

# Appendix 1

## Summary of 2009 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Audit



# Executive Summary Isle of Wight PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2009

## 1.1 What is an Open Space Sport and Recreation Study?

An Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study is designed to set local standards based on assessments of local needs, demographics and audits of existing open spaces. It is the basis for addressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process and recommends policies and actions for inclusion with future leisure and planning documents. The main aim of the Isle of Wight PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study is to:

*“Provide a clear picture of the Island’s existing and future needs for open space and its current ability to meet those needs in terms of its function, quality, quantity and accessibility in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002)”*

This study has been developed to provide an overall framework that will guide the Isle of Wight Council’s Planning and Leisure Divisions over the next five years in the future management and designation of open spaces. This will enable Isle of Wight Council to ensure the most effective and efficient use of open spaces within the Island and plan and respond appropriately to any pressures of immediate and future developments.

## 1.2 Why an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study?

A local assessment of open space and the development of this study will enable the Council to:

- Plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to target appropriate types of open space required
- Ensure an adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space to meet needs of community
- Ensure any accessible funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need

This strategy will assist in providing targets for the performance of existing services which impact on the provision of open space within the Island.

## 1.3 Scope of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

The scope of the study includes all open space types identified within the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002). These include parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural areas, green corridors, amenity green space, provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards and civic spaces.

## 1.4 Development of the Study

The methodology and development of the study has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance provided in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).

PPG 17 Companion Guide sets out a 5 step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was used in developing this study using our own appropriate mechanisms that meet the requirements of the council to plan, monitor and set targets for the existing and future provision of open space within the Island.

The 5 step process is as follows:

- Step 1 - Identifying Local Needs
- Step 2 - Auditing Local Provision
- Step 3 - Setting Provision Standards
- Step 4 - Applying Provision Standards
- Step 5 - Drafting Implementation and Action Plan

Research, consultations, a detailed and comprehensive Audit and analysis including quantity, quality, accessibility, usage and value have culminated in the production of this study.

### 1.5 Provision standards

The local provision standards justified through the analysis are detailed below. The methodology for setting these standards has been followed in accordance with PPG17 and using both qualitative and quantitative information sources both from the audit and consultation responses.

Open Space Type	m2 per person	
	URBAN	RURAL
Parks and gardens (PG)	6	6
Natural and semi-natural areas (NGS)	N/A	N/A
Local amenity greenspace (AGS)	5	5
Provision for children and young people (CYP)	0.6	0.6
Outdoor sports facilities (OSF)	15	10
Green corridors (GC)	N/A	N/A
Allotments and community gardens (ACG)	3	3
Cemeteries and churchyards (CC)	N/A	N/A

### 1.6 Where are we now? - Audit and analysis

Prior to developing the study there was a general viewpoint that there is an adequate provision of open space within the urban areas but there are increasing pressures on these spaces for housing developments. The detailed and comprehensive audit and analysis undertaken in developing this study reaffirms this viewpoint.

When applying the provision standards the following key points were extracted:

**Parks & gardens:** both the urban and some rural areas are well endowed with parks and gardens across the Island with some excellent provision in some of the towns in particular.

**Natural and semi-natural:** there are no deficiencies across the Island in relation to natural green space, except the Bay Growth Area. There are large quantities of open available areas especially in relation to coastal areas, country walks, woodlands and country parks.

**Amenity greenspace:** There are very few deficiencies across the Island in relation to amenity green space, with most of the towns only having localised smaller deficiencies.

**Provision for children and young people:** there are considerable deficiencies in accessibility but in relation to quantity, there are no deficiencies between urban and rural, although accessibility to play facilities is far more important than overall quantity of provision.

**Green corridors:** there is a large amount of provision of green corridors across both the urban and rural areas linking settlements, including cycleways, bridleways and the coastal footpath.

**Outdoor sports facilities:** there is a surplus of outdoor sports facilities within the urban areas but a deficiency in some of the rural areas but this does not necessarily mean a surplus of playing pitches.

**Allotments:** there is an overall deficiency of allotments within the urban area and rural areas. There are no allotment sites in West Wight.

**Cemeteries and churchyards:** the provision of cemeteries and churchyards appears to meet existing demands.

## Quality

There are many high quality open spaces provided on the Island with the majority of sites rated as well above average and more sites than any other rated as 'good'. This was the case for both the urban and rural area.

The Island has many areas designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's). This inherent quality is very positive but does have implications upon management and maintenance.

## Accessibility

Most open spaces within the Island are accessible to the public. Within the rural area most sites are rated as 'very good' and in the urban area most sites are rated as 'good'. This demonstrates the high standards of provision that currently exist within the Island.

## Value

Most sites that have a high level of use normally have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. This is because the factors are related and interlinked.

Each type of open space has been assessed separately and specific sites detailed within the appropriate sections. However, given that over 450 sites have been audited within the Island there are very few sites that are questioned whether the primary purposes is the most beneficial.

## Summary

It is clear that the Island has predominantly high quality open spaces that have a high level of accessibility.

However there are some slight deficiencies in both the urban and rural areas and very few areas with a surplus of provision particularly when undertaking a local area needs analysis not taking into account the larger Islandwide provision.

## 1.7 Where do we want to be?

The vision for open spaces on the Island should be:

***“The Isle of Wight will provide a network of accessible, high quality, highly valued green spaces which its local communities are proud of, and which promotes sustainability, supports biodiversity and extensively contributes to the economic, social and environmental aspirations of the Island”***

There are a number of objectives which should provide the key assessment targets to achieving this vision. These act as the ‘drivers for change’ with regards to open space provision in the Island:

- To aspire to high standards of quality and care in relation to open space provision across the Island
- To ensure all residents and visitors to the Island have appropriate access to open spaces offering the widest possible range of facilities to meet varied recreational needs
- To increasingly consider biodiversity and ecological value of existing and new open space sites enhancing habitats, wildlife corridors, and providing greater biodiversity within the area
- To address areas of deficiency, or, where this is not possible, to improve accessibility and utilisation of existing provision
- To protect existing open spaces of high value, or those with potential high value (i.e. high quality and/or high usage)
- Seek to enhance open space provision and management through community involvement working in partnership with appropriate groups and organisations
- To increase awareness and usage of open spaces within the Island through effective marketing and promotion

## 1.8 How will we get there?

In a rapidly changing society, more leisure time, higher aspirations, greater choice in leisure activities leading to competing demands in terms of functions of open space require a creative and flexible response to open space planning and provision by those responsible for the Island’s open spaces to ensure that such changes are acknowledged and responded to accordingly.

## 1.9 Action Plan

Any future strategy should include a detailed Action Plan which should form the tactical element where by key issues identified within the Audit will be addressed and the objectives of the strategy will be achieved. It should include a number of actions and targets which can be achieved in order to fulfil the needs and demands for open space both within the urban and rural area of the Island.

The action plan should include the following key actions:

- Maintain the standards of high quality that have been set within existing open spaces
- The recognition of the importance of biodiversity and action plan targets in all strategies and policies, including any development plans
- A further specific study is undertaken on supply and demand for playing pitches
- Any forthcoming best value or comprehensive performance assessment linked with the provision of open space is utilised as an opportunity to enhance standards of open spaces within the island in terms of provision, quality and accessibility
- A review of core strategy policies in terms of addressing the key issues raised within the open space analysis and assessment
- Continue to identify and attempt to access sources of funding to improve and enhance existing open space and provide new open space in areas of need
- Develop best practice on the management, design, planning and maintenance of open spaces
- Develop educational awareness in raising the importance of caring for open spaces both within urban and rural areas and identifying opportunities for involving the local community within this process
- Address the areas of quantity, quality and accessibility deficiency identified within the audit achieving an improved distribution of open space types across the urban and rural areas
- Entering and obtaining a green flag award for different open space types within the island that can then be seen as realistic visions for other open spaces of similar types
- Investigate the use of, and access too, school sports facilities in areas of deficiency
- That the provision of teenage facilities is targeted to encourage teenagers to use park areas helping to bring youths together in one place and therefore making it more manageable avoiding problematic issues within close residential areas

## 1.10 Proposed Policies

A number of policies could be developed as part of a strategy and it is proposed that these policies should be adopted where appropriate. A summary of these policies is provided overleaf:

### New open space provision

- Ensure that open space needs and demands are a key consideration in any urban regeneration or renewal investment programmes
- Any new open space sites should be targeted at areas of deficiency identified within this strategy
- Support the conversion of disused railway lines to footpaths and cycleways, linking various types of open space, subject to satisfactory arrangements for maintenance and car parking.
- When dealing with developers contributions and new provision of open space the council should ensure that the area of land is large enough on one site to provide significant recreational value as well as aesthetic value within the new development

### Protection

- Ensure all sites of high usage and high quality are afforded maximum protection and are seen as best practice examples
- In accordance with ppg17 any proposal to dispose of open space land needs to be assessed in context within an overall analysis of all open space types within the island particularly with identified deficiencies in specific areas
- For any future developments to modify any areas of open space, it is recommended that an ecological survey is undertaken at an early stage to determine the presence of legally protected or notable species and conservation value of the site
- Support the protection of playing fields through consultation with sport england and the identification and protection of playing fields and surrounding grounds that either currently or potentially could provide opportunities for enhancing and promoting biodiversity

### Management

- No additional open spaces to be provided without realistic plans for implementing and resourcing maintenance agreements to provide the required quality
- Involve and support communities in open space planning, management and delivery

## **Appendix 2**

# **Planning Policy Review**



## Planning Policy Context

### Isle of Wight Council Open Spaces Strategy - Document review

#### 1.1 Introduction

This report briefly sets out the results of the document review we have conducted for the PPG17 Assessment and summarises a number of existing strategy(ies) or other documents which are relevant to the Assessment, starting with national, working down to regional and then authority-wide strategies and plans.

#### 1.2 National documents

Planning policies relating to open space, sport and recreation have come a very long way over the past few years and are now seen as part of the government's wide-ranging 'liveability' agenda. In the first part of this paper, we summarise the main steps in the process together with key aspects of PPG17.

#### Town and Country Parks

*Published 27 October 1999 as the twentieth report of Session 1998-99 of the Environment, Transport, and Regions Committee of the House of Commons (HC 477-I, ISBN 0-10-556459-1).*

This hard-hitting report, necessarily based on largely anecdotal evidence, was critically important in highlighting the decline of Britain's parks. For example: *"We are shocked at the weight of evidence, far beyond our expectations, about the extent of the problems parks have faced in the last 30 years. It is clear that if nothing is done many of them will become albatrosses around the necks of local authorities. Un-used, derelict havens for crime and vandalism, it would be better to close them and re-use the land than to leave them to decay further."*

The Committee's identification of the lack of current factual information about parks (which it described as a "statistical vacuum") led directly to the Public Parks Assessment (see below). As with most Select Committee Reports, the Memoranda submitted to the Committee and its Minutes of Evidence contain a wealth of useful information.

#### Towards an Urban Renaissance 2000

*Report of the Urban Taskforce. Published June 1999 by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions and distributed by E&FN Spon, ISBN 1-851121-65-X.*

This important report led to the creation of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and the growing recognition of the need for greater urban design input to planning in order to promote "place-making". The Government's proposals for greater use of master-planning in the Planning Green Paper (see below) also stems from this report.

#### Our Towns and Cities: the Future

*Published by the Stationery Office on behalf of the DETR in November 2000.*

The Urban White Paper can be summed up as aiming to make towns and cities places where people with choices will choose to live. It therefore builds on Towards an Urban Renaissance .It calls for denser, more compact towns and cities and more development on brownfield land, although there is a growing view that some towns and cities need to expand into the green belt.

## Rethinking Open Space

*Kit Campbell Associates (March 2001) for Scottish Executive Planning Services, published by Scottish Executive Central Research Unit.*

Rethinking described the approach of most planning authorities to open space as “*fundamentally flawed*” and achieved wide circulation throughout the UK after being described in Planning as “*excellent research and recommendations*”. It was the first report to identify the cross-cutting importance of open space to the emerging urban agenda, together with how the planning system should give much greater priority to the enhancement of existing open spaces than requiring developers to provide new ones. It set out a typology of open spaces which the Government’s Urban Green Spaces Task Force, PPG17 and PAN 65 have since adopted in very slightly modified form, based on the concept of “primary purpose”. It also proposed a new approach to provision standards which the Government has since adopted in PPG17 and the Scottish Executive in PAN 65. In addition, it contains a methodology for preparing open space strategies and suggested three basic approaches to open space planning: supply-led, demand-led and standards-based.

## Public Park Assessment

*Urban Parks Forum (2001) and published by the Heritage Lottery Fund ([www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk))*

This important report sought to fill the “statistical vacuum” identified in Town and Country Parks (see above). It has attracted considerable media interest with its evaluation of the condition of parks and whether they are improving or failing. Key points from the report include:

- The UK’s 27,000 parks cover around 143,000 ha and receive around 1.5 billion visits a year by all sectors of the community. They currently cost local authorities the equivalent of around 42p per visit. The aggregate cut in parks revenue expenditure over the past 20 years is around £1.3 billion
- Parks are polarising, with good parks getting better and poor parks getting worse; the rate of decline is highest in deprived areas
- Around 13% of local authorities consider their parks to be in poor condition and the condition of around 40% of parks and open spaces is declining
- Many parks have lost features such as cafes, toilets, bowling greens and tennis courts
- There is a clear correlation between good condition and the existence of parks strategies

While the report is generally regarded as clear evidence of serious decline there is some concern about the quality of the research, for example many of the questions asked were extremely vague while key terms such as “poor condition” were not defined. It is also the case that the original need for some traditional elements of parks has disappeared. Just because expenditure is lower now than some years ago does not necessarily imply that resources are inadequate, although looking at almost any park supports the findings of the research.

## Green Spaces, Better Places

*Published by the DTLR in May 2002 as the final report of the Urban Green Spaces Task Force with six accompanying Working Group reports and a major research report by the University of Sheffield which informed the work of the UGSTF, entitled Improving Urban Parks, Play Areas and Green Spaces.*

The Urban White Paper called for a "vision for the future of our parks, play areas and green spaces". The job of the UGSTF, chaired by a Minister, was to develop that vision. The UGSTF's final report identifies the importance of green spaces to urban life and outlines current concerns about parks and other green spaces, together with proposals for overcoming them. It argues for a strategic policy framework and additional resources for planning, design and management and that green spaces are fundamental to liveable, sustainable towns and cities. The key recommendations included:

- Additional capital funding of £100M per year for the restoration and improvement of existing green spaces. The Government has since made significant extra capital funding for green spaces available through various agencies
- The widespread use of Section 106 contributions to provide additional resources for green spaces (since facilitated by PPG17)
- A national green spaces agency. At the Urban Summit in autumn 2002 the Government announced the expansion of the role of CABE to include open space issues through the creation of CABE SPACE
- A Best Value indicator to monitor training provision in local authority green spaces management and maintenance
- Greater private sector and community involvement in partnerships for improving green spaces
- Adoption of a clear green spaces typology based on Rethinking Open Space
- The preparation of green space strategies by local authorities and possibly the creation of open space trusts to improve and manage green spaces (At the launch of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, the Minister announced that the Government would be supporting the appointment of 'strategic enablers' to help local authorities prepare green space strategies. CABE Space have co-ordinated this work, through which authorities have been able to access help from "enablers" for between 5 and 25 days)

The related Sheffield University research examined how parks and open spaces are used and by whom, what users want from them, what they currently provide and their wider benefits to urban environments.

The Report of UGSTF Working Group 4, Improving Planning, Design, Management and Maintenance, identifies twenty important planning-related issues and sets out why they are important, desirable outcomes and policies, processes or mechanisms which will deliver them.

## PPG17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation

*Published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 24 July 2002.*

This new guidance represents a considerable policy shift from the original 1991 version and is a huge step forward which relates strongly to the whole of the Government's "liveability" and urban renaissance agendas. The key changes include:

- Putting open space at the heart of the document (in the 1991 version, Sport and Recreation, open space was fairly peripheral)
- Promotion of a clear typology of open spaces, derived from Rethinking Open Space (see above); arguably the lack of a suitable typology has bedevilled open space planning to date. Many planning authorities have simply used the NPFA Standard without understanding it, or knowing that it dates back to the nineteen twenties
- A clear statement that planning authorities should undertake local assessments and audits, with both qualitative and quantitative components, to set local standards and not continue to rely on national standards. Where an authority has not undertaken an assessment, developers wishing to redevelop an existing open space must (a) undertake an independent assessment to demonstrate that it is surplus to requirements and (b) have consulted the local community and obtained its support for the development proposals. It is not clear whether independent means independent of the local authority or independent of the developer; it can be interpreted both ways. The best approach is to have the assessment done in a way which is independent of both the local authority and developer, but reporting to a steering group involving the local authority, the developer and representatives of the local community for the area in which the proposed development site is set. This provides transparency within the whole process
- A welcome emphasis on accessibility and quality and an end to reliance on purely quantitative standards such as the NPFA standard
- Clear recognition of the importance of enhancing existing open spaces and facilities and clear guidance that planning obligations can be used to remedy both qualitative and quantitative deficiencies in provision
- Recognition of the importance of linking the 'planning system' to the 'management system, with local assessments providing the starting point for open space strategies
- A clear policy statement that before an open space can be redeveloped for some other purpose, it must be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of the full open space typology and not just its existing use
- Making clear that planning authorities can require commercial and industrial developers to provide or contribute to open space or sport and recreation facilities; this opens up the possibility, for example, of requiring office and retail developers to contribute to parks which might be used by their workers or shoppers. The problem with this is finding a defensible way of calculating the required contributions
- Planning authorities are expected to seek to enhance the rights of way network - hitherto this has usually been seen as primarily a highways matter
- A greater role for local communities

## Improving Urban Parks, Play Areas and Green Spaces

*ODPM and other Government Departments, May 2002*

### Background

In April 2001 the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions commissioned the Department of Landscape at the University of Sheffield to carry out research on urban parks, play areas and green spaces. The main aim of the study was to inform the work of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce. The study looked at the uses and users of urban green spaces, barriers preventing use, the wider benefits to quality of life in urban areas and examples of innovative approaches to creation, management and maintenance. It included 15 local authority case studies, focus groups with park users and a telephone survey of non-users. Examples of good practice and innovation were also sought.

### Key findings

- Research confirms the importance of urban green spaces to the future of towns and cities in England. It is estimated that, in England, over 33 million people make over 2.5 billion visits to urban green spaces each year
- The five main barriers deterring people from using urban green spaces are:
  1. Lack of or poor condition of facilities (including play facilities for children)
  2. Other users (including anti-social behaviour)
  3. Concerns about dogs and dog mess
  4. Safety and other psychological issues (e.g. feelings of vulnerability and inertia)
  5. Environmental quality issues such as litter, graffiti and vandalism
- In addition, access issues are of concern to the elderly and particularly to people with disabilities. They relate to concerns about the proximity of and ease of access to urban green spaces, access to get into those spaces and ease of moving around safely within them
- Most of the barriers are resource issues which relate to the location, accessibility or environmental quality of urban green spaces and could therefore be overcome if planners, designers and managers of these spaces could address them satisfactorily
- The most frequently mentioned characteristics of the ideal urban green space were vegetation, water, play opportunities, comforts (seats, toilets, and shelters), good access, sport and events
- There is no clear link between levels of spending and the extent of good or innovative practice
- There were large differences in the amount of external funding that had been gained by local authorities. Lack of resources for capital spending was identified as a major problem by all local authorities in the research. Heritage Lottery Funding and Section 106 Agreements were seen as the most valuable external sources for capital development. In most cases private sponsorship is not significant
- Urban green spaces can act as a catalyst for wider community initiatives. The fact that parks (and other green spaces) are open every day with free entry and offer neutral ground with non-discriminatory access makes them completely different from many building based activities

## Overview and conclusions

This research has confirmed the exceptional importance of urban green space to the future of towns and cities in England. It reaffirms and elaborates on the findings of earlier studies on the role that urban green space plays in the day-to-day life of urban dwellers, by virtue both of its existence that is people simply knowing that it is there and seeing the contribution that it makes to the urban landscape as well as its use for recreation and enjoyment.

The research has shown that urban green spaces can act as catalysts for wider community initiatives in ways that no other public facility seems able to achieve in similar circumstances. Again and again, people involved in these initiatives said that if it wasn't for the park (or other green space) nothing would have happened. This social, community and economic role goes well beyond the normal view of the contribution of urban green space to the future of our cities. It needs to be given much greater prominence in promoting a higher profile for urban green spaces and in supporting the case for funding at both local and national levels.

### Living Places - Cleaner, Safer, Greener.

*ODPM and other Government Departments, October 2002*

Living Places should be seen in the context of the Government's stated desire to enhance the 'liveability' of urban areas and promote an urban renaissance. It includes an interesting definition of public spaces: *"everywhere between the places we live and work"*, and includes *"internal public places such as libraries and town halls"*.

The main theoretical underpinning for Living Places is that "liveability" depends on a sustainable high quality public realm which is clean and green and in which individuals feel safe. It has two main thrusts:

Reducing some forms of anti-social behaviour and improving the public sector's response to the most obvious consequences of it: for example, litter, graffiti, fly-tipping, joy-riding, abandoned cars, dog fouling and chewing gum.

Promoting better 'joined up thinking', and more importantly joined up action, amongst the various public agencies responsible for the design and maintenance of the public realm.

Living Places therefore builds on themes first set out in the Urban White Paper, *Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance* and developed (albeit to an agenda limited to green space) through the work of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, *Green Spaces, Better Places*. When taken together with other policy statements, such as PPG17, *Open Space, Sport and Recreation*, and *Sustainable Communities: Delivering through Planning*, it is clear that there has been a revolution in Government thinking, with a determination to promote enhanced community involvement in issues affecting local environments and to push quality of life issues up the agenda. This is an inevitable consequence of the Government's objective of promoting higher urban densities and more sustainable towns and cities. Higher densities mean that the public realm will be under greater pressure, face increased wear and tear and be likely to deteriorate faster and further than in the past if it is not looked after better. In many ways, the greatest need is simply to push public spaces up the political agenda at a time when local authorities - the main "players" in this area - face many competing priorities and growing pressure from Government to perform better across a wide range of less amorphous services.

The quality of streets also continues to deteriorate. However, Government on its own can achieve little in this area, as Living Places acknowledges; but it has set the agenda for others and increased the resources they will need. The Government is encouraging or instructing some Lottery distributors to channel resources towards the public realm.

The Big Lottery Fund has been instructed to promote Green spaces and Sustainable Communities programmes, and it is good to see the continuation, extension and re-launch of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Public Parks Initiative (January 2003). Interestingly, it defines parks as encompassing public squares and seaside promenades and appears to have slowly softened and widened its definition of what constitutes an historic park. However, it still will not fund enhancements to parks which are used mainly for organised sport.

Living Places acknowledges that there have been too many attempts at 'short-term fixes', often little more than cosmetic, in the past, and the real need is for long term main stream resourcing.

Interestingly, Living Places identifies a new right for individuals - *"everyone has a right to good parks and green spaces close to his or her home or place of work"*. It expands this to say that these parks and green spaces should meet the needs of everyone, but *"especially children and young people, older people, those with disabilities, minorities and people in disadvantaged areas"*. This could create some problems for local authorities and possibly funding agencies, for example if they refuse funding for facilities in an area where there are none or where those which exist are of appalling quality and as a result fail to meet local needs.

### **Enhancing Urban Green Space (National Audit Office / ODPM March 2006)**

#### **Background**

Good quality green space plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of urban life. Urban green spaces help to make neighbourhoods more attractive to live in and provide opportunities for city dwellers to relax, take exercise, play sport, and meet friends and neighbours. The existence of high quality urban green space contributes to wider Government objectives such as improved health, more sustainable neighbourhood renewal and better community cohesion, especially in more deprived communities.

Urban green space includes many types of land in an urban setting from formally designated areas such as parks to more natural areas such as corridors along river banks. Such green areas account for around 14 per cent of urban space. It is estimated that the cost of maintaining and renovating urban green space was about £700 million in 2004-05. Local authorities have the key strategic role in ensuring sufficient local provision of good quality urban green space, although a number of other bodies, particularly housing associations, may be responsible for managing elements of green space.

The quality of urban green space declined during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Reasons for this decline include the increasingly competitive demands on local authority leisure and other service budgets, inflexible and insensitive contracting out of maintenance work and a fall in the local and national political and administrative priority given to green space.

In 2001, the Government set up an Urban Green Spaces Task Force to advise Ministers on how to go about raising green space quality and ensure it receives the priority that its importance to local communities deserves. Improving urban green space is now part of a wider "liveability policy" which is concerned with creating high quality and attractive places. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is responsible for leading national policy on liveability and green space issues. The key policy initiatives and associated programmes designed to bring about improvements in urban green space together with a timeline are detailed in this report.

The impact of these initiatives is the subject of this report. This report examines whether the barriers to the enhancement of urban green space have been well identified, and after an introductory part (Part 1), considers the progress:

1. In enhancing and tracking the quality of urban green space (Part 2)
2. In improving the financial management of urban green space (Part 3)
3. Through the planning system to protect and enhance urban green space (Part 4).

## **Overall findings**

### **What is working well**

The decline in the quality of urban green space has been halted in most areas and there are signs of recovery in many places. Both those who manage and those who use urban green space agree. In 2000, managers in less than 44 per cent of urban local authorities believed the quality of their green space was stable or improving. This figure has increased to 84 per cent in 2005. And urban residents' satisfaction with green space increased by eight per cent between 2000 and 2003.

Central advocacy by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and CABE Space has helped to raise the awareness of the importance of good quality urban green space to local communities and wider Government objectives. Around 69 per cent of local authorities now have a green space strategy completed or in development. In 2000 the equivalent figure was 53 per cent.

New sources of funds, especially from the lottery, have enabled local authorities and other public bodies to bring about refurbishment and improvement. Central funding has encouraged greater partnership working and helped to bring about more engagement of local communities in refurbishment programmes and schemes

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has identified the need for local authorities to innovate and plan to ensure funding to sustain improvement is built into refurbishment schemes, and is encouraging them to do so.

### **What needs more development**

The improvement in the quality of urban green space is not yet universal. Their survey of parks managers revealed that in some sixteen per cent of urban local authorities the quality of their green space was considered to be in decline. Local authority surveys of residents show that there is wide variation in the level of satisfaction with urban parks and green spaces. Some local authorities score only 54 per cent satisfaction, whilst others achieve 92 per cent satisfaction. And resident satisfaction has risen faster in authorities where satisfaction levels were already relatively high in 2000.

Mainstream expenditure by local authorities on upkeep required to sustain improvement over the longer term has increased, although not at the rate of increases spent on other local public services or the funding made available.

The lessons from central government funded projects to encourage local authorities to innovate in service delivery have yet to be fully identified and spread. And local authorities need to improve the information they collect on the cost of their green space management to provide assurance on their efficiency and effectiveness.

Despite the higher profile of green space, many urban local authorities have not yet reflected this importance in well conceived and well supported local strategies. There remains a need to continue to promote urban green space, and to identify and apply good practice advice to secure a more widespread and sustainable improvement.

### Can you Dig it? Meeting Community Demand for Allotments

*(Nick Hope and Victoria Ellis September 2009)*

This publication is calling for the Government and local councils to make better use of the estimated 3,500 hectares of unused brownfield land - the equivalent size of 25 Hyde Parks - to create new community allotments.

The number of allotments in the UK has declined from 1.4million in the 1940s to 200,000 in the present day. Recently however there has been an increase in their popularity as more people seek to grow their own produce, especially during the economic downturn. In 2008 the influential DEFRA Select Committee called for more allotments to be built to help tackle global food shortages.

Research also suggests that just 30 minutes gardening can burn as many calories as aerobic exercise and that those who grow their own food are more likely to eat more fruit and vegetables.

This report has highlighted many of the positive outcomes that allotments generate for both individuals and communities and makes a series of recommendations, which it believes would help to help create, promote and protect allotments, including:

- More innovative approaches to better utilise space to grow food, such as banks of rivers, retired boats on waterways and roundabouts
- Greater engagement with local residents to discuss how they might like to see different parts of their park space utilised
- Councils should encourage and facilitate the use of vacant building sites for temporary allotments, while the recession puts building programme on hold
- Local authorities should actively encourage “Edible landscaping”; the creation of roof gardens, and large scale urban developments should be forced to allocate land for allotments
- Community gardening should be encouraged more by local authorities in order to cut waiting lists and bring greater social and community benefits
- The largest landowners in Britain are encouraged to make land available in areas with high demand for allotments and HM Treasury should incentivise this social responsibility by offering tax credits to partly compensate for any loss of potential earnings from the land
- The Government should reserve the option of establishing a Large Private Estates Commission to map the private land of these individual land owners in areas of high community need. Local authorities could then assess the suitability of this mapped land for allotments and community garden sites. Where appropriate, these local authorities, supported by the Large Private Estate Commission, should be empowered through statutory legislation to temporarily transfer plots of that land on the basis of a medium term lease for community usage
- Counties and unitary authorities should consider converting any appropriate agricultural land that they own to allotments

There are examples of best practice regarding allotments from local authorities across the country which should be shared and recommend that councils including:

- Offer discounted allotment rates to citizens with lower incomes
- Combine services and pool budgets across departments to a far greater extent to support allotments and deliver more effectively on a wide range of objectives, and
- Produce an allotment strategy to support the planning, promotion and protection of allotments, both now and in the future.

### 1.3 Regional Open Space Policy

#### [The South East Plan - The Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of England \(Government Office for the South East May 2009\)](#)

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East of England (known as the South East Plan) sets out the long term spatial planning framework for the region over the years 2006-2026. The Plan is a key tool to help achieve more sustainable development, protect the environment and combat climate change. It provides a spatial context within which Local Development Frameworks and Local Transport Plans need to be prepared, as well as other regional and sub-regional strategies and programmes that have a bearing on land use activities. These include the regional economic and housing strategies as well as strategies and programmes that address air quality, biodiversity, climate change, education, energy, community safety, environment, health and sustainable development. In addition, policies in this Plan carry weight in decisions made on planning applications and appeals for development.

The most relevant policies to this study included within this plan are:

**Policy CC8:** Green Infrastructure which requires local authorities and others to work together to plan, provide and manage connected and substantial networks of existing and new accessible multi-functional green space. To deliver the widest range of linked environmental and social benefits including conserving and enhancing biodiversity as well as landscape, recreation, water management, social and cultural benefits to underpin individual and community health and 'well being'.

Policy CC8 is included in the Plan to ensure that connected networks of green spaces around new built environment are treated as integral to a planning and design process which is conscious of its place within wider GI networks. GI should not just be considered as an adjunct to new development, and policies and strategies relating to GI assets in local development frameworks should have a spatial expression and not just be restricted to its definition.

The Plan identifies the following areas as forming part of the Green Infrastructure Network:

- Parks and gardens - including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens;
- Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces - including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub;
- Grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water;
- Wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (e.g. cliffs, quarries and pits);
- Green corridors - including river and canal banks, cycleways, and rights of way;
- Outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces, either publicly or privately owned) - including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks;

- School and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas;
- Amenity greenspace (most commonly, but not exclusively, in housing areas) - including informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens;
- Provision for children and teenagers - including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (e.g. 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters);
- Allotments, community gardens, and city (urban) farms;
- Cemeteries and churchyards;
- Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas;
- River and canal corridors; and
- Green roofs and walls.

**Policy S1:** Supporting Healthy Communities recognises the role the planning system can play in developing and shaping healthy sustainable communities, in respect of

- Community access to amenities such as parks, open spaces, physical recreation activity, and cultural facilities
- Healthier forms of transport, by incorporating cycle lanes and safe footpaths in planned developments

**Policy S5:** Cultural And Sporting Activity requires local authorities to encourage increased and sustainable participation in sport, recreation and cultural activity through the development of local development documents and other measures in order to improve the overall standard of fitness enhance cultural diversity and enrich the overall quality of life. The provision of these facilities is expected to be based upon an up to date audit of current supply and an assessment of this supply against estimated demand/growth. The audits are expected to cover the quantitative, qualitative and accessible nature of provision. Authorities are to encourage formal partnership working to put in place effective programmes of provision and management.

### **South East Green Infrastructure Framework - from Policy into Practice Land Use Consultants on behalf of a partnership of regional organisations June 2009**

This framework has been produced by a Partnership of key governmental and non-governmental bodies in the South East to help implement the South East Plan's green infrastructure policy. It seeks firstly to engender a common understanding of the role and importance of green infrastructure throughout the South East and its urban and rural areas. Secondly and most importantly, it encourages local authorities to embed green infrastructure in any local plans and processes from the earliest stages, delivering through partnership working.

The documents recognises that green infrastructure will provide a range of functions, including landscaping, flood control, recreation, cool spots in a warming climate, food production, safer routes and of course biodiversity. Together they form a 'life support system' and give rise to a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits, including improved public health, opportunities for sustainable transport, and provision of attractive and distinctive places to live work and play.

The document:

- Provides a definition of Green Infrastructure in the South East
- Explains the concepts of multi-functionality and place-shaping and describes the physical functions that green infrastructure can have and the regional policy objectives that these functions can help to meet
- Describes the key principles which are a pre-requisite for effective delivery of green infrastructure through the local spatial planning system and the green infrastructure considerations at each stage of the plan-making process

The framework suggests the South East need to build excellent multi-functional greenspace not only in new developments but into its existing spaces and communities as well as connecting the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. Accordingly Green infrastructure (GI) needs to be identified in regional and local plans and designed into all major new development and regeneration schemes from the outset.

It recognises Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) requires local authorities to undertake robust assessments of existing and future needs for open space, sports and recreational facilities and that the definition of green infrastructure in the South East Plan is broadly consistent with the typology in PPG17. Assessments under this Guidance will therefore provide a valuable information source for planning green infrastructure

#### **1.4 Local Policy Review**

##### **Isle of Wight Unitary Development Plan 1996 - 2011 Isle of Wight Council May 2001**

The UDP remains the extant development plan for the Island until the adoption of the LDF and the Core Strategy which is being prepared in line with Planning Policy Statement 12. It notes that the Island is well catered for in terms of informal open space, coast and countryside but increased participation in sports that use these areas can threaten the environmentally most sensitive areas of the Island. Accordingly the plan's recreational policies seek to encourage the provision of recreational facilities where they do not conflict with the need to protect the natural and built heritage of the Island and do not have an unacceptable impact upon amenity. In addition the UDP seeks to protect existing open spaces (including school playing fields), village greens and allotments which are identified in the UDP.

##### **Isle of Wight Council Corporate Plan 2008 - 2013 revised November 2009 Isle of Wight Council 2009**

The corporate plan provides a framework for the delivery of the council's services.

The plan identifies three of its strategic priorities for 2009/2013 as PFI and Roads, Delivering Modern Services, and Regeneration and the Economy. Under the priority of PFI and Roads, it is envisaged that there will be benefits to the public realm. Under the second two headings, a strategic project for leisure facility improvement is identified which will refurbish community leisure facilities that will accommodate existing and future demand.

##### **Ecoland The Isle of Wight's sustainable community strategy 2008 -2020 Island Strategic Partnership**

This is a broad based strategy for improving the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Island by offering a framework for improving the quality of life for all stakeholders of the Isle of Wight. Some of the priorities identified in the strategy to achieve this objective include:

- The need to protect and enhance the island's natural beauty
- The need to improve health and emotional well being by for example making the most of the Island's natural potential
- Ensuring people have places to live and things to do in their local area
- Improving the visual appeal and ambience of the Island

Of relevance to this study is the Strategy's promise to deliver

- 3 new local nature reserves across the Island by 2010
- Low carbon communities
- Encouraging 22,000 more people use leisure centres
- The provision of a health trainer in each community to promote healthy active lifestyles

#### **Isle of Wight Cultural Strategy 2004-8 Adding the Sparkle Isle of Wight Council**

The strategy provides a strategic framework to help to sustain and develop the Island's cultural assets and values for the benefit of both residents and visitors

It embraces the following activities

- The performing and visual arts, crafts, media and film
- Museums, artefacts, Record Office and design
- Libraries, literature, writing and publishing
- The built heritage, architecture and archaeology
- Sports events, facilities and development
- Parks, open spaces, landscape, the coast, wildlife habitats, water environment and countryside recreation
- Children's play, playgrounds and play activities
- Tourism, festivals and attractions
- Informal leisure pursuits

It suggests the richness of the Isle of Wight's cultural diversity is reflected in the provision of an estimated 380 leisure and visitor centres and attractions on the Island by public, private, not-for-profit and voluntary organisations, of relevance for this study are

- Both English Heritage and The National Trust are active on the Island, with Osborne House and The Needles Old Battery respectively notable interests
- The Island has a rich mix of both indoor and outdoor sports and leisure facilities. All of these facilities are easily accessible to Island residents, visitors, schools, businesses, clubs and groups
- There are more than 250 parks, gardens and open spaces on the Island, together with 35 playgrounds and 1100 public seats. 64 miles of coastline are managed, and there are 11 miles of award winning beaches
- Ventnor Botanic Garden consists of 22 acres of maintained garden containing 8000 plant species, plus a plant production facility and visitor centre. Residents, visitors, researchers, schools and businesses all use the Garden

Research undertaken as background to the strategy revealed

- 93% of residents visit beaches and esplanades at least once a week
- 92% visit the countryside, over half of these at least once a week. There is high public satisfaction with these opportunities and parks & gardens, and access to them

The strategy concluded that it was important to recognise the significance of the environmental assets bestowed upon the Island and to conserve and sustain these assets for the benefit of current and future generations. In addition it suggested the Council should give greater importance and publicity to the natural beauty of the Island, and the many and varied interests which flow from it, in order to enhance local cultural life and the tourist economy. For example, increased use of the various specialist interests that emanate

#### **Cowes Waterfront - A Vision for the Medina Valley Supplementary Planning Guidance Isle of Wight Council July 2003**

The vision for the Medina Valley has been developed building upon the area's existing strengths and aiming to diversify the Valley's economy, in order to maximize new opportunities and enhance sustainability It divides the area into 5 Zones of most significance for this study is Zone 4 which follows the length of the Medina between Cowes/East Cowes and Newport. The area is principally rural in character and includes many of the most environmentally sensitive locations in the Medina Valley. The predominant concern within this zone will be the preservation and enhancement of the substantial environmental assets of the area. In the future, it is hoped that this environmental "corridor" can also enhance north/south linkages along the Medina Valley.

#### **West Wight Landscape Character Assessment Prepared on behalf of The West Wight Partnership by Land Use Consultants September 2005**

The study found that the countryside in the west of the Island is a cherished asset for residents and visitors alike. The area is well used for informal recreational purposes such as rambling, horse riding and mountain biking. However there is growing concern over the impact of these uses on the natural environment in the area and the increasing numbers of visitors to the locality. The study concluded that the use of the areas for recreational purposes needed to be carefully managed to avoid any adverse impact upon the locality.

## **Open Space Provision in Residential Developments - Supplementary Planning Guidance Isle of Wight Council August 2004**

The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Guidance is to set out and explain the Council's requirement for public outdoor playing space in new residential development as detailed in Policy L10 of the Unitary Development Plan. It gives detailed advice on the type and level of outdoor playing space required, its design and location, as well as how the outdoor playing space provision and maintenance will be financed. The SPG distinguishes between public open space for outdoor play and landscaped amenity areas. Policy L10 of the UDP deals only with public outdoor playing space in residential development. The guidance draws heavily on the advice contained within the NPFA's Six Acres Standard and successor documentation. Although developers will be expected to provide open space at a level above this standard

## **Value for Money Leisure Needs Assessment Prepared by New Horizons Consultants on the behalf of the Isle of Wight Council April 2007**

This report was commissioned to provide the council with information that will enable it to produce an Island sport and leisure facilities plan to meet the needs of the Island community and make investment decisions about its sports and leisure asset provision. Accordingly the Report addresses the need for built sports facilities such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

However some of the findings of the report are considered relevant to this study including:

- The need to develop a vision for sports and leisure on the Island as part of its Cultural Strategy 2004-8
- The survey work undertaken to support the report found
  - Compared to the national picture, residents of the Isle of Wight in general understand the value of exercise and claim to do relatively more of it.
  - The main barrier to participation in exercise is lack of time.
  - Some young people are involved in team sport, but most of their sporting activity appears to be unrelated to school, happening in casual unorganised activities e.g. cycling, walking, and playing in the park.

## **Island Plan Submission Core Strategy Isle of Wight Council December 2008**

The open space, sport and recreation audit information is required to act as an evidence base to inform the Core Strategy and subsequent policy approaches.

The Core Strategy of the Island Plan contains only essential key policy elements for open space, sports and recreational facilities that will apply Island-wide, and sets the context for lower tier plan documents.

No previous open space, sport or recreation audit has been carried out on the Island so the basis of the initial audit was based on existing documentation related to grounds maintenance, management and land ownership, statutory designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) Local Nature Reserves, Historic parks and gardens etc and through detailed on-site assessments.

## **The Primary Capital Programme and Primary Strategy for Change 2010**

The Government is committed to a programme of long term strategic capital investment in primary schools beginning in 2009 and continuing for up to 15 years. Full details of the scope and purpose of the Primary Capital Programme are available on the website [www.teachernet.gov.uk](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk)

The Government aims to do more than simply provide modern primary school buildings through this programme. The wider purpose is to support the national policy aims of fair access to quality school places, tackling deprivation and raising standards. National research has demonstrated the strong link between attainment at Key Stage 2 and the likelihood of attaining 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE and, subsequently, economic well-being in later life. The stark message is that if children fail to reach their full potential whilst they are in primary school, the loss of opportunity is likely to affect them well into their adult lives with all the attendant problems of poverty, ill-health and social disadvantage that this brings.

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority, schools, parents and associated agencies to ensure that children get off to the best possible start in life. The Isle of Wight Local Authority, as commissioner of local services, is responsible for preparing and maintaining the Primary Strategy for Change, which is the document that sets out our plans for the Primary Capital Programme. The Strategy provides contextual information on current primary school provision, what we want it to look like in future and how we will make this happen.

The Strategy aims to reflect local needs and aspirations and provide a plan that details how the capital investment will improve outcomes for all primary age children attending Island schools. In the tradition of excellent working partnerships built up over a number of years, schools, diocesan authorities, local organisations and all those with an interest in the well being of children will continue to be fully consulted and involved throughout the life time of the programme. By working together, we can make a real difference to the futures of our children. We are confident that this much needed capital investment will provide the catalyst for a step-change improvement in outcomes for primary age children, that will better equip them for a more successful and satisfying adult life, and will ultimately lead to better quality lives for all Island residents.

### 'Island's Education Vision'

We want the Isle of Wight to become a world renowned Eco-Island, with a thriving economy, a real sense of pride and a place where residents and visitors can enjoy healthy lives, feel safe and are treated with respect.

Through regeneration the council's objectives are to provide:

- a thriving Island
- a healthy and supportive Island
- a safe and well kept Island
- an inspiring Island

Part of the council's overall approach to regeneration is to raise the standards of educational attainment and opportunity on the Island. To that end it has taken the strategic decision to reorganise the school system from a primary, middle and high model to one of primary (4-11 age range) and secondary (11-19 age range) schools.

# Appendix 3

## Audit pro-forma templates



## Allotments and Community Gardens: Quality and Value Audit

### Scoring

- 4: site is fine as is
- 3: enhanced maintenance needed
- 2: minor capital investment needed
- 1: major capital investment needed
- 0: facilities or features not present, but needed
- x: facility or feature not present and not needed on this site

Polygon ID	
Council area	Isle of Wight
Site name	
Main access from (name of street)	
Town/settlement	
Neighbourhood/planning area	
Site area (from GIS)	
Owner (Borough Council, Parish/Town Council, Association)	
Date of audit	
Number of plots on the site (best estimate)	
Number of plots apparently vacant (best estimate)	
Percentage apparently vacant	

### Facilities (Enter Y or N)

Water supply arrangements (tap or cistern within 50 m of each plot)	x
Communal storage facilities (if over 50 plots)	x
Trading shed (if over 50 plots)	x
Arrangements for composting	x
Arrangements for rubbish collection	x
Toilets (on site or nearby; only for sites of 50 or more plots)	x

### General characteristics

Signage (eg details of ownership)	x
Informal surveillance from neighbouring properties	x
Condition of boundary fencing/walls	x
Small habitat features	x
<i>Summary score for general characteristics</i>	

### Accessibility

Adequate parking close to the site (can be on-street)	x
Accessible from the adjacent street/parking in a wheelchair	x
Wide access routes within the site	x
General accessibility for people in wheelchairs	x
<i>Summary score for accessibility</i>	

<i>Summary score for facilities</i>	
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<b>Overall quality rating</b>	
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## Value Audit

### General attractiveness of site to potential plot-holders

General appearance of the site (is it well tended?)

x

General fertility (is produce growing well?)

x

Range of plot sizes

x

Freedom from overgrown plots

x

Summary score for attractiveness to potential plot holders

--

### Contribution to Local Amenity

Relationship to adjacent or linked spaces

x

Value as a visual screen or buffer

x

Value as a noise buffer

x

Summary score for amenity value

--

### Wildlife and habitat value

Range of habitats on the site

x

Value as a green corridor for wildlife

x

Summary score for wildlife and biodiversity value

--

### Overall value rating

--

Improvements Required (write in)

## Multi-functional Greenspaces: Quality and Value Audit

(Amenity greenspaces; civic spaces, closed churchyards and cemeteries, green corridors, natural and semi-natural greenspaces; outdoor sports facilities; parks and gardens)

### Quality scores

- 4: Space is fine as it is
- 3: Enhanced maintenance required
- 2: Minor capital investment required
- 1: Replacement and/or redesign required
- 0: Facility or feature is missing, but needed
- x: Facility or feature is not needed in this space

### Site details

Polygon ID	
Polygon ID	
Council area	Isle of Wight
Site Name	
Main access (street name)	
Town/Settlement	
Neighbourhood/planning area	
Owner? - Borough Council (BC), Town/Parish Council (TPC), Club, Commercial, School	
Site area in sq m (from GIS)	
Date of audit	

Primary purpose (AGS, CC, GC, NGS, OSF or PG)	
Green Flag holder (enter Y or N)	

### Predominant nature (enter Y for one type only)

Artificial sports surfaces	
Cycleway/bridlepath/right of way	
Derelict/abandoned	
Grass (not sportsturf)	
Hard surfaced	
Natural countryside	
Natural greenspace	
Parkland (grass and trees)	
River, canal, pond or other fresh water area	
Seashore/beach	
Shrubs and landscaping	
Sportsturf	
Water	
Wetland	
Woodland	
Other	

### Topography (enter Y for one type only)

Flat	
Undulating	
Gently sloping	
Steeply sloping	
Steep	

**Conservation designations (enter Y for as many as appropriate)**

Designated LNR	
Designated NNR	
Designated Ramsar site	
Designated SINCR/SNCR	
Designated SBI	
Designated SPA	
Designated SSSI	
EH registered park or garden	
Located in a conservation area	
Scheduled ancient monument	

**Access (enter Y for one only)**

Public access - free	
Public access - admission or hire charge	
De facto public access	
Shared/dual use education site	
Restricted access	
No public access	

**Facilities/features in the space (enter Y for as many as appropriate)**

*Buildings*

Café or coffee kiosk	
Glasshouses/plant houses	
Historic buildings	
Sports or leisure centre, swimming pool	
Toilets	
Visitor/interpretation centre/museum/art gallery	
Other buildings with no public access	
Other buildings with public access	

*Landscape features*

Bandstand	
Barbeque areas	
Boating pond	
City farm	
Fountain(s)/cascades	
Monuments	
Picnic tables	
Public art	
Shelters	

*Provision for children and teenagers*

Children's equipped play - enter Y or N and complete separate form if present	
Paddling pool (enter Y or N)	
Teenage facilities - enter Y or N and complete separate form if present	

*Sports Facilities*

	Enter number of facilities
Artificial turf pitch(es) - enter number and complete separate form if present	
Athletics track/training area - enter number and complete separate form if present	
Bowling green(s) - enter number and complete separate form if present	
Cricket pitch(es) - enter number and complete separate form if present	
Football pitch(es) - enter number and complete separate form if present	

Multi-sport court(s) - enter number and complete separate form if present	
Rugby pitch(es) - enter number and complete separate form if present	
Tennis courts - enter number and complete separate form if present	

## Quality Audit

### A Welcoming Place

#### Signage

Adequate directional signs to features and attractions inside or outside the space	X
All signs and notices positively worded	X
Information on events and activities, where appropriate	X
Welcoming sign and map of space or other facility, where appropriate	X
Notice boards for Friends Group, where appropriate	X
<i>Summary score for signage</i>	

#### Physical Access

Adequate secure car parking close to main entrances	X
Adequate vehicular access for maintenance	X
Attractive entrances, if appropriate	X
Clear exit routes from the space	X
Hard surfaces well drained and suitable for buggies and wheelchairs	X
Internal paths link up with external streets/other greenspaces, approximately on desire lines	X
Open sightlines into the space from entrances	X
Secure cycle parking close to entrances, where appropriate	X
Segregated internal cycle-ways, where appropriate	X
<i>Summary score for physical access</i>	

#### Inclusiveness

Designated disabled parking bays close to entrance	X
General accessibility for people with disabilities (eg no steps)	X
All buildings open to the public accessible	X
Braille signage as appropriate, eg sensory gardens	X
Paths wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass	X
<i>Summary score for inclusiveness</i>	

#### Design and Specification

Attractive, well designed space(s) with varied visual interest	X
Active conservation of historical features (eg buildings, tree avenues, statues)	X
Appropriate tree types	X
Appropriate, robust and durable materials	X
Art and craftwork (eg railings) as appropriate	X
Attractiveness of boundaries	X
Consistency of features and furniture (eg seats, litter bins)	X
Enlivening features where appropriate - flags, decorative lighting etc	X
Range of habitats appropriate to the space	X
Range of plants or shrubs appropriate to the space	X
Structure of the space easily understood, with orienting features	X
Well located benches and seating areas (with backs), sheltered if necessary	X
<i>Summary score for design and specification</i>	

#### A Welcoming Place - overall score

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### Healthy, Safe and Secure

#### Health and Well-being

Organised sport eg through clubs	X
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Signed fitness or jogging route, if appropriate	X
Signed guided health walks, if appropriate	X
Adequate pooper bins, plus signage	X
Appropriate signage on the control of dogs	X
Well located drinking water fountains	X
<i>Summary score for health and well-being</i>	
<b>Safety and Security</b>	
Activity and busyness - buskers, pedestrian traffic etc	X
Adequacy of safety measures adjacent to areas of water (eg signs, lifebelts)	X
Headstones safe in churchyards and cemeteries	X
Adequate lighting around the space, including through routes where appropriate	X
CCTV, if appropriate	X
Informal supervision and surveillance from nearby properties	X
Lighting in car parks used after dark	X
Lighting on paths used after dark (if locked at night score "x")	X
Sense of personal safety in the space	X
<i>Summary score for safety and security</i>	
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure - overall score</b>	
<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>	
<i>Litter and Waste Management</i>	
Adequate number of litter bins for the space	X
Paths freed from chewing gum residues	X
Freedom from dog fouling	X
Freedom from litter	X
Freedom from vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting	X
<i>Summary score for litter and waste management</i>	
<i>Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture</i>	
Condition of flower beds and horticultural features (eg floral displays)	X
Condition of grass swards	X
Condition of shrubs	X
Condition of the edge of grassed areas	X
Condition of trees and wooded areas	X
Condition of hanging baskets/plant or tree containers in hard surfaced civic spaces	X
<i>Summary score for grounds maintenance and horticulture</i>	
<i>Buildings - Design, Management and Maintenance (excluding changing pavilions)</i>	
Adequacy of information and notices	X
Adequacy of security arrangements when closed	X
Appropriateness of design for location	X
General condition of exterior	X
Floodlighting to buildings or features in or around the space	X
General condition of interior(s), if open	X
Purpose of building(s) clear	X
<i>Summary score for building design, management and maintenance</i>	
<i>Public Toilets</i>	
Adequacy of toilets for size of space, including disabled provision	X
Cleanliness internally	X
General condition of toilets (eg functional, lockable cubicles, free from smells)	X
<i>Summary score for toilets</i>	

<i>Infrastructure (eg paths, walls, fences, gates, furniture)</i>	
Condition of fences/railings	X
Condition of gates	X
Condition of lighting	X
Condition of notices and notice boards	X
Condition of paths	X
Condition of planters/raised beds	X
Condition of ramps and handrails	X
Condition of seats	X
Condition of steps and handrails	X
Condition of walls	X
<i>Summary score for infrastructure</i>	
<i>Well Maintained and Clean - overall score</i>	
<b>Conservation and Heritage</b>	
Active management of areas of woodland	X
Areas of water in good condition, with shallow margins	X
Areas of wildlife meadow where appropriate	X
Conservation of archaeological or geological features	X
Dead branches and trees left in place as habitats	X
Historic structures (buildings, statues, railings, walls) conserved	X
Suitable interpretation for all heritage features	X
<i>Summary score for conservation and heritage</i>	
<b>Unadjusted quality score</b>	
<b>Negative features which detract from the space</b>	
<i>Score 0 = no impact, 4 = major detrimental impact</i>	
Amusement arcades, fish and chip shops and other downmarket establishments	0
Dispersal notices	0
Excessive exposure to wind	0
Excessive noise (eg passing traffic, nearby factory)	0
Inappropriate and unsightly utility or other repairs to paths and hard surfaces	0
Intrusive and excessive advertising	0
Large number of unnecessary "poles"	0
Litter in open areas	0
Litter trapped in trees and bushes or railings	0
Paths worn across grassed areas on "desire lines"	0
Severe overshadowing from nearby buildings	0
Unpleasant smells and/or traffic fumes	0
Unsightly overhead wires	0
Unsightly seagull/swan/duck or other bird droppings	0
Vacant shop units/charity shops	0
<b>Adjusted quality score</b>	
<b>Sustainability (derived from above scores)</b>	
Secure cycle parking close to entrances, where appropriate	X
Appropriate tree types	X
Range of habitats appropriate to the space	X
Range of plants or shrubs appropriate to the space	X
Condition of grass swards	X
Condition of shrubs	X
Condition of trees and wooded areas	X

Areas of water in good condition, with shallow margins	X
Areas of wildlife meadow where appropriate	X
Dead branches and trees left in place as habitats	X
Historic structures (buildings, statues, railings, walls) conserved	X
<b>Summary score for sustainability</b>	
<b>Value Audit</b>	
<i>Score 0 = no value, 1 = very little value, 2 = some value, 3 = reasonable value, 4 = very high value</i>	
<b>Context Value</b>	
Value as a cycle or pedestrian route	X
Value in terms of a linked series of green or hard spaces	X
Value in terms of open-ness in a densely developed area	X
Value in terms of providing a setting for buildings (eg Georgian square)	X
<b>Summary score for context value</b>	
<b>Historical/heritage value</b>	
Value as a designed landscape	X
Value of historic buildings within the space	X
Value of other historical features (eg statues, fountains, headstones)	X
<b>Summary score for historical/heritage value</b>	
<b>Contribution to Local Amenity, Vitality and Sense of Place</b>	
Contribution to appearance of the neighbourhood	X
Evidence of use for events	X
Value as a noise buffer	X
Value as a visual screen or buffer	X
Value in terms of a "sense of place"	X
Value in terms of "busyness" for social interaction	X
Value in terms of local air quality and amelioration of pollution	X
Visual attractiveness	X
<b>Summary score for amenity value</b>	
<b>Recreational Value</b>	
Value for community events	X
Value in terms of health benefits (eg jogging, health walks)	X
Value of informal recreation opportunities (eg walking, relaxation)	X
<b>Summary score for recreational value</b>	
<b>Play value (for children)</b>	
Value in terms of variety of finishes and experiences	X
Value of space for adventure play	X
Value of space for kickabout	X
Value of space for seeing birds and animals	X
<b>Summary score for play value</b>	
<b>Ecological/Biodiversity value</b>	
Nature conservation designation	
Value as a green corridor for wildlife	X
Value for public enjoyment of nature	X
Value of habitats within the space (including water)	X
Value of trees to the neighbourhood	X
<b>Summary score for ecological value</b>	
<b>Overall Value Score</b>	
Potential Green Flag site (Y or N)	X
<b>Improvements Required (write in)</b>	

## Allotments and Community Gardens: Quality and Value Audit

Scoring

- 4: site is fine as is
- 3: enhanced maintenance needed
- 2: minor capital investment needed
- 1: major capital investment needed
- 0: facilities or features not present, but needed
- x: facility or feature not present and not needed on this site

Polygon ID	
Council area	Isle of Wight
Site name	
Main access from (name of street)	
Town/settlement	

Owner (Borough Council, Parish/Town Council, Association)	
Date of audit	
Number of plots on the site (best estimate)	
Number of plots apparently vacant (best estimate)	
Percentage apparently vacant	#DIV/0!

Facilities (Enter Y or N)	
Water supply arrangements (tap or cistern within 50 m of each plot)	x
Communal storage facilities (if over 50 plots)	x
Trading shed (if over 50 plots)	x
Arrangements for composting	x
Arrangements for rubbish collection	x
Toilets (on site or nearby; only for sites of 50 or more plots)	x

General characteristics	
Signage (eg details of ownership)	x
Informal surveillance from neighbouring properties	x
Condition of boundary fencing/walls	x
Small habitat features	x
<i>Summary score for general characteristics</i>	

Accessibility	
Adequate parking close to the site (can be on-street)	x
Accessible from the adjacent street/parking in a wheelchair	x
Wide access routes within the site	x
General accessibility for people in wheelchairs	x
<i>Summary score for accessibility</i>	

<i>Summary score for facilities</i>	
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<b>Overall quality rating</b>	
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<b>Value Audit</b>	
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<b>General attractiveness of site to potential plot-holders</b>	
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General appearance of the site (is it well tended?)	x
General fertility (is produce growing well?)	x
Range of plot sizes	x
Freedom from overgrown plots	x
Summary score for attractiveness to potential plot holders	

<b>Contribution to Local Amenity</b>	
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Relationship to adjacent or linked spaces	x
Value as a visual screen or buffer	x
Value as a noise buffer	x
Summary score for amenity value	

<b>Wildlife and habitat value</b>	
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Range of habitats on the site	x
Value as a green corridor for wildlife	x
Summary score for wildlife and biodiversity value	

<b>Overall value rating</b>	
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**Improvements Required (write in)**

## **Appendix 4**

# **Audit master spreadsheet**



<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
0	BJ28	Dove Cot Allotment	Merstone	ACG	100	50
1	BJ7	Shorwell Recreation Ground	Shorwell	CYP	76	59
2	BJ11	Chillerton Recreation Ground	Chillerton	CYP	84	74
3	BJ15	May Close Children's Playing Field Rookley Village Hill & Playing Fields	Godshill	CYP	79	65
4	BJ24		Rookley	CYP	100	61
5	BJ33	Arreton Primary School	Arreton	CYP	100	53
6	BJ45	Spanner Close Play Area	Chale Green	CYP	99	74
7	BJ83	North Street	Ventnor	CYP	97	74
8	BJ86	Ventnor Skate Park	Ventnor	CYP	94	5
9	BJ102	St. Margarets Glade	Lowtherville	CYP	100	79
10	BJ105	Ventnor Botanic Garden	Ventnor	CYP	86	82
11	BJ1	Church of St.Peter Seating area opp St.Peters Church Yard	Shorwell	CC	100	57
12	BJ2		Shorwell	CC	100	63
13	BJ3	The Green	Shorwell	AGS	100	63
14	BJ4	Sandy Way/ Russell Road	Shorwell	AGS	95	63
15	BJ5	Sandy Way	Shorwell	AGS	100	63
16	BJ6	Shorwell Recreation Ground	Shorwell	OSF	66	77
17	BJ8	North Court Close	Shorwell	AGS	89	63
18	BJ9	Hollow Lane/Berry Shute	Chillerton	AGS	100	63
19	BJ10	Chillerton Playing Field	Chillerton	OSF	91	75
20	BJ12	St.Olaves Church	Gatcombe	CC	100	63
22	BJ13	Niton Road/Main Road	Rookley	AGS	100	63
23	BJ14	May Close Childrens Playing Field	Godshill	AGS	93	75
24	BJ16	Sandy Lane/ Blackwater Hollow	Blackwater	NGS	100	63
25	BJ17	Chale Parish Recreation Ground	Chale	OSF	100	69
26	BJ18	Southdown / Pyle Shute	Pyle	CS	96	63
27	BJ19	Southdown	Chale	NGS	100	63
28	BJ20	Chale Lane / Pyle Shute	Pyle	NGS	86	63
29	BJ21	Chillerton Down	Chillerton	NGS	100	63
30	BJ22	High Wood Rookley Village Hall and Playing Field	Rookley	NGS	98	63
31	BJ23		Rookley	OSF	98	81
33	BJ25	Whitcroft Sports Ground	Rookley	OSF	98	14
34	BJ26	Newclose County Cricket Ground Newport Sandown Cycleway 23, Merstone	Newport	OSF	100	14
35	BJ27		Merstone	GC	100	63
36	BJ29	St.Georges Down	Arreton	NGS	100	63
37	BJ30	Woodland	Arreton	NGS	96	63
38	BJ31	Arreton Down	Arreton	NGS	100	63
39	BJ32	Arreton Primary School	Arreton	EDUC	100	45
40	BJ34	Newport Road/ Hazley Combe	Arreton	AGS	95	63
41	BJ35	Hazley Combe	Arreton	AGS	100	63
42	BJ36	Arreton Cricket Club	Arreton	OSF	100	41
43	BJ37	Newport Road	Arreton	NGS	100	63
44	BJ38	St.Andrew's Church Chale Church of England Primary School	Chale	CC	100	63
45	BJ39		Chale	EDUC	100	45
46	BJ40	Village Hall Carpark	Chale	AGS	97	63
47	BJ41	Green	Chale	AGS	100	63
48	BJ42	West View Cottage	Chale	AGS	100	63
49	BJ43	Church	Chale	CC	100	61

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
50	BJ44	Spanner Close Play Area	Chale Green	AGS	99	81
51	BJ46	Open Space	Chale Green	AGS	100	62
53	BJ47	Chale Green	Chale Green	AGS	100	62
54	BJ48	Bleak Down	Godshill	NGS	100	59
55	BJ49	Beacon Alley	Godshill	NGS	95	63
56	BJ50	Old Smithy/High St Mini Recycling Fac	Godshill	AGS	94	63
57	BJ51	Woodland	Godshill	NGS	100	62
58	BJ52	Green, Paddock close	Godshill	AGS	98	61
59	BJ53	High Street, Green	Godshill	AGS	100	63
60	BJ54	All Saints Church	Godshill	CC	100	63
61	BJ55	Green, Yarborough Close	Godshill	AGS	98	61
62	BJ56	Green, Newport Road	Godshill	AGS	100	63
63	BJ57	Green, Drubbers	Godshill	AGS	100	63
64	BJ58	Gore Cemetery	Arreton	CC	96	63
65	BJ59	Newchurch Parish Sports + Community Association	Newchurch	OSF	100	69
66	BJ60	Newchurch Primary School	Newchurch	EDUC	100	41
67	BJ61	All Saints Church	Newchurch	CC	100	60
68	BJ62	Woodland / Grassland Ashley Road	Knighton	NGS	96	63
69	BJ63	Woodland/Grass Land Knighton Shute	Knighton	NGS	100	63
70	BJ64	Woodland Lime Kiln Lane	Knighton	NGS	92	63
71	BJ65	Skinner Lane	Newchurch	NGS	95	63
72	BJ66	Luccombe Chine	Luccombe	NGS	96	63
73	BJ67	Leeson Road	Bonchurch	CS	100	62
74	BJ68	The Landslip	Bonchurch	NGS	98	63
75	BJ69	St. Boniface Old Church	Bonchurch	CC	100	63
76	BJ70	Parish Church of St. Boniface	Bonchurch	CC	100	63
77	BJ71	The Pond	Bonchurch	AGS	100	13
78	BJ72	Shore Road Long Stay Car Park	Bonchurch	CS	100	63
79	BJ73	Bonchurch Cliffs	Bonchurch	NGS	100	13
80	BJ74	The Green Trinity Street	Bonchurch	AGS	100	63
81	BJ75	The Green Trinity Street	Bonchurch	AGS	100	63
82	BJ76	The Green Kings Bay Road	Bonchurch	AGS	100	63
83	BJ77	St. Boniface Down	Bonchurch	NGS	100	63
84	BJ78	Ventnor Tennis Club	Bonchurch	OSF	100	55
85	BJ79	Seating Area Grove road	Ventnor	CS	99	57
86	BJ80	Springhill Gardens	Ventnor	CS	99	63
87	BJ81	Shelter	Ventnor	CS	96	55
88	BJ82	Toilets Market Street	Ventnor	CS	94	63
89	BJ84	Wheelers Bay Road	Ventnor	CS	100	50
90	BJ85	Grassland and Path, Dudley Road	Ventnor	AGS	98	63
91	BJ87	Esplanade	Ventnor	CS	100	63
92	BJ88	Ventnor Cascade	Ventnor	CS	100	63
93	BJ89	Belgrave Road / Alpine Road seating area	Ventnor	CS	87	63
94	BJ90	St. Catherines Church	Ventnor	CC	100	63
95	BJ91	Belgrave Road seating area	Ventnor	CS	93	59
96	BJ92	La Falaise Car park	Ventnor	CS	100	50
97	BJ93	Cliffs Bath Road	Ventnor	NGS	NS	NS
98	BJ94	Belgrave Road	Ventnor	CS	100	63

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
99	BJ95	Ventnor Park	Ventnor	PG	100	69
100	BJ96	Ocean View Road green	Ventnor	AGS	95	63
101	BJ97	Old Shute green	Ventnor	AGS	83	51
102	BJ98	Newport Road 3 sites	Ventnor	AGS	100	63
103	BJ99	Downland Cresent	Ventnor	AGS	100	63
104	BJ100	Rew Valley Sports Centre	Ventnor	EDUC/OSF	100	60
105	BJ101	St. Margarets green	Lowtherville	AGS	100	63
106	BJ103	Ventnor Cemetery	Lowtherville	CC	100	63
107	BJ104	Ventnor Botanic Garden	Ventnor	PG	99	75
108	BJ106	Ventnor Cricket Club	Ventnor	OSF	100	69
109	BJ107	Public Open Space, Green House &d Weather Station	Ventnor	AGS	90	63
110	BJ108	Pellham Wood	SteePhill	NGS	100	60
111	BJ109	St. Lawrence Old Church and Peace Garden	St. Lawrence	CC	100	63
112	BJ110	St. Lawrence Church	St. Lawrence	CC	100	63
113	BJ111	Ventnor Rugby Club	SteePhill	OSF	100	39
114	JP91	Blackgang Rd	Niton	ACG	56	43
115	JP008	Tennyson Rd	Yarmouth	CYP	89	65
116	JP014	Bouldnor sports field	Bouldner	CYP	85	72
117	JP021	Totland recreation ground	Totland	CYP	79	85
118	JP031	Stroud recreation ground	Freshwater	CYP	90	82
119	JP50	Brighstone Recreation ground	Brighstone	CYP	95	85
120	JP64	Calbourne recreation ground	Calbourne	CYP	78	65
121	JP64	New bridge play ground	New Bridge	CYP	98	66
122	JP86	Niton recreation ground	Niton	CYP	84	52
123	JP001	River Road	Yarmouth	AGS	99	46
124	JP002	River Road	Yarmouth	CS	100	44
125	JP005	Tennyson Rd	Yarmouth	AGS	93	46
126	JP007	Grave yard	Yarmouth	CC	83	54
127	JP004	Yarmouth Common	Yarmouth	AGS	97	60
128	JP006	Tennyson Rd	Yarmouth	CS	97	56
129	JP003	Yarmouth and Calbourne FC	Yarmouth	OSF	92	61
130	JP009	Bridleway Y19/FPY2	Yarmouth	GC	99	61
131	JP010	Footpath Y1/Bridleway Y19	Yarmouth	NGS	98	65
132	JP014	Bouldnor sports field	Bouldner	OSF	64	50
133	JP011	Viewpoint Car park	Bouldner	CS	95	26
134	JP012	Tennyson Rd	Bouldner	NGS	83	47
135	JP015	Costal path/ Bouldnor forest	Bouldner	NGS	100	61
136	JP016	St.Swithins Church	Thorley	CC	95	60
137	JP017	Hamstead trail	Wellow	GC	99	60
138	JP018	Yar Estuary	Yarmouth	NGS	96	67
139	JP019	Colwell common	Colwell	AGS	98	50
140	JP020	Totland Recreation ground	Totland	OSF	88	73
141	JP022	Fort Warden Rd	Colwell	NGS	78	58
142	JP023	Costal path	Colwell	GC	94	61
143	JP024	Golden hill fort country park	Colwell	NGS	83	62
144	JP25	Fort Victoria country park	Norton	NGS	95	60
145	JP026	Graeme Road	Norton	AGS	94	48
146	JP029	School green village green	Freshwater	AGS	98	57
147	JP028	West wight sports centre	Freshwater	OSF	99	49
148	JP030	Stroud Recreation Ground	Freshwater	OSF	91	66

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
149	JP031	Pound green	Freshwater	AGS	100	44
150	JP032	Bridleway Tennyson monument	Freshwater	GC	99	60
151	JP034	footpath	Freshwater	NGS	81	60
152	JP037	Afton mash	Freshwater	CS	94	52
153	JP36	Tennyson's view freshwater bay	Freshwater	AGS	97	47
154	JP033	seafront	Freshwater	NGS	99	60
155	JP039	Gate lane	Totland	NGS	97	49
156	JP041	Headon warren	Freshwater	CC	93	57
157	JP035	Needles and west High Down	Freshwater	NGS	93	61
158	JP042	St.Saviours Cemetery	Totland	CC	95	60
159	JP40	Tennyson Down	Totland	AGS	98	55
160	JP043	Christ Church	Totland	CS	97	51
161	JP044	The Green	Totland	NGS	93	54
162	JP45	Village Green	Brighstone	CC	100	59
163	JP46	Hurst Point View	Brighstone	CS	100	50
164	JP47	St.Marys Church and Grave yard	Brighstone	AGS	97	49
165	JP48	Village Green	Brighstone	CC	100	46
166	JP49	Warnes Lane	Brighstone	OSF	85	84
167	JP51	Brighstone methodist church	Mottistone	NGS	100	60
168	JP52	Brighstone recreation ground	Mottistone	NGS	100	60
169	JP53	Grammars Common	Brighstone	NGS	100	60
170	JP55	Mottistone Common	Mottistone	NGS	100	60
171	JP56	Brighstone forest	Mottistone	CC	94	55
172	JP57	Westtover Down/Plantation	Mottistone	CC	94	45
173	JP58	Church of St.peter and St.Paul	Brook	CC	96	56
174	JP59	Hunny Lane	Brook	AGS	99	47
175	JP62	Church of St.Mary the Virgin	Calbourne	CC	92	56
176	JP61	Village Green	Calbourne	CS	86	49
177	JP63	Calbourne Church	Calbourne	OSF	80	66
178	JP65	Calbourne Village well	Newbridge	OSF	94	66
179	JP67	Calbourne Recreation Centre	Newbridge	CS	97	45
180	JP60	Newbridge play ground	Brighstone	NGS	99	60
181	JP68	Blacksmiths Green	Colwell	CC	100	57
182	JP69	Coastal Path	Freshwater	CC	99	61
183	JP70	Colwell Baptist church	Shalfleet	AGS	94	43
184	JP71	All Saints church	Shalfleet	CC	99	58
185	JP72	Fleetway	Shalfleet	AGS	94	50
186	JP74	Church of St.Michael the Arch	Newtown	NGS	100	66
187	JP75	Angel	Newtown	CC	95	55
188	JP76	Withyfields	Newtown	CS	100	57
189	JP77	Newtown NNR	Porchfield	CS	100	47
190	JP78	Church of the Holy Spirit	Thorness	NGS	100	61
191	JP79	Calbourne Parish Council	Hamstead	NGS	100	62
192	JP80	Monument	Freshwater	NGS	100	58
193	JP81	Porchfield Green	Brook	NGS	99	60
194	JP82	Coastal Path	Niton	CC	100	59
195	JP83	Coastal path/ Hamstead Trail	Whitwell	CC	100	58
196	JP84	Afton, Compton, Wellow,	Whitwell	AGS	100	40
		Shalcombe Down				
		Coastal path Niton to Brook				
		St.John the Baptist				
		St.Mary and St.Radegund				
		Bannock Rd				

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
197	JP85	Niton Baptist church	Niton	CC	74	44
198	JP87	Niton Recreation Ground	Niton	OSF	77	68
199	JP88	Green	Niton	CS	92	46
200	JP89	Niton Library	Niton	CS	91	42
201	JP90	St.Catherines Down	Niton	NGS	100	60
202	PR29	WISE - Old Pan	Newport	ACG	63	78
203	PR30	Hillside Allotments	Newport	ACG	71	38
204	PR49	Field House	Newport	ACG	92	77
205	PR50	Castle Road	Newport	ACG	92	77
206	PR59	Millers Lane Allotments	Carisbrooke	ACG	79	43
207	PR60	Clatterford Allotments	Carisbrooke	ACG	90	50
208	PR70	Vectis Rd Allotments	East Cowes	ACG	86	78
209	PR91	Moorgreen Allotments	Cowes	ACG	71	50
210	PR108	Seaview Allotments	Seaview	ACG	75	100
211	PR117	Harry Baldwin Allotments	St. Helens	ACG	72	47
212	PR129	Pell Lane	Ryde	ACG	63	38
213	PR132	Weeks Rd Allotments	Ryde	ACG	NS	NS
214	PR133	Alfred St. Allotments	Ryde	ACG	NS	NS
215	PR134	Quarry Rd Allotments	Ryde	ACG	88	89
216	PR10	Wootton Rec Play Area	Wootton Bridge	CYP	65	49
217	PR17	Haven St Rec Play Area	Havenstreet	CYP	59	50
218	PR21	Seaclose Park Play Area	Newport	CYP	54	45
219	PR46	Victoria Rec No.1	Newport	CYP	74	63
220	PR47	Victoria Rec Play Area No.2	Newport	CYP	77	33
221	PR51	Nelson Road	Newport	CYP	63	25
222	PR62	Clatterford Play Area	Carisbrooke	CYP	63	36
223	PR68	Victoria Grove	East Cowes	CYP	68	47
224	PR75	Jubilee Rd Rec Play Area	East Cowes	CYP	69	45
225	PR82	Northwood Park Play Area	Cowes	CYP	79	58
226	PR88	Brunswick Rd Play Area	Cowes	CYP	89	79
227	PR94	Park Rd Rec Play Area	Cowes	CYP	83	72
228	PR102	Venner Ave.	Northwood	CYP	83	65
229	PR105	Puckpool Park Play Area	Seaview	CYP	84	64
230	PR113	Kerry Fields Play Area	Seaview	CYP	82	61
231	PR120	St. Helen's Play Area	St. Helens	CYP	95	64
232	PR126	Steyne Park Play Area	Bembridge	CYP	85	75
233	PR136a	Oakfield Park	Ryde	CYP	98	97
234	PR138	Simeon Rd Rec Play Area	Ryde	CYP	93	80
235	PR1	Fishbourne Lane	Fishbourne	AGS	82	51
236	PR2	Fishbourne Lane	Fishbourne	AGS	79	58
237	PR3	The Plantation	Fishbourne	NGS	70	49
238	PR4	New Copse	Fishbourne	NGS	63	54
239	PR5	Mary Rose Avenue	Wootton Bridge	NGS	69	56
240	PR6	Woodland Burial	Wootton Bridge	NGS	88	56
241	PR7	New Road	Wootton Bridge	AGS	82	58
242	PR8	Rectory Drive	Wootton Bridge	AGS	88	41
243	PR9	Wootton Rec	Wootton Bridge	OSF	79	61

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
244	PR11	St. Edmunds Church	Wootton Bridge	CC	86	52
245	PR12	Wootton Community Centre	Wootton Bridge	AGS	63	21
246	PR13	Church Close	Wootton Bridge	NGS	63	47
247	PR14	Firestone Copse	Wootton Bridge	NGS	85	63
248	PR15	St. Peters Church	Havenstreet	CC	79	53
249	PR16	Havenstreet Rec	Havenstreet	AGS	72	40
250	PR18	Combley Great Wood	Havenstreet Wootton	NGS	90	49
251	PR19	Park Road	Wootton Bridge	CC	78	47
252	PR20	Seaclose Park	Newport	OSF	75	80
253	PR22	Newport Cemetery	Newport	CC	73	48
254	PR23	Medina Arboretum	Newport	PG	83	62
255	PR24	St. Pauls Cemetery	Newport	CC	65	49
256	PR25	Coppins Bridge	Newport	GC	77	57
257	PR26	Summerfield Estate	Newport	AGS	91	34
258	PR27	St. Pauls Parish Church	Newport	CC	83	55
259	PR27A	Homemeade	Newport	AGS	86	50
260	PR31	Medina Way	Newport	AGS	80	36
261	PR32	Medina Riverside Park	Newport	NGS	84	52
262	PR33	Cowes Cycleway	Newport	GC	90	63
263	PR34	Prior Crescent	Newport	AGS	75	28
264	PR35	Lukely Brook	Newport	AGS	85	56
265	PR36	Lukely Brook - Upper	Newport	NGS	75	28
266	PR37	Worsley Road	Newport	AGS	79	41
267	PR38	Forest Road	Newport	AGS	77	37
268	PR39	Forest Close	Newport	AGS	77	37
269	PR40	Buckingham Crescent	Newport	AGS	77	37
270	PR41	Parkhurst Forest Park	Newport	NGS	93	60
271	PR42	Parkhurst Military Cemetery	Newport	CC	80	47
272	PR43	Carisbrooke Lake	Carisbrooke	NGS	81	58
273	PR44	Hinton Rd Pond	Carisbrooke	AGS	54	61
274	PR45	Victoria recreation Ground	Newport	OSF	71	60
275	PR48	Castle Rd corner	Newport	AGS	78	40
276	PR52	Nine Acres Recreation Ground	Newport	OSF	83	64
277	PR53	Milne Way	Newport	AGS	78	50
278	PR54	Shide Quarry	Newport	NGS	75	69
279	PR55	Shide Path	Newport	GC	75	60
280	PR56	Litten Park	Newport	PG	91	67
281	PR57	Newport FC	Newport	OSF	92	37
282	PR58	Cowes/Landown	Newport	GC	90	61
283	PR61	Clatterford Rec. Ground	Carisbrooke	OSF	77	70
284	PR63	Carisbrooke Cemetery	Carisbrooke	CC	83	47
285	PR64	Crematorium	Newport	CC	92	51
286	PR65	St. Mildreds	Whippingham	CC	93	60
287	PR67	East Cowes ? FC	East Cowes	OSF	89	37
288	PR69	Victoria Grove Rec	East Cowes	AGS	71	64
289	PR71	East Cowes Cemetery Ext.	East Cowes	CC	83	43
290	PR72	East Cowes Cemetery	East Cowes	CC	86	60
291	PR73	St. James Church	East Cowes	CC	92	55

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
292	PR74	Jubilee Rd Rec	East Cowes	PG	79	60
293	PRC	Marlborough Rd Allotments	Ryde	ACG	86	96
294	PRQ	Brading allotments	Brading	ACG	79	50
295	PRF	Haylands	Ryde	CYP	85	71
296	PRH	Oakwood Rd Rec	Ryde	CYP	66	57
297	PRR	Brading Rec	Brading	CYP	85	61
298	PRA	HMS Royal George Gardens	Ryde	PG	86	61
299	PRB	Alexandra Road	Ryde	AGS	88	33
300	PRE	Haylands	Ryde	NGS	92	61
301	PRG	Oakwood Rd Rec	Ryde	AGS	56	54
302	PRI	Dame Anthony's Common Wood	Ryde	NGS	92	63
303	PRJ	Ashey Cemetery	Ashey	CC	90	59
304	PRK	Kyngs Towne FC	Brading	OSF	63	36
305	PRL	Brading CC	Brading	OSF	98	39
306	PRM	Peter Henry Ground	Brading	OSF	89	54
307	PRN	Broadstone Crescent	Brading	AGS	88	46
308	PRO	St Mary The Virgin	Brading	CC	92	61
309	PRP	Lower furlongs	Brading	AGS	88	47
310	PRS	Brading Rec	Brading	AGS	85	70
311	PR76	East Cowes seafront	East Cowes	AGS	70	43
312	PR77	Esplanade	East Cowes	AGS	70	60
313	PR78	Hefford Road	East Cowes	AGS	82	50
314	PR79	Barton Close	Whippingham	AGS	89	32
315	PR80	Northwood Cemetery	Cowes	CC	78	60
316	PR81	Northwood Park	Cowes	PG	75	80
317	PR83	Victoria Parade	Cowes	CS	90	60
318	PR85	Esplanade	Cowes	AGS	81	48
319	PR86	Mornington Rd	Cowes	NGS	71	50
320	PR87	Arctic Park	Cowes	PG	83	52
321	PR89	St Marys Road	Cowes	AGS	79	54
322	PR90	Moorgreen Reservoir Park	Cowes	NGS	76	60
323	PR92	Westwood Park Cowes FC	Cowes	OSF	82	29
324	PR93	Park Rd Rec	Cowes	OSF	75	67
325	PR95	IoW Community Club	Cowes	OSF	90	61
326	PR96	Churchill Close	Cowes	AGS	84	53
327	PR97	Churchill Close	Cowes	AGS	84	53
328	PR98	Princes Esplanade	Gurnard	AGS	96	58
369	MA36	Fort Mews Allotments	Sandown	ACG	94	50
370	MA48	Wroxall Allotments	Wroxall	ACG	81	44
371	MA53	Grove Road Allotments	Wroxall	ACG	100	50
372	MA60	West Hill Rd Allotments	Shanklin	ACG	63	80
373	MA65	Batts Rd Allotments	Shanklin	ACG	97	80
374	MA90	Barn Ground Allotments	Sandown	ACG	90	80
375	MA96	Salisbury Way Play Area	Sandown	CYP	88	63
376	MA87			CYP	92	87
377	MA63	Batts Road	Shanklin	CYP	56	64
378	MA57	Church Rd Rec Ground	Shanklin	CYP	90	82
379	??	Wroxall	Wroxall	CYP	98	71
380	MA44	Battery Gardens	Sandown	CYP	89	85
381	MA35	Steve Jenkins Rainbow	Sandown	CYP	97	87
382	MA23	Ryde Esplanade	Ryde	CYP	84	50
383	MA21	Appley Park	Ryde	CYP	85	53

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
384	MA7	Binstead Rec	Binstead	CYP	48	77
385	MA2	Binstead Hill	Binstead	CYP	64	65
386	MA19	Isaac Hayward Pool	Ryde	CYP	90	48
387	MA88	Sandown Cemetery	Sandown	CC	83	59
388	MA89	Manor Rd Rec	Sandown	OSF	81	63
389	MA85	Newport Rd	Lake	AGS	91	63
390	MA86	New Road	Lake	AGS	66	20
391	MA84	Merrie Gardens	Lake	AGS	100	63
392	MA91	Lake Common	Lake	PG	93	63
393	MA83	Newport Rd	Lake	PG	79	40
394	MA82	Shanklin Cemetery	Lake	CC	96	62
395	MA81	Oaklyn Gardens	Lake	AGS	100	56
396	MA80	Shanklin FC	Shanklin	OSF	83	41
397	MA79	Coastal Path	Shanklin	GC	96	63
398	MA78	Eastcliffe Prom	Shanklin	PG	97	63
399	MA97	Perowne way	Shanklin	AGS	100	63
400	MA77	Eastcliffe Prom	Shanklin	GC	94	63
401	MA92	Sandown&Shanklin RFC	Sandown	OSF	90	41
402	MA76	Esplanade	Shanklin	NGS	91	63
403	MA93	Christchurch	Sandown	CC	94	60
404	MA75	Esplanade	Shanklin	AGS	86	63
405	MA94	Heights Leisure Centre	Lake Hill	AGS	92	57
406	MA74	Esplanade	Shanklin	AGS	60	57
407	MA95	Los Altos Park	Shanklin	PG	94	60
408	MA73	Esplanade	Shanklin	AGS	90	59
409	MA72	Esplanade Gdns	Shanklin	PG	92	63
410	MA71	Queens Rd	Shanklin	AGS	8	13
411	MA70	Tower Cott Gdns	Shanklin	PG	80	58
412	MA68	Rylstone Gdns	Shanklin	PG	85	63
413	MA69	Vernon Meadows	Shanklin	AGS	84	57
417	MA67	Blythe Way	Shanklin	AGS	100	57
418	MA66	Carter Ave	Shanklin	NGS	100	61
419	MA64	Batts Rd Playground	Shanklin	PG	89	63
420	MA98	Perowne Way	Sandown	AGS	80	62
421	MA62	Windsor Drive	Shanklin	AGS	100	57
422	MA61	Shanklin Cricket Club	Shanklin	OSF	83	37
423	MA59	St Blasius PC	Shanklin	CC	90	61
424	MA58	Church Rd	Shanklin	GC	76	59
425	MA56	Big Mead Park /Church Road Recreation Ground	Shanklin	PG	79	69
426		Deleted	N/A			
427	MA54	Grove Road	Wroxall	AGS	92	16
428	MA52	Castle Rd	Wroxall	AGS	81	50
429	MA51	St Martins Rd	Wroxall	PG	89	62
430	MA50	St Martins Rd	Wroxall	AGS	92	56
431	MA49	Wroxall FC	Wroxall	OSF	59	37
432	MA47	Wroxall cemetery	Wroxall	CC	91	51
433	MA46	Stenbury View	Wroxall	AGS	88	58
434	MA45	Winchester Ho. Car Pk	Sandown	AGS	87	54
435	MA44	Lake Gdns	Sandown	PG	91	62
436	MA43	Battery Gardens	Sandown	PG	51	58
437	MA42	Fernclyff Gdns	Sandown	PG	61	56

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
438	MA41	Promenade	Sandown	AGS	85	57
439	MA40	Yaverland Road	Sandown	NGS	88	63
440	MA39	Yaverland	Sandown	CC	93	58
441	MA38	Parish Church, Yaverland Rd	Sandown	CC	100	58
442	MA37	Zoo promenade	Sandown	GC	75	58
443	MA34	Sandhams Ground	Sandown	PG	91	69
444	MA33	Browns Golf Course	Sandown	OSF	88%	47
445	MA32	Westridge Cross Cem	Elmfield	CC	87	57
446	MA31	West Street	Ryde	CC	94	57
447	MA30	Bellevue Rd	Ryde	AGS	NS	NS
448	MA29	Vernon Square	Ryde	PG	72	48
449	MA28	Holy Trinity PC	Ryde	CC	85	22
450	MA27	Esplanade	Ryde	AGS	64	63
451	MA27a	Esplanade	Ryde	AGS	83	60
452	MA25	Royal Geo. Mem.	Ryde	AGS	84	63
453	MA26	Ryde Marina BC	Ryde	OSF	78	58
454	MA24	Promenade	Ryde	AGS	62	60
455	MA22	North Walk Picnic area	Ryde	AGS	82	56
456	MA20	Appley Park	Ryde	AGS	73	75
457	MA18	Waterside pool	Ryde	PG	79	45
458	MA17	East Sands	Ryde	NGS	71	60
459	MA16	Esplanade	Ryde	AGS	68	60
460	MA15	St Thomas Heritage Coast	Ryde	CC	64	55
461	MA14	Ryde Mead LTC	Ryde	OSF	63	31
462	MA13	Westfield Park	Ryde	AGS	90	51
463	MA12	A3054, Binstead Hill	Binstead	AGS	46	52
464	MA11	Binstead Lodge Rd	Binstead	AGS	72	60
465	MA10	Binstead Lodge Rd	Binstead	AGS	55	51
466	MA9	Binstead Lodge Rd	Binstead	AGS	81	48
467	MA6	Binstead Rec Ground	Binstead	AGS	64	62
468	MA5	Binstead Cem.	Binstead	CC	59	45
469	MA4	Binstead Hill	Binstead	AGS	75	45
470	MA1	Binstead Hill OS	Binstead	AGS	63	49
471	MA3	Holy Cross Church	Binstead	CC	84	61
472	RAB3	Ryde Cricket Club	Ryde	OSF	85	49
473	PRT	St Thomas of Canterbury	Carisbrooke	CC	70	65
474	PR136	Westhill Road	Ryde	NGS	73	61
475	PR104	Puckpool Park	Seaview	PG	94	80
476	RAB1	St Marys Church	Cowes	CC	65	65
477	RAB2	Cowes Golf Club	Cowes	OSF	NS	NS
478	PR101	Venner Ave.open space	Northwood	AGS	95	75
478	MA8	Binstead Hill Corridor	Binstead	GC	65	65
479	PR130	Pell Lane Rec	Ryde	OSF	77	52
480	PR135	Oakfield FC Playing Field	Ryde	OSF	NS	NS
481	PR137	Simeon Road Rec	Ryde	PG	87	67
482	PRD	Uplands Road allotments	Ryde	ACG	83	100
483	PR103	Oakfield Prim Sch Playing Field	Seaview	EDUC	80	33
484	PR106	Hersey Nature Reserve	Seaview	NGS	88	64
485	PR109	Seaview FC Football Ground	Seaview	OSF	89	62
486	PR107	Seaview Lane	Seaview	AGS	91	57
487	PR111	Ansell's Copse	Seaview	AGS	91	55
488	PR112	Sirius Close	Seaview	AGS	91	57

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
489	PR114	Church	Seaview	CC	NS	NS
490	PR121	Lower Green	St. Helens	AGS	86	56
491	PR122	West Green	St. Helens	NGS	81	53
492	PR119	Village Green	St. Helens	OSF	91	74
493	PR118	Village Green	St.Helens	AGS	80	40
494	PR116	The Duver	St.Helens	NGS	83	67
496	PR123	Jubilee Gardens	Bembridge	PG	92	67
497	PR128	Bembridge Church and Cemetery	Bembridge	CC	77	48
498	PR125	Steyne Park	Bembridge	OSF	81	65
499	PR127	Downsview Rd	Bembridge	AGS	89	52
500	PR115	Priory Point	St. Helens	AGS	77	51
501	PR131	Adelaide Place Gardens	Ryde	PG	83	47
502	DT	Solent Middle School	Cowes	EDUC	65	65
503	DT	Cowes High School	Cowes	EDUC	65	65
504	DT	Somerton Middle Scool	Cowes	EDUC	65	65
505	DT	Osborne Middle School	East Cowes	EDUC	65	65
506	DT	Carisbrooke High School	Carisbrooke	EDUC	65	65
507	DT	Medina High School	Newport	EDUC	65	65
508	DT	Dodnor Creek LNR	Newport	NGS	65	65
509	DT	Peoples Trust, Briddlesford	Wootton Bridge	NGS	65	65
511	DT	Haylands Primary	Ryde	EDUC	65	65
512	DT	Ryde High School	Ryde	EDUC/OSF	65	65
513	DT	Ryde Lawn Tennis and Crocquet	Ryde	OSF	65	45
514	DT	Swanmore Middle School	Ryde	EDUC	65	65
515	DT	Culver Down	Bembridge	NGS	65	65
516	DT	Brading Down	Brading	NGS	65	65
517	DT	Westridge Golf Centre	Ryde	OSF	70	45
518	DT	Ryde Speedway	Ryde	OSF	65	45
519	DT	Ryde School Fields	Ryde	OSF	65	65
520	DT	Ryde Cavaliers Cricket Club	Ryde	OSF	65	45
521	DT	Kemphill Moor Copse	Havenstreet	NGS	65	65
522	DT	Alverstone Mead	Alverstone	NGS	65	65
523	DT	Community Orchard	Shanklin	NGS	65	65
524	DT	Boating Lake	Shanklin	NGS	65	55
525	DT	Gatten and Lake	Shanklin	EDUC	65	65
526	DT	Lake Middle School Fields	Lake	EDUC	65	65
527	DT	Fairway Park	Sandown	AGS	65	65
528	DT	Fairway Athletics and Sports Centre	Sandown	OSF	65	45
529	DT	Sandown High School	Sandown	EDUC	65	65
530	DT	Sandown Middle School	Sandown	EDUC	65	65
531	DT	Field of Hope Nature Reserve	Newchurch	NGS	65	65
532	DT	Youngwood Copse	Newchurch	NGS	65	65
533	DT	Borthwood Copse	Newchurch	NGS	65	65
534	DT	Newchurch Green Burial site	Newchurch	CC	65	65
535	DT	Shalcombe Down	Shalcombe	NGS	65	65
536	DT	Mottistone Common	Mottistone	NGS		
537	DT	Compton Down	Shalcombe	NGS	65	65
538	DT	Brighstone Down	Brighstone	NGS	65	65
539	DT	Compton Down	Shalcombe	NGS	65	65
540	DT	West Wight FC	Freshwater	OSF	65	45

<b>New ID</b>	<b>Survey ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Value %</b>
541	DT	New Church FC Merstone Station Nature Conservation Site	Newchurch	OSF	65	45
542	DT	Wildlife Trust reserve	Merstone	NGS	65	65
543	DT	Carisbrooke castle open access	Carisbrooke	NGS	65	65
544	DT	Chale Show Ground	Chale	AGS	65	65
545	DT	St Catherines Point		AGS	65	65
546	DT	Ventnor Common	Ventnor	NGS	65	65
547	DT	St Boniface School Green Space	Ventnor	EDUC	65	65
548	DT	Bowls Club	Ventnor	OSF	65	65
549	DT	Rew down	Ventnor	NGS	65	65
550	DT	Niton FC	Niton	OSF	65	45
551	DT	America Woods	Shanklin	NGS	65	65
552	DT	Newtown Nature Reserve	Newtown	NGS	65	65
553	DT	Walters Copse	Newtown	NGS	65	65
554	DT	Burnt Wood	Newtown	NGS	65	65
555	DT	Chillerton Down		NGS	65	65
556	DT	Turvills Field	Totland	AGS	65	65
557	DT					

DT - Desk Top survey



## **Appendix 5**

# **Isle of Wight Open Space Consultation Strategy**



# Appendix 6

## Quality standards



## Quality Standards

This appendix contains visions for quality standards for the various forms of green space and sport and recreation provision in the Isle of Wight:

- Accessible natural and semi-natural green spaces
- Allotments and community gardens
- Local amenity green spaces
- Green corridors
- Bowling greens
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Equipped play areas - local
- Equipped play areas - neighbourhood
- Urban parks and gardens
- Teenage facilities
- Sports pitches
- Multi-courts and tennis courts

Each of the quality standards is derived from examples of best practice, such as the Green Flag Award criteria for parks, or published guidance, for example from English Nature or Sport England, and links directly to the audit forms.

### 1.5 Accessible natural and semi-natural green space

Definition - Land, water and geological features which have been naturally colonised by plants and animals and can be visited by people. This definition includes:

- Sites awaiting redevelopment that have been colonised by spontaneous assemblages of plants and animals
- Land alongside waterways, transport and service corridors which, although perhaps once deliberately landscaped or planted are now mixtures of planted and spontaneous assemblages
- Tracts of 'encapsulated countryside' such as woodlands, scrub, heathlands, meadows and marshes which, through appropriate management, continue to support essentially wild plant and animal assemblages. Often these natural areas exist within the framework of formally designed public open space
- Ponds, ditches, rivers, lakes and reservoirs
- The less intensively managed parts of parks, school grounds, sports pitches, golf courses, churchyards and cemeteries

Continued...

- Incidental pocket-sized plots along residential and commercial roads, pathways, car parks and property boundaries, including walls and built structures which are often spontaneously colonised by plants and animals
- Allotments, orchards and gardens

#### Minimum Size

- 2,000 sq m (0.2 ha)

#### General Characteristics

- Open naturalistic appearance which blends into the surrounding countryside
- Only limited internal areas of poor visibility
- Distinct identity
- Good use of views out of or across the site
- Good use of topography, space and planting

#### Accessibility

- Entrances or access points linked to rights of way, bridle paths, quiet lanes and cycling routes and water courses to create wildlife corridors and a network of green spaces
- Accessible from the adjacent road or car park area by walking or in a wheelchair where appropriate
- Good network of internal paths, linking to rights of way, bridle paths, quiet lanes and cycling routes in the vicinity

#### Planting and Biodiversity

- Good mix of native species and habitats, depending on site characteristics
- Dense, bushy hedgerows
- Wildlife protection areas
- Clearings or gaps in tree crowns to allow light penetration to woodland floor, where appropriate
- Well developed shrub, field and ground layers and wide, species rich edge, where appropriate

#### Facilities and Features

- Built heritage structures and natural features conserved
- Interpretation of flora and fauna as appropriate
- Litter bins and seats at key points
- Signs requiring dogs to be kept under control and fouling disposed of to 'pooper bins'

- Adequate safety measures adjacent to areas of water (will depend on size, depth and current, if any)
- ‘Way marked’ routes, where appropriate

### Management and Maintenance

- Managed primarily for wildlife and nature conservation
- Litter clearly under control with litter bins emptied regularly
- Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- Very little or no evidence of dog fouling and ‘pooper bins’ available at various points, plus notices relating to the avoidance of dog fouling
- No or very little evidence of fly-tipping and rapid, effective removal of tipped material
- Wooded areas well managed
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces in good condition and repaired as necessary

## 1.6 Allotments and Community Gardens

### Definition

- Both statutory and all other allotment sites

### Minimum Size

- 20 plots of at least 5 rods each

### General Characteristics

- Screen planting to provide some privacy
- Clear separation between adjacent allotments
- Signage at site entrances giving details of ownership and how to apply for an allotment; also emergency telephone numbers
- Securely fenced with lockable gates

### Accessibility

- Linked to pedestrian and cycle path systems
- Adequate parking close to entrance to the site (but not necessarily on-site)
- Site entrance not more than 400 m from nearest bus stop and preferably not more than 250 m
- Adequate paths, suitable for people with disabilities

### Planting and biodiversity

- Good mix of species in planting around and within the site
- Dense, bushy hedgerows (where present)

### Facilities and features

- Water point serving each group of allotments

### Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces in good condition and repaired as necessary
- All facilities in clean, safe and usable condition

## 1.7 Local Amenity Green spaces

### Definition

- Informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens

### Minimum Size

- 1,000 sq m (0.1 hectare)

### General Characteristics

- Part of a network of greenspaces providing traffic segregated routes through residential or other areas which link to major walking and cycling routes and bus stops
- Located away from sources of potential danger to unaccompanied children such as roads and areas of water
- Designed to create a sense of place and provide a setting for adjoining buildings, with 'sun traps'
- 'Cared for' general appearance
- Views out of or across the space, ideally to local landmarks
- Designed and constructed in such a way as to ensure that the space cannot become waterlogged after heavy rain; this may require field drains or field drains plus soil amelioration

### Accessibility

- Traversed by hard surfaced paths, where appropriate, which are suitable for wheelchairs, wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass and broadly following desire lines (but avoiding straight lines wherever possible)

## Planting and biodiversity

- Good balance of mown grassed areas, in varying widths or sizes (large enough for informal recreation such as 'kick-about' or mini-soccer where appropriate) and mixed indigenous and ornamental species and ages of trees or shrubs, but with a predominantly open character;
- Range of habitat types e.g. woodland, ponds, grasslands, hedgerows; and
- Buffer or shelter planting as necessary.

## Facilities and Features

- May incorporate provision for children or teenagers but such facilities should not be central to or the main focus of the spaces
- Adequate litter bins
- Signs indicating that dog fouling should be picked up and disposed of responsibly
- May incorporate public art or heritage features (e.g. statues)
- Seats, in both sunny and shaded areas
- Adequate safety measures adjacent to potentially dangerous areas of water (e.g. rivers, canals)
- Path lighting where appropriate
- Passive surveillance from nearby properties, but in a way which respects the privacy of occupants

## Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- Very little or no evidence of dog fouling and 'pooper bins' available at various points, plus notices relating to the avoidance of dog fouling
- Grassed areas to have a low preponderance of broad leaved weeds; they must be cut to an even length and if clippings are left in place after cutting they must be short so as not to have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the area
- Horticultural areas and flower/shrub beds weed free and ideally mulched
- Flowering plants dead headed and pruned as necessary
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces in good condition and repaired as necessary
- All facilities in clean, safe and usable condition
- Path or other lighting adequately maintained and working

## 1.8 Green Corridors

### Definition

- Pedestrian and cycling routes through urban areas, including river and canal banks and cycleways, which are separated from motor traffic and link residential areas to town or village centres and community facilities such as schools, play areas, community centres and sports facilities

### Minimum Size

- There is no minimum size, but corridors should generally be not less than 500 m (0.5 km) long.

### General Characteristics

- Clear signposted accesses to the network
- Welcoming and apparently safe with no signs of possible danger such as litter, graffiti or damaged vegetation
- Surfaced paths at least 2 m wide, suitable for wheelchairs
- Adequate litter bin and “pooper” bin provision, with bins located at points where they can easily be accessed for emptying from the road system
- Freedom from flooding so that paths are not susceptible to water damage or become icy in winter

### Accessibility

- Appropriate safety features adjacent to areas of water (e.g. life buoys, warning notices)
- Appropriate safety measures adjacent to or at crossings of rail lines or busy roads
- Good sightlines along the route so that users can see potential danger well ahead

### Planting and Biodiversity

- Good balance and variety of plants and shrubs, including flowering and non-flowering species
- Range of tree species and ages
- Range of habitat types
- Paths free from overhanging branches within reach of users

### Facilities and Features

- Internal signposting to places of interest or destinations (e.g. shops, leisure facilities, schools)
- Adequate street lighting

## Management and Maintenance

- Control of litter
- Control of vandalism/graffiti
- Control of dog fouling
- Boundary fencing, gates, posts etc fit for purpose and well maintained
- Surfaces fit for purpose (inclusive of markings) and well maintained
- Management regime to suit particular landscape/habitat type e.g. differential mowing may be suitable to promote wildlife interests; not less than 1 m close mown edges to paths
- All paths kept clear of debris and overhanging branches which cyclists or other users might hit; surfaces in good condition and repaired as necessary
- All built and other facilities in clean, safe and usable condition
- Path or other lighting adequately maintained and working
- No or very little evidence of fly-tipping and rapid, effective removal of tipped material

### 1.9 Local Equipped Play Areas for Young Children

#### Definition

- Equipped play areas for young children intended for children from 2 or 3 to about 8 years, usually accompanied by an adult or older child. The area should have equipment which is sized for young children

#### Minimum Size

- 400 sq m (0.04 hectare), excluding buffer zone or approximately 900 sq m (0.09 ha) including buffer zone (see below)

#### General Characteristics

- Located beside a well used pedestrian pathway
- Activity area of at least 400 sq m with a buffer zone, possibly with appropriate planting, between the play area and nearest dwelling boundary of at least 10 metres on all sides. There should be at least 20m between the activity zone and the nearest dwelling window
- Ample space for children to run around and play games such as 'tag'
- Passive surveillance from the windows of nearby buildings is desirable

#### Accessibility

- Accessible to children or adults with disabilities
- Linked to the local footpath and cycleway network

## Planting and Biodiversity

- Good mix of “child-friendly” (ie not sharp, spiky or poisonous) plant and tree species in the vicinity, but in positions which will not result in major leaf drop within the play area

## Facilities and Features

- At least five types of play equipment, designed to provide opportunities for balancing (e.g. beams, stepping logs, clatter bridges); rocking (e.g. see-saw or spring animals); climbing/agility (e.g. frames, nets, overhead bars); sliding (e.g. straight slides); and social play (e.g. sheltered areas or children’s seating)
- Dog-proof fencing, at least 1 m high, fitted with at least two outward-opening, self-closing gates
- Seats for parents or carers
- Litter bin(s)
- Signage to indicate that the area is intended for children; dogs should be excluded; the name and telephone number of the District or Parish Council
- Suitable safety surfacing beneath and around play equipment
- Effective drainage of all surfaces

## Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Very little or no evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- No dangerous litter such as broken glass
- Safety surfacing in good condition
- Play equipment in safe and usable condition
- Dog-proof fencing safe and effective at excluding dogs
- Seats for children or parents/carers in safe and usable condition

### 1.10 Neighbourhood Equipped Play Areas (up to about 12 years)

#### Definition

- Equipped play areas for older children intended for children from about 8 to 12 years. They may be alone or accompanied by an adult or older child. The play area should have both some play equipment and an area for ball games

#### Minimum Size

- 1,000 sq m (0.1 hectare) excluding buffer zone or approximately 3,750 sq m (0.375 hectare) including buffer zone (see below)

## General Characteristics

- Activity area of at least 1,000 sq m, with a range of equipment designed for children of different ages and incorporating separate areas for younger and older children
- Surrounded by a buffer zone, possibly with appropriate planting, between the play area and nearest dwelling boundary of at least 30 metres on all sides
- Suitable safety surfacing beneath and around play equipment
- Accessible to children or adults with disabilities
- Effective drainage of all surfaces

## Accessibility

- All parts of the site fully accessible to people with disabilities
- Linked to local footpath and cycleway network
- Accessible by public transport- nearest bus stop within 400m of entrance/access points, preferably 250 m

## Planting and Biodiversity

- Good mix of “child-friendly” (i.e. not sharp, spiky or poisonous) plant and tree species in the vicinity, but in positions which will not result in major leaf drop within the play area

## Facilities and Features

- At least eight types of play equipment, designed to provide opportunities for balancing (e.g. beams, stepping logs, clatter bridges); rocking (e.g. see-saw or spring animals); climbing/agility (e.g. frames, nets, overhead bars); sliding (e.g. straight slides); and social play (e.g. sheltered areas or children’s seating). At least five of the eight pieces of equipment should encourage adventurous climbing, single point swinging (e.g. in a car tyre on a rope), balancing, rotating or gliding (e.g. an aerial runway)
- Dog-proof fencing, at least 1 m high, fitted with at least two outward-opening, self-closing gates
- Seats for parents or carers
- Adequate litter bin(s)
- Signage to indicate that the area is intended for children; dogs should be excluded; the name and telephone number of the play area owner
- Parking for bicycles

## Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Very little or no evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- No dangerous litter such as broken glass

Continued...

- Safety surfacing in good condition
- Play equipment in safe and usable condition
- Dog-proof fencing safe and effective at excluding dogs
- Seats for children or parents/carers in safe and usable condition

### 1.11 Sports Pitches (grass and artificial turf)

#### Definition

- Pitches for football (all codes), cricket, hockey, rugby (all codes)

#### Minimum Size

- 2 pitches with changing accommodation and parking

#### General Characteristics

- External lighting in car parking areas
- External lighting on pavilions with PIR detectors
- Signs indicating that dogs must be kept on a lead and any fouling picked up and disposed of responsibly
- Rows of more than eight parking spaces to be separated by soft landscaping
- Adequately separated from adjoining residential properties
- Adequate measures in place to control light spill from floodlighting to adjoining properties and related land

#### Accessibility

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Convenient car parking
- Good connections to paths and cycling routes in the vicinity of the site
- Wide access routes with clear sight lines at site entrance/egress
- Hard surfaced paths following desire lines from parking to pavilions
- Paths and buildings fully accessible by wheelchair where appropriate
- Path system appropriate to the circulation needs of players within the site, with wide, hard surfaces in heavily trafficked areas (to avoid constant muddy areas) and from changing pavilions to artificial surfaces
- Path system approximating to desire lines for those crossing the site, but avoiding straight lines wherever possible (note that this can have implications for pitch layout)

## Planting and Biodiversity

- Strong structure planting around the perimeter of the site using native species (designed as buffer planting to reduce wind on pitches and noise or light spill as appropriate to the site and adjoining properties or roads and also to promote biodiversity)
- Internal structure planting where appropriate
- Amenity or naturalistic landscaping in the vicinity of buildings and car parking

## Facilities and Features

- Changing pavilions
- Changing rooms (with the number of rooms appropriate to the number of pitches or other facilities on site) consisting of changing spaces, showers and drying area, plus separate changing for match officials where appropriate
- Capable of simultaneous male and female team and/or officials' use, where appropriate
- First aid room (essential only for pitch sports and athletics)
- Space for refreshments with kitchen
- No rooflights in flat roofs on single storey buildings
- Adequate secure maintenance equipment storage
- Lockable security shutters on all pavilion doors and windows
- Passive surveillance from nearby properties

## Pitches, practice areas and other facilities

- Correct orientation (pitches generally between 35 degrees west and 20 degrees east of N-S; athletics tracks generally oriented so the finishing straight is not in line with the prevailing south-westerly wind)
- Playing facilities meeting relevant governing body requirements in terms of length, width, even-ness of surface, boundary distances (cricket) and side clearances or safety margins
- Artificial surfaces in good overall condition, free from tears and uneven areas
- Floodlighting to relevant governing body requirements for the standard of play
- No end to end slope on pitches greater than 1:40 (1:80 preferable); no side to side slope greater than 1:40 (1:60 preferable)
- No pitch more than 200 m from nearest changing pavilion
- Well drained pitch surfaces
- Winter sports grass pitches to have pipe drains plus sand slits where necessary (note: sand slits to be renewed every 10 years)
- Artificial surfaces to comply with relevant governing body requirements and BS 7044: Artificial Sports Surfaces

Continued...

- All artificial surfaces (and any safety surround areas) to be fully enclosed within lockable chain link fence at least 3.0 m high

### Management and Maintenance

- Grass lengths appropriate to sport with full grass cover on grass pitches
- Posts and goals safe and free from rust or sharp edges, with hooks for nets where appropriate
- Line markings straight and easily seen
- Surface repairs carried out quickly and effectively
- Surround netting and entrance gates to artificially surfaced areas in good condition
- Floodlights in full working order
- Information on site ownership and the facilities available at the site entrance
- Contact details for emergencies at any pavilion

### 1.12 Bowling Greens

#### Definition

- Lawn bowls green meeting appropriate governing body standards

#### Minimum Size

- 6 rinks plus banks and ditches, a pathway at least 2 m wide all round the green and a pavilion. This requires a site of not less than approximately 41 x 47 m, i.e. approximately 1,900 sq m (0.19 hectare)

#### General Characteristics

- Green, banks and ditches to meet relevant governing body standards
- No broad-leaved trees overhanging the green

#### Accessibility

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Convenient car parking
- Linked to local footpath network
- Hard surfaced path all round the green
- Site and pavilion to be fully accessible to people with disabilities

## Planting and Biodiversity

- Shelter planting/screening to provide summer time shelter from wind, privacy for bowlers and support biodiversity

## Facilities and Features

- Greens to have at least six rinks (to allow play along and across the green to even out wear)
- Changing pavilion with at least male and female changing rooms and social area

## Management and Maintenance

- Grass sward kept short and clear of weeds

### 1.13 Tennis Courts and Multi-courts

#### Definition

- Tennis courts and multi-use games areas, usually with a hard or synthetic surface, and used for tennis, 5-a-side football, netball, outdoor basketball and roller/in-line skating

#### Minimum size

- 36.5 x 18.25 m (court only) plus surround

#### General Characteristics

- Reasonably sheltered from the wind
- A free-draining or impervious surface laid to appropriate falls to shed water
- Surrounded by netting which prevents balls escaping from the court(s) area
- Oriented within 30 degrees of north-south

#### Accessibility

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Convenient car parking
- Linked to local footpath network
- Site and pavilion to be fully accessible to people with disabilities

## Planting and Biodiversity

- Amenity planting composed mainly of native species to improve appearance, provide shelter, reduce noise transfer and promote biodiversity

## Facilities and Features

- Posts and tennis nets in good condition, without large holes through which the ball can pass
- Clearly marked courts with adequate safety surrounds
- Basketball hoops and football goals, if present, securely fixed with no sharp edges
- Floodlighting (if present) to meet governing body requirements

## Management and Maintenance

- Very little or no evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- Litter clearly under control
- Very little or no evidence of dog fouling
- No dangerous litter such as broken glass
- Court(s) surface in good condition

### 1.14 Urban Parks and Gardens

#### Definition

- Urban and country parks and formal gardens

#### Minimum Size

- 0.25 hectare

#### General Characteristics

- Well defined boundaries or perimeter, preferably enclosed with railings or walls
- A welcoming appearance at the entrance and therefore well maintained, free from litter and graffiti, with good views over an attractive parkland landscape with clear points of interest to draw visitors in
- Range of natural and man-made structures of heritage features such as ponds, statues, buildings and ornamental railings
- Good use of topography so that slopes are gentle, views across and out of the park are attractive and visitors can get a sense of scale
- Reasonable privacy for the residents of nearby dwellings; ideally, houses should not back on to the park, but be on the other side of the road

## Accessibility

- Clearly visible entrances, ideally signed on nearby roads and pedestrian or cycling routes
- Park entrances linked to safe pedestrian and designated cycling routes (where they exist)
- Secure bicycle storage at the main entrance to the park, at least, and ideally secondary entrances as well
- Adequate parking adjacent to at least the main entrance (can be on-street) and ideally secondary entrances as well
- Main entrance, and ideally secondary entrances, within 400 m, at most, of the nearest bus stop, but preferably 250 m
- Internal path system which links up with adjoining roads and pedestrian or cycling routes; preferably at the junctions of streets, rather than in the middle of them, and provides a number of “short cuts” across or through the park
- All paths hard surfaced, well drained and suitable for wheelchairs and baby buggies; maximum slope not more than 1:12 and then only for short distances; otherwise not more than 1:24
- Path network linking points of interest within the park
- No areas within the park accessible only by ascending or descending steps; where there are steps there should also be an easily found ramp

## Planting and Biodiversity

- Diverse species of flowering and non-flowering trees, of various ages, including native species; also shrubs and plants providing a wide range of habitats
- Hedgerows, where present, reasonably dense, thick and bushy so as to provide habitats
- Some areas of dense planting, difficult for people to penetrate and in areas where they will not provide hiding places, but providing habitats for small animals and birds
- Woodland areas to have clearings or gaps in crowns to allow light penetration to the woodland floor and development of undergrowth

## Facilities and Features

- Equipped play areas for young children (under 10), where present - see separate quality standard
- Provision for teenagers, where present - see separate quality standards
- Sports facilities, where present - see separate quality standards
- Adequate litter bins - well designed, located adjacent to the path system, bird/squirrel/rat proof and cleared regularly
- Examples of public art, linked to the path system
- Bandstands, if present, well maintained

Continued...

- Ornamental fountains, if present, in good working order and well maintained
- Café facilities in larger parks
- Good views through and across the park so that each visitor is providing a form of informal surveillance of other users
- Adequate safety measures adjacent to areas of water which might be dangerous (e.g. notices regarding depths, life buoys)
- Adequate lighting for appropriate paths
- Informative interpretation signs or other material relating to natural features (e.g. geology, land form); heritage features (e.g. statues, historic/listed buildings, bandstands); wildlife (e.g. details of the main birds and animals to be seen in the park); landscaping (e.g. information on trees and other planting and especially horticulture areas)
- Adequate signage giving directions both within the park and to nearby streets or features of interest outside it

### Management and Maintenance

- Litter clearly under control
- Limited evidence of vandalism or graffiti, and rapid and effective removal
- Very little or no evidence of dog fouling and “pooper bins” available at various points, plus notices relating to the avoidance of dog fouling;
- Grassed areas to have a low preponderance of broad leaved weeds; they must be cut to an even length and if clippings are left in place after cutting they must be short so as not to have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the area
- Horticultural areas and flower/shrub beds weed free and ideally mulched
- Flowering plants dead headed and pruned as necessary
- Woodland areas maintained and thinned to provide easy access
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces in good condition and repaired as necessary
- All facilities (especially toilets) in clean, safe and usable condition
- Path or other lighting adequately maintained and working

### 1.15 Teenage Areas

#### Definition

- Provision for teenagers intended for young people approximately 13-18 years old and designed to allow them to “hang out” and practise various sports or movement skills such as basketball, inline skating or skateboarding. Most teenage facilities should include a mix of skateboard ramps, outdoor basketball hoops, shelters and other more informal areas. Ideally, they should be located close to a multi-court (see above)

### Minimum Size

- 1,000 sq m (0.1 hectare) excluding buffer zone

### General Characteristics

- Located close, but not immediately adjacent, to a well used pedestrian route but not less than 50 m from the nearest dwelling
- Area of at least 1,000 sq m, with facilities for teenagers (see definition above)
- Surrounded by a buffer zone, possibly with appropriate planting, between the play area and nearest dwelling boundary of at least 30 metres on all sides
- Suitable safety surfacing beneath and around play equipment
- Accessible to children or adults with disabilities
- Effective drainage of all surfaces

### Accessibility

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Linked to local footpath and cycle path network
- Fully accessible to people with disabilities

### Planting and Biodiversity

- Tough, but not prickly landscaping in the immediate vicinity of the area

### Facilities and Features

- Mix of facilities such as skateboard/BMX ramps, basketball goals, teenage shelters
- Casual seating
- Low level lighting with both light and dark areas
- Adequate provision of litter bins

### Management and Maintenance

- Graffiti regularly removed from more visible, high profile areas
- All paths kept clear of debris; surfaces and structures in good condition and repaired as necessary
- Path or other lighting adequately maintained and working

### 1.16 References

- CABE Space (undated), A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans
- CABE Space (undated), Green Flag Award Winners 2003-2004

- Children's Play Council (2002), *More than Swings and Roundabouts: Planning for outdoor play*
- DTLR (2002), *Improving Urban Parks, Play Areas and Open Spaces* (report on research undertaken by the University of Sheffield for the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce)
- English Nature (1995), *Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities* (Research Report 153)
- English Nature (2002), *Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities*
- Kit Campbell and Geraint John (ed, 1995), *Handbook of Sports and Recreation Building Design*, Volumes 1, 2 and 3
- National Playing Fields Association (2001), *The Six Acre Standard*
- Sport England (various dates), *Lottery Guidance Notes*
- Sport England (various dates), *Planning Bulletins*

## **Appendix 7**

# **Quantity standards and distance thresholds**



## Quantity standards and distance thresholds

### 1.1 Setting, developing and applying local provision standards

Standards for the green space typologies consider surpluses and deficiencies in provision on the basis of quantitative, qualitative analysis and consultation undertaken. The Surveys and workshop with local residents, stakeholders and officers of the Council, with their findings along with national recommended guidance have been used to inform the appropriate distance thresholds, which have been applied using GIS mapping to demonstrate potential surplus / deficiencies in provision. In order to set provision standards it is important to consider the standards previously applied by the Council and through the Planning framework.

The location, accessibility and quality of green space is also important in ensuring that the areas are well used and appropriate to the needs of the community.

Setting distance thresholds for each type of open space for all areas is not easy to achieve, as many factors will influence travel times. The figures are based on generic average travel times. However the standards provided, as PPG 17 recommends, provide guidance that help to identify gaps in provision and meet local needs as identified through local consultation and detailed analysis.

In developing and applying standards of provision, it is important to be clear that:

- National standards of recommended provision have been used for comparative purposes only along with benchmarking with similar authorities - Blyth Valley, Scottish Borders and Horsham
- Existing standards of provision relate to the current level of provision of a specific typology
- Recommended standards of provision are based on local assessment and analysis, but may be the same as a national recommended standard if appropriate, and specifically where current levels of provision do not meet a nationally recommended standard as a minimum. Equally, the future recommended standard may be the existing provision, if it is particularly high, and to lose it would significantly change the natural character of the area

It is not appropriate to set local standards in the same way for each typology; this is because the majority of people access different types of provision in different ways, for example, walking to a park or children's play area, driving to an outdoor sports facility. In addition, the way in which people choose to access different types of provision may be influenced by locational factors, for example, a high quality park may be within cycling or driving, but not walking distance in a rural area.

### 1.2 Isle of Wight quantity standards

We have derived quantity standards for each of the main forms of provision. For each form of provision we set out:

- Existing quantity standards
- Existing provision
- Key Issues from the Audit
- Proposed quantity standards
- The application of quantity standards

How are these determined - by combining the existing level of provision with local views as to its adequacy, we are able to develop a range of new provision standards for each different forms of provision. Summarised as:

Typology	Existing provision Urban areas (M <sup>2</sup> )	Existing provision Rural (M <sup>2</sup> )	Urban areas M <sup>2</sup> (per person)	Rural area M <sup>2</sup> (per person)	Existing provision Bay growth area (M <sup>2</sup> ) per person	Existing provision Medina Valley growth area (M <sup>2</sup> ) per person	Existing provision Ryde growth area (M <sup>2</sup> ) per person
Parks & gardens	564,574	105,556	6.35	2.05	8.7	4.5	1.03
Local amenity green spaces	566,618	384,284	6.4	7.5	6.6	4.6	7.8
Green corridors	371,345	296,178	4.2	5.8	1.2	8.4	0.95
Natural/ semi-natural green spaces	10,178,439	16,620,083	114	323	19	110	5.43
Allotments	164,515	26,614	1.85	0.52	2.0	1.7	2.5
Churchyards & cemeteries	374,045	300,819	4.2	5.8	3.7	5.4	2.3
Outdoor sports facilities	1,251,142	478,052	14.1	9.3	9.3	13	18
Children and Young people's facilities	61,308	25,009	0.69	0.49	0.24	0.36	1.3
Civic space	18,671	21,954	0.21	0.43	0	0.1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,550,657</b>	<b>18,258,549</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>40</b>

**The NPFA Standards advocated:**

- Informal open space 0.4 ha per 1000 which equates to 4 sq m per person
- Children's play space up to 0.8 ha per 1000 which equates to 8 sq m per person
- Playing pitches up to 1.2 ha per 1000 which equates to 12 sq m per person
- Allotments 0.4 ha per 1000 which equates to 4 sq per person
- TOTAL 28 sq m per person

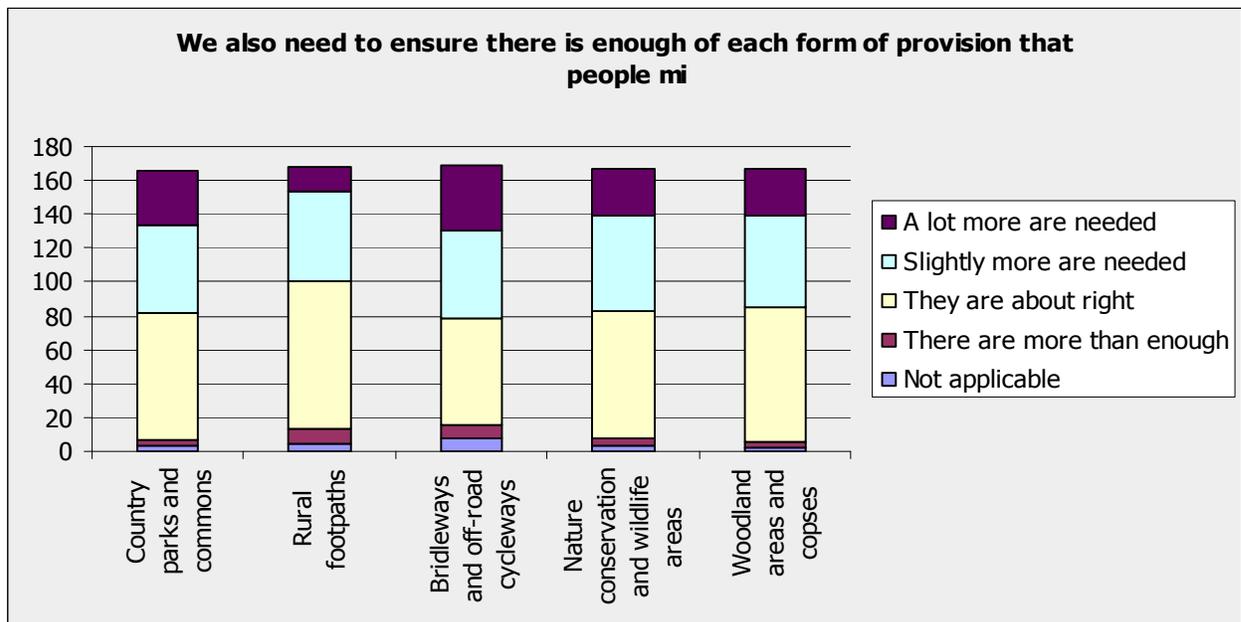
We have also benchmarked against other authorities to compare similar provision standards based on their needs and existing quantity.

The Benchmark authorities are Blyth Valley Borough, Horsham District and the Scottish Borders.

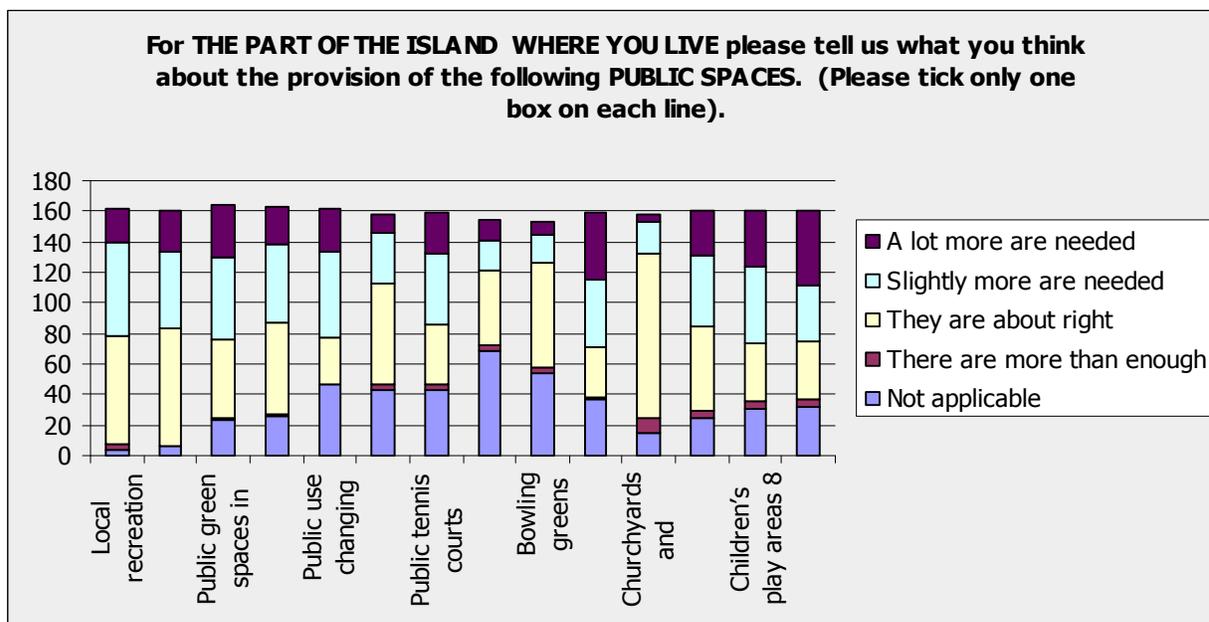
### 1.3 Local consultation - quantity assessment

As part of the local consultation to assess local needs, that was carried out, the following was asked as part of a detailed questionnaire:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>We also need to ensure there is enough of each form of provision that people might want to use. What do you think of the current AMOUNT or QUANTITY of each of the following? For THE ISLAND AS A WHOLE please tell us what you think about the provision of the following COUNTRYSIDE FACILITIES. (Please tick only one box on each line).</b></p>						
Answer Options:	A lot more are needed	Slightly more are needed	They are about right	There are more than enough	Not applicable	Response count
Country parks and commons:	32	52	75	4	3	166
Rural footpaths:	15	52	88	9	4	168
Bridleways and off-road cycleways:	39	52	63	7	8	169
Nature conservation and wildlife areas:	28	56	75	5	3	167
Woodland areas and copses:	28	54	79	4	2	167
<i>Answered question</i>						<b>169</b>
<i>Skipped question</i>						<b>11</b>



<b>For THE PART OF THE ISLAND WHERE YOU LIVE please tell us what you think about the provision of the following PUBLIC SPACES. (Please tick only one box on each line).</b>						
<b>Answer options:</b>	<b>A lot more are needed</b>	<b>Slightly more are needed</b>	<b>They are about right</b>	<b>There are more than enough</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>Response count</b>
<b>Local recreation grounds:</b>	23	61	71	3	4	162
<b>Parks and public gardens:</b>	26	51	77	0	6	160
<b>Public green spaces in housing areas:</b>	34	54	51	2	23	164
<b>Grass sports pitches in public use:</b>	25	51	60	1	26	163
<b>Public use changing pavilions:</b>	28	57	30	0	47	162
<b>Grass sports pitches on school sites:</b>	12	33	67	3	43	158
<b>Public tennis courts</b>	27	46	40	3	43	159
<b>Club tennis courts:</b>	13	20	49	4	68	154
<b>Bowling greens</b>	9	18	68	4	54	153
<b>Allotments:</b>	44	44	33	1	37	159
<b>Churchyards and cemeteries:</b>	5	21	108	9	15	158
<b>Children's play areas for under 8s:</b>	30	46	56	4	25	161
<b>Children's play areas 8-12 year olds:</b>	37	50	39	4	31	161
<b>Teenage facilities (e.g. Skateparks)</b>	49	36	38	5	32	160
<b><i>Answered question</i></b>						<b>167</b>
<b><i>Skipped question</i></b>						<b>13</b>



## Conclusion

Local perception is that most felt all facilities were about right in relation to current provision except local amenity green spaces, changing pavilions, public tennis courts, allotments, play areas for 8-12 year olds and teenage facilities.

This is reflected in the development of quantity standards.

### 1.4 Accessibility standards/distance thresholds

In relation to formulating distance thresholds for the Island we outline the background to distance thresholds and have recommended suitable distance thresholds for the Isle of Wight, for various forms of open space provision.

For simplicity, we have concentrated on two thresholds: for walking and driving. These thresholds reflect two things: firstly the way in which most people travel to make use of the different forms of community infrastructure; and secondly the most and least sustainable modes of transport. The forms of community infrastructure for which we have proposed recommended thresholds are:

- Allotments
- Local amenity green spaces
- Natural green spaces
- Children and young peoples facilities (Play area and youth facilities)
- Sports pitches
- Parks and gardens

Distance thresholds are not hard facts, but a broad and flexible guide to the distance which people in general will be willing to travel in order to use or visit a facility or space. This point is made in paragraph 5.9 of the Companion Guide to PPG17. They are affected by many factors.

For example:

- Most older or very young people will be unwilling or unable to walk as far or as fast as teenagers and young adults; therefore distance thresholds vary with age
- Most people will be willing to walk further to something on a warm, sunny day than on a very cold or very hot one; therefore distance thresholds ebb and flow with the weather
- Most people will be willing to walk further to something if the route is level than if it is uphill; therefore distance thresholds vary with topography
- Most people will be willing to walk further to something if the route than if it is heavily polluted with traffic fumes; therefore distance thresholds vary with traffic levels
- Most women and older people on their own will be willing to walk further in daylight than at night; therefore distance thresholds vary by the time of day
- Most people will be willing to travel further to something of high quality than low quality
- Many people will be willing to travel further to something big or high quality than small or poor quality; therefore distance thresholds vary according to the nature of the space or facility visited
- Not all people of the same, gender, age and state of health are willing or able to travel the same distance to something as a result of factors such as health, disability and access to a car or bicycle; therefore distance thresholds vary according to personal circumstances
- Most people living in rural villages necessarily have to travel further than almost all urban dwellers to facilities such as supermarkets, cinemas or leisure centres, while most urban dwellers have to travel significantly further if they wish to visit the countryside; therefore distance thresholds vary according to where people live

There are two other key points:

- The distance that people in any particular area travel to spaces or facilities is a function of the distribution of provision, coupled with the range of factors summarised above. In an area with little provision, empirically established distance thresholds will be much higher than in another area with a high level of well distributed provision
- There is a clear difference between people's need to travel and willingness to do so. In parts of the country, for example, people need to travel 50-60 miles to visit an NHS dentist but may not be willing to travel a few hundred metres to their local park if they perceive it as not worth visiting or the route as potentially dangerous. A football player may not be willing to travel more than a mile, say, to their local club, but the distance he or she will need to travel to take part in matches depends primarily on the geographical area covered by the league in which their team plays. The higher the player's standard of skill, the wider this area will be

This means that distance thresholds can only ever be seen as a very general guide. It would be an obvious nonsense to use either the maximum distance travelled by users or an average of all users. The maximum distance travelled by an individual user could easily be an aberration; for example, a survey of park users might pick up a visiting business person who had travelled hundreds of miles and was early for a meeting or waiting for a train home while everyone else had travelled only a short distance. Similarly, the average distance could also be affected by some users who had travelled a very long or very short distance.

For this reason, recreation planning normally uses the concept of the ‘effective catchment’, defined as the distance from which around 75% of users are drawn.

There are a number of different sources of advice on distance thresholds.

## 1.5 Government guidance

### Regional planning guidance

Typical advice from Regional Planning Guidance is:

	Target	Maximum
Food shop/primary school	300 m	600 m
Other non-residential facilities	600 m	1,000 m
Bus stop	200 m	400 m

This suggests a 300 m target/600 m maximum distance threshold will be suitable for most local facilities accessed on foot which residents, and especially children, can expect to have within their neighbourhood. As far as the PPG17 assessment is concerned, this category will include:

- Children’s play areas
- Local green spaces
- Local parks

The higher threshold, of 600 m target/1,000 m maximum, is suitable for facilities used mainly by adults, who can obviously walk further than young children, such as:

- Allotments
- Bowling greens
- Local pitches
- Tennis courts and similar facilities
- Youth facilities

## PPG13: Transport - A Guide to Better Practice (DoE and DoT, 1995)

The Guide to Better Practice linked to PPG13 suggests a maximum distance from residential areas to shops, schools and workplaces of 1.6 km for walkers and 8 km for cyclists. It also indicates that motorised modes of travel are “rarely used for trips of around half a mile (0.8 km) or less”. These distances are significantly higher than those suggested in many other sources.

### 1.6 National agency guidance

#### The NPFA Six Acre Standard

According to a recent survey by the National Playing Fields Association its Six Acre Standard for Playing Space, or a local variation of it, has been used by around 90% of local planning authorities across the UK.

The most recent version of the Standard (2001) recommends three types of children’s play provision:

- Local Areas for Play (LAPs), located within 1 minute walk (or 60 m ‘as the crow flies’) of all dwellings. The NPFA defines a LAP as “a small area of open space specifically designed and laid out for young children to play close to where they live. Located within a walking time of 1 minute from home, the LAP provides essential play opportunities for toddlers and young children in locations that are overseen by parents, carers and the local community”
- Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs), located within 5 minutes walk (or 240 m ‘as the crow flies’) of all dwellings. The NFA defines a LEAP as “a piece of open space that is designated and equipped for children of early school age. Such areas need to be located within a walking time of 5 minutes from home”
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs), located within 15 minutes walk (or 600 m ‘as the crow flies’) of all dwellings. The NPFA defines a NEAP as “a site that is designated and equipped mainly for older children, but with opportunities for younger children too. Located within a walking time of 15 minutes from home, the NEAP is largest of the three types of play space and is able to address specific needs that cannot be met within a LAP or LEA”

The Association based these distance thresholds on research by Holme and Massie (1970), who established that the majority of children travelled less than 400 m to play. It used this evidence to suggest a 400m maximum distance threshold for equipped play areas and initially this was regarded by many taken as a straight line distance - indeed, it still is by many councils. However, since 1970 the NPFA has become increasingly aware of the importance of barriers such as main roads and so from 1992 has concentrated on walking time rather than distance. It also conducted walking trials with children to find the average distance they can walk in 1, 5 and 15 minutes. It has never published the full results of these trials, but the current version of the Standard gives a table converting walking times into actual and straight line distances as follows:

Time	Actual distance	Straight line equivalent
1 minute	100 m	60 m
5 minutes	400 m	240 m
15 minutes	1,000 m	600 m

Accordingly, the NPFA research found that ‘as the crow flies’ distances tend to be around 60% of ‘on the ground’ distances and walking speeds range from about 40-60 metres per minute.

The NPFA also recommends a straight line distance threshold of 1,000 m for sports pitches but does not give this recommendation the same prominence as its recommendations for play provision.

### **By Design: Better Places to Live (CABE, 2001)**

By Design suggests that a comfortable walking distance from residential areas to local facilities should be not more than a 10 minute walk or 800 m - a walking speed of 80 m per minute.

### **Urban Design Compendium (English Heritage)**

The Urban Design Compendium promotes the concept of ‘walkable neighbourhoods’ in which people should be able to walk to a local post box or telephone box within 2-3 minutes (250 m); a newsagent’s within 5 minutes (400 m); and a primary school within 10 minutes (800 m). This also equates to a speed of 80 m per minute.

### **English Nature Research Report 153**

English Nature (EN) Research Report 153, Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities: A review of appropriate size and distance criteria (1995) is an academic, but nonetheless interesting, literature review focusing on two key topics: whether accessible natural greenspaces need to be of a certain minimum size to be valuable for nature conservation, and the distance that people have been found to walk to different forms of provision.

In relation to the latter, it summarises the findings from a range of empirical studies, including:

- A comprehensive survey of park use in London - a survey which resulted in London authorities, and others in their wake, adopting a quarter mile distance threshold for local parks
- The NPFA Six Acre Standard (see above)
- Research by the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC)

The LPAC study and NPFA Standard (see above) are by far the most widely quoted sources on distance thresholds and their recommended thresholds are very widely used by planning authorities throughout the UK. The LPAC recommended open space hierarchy is very much London-based and largely inapplicable in smaller towns and cities, but in spite of this the then DoE quoted them as an example of an open space provision standard (together with the Six Acre Standard) in the 1991 version of PPG17. They suggest a hierarchy of park and green space provision as follows:

- Regional parks of 400 ha with 3.2-3.8 km of home
- Metropolitan parks of 60 ha with 3.2 km of home
- District parks of 20 ha within 1.2 km of home
- Local parks of 2 ha with in 1.2 km of home
- Small local parks and other open spaces of up to 2 ha 400 m from home

Some councils use a variation of the LPAC hierarchy. Liverpool City Council, for example, has adopted the following hierarchy:

- City parks, greater than 50 ha within 3.2 km of home
- District parks of 5-50 ha within 1.2 km of home
- Neighbourhood parks of 1-5 ha within 400 m of home
- Small local parks of less than 1 ha within 400 m of home

While the NPFA has concluded that straight line distances are about 60% of on the ground ones, EN Research Report 153 noted that the LPAC identified a multiplier of 70%. Accordingly it recommended that 400 m on the ground equated to 280 m on an as the crow flies basis. As a result EN Research Report 153 recommended the use of a 280 m straight line distance threshold for “all local and district parks and local wildlife sites” to allow for the fact that pedestrians are not crows and therefore rarely go from point A to point B in a straight line.

The EN report also reviewed relevant information on the distances that parents allow their children to ‘range’ (i.e. walk unaccompanied) from home for play and other purposes. This suggested that ranging distances have steadily shortened as parents have become more and more concerned for the safety of unaccompanied children.

It notes that:

*“...the standard distances employed in the NPFA recommendations for children’s play areas overestimate the distances over which young girls in particular are likely to range. They also suggest that the recommended 1000 m distance to a neighbourhood play area designed for 8-14 years olds is well beyond the permitted range of 11 year old girls and beyond the permitted range of many boys of that age. Even the recommended distance of 400 m to a Locally Equipped Play Area is not within the permitted and accompanied ranges of some 8 year old girls.”*

### English Nature’s ANGSt

Based largely on Research Report 153, other research and a nod towards the LPAC recommendations, English Nature’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends that:

- No-one should live more than 300 m from their nearest area of natural greenspace (note: this 300 m threshold is simply the 280 m one from Research Report 153, rounded up to the nearest 100 m)
- There should be at least one accessible 20 ha site with 2 km of home
- There should be one accessible site of at least 100 ha within 5 km
- There should be at least one accessible site of at least 500 ha within 10 km

Somewhat to the disappointment of English Nature (EN), ANGSt has not been widely used by planning authorities on the reasonable grounds that it is unrealistic and unachievable in many urban areas. As a result, EN commissioned the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology of the University of Manchester to produce *Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities: A Practical Guide to Assessing the Resource and Implementing Local Standards for Provision*, which it published in 2003. This takes ANGSt as its starting point and suggests a methodology for progressing “towards an aspiration to meet its requirements as fully as possible”. Translated into plain English, this amounts to an acceptance that ANGSt is unlikely to be achieved in many areas but a pious hope that planning authorities will do their best.

Certainly most councils have taken as little notice of the Toolkit as they did of ANGSt, although it actually proposes a fairly sensible if somewhat academic approach.

The Toolkit simply adopts the ANGSt straight-line distance thresholds (300 m, 2 km, 5 km and 10 km), but seeks also to define a number of different levels of accessibility, from ‘full’ to ‘conditional’, ‘proximate’ and ‘remote’ with a final category of ‘no access’.

### 1.7 Local authority research - benchmarking

#### Horsham PPG17 Assessment Kit Campbell Associates

- Urban parks and gardens - 1000m
- Local amenity green space - 350m
- Accessible natural green space - 1000m
- Equipped play areas - 350m
- Youth activity area - 1000m
- Allotments - 1000m
- Sports pitches - 1000m

#### Scottish Borders SPP11/PAN 65 Assessment Halcrow Group & Kit Campbell Associates

- Parks and gardens - 450m
- Local amenity green space - 450m
- Accessible natural green space - 800m
- Equipped play areas - 450m
- Youth activity area - 800m
- Allotments - 600m
- Sports pitches - 850m

#### Blyth Valley PPG17 Assessment Kit Campbell Associates

- Urban parks and gardens - 900m
- Local amenity green space - 300m
- Accessible natural green space - 900m
- Equipped play areas - 300m
- Youth activity area - 600m
- Allotments - 900m
- Sports pitches - 900m

## Wakefield Greenspace Strategy

Wakefield MBC commissioned a major market research study in Spring 2003 as part of the preparation of its Greenspace Strategy. In all the survey generated 606 completed questionnaires.

Key findings included:

- The straight-line walk-in distance threshold for equipped play areas was found to be around 400 m
- The straight-line distance thresholds for parks and gardens were found to be around 1,000 m (walk-in) and 6 km (drive-in)
- The straight-line walk-in distance threshold for small amenity greenspaces was found to be around 120 m
- The straight-line distance thresholds for sports pitches were found to be around 600 m (walk-in) and 5 km (drive-in)

## Liverpool Market Research

Liverpool City Council undertook a Parks User Survey as part of the preparation of its Parks Strategy which generated 4,900 interviews over the period from November 2001 to December 2003.

Key findings from this survey were that:

- 45% of respondents - 98% of whom were 16 or older - travelled less than a mile (1.6 km) to a park and a further 45% between 1 and 5 miles (1.6 and 8 km)
- 42% of respondents had walked - almost all of them less than a mile (1600 m)- and 46% had travelled by car
- The effective catchment of Liverpool's parks was between two and three miles, leading to the conclusion that many respondents by-passed their nearest park in order to get to a better one

## Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Kit Campbell Associates have prepared several strategies for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council over the past decade. As part of the work they did on its sport and recreation strategy and Local Plan Review, they suggested that it include questions designed to elicit which community facilities residents thought it important to have within 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 minutes walk from home in a Borough-wide market research survey. The survey, which was undertaken by a specialist market research company, was based on home interviews with a representative sample of Borough residents. They then translated the results into distance thresholds for different forms of community sports provision by assessing the distance which 75-80% of respondents thought reasonable and concluded that suitable maximum walking time thresholds (or effective catchments) were:

- Bowling greens 20 minutes
- Community halls 20 minutes
- Multi/tennis courts 20 minutes
- Neighbourhood equipped play areas 10 minutes
- Parks and recreation grounds 20 minutes
- Sports halls 20 minutes
- Sports pitches 20 minutes

These results identify the time for which around 75-80% of respondents said they were willing to walk to these forms of provision from home, not the distance they normally walk. The former is a distance threshold; the latter is not and a function of the pattern of provision and local geography. Translating these times into distances on the basis of an average walking speed of 60 m/minute gives the following on the ground distances:

- Bowling greens 1,200 metres
- Community halls 1,200 metres
- Neighbourhood equipped play areas 600 metres
- Tennis and multi-courts 1,200 metres
- Parks and recreation grounds 1,200 metres
- Sports halls and swimming pools 1,200 metres
- Sports pitches 1,200 metres

In turn this gives straight line distances as follows, based on a 70% multiplier and rounded to the nearest 50m:

- Bowling greens 850 metres
- Community halls 850 metres
- Neighbourhood equipped play areas 350 metres
- Multi/tennis courts 850 metres
- Parks and recreation grounds 850 metres
- Sports halls and swimming pools 850 metres
- Sports pitches 850 metres

### 1.8 Isle of Wight Analysis and Research

- Natural green space 10 - 30 minutes
- Local amenity green space 5 - 10 minutes
- Parks and gardens 10 - 20 minutes
- Sports pitches 10 - 15 minutes
- Allotments 5 - 15 minutes
- Play areas (CYP) 5 - 10 minutes

Translating these times into distances on the basis of an average walking speed of 60 m/minute gives the following on the ground distances:

- Natural green space 600 - 1800 metres
- Local amenity green spaces 300 - 600 metres
- Parks and gardens 600 - 1200 metres
- Sports pitches 600 - 900 metres
- Allotments 300 - 900 metres
- Play areas (CYP) 300 - 600 metres

In turn this gives straight line distances as follows, based on a 70% multiplier and rounded to the nearest 50m:

- Natural green space 400 - 1250 metres
- Local amenity green spaces 200 - 400 metres
- Parks and gardens 400 - 850 metres
- Sports pitches 400 - 650 metres
- Allotments 200 - 650 metres
- Play areas (CYP) 200 - 400 metres

#### **Straight line Walking Distance Thresholds proposed**

Taking into account local consultation and defined guidance elsewhere, we recommend:

- Natural green space 1200 metres
- Local amenity green spaces 400 metres
- Parks and gardens 400 metres
- Sports pitches 650 metres
- Allotments 600 metres
- Play areas (CYP) 400 metres

#### **Straight line Driving Distance Thresholds proposed**

Taking into account local consultation and defined guidance elsewhere, we recommend:

- Natural green space 3.3km
- Parks and gardens 3.3km
- Sports pitches 3.5km
- Play areas (CYP) 4.5km







# Appendix 8

## Typology maps



# Appendix 9

## Quality and value maps



# Appendix 10

## Accessibility maps





