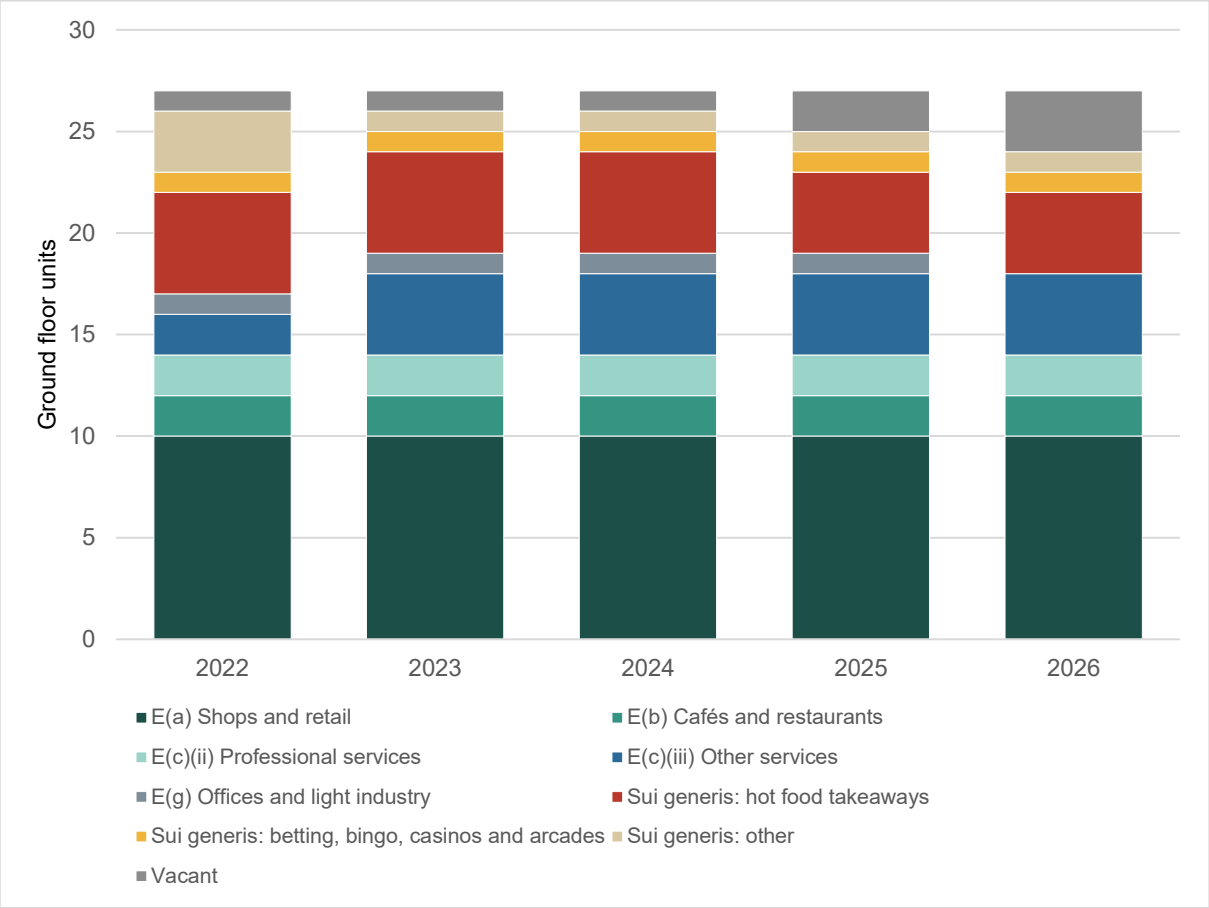
Source: Knowsley MBC.

Figure 77: Halewood (Ravenscourt): ground floor units by use class, 2022 to 2026



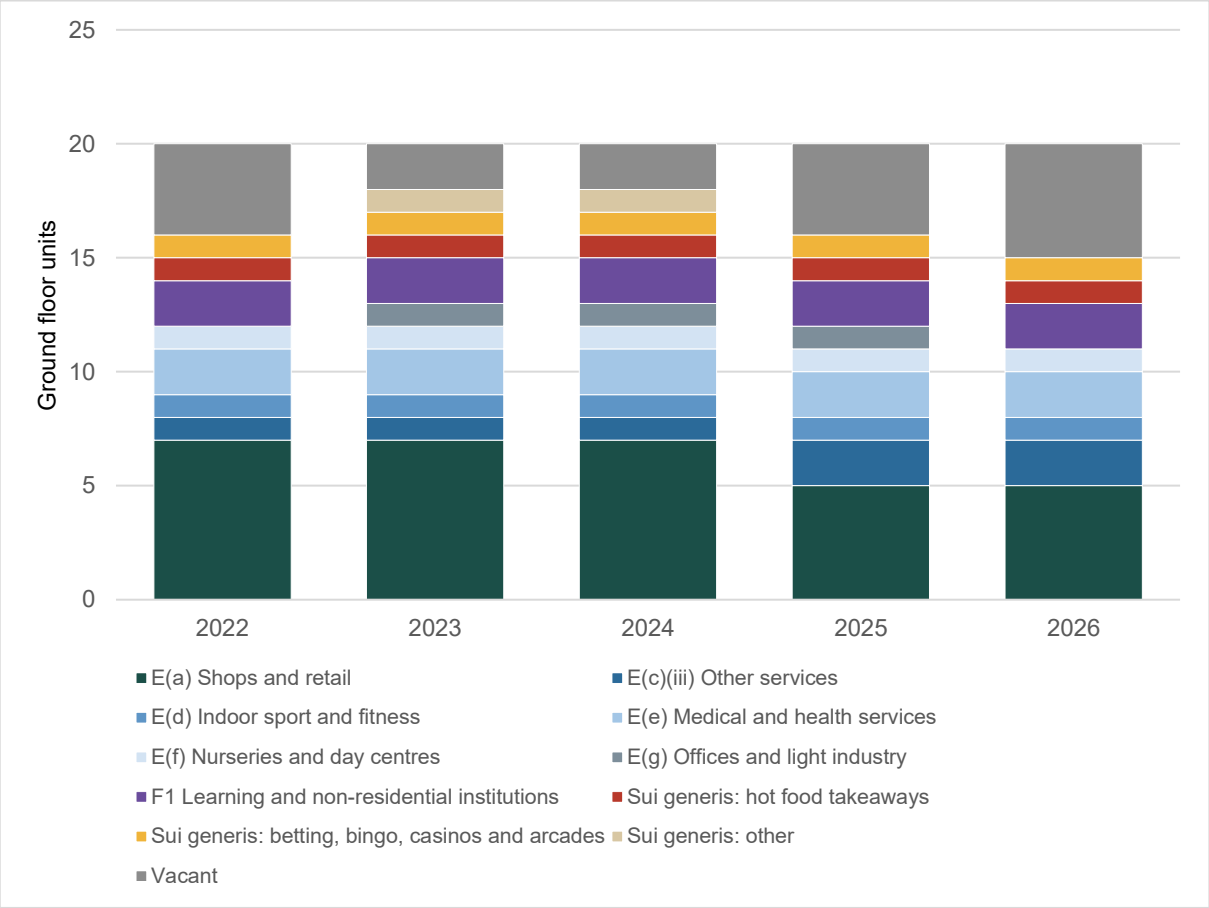
Source: Knowsley MBC, retail centre monitoring surveys. Ground floor units; residential units excluded. Use classes as defined from 1 September 2020.

Figure 78: Liverpool Road / Page Moss: ground floor units by use class, 2022 to 2026



Source: Knowsley MBC, retail centre monitoring surveys. Ground floor units; residential units excluded. Use classes as defined from 1 September 2020.

Figure 79: Stockbridge Village: ground floor units by use class, 2022 to 2026



Source: Knowsley MBC, retail centre monitoring surveys. Ground floor units; residential units excluded. Use classes as defined from 1 September 2020.

Cables Retail Park, Prescot

8.51 Cables Retail Park is not a designated centre and lies approximately 340 metres south of Prescot Town Centre. It recorded 15 ground-floor commercial units in 2025, of which 14 were occupied, giving a vacancy rate of 6.7%; the same number were occupied in the 2026 resurvey. Its occupiers include Tesco Extra and Marks and Spencer Simply Food together with a range of comparison retailers. In 2025, seven of its 15 units were comparison units and it contained two supermarkets.

Major local centres

How the Core Strategy defines a major local centre

Local Centres are categorised below taking into account the realistic ability of each centre to achieve or maintain the following thresholds to meet local needs within the catchment area of the centre during the plan period:

- Major local centre; minimum of 12 occupied units, with at least six local service operators and two convenience stores.

Source: Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (January 2016), Appendix B Detailed Definitions, page B-3. Wording as adopted.

8.52 The adopted Core Strategy identifies six major local centres.

8.53 The six major local centres recorded 98 commercial units in 2025, of which 96 were occupied, giving a vacancy rate of 2.0%. Five of the six met all the adopted criteria for their tier. Four recorded concentrations of hot food takeaways above the Town Centre Uses SPD guidance threshold. Greenes Road, the only major local centre resurveyed in 2026, recorded one vacant unit.

Table 75: Major local centres, 2025 survey, ground floor units

Centre	Area	Occ / units	Vacancy % 2025	Note
Bewley Drive / Broad Lane	Kirkby	13 / 13	0.0	Two hot food takeaways at 15% of units
Greenes Road	Whiston	23 / 24	4.2	Largest local centre (24 units)
Hillside Road	Huyton	12 / 12	0.0	Meets all criteria, at the 12-unit threshold
Kingsway / Gentwood Parades	Huyton	19 / 19	0.0	Highest combined hot food/gambling concentration in the tier
Pilch Lane	Huyton	18 / 19	5.3	No hot food takeaways recorded
Tarbock Road	Huyton	11 / 11	0.0	Meets 2 of 3 criteria; 11 ground floor units, below the 12-unit threshold

Source: Knowsley MBC.

Table 76: Major local centres: ground floor units by use class, all centres in the tier, 2021 to 2025

Use class	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change 2021 to 2025
E(a) Shops and retail	45	44	42	43	43	-2
E(b) Cafés and restaurants	5	6	6	6	6	+1
E(c)(ii) Professional services	7	7	6	5	5	-2
E(c)(iii) Other services	8	8	15	15	18	+10
E(e) Medical and health services	3	3	4	4	3	0
Sui generis: hot food takeaways	12	13	13	13	13	+1
Sui generis: pubs and bars	1	1	1	1	1	0
Sui generis: betting, bingo, casinos and arcades	5	5	5	5	5	0
Sui generis: other	9	9	4	4	2	-7
Use class not recorded	0	0	0	1	0	0
Vacant	3	2	2	1	2	-1
All ground floor units	**98**	**98**	**98**	**98**	**98**	**0**

Source: Knowsley MBC, retail centre monitoring surveys. Ground floor units; residential units excluded. Use classes as defined from 1 September 2020.

Medium local centres

How the Core Strategy defines a medium local centre

Local Centres are categorised below taking into account the realistic ability of each centre to achieve or maintain the following thresholds to meet local needs within the catchment area of the centre during the plan period:

- Medium local centres; minimum of eight occupied units, with at least four local service operators and one convenience store.

Source: Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (January 2016), Appendix B Detailed Definitions, page B-4. Wording as adopted.

8.54 The adopted Core Strategy identifies 18 medium local centres.

8.55 Seventeen of the 18 designated medium local centres contained commercial units in 2025; Admin Road / South Boundary Road had no remaining units. Across the 17 surveyed centres there were 168 ground-floor commercial units, of which 156 were occupied, giving a vacancy rate of 7.1%. Five centres did not meet all the adopted criteria for their tier, and 11 recorded hot food takeaway concentrations above the Town Centre Uses SPD guidance threshold.

Table 77: Medium local centres, 2025 survey, ground floor units

Centre	Area	Occ / units	Vacancy % 2025	Outcome
Baileys Lane	Halewood	5 / 6	16.7	Meets 1 of 3; no convenience unit at all
Copple House Lane	Kirkby	10 / 10	0.0	Meets all criteria
Dragon Drive	Prescot area	8 / 9	11.1	Meets all criteria
Glovers Brow	Kirkby	13 / 13	0.0	Meets all criteria; 23% hot food takeaway concentration

Centre	Area	Occ / units	Vacancy % 2025	Outcome
Hampton Drive	Cronton	6 / 6	0.0	Meets 1 of 3
Longview Drive	Huyton/Stockbridge Village	9 / 9	0.0	Meets all criteria
Mackets Lane	Halewood	9 / 10	10.0	Meets all criteria
Manor Farm Road	Huyton/Stockbridge Village	9 / 9	0.0	Meets all criteria
Molyneux Drive	Prescot area	7 / 8	12.5	Meets 1 of 3; 25% hot food takeaway concentration
Moorfield	Kirkby	7 / 7	0.0	Meets 2 of 3
Old Rough Lane	Kirkby	14 / 15	6.7	Meets all criteria; surveyed records rose 12→15
Page Moss / Dinas Lane	Huyton/Stockbridge Village	10 / 11	9.1	Meets all; 27% hot food takeaway concentration
Park Brow Drive	Kirkby	13 / 14	7.1	Meets all criteria
Rimmer Avenue	Huyton/Stockbridge Village	7 / 11	36.4	Meets 1 of 3; highest vacancy above parade level
Sugar Lane	Prescot area	8 / 8	0.0	Meets all criteria
Swanside Parade	Huyton/Stockbridge Village	11 / 12	8.3	Meets all criteria
Warrington Road	Prescot area	10 / 10	0.0	Meets all; highest hot food concentration in tier, 30%
Admin Road / South Boundary Road	Kirkby	demolished	-	No units recorded 2021 to 2025; the buildings within the centre have been demolished

Source: Knowsley MBC.

Table 78: Medium local centres: ground floor units by use class, all centres in the tier, 2021 to 2025

Use class	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change 2021 to 2025
E(a) Shops and retail	54	55	56	55	56	+2
E(b) Cafés and restaurants	5	6	6	6	7	+2
E(c)(ii) Professional services	8	9	8	6	6	-2
E(c)(iii) Other services	29	28	35	32	41	+12
E(e) Medical and health services	5	5	5	5	6	+1
E(g) Offices and light industry	1	1	1	1	1	0
F1 Learning and non-residential institutions	4	4	4	3	3	-1
Sui generis: hot food takeaways	21	22	22	21	23	+2
Sui generis: pubs and bars	1	1	1	1	1	0
Sui generis: betting, bingo, casinos and arcades	7	7	7	7	7	0
Sui generis: other	17	18	10	11	5	-12
Vacant	14	10	11	8	12	-2
All ground floor units	**166**	**166**	**166**	**156**	**168**	**+2**

Source: Knowsley MBC.

Minor parades

How the Core Strategy and saved UDP Policy S7 treat minor parades

Core Strategy Appendix B, Minor Parades

The following existing centres fail to meet the requirement of the hierarchy of higher order centres in Policy CS6, but remain locally important for local service provision:

Acacia Avenue, Huyton; Byron Avenue/Milton Avenue, Whiston; Camberley Way, Halewood; Church Road/Hollies Road, Halewood; Greystone Road, Huyton; James Holt Avenue, Kirkby; Kennelwood Avenue, Kirkby; Kingsway/Crosswood Crescent, Huyton; Longview Drive/Wallace Drive, Huyton; Loweswater Way, Kirkby; Merrivale Road, Halewood; Old Farm Road, Kirkby; Richard Hesketh Drive, Kirkby; Scotchbarn Lane, Prescot; Shop Road, Knowsley Village; Wood Road, Halewood.

Saved UDP Policy S7: Local Centres and Parades

The Council will grant planning permission for the re-use or re-development of properties within local shopping centres or parades for small scale town centre uses within Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, C3, D1 and other miscellaneous town centre uses (see appendix 7) provided that:

a) The development accords with policy S2; and

b) Local shopping needs would still be met by existing shopping facilities within safe and convenient walking distance of where people live in the surrounding area.

Sources: Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (January 2016), Appendix B Detailed Definitions; Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (adopted June 2006), saved Policy S7, page 74. Wording as adopted; the use classes in Policy S7 are those in force in 2006.

8.56 Core Strategy Appendix B identifies 16 minor parades which fall below the higher-order retail hierarchy but remain locally important for local service provision. They are also subject to saved UDP Policy S7.

8.57 The 16 minor parades recorded 83 ground-floor commercial units in 2025, of which 71 were occupied and 12 vacant. Vacancy increased from 3.6% in 2021 to 14.5% in 2025. Eight of the 12 vacant units were concentrated at Kennelwood Avenue, Kingsway / Crosswood Crescent and Merrivale Road. Four parades recorded no convenience unit: Acacia Avenue, Greystone Road, Kennelwood Avenue and Shop Road.

Table 79: Minor parades, 2025 survey, ground floor units

Parade	Area	Units	Occ	Vac	Vac % 25	Vac % 21	Conv	Hot food	Gamb
Acacia Avenue	Huyton	10	9	1	10.0	0.0	0	0	0
Byron Avenue / Milton Avenue	Prescot area	8	7	1	12.5	12.5	1	2	0
Camberley Way	Halewood	4	3	1	25.0	25.0	1	0	0
Church Road / Hollies Road	Halewood	4	4	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	0
Greystone Road	Huyton	3	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
James Holt Avenue	Kirkby	6	6	0	0.0	0.0	2	1	0
Kennelwood Avenue	Kirkby	7	3	4	57.1	14.3	0	0	0
Kingsway / Crosswood Crescent	Huyton	5	3	2	40.0	0.0	1	0	0
Longview Drive / Wallace Drive	Huyton	6	6	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	1
Loweswater Way	Kirkby	3	3	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Merrivale Road	Halewood	5	3	2	40.0	0.0	1	0	0
Old Farm Road	Kirkby	6	5	1	16.7	0.0	1	1	0
Richard Hesketh Drive	Kirkby	4	4	0	0.0	0.0	2	1	0
Scotchbarn Lane	Prescot area	5	5	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	0
Shop Road	Prescot area	2	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wood Road	Halewood	5	5	0	0.0	0.0	2	0	0

Source: Knowsley MBC.

Table 80: Minor parades: ground floor units by use class, all centres in the tier, 2021 to 2025

Use class	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change 2021 to 2025
E(a) Shops and retail	30	29	28	29	27	-3
E(b) Cafés and restaurants	4	4	3	3	4	0
E(c)(ii) Professional services	10	9	9	10	9	-1
E(c)(iii) Other services	9	9	17	18	18	+9
E(d) Indoor sport and fitness	1	1	1	2	1	0
E(e) Medical and health services	3	3	3	3	3	0
F2 Local community uses	0	0	0	0	1	+1
Sui generis: hot food takeaways	8	8	8	8	6	-2
Sui generis: betting, bingo, casinos and arcades	3	2	1	1	1	-2
Sui generis: other	12	12	3	1	1	-11
Use class not recorded	0	0	2	1	0	0
Vacant	3	6	8	7	12	+9
All ground floor units	**83**	**83**	**83**	**83**	**83**	**0**

Source: Knowsley MBC, retail centre monitoring surveys. Ground floor units; residential units excluded. Use classes as defined from 1 September 2020.

8.58 In 2025, vacancy ranged from 2.0% in the major local centres to 18.1% in the town centres, and vacancy in the minor parades increased from 3.6% in 2021 to 14.5%. In the 2026 resurvey, vacancy across the three town centres fell from 18.1% to 15.8%, although the position varied between centres.

LEISURE AND VISITOR ECONOMY

8.59 The baseline holds limited evidence on leisure and the visitor economy. The centre surveys record Class E(b) cafés and restaurants and E(d) indoor sport and fitness units increasing in all three town centres between 2022 and 2026 (above), and Prescot's cultural offer includes the Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot Library and Prescot Museum. Arts, entertainment and recreation provide about 1,750 employee jobs (2.7%) and accommodation and food services about 2,500 (3.8%) (Table 52). These sectors serve residents as well as visitors, so the figures are not a measure of tourism employment. Leisure and community accessibility is the only purpose on which Knowsley scores below the national mean in the DfT connectivity statistics (section 4).

9. MINERALS AND WASTE

Key baseline data sources used in this section:

- Merseyside Minerals Study (2008)
- Environment Agency, Historic Landfill Sites
- MEAS, mineral permissions and workings records (2015)
- Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Halton, and Warrington, Joint Annual Local Aggregate Assessment 2024
- Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (2013), Waste Needs Assessment 2024 and Joint Waste Local Plan review papers (2025)
- Defra, Local Authority Collected Waste Management statistics, 2024/25
- Environment Agency, Waste Data Interrogator 2025, EPR Waste Sites quarterly summary (June 2026) and remaining landfill capacity, end 2025
- DESNZ, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024

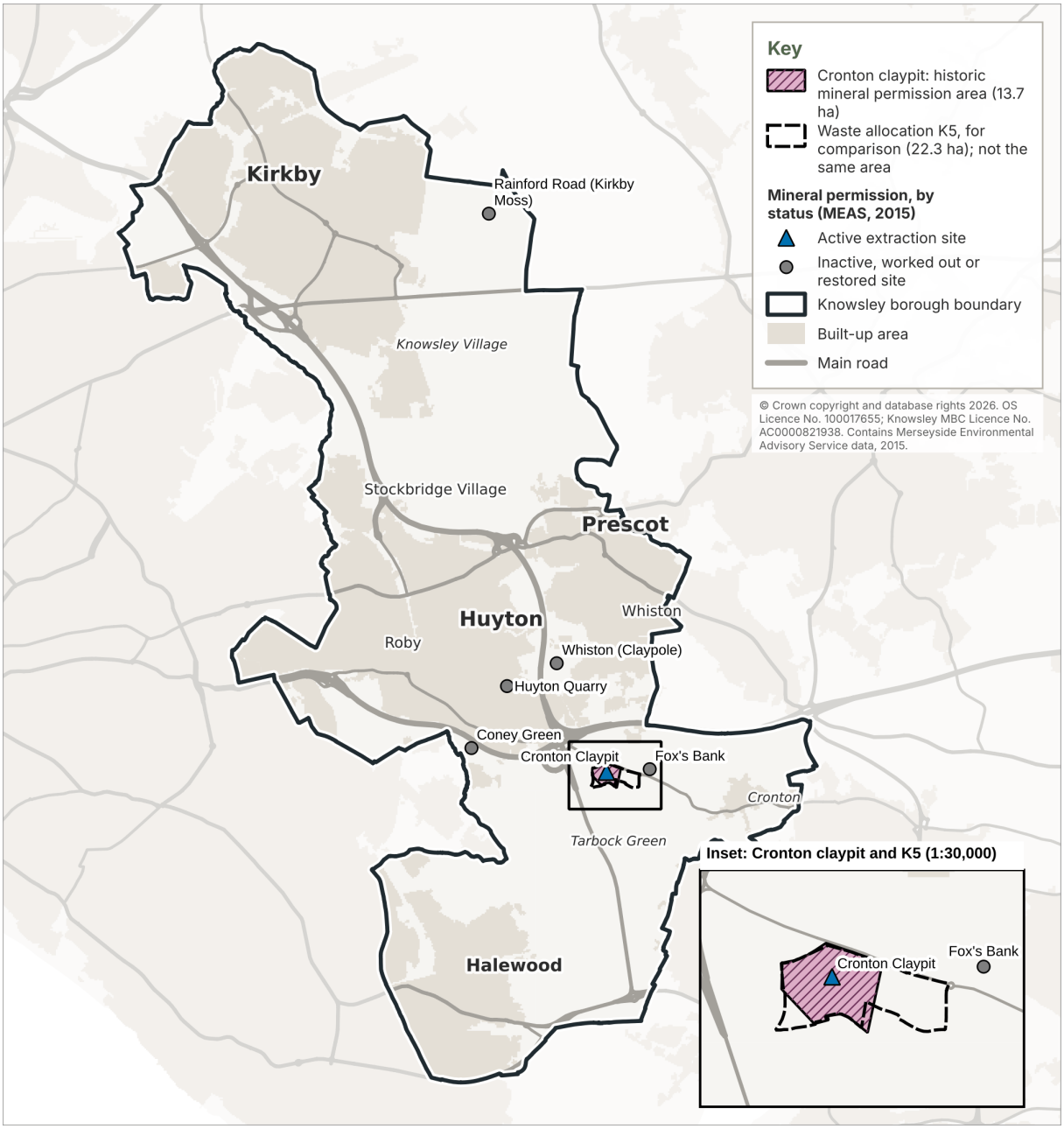
MINERALS

9.1 Council mineral evidence identifies the presence of coal, brick clay, coal-bed methane and silica sand resources within Knowsley. Evidence also indicates the potential for oil and gas resources within part of the borough. The Council's mineral evidence also records 209 known mine entries across the borough. The Merseyside Minerals Study (2008) identifies Carboniferous Pennine Coal Measures extending into parts of Knowsley, together with superficial deposits including clay and peat. The study also identifies Cronton Clay Pit as a brick-clay extraction operation at the time of publication. MEAS mineral records (2015) show six mineral permission sites in the borough. Five are recorded as inactive, worked out and/or restored: silica sand at Rainford Road (Kirkby Moss), clay and shale at Whiston (Claypole) and Huyton Quarry, and sandstone at Coney Green and Fox's Bank. The sixth, Cronton Claypit (clay and shale), was recorded as an active extraction site in 2015 (Figure 80).[74]

9.2 Knowsley does not currently contain any adopted Minerals Safeguarding Areas. The Merseyside Minerals Study identified a potential safeguarding area associated with brick-clay resources at Cronton; however, this was not adopted through the development plan.

[74] MEAS, Merseyside Minerals Study (2008).

Figure 80: Historic mineral permissions and workings



Source: MEAS, mineral records (2015); Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan.

9.3 Aggregate minerals supply is planned and monitored at a wider sub-regional level through the Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Halton, and Warrington Joint Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA).[75] The Joint LAA 2024 reports that there were no operational land-won sand and gravel quarries and no permitted sand and gravel reserves within the sub-region at the end of 2023. Crushed rock reserves totalled 10.61 million tonnes, equivalent to a landbank of 22.1 years. The authority-level summary identifies no active aggregate workings, aggregate resources or aggregate wharves within Knowsley.

9.4 The Joint LAA also highlights the importance of imported minerals to meeting development needs across the wider sub-region, with imports supplying 75% of sand and gravel consumption and 100% of crushed rock consumption during 2023. The LAA concludes that "the sub-region is increasingly reliant on imports to supply the majority of its requirements for sand and gravel and crushed rock".

[75] MEAS, Joint Annual Local Aggregate Assessment Report (2024).

Table 81: Aggregate supply indicators, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Halton and Warrington (2023)

Indicator	2023 / end-2023 position
Operational land-won sand and gravel quarries	0
Permitted land-won sand and gravel reserves	0 million tonnes
Land-won sand and gravel landbank	0 years
Permitted crushed rock reserves	10.61 million tonnes
Crushed rock landbank	22.1 years
Sand and gravel consumption supplied by imports	75%
Crushed rock consumption supplied by imports	100%

Source: Joint Annual Local Aggregate Assessment 2024, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Halton, and Warrington (August 2026; 2023 data), Executive Summary.

WASTE

9.5 The Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan, adopted in July 2013 by six constituent authorities, provides the statutory planning framework for waste development across the plan area to 2027. The plan contains five waste site allocations within Knowsley, shown in Figure 81.[76]

9.6 The Waste Needs Assessment 2024, prepared as part of the review of the Joint Waste Local Plan, estimates total waste arisings across the Merseyside and Halton plan area at 3.31 million tonnes in 2022. Commercial and industrial waste accounted for the largest proportion (40.4%), followed by construction, demolition and excavation waste (35.8%), local authority collected waste (19.0%) and hazardous waste (4.8%). These figures relate to the wider Merseyside and Halton plan area rather than Knowsley alone.[77]

Table 82: Estimated waste arisings by stream, Merseyside and Halton plan area (2022)

Waste stream	Tonnes	Share
Commercial and industrial	1,339,113	40.4%
Construction, demolition and excavation	1,187,178	35.8%
Local authority collected	628,120	19.0%
Hazardous	159,989	4.8%
Total	**3,314,400**	**100.0%**

Source: Waste Needs Assessment 2024.

9.7 The Waste Needs Assessment identifies two household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) within Knowsley, located at Huyton and Kirkby. Published capacity information indicates annual tonnage limits of 20,000 tonnes at Huyton and 15,000 tonnes at Kirkby. In 2022, the facilities received 14,706 tonnes and 8,042 tonnes of waste respectively. Environment Agency returns record 16,283 tonnes received at Huyton and 8,417 tonnes at Kirkby in 2025.

Table 83: Household waste recycling centres in Knowsley

Facility	Published annual tonnage limit	Waste received in 2022	Waste received in 2025
Huyton HWRC	20,000 tonnes (household and trade)	14,706 tonnes	16,283 tonnes
Kirkby HWRC	15,000 tonnes	8,042 tonnes	8,417 tonnes

Source: Waste Needs Assessment 2024, Tables 14 and 15, pp 17-18. Tonnage limits are labelled 'permitted tonnage' in Table 14 and described in the text as planning-consented capacities; they are not environmental permit limits or actual annual throughput. 2025 receipts: Environment Agency, 2025 Waste Data Interrogator Version 2.

Local authority collected waste

9.8 Defra's final Local Authority Collected Waste Management statistics record 60,297 tonnes of local authority collected waste in Knowsley during 2024/25, including 59,121 tonnes of household waste. Of the household total, 16,851 tonnes was sent for recycling, composting or reuse. The household recycling rate increased from 26.2% in 2023/24 to 28.5% in 2024/25.

[76] Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (2013).
[77] Waste Needs Assessment, 2024.

These statistics relate to waste collected by local authorities and do not include commercial, industrial or construction waste streams.

Table 84: Local authority collected waste indicators (Knowsley)

Indicator	2023/24	2024/25
Total local authority collected waste (tonnes)	59,995	60,297
Household waste collected (tonnes)	58,932	59,121
Household waste recycled / composted / reused (tonnes)	15,467	16,851
Household recycling rate	26.2%	28.5%
Residual household waste per household (kg)	612.4	589.0
Household waste collected per person (kg)	370.1	363.7

Source: Defra Local Authority and Regional Spreadsheet, 2024-25.

Waste management facilities

9.9 Environment Agency 2025 Waste Data Interrogator returns identify 25 permit references in Knowsley reporting waste received in 2025, totalling 863,395 tonnes (rounded). Waste removed from 25 permit references totalled 729,064 tonnes. There were 26 distinct references across both returns. Separately, the EA effective waste operations snapshot at 30 June 2026 identifies 22 Knowsley permits. The WDI and quarterly datasets have different purposes, reference dates and coverage, so the difference in counts does not indicate facilities opening or closing. The June snapshot explicitly excludes non-inert landfills and certain large treatment installations, which are published in separate industrial/landfill permit datasets.

Table 85: Waste management facilities data (Knowsley)

Reported 2025 WDI measure	Knowsley permitted-facility returns
Waste received at facilities	863,395 tonnes
Waste removed from facilities	729,064 tonnes
Permit references reporting receipts	25
Permit references reporting removals	25
Distinct permit references in either extract	26

Source: Environment Agency, 2025 Waste Data Interrogator Version 2.

9.10 The largest recorded receipt sites included Knowsley Rail Transfer Loading Station (411,623 tonnes), Huyton Waste Transfer Station (115,862 tonnes), Huyton Wastewater Treatment Works (56,278 tonnes), and Cronton Quarry (45,696 tonnes). These records demonstrate 2025 waste handling, but do not independently confirm the planning status or current operational classification of each site.

Table 86: Waste received and removed at the 12 largest receiving facilities, Knowsley, 2025

Facility (EA WDI 2025)	Permit reference	Waste received (tonnes)	Waste removed (tonnes)
Knowsley Rail Transfer Loading Station	EPR/ZP3892EE	411,623	410,400
Huyton Waste Transfer Station	EPR/EP3695SH	115,862	114,036
Huyton WwTW	EPR/HP3531LN	56,278	26,812
Cronton Quarry	EPR/AB3909FA	45,696	8
1st Choice Concrete & Skip Hire Ltd	EPR/AP3997CP	38,000	22,573
Acornfield Road Waste Management Centre	EPR/VP3936UG	29,614	5,609
Woolton WwTW	EPR/DP3435FH	21,004	18,734
Unit 18, Brickfields	EPR/ZP3294CU	18,260	17,345
SRCL Knowsley Treatment and Transfer Station	EPR/KP3436NL	18,192	18,175
Huyton H W R C	EPR/DB3833DK	16,283	16,283
Avanti Treatment and Transfer Centre	EPR/XP3038HX	14,685	13,822
Kirkby Skips Limited	EPR/CB3409XM	14,382	10,116

Source: Environment Agency, 2025 Waste Data Interrogator Version 2, Wastes Received and Wastes Removed, filtered on Facility WPA = Knowsley and grouped by EPR Number.

Permitted waste operations

9.11 The Environment Agency quarterly summary of effective waste operations lists 22 permits assigned to Knowsley. Nineteen of these permit references also occur in the 2025 Waste Data Interrogator: seven WDI references are absent from the quarterly waste-operations list, while three June 2026 waste-operation permits are absent from the 2025 WDI returns. This is not a like-for-like operating-site comparison because the quarterly extract excludes some installation and landfill permits, and the WDI records annual waste movements rather than all effective permissions.

Table 87: Effective waste-operation permits and 2025 WDI permit references, Knowsley

Dataset/indicator	Result
Effective waste-operation permits, Knowsley, June 2026	22
2025 WDI distinct permits with recorded receipts or removals	26
References common to both datasets	19
2025 WDI references absent from June waste-operations extract	7
June waste-operation permits absent from 2025 WDI records	3

Source: Environment Agency, EPR Waste Sites - Quarterly Summary, end June 2026, "Waste Operations" worksheet.

Landfill and waste allocations

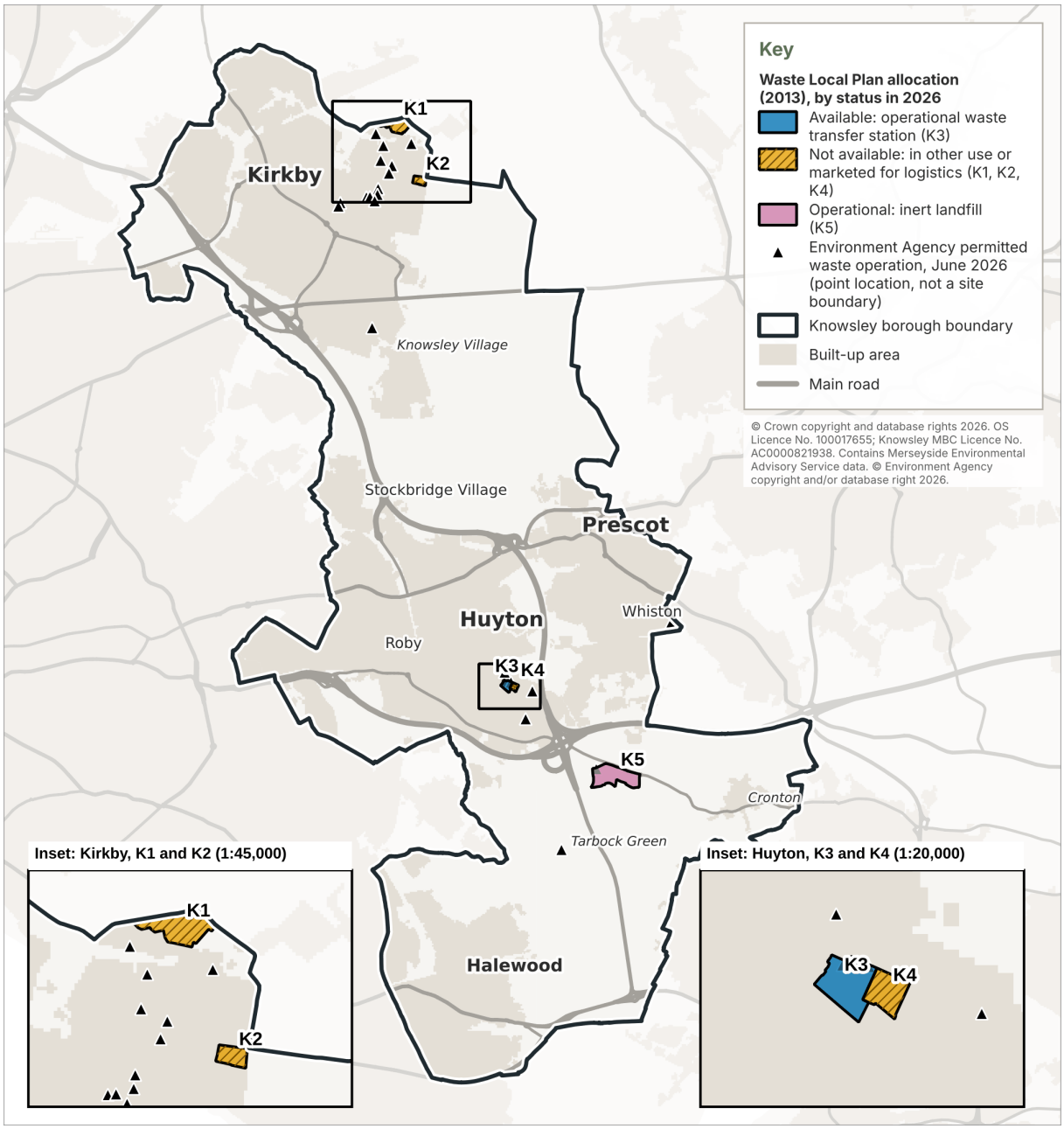
9.12 The Waste Needs Assessment 2024 identifies Cronton Claypit as an operational inert landfill accepting construction and demolition waste. The assessment reports waste inputs of 88,208 tonnes during 2022 and records remaining landfill void capacity of 400,000 cubic metres at the end of that year. More recent Environment Agency records show waste receipts of 45,696 tonnes at Cronton Quarry during 2025. The Environment Agency's remaining landfill capacity returns record 127,450 cubic metres of capacity remaining at Cronton Quarry at the end of 2025, down from 187,785 cubic metres at the end of 2024 and 368,090 cubic metres at the end of 2023. It is the only landfill in Knowsley in those returns. The Joint Waste Local Plan review's Spatial Strategy Sites Review (2025) records the site as "Operational - approximately 6 years capacity remaining", which the Waste Needs Assessment reports as the operator's estimate; the Assessment's own calculation from 2022 data gave between 2.5 and 4.6 years. These records relate to waste-management activity and should not be interpreted as evidence of active clay extraction.

9.13 The adopted Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan allocates five waste sites within Knowsley (K1 to K5). The Joint Waste Local Plan review's Spatial Strategy Sites Review

(2025) records that three of these are no longer available: Butler's Farm, Knowsley Industrial Park (K1), which is being marketed for distribution and logistics, and Image Business Park, Acornfield Road (K2) and the former Pilkington Glass Works, Huyton Business Park (K4), which are in other uses. Mainsway, Huyton Business Park (K3) remains available as an operational waste transfer station with capacity for expansion, and Cronton Claypit (K5) is operational. The review's Summary of Evidence and Conclusions (June 2025) states that the plan "remains fit for purpose for the remainder of the Plan Period in 2027". The five allocations remain part of the adopted plan. The allocations are shown on Figure 81 alongside current waste-management facilities.

9.14 The Environment Agency's Historic Landfill Sites dataset records 31 former landfill sites wholly or partly within the borough, covering about 189 hectares (section 3), and waste accounted for 49.8 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2024, 38.9% less than in 2005 (Table 16). Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities provide about 700 employee jobs (Table 52).

Figure 81: Adopted waste allocations and permitted waste operations



Source: Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan; Knowsley MBC; Environment Agency, 2026.

APPENDIX A: DATA SOURCES

A.1 This appendix lists the datasets used in this report, with the publisher, official reference, the report section in which it appears and a date for each source. The date column gives the data reference period where the source states one, and otherwise the date of publication or extract.

Table A1: Data sources register

Section	Dataset	Publisher	Date or reference period
2	Mid-year population estimates	ONS	29 Jul 2026
2	Population projections (2022-based SNPP)	ONS	24 Jun 2025
2, 7	Household projections (2022-based)	ONS	28 Oct 2025
2, 4, 7, 8	Census 2021 topic tables	ONS	2022-23 (topic tables)
2	Deprivation (LAD and LSOA), IoD2025	MHCLG	30 Oct 2025
2	Life expectancy and wider health indicators	OHID	May 2026 update
2	Sub-regional fuel poverty (LILEE)	DESNZ	2024 (2026 pub.)
2, 4	Patients registered at a GP practice	NHS England	Sep 2026
8	Employment by industry (BRES 2024)	ONS	28 Oct 2025
8	Earnings (ASHE 2026, provisional)	ONS	22 Oct 2026
8	Jobs density 2024 (provisional)	ONS	21 Apr 2026
8	Claimant count (Nomis NM_162_1)	ONS/DWP	Oct 2026
8	Non-domestic rating: stock of properties, 2026 (31 March 2026)	VOA	14 May 2026
8	Regional gross domestic product (GVA): local authorities, 1998 to 2024	ONS	23 Sep 2026
5, 7, 8	Local Plan Monitoring Report 2025-26	Knowsley Council	2026
4	School Capacity (SCAP) return 2024/25	DfE	19 Mar 2026
3, 4, 9	Infrastructure Delivery Plan position statements	Knowsley Council	2026
4	Network Development Plan (electricity capacity)	SP Energy Networks	2026
4	Long-term development plan (gas network)	Cadent	2025
4	Water resources and drainage/wastewater management plans	United Utilities	2024 (WRMP); 2023 (DWMP)
4	Sewer catchment boundaries (2025); DWMP drainage areas, BRAVA results and treatment works (GIS)	United Utilities	2025; 2023
4	DWMP annual progress reports and data tables; DWMP Strategic Context	United Utilities	2025; 2026; May 2026
4	Growth at sewage treatment works, WwTW capacity for new homes (UUW26-07)	United Utilities	Apr 2026
4	Domestic water consumption by LSOA	United Utilities	2023
4	Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, Article 15 return	Defra	19 Dec 2024 (data at Dec 2022)
4	Cost change draft determination 2026, United Utilities	Ofwat	13 Aug 2026 (draft)
3	Storm overflow annual returns (Event Duration Monitoring), 2024 and 2025	Environment Agency	2025 return
4	Clinical and Strategic Commissioning and Population Health Improvement Plans 2026-2031 (Joint Forward Plan)	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside	2026
7	Dwelling stock (LT125); vacants (LT615)	MHCLG	2026
7	Affordability ratios (workplace-based) and median house prices	ONS	26 Mar 2026
7	Local Housing Need (standard method)	MHCLG	PPG current

Section	Dataset	Publisher	Date or reference period
7	SHLAA 2026, base date 31 March 2026, with Appendix D housing trajectory	Knowsley Council	Oct 2026
7	Housing Delivery Test 2025	MHCLG	17 Aug 2026
7	Affordable Housing Need Model (working model, not yet validated; no figure used in this report)	Knowsley Council	2026
7	Brownfield Land Register 2026	Knowsley Council	2026
3, 7	Energy Performance Certificates	DLUHC	2026
7	Traveller Caravan Count	MHCLG	Jan 2026
4	Road traffic (TRA)	DfT	20 May 2026
4	Fixed broadband; Planned deployments	Ofcom	2026
3, 6	Environmental constraint & designation layers	NE/Defra/EA	2019-2026
6	Local Wildlife/Geological Sites; LNR	MEAS/NE	2024
3	Surface-water flood risk; LCR SFRA	EA/LCRCA	2023-26
6	Green Belt (mapped boundary)	MHCLG planning.data.gov.uk	22 Oct 2026 (unchanged from 1 Dec 2025)
5, 6	Listed buildings; Scheduled Monuments; RPG	Historic England	2026
5, 6	Conservation areas, Article 4 directions and Tree Preservation Orders	Knowsley Council	2026; TPO records supplied 2 Sep 2026
5	Heritage at Risk Register 2026	Historic England	5 Nov 2026
5	Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER)	MEAS	Sep 2026
5	Merseyside Historic Characterisation project Knowsley report	National Museums Liverpool and English Heritage	Dec 2011
5	OS MasterMap Topography Layer (order 6904421)	Ordnance Survey	8 Oct 2026
5	OS MasterMap Topography Layer Building Height Attribute (order 6877144)	Ordnance Survey	1 Apr 2026
2, 8	Annual Population Survey: economic activity, inactivity, workless households, qualifications (RQF), occupations (SOC 2020)	ONS	Periods to Jun 2026 (qualifications and workless households to Dec 2025)
8	Claimant Count by sex and age (Nomis NM_162_1)	ONS/DWP	Oct 2026;
8	Earnings, ASHE 2026 hourly basis (Tables 7.6a and 8.6a)	ONS	22 Oct 2026
8	UK Business Counts 2026 (IDBR)	ONS	24 Sep 2026
4, 8	Census 2021 origin-destination, table ODWP01EW	ONS	26 Oct 2023
8	Employment land designations, adopted policies map	Knowsley MBC	
4, 8	Travel to Work Area GVA, for the NPPF Annex B top-80 test	ONS	1998-2023 edition, 22 Sep 2025
4	OS MasterMap Highways Network (roads and paths)	Ordnance Survey	1 September 2026
4, 5, 6, 7	AddressBase Premium (order 6877147)	Ordnance Survey	3 Jul 2026
6	Agricultural land classification: post-1988 detailed surveys and provisional 1:250,000 series	Natural England	1992 to 1995 (surveys); provisional series undated
4	LCRCA bus network	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	6 September 2026
4	National Cycle Network	Walk Wheel Cycle Trust	20 September 2026
4	DfT Connectivity Statistics	DfT	prepublication v1.0.0, 21 August 2025 (published version 29 Sep 2025, same data period)

Section	Dataset	Publisher	Date or reference period
8	Retail centre monitoring gazetteers, 2021 to 2025 surveys and 2026 survey of eight locations	Knowsley Council	2 Nov 2026
8	Towards a Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region up to 2040 (draft Policy LCR SP2)	LCRCA	Nov 2023
7	Price Index of Private Rents, UK: monthly price statistics	ONS	18 Nov 2026
3, 9	UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2024	DESNZ	25 Jun 2026
8	The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy: policy paper and quarterly update (April to June 2026)	Department for Business and Trade	9 Jun 2026; 8 Jul 2026
8	Social value monitoring data, 46 developments	Fusion 21	Apr 2021 to Mar 2026
4	Strategic Infrastructure Plan, initial engagement draft	LCRCA	26 Oct 2023
4	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	Knowsley Council	Oct 2025
3	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: Level 1 (with Sefton Council) and Level 2	Knowsley Council	Jun 2009; Oct 2012
7	Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2022-2026 (Extra Care stock)	Knowsley Council	2022
7	Supporting Independent Living in Knowsley: Extra Care strategy	Knowsley Council	Mar 2016
3	Air Quality Management Areas spatial dataset (all pollutants)	Defra	15 Apr 2026
3	Air Quality Annual Status Report (2025 monitoring)	Knowsley Council	Jun 2026
3, App. C	Air Quality Strategy 2024-2027	Knowsley Council	Oct 2024
3, App. C	Net Zero Delivery Plan 2026-2030 (draft); Knowsley Place Climate Delivery Plan 2025-2030	Knowsley Council	Jan 2026; 9 Mar 2026
6	Ancient Tree Inventory (ancient and veteran trees)	Woodland Trust	Accessed Oct 2026 (live inventory)
3, 9	Historic Landfill Sites (GeoPackage), clipped to the borough boundary	Environment Agency	2026
9	Waste Data Interrogator 2025 (version 2); permitted waste operations, end June 2026	Environment Agency	2026
9	Remaining landfill capacity, end 2025 (version 1)	Environment Agency	2026
9	Local authority collected waste management, 2024/25 (final)	Defra	31 Mar 2026
9	Joint Annual Local Aggregate Assessment 2024 (2023 data); Waste Needs Assessment 2024; Joint Waste Local Plan review papers 2025	MEAS on behalf of the partner authorities	Aug 2026; 2024; Jun 2025
9	Merseyside Minerals Study (minerals evidence base report)	MEAS	2008
9	Mineral permissions and workings; Joint Waste Local Plan allocations (GIS)	MEAS	18 Jun 2015 (layer date)
4	Active Travel route data for Knowsley	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	May 2025
3	Coal mining Development High Risk Area and Development Low Risk Area	Mining Remediation Authority	Accessed 20 Oct 2026
9	Infrastructure Delivery Plan position statement: Minerals	Knowsley Council	4 Feb 2026
4	Transport scheme pages and Infrastructure Delivery Plan transport position statements	Knowsley Council; LCRCA	Jan 2025 to Oct 2026
8, App. C	Economic Growth Plan 2025-2030	Knowsley Council	Oct 2025
App. C	Wider plans, programmes and strategies reviewed (Table C1)	Various	As listed in Table C1

Section	Dataset	Publisher	Date or reference period
6	OS Open Greenspace (sites and access points)	Ordnance Survey	Apr 2026 release
6	Landscape Character Assessment of Knowsley, Stage 1 Characterisation (Core Strategy evidence base document EB20)	Knowsley Council	Sep 2007
4	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Statistics (EVCI0102)	DfT	Jul 2026
7	Statutory homelessness live tables (H-CLIC)	MHCLG	2025-26 quarters
7	Private rental affordability, financial year ending 2024	ONS	18 Aug 2025
3	Subnational electricity consumption (domestic), 2024	DESNZ	2024 data
3	Water Framework Directive river water body classifications (cycle 3)	Environment Agency	2019 and 2022; Accessed 25 Sep 2026

APPENDIX B: GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE DATA CHECKLIST

B.1 This appendix sets out the data checklist from the national baselining guidance and records Knowsley's current position against each item. Two rows, health and health inequality and housing land supply and trajectory, have been added by the Council, and the guidance's separate transport trends and transport connectivity items are combined in one row. The last two rows cover the guidance's mapping and wider strategies steps, which sit outside its data checklist. Where further evidence is required, it will be obtained through the plan-making process.

Table B1: Position against the guidance data checklist

Data you could collect (per guidance)	Knowsley position	Where in this report
Population change: overall, age groups, household size	In place	Section 2
Levels of deprivation across the area	In place	Section 2
Health and health inequality	In place	Section 2
Economic change: jobs and workforce	In place	Sections 2, 8
Progress delivering existing housing and employment allocations	In place	Sections 7, 8
Overall housing delivery against the adopted requirement	In place	Section 7
Housing land supply and trajectory	In place	Section 7
Affordable housing delivery against assessed need	Further evidence required	Section 7
Specialist housing delivery	Partial: further evidence required	Section 7
Gypsy and Traveller plot delivery	Partial: further evidence required	Section 7
Change to median workplace-based affordability ratio	In place	Section 7
Key infrastructure delivery	Partial: further evidence required	Section 4
Transport trends and connectivity	In place	Section 4
Environmental assets and patterns	Partial: further evidence required	Sections 3, 5, 6
Local Housing Need (standard method)	In place	Section 7
Population projections	In place	Section 2
Likelihood or level of unmet need	Further evidence required	Section 7
Known investments, constraints and capacity issues	Partial: further evidence required	Sections 3, 4, 6
Map your area: settlement pattern, constraints, infrastructure and planned investment	Partial: further evidence required	Appendix D
Review relevant wider priorities and strategies	In place	Appendix C

Source: MHCLG, Gathering baselining information to inform a local plan.

APPENDIX C: WIDER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

C.1 The national baselining guidance asks authorities to review their corporate priorities, values and objectives for their spatial implications, together with related strategies such as local transport plans, housing and economic development strategies, and the strategies of each tier of local government. It notes that these may cover different timeframes and may not reflect current community views, so they are weighed against the wider baseline rather than adopted as conclusions.

C.2 Table C1 lists the plans, programmes and strategies reviewed for this baseline, with their date or status and the sections of this report in which they are used. Their implications for Knowsley will be considered as the Local Plan is prepared. Draft and emerging strategies are included as strategic context; they do not form part of the adopted development plan and their proposals are not finalised.

Table C1: Wider plans, programmes and strategies reviewed

Plan, programme or strategy	Organisation	Date or status	Section
National Planning Policy Framework	MHCLG	August 2026	4, 7, 8
The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy	Department for Business and Trade	June 2025	8
Towards a Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region up to 2040	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	Draft, November 2023	4, 8
Liverpool City Region Local Transport Plan and Delivery Plan 2026-2040	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	Adopted April 2026	4
Strategic Infrastructure Plan, initial engagement draft	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	October 2023	4
Bus franchising	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	Franchised services from September 2027	4
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (city region)	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	January 2020	4
Economic Opportunities Framework	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	March 2024	8
Plan for Prosperity	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	2022	8
Liverpool City Region Growth Plan 2025-2035	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	2025	8
Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	March 2026	6
Liverpool City Region Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Part A	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	November 2023	3
Knowsley 2030	Knowsley Better Together Partnership	2019 (updated 2020)	8
Knowsley Council Plan 2025-2030	Knowsley Council	2025	3, 8
Housing Strategy 2022-2027	Knowsley Council	2022-2027	7
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-2030	Knowsley Council	2025	7
Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2022-2026; Extra Care strategy	Knowsley Council	2022; March 2016	7
Economic Growth Plan 2025-2030	Knowsley Council	October 2025	8
School Organisation Strategy 2019-2029; SEND Sufficiency Plan 2023-2028	Knowsley Council	2019; 2023	4
Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028	Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board	October 2025	4

Plan, programme or strategy	Organisation	Date or status	Section
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Knowsley Council (Lead Local Flood Authority)	October 2017	3
Air Quality Strategy 2024-2027	Knowsley Council	October 2024	3
Net Zero Delivery Plan 2026-2030	Knowsley Council	Draft, January 2026	3
Knowsley Place Climate Delivery Plan 2025-2030	Knowsley Council and partners	March 2026	3, 4
Healthier Weight Strategy 2025-2030	Knowsley Council	2025	2, 8
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	Knowsley Council	October 2025	4
Town Centre Uses Supplementary Planning Document	Knowsley Council	2022	8
5-Year Clinical and Strategic Commissioning Plan 2026/2031, incorporating the Population Health Improvement Plan	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside	2026	4
Water Resources Management Plan 2024; Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023	United Utilities	2024; 2023	4
Growth at sewage treatment works claim (UUW26-07) and cost change draft determination	United Utilities; Ofwat	April 2026; draft determination August 2026	4
Capacity Heatmap and Distribution Network Options Assessment	SP Energy Networks	2026	3, 4
Long-term development plan (gas)	Cadent	2025	4
Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan	Merseyside and Halton authorities (MEAS)	Adopted 2013; plan period to 2027	9

APPENDIX D: BASELINE MAPPING SCHEDULE

D.1 This appendix lists the maps in the report by theme, the report figures that show them and the GIS layers each draws on. Full source citations are given beneath each map in the body of the report and in the Data Register at Appendix A.

Table D1: Baseline mapping schedule

Row	Map	Report figure(s)	Key layers	Status	Notes
1	Knowsley in context	2, 3, 5, 6	Borough boundary, settlement names, city region authorities, roads and rail, civil parishes, electoral wards	Complete	-
2	Settlement pattern and Green Belt	4, 56	Settlement areas, ONS Built-Up Areas 2022, Green Belt (planning.data.gov.uk, December 2025), ancient woodland, local wildlife and geological sites, registered parks and gardens, agricultural land classification (post-1988 surveys)	Complete	-
3	Green and blue infrastructure	48, 49	Open greenspace, country parks, Millennium Greens, local nature reserves, ancient woodland, priority habitats, watercourses and open water; homes within a 400 metre walk of a greenspace entrance	Complete	Open space and playing pitch evidence will be incorporated as the Local Plan evidence base develops.
4	Biodiversity and ecological network	50, 51, 52, 55	Local wildlife and geological sites, local nature reserves, ancient woodland, priority habitats, woodland cover (National Forest Inventory 2025), LNRS opportunity areas, Tree Preservation Orders, National Habitat Network	Complete	No SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar site or National Nature Reserve lies in the borough.
5	Landscape and countryside	53, 54, 56	National Character Areas; agricultural land classification (post-1988 surveys and provisional grades)	Further evidence required	The Landscape Character Assessment (2007) is described in section 6; its character types and areas are not mapped in this report. Update local landscape character evidence will be considered as the Local Plan evidence base develops.
6	Historic environment	43	Listed buildings (106), conservation areas (three with Article 4 directions), registered parks and gardens, Heritage at Risk	Complete	-
7	Flood risk	19, 20	Flood Zones 2 and 3, risk of flooding from surface water (three bands)	Further evidence required	Functional floodplain and climate change extents will come from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment update.
8	Population, deprivation and density	8, 13, 14, 15, 58	Indices of Deprivation 2025 by output area, change 2019 to 2025 by LSOA, Census 2021 population density, dwelling density (OS AddressBase Premium, July 2026), deprivation against density	Complete	-
9	Ground conditions and groundwater	23, 24	Historic landfill sites (Environment Agency, 2026), coal mining Development High Risk Area, groundwater Source Protection Zones	Further evidence required	Groundwater vulnerability and aquifer designations will be incorporated as the Local Plan evidence base develops.
10	Accessibility and movement	25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35	Households without a car, commuting flows, DfT connectivity statistics (all modes and by mode), measured station catchments, bus network (6 September 2026), walking network and public rights of way, local cycle network by type (LCRCA, May 2025) and National Cycle Network, traffic flows, committed and planned transport schemes	Complete	Transport schemes are mapped schematically from published sources. Further information on scheme boundaries and LCWIP routes will be obtained through the plan-making process.

Row	Map	Report figure(s)	Key layers	Status	Notes
11	Housing supply and allocations	61, 62	SHLAA 2026 sites (base date 31 March 2026); Brownfield Land Register 2026 (84 sites, by planning permission status)	Complete	Built and remaining capacity on the adopted allocations is set out in Table 51.
12	Water and wastewater	21, 22, 36, 37, 38	United Utilities sewer catchments (2025), DWMP 2023 drainage areas and risk results, treatment works, storm overflow returns 2025, river water bodies	Complete	-
13	Employment land	67, 68	Employment land supply 2025/26 (55 records, 138.77 ha), adopted employment designations and Action Areas, Sustainable Urban Extensions, Principal Regeneration Areas	Complete	-
14	Infrastructure and services	39, 41, 42	Health, community and leisure premises; school places 2024/25; gas network	Complete	-
15	Electricity network	40	Grid supply points and supply areas	Further evidence required	SP Energy Networks lines and substations will be incorporated as the Local Plan evidence base develops.
16	Town centres and retail	70, 73	Adopted centre hierarchy, local centres and parades, vacancy in centres and parades (gazetteers 2025 and 2026)	Complete	-
17	Minerals and waste	80, 81	Historic mineral permissions and workings (MEAS, 2015); Joint Waste Local Plan allocations by status; Environment Agency permitted waste operations (June 2026, points)	Further evidence required	No adopted mineral safeguarding areas.
18	Built form and design	44, 45, 46, 47	Building footprints (OS MasterMap Topography Layer, October 2026), median building height by output area (Building Height Attribute, April 2026), building use from OS AddressBase Premium (July 2026), most common dwelling type by output area, OS Open Built Up Areas	Further evidence required	Settlement character, townscape and design evidence will be incorporated as the Local Plan evidence base develops.

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Details of the scoping consultation, including how to comment, are available on the Local Plan web page.