

Open Space Study 2009



LDF

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Introduction

Purpose of an Open Space Study

This study provides a thorough assessment of the current provision of open space across the District through analysing the existing supply, quality and accessibility of each type of open space. It is important to identify local need and ensure that there is adequate open space provision which would benefit the health and well being of local communities, as well as encouraging a sense of pride and social inclusion and promoting community empowerment within the District. Open spaces provide significant opportunities for informal recreation enabling residents and visitors to undertake activities such as walking and cycling and outdoor sport and leisure activities such as football and cricket, with many open spaces providing a multi-functional purpose. This study will seek to recommend appropriate provision and accessibility standards and potential improvements to quality for the different types of open space audited. Ensuring high quality, accessible open spaces to local communities is particularly important given the increasing pressure on land for other uses.

This document has been produced having regard to the guidance in Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation) and its companion guide ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17’. It forms part of the evidence base of the Council’s Local Development Framework, and will underpin the development of emerging and future planning policy documents, and other Council strategies for the District to ensure that the needs of the local population in terms of open space provision are met. An Open Space Study will therefore help the Council to plan positively, effectively and creatively to ensure that there is adequate provision of accessible, high quality open space that meets the needs and aspirations of local communities and those who work in or visit the District. This study can also be used to inform planning decisions and appeals and thus guide future provision of open space.

Defining Open Space

Open space is an important resource for the community. Whilst providing informal green areas for recreation and leisure, they can enhance the quality of a local environment through improving amenity, encouraging wildlife and increasing local biodiversity. Open space, however, can be more than just *“any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land being a disused burial ground”* as defined within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. PPG17 recognises that in the wider context of planning and policy, open space *“should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity”*.

In addition to the significant benefits of green open spaces, both within the urban and rural areas which fulfil a wide range of multifunctional purposes such as promoting health and well being, improving visual amenity and encouraging biodiversity, the guidance also suggests the inclusion of civic spaces. Civic spaces, which encompass hard surfaced areas such as market squares, provide public spaces for community activities with a central focus, such as

community events, communal meeting places and recreation and leisure opportunities, where appropriate. Thus both greenspaces and civic spaces are important to the quality of life and well being of the population through providing well designed, good quality spaces and promoting good use of the public realm.

PPG17 has identified a typology of provision for open space (Table 1.1), which is divided into greenspaces (predominantly vegetated areas) and civic spaces (predominantly hard-surfaced areas) both of which are recognised as important for communities. Local examples are provided where appropriate.

Table 1.1 – Typology of Open Space

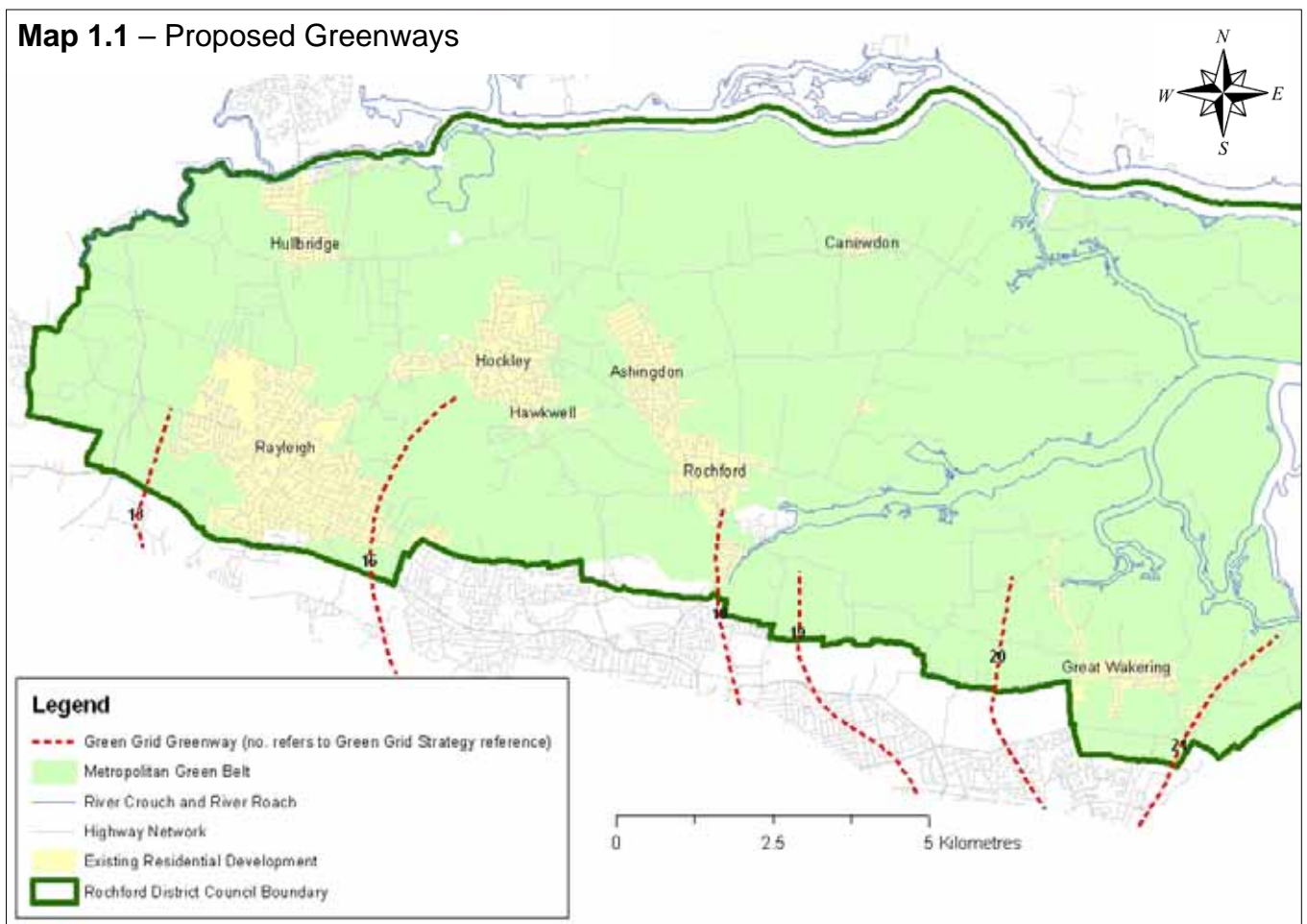
	Typology	Primary Purpose	Local Examples (where applicable)
Greenspaces	Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park, Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockley Woods, Main Road, Hockley Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell
	Green Corridors	Walking and cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an established network of public rights of way across the District
	Outdoor sports facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh Rochford Hundred Golf Club
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement if the appearance of residential or other areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canewdon Village Green, Canewdon Broad Parade open space, Broad Parade, Hockley
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play space, Seaview Drive, Great Wakering Skateboard park, Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell
	Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability , health and social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotments, Rocheway, Rochford Allotments, Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall Road Cemetery, Hall Road, Rochford Rayleigh Cemetery, Hockley Road, Rayleigh
Civic Spaces	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market Square, West Street, Rochford

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It should be noted however that not all the types of open space identified in the typology are relevant to Rochford District, and so these have not formed part of this assessment of open space. The District, as a predominantly rural area, for example does not have any recognised urban farms, urban parks or community gardens (although there may be private arrangements).

Whilst there is a wide network of public rights of way throughout the District, connecting many of the District's greenspaces as shown in Map 1.2, the District does not have any designated green corridors which provide important green linkages to encourage the movement and cohesion of wildlife and their habitats, and significant areas of green open space.

Part of the District falls within the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership Green Grid Strategy area. This strategy promotes the creation and enhancement of green linkages between areas of open greenspace, which encourage biodiversity and the enable the movement of local wildlife whilst providing accessible green links for the local community and those who work in or visit the District. There are six identified 'Greenways' which are proposed to link southern areas of the District with neighbouring authorities. As such, the Council should seek to establish green corridors and thus support the development of 'Greenways' which are promoted by the Thames Gateway Green Grid Strategy¹.



¹ See <http://www.greengrid.co.uk>

Vision

The Council's vision, which underpins the Local Development Framework, is shared with that of the Local Strategic Partnership;

'To make Rochford District a place which provides opportunities for the best possible quality of life for all who live, work and visit here'

This vision is supported through the Council's four main corporate objectives. These are;

- Making a difference to our people
- Making a difference to our community
- Making a difference to our environment
- Making a difference to our local economy

Improving the quantity, quality and accessibility of the District's open spaces, where appropriate, can contribute to the Council's objectives and overall vision. The Council envisages that Rochford District continues to be recognised as the green part of the Thames Gateway throughout the plan period and beyond by ensuring that there are sufficient, high quality greenspaces available to all. It is also important to ensure the appropriate mix and provision of these spaces where a need is identified within local areas and to provide an adequate network of linkages between open spaces.

A vision should be adopted to reflect the aspirations for open space in meeting the Council's corporate objectives. As such the vision for the Open Space Study should be:

'To ensure the ample provision of high quality, accessible open spaces which meet the needs of local communities.'

This study will therefore predominantly assess the quantity, quality and potential accessibility of open space, but will also seek to understand the value of these spaces, their distinct identity within their local context and their legibility. A vision for each type of open space and a set of appropriate objectives will be included within each chapter to contribute to meeting this overall open space vision.

Rochford District's Character

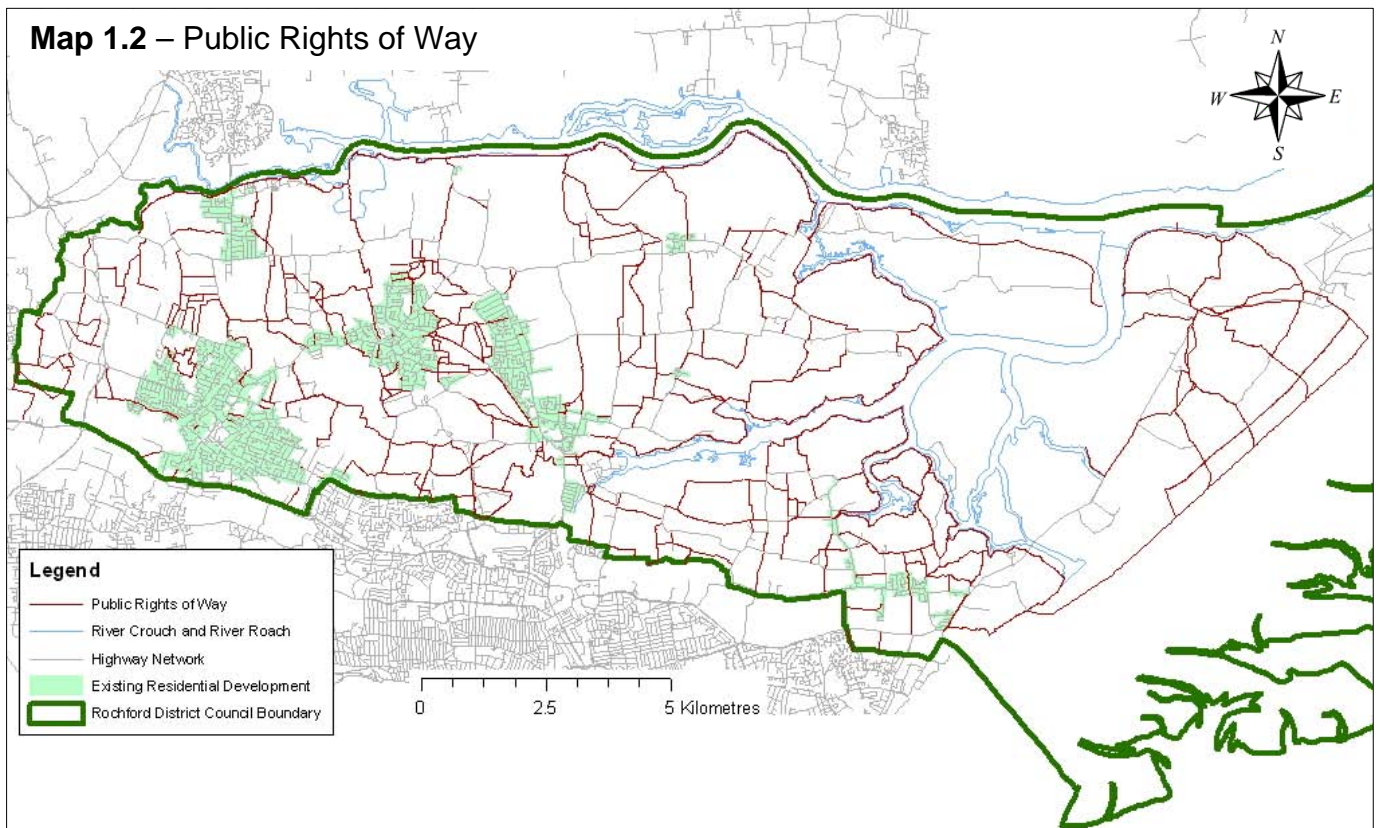
Rochford District is predominantly rural in character with the majority of the undeveloped land mass designated as Metropolitan Green Belt. A significant proportion of the Green Belt comprises different natural environments which are of local, national and international importance, such as Wallasea Island and the Upper Roach Valley. The predominance of the natural environment in the District means that a balance needs to be struck with the need to provide leisure, recreational and other opportunities for the local population and visitors against protecting the openness and character of the Green Belt and the integrity of areas of nature conservation importance. There are also several villages and towns with individual characteristics and histories which the Council seeks to protect, and as such there are 10 designated Conservation Areas within the District.

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Rochford District Council owns or manages over 300 hectares of public open greenspaces including playing fields, parks and gardens. Alongside this, there are numerous green open spaces and recreational facilities within the District which are owned and managed by other individuals, but are either held in Trust, or are made available, for public use. Such organisations include the Rochford Housing Association, the National Playing Fields Association (now Fields in Trust) and local parish and town councils.

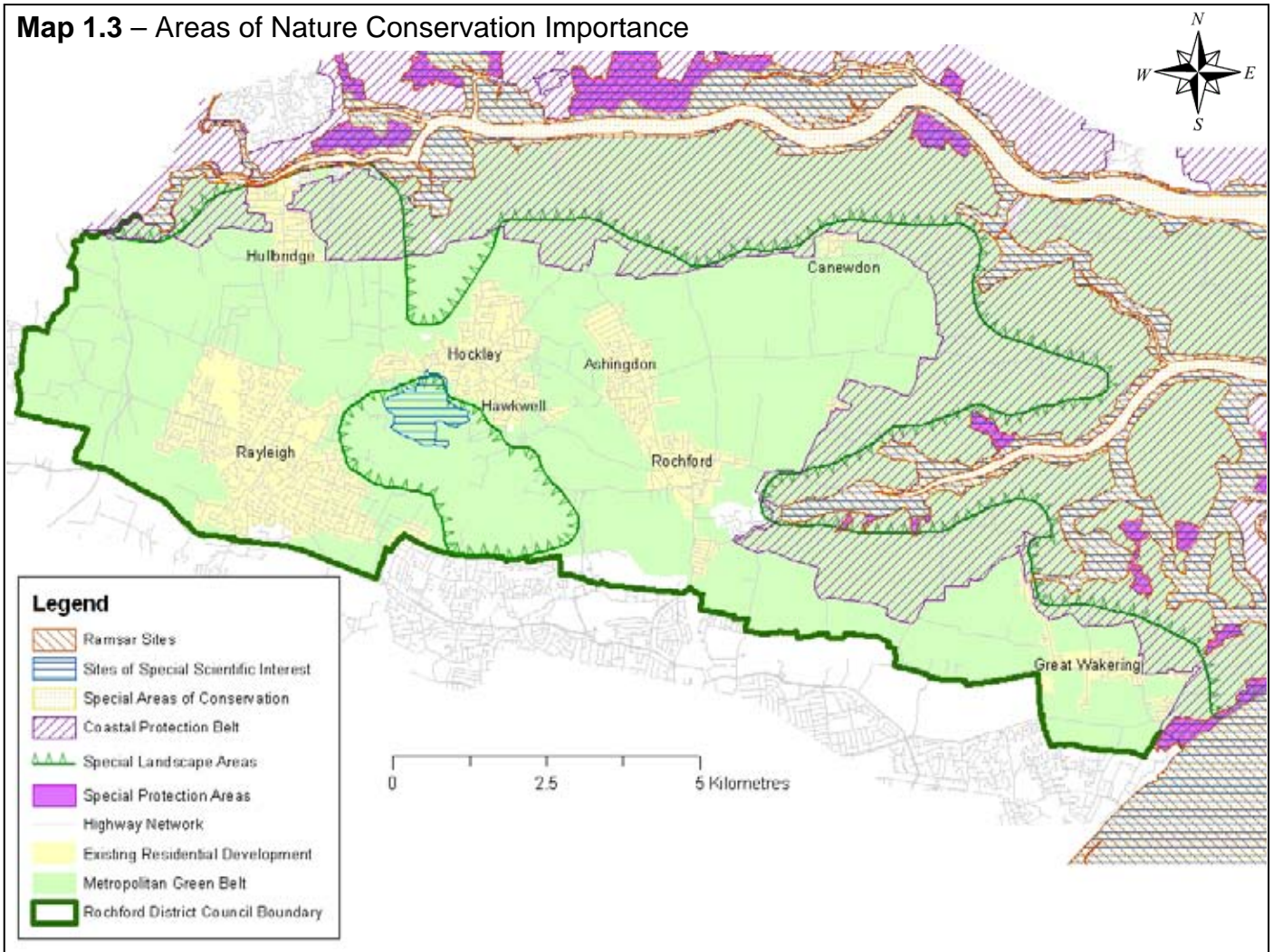
The District has a distinct divide with the majority of the population residing in the more accessible west of the District, compared to the relatively inaccessible east. However, demand for open space within the District must be provided wherever a need is identified, and these should be high quality, well maintained and accessible to the local population. The countryside is relatively accessible with a network of footpaths and bridleways, which extends across much private land and there are also several cyclepaths established in the District. The public rights of way are shown on Map 1.2 below. This comprehensive network of public footpaths and bridleways also links up many of the District's important public open greenspaces, which have been included within this assessment. PPG17 acknowledges the importance of these networks as a recreational facility, which should be protected and, where possible, enhanced.

Map 1.2 depicting the network of public rights of way is indicative of the potential accessibility of public open space, in particular greenspaces, across the District. However, this map is purely representative and the Definitive Map, along with the Definitive Statement, form the legal document, which records the position and status of public rights of way. This document is maintained and updated, as appropriate by Essex County Council, and should be referred to in any case.



As a rural District there are numerous areas of nature conservation importance which require protection from undue impact and form physical constraints to the future development of the District. Map 1.3 below highlights these areas which are accessible through the network of public rights of way.

Map 1.3 – Areas of Nature Conservation Importance



Strategic Context

In developing a study of local open spaces it is important to consider and recognise national, regional and local planning policy and guidance which provide background information and advice. A summary of some of the relevant documents are given below:

National Policy

Advice and guidance on assessing the current provision, quality and accessibility of open space within the District is contained within **Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17 – Planning for open space, sport and recreation)** and its supplementary companion guide. In the long term, this document aims to:

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- Deliver networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors, are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable
- Ensure an appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision
- Provide clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and land owners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision

PPG17 requires Local Planning Authorities to undertake an assessment of local needs and an audit of local open space provision. The guidance seeks to move from the imposition of national provision standards to locally derived quantity, quality and accessibility standards. In setting local standards, this study will have regard to recommended national standards, other Council departments, local community perceptions and standards set by other Local Authorities.

Accessibility, quality, multi-functionality, primary purpose and quantity are identified as key attributes of open space and sport and recreation provision.

It is recognised within the guidance that in the setting of quantity standards for provision it is also important to consider:

- The age and social structure of the local population, together with its distribution and the density of development;
- The proportion of natural to artificial turf pitches;
- The extent to which authorities and their partners are promoting sports development and community events and activities in parks and other greenspaces;
- The extent to which sports facilities on school sites are open for community use;
- The amount of private greenspace; and
- Local traditions.

The companion guide to PPG17 identifies a five step process for undertaking local assessments:

- Step 1. Identify Local Need
- Step 2. Audit Local Provision
- Step 3. Determine Provision Standards
- Step 4. Apply Provision Standards
- Step 5. Draft Local Policies

PPG17 advocates that planning policies for open space should be based upon local standards derived from a robust assessment of local need.

Regional Policy

The regional spatial strategy – **East of England Plan (2008)** – which sets the strategic planning framework for Rochford District recognises the importance of protecting, enhancing and effectively managing existing green infrastructure and creating new spaces (Policy ENV1). Green infrastructure is identified as “networks of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces, waterways and green linkages”.

The provision of green infrastructure can provide multi-functional benefits such as enhancing biodiversity, creating recreational opportunities, potentially mitigating against flood risk, enhancing liveability and potentially aiding the capturing of carbon emissions. Within the region, Policy ENV1 is stated as being particularly important near areas where a key centre for development and change has been identified in the Plan.

Other important areas are specifically identified in the Plan such as countryside character areas (although within the District there are also landscape character areas which are of local importance), biodiversity and earth heritage, agriculture, land and soils, and woodlands. The historic environment is also important to identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance.

CABE Guidance

CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) provides advice and guidance on well-designed buildings, places and spaces.

Open Space Strategies – Best Practice Guidance (2009) was produced to support and supplement national policy, and aid Local Planning Authorities in the preparation of open space assessments. The document reinforces the importance of developing a comprehensive strategic approach to open space to ensure a network of well-designed and maintained spaces which meet local needs and the associated benefits. The benefits include:

- reinforcing local identity and civic pride;
- enhancing the physical character of an area, shaping existing and future development;
- improving physical and social inclusion, including accessibility;
- providing connected routes between places for wildlife, recreation, walking and cycling, and safer routes to schools;
- protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecological habitats;
- providing green infrastructure and ecosystem services;
- providing for children and young people's play and recreation;
- raising property values and aiding urban regeneration;
- boosting the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities;
- providing cultural, social, recreational, sporting and community facilities;
- protecting and promoting understanding of the historical, cultural and archaeological value of places;
- contributing to the creation of healthy places, including quiet areas;
- providing popular outdoor educational facilities;
- promoting the opportunities for local food production;
- helping mitigate and adapt to climate change; and
- improving opportunities to enjoy contact with the natural world.

Sport England Guidance

Sport England play an advisory role with the Local Planning Authority and seek to protect playing fields from any proposed development which would result in their loss or which would have a detrimental impact on their use. They have developed tools to aid Local Planning Authorities in the appropriate provision of sport for their local areas, such as the sports

facilities calculator² which with a given population seeks to estimate of the amount of demand for a selected sports facility. They also provide numerous advice on the design of sports facilities and have published numerous design guides, which are useful in the determination of planning applications.

Sport England has produced various guidance documents on the promotion and enhancement of sports and sports facilities. **Planning for Open Space** (Planning Bulletin 12 – 2002), for example is a brief document which seeks to summarise the plethora of information on open space and provide some good practice examples, it focuses on the role of PPG 17 and its companion guide and considers a range of planning appeal decisions relevant to open space. The key conclusions drawn from this publication are:

- the importance of locally derived provision standards for open space, as Planning Inspectors are unlikely to accept a Six Acre Standard approach in emerging development plans;
- Sport England is a statutory consultee for any development affecting playing fields;
- Sport England’s policy on planning applications for development on playing fields, *A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England*, provides five exceptions to its normal stance of opposing any loss of all or part of such facilities, which is reflected in PPG17; and
- As part of the overall open space assessment, Local Planning Authorities will need to have regard to the guidance within ‘Towards a Level Playing Field’ for the preparation of playing pitch strategies.

Essex LAA

The **Essex Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA2)** identifies key priorities and targets for the county, which are important to ‘Our People, Our Communities, Our Economy and Our World’. There are two priorities which relate to the different types of open space which are included in this study, these are:

Table 1.2 – LAA2 relevant priorities and outcomes

Priority	Relevant Outcomes
6: More participation in sports culture and volunteering for the benefit of the whole community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participation in sport and cultural activities, building on the opportunities provided by the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games • An active society in which people collaborate for shared purposes
10: A well managed environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Essex’s coast and countryside and accommodate the impact of growth and climate change for the benefit of both the local environment and wildlife and local communities • Preserve and improve biodiversity and the historic environment • Protect Essex’s natural resources and promote their sustainable and efficient use • Increase access to and use of the natural environment to support healthy and active lifestyles

² See <http://www.sportengland.org>

Table 1.2 – LAA2 relevant priorities and outcomes

Priority	Relevant Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding and awareness of, the countryside and environment

Sport Essex Guidance

Increasing participation in sports and leisure activities is important to improve the health and well being of the local population. The **Essex Sports Facilities Strategy (2007 – 2020)**³ seeks to ensure that a wide range of sports facilities can be provided within the County through comprehensively planned provision, design and management. The District's sports facility strategies will need to reflect the county strategy, but need to provide a more detailed analysis of facility requirements in terms of type, location, partners and resources. This strategy focuses more on indoor sports provision rather than outdoor sport facilities which are not considered as part of this assessment. The provision of indoor facilities is recorded in the Annual Monitoring Report. The Strategy for example recognises the current and potential utilisation of some of the District's school facilities such as swimming pools, in particular noting that the current supply is sufficient but accessibility needs to be improved and the facilities need to be of a good quality.

Essex Biodiversity Action Plan

The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan is a living document containing action plans for a variety of species and habitats that are significant to Essex's environment. It sets out, for example, advice for the enhancement of biodiversity within ancient/species rich hedgerows and green lanes; ancient woodland; cereal field margin; coastal grazing marsh; seagrass beds; heathland; old orchards; reedbeds; saline lagoons; and urban areas.

Greengrid Strategy

Part of Rochford District falls within Thames Gateway South Essex. The Thames Gateway is a national government priority for regeneration and development; however, it is also important to ensure the quality of the natural environment. The **Thames Gateway Greengrid Strategy 2005** seeks to propose a strategy for the development and management of all the proposed green linkages (the Greengrid) in South Essex.

The purpose of the Greengrid Strategy is to:

- Provide a holistic and long-term vision for the sustainable future development and management of the south Essex area;
- Define an environmental infrastructure that promotes the establishment and management of appropriate character settings; and
- Provide the context for development over the long-term.

As noted earlier, there are six proposed greenways which would link various greenspaces within the District to surrounding areas (see Map 1.1).

³ See <http://www.sportessex.com/>

Local Policy

The **Corporate Plan 2009 – 2013** establishes the Council's short and medium term priorities for the District, and as such, is updated annually to reflect local circumstances. The Corporate Plan is informed by the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's four main corporate objectives for 2008-2013 as set out in the 'Vision' section above.

The Council will continue to promote the District as the green part of the Thames Gateway South Essex sub-region, through delivering improvements to the District's greenspaces, which in turn aims to enhance their usage. Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park for example has recently been expanded and forms part of a longer term vision to improve the District's open space offer. The development of the Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project is also a vision for the District to enhance green tourism.

From the Corporate Plan, the specific targets for the District's open spaces (including civic spaces) are as follows:

Table 1.3 – Relevant objectives and targets in the Corporate Plan

Objective	Key targets for the next 12 months	Longer term targets for 2013
Making a difference to our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that community facilities provision and access to these is considered in all new major residential development. To complete the laying out of new junior/mini sports pitches behind Rayleigh Leisure Centre for usage during the 2009/2010 season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a series of initiatives aimed at providing more alternative facilities specifically for young people, with the intention to secure at least one new facility per year.
Making a difference to our environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to refurbish our play areas through our rolling programme of playground improvements. To ensure that play provision and access to it is considered in all new major residential developments. To consolidate the recently purchased areas both west and east of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park to allow their integration into the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To complete the extension to Rochford Cemetery in Hall Road, Rochford for usage from 2012/2013. To ensure that community facilities provision and access to these is considered in all new major residential developments. To consolidate the recently purchased areas both west and east of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park to allow their integration into the Park and secure access from Cherry Orchard link road, and improve footpath and cycle access through the expanded Park. To continue to improve and upgrade our parks and open spaces through a rolling programme of open space refurbishment.

Table 1.3 – Relevant objectives and targets in the Corporate Plan

Objective	Key targets for the next 12 months	Longer term targets for 2013
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the RSPB in its proposals to secure the Wallasea Island wetlands project for bird watching and other recreation. • To utilise the LDF process to support and enhance our built heritage of listed buildings and Conservation Areas.
Making a difference to our local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce the two major town centre studies of Hockley and Rochford to aid the regeneration of those two centres and have prepared action plans for both as part of the LDF process. • Produce a town centre study of Rayleigh to aid the regeneration of the town centre and to prepare an action plan as part of the Local Development Framework. 	

The **Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2021** sets out the long term vision, aspirations and objectives for the District. The key objectives where open spaces play a part in the sustainable community strategy are:

- Fostering greater community cohesion – by providing community spaces for sport, leisure and recreational opportunities where people can interact and socialise;
- Keeping Rochford Safe – by providing teen shelters and other youth facilities, increasing the natural surveillance within green spaces;
- Promoting a Greener District – by improving local wildlife and biodiversity value.

The **Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (2006)** contains a number of saved policies which, together with the East of England Plan (2008), comprise the current development plan for the District. It aims to provide quality, cost effective services, promote a green and sustainable environment, encourage a thriving local economy, improve the quality of life for people in the District and maintain and enhance the local heritage for the purposes of leisure and tourism. As a result of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, policies in the adopted Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (2006) were due to expire on 15th June 2009 - 3 years after the date of adoption of the Plan. However, the majority of policies within the Replacement Local Plan have now been saved beyond this date by direction from the Secretary of State, upon request by the Council. As such, the Local Plan still contains extant policies which seek to:

- provide for and encourage the provision of leisure and other community facilities and to address any deficiencies in current provision;
- facilitate the provision of leisure facilities in the countryside through utilising existing facilities and buildings such as schools or village halls, where appropriate;

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- ensure that new open space provision has a positive impact on the surrounding countryside and the Green Belt and improves environmental quality whilst protecting good quality agricultural land and the viability of agricultural holdings;
- improve and increase public access to the countryside, where appropriate, for recreational purposes, including the promotion of more sustainable methods of transport such as walking and cycling, and having regard to the need to safeguard natural resources, wildlife interests and rural conservation; and
- promote tourism activities to support the local economy whilst maintaining and enhancing the environment.

The Local Plan identifies formal open space which constitutes playing pitches and informal open space such as allotments, Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park and other types of greenspace which provide opportunities for sport, recreation and play. The relevant policies seek to ensure the appropriate provision and enhancement of new and existing public open space. The plan also identifies the importance of protecting private open space provision, and the need to safeguard both public and private open spaces which positively contribute to the street scene and/or townscape value, are areas of nature conservation importance or are intrinsic to the character of the area. With respect to the types of open space included within the study, the Local Plan also seeks to improve the provision and quality of play space, the appropriate siting and provision of golf courses and driving ranges in the District as they can have a substantial impact on the countryside and the suitable siting and provision of water recreation facilities due to their siting within an areas of nature conservation importance.

The **Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2008-2013** recognises the importance of the District's greenspaces in light of a changing climate and how demands on the use of open spaces could change. The Council is in a position to demonstrate good practice and educate people through appropriately managing the District's open spaces, which include parks, woodlands, and recreation grounds. The potential for an environmentally-friendly building at Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park, for example is acknowledged. Furthermore it is recognised that the District's greenspaces will become increasingly important in the future for reducing flood risk, sequestering carbon, enhancing biodiversity, providing cooling and shading and absorbing air pollutants.

The Council recognises the importance of providing areas for children and young people to play, socialise and interact. The **Play Strategy 2007-2012** outlines the Council's approach to the promotion and development of play within the District, through for example the creation of a Play Partnership, drawing on public consultations, highlighting the Council's commitment to the rolling programme of refurbishment of play spaces as appropriate, and giving an overview of the activities which are run for children and young people throughout the District. The Strategy audits a sample of play spaces in the District, primarily looking at the usage and equipment value within these selected areas. Future audits are expected to be carried out periodically throughout the year to give a more balanced picture. The Council has received funding from the 'Big Lottery Fund' and has developed a five year Action Plan⁴ setting objectives and actions on how these will be delivered and monitored. These objectives are related to the various outcomes the Fund aims to achieve.

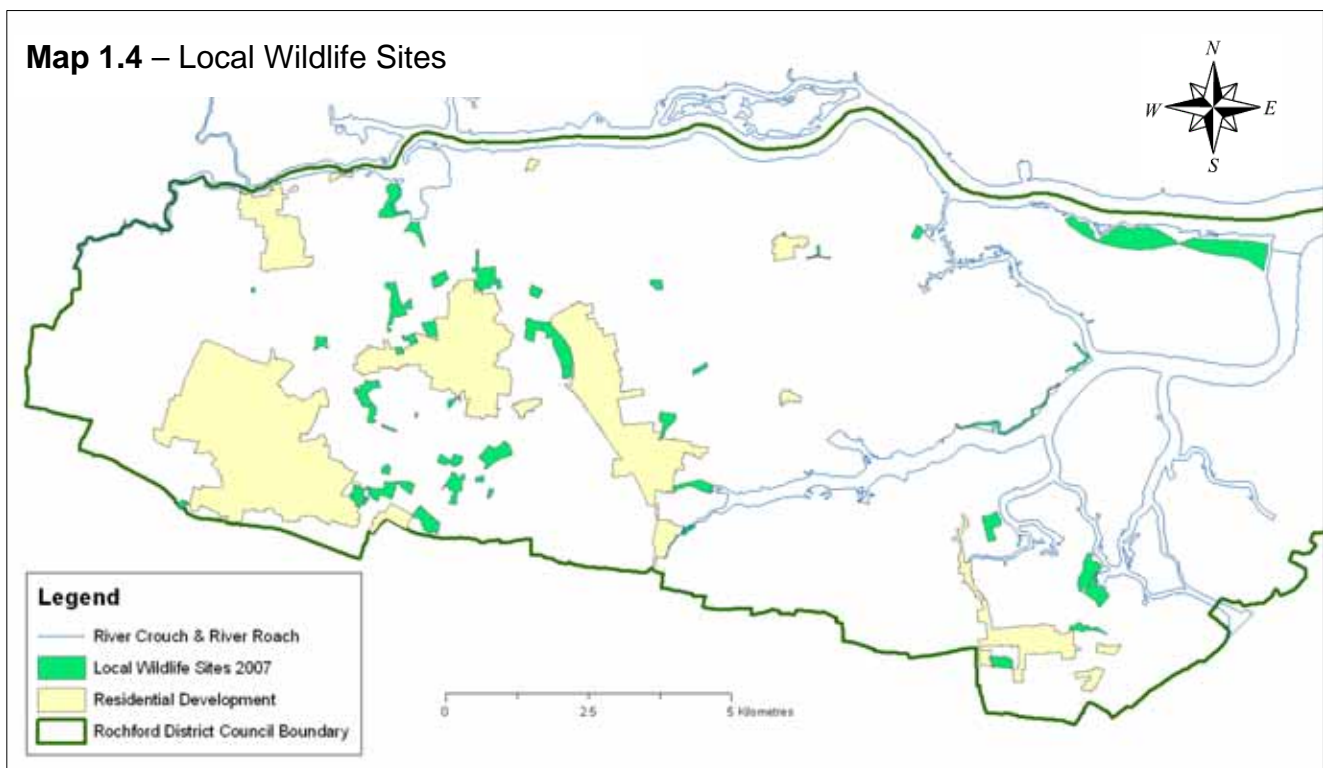
The **Rochford District Local Wildlife Sites Review** identifies sites which are of local nature conservation importance. There are 39 Local Wildlife Sites which are listed below:

⁴ See www.rochford.gov.uk

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- R1 Kingley Wood
- R2 Hullbridge Road Meadow
- R3 Blounts Wood
- R4 Hockley Woods Complex
- R5 Grove Woods
- R6 Rawreth Hall Wood
- R7 Brandy Hole Marsh Extension
- R8 Hockleyhall/ Crabtree Woods
- R9 Folly Wood
- R10 New England Wood
- R11 Bett's Wood
- R12 The Dome Grasslands
- R13 Edwards Hall Park
- R14 Marylands Wood
- R15 Plumberow Wood
- R16 Belchamps Camp, Hockley Woods
- R17 Gustedhall Wood
- R18 The Scrubs
- R19 Primrose Wood
- R20 Cottons
- R21 Beckney Wood
- R22 Potash Wood
- R23 Trinity Wood
- R24 Magnolia Nature Reserve and Fields
- R25 Hyde Wood
- R26 Doggetts Pond
- R27 Sutton Ford Bridge Pasture
- R28 River Roach at Rochford
- R29 Wood Sloppy
- R30 Butts Hill Pond
- R31 The Finches
- R32 Lion Creek Meadow
- R33 Canewdon Special Roadside Verge
- R34 Barling Pits
- R35 Star Lane Pits
- R36 Paglesham Seawall
- R37 Wakering Landfill Site
- R38 Great Wakering Common
- R39 Wallasea Island Managed Realignment

It should be noted that some of the Local Wildlife Sites have been identified as important greenspaces in this open space study. The location of the 39 sites are shown in Map 1.4.



Desk based research and surveys undertaken as part of the emerging **Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document** have informed the preparation of this open space assessment. This document seeks to further identify the current provision and future

requirements for playing pitches within the District with a focus on football, rugby, hockey and cricket.

Methodology

This Open Space Study focuses on the District's needs and the requirement to make the most effective use of available resources both now and in the future and as such will identify local needs, audit and digitally map local provision, set local provision standards based on the findings identified in this assessment of quantity, quality and accessibility, as appropriate and apply the recommended provision standards and targets. This assessment will seek to identify the current spatial distribution of open space and highlight potential geographical deficiencies. As noted in the guidance, however, provision within the District can be improved by simply increasing the accessibility and quality of open space, rather than providing additional facilities. It is also important to remember that many open spaces are multi-functional and provide benefits to a wide range of the local community.

There are various types of open spaces within Rochford District and for the purposes of this study these have been divided into the following categories:

- Natural and semi-natural greenspaces;
- Amenity greenspaces;
- Country Park;
- Allotments;
- Provision for children and young people;
- Outdoor sports facilities;
- Cemeteries and churchyards; and
- Streets, squares and pedestrian areas.

This assessment will consider predominantly Council-owned or managed greenspaces and other greenspaces which are publicly accessible and are available for community use. Private facilities and areas of open space will be included, as appropriate. There are a number of types of land use, however, that have specifically not been included in this assessment as open space in accordance with PPG17, namely:

- grass verges on the side of roads;
- small insignificant areas of grassland or trees – for example on the corner of the junction of 2 roads;
- SLOAP (space left over after planning i.e. in and around a block of flats);
- farmland and farm tracks; and
- private roads and domestic gardens.

Some of the types of open space included in this assessment may have specific size thresholds for the inclusion of sites which are stipulated, as appropriate within the following chapters.

As aforementioned, open spaces can be multi-functional, and as such, there is a requirement to classify each open space by its 'primary purpose' as recommended in the guidance so that it is counted only once in the audit. This should be taken into account when considering additional provision. For example in areas where a deficit in amenity greenspace has been

identified, playing pitches may exist which can often provide a secondary function as amenity greenspace, but their primary purpose remains as an outdoor sports facility.

Where two separate activities can be undertaken within the same area, for example play space may reside within amenity greenspace, the play space has been deducted from the total area as appropriate to avoid double counting and to ensure that all forms of open space identified in the District are appropriately accounted for.

Step 1: Identify Local Need

An assessment of local need has been undertaken through a combination of gathering and reviewing existing Council documentation which is relevant to this Open Space Study, desk-based research focused on national, regional and local guidance, policies and strategies that will impact upon local needs for all types of open space, and a review of previous public consultation exercises.

Population Projections

The District's population in 2006 was 81,100 and this is projected to increase to 95,100 people by 2031 according to the Office of National Statistics. The Local Development Framework will determine the future development of the District and, as such, will influence the spatial distribution of housing to meet the needs of the District's communities. It will also, therefore, influence where additional open space and other infrastructure requirements will be needed in the future. Appendix H1 of the Core Strategy Submission Document has been informed by the development of this Open Space Study and sets out the infrastructure requirements for future development in the District.

Previous Public Consultation

A variety of public consultation exercises throughout the production of the emerging Core Strategy and other documents forming part of the Local Development Framework including formal and informal consultation exercises and school workshops, have been drawn upon. The use of school workshops and video diaries, in particular, has aided access to one of the hard-to-reach groups (under 18 year olds) and with regard to public open spaces as defined within PPG17, the school workshops suggested that there is a need for the following (although this is not an exhaustive list):

- more youth facilities such as skate parks and ice rinks;
- more shelters and seating in the parks and town centres;
- tennis courts at Magnolia Park;
- more flood lights in parks;
- more police in Ashingdon and Rochford;
- more landscaping and plants – more colour on the high street;
- more CCTV and lighting needed; and
- cycle paths to town centre and sign posted cycle paths.

There was overwhelming consensus that the countryside should be for everyone. Facilities for dog and horse waste should also be provided. Hockley Woods, and King Georges Park in Rayleigh and other important local landmarks and areas should be protected. School workshops ascertained that many felt that Rayleigh High Street, for example, needs to be more people friendly, Clements Hall Leisure Centre in Hawkwell is a useful facility; and there

needs to be improved public transport services (buses and trains) particularly for young people wanting to use leisure facilities.

Through public consultation underpinning the development of the emerging Core Strategy some general issues were identified such as ensuring the protection of existing public open space and the wider countryside and that these areas require better access, particularly through introducing additional footpaths, cycleways or bridleways. Significant areas of open space such as Hockley Woods, the Rivers Roach and Crouch and the Upper Roach Valley were recognised as being important local amenities. There was a recognised need to enhance and advertise the District's greenspaces, and improve their biodiversity and amenity value. A need for additional youth facilities, allotments and playing pitches was also a recurring issue raised (with specific reference to Hockley).

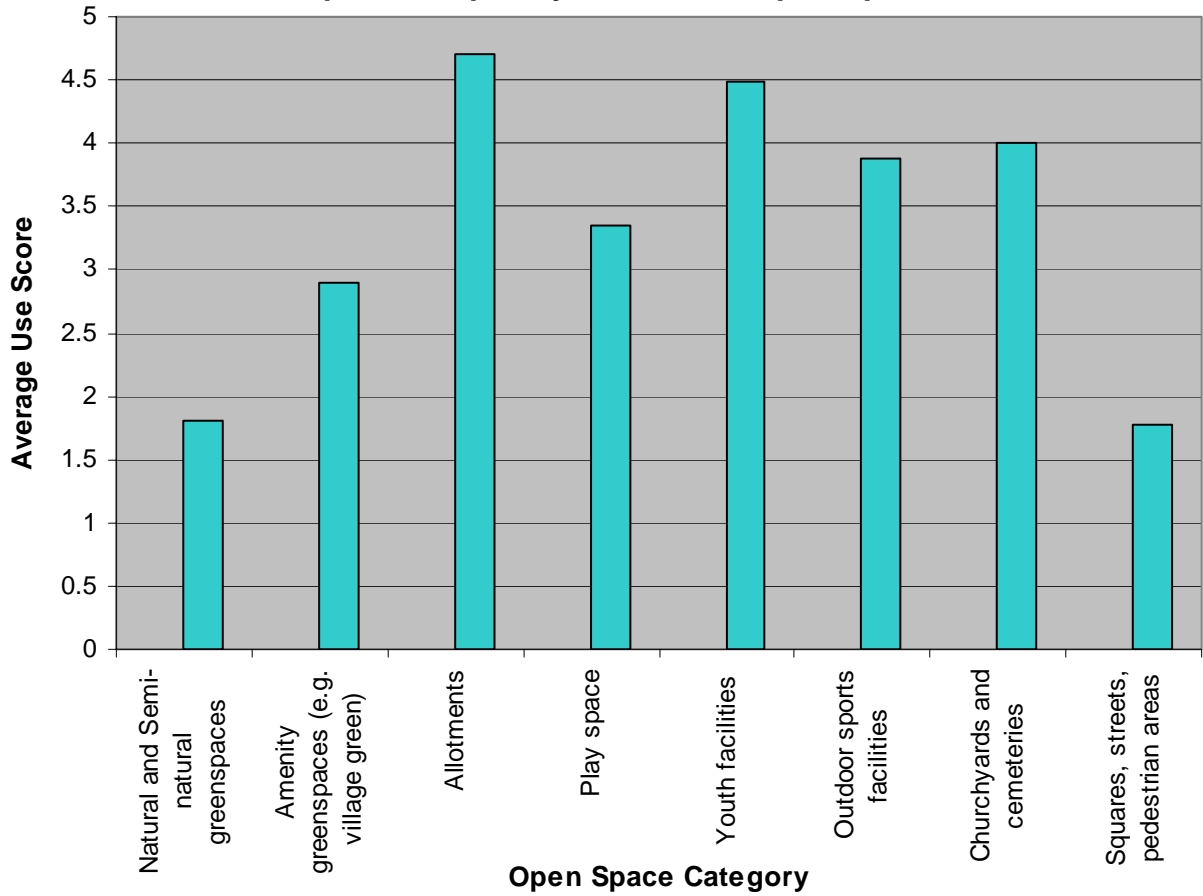
The **Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Information Profile 2008 – 2009** provides background data which forms part of evidence base for the Local Development Framework. Public perceptions of a range of facilities in the District was surveyed and with regard to open spaces, in 2004, it was found that over 90% of residents questioned felt that the availability of parks and open spaces in the District had got better or stayed the same since 2001. Rochford District received the fourth highest score in the county. In addition 74.7% of residents were found to be satisfied or very satisfied with sports provision in the local area, and over half of those surveyed felt that activities for teenagers had got better or stayed the same over the same period (between 2001 and 2004).

Open Space Public Consultation

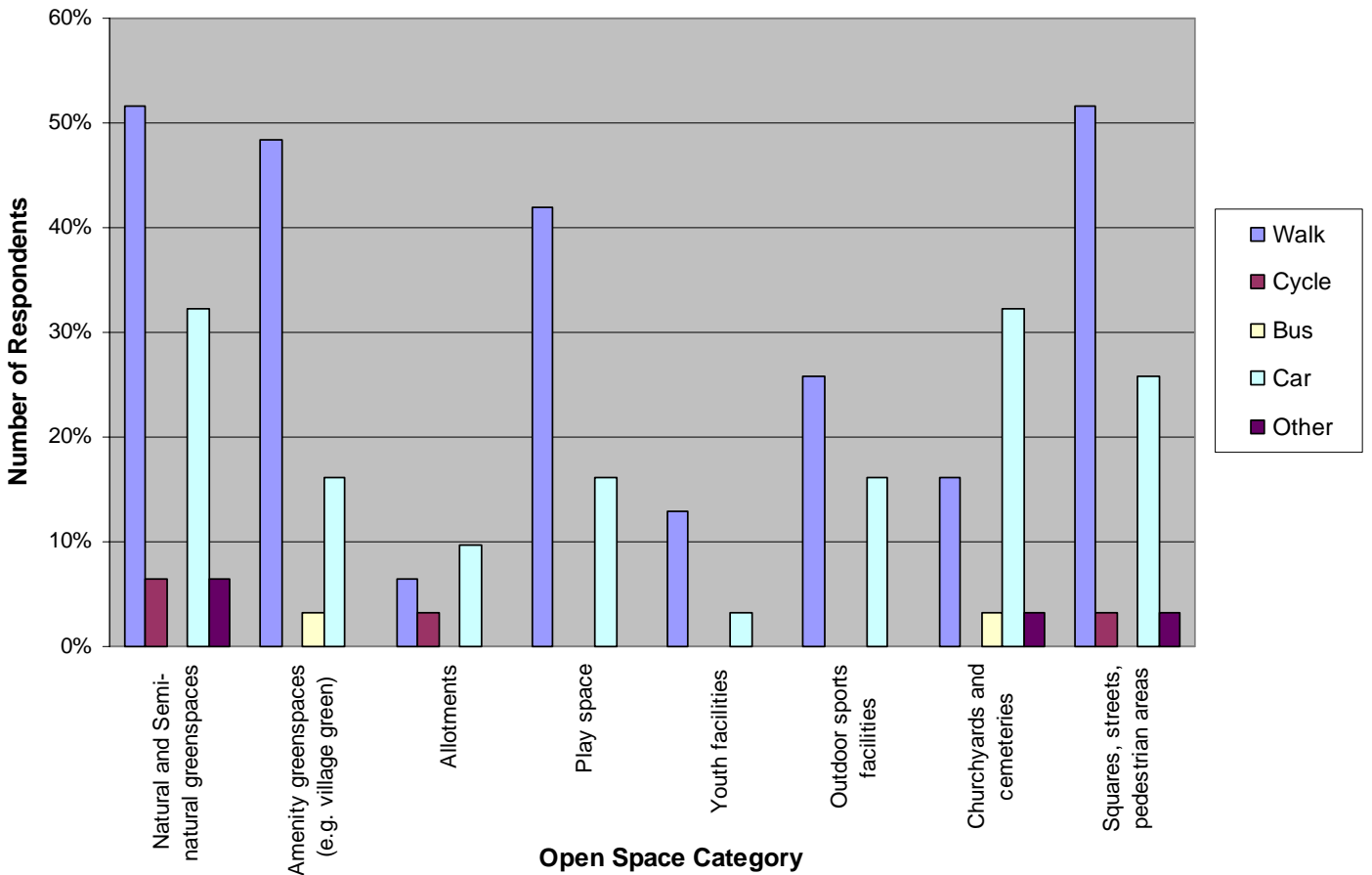
In order to assess local needs, a public consultation exercise was undertaken to gauge local opinions on open space in the District. An open space survey sought to identify local community perceptions of the District's green spaces, civic spaces, outdoor recreational and leisure facilities, and churchyards and cemeteries. A copy of the questionnaire can be found be Appendix D. The survey also sought opinions on the current provision of indoor sports facilities to inform other Council strategies.

The consultation sought resident's opinions on the usage, accessibility, and perceived value, quality and quantity of the District's open spaces. The results, have been fed into this assessment, are summarised in the graphs below:

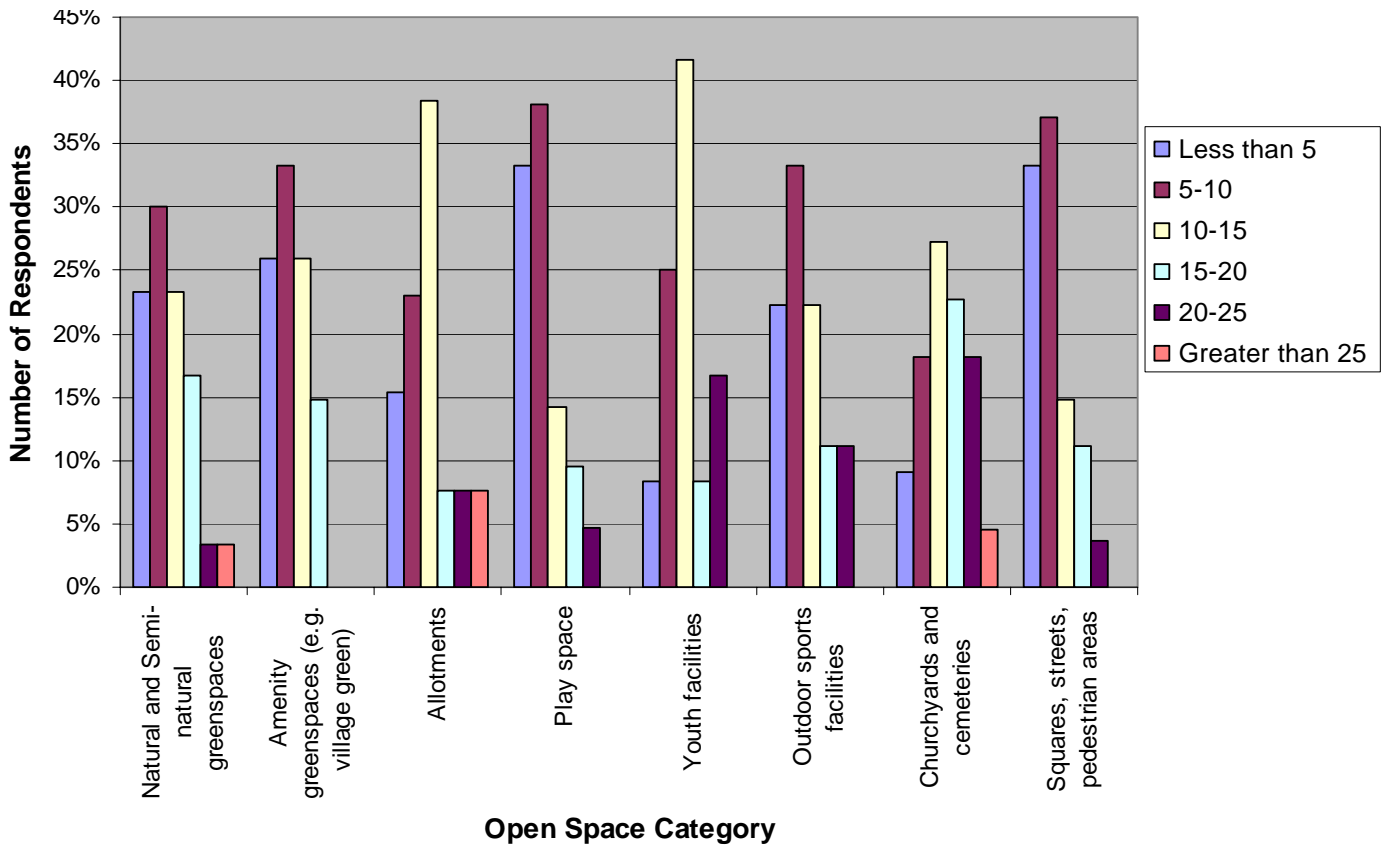
Graph 1: Frequency of Visits to Open Space



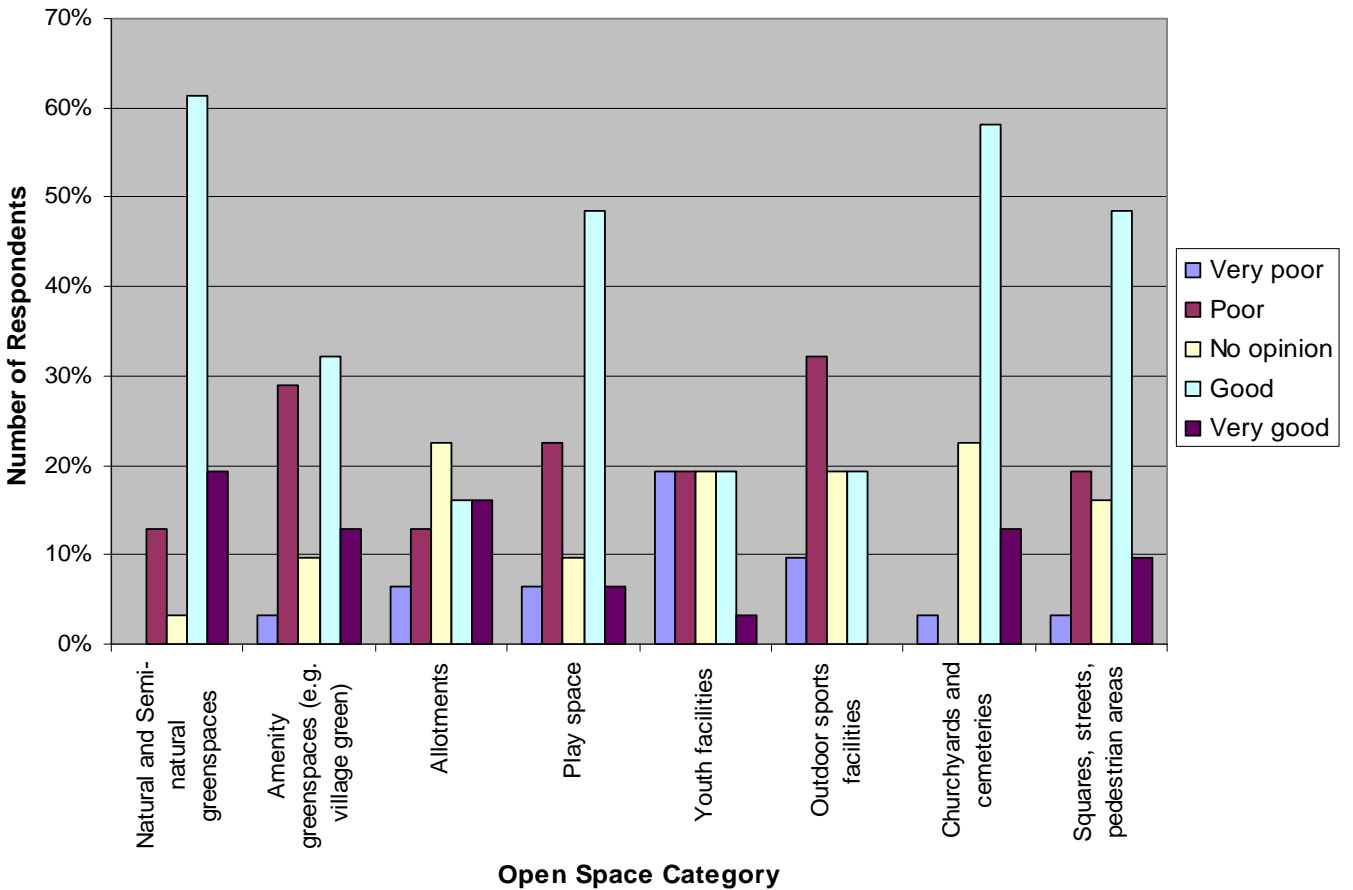
Graph 2: Normal Method of Travel to Open Space



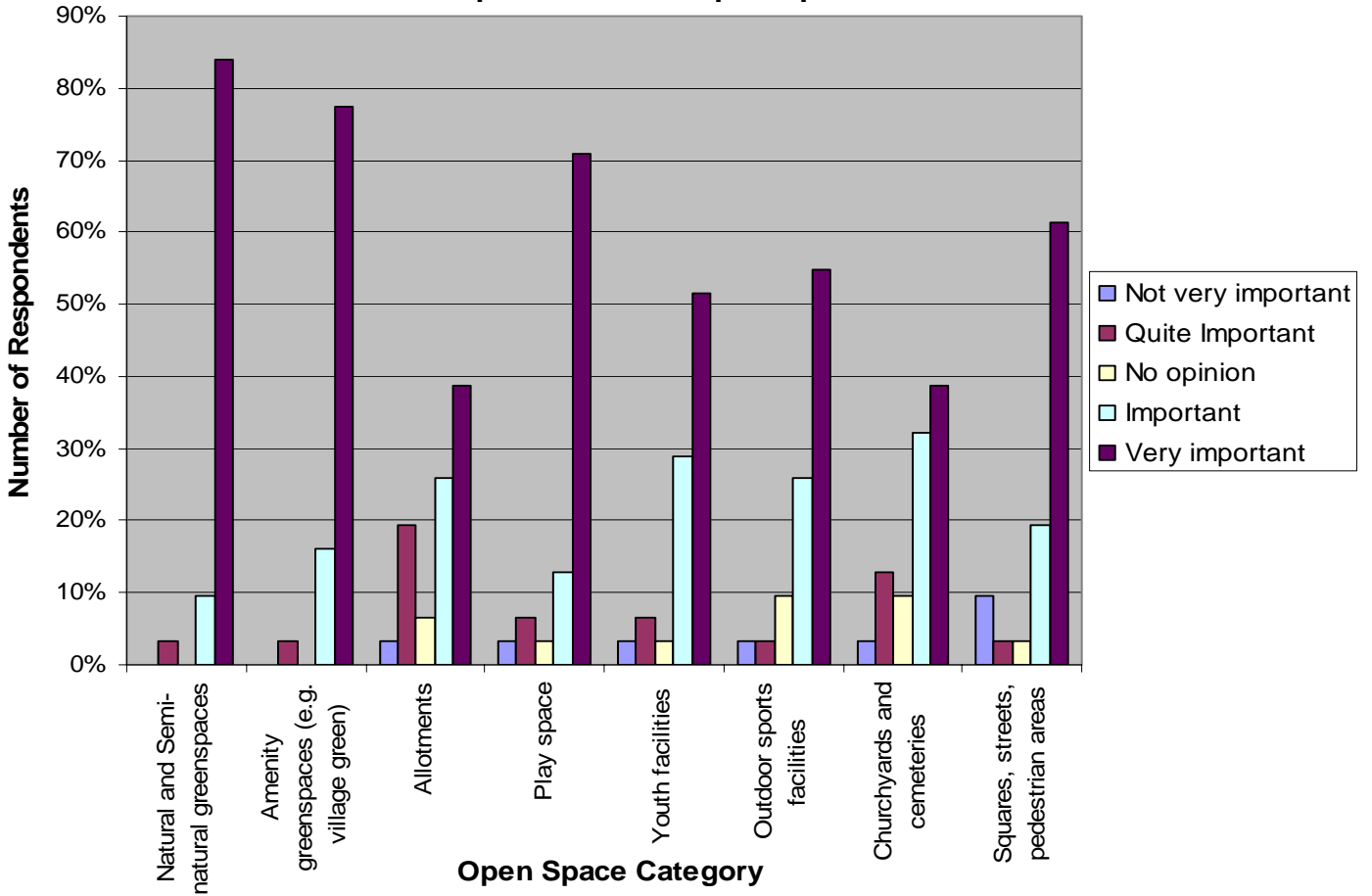
Graph 3: Acceptable Travelling Times (minutes) to Open Space



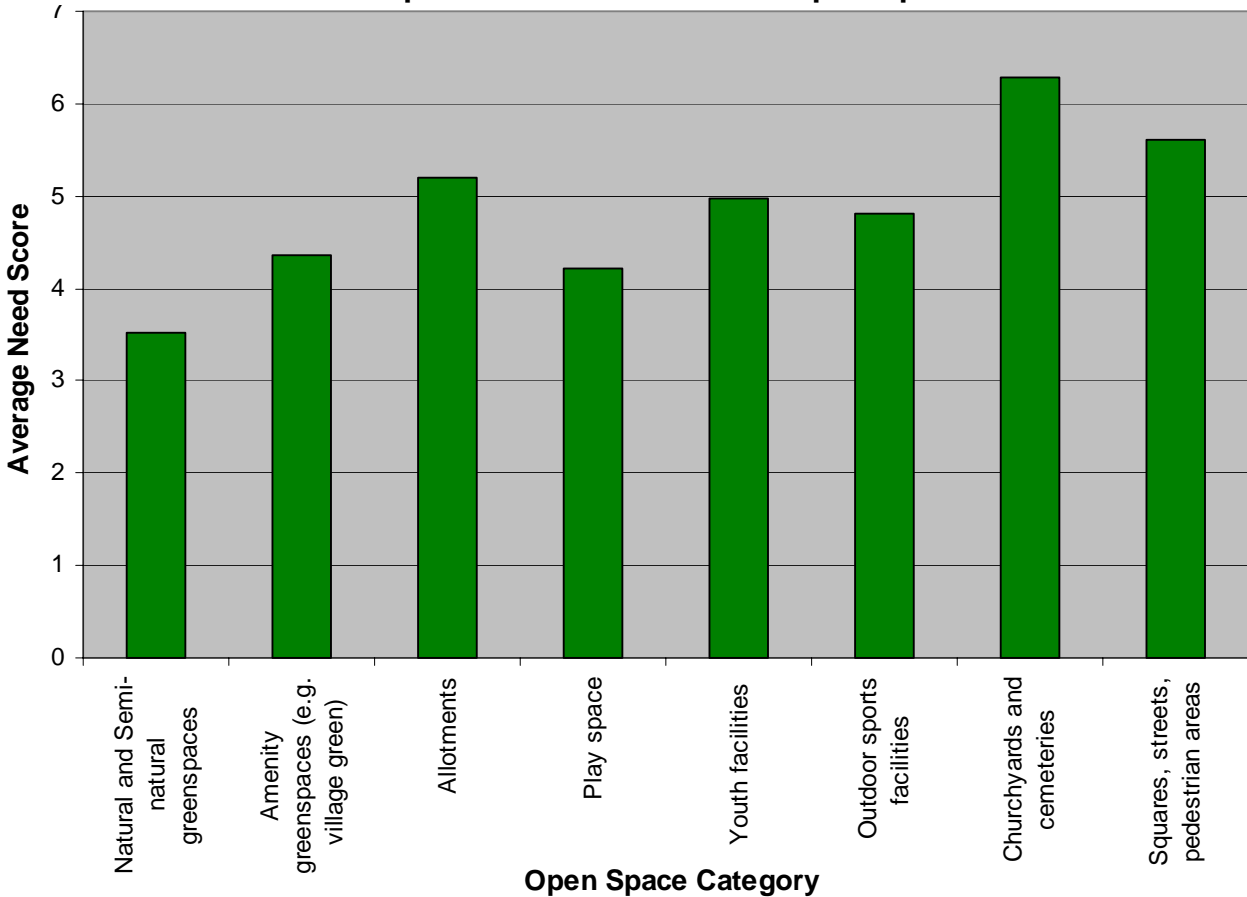
Graph 4: Quality of Open Space



Graph 5: Value of Open Space



Graph 6: Perceived Need for Open Space



The results from this survey have been used to inform the development of local provision standards for the quantity and accessibility of current open space provision. General comments on open space were also provided as part of the consultation, which has been fed into the categories of open space as appropriate to give more specific information and perceptions on the different types of open space.

Information gathered as part of preliminary research for the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document has also been utilised to inform the assessment of outdoor sports facilities in the District.

Step 2: Audit Local Provision

Quantity

The open spaces have been placed into the different categories identified above by determining how each site is used by the majority of people visiting the site (according to their 'primary purpose'). However, even though the open spaces in the District have been categorised in this way, most of the sites will also meet the criteria of other categories of open space and will therefore fulfill more than one function. For example, an outdoor sports facility may also function as an amenity greenspace. This is important to remember where a shortage of a particular type of open space is evident within parts of the District because other categories of open space may be able to provide for the deficiency.

The current provision of each type of open space is determined by calculating the approximate size of each individual identified site in hectares. The combined total size of the sites is then divided by the total population of the District (based on the population at the time of the 2001 Census) to give a quantified open space provision per 1000 of the population. The size of each type of open space broken down at site level according to ward area can be found in Appendix A.

Quality

A qualitative assessment of the District's open spaces is required to ascertain which of the sites are in a good condition and meet the needs of the local community. Quality inspections for the majority of the open spaces identified in this assessment have been undertaken via a site visit and the completion of a scored proforma. They have been rated according to their quality ranging from 'very poor' to 'very good' condition based on quality definitions which can be found in Appendix E. The information from this assessment will enable the Council and other bodies which are responsible for open space in the District to make informed decisions with regards to the resources required to undertake improvements in site management and maintenance, where appropriate.

In summary quality relates to the range of facilities and physical infrastructure contained within individual sites. The audit considers factors such as accessibility, safety, management and maintenance of each site. It also considers the presence and condition of fixtures such as benches, bins, entrances, signage, hedges, trees and footpaths.

This assessment scores the different sites visited according to the individual criteria set for each type of open space, which is based on the PPG17 scoring system template and guidance provided within PPG17. The criteria has been adapted for the different open spaces as appropriate and can be found in Appendix E. Each type of open space has therefore been

assessed against different criteria and consequently will have different criteria weighting and higher or lower overall percentages depending on the amount of criteria. As such each type of open space will have a different quality threshold to reflect the quantum of quality criteria, distribution of quality for each type of open space and overall quality of the sites visited. Each site has also been assessed on where they are performing well and where there are potential opportunities for improvement. The sites have been measured in a consistent and objective way and the audit has sought to reflect the condition of sites from a visitors perspective as at the time of assessment. It is acknowledged that the sites are in general frequently maintained and the scores reflect their condition at one given moment in time.

Each type of open space has been given an average quality score as a percentage of the total which has been categorised into the appropriate qualitative description for their condition. Photographic examples of different open spaces within each category are presented to depict the range of open space provision and highlight any characteristics and features which may impact on quality. Average quality scores derived from the public consultation have also been drawn upon to compare and contrast perceptions on quality for each type of open space. As such this is primarily a qualitative assessment with recommendations for improvements and a quantitative standard provided where appropriate.

PPG17 asserts that the quality and value of open spaces are different concepts. Value should be assessed to determine which sites are of higher or lower value and if this is not done, then "it is impossible objectively to identify those spaces or facilities which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose". Previous public consultations undertaken as part of the preparation of the Council's Local Development Framework have highlighted the importance of public open space by the local community, and thus all of the District's open spaces are considered to be of benefit and value (although this may differ between the different types in the public's perceptions) and, consequently, all worthy of protection through the planning system. The value of each type of open space will be determined through public consultation and any potential for enhancement to open spaces will be determined through qualitative assessments.

Accessibility

The recommended distance threshold to determine the accessibility of open spaces has been derived through public consultation which has been benchmarked against other Local Authorities open space accessibility standards. This identifies the perceived acceptable travelling distance and mode of travel to each identified open space across the District. From the survey results, the accessibility standard to the open spaces was established through determining the acceptable travel time/distance chosen by 75% of respondents which is recommended in the guidance, as this represents the catchment which is acceptable to the majority of respondents.

The potential accessibility of each type of open space included in this assessment has been digitally mapped to show the spatial distribution of provision and the distance threshold / catchment identified, which is represented by simple circles around each site. These maps are presented within each section of the document. It should be noted however that they are based on straight line distance and do take into consideration local geography, and major severance lines where applicable such as roads and railways.

General accessibility issues identified at each of the visited sites such as narrow or overgrown entrances are also considered as part of the quality assessment.

Step 3: Determine Provision Standards

Proposed local standards have been developed having regard to public opinion on existing open space provision, the views of Council Officers, and they have also been benchmarked against any existing national standards and against the standards of other Local Authorities.

Quantity

The local quantity standard for open spaces has been determined through assessing the need of each type (as perceived by respondents to the public consultation), benchmarking current provision against other Local Authorities (set out in Appendix B) and having regard to national standards.

A deliverable recommended quantity standard has therefore been derived for each category. However it is important to remember as expressed in PPG17 that improving access to local open spaces for example through improved public transport provision or cycling routes can often be as effective as providing additional facilities.

These recommended standards are minimum standards. Where the current provision within an area may be above this standard, this does not mean that there is a surplus *per se*. The minimum recommended standards should be used as a guide to increase the overall provision of each type of open space throughout the District. The maps seek (when combined with the catchment mapping) to identify priority areas where the greatest need for additional open space or improved accessibility to existing facilities has been identified.

Quality

This study will determine how the District's open spaces are currently performing against quality criteria. Accordingly each open space audited will be given a percentage and from this those sites which are considered to be of less than desirable quality at the time of assessment will be identified. From this a quality standard can be specified for each type of open space (generally average quality as a minimum) as appropriate. Furthermore specific recommended improvements to visited sites, as appropriate will be discussed within each chapter and within the quality comments in Appendix F.

Accessibility

The time/distance thresholds which determine the recommended catchment and accessibility of each type of open space, having regard to the public consultation, have been determined through benchmarking standards against other Local Authorities standards and national criteria, where available. For example a 10 minute walking distance is considered to be equivalent to 800m⁵ from an established centre and a 10 minute driving catchment is considered to be equivalent to 4km in the context of this assessment. The recommended accessibility standards which are benchmarked against other Local Authorities can be found in Appendix C.

⁵ 'Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments Practice Guidance'. Department for Communities and Local Government: London (July 2007)

Step 4: Apply Provision Standards

Quantity

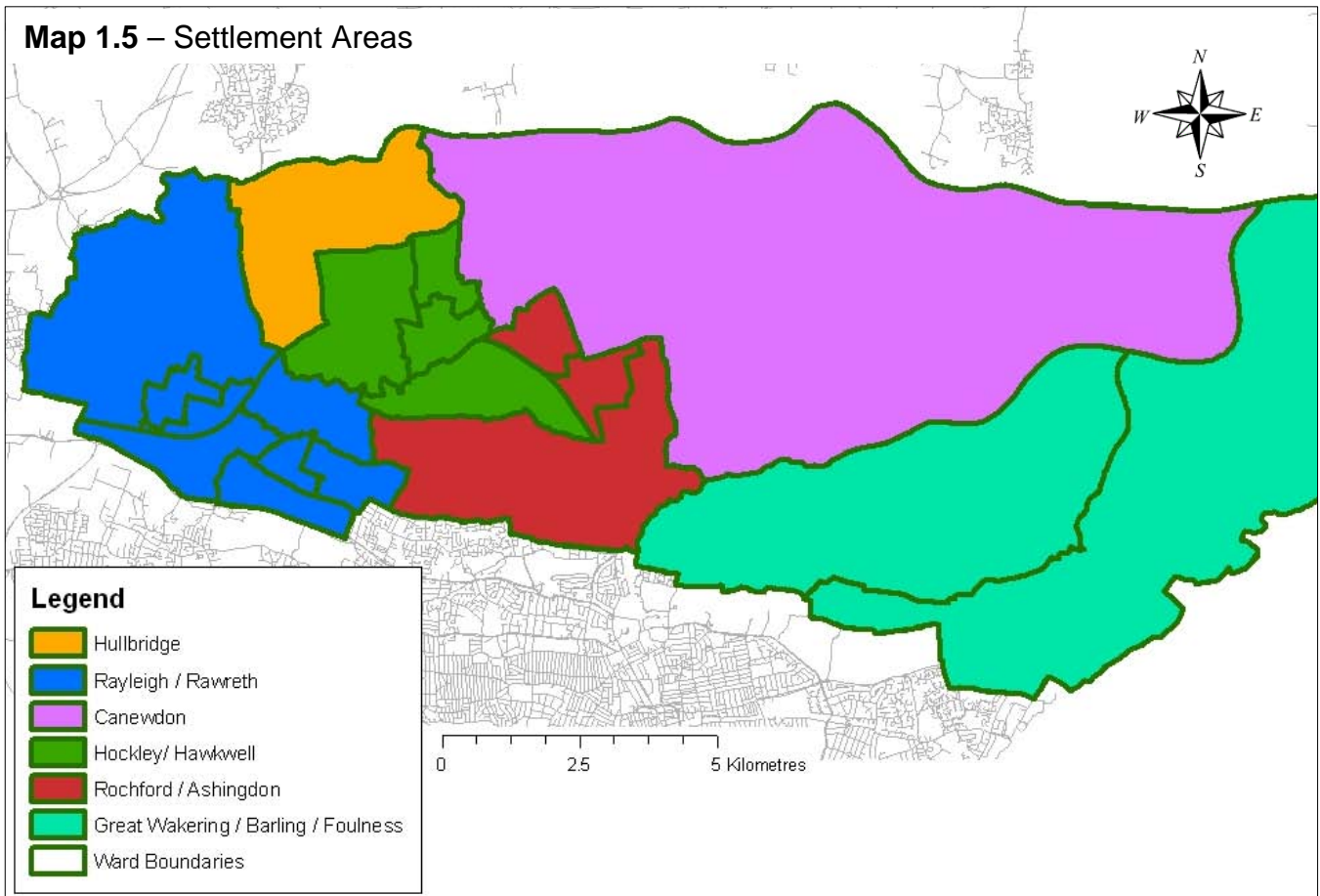
Recommended local provision standards for each type of open space will be derived as appropriate. These will then be applied to each ward area as in Appendix A giving the provision per 1000 of the ward population and then the recommended provision standard applied to identify potential surpluses or deficits in current provision.

For the purposes of the open space audit, wards have been used for the initial assessment as they provide a useful base unit. As such, the identified open spaces have been split into their respective ward areas to show the location and size of each space. It is recognised, as per the guidance, that such an arbitrary boundary does not consider provision on the edge of, or in other wards. Ward areas, however are a simple representative method which has been used to give an idea of the deficit or surplus within each local area in proximity to a type of open space.

In addition to the current provision per ward area, the different types of open space have been divided into general settlement areas as in Table 1.4 and shown on Map 1.5. These will constitute further analysis areas to try and give a clearer picture as to the areas where there is a deficit in supply of particular types of open space.

Table 1.4 – Settlement Areas of the District

Settlement Area	Wards	Population per Ward (2001)	Total Population per Settlement Area
Rayleigh/ Rawreth	Lodge	3974	31199
	Rayleigh Central	4284	
	Downhall and Rawreth	4057	
	Grange	3366	
	Sweyne Park	4325	
	Trinity	3580	
	Wheatley	3885	
Rochford/ Ashingdon	Whitehouse	3728	15200
	Rochford	6870	
	Hawkwell North	4369	
Hockley/ Hawkwell	Hawkwell South	3961	13929
	Hockley Central	6111	
	Hockley North	1872	
	Hockley West	2008	
Hullbridge	Hullbridge	3938	6445
Canewdon	Canewdon	6445	4208
Great Wakering/ Barling/ Foulness	Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	7508
	Barling and Sutton	1784	
	Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	
Total			78489



Quality

This study will identify specific quality standards for each type of open space as appropriate and will identify specific recommended improvements to sites where necessary within each chapter and Appendix F.

Accessibility

The accessibility standard which has been derived primarily through public consultation and comparison with other local authorities' standards will be mapped to create a spatially representative catchment map for each of the types of open space to identify areas which are not accessible within the recommended catchment.

A recommendation will be provided identifying the general areas where a deficit in provision of each type of open space has been identified and where existing provision is outside the recommended accessibility catchment. It should be remembered that as recognised within the guidance, that improving and enhancing the accessibility of existing open space provision may be more effective in meeting the objectives of PPG17 than providing additional facilities.

Step 5: Draft Local Policies

The final chapter of this assessment summarises the proposed standards that have been derived, where appropriate, following an extensive audit of open spaces and identified needs, having regard to other local authorities recommended standards and officer discussion.

Introduction

This document forms part of the evidence base for the Council's Local Development Framework and as such these recommendations should be taken forward through the process to inform the preparation of planning policy and in the determination of planning applications where the inclusion of open space may be required. As part of the evidence base, this document will also be updated as necessary.

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

Introduction

Natural and semi-natural greenspaces include woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water and nature reserves, which are valuable for wildlife conservation, environmental education and biodiversity. Such environments contribute to quality of life and the cohesion of communities through providing accessible, sustainable habitats which support biodiversity and provide 'green lungs' for informal recreation and leisure purposes. They are important for people who live or work in the District or those who visit and therefore play a key role in achieving the Council's vision.

There is an abundance of natural and semi-natural greenspaces throughout the District, some which are available for use by the public and some of which are privately owned or managed. PPG17 recognises that green areas which are inaccessible to the public contribute to local biodiversity and environmental quality through acting as important 'green lungs'.

The majority of the District (12,763 hectares) is designated Metropolitan Green Belt, however, due to the rural nature of the District, it is impractical to audit all of the greenspaces, many of which are protected by international, national or local designations. For example there are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the District (Hockley Woods, Foulness and the Crouch and Roach Estuaries), four Local Nature Reserves (Hockley Woods, Hullbridge Foreshore, Marylands and Magnolia Fields) and 39 Local Wildlife Sites (LoWSs). There are numerous other important nature conservation designations throughout the District – for further information see Rochford District Council Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Information Profile.

Many of the District's important public open greenspaces are linked by a comprehensive network of public footpaths and bridleways (see Map 1.2). Such public rights of way also extend across private land thus increasing the potential accessibility of the District's open spaces and people's access to the wider countryside. This audit will therefore only assess the current provision of natural and semi-natural greenspaces which are publicly accessible.

Quantity

This assessment has identified 20 areas of open space that are characterised as areas of natural and semi-natural greenspaces available for public use across the District.

Country Parks are important natural and semi-natural greenspaces which perform the same leisure, recreational and amenity function as other greenspaces within the District. It should be noted, however, that the current provision of country parks is assessed separately within the 'Country Park' chapter.

Furthermore the RSPB is currently transforming a large area of land to the east of the District through the Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project, which involves the managed realignment of the coast to create a substantial wetland habitat. This project is supported by the emerging

Core Strategy and has the potential to create further leisure and recreational opportunities in the District.

Current Provision

All the sites which have been identified are over one hectare in size and are considered to be natural or semi-natural open spaces which are managed as such. These are:

- Kendal Park Nature Reserve, Ferry Road, Hullbridge
- Rochford Reservoir and open space, Bradley Way, Rochford
- Doggetts Wildlife Area, St Clare Meadows, Rochford
- Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell
- Marylands Avenue Nature Reserve, Marylands Avenue, Hockley
- Spencers Park Public Open Space, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh
- Glencroft open space, White Hart Lane, Hawkwell
- Betts Wood, Westminster Drive, Hockley
- Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley
- Nature reserve and open space at Grove Road, Rayleigh
- Rayleigh Mount, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh
- Sweyne Park open space, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh
- Land off Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh
- Lower Wyburns open space, Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh
- Hambro Hill open space, Hambro Hill, Rayleigh
- Kingley Wood open space, near Western Road, Rayleigh
- Hockley Woods, Main Road, Hockley
- Wheatley Wood, near Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh
- Barling Magna Wildlife Park, Mucking Hall Road, Barling
- Great Wakering Common, Common Road, Great Wakering

The current provision and estimated size of these sites by ward area can be found in Appendix A. The total combined area of the identified natural and semi-natural greenspaces is an estimated 229.63 hectares, which equates to 2.93 hectares per 1000 of the District's population (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of greenspaces (ha)	Greenspaces provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	229.63	2.93

This type of open space was found to be one of the most frequently visited within the District according to responses from the open space survey, with natural and semi-natural greenspaces on average being visited at least once a fortnight. They are considered to be a very important type of open space by 84% of respondents and are suggested as being the type which is most needed by respondents in their local community.

Recommended Provision

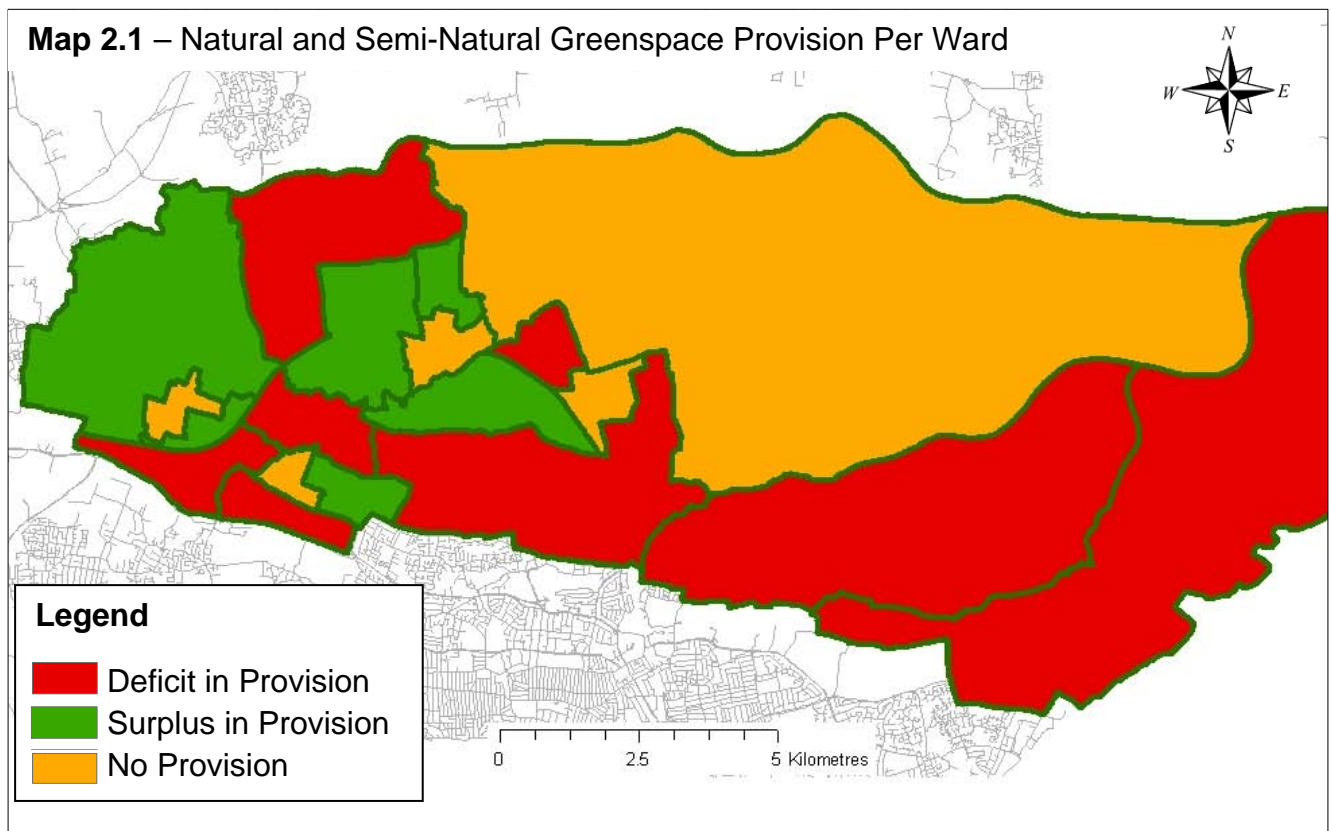
Natural England recognises the importance of providing quality natural greenspaces which are accessible to the local population, which is further considered in the Accessibility section.

A recommended provision standard should have regard to the development of additional natural and semi-natural greenspace taking place to the east of the District at Wallasea

Island, and Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park to the west of the District (which is considered in the 'Country Park' chapter), consultation responses and to other Local Authority greenspace standards (Appendix B). Accordingly it is recommended that the current minimum provision should be increased slightly to 3 hectares of natural and semi-natural greenspace per 1000 of the District's population. In accordance with the guidance, however, opportunities to improve the accessibility to existing natural and semi-natural greenspaces should also be considered.

Recommended Local Provision Standard: 3.00 hectares per 1000 population

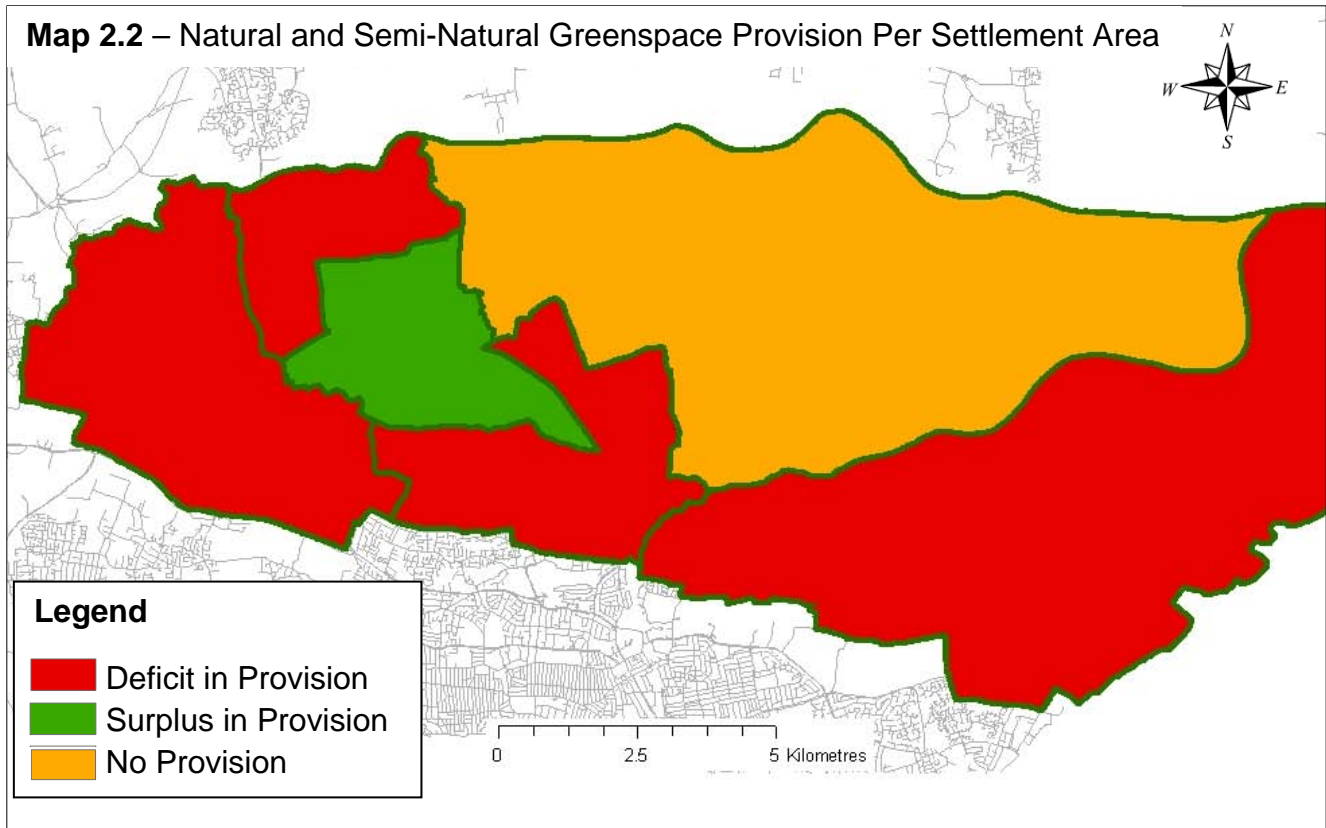
This recommended local provision standard has been applied at ward level for those wards which are served by an area of natural and/or semi-natural greenspace. The quantity of surplus or deficit in provision per ward area can be found in Appendix A, and a graphical representation is shown in Map 2.1 below.



This shows that there is a potential deficit in supply for the majority of the District's wards. There is, however, an identified potential surplus of provision in Hockley North, Hockley West, Hawkwell West, Downhall and Rawreth, Grange and Lodge. There is currently no provision in some of the other ward areas.

It is important to note, however, that when applying the minimum standard at the ward level there will be some wards that appear to have an oversupply and some that fall below the recommended minimum provision level as identified above. In reality, however, a ward may be adjacent to another that has a plentiful supply of open space and therefore its population falls within the catchment of this space, so the fact it is below the minimum recommended standard is not necessarily a problem.

To try and give a more representative picture of the current provision of natural and semi-natural greenspaces, the District has also been divided into settlement areas (see Table 1.4) to further highlight the potential deficiencies in natural and semi-natural greenspaces. The calculations for natural and semi-natural greenspaces provision per settlement area can be found in Appendix A. This is depicted in Map 2.2 below.



This suggests that the majority of the District currently has a deficit in supply of natural and semi-natural greenspaces, with the central area of Hawkwell/Hockley having a potential surplus in provision and Canewdon having no current provision of defined natural and semi-natural greenspaces. In the area of Canewdon, however, it should be acknowledged that there is a significant network of public rights of way which increase access to the wider countryside.

The priority areas are those which are both below the recommended minimum standard and also fall outside the accessibility catchment of this type of open space. This is defined within the accessibility section and catchment mapping below (Map 2.3).

Quality

The natural and semi-natural greenspaces audited consist of woodlands, grasslands, nature reserves and other areas in the District which are managed for wildlife conservation. Generally there are no hard surfaced pathways through these sites and many areas are left wild to encourage wildlife and increase local biodiversity.

Two of the identified natural and semi-natural greenspaces are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. These are Plumberow Mount and Rayleigh Mount (owned and managed by the National Trust). Scheduled Monuments are sites of national importance which are protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The purpose of this designation is to preserve the monument for the future and protect it from damage, destruction or any unnecessary interference.

Many of these sites are managed by local Parish and Town Councils. Great Wakering Common for example is one of the District's registered areas of common land. It is currently managed by Great Wakering Parish Council, and as grazing is no longer undertaken on the Common, it is being managed to create a high biodiversity semi-natural habitat. Further information on Common Land can be found in the Rochford District Council Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Information Profile. Other locally managed sites include Barling Magna Millennium Wildlife Park which is a recently established semi-natural greenspace, and Kendal Park Nature Reserve.

Some of the sites are owned and/or managed by other organisations, for example Wheatley Wood is owned and maintained by the Woodlands Trust, and Rayleigh Mount is owned and maintained by the National Trust. Other sites are managed by the Council.

Current Quality

Quality assessment looked at seven criteria which were considered key areas for natural and semi-natural greenspaces. This included assessing the condition and maintenance of the main entrance, site boundary, roads/paths and access, planted areas, grass areas, facilities such as bins, seating, toilets, parking, lighting and information provided about the greenspace, and the cleanliness of the site. The quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the quality score represents a 'snapshot' in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the visit.

Quality ratings were provided for 16 of the 20 sites (Table 2.2) of which nine were rated as being of 'good' to 'very good' quality. Sites with scores over 50% were perceived to be of 'good' to 'very good' quality, between 50% and 40% were considered to be 'average' to 'good' quality and 40% or below were considered to be 'poor' to 'very poor' quality.

Table 2.2 – Quality Scores for the greenspaces audited

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Quality Score
Hockley Woods, Hockley	74.0%
Rayleigh Mount, Rayleigh	62.0%
Kendal Park, Hullbridge	58.0%
Rochford Reservoir, Rochford	58.0%
Plumberow Mount, Hockley	54.0%
Spencers Park, Hawkwell	54.0%
Marylands Avenue Nature Reserve, Hockley	52.0%
Land off Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rayleigh	52.0%
Sweyne Park, Rayleigh	52.0%
Glencroft Nurseries open space, Hawkwell	48.0%
Magnolia Park Nature Reserve, Hawkwell	48.0%
Kingley Wood open space, Rayleigh	44.0%
Grove Wood, Rayleigh	40.0%

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

Wheatley Wood, Rayleigh	38.0%
Doggetts Wildlife Area, Rochford	36.0%
Betts Wood, Hockley	32.0%

An example of the natural and semi-natural greenspaces ranging from 'average' to 'very good quality' are shown in the figures below:



Figure 2.1 – Example of 'good' to 'very good' quality (Marylands Avenue open space)



Figure 2.2 – Example of 'good' to 'very good' quality (Rochford Reservoir)



Figure 2.3 – Example of 'average' to 'good' quality (Glencroft open space)



Figure 2.4 – Example of 'average' to 'good' quality (Magnolia Nature Reserve)

Four of the natural and semi-natural greenspaces, however, were considered to be 'poor' to 'very poor' in quality. These were:

- Wheatley Wood, Rayleigh
- Grove Wood (nature reserve and including open space at Grove Road), Rayleigh
- Betts Wood, Hockley
- Doggetts Wildlife Area, Rochford

These four sites were found to have inadequately defined pathways and identifiable entrances with suitable access particularly disabled access, and they were found to generally

have a lack of bins and seating provided on site. Within Grove Wood and Doggetts Wildlife Area in particular, there were identified problems with litter and graffiti. However, there were also some good spaces identified on the sites such as the wide pathways through part of Grove Wood, and several bins were identified at Doggetts Wildlife Area (although these were found to be overflowing at the time of the assessment). An example of some of the poorer quality areas are shown in the figures below:



Figure 2.5 – Example of ‘poor’ to ‘very poor’ quality (Betts Wood)



Figure 2.6 – Example of ‘poor’ to ‘very poor’ quality (Doggetts Wildlife Area)

On average, the natural and semi-natural greenspaces have been assessed as being of ‘good’ to ‘very good’ quality. However, there were some general issues identified across the sites, which were:

- Inadequate lighting;
- Insufficient information, bins or benches provided in some areas;
- Some issues with accessibility both through the site and from main entrances, particularly disabled access, for example at Spencers Park, Magnolia Nature Reserve, Wheatley Wood and Doggetts Wildlife Area;
- Inadequate footpaths; and
- Evidence of litter, graffiti and dog fouling.

The figures below highlight some areas where there were identified issues of vandalism or poor quality items of street furniture which are in need of maintenance and repair.



Figure 2.7 – Evidence of graffiti (Marylands Avenue Nature Reserve)



Figure 2.8 – Evidence of waymarker in need of repair (Grove Wood)



Figure 2.9 – Example of inadequate access in areas of Sweyne Park



Figure 2.10 – Example of inadequate access in areas of Wheatley wood

A particular strength noted at many of the audited natural and semi-natural greenspaces was signage, which at most of the sites provided information about wildlife and identified pathways and seating areas, for example.



Figure 2.11 – Information sign at Plumberow Mount



Figure 2.12 – Information sign at Doggetts Wildlife Area

The District's natural and semi-natural greenspaces are considered to be of 'good' quality by over 60% of participants in the open space consultation, with a further 19% considering the greenspaces to be of 'very good' quality and 13% suggesting they are of 'poor' quality.

There were some general comments in response to the survey regarding natural and semi-natural greenspaces. General concern was expressed over the loss of greenspaces; the loss of such facilities in and around Rayleigh town centre was specifically mentioned, with the development of facilities in more out of town locations which are not easily accessible, particularly for children and the elderly. Increased policing was mentioned as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and maintenance was raised as a potential issue, with particular reference to the emptying of dog bins and the unnecessary cutting down of trees and bushes through fear of crime and safety concerns. The preservation of public open spaces was raised and the desire for more wild areas in greenspaces to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. Concern was also expressed regarding fishing and damage at Sweyne Park in Rayleigh and problems with litter near the fishing lake at Wheatley Woods in Rayleigh.

Recommended Quality

Priorities for improvement should be the greenspaces identified in Table 2.2 as being 40% or below which are considered to be of 'poor' to 'very poor' quality at the time of assessment. Furthermore the quality issues which have been identified above and in Appendix F should be addressed. As such the minimum quality standard which natural and semi-natural greenspaces should meet against the quality criteria in Appendix E is greater than 40%.

Recommended Local Quality Standard: >40%

Accessibility

The District's natural and semi-natural greenspaces are generally located in and around the residential area, and as already been acknowledged they are connected through a network of public rights of way.

Current Accessibility

Generally the accessibility, including disabled access through all of the natural and semi-natural greenspaces was adequate, however, there were some specific issues identified regarding access into some of the sites. Spencers Park, for example was found to have several narrow entrances with angled metal railings in place which makes disabled access into the open space difficult in places. Another area where accessibility was identified as an issue was Magnolia Nature Reserve. This area of open space has good disabled access to the front section of the site (which is an area of mowed grass) but there was found to be poor disabled access to and throughout the main nature reserve to the rear of the site.

Other natural and semi-natural greenspaces where accessibility was identified as an issue include Wheatley Woods (for example the entrances from St John Fisher Playing Field and Aldham Gardens) and Doggetts Wildlife Area (inadequate signage to the site via Doggetts Chase and poor pathways particularly around the southern and eastern sections of the site).



Figure 2.13 – Example of inadequate access to Spencers Park



Figure 2.14 – Main entrance to Magnolia Nature Reserve including disabled access gate



Figure 2.15 – Example of narrow in fence leading to mowed grass pathway through Magnolia Nature Reserve



Figure 2.16 – Access to Wheatley Wood from Aldham Chase

Recommended Accessibility

Natural England¹ has developed ANGSt (accessible natural greenspace standard) which recommends that people living in towns and cities should have access to a quality natural greenspaces of:

- at least two hectares in size, within 300 metres walking distance from home;
- at least 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- at least 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home;
- at least 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; and
- one hectare of Local Nature Reserves per 1,000 of the population.

However, it is recognised that this is a long-term vision, which is unlikely to be deliverable in the short-term.

The Woodland Trust² has also developed the woodland access standard, which aspires that:

- no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size; and
- there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km roundtrip) of people’s homes.

Consultation highlighted that over 50% of respondents normally travel to natural and semi-natural greenspaces on foot, with a further 32% stating that they normally drive to this type of open space. A walk of less than 15 minutes was considered to generally be an acceptable travelling time to natural and semi-natural greenspaces by over 75% of respondents to the survey. It is recommended as shown in the summary table below that natural and semi-natural greenspaces should in general be located up to 1200 metres (the equivalent walking distance) from residents.

The majority of the natural and semi-natural greenspaces ranged from 1.71 hectares to 22.57 hectares (see Appendix A), thus the recommended accessibility standard 1200 metres should be appropriate for these greenspaces. It is noted that although two of the greenspaces are bigger than 20 hectares, they are as less than 100 hectares (Hockley Woods is approximately 85.6 hectares and Wheatley Woods is approximately 33.95 hectares). Thus the recommended accessibility standard should still be aspired to, although this may be reviewed.

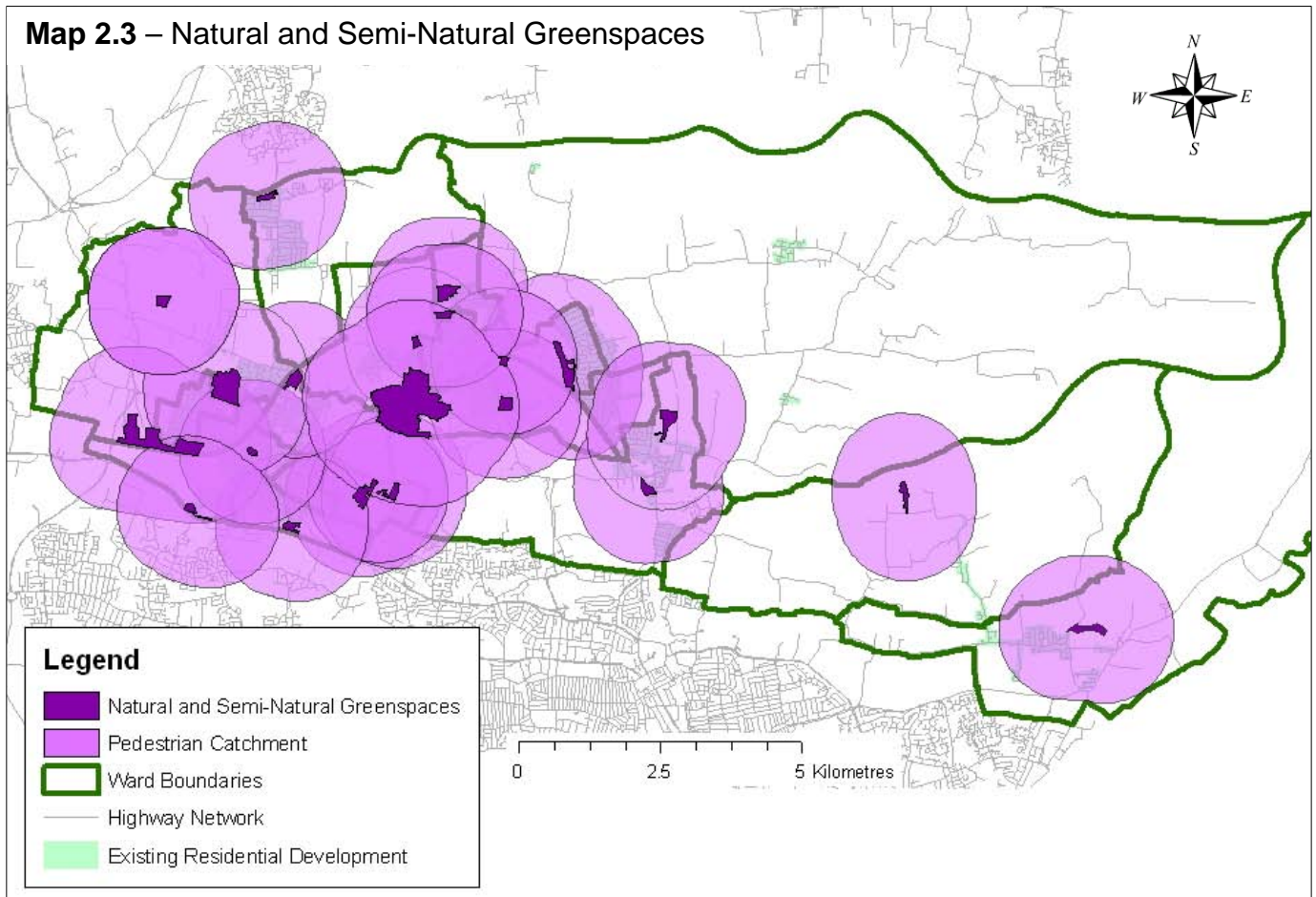
Table 2.3 – Accessibility Standard

Recommended travel time	Indicative equivalent distance
<15 minute walk	<1200m

¹ ‘Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities: A Practical Guide to Assessing the Resource and Implementing Local Standards for Provision’ from <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

² ‘Space for People: Targeting action for woodland access’ from <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

The location of the District's natural and semi-natural greenspaces and their potential pedestrian catchment are shown in Map 2.3 below.



This catchment map (Map 2.3) suggests that many of the natural and semi-natural greenspaces are accessible to local communities within the recommended pedestrian accessibility catchment, particularly to the west of the District. There is, however, a deficit of natural and semi-natural greenspaces within Canewdon and Great Wakering/Little Wakering, which has already been identified in the settlement mapping (Map 2.2).

In addition to the natural and semi-natural greenspaces identified, it is important to take into account other greenspaces which are considered elsewhere in this assessment, and greenspaces which are being developed, for example through the Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project. There is also a comprehensive network of public rights of way throughout the District which run through much of the countryside affording access to vast areas of greenspace (although some may be in private ownership). Therefore whilst it is beneficial to increase the proportion of natural and semi-natural greenspaces throughout the District, in line with the recommended provision level (3.00 hectares per 1000 of the District's population), opportunities to improve the accessibility to existing greenspaces should also be considered. Additional greenspaces should realistically be situated within areas of potential deficit which have been identified (Map 2.2) in localities outside the recommended pedestrian catchment (Map 2.3).

Vision

'Provide a plethora of natural and semi-natural greenspaces throughout the District which are accessible to local communities. These should be accessible by a range of sustainable modes of travel where appropriate and they should be of good quality in terms of maintenance, facilities and management.'

To work towards this vision, the following objectives should be met:

- increase the provision in the settlement areas of Rayleigh/Rawreth; Rochford/Ashingdon; Hullbridge and Great Wakering/Barling/Foulness;
- improve accessibility to the natural and semi-natural greenspaces as appropriate;
- improve the quality of the sites identified which fall below the recommended local quality standard; and
- address the specific quality issues identified.

Amenity Greenspaces

Introduction

Amenity greenspaces are most commonly found in and around residential areas. These encompass green areas with their primary purpose to provide opportunities for informal recreation and leisure activities close to home or work, or to enhance the appearance of residential or other areas. They provide accessible greenspaces for people to use for activities such as dog walking, sunbathing and jogging.

This type of open space is important in a number of different ways. They can:

- provide local access to green open spaces;
- improve the quality of life for residents;
- provide areas for recreation;
- function as buffers for noise;
- enhance visual amenity of places; and
- create a stronger sense of civic pride.

Open spaces within this assessment have been categorised according to their primary purpose as recommended within PPG17 to prevent the double counting of these spaces. Playing pitches for example primarily serve as areas for outdoor sports facilities, and as such are classified under the typology of outdoor sports facilities. It is recognised, however, that they often perform the function of amenity greenspaces, particularly in areas where there may be more limited alternative amenity greenspace. Therefore all forms of open space should be considered together with this assessment.

Quantity

Amenity greenspaces, whilst normally situated in and around residential areas, in this assessment includes recognised amenity greenspaces which are owned and managed by the Council. Such greenspaces however do not encompass space left over after planning (SLOAP), and the size limit for the inclusion of open space as amenity greenspace in this assessment is 0.01 hectares. It is also important to acknowledge, as aforementioned, that in accordance with PPG 17, the assessment of open space should depend upon the primary purpose of each open space given the multi-functional role that many of them perform. Thus other areas of open space such as playing fields which may constitute a local amenity greenspace have been audited elsewhere in this assessment.

Current Provision

There are 18 identified amenity greenspaces within the District. The following open spaces are considered amenity greenspaces due to their size, location and perceived functional purpose in relation to residential areas and local communities. The amenity greenspaces are:

- The Village Green, Sycamore Way, Canewdon
- Open space, Rowan Way, Canewdon
- Open space Buckingham Road, Hockley
- Open space, Hartford Avenue, Rayleigh

Amenity Greenspaces

- Open space, Little Wakering Road, Barling
- Hawkwell Common, Main Road, Hawkwell
- Open space, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh
- Open space, Hollytree Gardens, Rayleigh
- Open Space, Broad Parade, Hockley
- Open space, Millview Meadows, Rochford
- Open space, Ferndale Road, Rayleigh
- Open space, Fyfield Path, Rayleigh
- Open space, Lower Lambricks, Rayleigh
- Open space, Woodlands Avenue and the Weir Buffer Strip, Rayleigh
- Open space, Bedford Close, Rayleigh
- Turret House open space, Victoria Road, Rayleigh
- Open space, Southend Road, Rochford
- Brooklands Public Gardens, Hockley Road, Rayleigh

Play space was identified in many areas of amenity greenspace. Where this is the case, the greenspace has been considered as an area with a separate function for informal recreation and leisure opportunities distinct from the play space situated there. As such, play space, which has been assessed separately in the ‘Provision for Children and Young People’ chapter, has been deducted from the total area of greenspace. Therefore any calculations and standards within this section refer specifically to amenity greenspace, with its primary purpose as such, and are thus measured separately from other types of open space.

The identified amenity greenspaces which have an area of play space are:

- Rowan Way, Canewdon
- Little Wakering Road, Barling
- Main Road, Hawkwell
- Boston Avenue, Rayleigh
- Hartford Avenue, Rayleigh
- Fyfield Path, Rayleigh
- Bedford Close, Rayleigh

The current provision and estimated size of amenity greenspaces by ward area can be found in Appendix A. In total the sites have a combined area of 20.048 hectares, and this current provision equates to an estimated 0.26 hectares per 1000 of the District’s population as shown in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of greenspaces (ha)	Greenspace provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	20.048	0.26

Amenity greenspaces were found to one of the most frequently visited types of open space, being visited on average at least once a month by those surveyed. They are considered a very important form of open space by over three quarters of respondents and have been identified as one of the least needed types of open space below allotments and natural and semi-natural greenspaces.

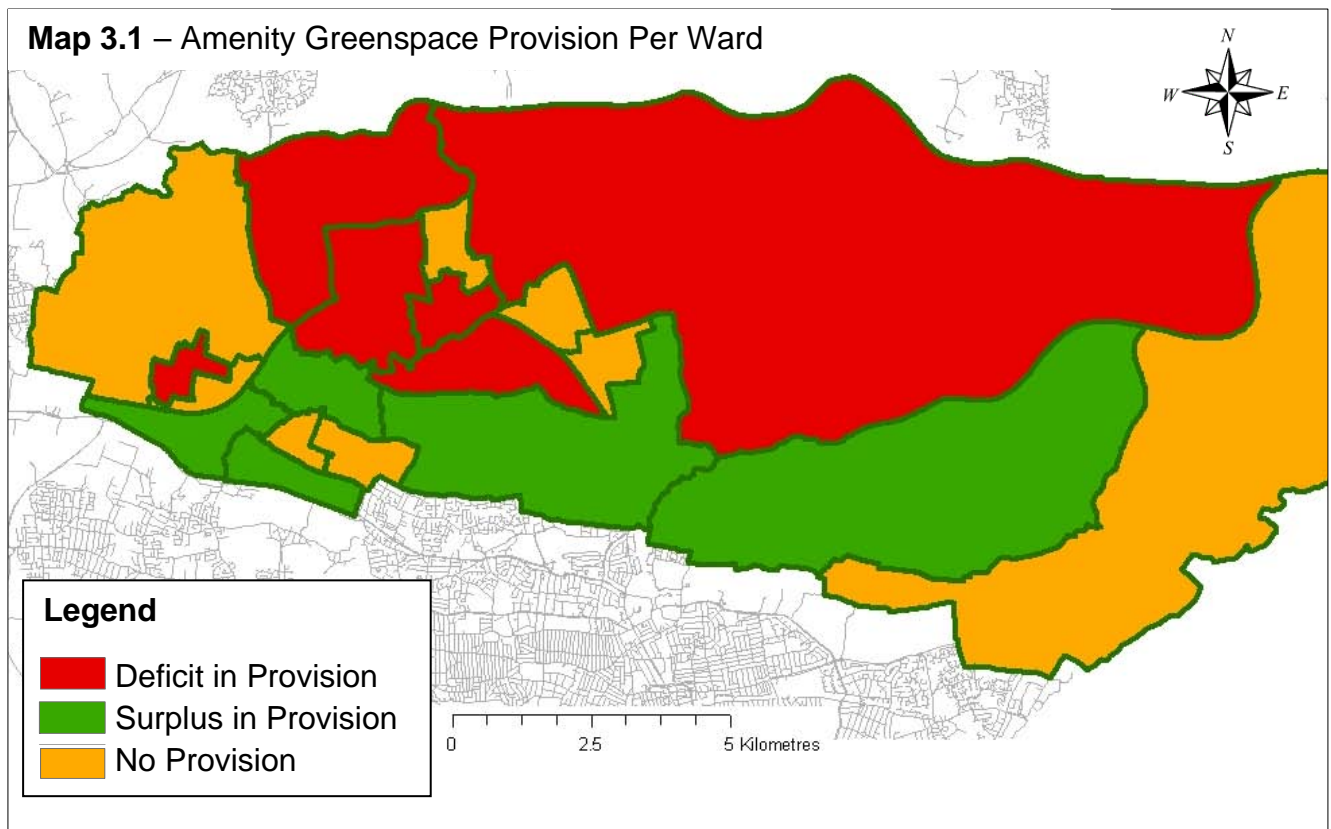
Recommended Provision

Given consultation responses, it is recommended that a slight increase in current provision would be appropriate to meet the needs of local communities. However, as previously acknowledged open spaces can perform a multifunctional role, providing a range of

opportunities for the local community, and as such it is important to acknowledge that other sites identified in this assessment can perform the same informal recreation and leisure function as the sites identified in this chapter. Therefore it is recommended the local provision standard for amenity greenspace should be 0.3 hectares per 1000 of the population.

Recommended Local Provision Standard: 0.3 hectares per 1000 population

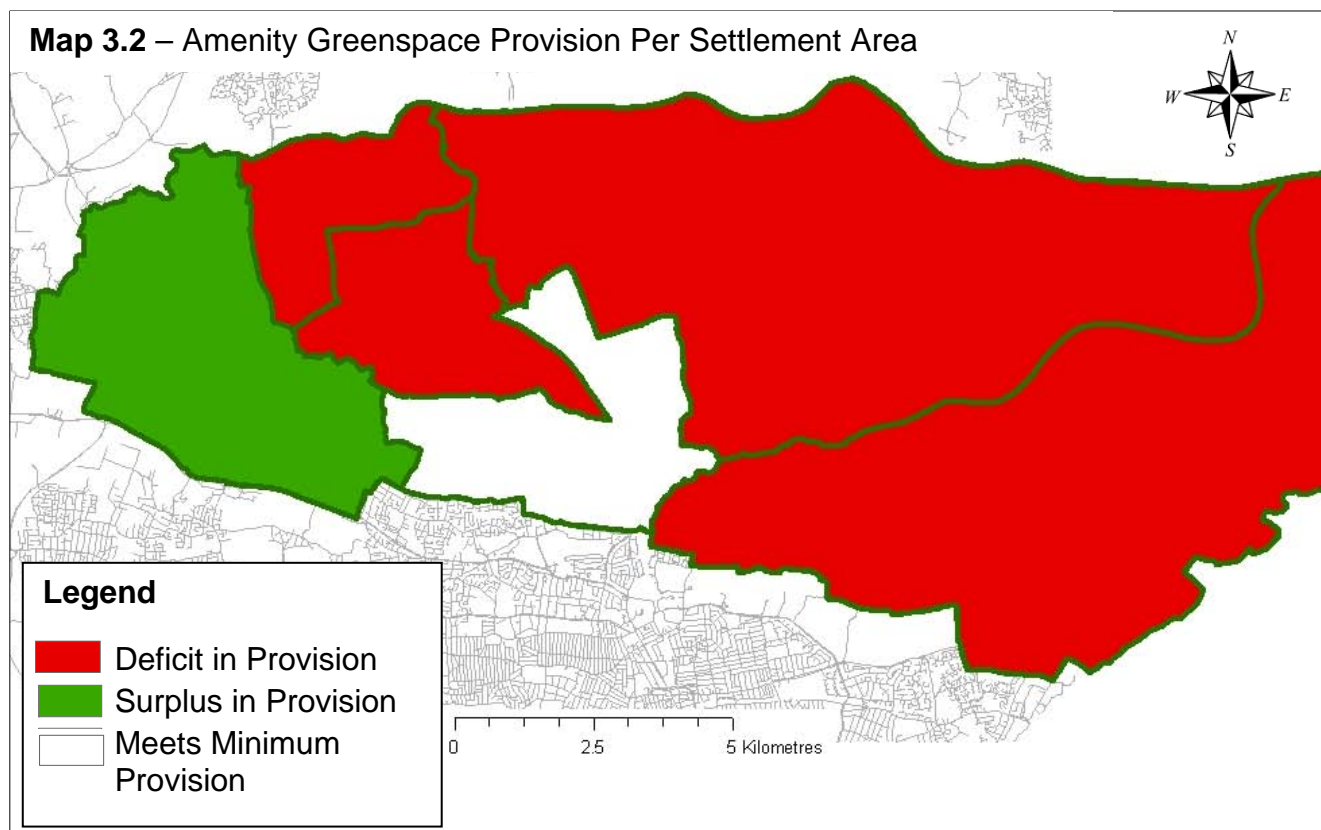
This recommended local provision standard has been applied at ward level for those wards which are served by an area of amenity greenspace. The quantity of surplus or deficit in provision per ward area can be found in Appendix A, and a graphical representation is shown in Map 3.1 below.



This shows that there is a potential deficit in supply for many of the District’s wards predominantly to the north of the District. These are Ashingdon and Canewdon, Hullbridge, Hawkwell West, Hockley Central, Hockley West and Sweyne Park wards. There is an identified potential surplus of provision in Barling and Sutton, Rochford, Trinity, Wheatley and Whitehouse wards. There is currently no provision in all other ward areas. As aforementioned, however, such greenspaces can have a multi-functional role for the local community and it is important to consider greenspaces included as other types of open space in this assessment.

It is important to note, however, that when applying the minimum standard at ward level there will be some wards that appear to have an oversupply and some that fall below the recommended minimum provision level as identified above. In reality, however, a ward may be adjacent to another that has a plentiful supply of open space and therefore its population falls within the catchment of this space so the fact it is below the minimum recommended standard is not necessarily a problem.

To try and give a more representative picture of the current provision of amenity greenspaces, the District has also been divided into settlement areas (see Table 1.4) to further highlight the potential deficiencies in amenity greenspaces. The calculations for amenity greenspaces provision per settlement area can be found in Appendix A. This is depicted in Map 3.2 below.



This suggests that there is generally a deficit in supply of amenity greenspaces to the north and east of the District (Canewdon, Hullbridge, Hawkwell/Hockley and Great Wakering/Barling/Foulness), with the western area of Rayleigh/Rawreth having a potential surplus in provision and Rochford/Ashingdon currently meeting the minimum recommended local provision standard.

The priority areas for the provision of amenity greenspace are those which are both below the recommended minimum standard and also fall outside the accessibility catchment of this type of open space. This is defined within the accessibility section and catchment mapping below (Map 3.3).

However, whilst Map 3.2 appears to show a surplus of provision for Rayleigh, it is also important to read this in conjunction with Map 3.1. Together, these indicate that whilst there is a surplus in Rayleigh overall, parts of the settlement are short of amenity greenspace.

Quality

The character of the identified amenity greenspaces vary. Some are simply open grass areas where informal activities may take place, some provide facilities such as bins and benches as

appropriate, and others have an abundance of trees which enhance the ‘natural’ feeling of the greenspaces.

Current Quality

Quality assessment looked at six criteria which were considered key areas for amenity greenspace. This included assessing the condition and maintenance of the site boundary, roads/paths and access, planted areas, grass areas, facilities such as bins, seating, lighting and information provided about the greenspace, and the cleanliness of the site. The quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the quality score represents a ‘snapshot’ in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the visit.

Quality ratings were provided for all the 18 sites (Table 3.2), of which, eight were rated as being of ‘good’ to ‘very good’ quality and eight were rated as being ‘average’ to ‘good’ quality. Sites with scores over 50% were perceived to be of ‘good’ to ‘very good’ quality, between 50% and 40% were considered to be ‘average’ to ‘good’ quality and 40% or below were considered to be ‘poor’ to ‘very poor’ quality.

Table 3.2 – Quality Scores for the greenspaces audited

Amenity Greenspaces	Quality Score
Southend Road open space, Rochford	65.8%
Broad Parade open space, Hockley	63.2%
Hawkwell Common, Hawkwell	57.9%
The Village Green, Canewdon	57.9%
Hollytree Gardens open space, Rayleigh	57.9%
Bedford Close open space, Rayleigh	57.9%
Fyfield Path open space, Rayleigh	57.9%
Millview Meadows open space, Rochford	57.9%
Rowan Way, Canewdon	50.0%
Turret House open space, Rayleigh	50.0%
Ferndale Road open space, Rayleigh	50.0%
Little Wakering Road open space, Barling	47.4%
Hartford Avenue open space, Rayleigh	47.4%
Brookland Gardens, Rayleigh	47.4%
Boston Avenue open space, Rayleigh	42.1%
Woodlands Avenue and the weir buffer strip, Rayleigh	42.1%
Lower Lambricks open space, Rayleigh	39.5%
Buckingham Road open space, Hockley	34.2%

An example of the amenity greenspaces ranging from to ‘average’ to ‘very good’ quality are shown in the figures below:



Figure 3.1 – Example of ‘good’ to ‘very good’ quality (Canewdon Village Green)



Figure 3.2. – Example of ‘good’ to ‘very good’ quality (Hollytree Gardens)



Figure 3.3 – Example of ‘average’ to ‘good’ quality (Woodlands Avenue open space)



Figure 3.4 – Example of ‘average’ to ‘good’ quality (Turret House open space)

Two of the amenity greenspaces, however, were considered to be ‘poor’ to ‘very poor’ in quality. These were:

- Lower Lambricks open space, Rayleigh
- Buckingham Road open space, Hockley

These two sites are functional greenspaces situated in the heart of the residential area with poorly defined access routes, bins, lighting, seating and signage to identify them as greenspaces. The other fifteen sites in comparison, whilst being of varying quality, tend to be more overlooked by adjacent houses which means greater natural surveillance, and are generally easier to identify as an area of greenspace through a combination of factors such as location, signage and other uses of the site, for example as play space.



Figure 3.5 – Example of ‘poor’ to ‘very poor’ quality (Buckingham Road open space)



Figure 3.6 – Example of ‘poor’ to ‘very poor’ quality (Lower Lambricks open space)

On average, the amenity greenspaces have been assessed as being of ‘good’ to ‘very good’ quality. However, there were some general issues identified across the sites, as with the natural and semi-natural areas, which were:

- Inadequate lighting;
- Insufficient information, bins or benches provided, where appropriate;
- Some issues with accessibility from all entrances;
- Some evidence of litter, graffiti and dog fouling; and
- Some broken items such as the light leading to Ferndale Road open space and the bench at Little Wakering Road open space.

The figures below highlight some areas where items of street furniture were identified as being of poor quality and in need of replacement or repair, for example at Little Wakering Road open space and at Ferndale Road open space, and where problems of graffiti were identified.



Figure 3.7 – Broken bench at Little Wakering Road open space



Figure 3.8 – Broken light at Ferndale Road open space



Figure 3.9 – Condition of steps in Brooklands Gardens

Amenity greenspace was considered to vary between 'good' and 'poor' quality by the participants in the consultation, with 32% and 29% respectively. A further 13%, however, considered this type of open space to be of 'very good' quality.

Recommended Quality

Priorities for improvement should be the greenspaces identified in Table 3.2 as being 40% or below which are considered to be of 'poor' to 'very poor' quality at the time of assessment. Furthermore the quality issues which have been identified above and in Appendix F should be addressed. As such the minimum quality standard which amenity greenspaces should meet against the quality criteria in Appendix E is greater than 40%.

Recommended Local Quality Standard: >40%

Accessibility

Current Accessibility

This type of open space is most commonly located within or in close proximity to residential areas, in proximity to other facilities such as play space. It is expected that these should be accessible by foot for the benefit of the local community.

Access was generally considered to be acceptable to the majority of the amenity greenspaces audited. The sites considered to have the poorest access at the time of assessment include open space at Little Wakering Road, Buckingham Road, Ferndale Road and Lower Lambricks. At these sites, problems were identified with inadequate signage with poor legibility as to what the entrance leads to, below quality footpaths to the site (in particular at Little Wakering Road), poor lighting through some of the entrances and there were some issues with disabled access in limited cases.

Where some of the entrances to amenity greenspace were found to have poor accessibility are shown in the examples below:



Figure 3.9 – Entrance to Lower Lambricks open space from Drakes Way



Figure 3.10 – Entrance to Hollytree Gardens open space from Hollytree Gardens

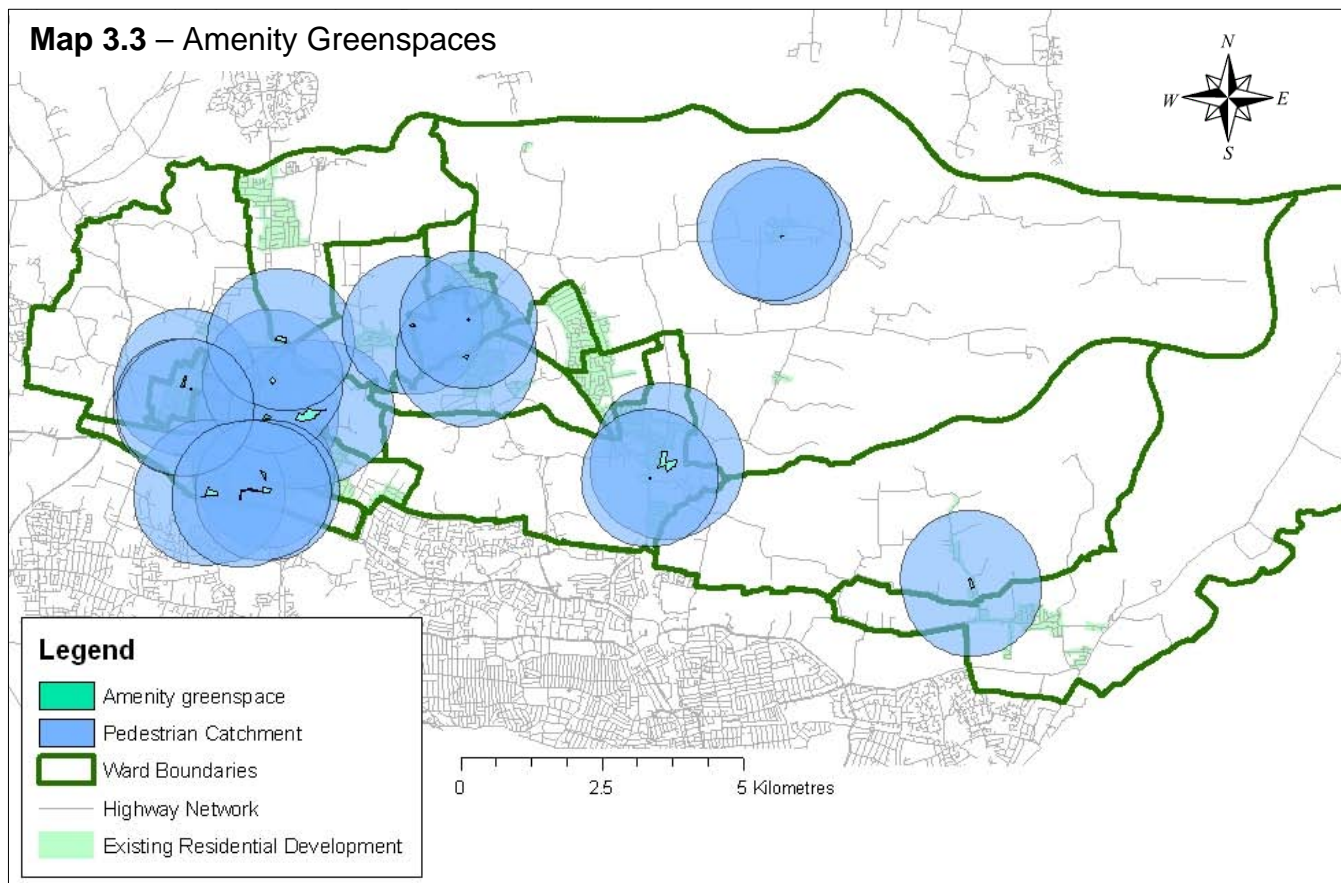
Recommended Accessibility

It was found that nearly half of the respondents to the consultation normally travel to this type of public open space on foot, with only 16% stating that they would normally travel by car. The majority of respondents consider that between a 5 and 10 minute journey time is an acceptable distance to travel to amenity greenspace. However, 26% considered less than 5 minutes travelling time acceptable, whereas a further 26% considered between 10 and 15 minutes as an acceptable time to travel. PPG 17 states that the appropriate catchment of open spaces should be determined by the distance travelled by 75% of users, and as such based on the consultation results, a journey time of less than 15 minutes will be considered acceptable. It is recommended as shown in the summary table below that amenity greenspace should in general be located up to 1200 metres (the equivalent walking distance) from residents.

Table 3.3 – Accessibility Standard

Recommended travel time	Indicative equivalent distance
<15 minute walk	<1200m

The location of the identified amenity greenspaces and their potential pedestrian catchment, which highlights which localities do not have ready access to this type of open space are shown on Map 3.3 below.



There are several areas which fall outside the recommended pedestrian catchment of amenity greenspaces. This suggests that there is a deficit of this type of open space in Hullbridge, Ashingdon, and some areas of Great Wakering. However, it must be borne in mind that the presence of other types of open spaces in the District may perform the same function as the sites identified as amenity greenspace in this chapter (according to their primary purpose as recommended in the guidance) and should therefore be taken into account.

Vision

‘Provide ample, high quality amenity greenspaces which are accessible to local communities, providing a range of environmental and community benefits.’

To work towards this vision, the following objectives should be met:

- Improve the level of amenity greenspace provision throughout the District where appropriate;
- Improve the quality of the sites identified as being below the recommended local quality standard;
- Address specific quality issues which have been identified, including appropriate signage, bins and improvements to entrances; and
- Improve accessibility to local amenity greenspaces as appropriate.

Country Park

Introduction

Country parks are important for the community in providing defined areas where people can enjoy the countryside. Such natural and semi-natural greenspaces are also important in supporting environmental sustainability, creating and preserving valuable natural habitats for wildlife, increasing biodiversity and wildlife conservation and providing a local educational resource.

Quantity

Current Provision

The District has one country park which provides extensive informal recreational opportunities for the population of the District, as well as neighbouring areas such as Southend:

- Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park, Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford

The Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park lies in the countryside of the Roach Valley, to the south of the District. It covers an extensive area and will eventually link up to Hockley Woods – one of the oldest ancient woodlands in England.

Such natural and semi-natural greenspaces were found to be one of the most frequently visited type of open space within the District according to responses from the open space survey, on average being visited at least once a fortnight. They are considered to be a very important type of open space by 84% of respondents and are suggested as being the type which is most needed by respondents.

In total the Country Park has been expanded to cover an estimated area of 70.42 hectares as identified in Appendix A. This provides 0.9 hectares of public open space per 1,000 of the District's population as shown below.

Table 4.1 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Estimated size of country park (ha)	Country Park provision (ha)/1000 population
78489	70.42	0.9

Recommended Provision

The Country Park is a vast area of open space which is currently being expanded. The Council is currently preparing a plan which will detail the strategy for the longer term management of the Country Park. Therefore at this point in time, it is considered inappropriate to set a local provision standard for the Country Park.

No Provision Standard Set

Quality

Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park is situated in the Upper Roach Valley, which is a recognised Special Landscape Area. It was recently created with the vision of transforming an area of farmland into a valuable public open space with a mix of open grassland, organic meadows and semi-natural woodland. The first phase of its development has been completed with the planting of over 30,000 trees, all of which are native species and include hornbeam, oak and ash. The Council have recently acquired additional land to the west and east to further expand the existing Country Park, and transform the surrounding area of farmland into enjoyable and workable habitats with a high wildlife value, attracting corn marigolds, shrews and kestrels, to name but a few.

A large lake has been created as part of the first stage of development within the Park to replicate what would have been there naturally. It provides a haven for the wildlife and vegetation, for example water voles and watercress and has been designed to have one end higher than the stream so the water follows the natural contours of the land. Soil that was removed in the creation of the lake has been retained onsite to add to the natural shape of the land.

Several fields have been leased to graze cattle on in an organic way. The cattle will be fed from organic hay produced within the Park, with the aim of educating the public on organic methods and where food comes from.

The Country Park is becoming established as a significant 'green lung' for informal recreation to residents. It will continue to be developed through a management program, as such a quality assessment has not been undertaken as part of this study.



Figure 4.1 – The lake



Figure 4.2 – Example of bridleway



Figure 4.3 – Farmland to the east



Figure 4.4 – Example of mowed pathways

The Country Park is a large natural and semi-natural greenspace. These types of open space were considered to be of 'good' quality by over 60% of participants in the open space consultation, with a further 19% considering such greenspaces to be of 'very good' quality and 13% suggesting they are of 'poor' quality.

Through the consultation, several issues were highlighted regarding the Country Park such as littering and the emptying of dog bins. Concern was expressed that the dog bins are not being emptied frequently enough and there are problems with dog fouling. There are not enough dog bins throughout the park; there should be more in other areas, not just around the lake. It is suggested that park wardens may be able to resolve some of the problems. It is also suggested that there are information boards installed to inform visitors about the wildlife in the park so it can be used as an educational resource, and the planting of fruit trees. It is recognised that improved car access to the park is required.

The Country Park is continually being developed and improved, therefore it not considered appropriate at this point in time to set a quality standard.

No Quality Standard Set

Accessibility

Current Accessibility

The Country Park may be reached via the public footpath network from: Gusted Hall Lane, Hawkwell; Hockley Woods, Hockley; Cherry Orchard Way (B1013), Rochford; and Blatches Chase, Leigh-on-Sea. There are some bus networks which pass the public footpaths which lead to the Country Park. However, there is currently no onsite car parking facility for the Country Park – the nearest car park is in Edwards Hall Park, Bosworth Road, which is open during park opening hours.

There is a mixture of hard surfaces and wide mown pathways through the woodland to encourage people to use the space. An extensive bridleway has been created for horse riders to provide a safe route through the Park, taking the horses off the road for a time. The bridleway joins to Main Road, Hawkwell by the astrology centre.

Country Park

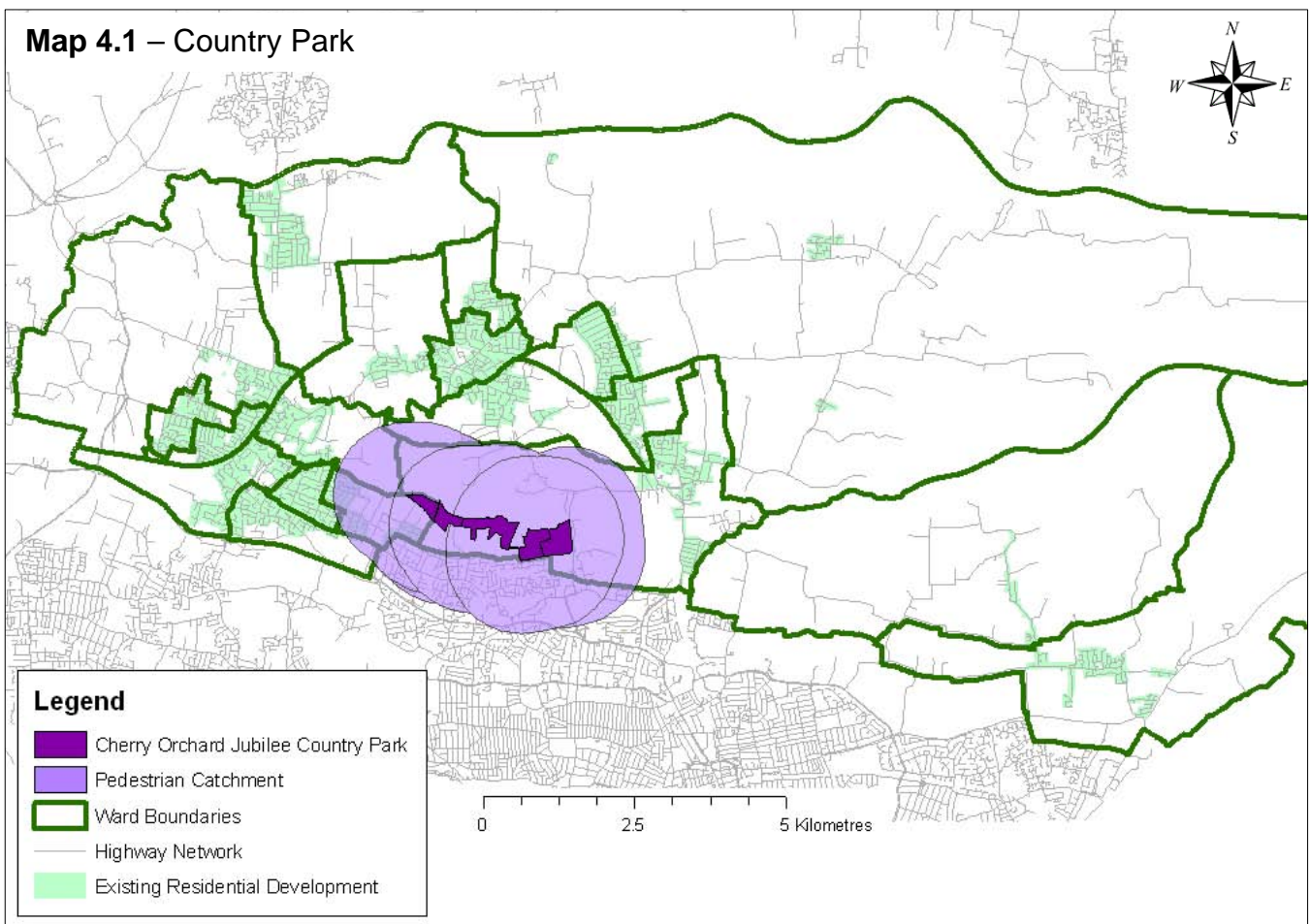
Recommended Accessibility

The Country Park is considered to be a large area of natural and semi-natural greenspace. Over 50% of respondents to the public consultation normally travel to this type of public open space on foot, with a further 32% stating that they normally drive. A walk of less than 15 minutes was considered to generally be an acceptable travelling time to such natural and semi-natural greenspaces by over 75% of respondents to the survey. It is recommended as shown in the summary table below that this natural and semi-natural greenspace should have a pedestrian catchment up to 1200 metres (the equivalent walking distance).

Table 4.2 – Accessibility Standard

Recommended travel time	Indicative equivalent distance
<15 minute walk	<1200m

The location of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park to the south of the District and the potential pedestrian catchment of this facility is shown in Map 4.1 below.



It is noted that the Council are examining, through the Local Development Framework, opportunities to expand the Country Park. Expansion to the north and west, in particular, represent opportunities to provide areas of Country Park within walking distance of significant residential areas.

Vision

'The Country Park is a significant area of public open space within the District, which is of good quality and high biodiversity value. It is accessible by a range of transport methods with an emphasis on sustainability, providing a safe haven for wildlife within extensive wooded areas and organic meadows, whilst providing an important recreational, leisure and educational resource for visitors.'

To work towards this vision, the following objectives should be met:

- Improved access from Cherry Orchard Way link road;
- Increased footpath and cycle access;
- Development of an environmentally sustainable information/reception building;
- Provision of onsite car parking (which does not dominate the Country Park);
- Transformation of the Park extension to the east and west and provide footpath links to Hockley Woods;
- Development of recreational and leisure facilities for the school groups, local residents and visitors;
- Sustainable methods of design and management have been employed where possible
- Improved welcome and entrance areas;
- Improved signage to the Country Parks from existing, wider pathway networks;
- Prominent views have been retained; and
- Improved interpretation methods within Country Park where necessary (e.g. waymarkers; signage).

Allotments

Introduction

Allotments are an important asset to Rochford District and have the potential to provide a wide range of benefits for local communities. The primary purpose of allotments is to provide residents with the opportunities to grow their own food and plants, which contributes to the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. This type of open space also provides visual focus within the urban centres, creating sustainable green open spaces which provide a haven for wildlife. Allotments offer health and social benefits through encouraging physical exercise, recreation and social interaction within the community, as well as providing a valuable educational resource which is accessible to the local population.

Quantity

Current Provision

The District has eight allotment sites which are managed by the local Parish and Town Councils. These are:

- Anchor Lane, Canewdon
- Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering
- Lower Road, Hullbridge
- Rocheway, Rochford
- Bramfield Road East, Rayleigh
- Caversham Park Avenue, Rayleigh
- Kenilworth Gardens, Rayleigh
- Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh

Whilst the allotments are spatially distributed throughout the District, with half the sites situated in the largest settlement of Rayleigh, it should be noted that there are currently no allotments within the localities of Hockley, Hawkwell and Ashingdon.

The allotments in Great Wakering are potentially being expanded to include an area to the west of the current sites. This will encompass an additional area of approximately 0.84 hectares which will create a combined area of 2.74 hectares. However, as these are not currently in use, the whole site is not considered as part of this assessment.

Furthermore, through consultation it has been highlighted that any allotments on Foulness Island are owned or managed by the Ministry of Defence Land Agents (Defence Estates), and as such, these are not considered as part of this assessment.

In total the eight sites have a combined area of 9.84 hectares which gives an average allotment size of 1.23 hectares. Through consultation with the local Parish/Town Councils, it has been determined that this equates to a total of 599 plots (including some divided full size plots). The plot distribution across the allotment sites, the approximate size of each of the sites and provision by ward area can be found in Appendix A.

Allotments

When the current allotment provision is applied to the population of the District as a whole, this equates to 0.13 hectares per 1000 of the District's population.

Table 4.1 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of allotments (ha)	Allotment provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	9.84	0.13

The majority of the allotment sites are situated in the settlement of Rayleigh, however, it should be noted that the combined number of plots and approximate allotment size for these four sites is similar to those of the larger sites in Great Wakering, Hullbridge and Rochford. This suggests that there may be a deficit of allotment provision, particularly in Rayleigh, given the larger settlement and population size.

Allotments were found to be the least visited type of open space through the public consultation, with only 13% of respondents visiting them. Of these, half were found to visit allotments at least once a month. The majority of respondents consider allotments to be an important to very important type of open space, but in general additional allotments were considered to be only moderately needed in the District, after other types of open space such as natural and semi-natural greenspaces, amenity greenspace and outdoor sports facilities. This may, however, reflect the lack of use of allotments by respondents to the survey.

Current Demand

Whilst there is a recognised deficit in current allotment provision per 1000 of the population, the provision of allotments within the District should be determined by the level of demand for such a facility.

Table 4.2 shows the number of residents within the District who have expressed an interest in acquiring an allotment plot. It is acknowledged, however, that the people on the waiting list may represent duplications in the data, and may in some cases represent requests from neighbouring authority areas. For example information regarding the waiting list obtained from consultation with Parish/Town Councils shows:

- Canewdon Parish Council – request from 1 resident and 4 non-residents;
- Great Wakering Parish Council – request from 33 parishioners and 12 non-parishioners;
- Rochford Parish Council – A few tenants have two plots. There are 6 Rochford parish residents and approximately 30 non-parish residents on the waiting list; and
- Hullbridge Parish Council – There are two lists with Hullbridge residents having preference over other District residents. There are 13 Hullbridge residents with five requesting a second plot, and 23 who live elsewhere in the District with seven requesting a second plot.

However, the data shows that there is currently a high demand for allotment plots within the District, with 274 people expressing an interest in acquiring a plot.

Table 4.2 – Allotment Waiting List (2009)

Ward	Parish	Number of People on Waiting List
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Canewdon, Paglesham, Stambridge, Ashingdon	12 (Ashingdon); 10 (Stambridge); 5 (Canewdon)
Barling and Sutton	Barling, Sutton	-
Foulness and Great Wakering	Great Wakering, Foulness	45
Hullbridge	Hullbridge	48
Rochford	Rochford	36
Hawkwell North	Hawkwell, Ashingdon	25
Hawkwell South	Hawkwell	
Hawkwell West	Hawkwell, Rochford	
Hockley Central	Hockley, Ashingdon	27
Hockley North	Hockley, Ashingdon	
Hockley West	Hockley	
Lodge	Rayleigh	7
Rayleigh Central	Rayleigh	-
Downhall and Rawreth	Rawreth, Rayleigh	15
Grange	Rayleigh	12
Sweyne Park	Rayleigh	10*
Trinity	Rayleigh	-
Wheatley	Rayleigh	-
Whitehouse	Rayleigh	22
Total		274
Notes: * 10 residents expressed no preference for plot locations.		

A significant local demand for allotments and an increasing need for this type of open space was identified through consultation with local Parish/Town Councils who manage these facilities. A need for additional allotment provision was also recognised through the open space survey.

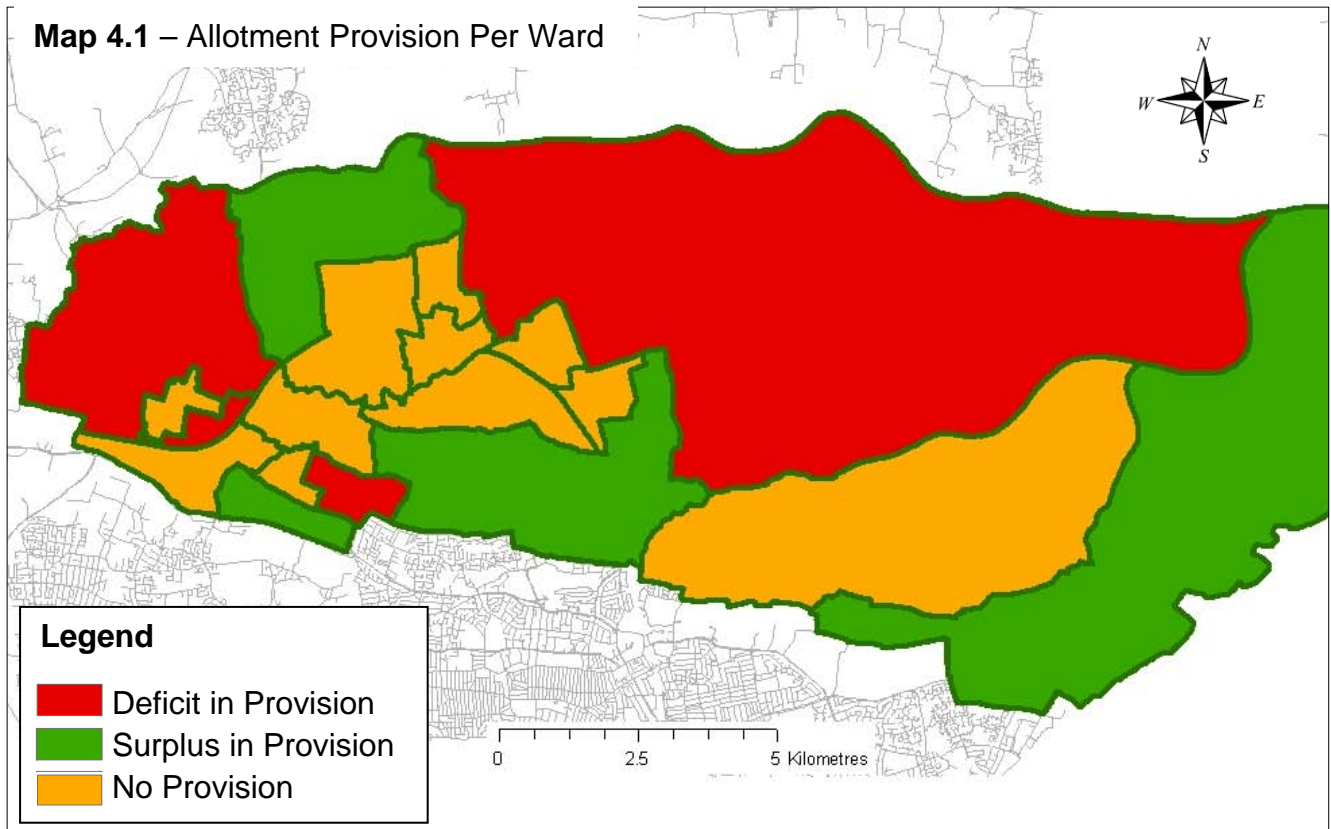
Recommended Provision

There is currently no national minimum provision standard for allotments; however, the recommendations of the oft-quoted Thorpe report (1969) suggested that a provision of 0.2 hectares per 1000 of the population is adequate.

The current provision of allotments in the District is 0.13 hectares per 1000 of the population, and with the current and expected increase in demand for this type of open space it is recommended that the local provision should be increased to 0.2 hectares per 1000 of the population.

Recommended Local Provision Standard: 0.2 hectares per 1000 population

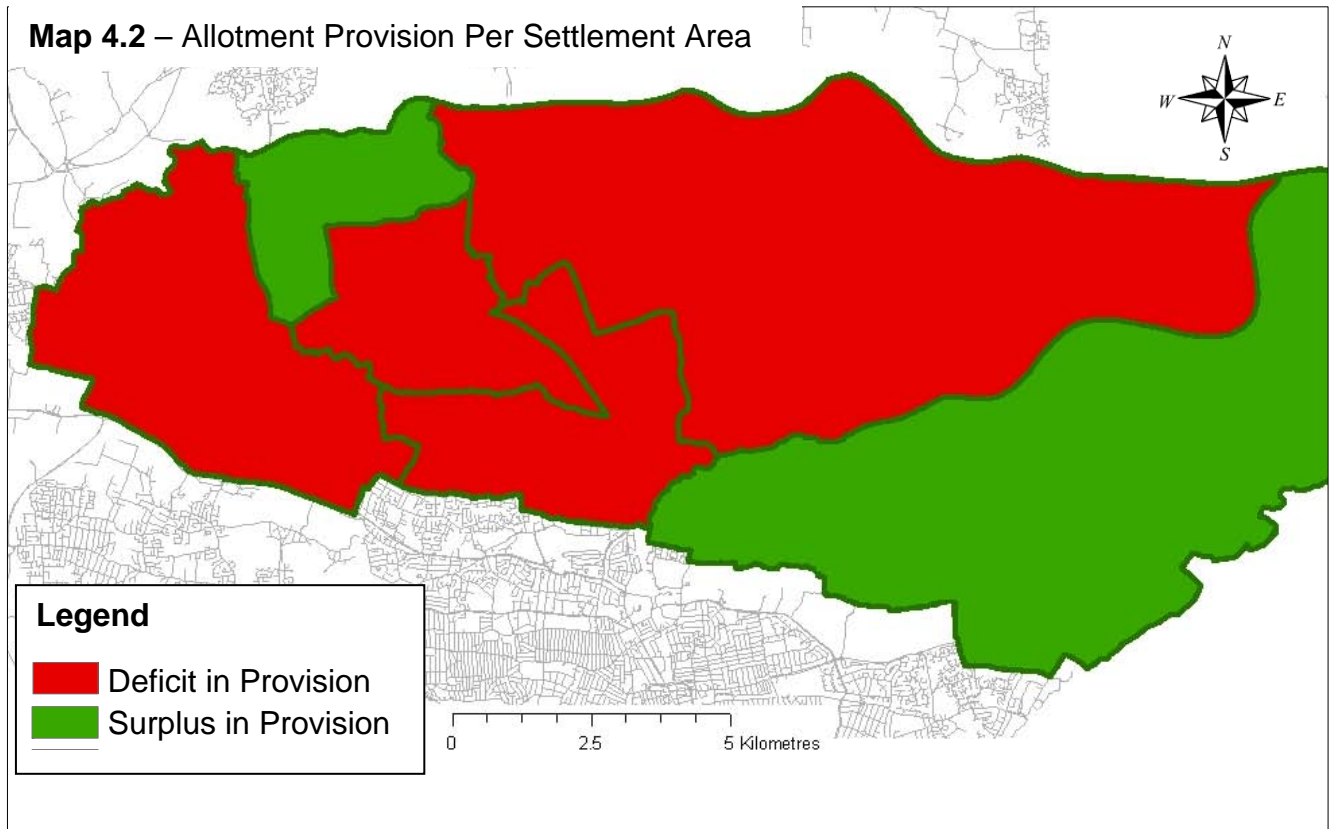
This recommended local provision standard has been applied at ward level for those wards which are served by an allotment. The quantity of surplus or deficit in provision per ward area can be found in Appendix A, and a graphical representation is shown in Map 4.1 below.



This shows that there is a potential deficit in supply for Ashingdon and Canewdon, Lodge, Downhall and Rawreth and Grange wards. There is an identified potential surplus of provision in Rochford, Great Wakering and Foulness, Hullbridge and Whitehouse wards; however, there is no current provision in all other ward areas.

It is important to note, however, that when applying the minimum standard at the ward level there will be some wards that appear to have an oversupply and some that fall below the recommended minimum provision level as identified above. In reality, however, a ward may be adjacent to another that has a plentiful supply of open space and therefore its population falls within the catchment of this space so the fact it is below the minimum recommended standard is not necessarily a problem.

To try to give a more representative picture of the current provision of allotments, the District has also been divided into settlement areas (see Table 1.4) to further highlight the potential deficiencies in allotments. The calculations for allotment provision per settlement area can be found in Appendix A. This is depicted in Map 4.2 below.



This suggests that the majority of the District currently has a deficit in supply of allotments, although it should be noted that the central areas of Hawkwell and Hockley currently have no provision.

The priority areas are those which are both below the recommended minimum standard and also fall outside the accessibility catchment of this type of open space. This is defined within the accessibility section and catchment mapping below (Map 4.3).

Quality

The allotment sites are not managed by the District Council and are not publicly accessible to those without a designated plot. As such a detailed quality assessment of allotments has not been undertaken as part of this audit. However, through site visits the allotments appear to generally be well used and in a good condition.

The perceived perception of the District's allotments by respondents to the survey varied between 'very poor' to 'very good' quality with the majority stating that they have no opinion. Of the respondents who regularly visit allotments, half considered them to be of 'good' quality. General comments from the survey referred to the lack of allotments particularly in Hockley and Ashingdon.

Allotments



Figure 5.1 – Anchor Lane, Canewdon



Figure 5.2 – Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering



Figure 5.3 – Lower Road, Hullbridge



Figure 5.4 – Rocheway, Rochford



Figure 5.5 – Bramfield Road East, Rayleigh



Figure 5.6 – Caversham Park Avenue, Rayleigh

Allotments



Figure 5.7 – Kenilworth Gardens, Rayleigh



Figure 5.8 – Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh

Although the quality of allotments has not been specifically assessed as part of this audit it is important that they are of good quality and meet the needs of their users. It is not appropriate to determine a qualitative standard, as such it is recommended that allotments are accessible, fit for purpose and meet plot holders needs.

No Quality Standard Set

Accessibility

Current Accessibility

The allotments are situated in close proximity to residential areas, and there is generally limited car parking provision at all of the sites.

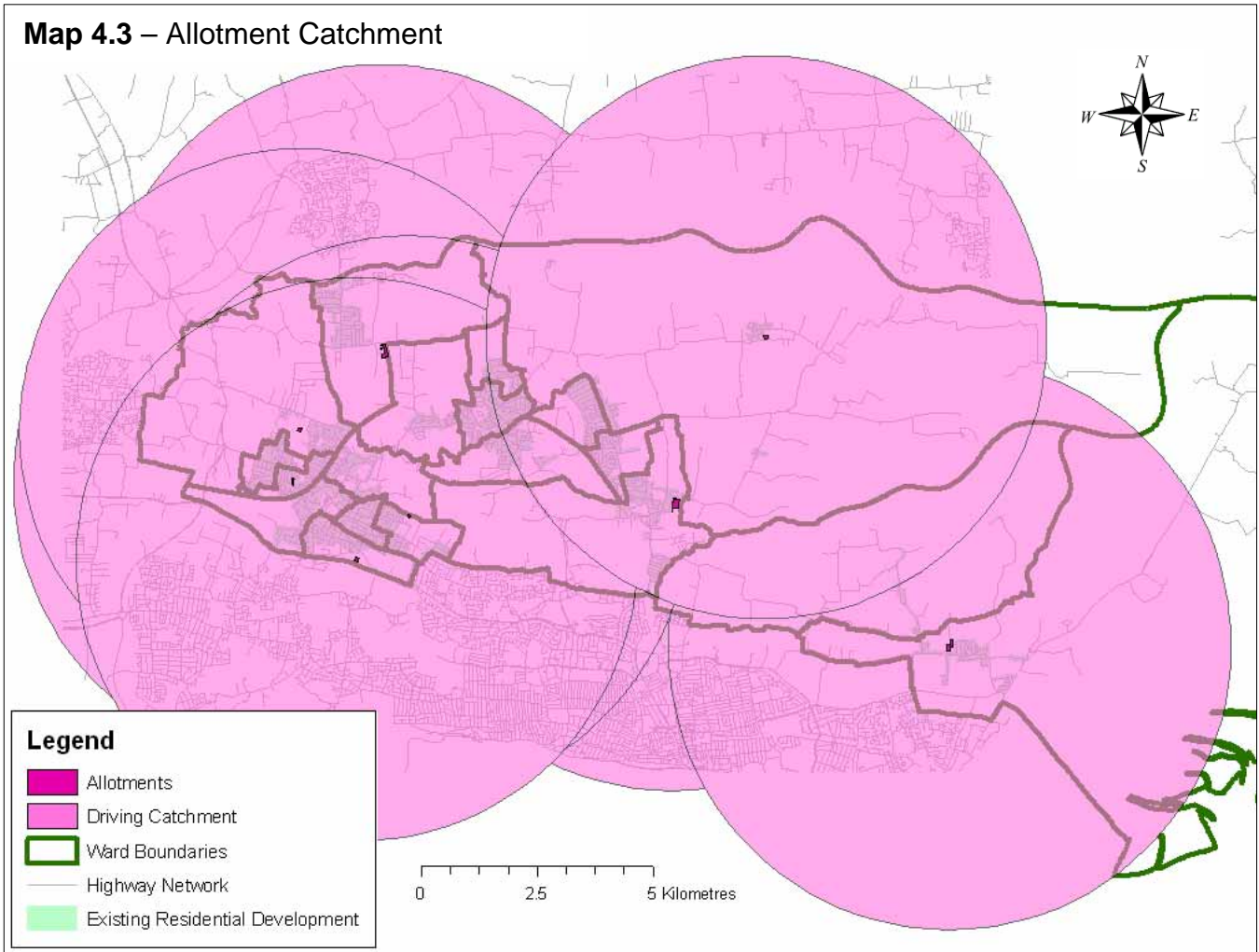
Recommended Accessibility

It was found that driving to allotments was the most common mode of travel (chosen by 10% of respondents), however 6% of respondents would normally walk and further 3% cycle. When these results are compared with other local authorities (see Appendix C), the car is generally the normal mode of transport to allotment sites. Consultation highlighted that the majority of participants in the survey consider less than 15 minutes as an acceptable travel time to this type of public open space. As such it is recommended as shown in the summary table below that allotments should in general be located up to 6km (the equivalent driving distance) from residents, having regard to other local authorities' standards.

Table 5.3 – Accessibility Standard

Recommended travel time	Indicative equivalent distance
<15 minute drive	<6km

The distribution of allotments within the District and their potential driving catchment as identified in Table 5.3 can be seen in Map 4.3 below.



The District’s largest settlement, Rayleigh, is serviced by four small sites situated within the Downhall and Rawreth, Grange, Lodge and Whitehouse wards, although these have the potential to service other neighbouring wards. Hullbridge, Rochford, Ashingdon and Canewdon and Foulness and Great Wakering wards each have their own allotment sites.

The catchment map (Map 4.3) suggests that the allotments are accessible to the majority of the population by car within the defined accessibility catchment. Having regard to the settlement mapping (Map 4.2), however, this suggests that there is sufficient provision within the settlement of Hullbridge and whilst allotment sites are generally accessible to the population, there is an identified need throughout the District, in particular, within the settlements of Ashingdon, Hockley and Hawkwell, where there is currently no allotment provision.

Therefore there is a recognised deficit in allotment provision throughout the District and given the high level of demand identified, it is recommended that additional allotment facilities are provided to meet the recommend provision level (0.2 hectares per 1000 of the District’s population), particularly where a need has been identified (Map 4.2).

Allotments

Vision

‘Provide plentiful opportunities for food and plants to be grown in safe, well maintained, communal environments throughout the District which are accessible to the majority of residents. These spaces enhance local biodiversity and wildlife, provide health and social benefits and are a valuable local resource.’

To work towards this vision, the following objectives should be met:

- Increase the provision of allotments where a deficit has been identified;
- Provide allotments where there is currently no provision, particularly where there is a recognised demand; and
- Work with Parish/Town Council’s to monitor the need for allotments.

Provision for Children and Young People

Introduction

It is important to provide a range of facilities to meet the needs of the District's younger population. Children require the provision of safe, accessible and high quality equipped play space, whereas adolescents require appropriate facilities such as skateboard areas and teen shelters. Such facilities may have the additional benefit of helping to reduce perceived anti-social behaviour, by providing a designated space specifically for young people. All the facilities aimed at children and young people provide opportunities for play and social interaction, whilst encouraging healthy physical, social and emotional development. Children and young people have different needs, and so the provision of facilities for the two groups will be considered separately within this chapter.

Provision for Children

A five year Play Strategy¹ has been prepared which recognises the importance of, and emphasises the Council's commitment to, play within the District. It seeks to identify equipped play spaces, and to assess the usage and 'play value' of selected play spaces within the District. Accordingly regard has been has to this strategy and also to conclusions drawn from various public consultations and other audits which have been undertaken.

This audit identifies all play spaces for children (ranging from toddler to seniors), and seeks to analyse the current play space provision level, where there are any potential surpluses or deficits in provision, the quality of play spaces and recommend improvements, where appropriate, and the potential accessibility of these areas within a given catchment area. As such, this study will seek to inform future play strategies for the District.

Quantity

The majority of play spaces included in this audit are equipped, but other sites with lone facilities such as swings (such as Rowan Way, Canewdon) and other facilities for children such as mini goal posts (such as Morrins Close, Great Wakering) have been included, as these are recognised as important local facilities. Mini goal posts were found to be situated in Rochford Recreation Ground, Canewdon Playing Field, St John Fisher Recreation Ground and Pooles Lane Playing Field. It should be noted that the mini football facilities at Pooles Lane Playing Field and Canewdon Playing Field are situated beneath the basketball hoops, and so are included under youth facilities to prevent double counting. Foulness also has an enclosed play space encompassing swings, a slide and seesaw.

Current Provision

Throughout the District there are 33 identified play spaces of varying sizes, most of which are owned and managed by Rochford District Council.

¹ Play Strategy 2007-2012 available from <http://www.rochford.gov.uk/>

These identified play spaces within the District are:

- King George Playing Field Play Space, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon
- Play Space, Rowan Way, Canewdon
- Play Space, Canewdon Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon
- Play Stalls, Little Wakering Road, Barling
- Play Space, Seaview Drive, Great Wakering
- Play Space, Morrins Close, Great Wakering
- Play Space, Glebe Close, Great Wakering
- Play Space, Conway Avenue, Great Wakering
- Play Space, High Street, Great Wakering
- Play Space, Church End, Foulness
- Play Space, Pooles Lane Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge
- Play Space, Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford
- Play Space, Warwick Drive, Rochford
- Play Space, Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell
- Play Space, Clements Hall, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell
- Play Space, Hawkwell Common, Main Road, Hawkwell
- Play Space, Elizabeth Close, Hawkwell
- Play Space, Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley
- Play Space, Betts Wood, Westminster Drive, Hockley
- Play Space, Hockley Woods, Main Road, Hockley
- Play Space, Laburnum Grove, Hockley
- Play Space, Grove Road Playing Field, Rayleigh
- Play Space, Sweyne Park, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh
- Play Space, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh
- Play Space, Elsenham Court, Rayleigh
- Play Space, Hartford Close, Rayleigh
- Play Space, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh
- Play Space, St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh
- Play Space, Fyfield Path, Rayleigh
- Play Space, Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh
- Play Space, south west of Causton Way, Rayleigh
- King George V Playing Field Play Space, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh
- Play Space, Bedford Close, Rayleigh

Many of the equipped play spaces were found to be located within a larger area of greenspace such as playing fields. In these cases the site of the play space was considered as a separate site, while the surrounding greenspace has been audited elsewhere as a separate amenity greenspace. For example the play space along Little Wakering Road, Barling, is surrounded by a larger area of greenspace, which has been included within the 'Amenity Greenspaces' chapter, as it has a separate purpose for informal recreation and leisure, in addition to the play space situated there. Therefore any calculations and standards within this section refers specifically to equipped and other play space for children and are measured separately to other forms of open space. This is important to ensure that current provision of play space and other types of open space are audited as accurately as possible.

The current provision of play space by ward area, including the estimated size of each space and population breakdown is shown in Appendix A. In total the sites have a combined area of 3.522 hectares. As many of the sites are large in area but contain only a few pieces of play

equipment (where they are situated within a larger area of greenspace), the play space area has been deducted from the total area, therefore a standard based on area is appropriate. As such the current provision based on play space area equates to 0.04 hectares per 1000 of the District's population.

Table 6.1 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of play space (ha)	Play space provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	3.522	0.04

Play space is considered to be a very important facility by over seventy percent of respondents to the open space survey, and is, on average, visited at least once a month according to the results. This consultation has highlighted that play space is considered to be one of the types of open space which is most needed within the District.

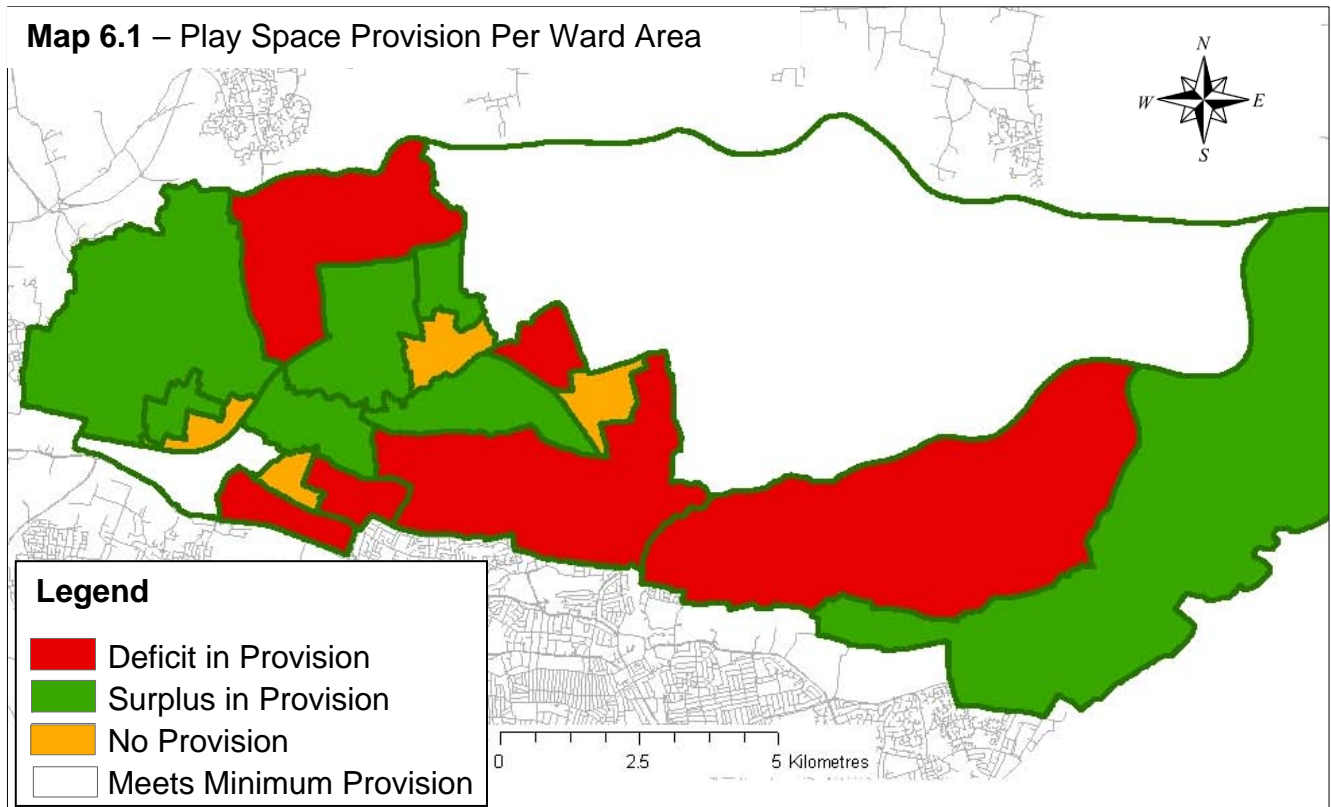
Recommended Provision

The Six Acre Standard developed by the National Playing Fields Association (now Fields In Trust) suggested that around 0.8 hectares of play facilities for children and young people is an adequate minimum provision. This standard covers a wide age group which the Council recognises as having different needs; therefore such a standard should be divided between these different facilities. This would equate to a provision level of 0.4 hectares per 1000 of the population which is significantly more than at present. In reality, however this may not be locally deliverable, and a phased increase in provision may be more appropriate rather than a high, unattainable local target. As such it is felt that the recommended local provision standard for children should be lower and thus more achievable, although the standard may be revised in the longer term.

Consultation has identified that the provision for children and young people, which includes play space, is perceived to be the second most needed type of open space. In comparing current play space provision with other local authorities, and having regard to national standards it is felt that the recommended local provision standard for children should be 0.05 hectares per 1000 of the population, which is considered to be a realistic target and encourages more play space provision than at present. This is a minimum standard which the District should aim to achieve and maintain, although this may be revised in the future to meet local needs.

Recommended Local Provision Standard: 0.05 hectares per 1000 population

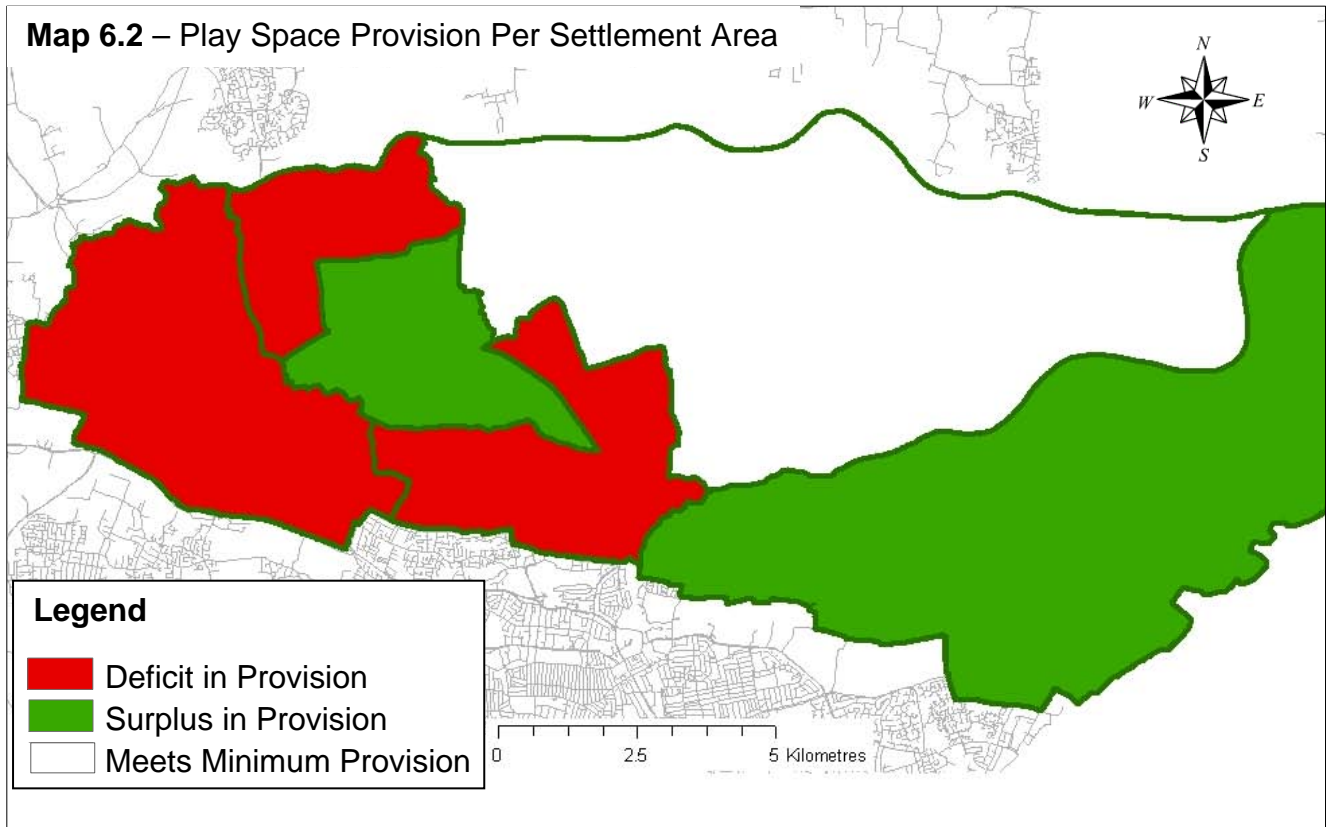
This recommended local provision standard has been applied at ward level for those wards which are served by play space. The quantity of surplus or deficit in provision per ward area can be found in Appendix A, and a graphical representation is shown in Map 6.1 below.



This shows that the recommended minimum provision level for play space is currently being met within the wards of Ashingdon and Canewdon, and Wheatley. There is however a potential deficit in supply for Barling and Sutton, Hullbridge, Rochford, Hawkwell North, Lodge and Whitehouse wards. There is currently no play space provision in Grange, Hawkwell South, Hockley Central and Rayleigh Central wards and there is an identified potential surplus of provision in all other ward areas.

It is important to note, however, that when applying the minimum standard at the ward level there will be some wards that appear to have an oversupply and some that fall below the recommended minimum provision level as identified above. In reality, however, a ward may be adjacent to another that has a plentiful supply of open space and therefore its population falls within the catchment of this space so the fact it is below the minimum recommended standard is not necessarily a problem.

To try to give a more representative picture of the current provision of play space, the District has also been divided into settlement areas (see Table 1.4) to further highlight the potential deficiencies in play space. The calculations for play space provision per settlement area can be found in Appendix A. This is depicted in Map 6.2 below.



This suggests that there is a deficit in provision for three of the settlement areas (the areas of Rayleigh/Rawreth, Rochford/Ashingdon and Hullbridge), with two areas with a surplus in current provision (the areas of Hockley/Hawkwell and Great Wakering/Barling/Foulness). This also suggests that the minimum recommended local provision level of play space is currently being met in the settlement area of Canewdon.

The priority areas are those which are both below the recommended minimum standard and also fall outside the accessibility catchment of this type of open space. This is defined within the accessibility section and catchment mapping below (Map 6.3).

Notwithstanding apparent surplus of play space, provision of additional play space may be required at a local level to serve additional residential development.

Quality

Just over a third of the play spaces are situated within amenity greenspace, natural or semi-natural greenspace, with 11 situated on playing fields, and 10 play spaces are located within residential areas, generally between dwellings.

The quality and range of play equipment generally varies from site to site. The majority of the identified play spaces are well equipped, enclosed areas, which can be locked up, with signs identifying the site and its ownership. The play spaces which are well equipped are generally located on playing fields, such as Canewdon Playing Field, which has swings, slides, climbing apparatus and a child's zipwire facility for example.

Potential improvements could be made to some play space, most notably to the south of Causton Way, Rowan Way, Canewdon and Church End, Foulness.

Current Quality

Quality assessment looked at five criteria which were considered key areas for play space. This included assessing the condition and maintenance of the play space entrance, boundary fencing, roads/paths and access, facilities such as bins, seating, equipment, lighting and information identifying the play space, and the cleanliness of the site. An assessment of the entrance looked at the size and visibility of access, and play equipment looked at the current condition and range of play equipment available. The quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the quality score represents a 'snapshot' in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the visit.

Quality ratings were provided for 32 of the 33 sites (Table 6.2). The play space at Seaview Drive was inaccessible at the time of assessment. Of these 32 sites 15 were rated as being of 'good' to 'very good' quality and 14 were rated as being 'average' to 'good' quality. Sites with scores over 70% were perceived to be of 'good' to 'very good' quality, between 70% and 50% were considered to be 'average' to 'good' quality and 50% or below were considered to be 'poor' to 'very poor' quality.

Table 6.2 – Quality Scores for the play spaces audited

Play Space	Quality Score
Play Space, Canewdon Playing Field, Canewdon	78.4%
Play Space, Fyfield Path, Rayleigh	78.4%
Play Space, King George V Playing Field, Rayleigh	75.7%
Play Space, Rochford Recreation Ground, Rochford	75.7%
Play Space, Sweyne Park, Rayleigh	75.7%
Play Space, Clements Hall, Hawkwell	75.7%
Play Space, Glebe Close, Great Wakering	75.7%
Play Space, Laburnum Grove, Hockley	73.0%
Play Space, King George Playing Field, Ashingdon	73.0%
Play Space, High Street, Great Wakering	73.0%
Play Space, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	73.0%
Play Space, Warwick Drive, Rochford	73.0%
Play Space, St John Fisher Playing Field, Rayleigh	70.3%
Play Space, Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh	70.3%
Play Space, Hawkwell Common, Hawkwell	70.3%
Play Space, Conway Avenue, Great Wakering	67.6%
Play Space, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	67.6%
Play Space, Bedford Close, Rayleigh	67.6%
Play Space, Elsenham Court, Rayleigh	67.6%
Play Space, Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	64.9%
Play Space, Hockley Woods, Hockley	64.9%
Play Space, Grove Playing Fields, Rayleigh	64.9%
Play Space, Elizabeth Close, Hawkwell	62.2%
Play Space, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	62.2%
Play Space, Betts Wood, Hockley	59.5%
Play Space, Little Wakering Road, Barling	56.8%

Provision for Children and Young People

Play Space, Hartford Close, Rayleigh	56.8%
Play Space, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh	56.8%
Play Space, south west of Causton Way, Rayleigh	51.4%
Play Space, Rowan Way, Canewdon	45.9%
Play space, Church End, Foulness	45.9%
Play Space, South of Morrins Close, Great Wakering	37.8%

An example of the play spaces ranging from 'average' to 'very good' quality are shown in the figures below:



Figure 6.1 – Example of 'good' to 'very good' quality (Play space at Canewdon Playing Field)



Figure 6.2 – Example of 'good' to 'very good' quality (Play space at Pooles Lane, Hullbridge)



Figure 6.3 – Example of 'average' to 'good' quality (Causton Way)



Figure 6.4 – Example of 'average' to 'good' quality (Hockley Woods)

Three of the play spaces, however, were considered to be 'poor' to 'very poor' in quality. These were:

- Play Space, Rowan Way, Canewdon
- Play Space, Morrins Close, Great Wakering
- Play space, Church End, Foulness

The play spaces at Rowan Way and Morrins Close are not equipped areas like the other play spaces identified in this assessment.



Figure 6.5 – Play space at Rowan Way ('poor' to 'very poor' quality)



Figure 6.6 – Play space at Morrins Close ('poor' to 'very poor' quality)



Figure 6.7 – Play space at Church End, Foulness ('poor' to 'very poor' quality)

On average, the play spaces have been assessed as being of 'average' to 'good' quality. However, there were some general issues identified across the sites, which were:

- Inadequate lighting;
- Insufficient bins or benches provided, where appropriate;
- Some issues with accessibility from main entrances;
- Some evidence of litter and graffiti; and
- Some broken items of play equipment, for example at Hockley Woods and Conway Avenue.

All equipped play space, with the exception of the facilities at St John Fisher Playing Field, Rayleigh have an information sign which identifies the play space and has the relevant contact details to be used as appropriate. The figures below identify where the information sign is missing and the type of information sign used.



Figure 6.8 – Missing information sign at St John Fisher Recreation Ground



Figure 6.9 – Example of the information signs provided at other play space (Canewdon Playing Field)



Figure 6.10 – Piece of play equipment at Hockley Woods which is below quality



Figure 6.11 – Broken play equipment at Conway Avenue

Nearly half of the respondents to the survey felt that play spaces are in a 'good' condition, whereas 23% consider play spaces to be in 'poor' condition. It has already been highlighted above that the identified play spaces vary in quality, specifically the range and condition of equipment, and the accessibility to play areas. Some specific issues such as enforcing the age limit of play spaces (as they range from toddlers to 11 years depending on the type of play equipment), providing more swings and other play equipment for young children and toddlers (with specific reference to Rayleigh), where toilet facilities are provided at playing fields with play space they are often locked and discouraging dog fouling in these areas, were raised within the consultation.

The Council currently operates a rolling programme of play space refurbishment subject to the condition of the equipment and Council finances. Selected Council owned and managed play spaces with equipment which has been identified as in need of replacement or where additional equipment may be required are approved by committee and improvements are made as appropriate. There is also an annual budget for improving safety surfacing in play

spaces. Play spaces are frequently inspected by the Council's contracted grounds maintenance service team to ensure that they maintain a good standard. Their responsibilities include checking that safety surfaces are in a good condition, inspecting play equipment for any signs of general wear, damage and vandalism and removing litter. The Parish/Town Councils which manage play spaces can also replace play equipment when it is past its safe and useful life.

Recommended Quality

Priorities for improvement should be the play spaces identified in Table 6.2 as being 50% or below which are considered to be of 'poor' to 'very poor' quality at the time of assessment. Furthermore the quality issues which have been identified above and in Appendix F should be addressed. As such the minimum quality standard which play spaces should meet against the quality criteria in Appendix E is greater than 50%.

Recommended Local Quality Standard: >50%

Accessibility

Current Accessibility

The play spaces are situated either on playing fields, within amenity greenspace, natural or semi-natural greenspace or within residential areas. They are generally accessible on foot, as many of the open spaces within which they are situated are located in close proximity to the residential area.

Generally the play spaces are considered to have 'average' to 'good' accessibility; however, there are some potential issues which were identified with regard to accessing some of the play spaces.

The play spaces at Laburnum Grove and Conway Avenue, for example are situated in the corner of residential streets, but they are not generally overlooked. The play space at Seaview Drive, although inaccessible at the time of assessment, is usually only accessible through an alleyway between houses; however this facility is securely locked at night (although it was also found to be locked during the day). The majority of the play spaces are locked at night to ensure they are secure.

Provision for Children and Young People



Figure 6.12 – Play space at Conway Avenue



Figure 6.13 – Locked play space at Seaview Drive

The play space at Elizabeth Close whilst situated within the residential area can only be accessed through an alleyway leading from several streets, which is enclosed and poorly lit. This issue is similar for access to the mini goal posts at Morrins Close and the play space along Little Waking Hall Lane.



Figure 6.14 – Entrance to play space at Morrins Close



Figure 6.15 – Play space at Elizabeth Close

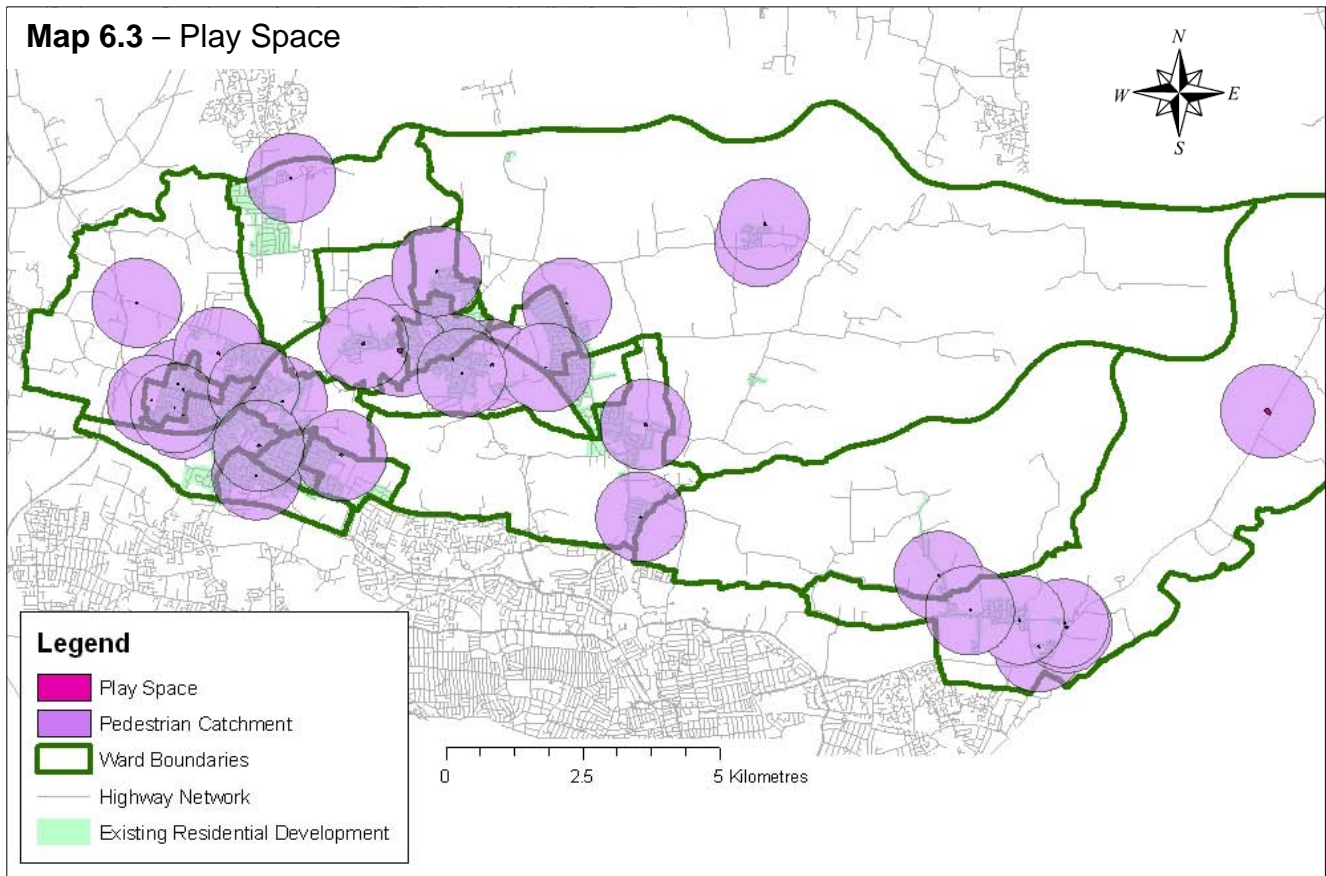
Recommended Accessibility

Consultation highlighted that residents expected to be able to walk to a play area within a short distance, with over 70% of respondents who use such facilities feeling that a less than 10 minute walk is adequate travelling time. It is therefore recommended as shown in the summary table below that play space should in general be located a distance of up to 800 metres (the equivalent walking distance) from residents.

Table 6.3 – Accessibility Standard

Recommended travel time	Indicative equivalent distance
< 10 minute walk	< 800m

The location of the District's play spaces and the potential pedestrian catchment of these facilities are shown on Map 6.3 below.



This catchment map (Map 6.3) suggests that many of the play spaces are accessible to local communities within the recommended pedestrian accessibility catchment. Spatially, however, there appears to be a deficit of play space within south Ashingdon, west Rochford, Hullbridge and in areas of south-east and south-west Rayleigh. Having regard to the settlement mapping (Map 4.2), these are also areas where a potential deficit in current provision of play space has been identified.

Whilst there is a wide spatial distribution of play space across the District, there is a potential shortage of appropriately located accessible play areas for children. As such it is recommended that additional play spaces are provided within the District, providing a range of play equipment which meets the needs of children, in line with the recommended provision level (0.05 hectares per 1000 of the District's population). These should realistically be situated within areas of potential deficit which have been identified (Map 6.2) in localities outside the recommended pedestrian catchment (Map 6.3).

Vision

'High quality play spaces with enhanced natural surveillance are provided within and around the District's residential areas. These are accessible and stimulating spaces, which provide bright, plentiful and well-maintained play equipment for children of all ages and abilities.'

Provision for Children and Young People

The Council will continue to develop and evolve play spaces through a rolling programme of refurbishment as appropriate. However, to work towards this vision, the following objectives should be met:

- Provide additional play spaces where a need has been identified, most notably the settlement areas of Rayleigh/Rawreth; Hullbridge and Rochford/Ashingdon;
- Improve the accessibility to existing play spaces as appropriate;
- Ensure that these play spaces are strategically situated to ensure that all residential areas are within the recommended accessible pedestrian catchment of a play space;
- Ensure play spaces provide an adequate range and variety of equipment to meet the needs of children of all ages and abilities;
- Enhance natural surveillance through siting and design;
- Ensure the adequate provision of seating and bins with these areas; and
- Improve the accessibility, quality and amenity of existing play spaces.

Provision for Young People

This audit for facilities targeted at young people assesses the provision of identified informal areas such as skateboard areas, basketball areas, BMX areas and teen shelters within the District. Other youth facilities such as climbing areas and additional ball areas were identified when assessing the current provision.

Quantity

Current Provision

There are 17 identified public open spaces throughout the District which provide a mixture of youth facilities. These are:

- Canewdon Recreation Ground, Althorne Way, Canewdon
- King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon
- Great Wakering Recreation Ground, High Street, Great Wakering
- Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford
- Hullbridge Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge
- Ferry Road Car Park, Ferry Road, Hullbridge
- Fairview Playing Fields, Victoria Road, Rayleigh
- Morrins Close, Great Wakering
- Warwick Drive, Rochford
- Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell
- Clements Hall Playing Field, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell
- Laburnum Grove Play Space, Laburnum Grove, Hockley
- Grove Road Playing Field, Grove Road, Rayleigh
- St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh
- Sweyne Park Open Space, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh
- King George Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh
- Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Priory Chase, Rayleigh

Provision for Children and Young People

The youth facilities provided within each of the open spaces, the breakdown by ward area and the estimated size of these youth areas are shown in Appendix A. The youth facilities identified include:

- 15 basketball areas (including lone hoops);
- Seven teen shelters;
- Five skateboarding areas;
- Three other youth facilities; and
- Two BMX areas.

It is noted, however, that since the audit of youth facilities, four new teen shelters have been installed across the District, and as such, do not form part of this assessment.

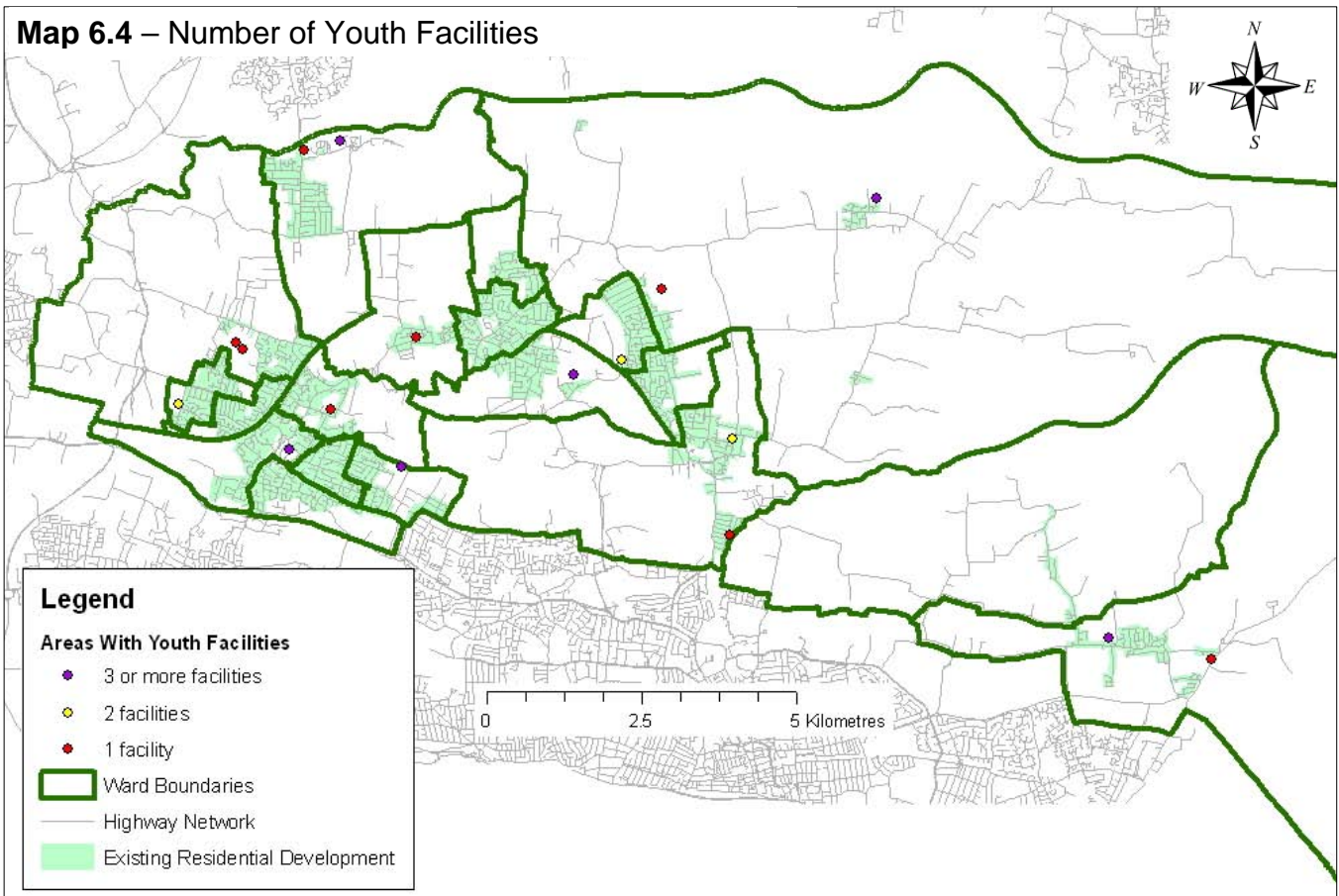
The majority of areas provided for young people are situated within playing fields which are located on the edge of residential areas. The sites for youth facilities have a total combined area of 1.001 hectares which provides 0.01 hectares of open space per 1,000 of the population in the District.

Table 6.4 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of youth areas (ha)	Youth provision (ha)/1000 population
78489	1.001	0.01

All of the respondents to the consultation were over the age of 18, and as such youth facilities are one of the least visited type of open space (on average less than once a month according to the survey results). Over half of those surveyed consider these facilities to be very important and 29% felt they are important, however, it was only considered to be 'moderately' needed type of open space.

The number of youth areas and the provision of youth facilities varies across the sites as shown in Appendix A. Map 6.4 below shows the distribution and quantity of youth facilities available at all of the identified sites.

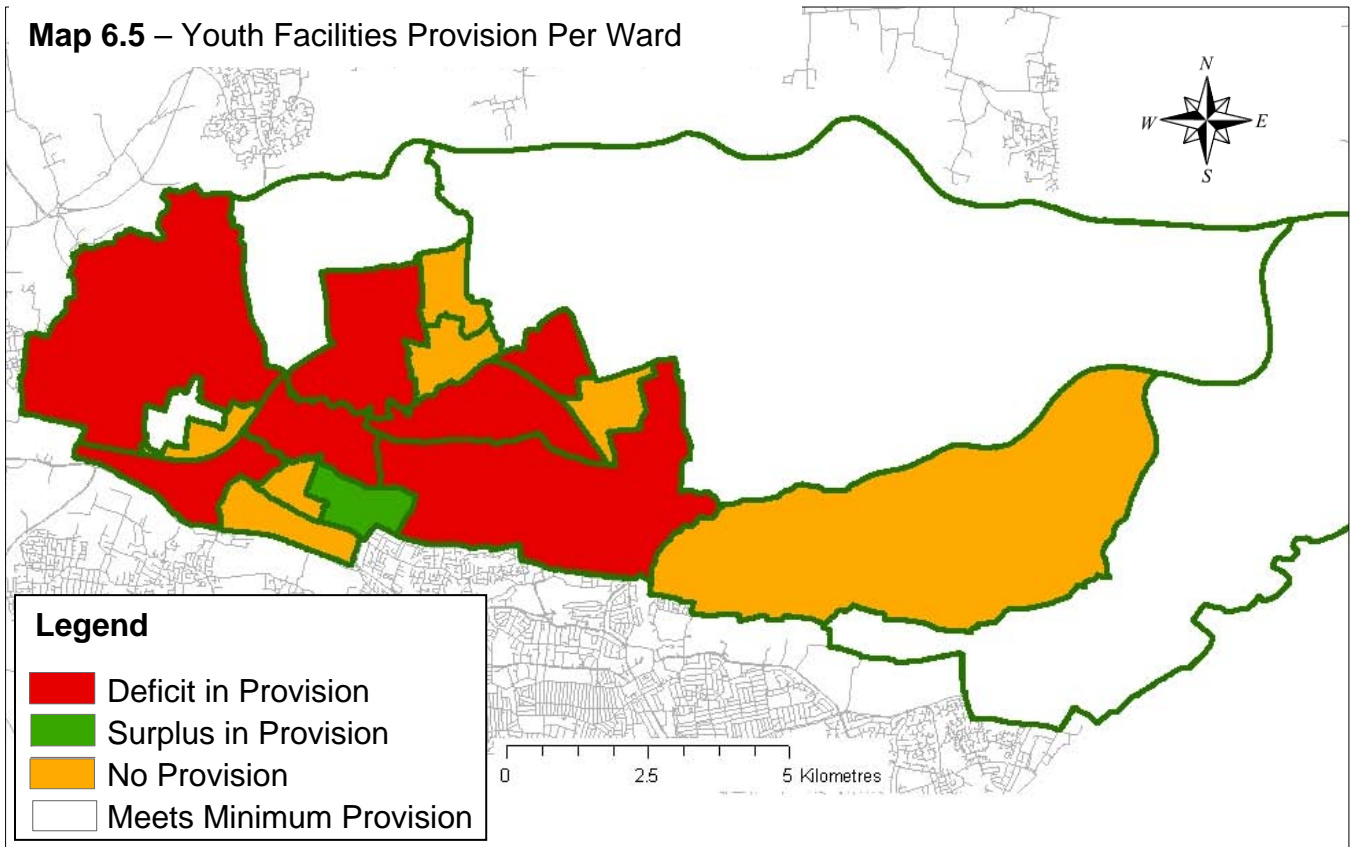


Recommended Provision

Through the consultation, youth facilities along with play space were perceived to be the second most needed type of open space. In comparing the current provision with other local authorities, and having regard to national standards it is felt that the recommended local provision standard for young people should be 0.02 hectares per 1000 of the population. Whilst this represents a significant increase in current provision, it is important to provide safe areas for young people to socialise, without creating problem areas or nuisance to surrounding residents. As such it may be appropriate to improve the accessibility to existing areas, improve natural surveillance and the range of facilities available. It may also be appropriate to provide an additional range of areas for young people, for example youth centres or other supervised places (although these are not considered as part of this assessment). It is recommended that decisions regarding the type of youth facilities to be provided are undertaken in conjunction with young people themselves, as demand for different types of facilities may vary depending on current trends and the age-group at which such facilities are aimed.

Recommended Local Provision Standard: 0.02 hectares per 1000 population

This recommended local provision standard has been applied at ward level for those wards which have youth facilities. The quantity of surplus or deficit in provision per ward area can be found in Appendix A, and a graphical representation is shown in Map 6.5 below.

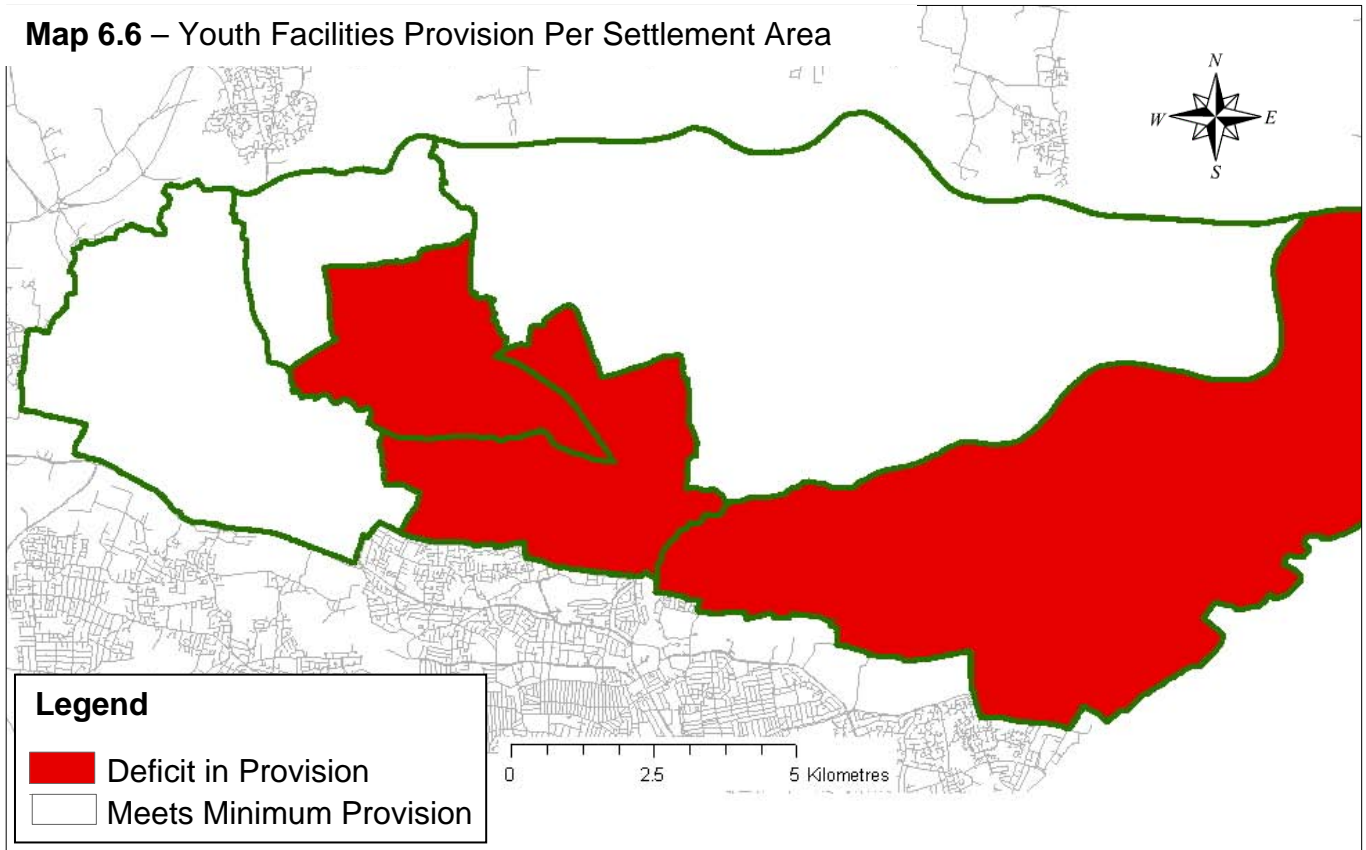


This shows that there are currently no youth facilities in Barling and Sutton, Grange, Hawkwell South, Hockley Central, Hockley North, Rayleigh Central and Whitehouse wards. The recommended minimum provision level for youth facilities is currently being met within Ashingdon and Canewdon, Hullbridge, Foulness and Great Wakering and Sweyne Park; however, it is not being met within the majority of the wards to the west of the District. There is however a potential surplus in provision for Lodge ward.

It is important to note, however, that when applying the minimum standard at the ward level there will be some wards that appear to have an oversupply and some that fall below the recommended minimum provision level as identified above. In reality, however, a ward may be adjacent to another that has a plentiful supply of open space and therefore its population falls within the catchment of this space so the fact it is below the minimum recommended standard is not necessarily a problem.

To try to give a more representative picture of the current provision of youth facilities, the District has also been divided into settlement areas (see Table 1.4) to further highlight the potential deficiencies in youth facilities. The calculations for youth facilities provision per settlement area can be found in Appendix A. This is depicted in Map 6.6 below.

Map 6.6 – Youth Facilities Provision Per Settlement Area



This suggests that there is a deficit in existing provision of youth facilities throughout half of the District (Rayleigh/Rawreth, Hullbridge and Great Wakering/Barling/Foulness), whereas the rest of the settlement areas are currently meeting the recommended minimum provision level (per 1000 of the District’s population). However, the priority areas should be those areas which fall outside the accessibility catchment of this type of open space. This is defined within the accessibility section and catchment mapping below (Map 6.7).

Quality

Current Quality

The quality and range of youth facilities varies across the District. Quality assessment looked at three criteria which were considered key areas for youth facilities. This included assessing the condition of roads/paths and access, facilities such as bins, seating (benches and teen shelters, where provided), the range of facilities and lighting, and the cleanliness of the site. The quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the quality score represents a ‘snapshot’ in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the visit.

Quality ratings were provided for all the 17 sites (Table 6.5) of which six were rated as being of ‘good’ to ‘very good’ quality and five were rated as being ‘average’ to ‘good’ quality. Sites with scores over 60% were perceived to be of ‘good’ to ‘very good’ quality, between 60% and 50% were considered to be ‘average’ to ‘good’ quality and 50% or below were considered to be ‘poor’ to ‘very poor’ quality.

Table 6.5 – Quality Scores for the youth facilities audited

Youth Facilities	Quality Score
Hullbridge Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	75.0%
Ferry Road Car Park, Ferry Road, Hullbridge	70.0%
Canewdon Recreation Ground, Althorne Way, Canewdon	65.0%
Warwick Drive, Rochford	65.0%
Laburnum Grove Open Space, Hockley	65.0%
Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	65.0%
King George V Playing Field, Rayleigh	60.0%
Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	60.0%
Great Wakering Recreation Ground, Great Wakering	55.0%
Fairview Playing Fields, Rayleigh	55.0%
Grove Road Playing Field, Rayleigh	55.0%
St John Fisher Playing Field, Rayleigh	50.0%
Clements Hall Playing Field, Hawkwell	50.0%
Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Rayleigh	50.0%
Sweyne Park, Rayleigh	40.0%
South of Morrins Close, Great Wakering	35.0%
King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	25.0%

Six of the areas with youth facilities, however, were considered to be ‘poor’ to ‘very poor’ in quality. These were:

- King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon
- Clements Hall Playing Field, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell
- Morrins Close, Great Wakering
- St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh
- Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Priory Chase, Rayleigh
- Sweyne Park, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh

These were found to have limited or poor condition facilities which were poorly accessible, and/or heavily vandalised (lots of evidence of graffiti and litter). Of these sites, the skateboard areas at Rayleigh Leisure Centre and Clements Hall Leisure Centre and the walls/structures near basketball facilities at King George Playing Field (Ashingdon) and Sweyne Park were particularly vandalised.

On average, the identified youth facilities have been assessed as being of ‘average’ to ‘good’ quality. However, there were some general issues identified across the sites, which were:

- Insufficient bins or benches provided, where appropriate;
- Some issues with accessibility to facilities, for example they were provided a distance from main entrances such as King George Playing Field (Ashingdon), or no pathways are provided, for example Sweyne Park;
- Evidence of litter and graffiti (even in areas where sufficient bins were provided);
- Inadequate lighting; and
- A variation in the provision and variety of youth facilities available across the District.

There are numerous basketball facilities, which range from lone basketball hoops as found at many of the sites such as King George Playing Field (Rayleigh), to a few sizeable courts such as those situated at Warwick Drive and Fairview Playing Field. Overall the quality of the

Provision for Children and Young People

basketball facilities is average with evidence of graffiti and vandalism at some of the sites. However, there is a very good quality facility at Warwick Drive, which is enclosed, preventing unnecessary disturbance to nearby dwellings.



Figure 6.16 – Basketball hoops at Sweyne Park ('poor' to very poor' quality)



Figure 6.17 – Basketball court at Warwick Drive ('good' to 'very good' quality)

There are several teen shelters throughout the District, which are situated predominately on playing fields and in proximity to other youth facilities and play space. There are some issues of littering and graffiti, particularly notable at Canewdon Playing Field at the time of assessment.



Figure 6.18 – Teen shelter at King George Playing Field, Rayleigh



Figure 6.19 – Teen shelter at Canewdon Playing Field

There are a few dedicated skateboarding areas throughout the District, which are of varying scale and quality. There are some issues of littering and graffiti, particularly at the facilities provided at Clements Hall Playing Field and Canewdon Playing Field.



Figure 6.20 – Skateboard ramps at Clements Hall Playing Field



Figure 6.21 – Skateboard ramps at Pooles Lane Playing Field

There are a limited number of BMX areas in the District, both of which are located within playing fields, but situated away from residential areas. These are a series of uneven dirt mounds and tracks which provide an alternative form of exercise and enjoyment for the District's youth.



Figure 6.22 – BMX area at Pooles Lane Playing Field



Figure 6.23 – BMX area at Grove Road Playing Field

Other types of facilities for young people were also found at three sites within the District in addition to the standard youth facilities which were part of this audit (teen shelters and skateboard, basketball and BMX areas), which included climbing and balance facilities and additional ball games such as giant marbles.



Figure 6.24 – Youth equipment at Great Wakering Leisure Centre



Figure 6.25 – Youth equipment at St John Fisher Recreation Ground

The perception of quality from the open space survey for youth facilities across the District varied from 'very poor' condition to 'very good'. It was highlighted that additional youth facilities are required (with particular reference to Hockley), and problems were identified with respect to litter and vandalism (such as damage to trees and graffiti) in some areas of public open space.

Recommended Quality

Priorities for improvement should be the spaces identified in Table 6.4 as being 50% or below which are considered to be of 'poor' to 'very poor' quality at the time of assessment. Furthermore the quality issues which have been identified above and in Appendix F should be addressed. As such the minimum quality standard which youth facilities should meet against the quality criteria in Appendix E is greater than 50%.

Recommended Local Quality Standard: >50%

Accessibility

Current Accessibility

The facilities for young people were found within recreation grounds and in close proximity to play space. The recreation grounds, such as Canewdon Playing Field and Rochford Recreation Ground, are generally situated adjacent to or within residential areas which makes them easily accessible to the local population. However, some facilities such as Grove Road Playing Field and Pooles Lane Playing Field are situated slightly further away from the main residential areas, which may make accessing them more challenging for young people.

The youth facilities themselves are generally close to the residential area, however, some were more isolated, for example the basketball court at King George Playing Field (Ashington) which is situated in the middle of the field, although this is likely due to maintaining the amenity of the surrounding residential area.

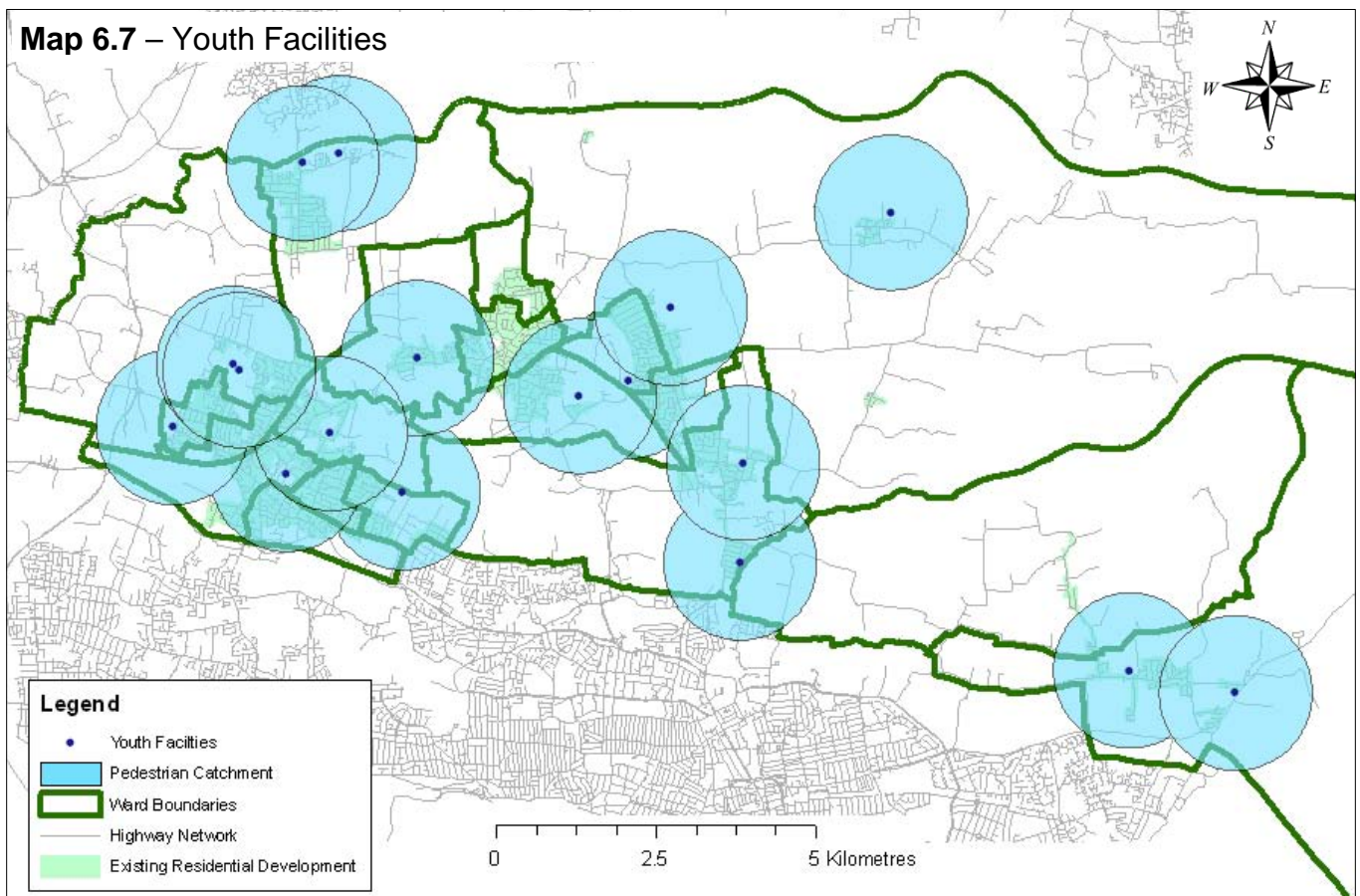
Recommended Accessibility

A walk of less than 15 minutes was considered to generally be an acceptable travelling time to youth facilities by the majority of respondents to the survey. It is recommended as shown in the summary table below that youth facilities should in general be located up to 1200 metres (the equivalent walking distance) from residents.

Table 6.6 – Accessibility Standard

Recommended travel time	Indicative equivalent distance
<15 minute walk	< 1200m

The spatial distribution of the youth areas in the District and their potential pedestrian catchment is shown in Map 6.7 below.



There is a wide spatial distribution of youth facilities provided throughout the District, which are accessible to the majority of the population given the recommended pedestrian catchment of these areas. Having regard to the settlement mapping (Map 6.6), however, this suggests that there is insufficient provision throughout much of the District and whilst the youth facilities are generally accessible to the population, there is an identified need in the District, in particular, within the settlement of Hockley and other smaller areas, where there is currently no provision of youth facilities.

There is inadequate provision of youth facilities throughout much of the District and as such it is recommended that additional facilities are provided to meet the recommend provision level (0.02 hectares per 1000 of the District’s population), particularly where a need has been identified. It may also be appropriate to improve the accessibility and quality of existing youth

facilities. Additional youth facilities should be situated primarily within areas where a need has been identified (Map 6.6) in localities outside the recommended pedestrian catchment (Map 6.7).

Vision

‘Accessible, appropriately located youth areas are provided with dedicated facilities which meet the needs of young people in the District. These areas are appropriately lit with plentiful natural surveillance to enhance the feeling of safety for the local community. ’

To work towards this vision, the following objectives should be met:

- Provide additional youth areas in appropriate locations throughout the District, most notably Hawkwell/Hockley; Rochford/Ashingdon and Great Wakering/Barling/Foulness;
- Ensure that the provision of additional areas is integral to the design process and reflects changing trends;
- Provide more youth facilities within youth areas which meet local needs;
- Address problems of antisocial behaviour, particularly issues of littering and vandalism;
- Provide additional bins as appropriate; and
- Ensure there are appropriate levels of natural surveillance.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Introduction

Outdoor sports facilities include all sports facilities found outside and all facilities included in this category have the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.

Providing a range of outdoor sports facilities is vital in satisfying local demand within the District and promoting an active lifestyle. Increasing emphasis on encouraging healthier and more active lifestyles, particularly of adults, is part of the National Indicators (NI8) which the District aspires to as stipulated in the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy (2009).

Outdoor sports facilities are defined as open spaces that allow participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, outdoor bowls, or countryside and water sports. This audit will assess the current provision of playing fields used for football, rugby, and cricket, tennis courts, bowling greens, golf courses and driving ranges and yacht club facilities. Some of the identified sites have a multifunctional purpose, providing for a range of different sports throughout the year. As such all the sites will be identified as a group and then divided into their specific sporting provision to highlight the current provision and spatial distribution of the different sports facilities throughout the District.

An in-depth assessment of playing pitch provision in the District and quality of playing fields for football, rugby, cricket and hockey can be found within the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document. This open space assessment will seek to provide graphical and empirical data to supplement the document.

Quantity

Current Provision

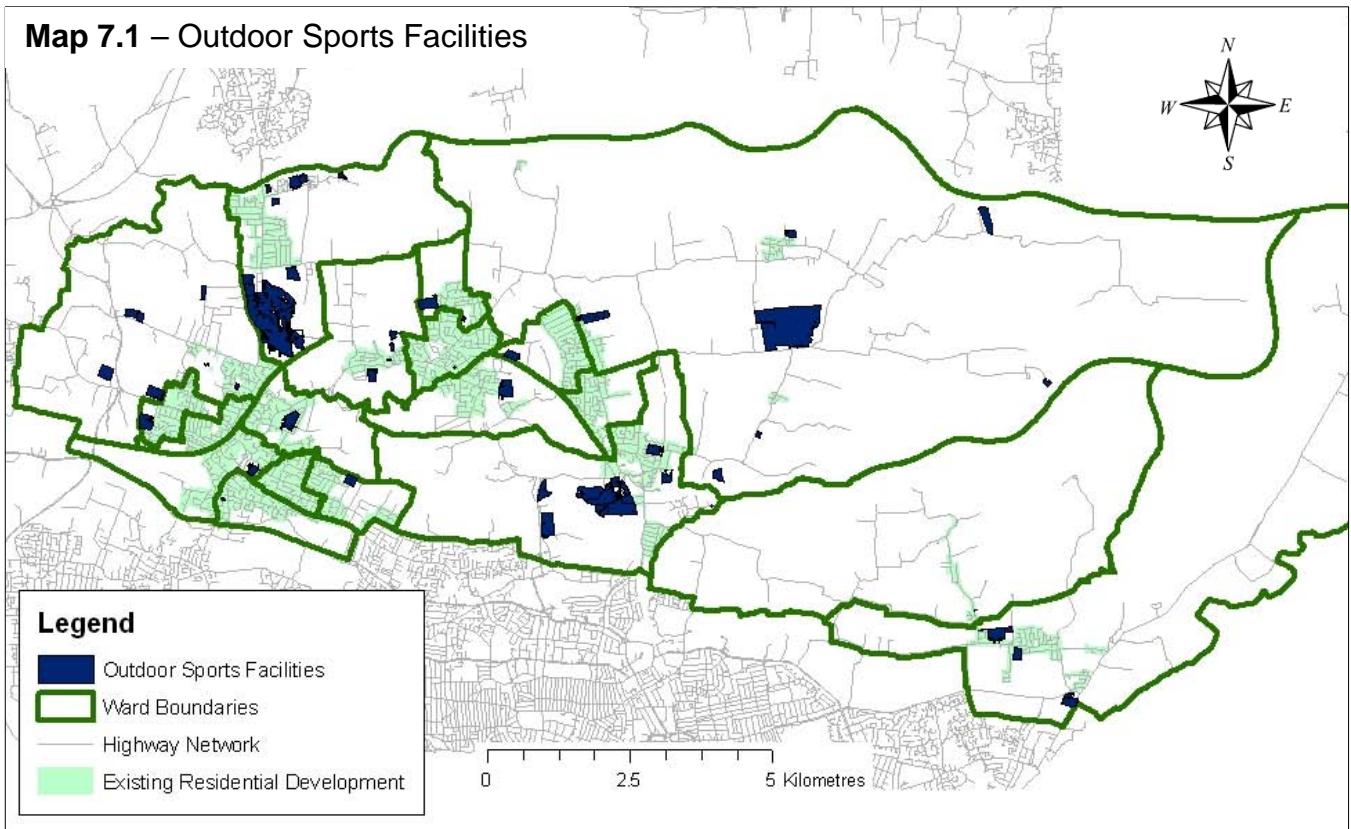
A site audit of sites with outdoor sports facilities identified a total of 48 sites, some of which are public facilities, some private and some that are facilities owned and used by educational establishments such as schools and colleges and are available for community use. The sites identified were:

- Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford
- Adult Education Centre, Rocheway, Rochford
- Apex Playing Field, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley
- St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh
- Hockley Primary School, Chevening Gardens, Hockley
- King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Rochford
- Stambridge Memorial Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford
- Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Priory Chase, Rayleigh
- Hullbridge Sports and Social Club, Lower Road, Hullbridge
- Westcliff Rugby Club, Aviation Way, Southend
- Rochford Hundred Rugby Club, Magnolia Road, Rochford
- Broomhills Cricket Ground, Stambridge Mills, Rochford
- Cricket Ground, Great Wakering Primary School, High Street, Great Wakering
- Rayleigh Cricket Club, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- Cherry Orchard Way Playing Field, Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford
- King George V Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh
- Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh
- Grove Road Playing Field, Grove Road, Rayleigh
- Down Hall Primary School, Brooklyn Drive, Rayleigh
- Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh
- Riverside Infants/Junior School, Ferry Road Hullbridge
- Hullbridge Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge
- Rayleigh Sports & Social Club, London Road, Rayleigh
- Cupids Country Club, Cupids Corner, Great Wakering
- Clements Hall Playing Field, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell
- Burroughs Park, Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering
- Hockley Community Centre, Playing Field, Plumberow Mount Avenue, Hockley
- Greensward Academy, Greensward Lane, Hockley
- Great Wakering Recreation Ground, Great Wakering Leisure Centre, High Street, Great Wakering
- Canewdon Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon
- Vincent Valley Playing Field, Trenders Avenue, Rayleigh
- Rochford Tennis Club, 2 Church Walk, Rochford
- Kent Elms Tennis Club, Aviation Way, Southend
- Hockley Tennis Club, Folly Lane, Hockley
- Rayleigh Tennis Club, Watchfield Lane, Rayleigh
- Bowling Green, Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering
- Bowling Green, The Green, Highams Road, Hockley
- Ballards Gore Golf Club, Gore Road, Canewdon
- Lords Golf and Country Club, Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh
- Rochford Hundred Golf Club, Hall Road, Rochford
- Hockley Golf Range, Aldermans Hill, Hockley
- Rayleigh Golf Range, London Road, Rawreth
- Up River Yacht Club, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge
- Hullbridge Yacht Club, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge
- Brandy Hole Yacht Station, Kingsmans Farm Road, Hullbridge
- Great Wakering Yacht Club, Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochehall Way, Rochford
- Essex Marina Yacht Club, Essex Marina, Wallasea Island, Rochford
- Hostellers Sailing Club, Paglesham Boatyard, Waterside Road, Paglesham

The location of all the outdoor sports facilities which are included within this assessment are shown in Map 7.1 below.



In total the sites have a combined area of 302.42 hectares, providing a current provision level of 3.85 hectares of open space for outdoor sport and leisure per 1,000 people in the District. These figures include some school facilities (which are usually closed to the public), three golf courses (which are proportionally of a much larger area than most outdoor sports facilities), two driving ranges and six yacht clubs. When golf courses are removed from the calculation, this gives a total of 125.42 hectares and a current provision level of 1.60 hectares per 1000 of the District’s population. This includes public and private facilities which are available for use by the local community and/or members.

Table 7.1 – Outdoor Sports Facilities per 1000 of the District’s Population

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of outdoor sports facilities (ha)	Outdoor sports facilities provision (ha)/1000 Population
Total outdoor sports facilities:		
78489	302.42	3.85
Excluding golf courses:		
78489	125.42	1.60

Outdoor sports facilities were found to be one of the least visited types of open space, on average being visited less than once a month by respondents to the open space survey. Such facilities are considered to be ‘very important’ or ‘important’ as expressed by 55% and 26% of respondents respectively, but in general additional outdoor sports facilities were considered to be only moderately needed in the District, after other types of open space such as natural and semi-natural greenspaces, amenity greenspaces and play space.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

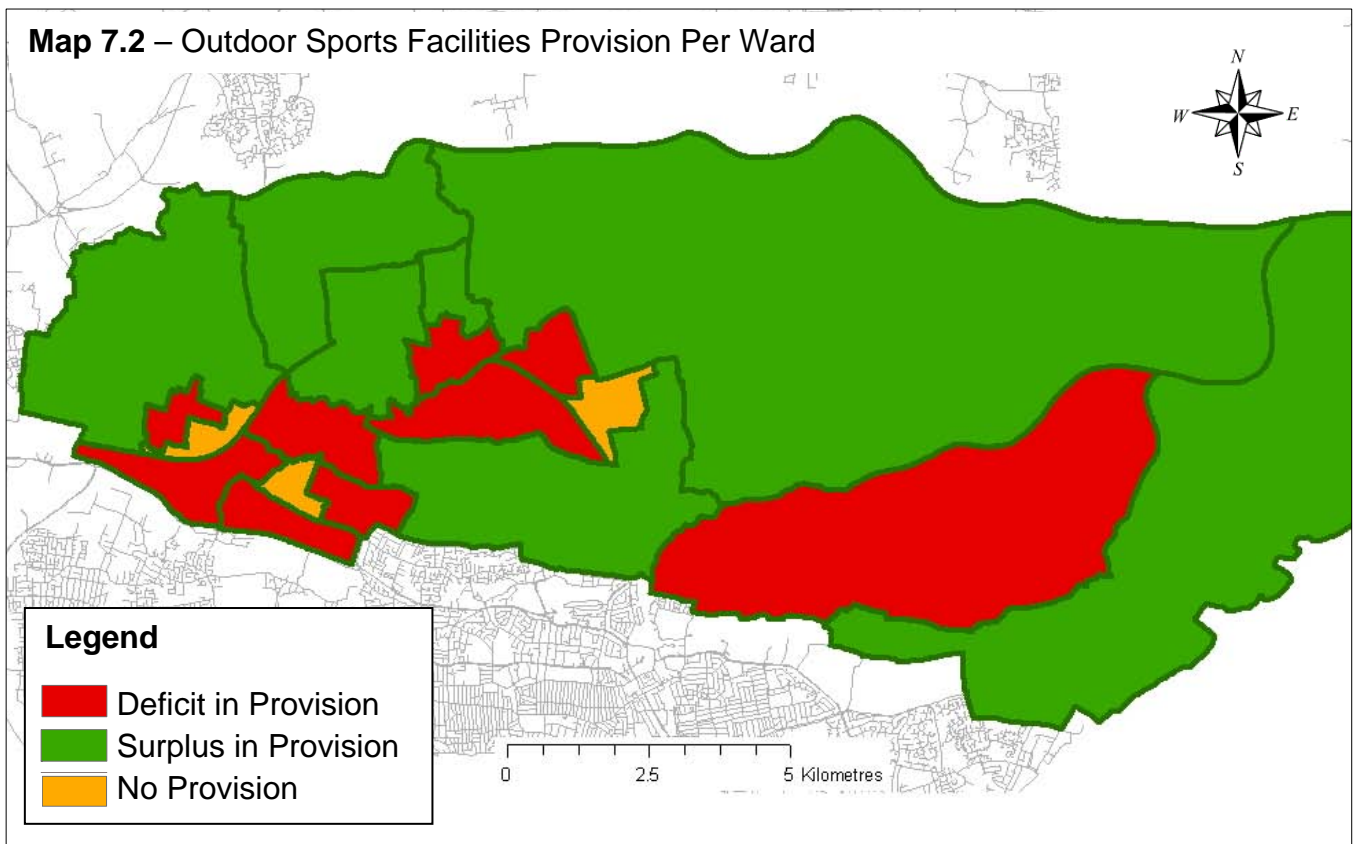
This chapter audits a wide range of outdoors sports facilities, however golf courses have been excluded from the setting of a local provision standard. This is because the large area they encompass is not comparable with other types of outdoor sports facilities and therefore their inclusion would unrealistically distort the results. As such, the figure of 1.60 hectares per 1000 of the District' population will be used as a current provision standard for outdoor sports facilities.

Recommended Provision

The National Playing Field Association (now Fields in Trust) developed a recommended national standard of 6 acres per 1000 population for open space. This includes approximately 1.60 hectares for outdoor sports facilities and a further 0.8 hectares for play space for children and young people. However, the guidance emphasises that national standards do not consider local characteristics and the needs of local communities, and recommended standards should be developed to reflect local needs. There is a recognised need for additional outdoor sports facilities in the District, in particular playing pitches. Therefore it is felt that the recommended local provision standard for outdoor sports facilities should be 1.8 hectares per 1000 of the population.

Recommended Local Provision Standard: 1.8 hectares per 1000 population

This recommended local provision standard has been applied at ward level for those wards which are served by an outdoor sports facility. The quantity of surplus or deficit in provision per ward area can be found in Appendix A, and a graphical representation is shown in Map 7.2 below.

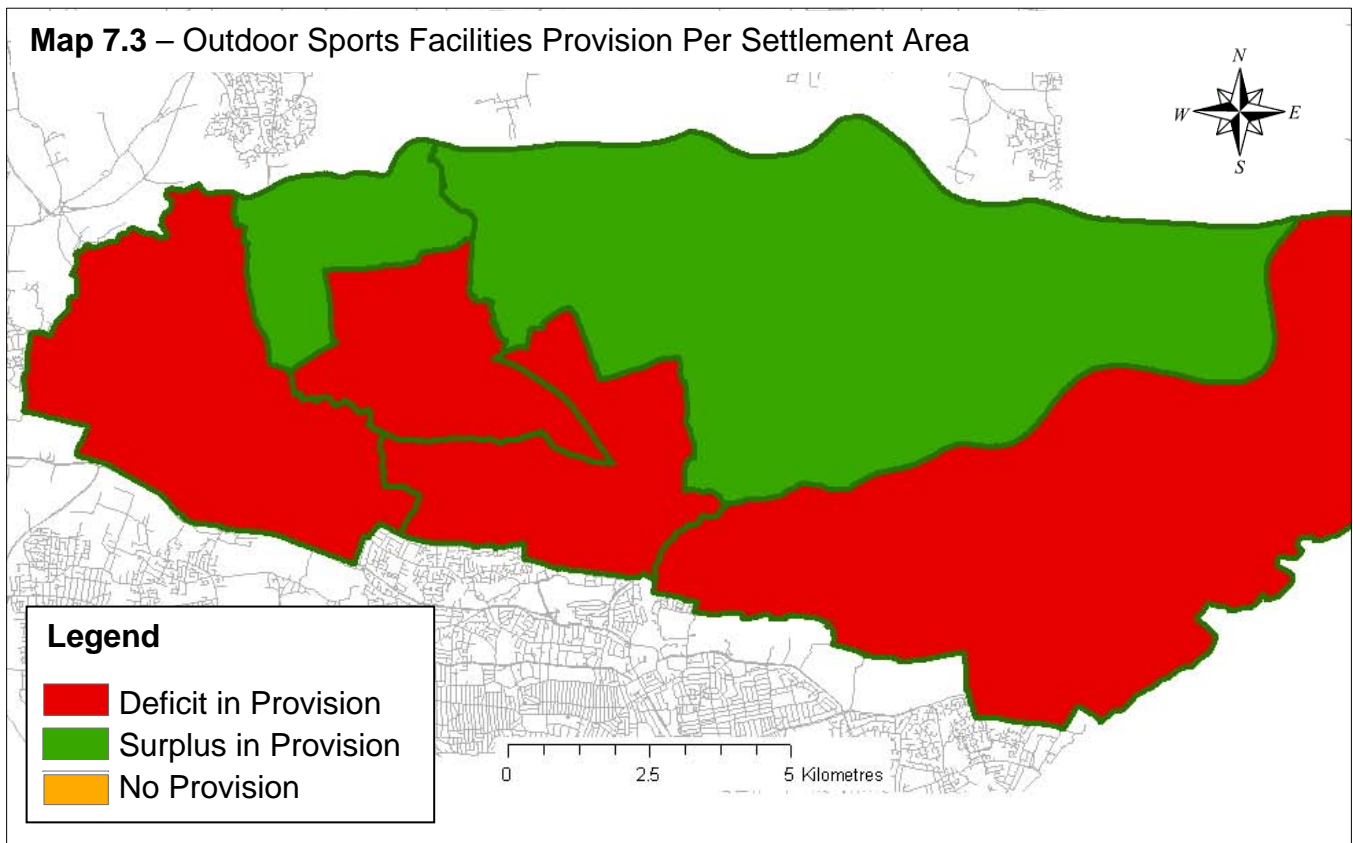


Outdoor Sports Facilities

This shows that there is a potential surplus in outdoor sports facilities provision for the majority of the District's wards; however, there is an identified potential deficit of provision in Barling and Sutton, Hawkwell North, Hawkwell West, Hockley Central, Lodge, Whitehouse, Trinity, Wheatley and Sweyne Park wards. There is currently no provision in the wards of Hawkwell South, Grange and Rayleigh Central.

It is important to note, however, that when applying the minimum standard at the ward level there will be some wards that appear to have an oversupply and some that fall below the recommended minimum provision level as identified above. In reality, however, a ward may be adjacent to another that has a plentiful supply of open space and therefore its population falls within the catchment of this space so the fact it is below the minimum recommended standard is not necessarily a problem.

To try and give a more representative picture of the current provision of outdoor sports facilities, the District has also been divided into settlement areas (see Table 1.4) to further highlight the potential deficiencies in outdoor sports facilities. The calculations for outdoor sports facilities provision per settlement area can be found in Appendix A. This is depicted in Map 7.3 below.



This suggests that the majority of the District currently has a deficit in supply of outdoor sports facilities and the settlement areas of Canewdon and Hullbridge having a potential surplus in provision.

The priority areas are those which are both below the recommended minimum standard and also fall outside the accessibility catchment of this type of open space. This is defined within the accessibility section and catchment mapping below (Map 7.4).

The standard which has been identified above (1.8 hectares per 1000 of the District's population) is a combined local standard for outdoor sports facilities in general. However, whilst it is necessary to assess the current overall provision of outdoor sports facilities across the District, it is also important to consider the current provision of different sporting activities which comprise 'outdoor sports facilities' which are recognised as having different needs. As such the quantity of each sporting activity will be identified. The current provision of each outdoor sports activity can be found in Appendix A.

Quality

The quality of the outdoor sports facilities will be assessed through the individual sports breakdown as appropriate. This assessment, however, does not consider the quality of private facilities.

Current Quality

The quality of outdoor sports facilities was generally addressed in the open space survey. The majority of respondents (32%) considered this type of open space to be of 'poor' quality with 19% considering them to be of 'good' quality and 10% thought they were of 'very poor' quality. No respondents felt that these facilities were of 'very good' quality.

General comments were made regarding the District's outdoor sports facilities as part of the consultation. Reference was made to the lack of outdoor sports facilities, in particular playing fields/pitches in Hockley and the importance of preserving all types of public open space. A general need was identified in the District for such facilities to increase the population's participation in sports particularly for children to improve wellbeing and quality of life. Concern was expressed regarding the need to ensure dogs are kept under control, and increased policing was mentioned as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour.

Specific areas were mentioned, most notably in Rayleigh, regarding the quality and maintenance of outdoor sports facilities. King Georges Playing Field, for example was described as being well maintained, whereas it was generally considered that other such areas may be able to improve. The inadequate and poor quality seating at Rawreth Lane Playing Field was highlighted as an issue which needs resolving, and the problem of litter at St John Fisher Playing Field following its use for football.

The quality of each sporting activity considered in this audit will be assessed individually as appropriate.

Recommended Quality

Priorities for improvement should be the outdoor sports facilities where quality issues have been identified set out within each section of this chapter and Appendix F should be addressed as appropriate. As such it is not appropriate to identify an overall recommended quality standard for outdoors sports facilities within this assessment.

No Quality Standard Set

Accessibility

Given the diverse range of sporting activities included within this chapter it is acknowledged that each facility may have a different acceptable travelling catchment (time/distance) and preferred mode of travel. Yacht clubs for example are widely dispersed facilities which are limited to certain geographical locations within the District. However, for the purposes of this assessment, all facilities will be assessed against a generic local accessibility standard.

Recommended Provision

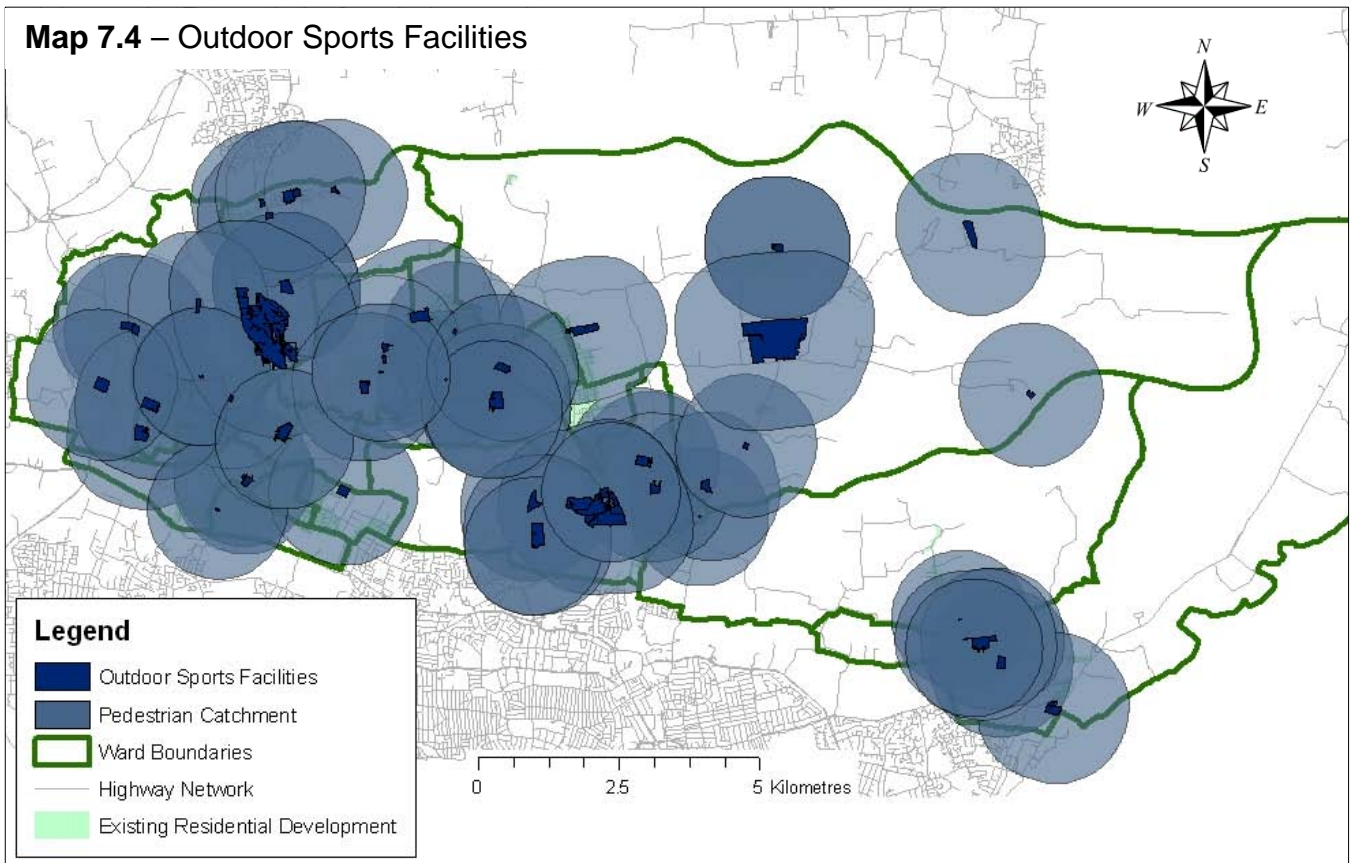
Over half of respondents to the consultation were found to visit outdoor sports facilities with over 30% of these visiting them at least once a week. The consultation has highlighted that 26% of respondents would normally walk to outdoor sports facilities, whereas it was found that only 16% would travel by car. Less than 15 minutes travelling time was considered acceptable by over three quarters of respondents.

The recommended local open space standards in this document which have been benchmarked against other local authorities recommended standards have generally been in agreement in terms of the preferred mode of travel and the general acceptable travelling time to the different types of open space. It is recommended as shown in the summary table below, however, that a walking catchment of 15 minutes or 1200m (its equivalent distance) will be used as the accessibility standard for the range of sporting activities included in this audit.

Table 7.2 – Accessibility Standard

Recommended travel time	Indicative equivalent distance
<15 minute walk	<1200m

The potential pedestrian catchment of all the outdoor sports facilities included in this assessment is shown in Map 7.4 below.



This suggests that there are outdoor sports facilities which are accessible to local communities (as they are situated within the potential pedestrian catchment). This, however, does not consider the type of outdoor sports facility. The following sections separate these facilities into their different sports giving an overview of the current provision, quality and accessibility to present a clearer picture.

Football Playing Fields

There are numerous playing fields in use for football which includes those facilities managed on behalf of the Council, those which have been transferred to the National Playing Fields Association (NFPA), now Fields in Trust, and those which are not owned or managed by the Council or Fields In Trust but are held in trust for public use or are available for public use within the District.

It is recognised that the football playing fields which have been included in this section may have a multifunctional use, providing the same informal recreational and leisure opportunities as other types of open space such as amenity greenspace. PPG17 states that open spaces should be classified according to their primary purpose as set out in the open space typology (Table 1.1). These particular playing fields have been highlighted through preliminary work for the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document to assess the current supply level of playing pitches, and as such have been included within the outdoor sports facilities and not any other category of open space considered in this assessment to prevent double counting. Such multifunctional open spaces are important for providing a wide range of opportunities to the local community, and this assessment does not seek to strictly categorise them but to ensure that there is an adequate supply of accessible, high quality open spaces which meet local needs.

Quantity

Survey and field work conducted as part of the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document has identified 26 football playing fields or sites with artificial playing pitches which are available for community use dispersed throughout the District. It should be noted that this includes three hard-surfaced facilities, which are multiuse pitches. Four of these are school playing fields which have been identified as being available for community use.

It should be noted that Rayleigh Leisure Centre currently only has multiuse hard-surfaced pitches which are available for football. However, work has started on the development of 5 grass junior/mini playing pitches on approximately 2.3 hectares of land to the rear of the Leisure Centre which will be available for hire in the near future. As such they are not currently being utilised and are not included as part of this assessment. Clements Hall Leisure Centre also has a multiuse hard-surfaced pitch which may be utilised for football. Both this facility and the pitches at Rayleigh Leisure Centre are included within football and tennis sections of this chapter, however, for the overall provision of outdoor sports facilities (Table 7.1), they are only counted once.

The total area for football facilities has been included within the overall provision for outdoor sports facilities, with children and youth facilities deducted as appropriate. The total area for

football can be calculated by deducting additional facilities within the area of the field, which does not utilise the same space as the pitches. Therefore bowling greens and tennis courts have been deducted as appropriate. As such the total combined area for football is approximately 91.37 hectares which equates to 1.16 hectares per 1000 of the District's population.

Table 7.3 – Football Facilities per 1000 of the District's population

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of football facilities (ha)	Football facilities provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	91.37	1.16

The size and provision of currently utilised grass and artificial playing pitches identified through survey and fieldwork by ward area can be found in Appendix A. A more detailed assessment of the current provision of football playing pitches for community football teams can be found in the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.

Quality

This audit includes both public and private facilities which are currently being utilised for football. However, the quality of private facilities is not considered as part of this assessment.

Current Quality

Seven criteria which were considered key quality areas were used for assessing the quality of public playing fields. This included assessing the condition and maintenance of the site entrance and boundary, roads/paths and access, planted areas, grass areas, facilities such as bins, seating, toilets, parking, lighting and information provided about the open space, and the cleanliness of the site. The quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the quality score represents a 'snapshot' in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the visit.

Quality ratings were provided for 11 of the 26 sites (Table 7.4), however, not all the public playing fields are included as part of this assessment. Of these 11 playing fields, seven were rated as being of 'good' to 'very good' quality, generally benefitting from adequate car parking, appropriate pathways throughout the site, sufficient bin provision, and minimal evidence of litter and/or dog fouling. Sites with scores over 50% were perceived to be of 'good' to 'very good' quality, between 50% and 40% were considered to be 'average' to 'good' quality and 40% or below were considered to be 'poor' to 'very poor' quality.

Table 7.4 – Quality Scores for the football playing fields audited

Playing Fields	Quality Score
King George V Playing Field, Rayleigh	69.2%
King George Playing Field, Rochford	65.4%
Pooles Lane Playing Field, Hullbridge	63.5%
Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh	59.6%
Great Wakering Leisure Centre Playing Field, Great Wakering	55.8%
Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rayleigh	51.9%
Clements Hall Playing Field, Hawkwell	51.9%
St John Fisher Playing Field, Rayleigh	50.0%
Rochford Recreation Ground, Rochford	48.1%

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Canewdon Playing Field, Canewdon	44.2%
Grove Road Playing Field, Rayleigh	42.3%

It is noted, however, in Appendix F that there is significant levels of graffiti at many of these sites predominantly around youth facilities, for example the skateboard ramps at Clements Hall Playing Field.

An example of the assessed public playing fields ranging from 'good' to 'very good' quality are shown in the figures below:



Figure 7.1 – Rawreth Lane Playing Field



Figure 7.2 – Pooles Lane Playing Field

Four of the assessed playing fields were rated as being 'average' to 'good' quality. These sites were generally found to have inadequate signage, car parking and poor access. These were:

- Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford
- St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh
- Canewdon Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon
- Grove Road Playing Field, Grove Road, Rayleigh

On average, the public playing fields have been assessed as being of 'good' to 'very good' quality. However, there were some general issues relating to insufficient information, bins or benches provided, where appropriate, issues with accessibility for example poor signage to main entrances and evidence of litter, graffiti and dog fouling.

The figures below highlight some areas where some of the issues were identified.



Figure 7.3 – Graffiti at Pooles Lane Playing Field



Figure 7.4 – Bin at Grove Road Playing Field

A specific quality standard for football playing fields will not be set as they form a proportion of the District's outdoor sports facilities provision. Priorities for improvement should be where quality issues have been identified above and in Appendix F.

Accessibility

Generally access onto these sites was considered good, however, there were some specific areas identified where disabled access was considered to be poor for example the narrow pedestrian entrance from Ashingdon Road into King George Playing Field and poor access to Canewdon Playing Field from Gays Lane, which are exemplified in the figures below.

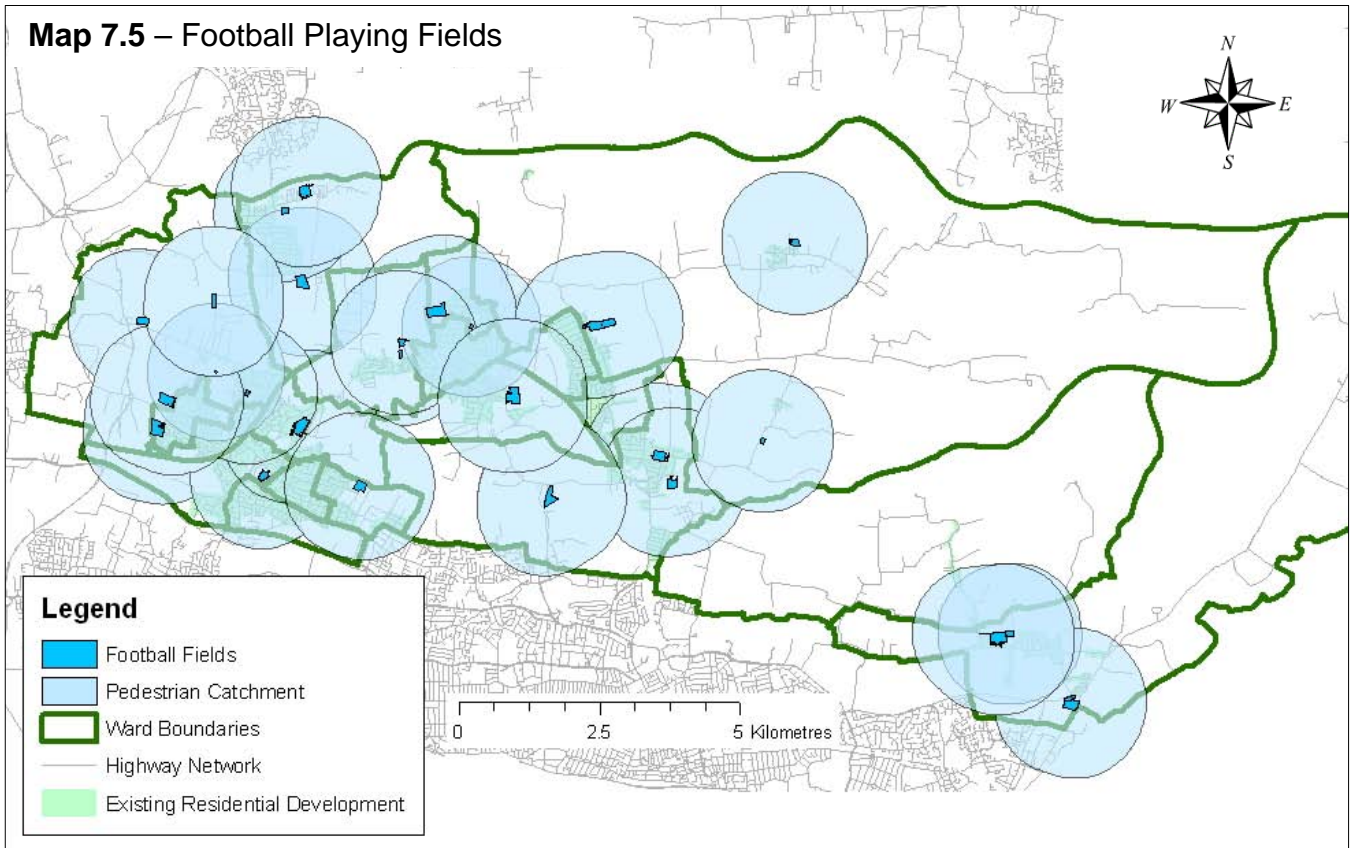


Figure 7.5 – Pedestrian entrance to King George Playing Field from Ashingdon Road



Figure 7.6 – Pedestrian entrance to Canewdon Playing Field from Gay's Lane

The recommended travel time and equivalent distance have been determined above (Table 7.2). The location of these playing fields in the District and their potential pedestrian catchment are shown in Map 7.5 below.



There is a wide spatial distribution of football fields throughout the District, which are accessible to the majority of the local population given the recommended pedestrian catchment of these areas.

The priority areas for additional football playing fields provision or improved accessibility to existing facilities should be within areas where a deficit has been identified (Map 7.3), and those areas outside the recommended pedestrian catchment. However, regard should also be had to the findings of the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.

Rugby Facilities

The playing fields which are in use for rugby in the District were identified through preliminary research for the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.

Quantity

There are two rugby playing fields located within the District which are privately owned. They are home to two rugby clubs;

- Rochford Hundred Rugby Club, Magnolia Road, Rochford
- Westcliff Rugby Club, Aviation Way, Southend

Outdoor Sports Facilities

The size and provision of rugby playing fields by ward area can be found in Appendix A. A more detailed assessment of the current provision of rugby playing fields can be found in the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.

The total combined area of the two rugby playing fields is approximately 11.3 hectares, which equates to 0.14 hectares per 1000 of the District's population.

Table 7.5 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of rugby facilities (ha)	Rugby facilities provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	11.3	0.14

Quality

The rugby playing fields are privately owned and maintained facilities, and as such, their quality is not considered as part of this assessment. An example of the playing fields is shown in the figures below.



Figure 7.7 – Rochford Hundred Rugby Club Grounds

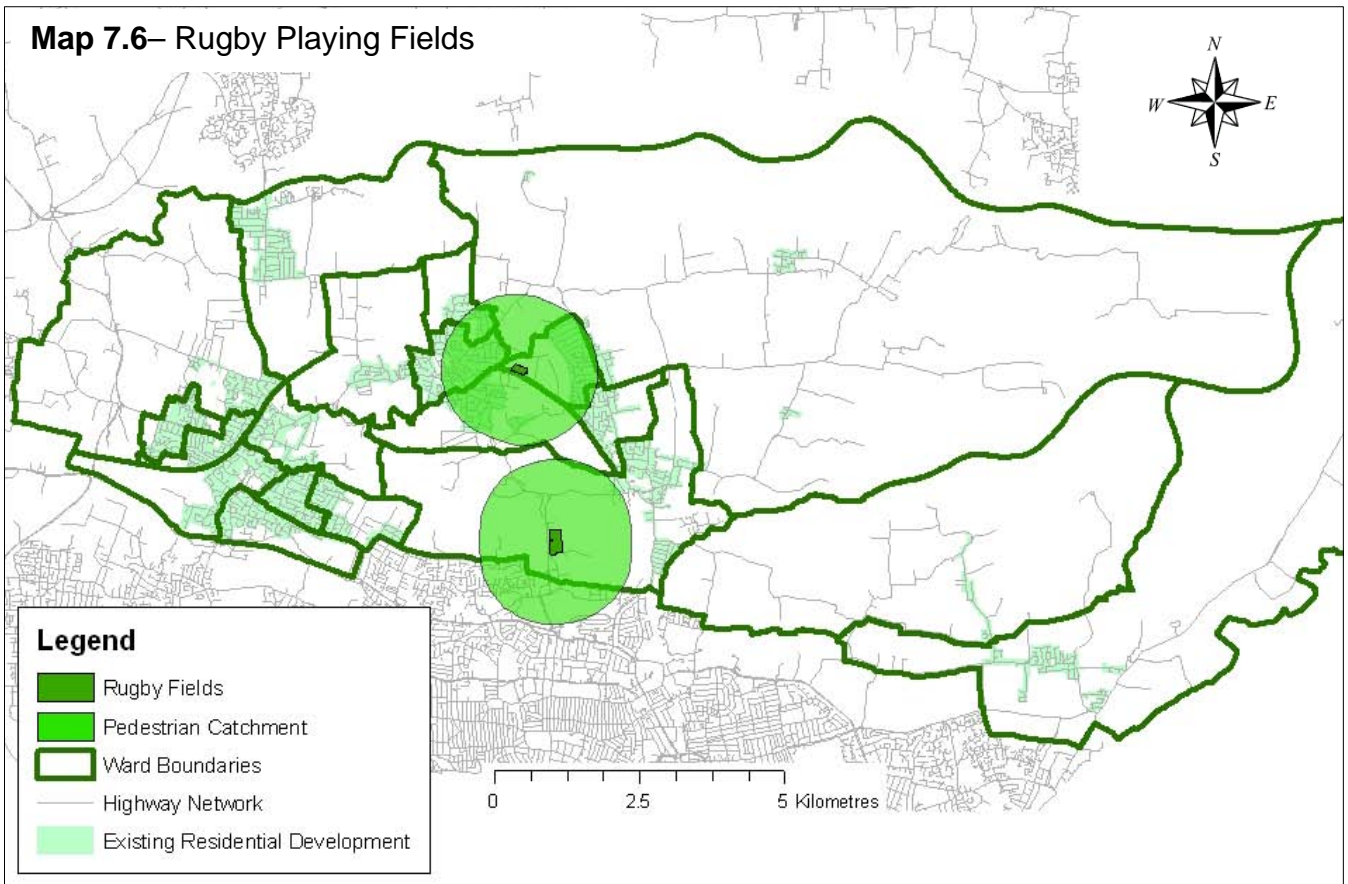


Figure 7.8 – Westcliff Rugby Club Grounds

Accessibility

Rochford Hundred Rugby Club is situated along an unmade road and thus is not directly on a bus route. There is, however, a bus stop is within walking distance, although there is limited footpath access to these facilities. Westcliff Rugby Club is located on the periphery of an industrial estate; it is not located in close proximity to the residential area and is not situated on bus a route. Thus both facilities may be easier to access by car and thus both have their own car parking facilities.

The recommended travel time and equivalent distance for outdoor sports facilities, however, have been determined above (Table 7.2). The location of these playing fields in the District and their potential pedestrian catchment are shown in Map 7.6 below.



The priority areas for additional rugby playing fields provision or improved accessibility to existing facilities should be within areas where a deficit has been identified (Map 7.3), and those areas outside the recommended pedestrian catchment. However, regard should also be had to the findings of the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document, which will for example determine whether there is a demand for additional rugby facilities within the District.

Cricket Facilities

The District's cricket fields were identified through preliminary research for the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.

Quantity

There are seven identified cricket fields situated throughout the District. These are:

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- Broomhills Cricket Ground, Stambridge Mills, Rochford
- Canewdon Cricket Ground, Althorne Way, Canewdon
- Great Wakering Cricket Ground, Great Wakering Primary School, High Street, Great Wakering
- Hullbridge Sports and Social Cricket Ground, Lower Road, Hullbridge
- Clements Hall Cricket Ground, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell
- Rayleigh Cricket Club, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh
- Rayleigh Sports & Social Club, London Road, Rayleigh

Due to the seasonal nature of many of the sports, some cricket pitches are situated on playing fields and consequently share facilities with other sports. Some pitches, however, do have dedicated cricket pitches such as those at Rayleigh Cricket Club and Broomhills Cricket Ground. Thus the quantity of open space provision for outdoor sports facilities (Table 7.1) only includes private cricket facilities to prevent double counting, and the cricket facilities on public playing fields are counted once as football playing fields. This section however considers the provision of both public and private cricket facilities.

The current provision and approximate size of cricket fields by ward area can be found in Appendix A. A more detailed assessment of the current provision of cricket facilities can be found in the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.

The total combined area of the playing fields identified for cricket is an estimated 12.38 hectares, which equates to 0.16 hectares per 1000 of the District's population.

Table 7.6 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of cricket facilities (ha)	Cricket facilities (ha)/1000 Population
78489	12.38	0.16

Quality

Five of the cricket fields are public facilities, which are predominantly owned and managed by the Council. The quality of three playing fields within which some of these cricket facilities reside were considered as part of the quality assessment for football facilities. As such, two of the fields (Clements Hall Cricket Ground, Hawkwell and Rawreth Lane Cricket Ground, Rayleigh) were considered as being of 'good' to 'very good' quality and Canewdon Cricket Ground, Canewdon was rated as being 'average' to 'good' quality. The quality of the District's private cricket fields are not considered as part of this assessment.

An example of the cricket playing fields are shown in the figures below.



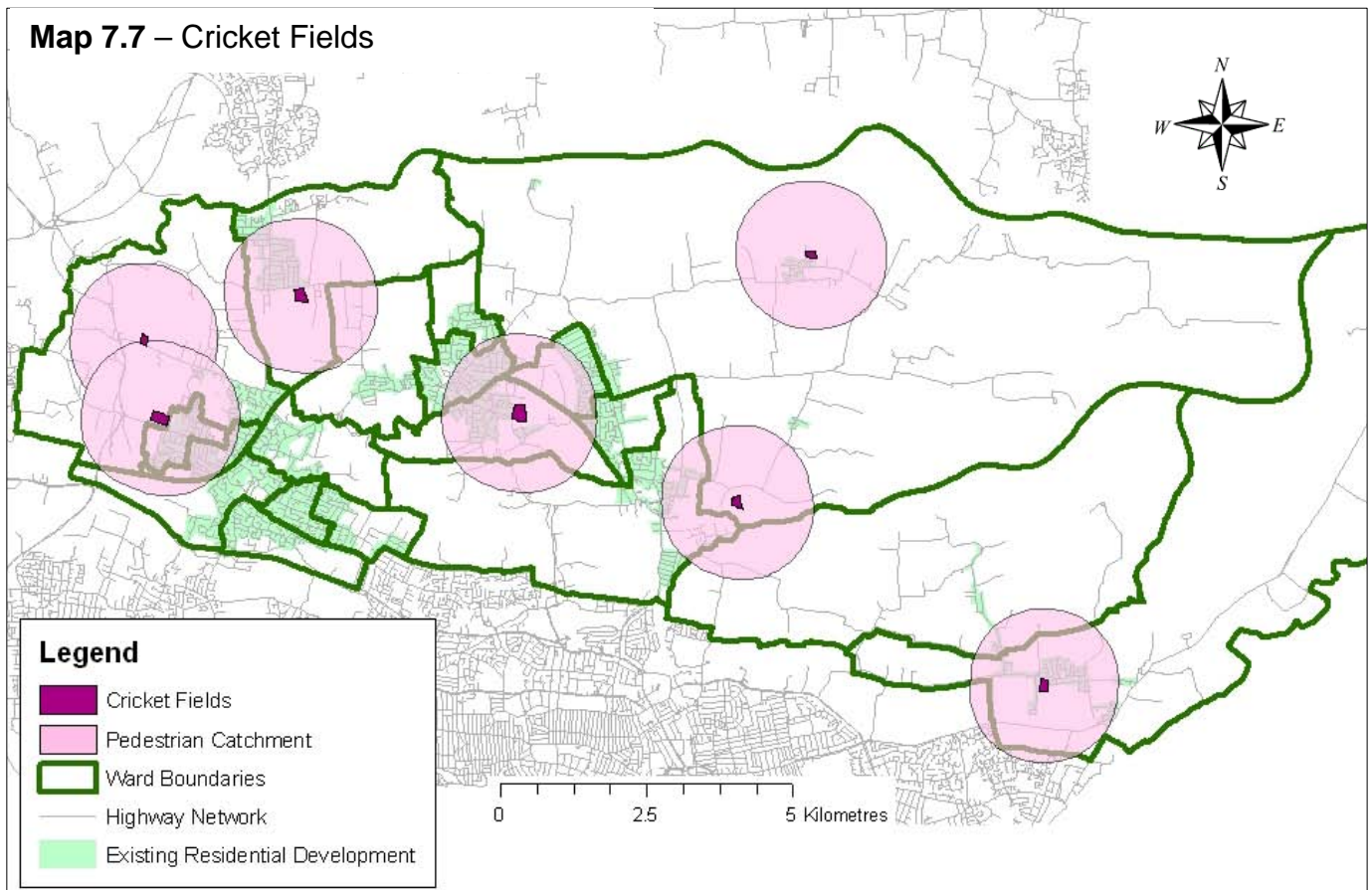
Figure 7.9 – Cricket pitch marked out at Clements Hall Leisure Centre (a public playing field)



Figure 7.10 – Cricket field at Rayleigh Cricket Club, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh (a private cricket facility)

Accessibility

The majority of the District’s cricket fields are not situated in close proximity to, or are not generally situated within easy walking distance from, residential areas. The recommended travel time and equivalent distance for outdoor sports facilities, however, has been determined above (Table 7.2). Thus the location of these playing fields in the District and their potential pedestrian catchment are shown in Map 7.7 below.



Outdoor Sports Facilities

The cricket fields are spatially distributed throughout the District and are accessible to some of the local population given the recommended pedestrian catchment of these areas.

The priority areas for additional cricket fields or improved accessibility to existing facilities should be within areas where a deficit has been identified (Map 7.3), and those areas outside the recommended pedestrian catchment. However, regard should also be had to the findings of the emerging Playing Pitch Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.

Tennis Courts

Quantity

There are eight identified tennis courts situated within the District which are available for community use. These are:

- Great Waking Recreation Ground, High Street, Great Waking
- Rochford Tennis Club, 2 Church Walk, Rochford
- Kent Elms Tennis Club, Aviation Way, Southend
- Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell
- Hockley Tennis Club, Folly Lane, Hockley
- Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Priory Chase, Rayleigh
- Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh
- Rayleigh Tennis Club, Watchfield Lane, Rayleigh

The current provision and approximate size of tennis courts by ward area can be found in Appendix A. The total combined area of the tennis courts is an estimated 1.37 hectares, which equates to 0.02 hectares per 1000 of the District's population.

Table 7.7 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of tennis courts (ha)	Tennis court provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	1.37	0.02

Quality

Four of the District's tennis clubs are privately owned and four are owned and maintained by the District Council. The Council owned facilities at Great Waking Recreation Ground, Rayleigh Leisure Centre and Clements Hall Leisure Centre have multiuse courts which can be utilised for tennis, football and other sports depending on the demand. Fairview playing field in Rayleigh, however, has four dedicated tennis courts.

The quality of these facilities has not been considered as part of this assessment.

Outdoor Sports Facilities



Figure 7.11 – Multiuse tennis courts at Rayleigh Leisure Centre

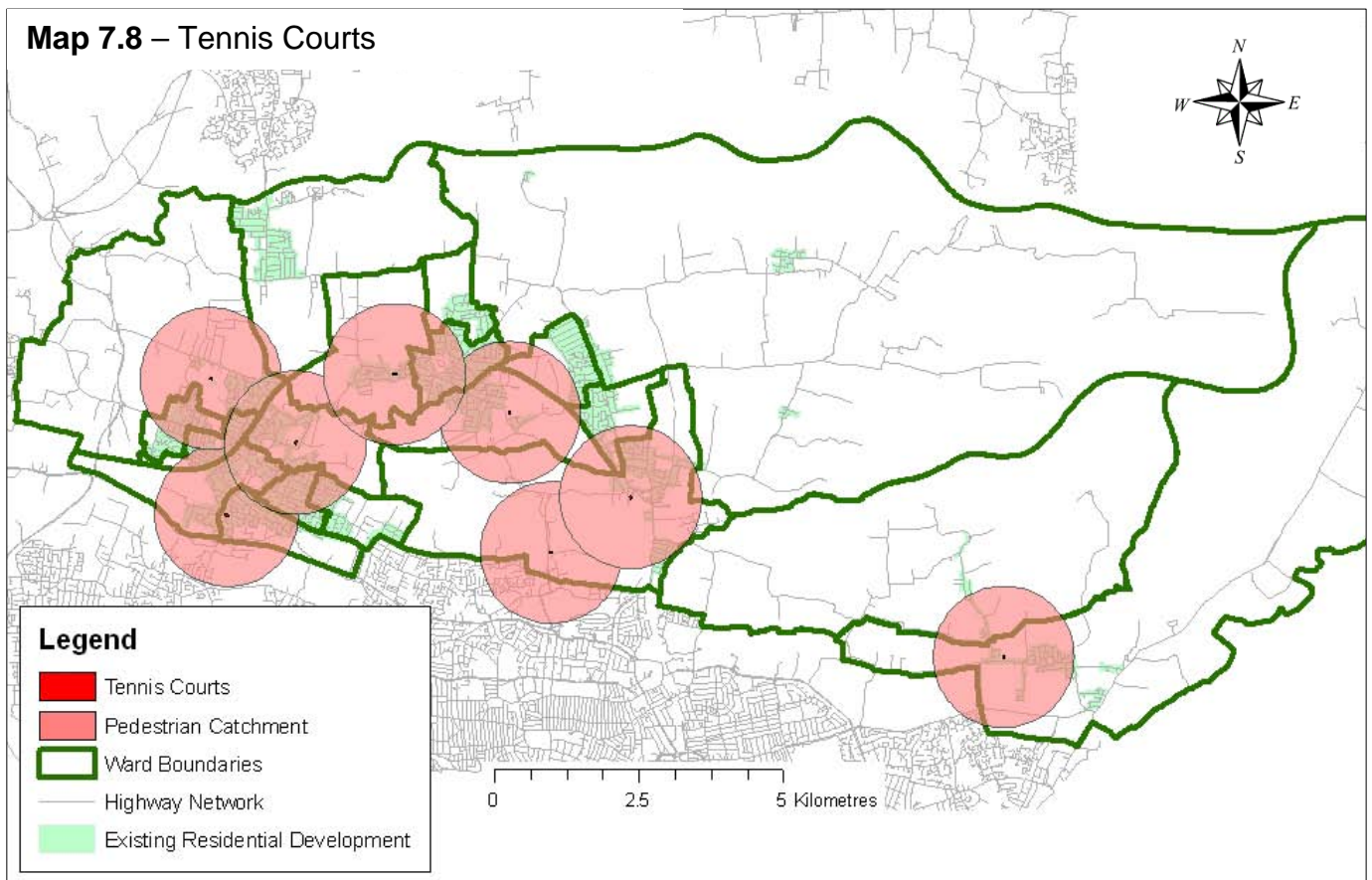


Figure 7.12 – Tennis courts at Fairview Playing Field

Accessibility

Three of the publicly accessible tennis courts are part of the Council's leisure centres and are available for hire to the public.

The recommended travel time and equivalent distance for outdoor sports facilities have been determined above (Table 7.2). Map 7.8 below shows the location of the tennis courts and their potential pedestrian catchment.



Outdoor Sports Facilities

The tennis courts are generally situated towards the south and west of District and are accessible to some of the local population given the recommended pedestrian catchment of these areas.

The priority areas for additional tennis courts or improved accessibility to existing facilities should be within areas where a deficit has been identified (Map 7.3), and those areas outside the recommended pedestrian catchment.

Bowling Greens

Quantity

There are four identified outdoor bowling greens situated in the District. These are:

- King George Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh
- Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford
- Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering
- The Green, Highams Road, Hockley

The current provision and approximate size of bowling greens by ward area can be found in Appendix A. The total combined area of the bowling greens is approximately 0.63 hectares, which equates to 0.01 hectares per 1000 of the District's population.

Table 7.8 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of bowling greens (ha)	Bowling green provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	0.63	0.01

Quality

The four outdoors bowling greens are good quality and well maintained facilities within the District. These are essentially private facilities.

The bowling greens in Rayleigh and Rochford are located adjacent to recreation grounds, whereas the bowling greens in Hockley and Little Wakering are separate facilities but embedded in the residential area.



Figure 7.13 – Rayleigh Bowls



Figure 7.14 – Rochford Bowls



Figure 7.15 – Hockley Bowls

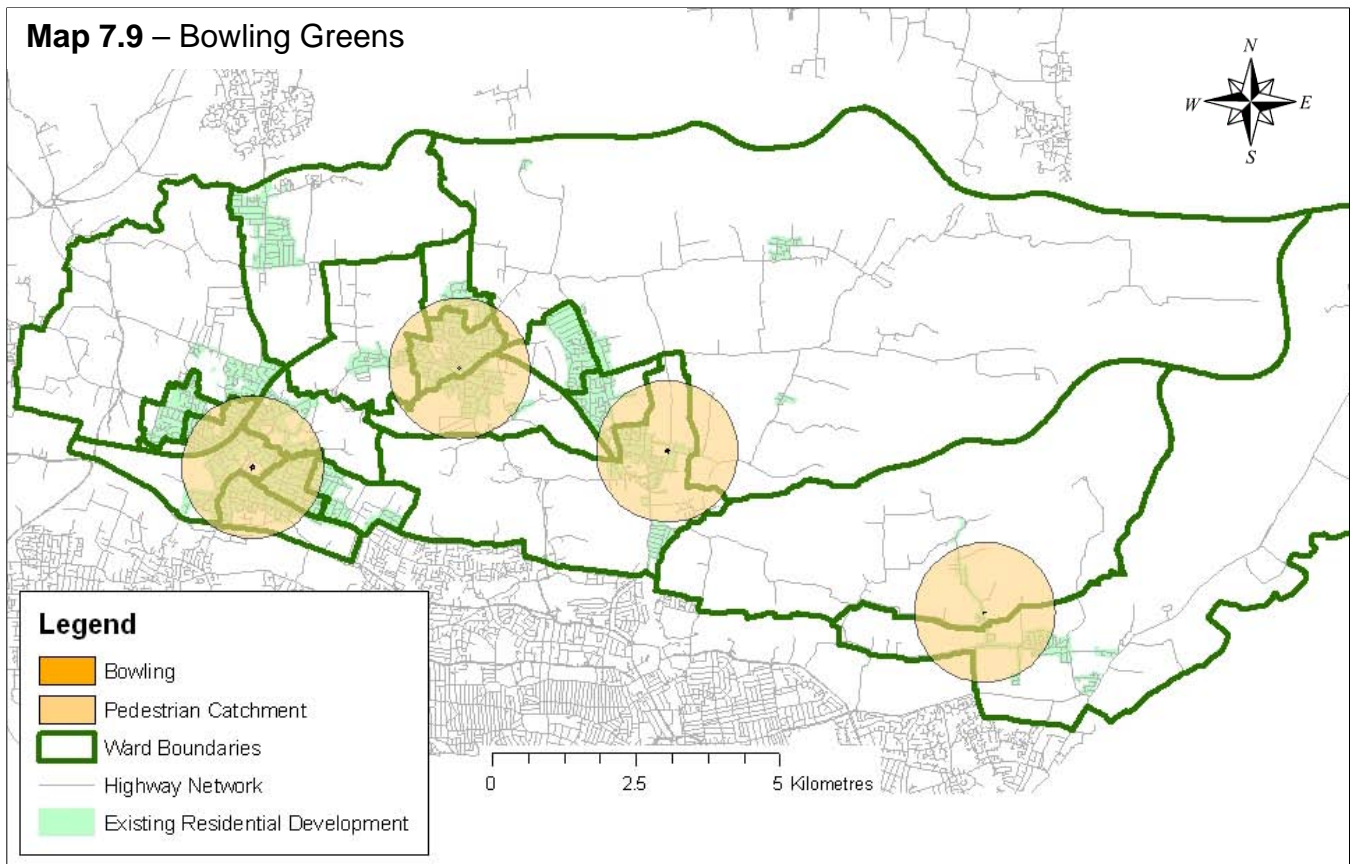


Figure 7.16 – Little Wakering Bowls

Accessibility

These facilities are located within residential areas and parking is provided at all these facilities.

The recommended travel time and equivalent distance for outdoor sports facilities have been determined above (Table 7.2). Map 7.9 below shows the location of the bowling greens and their potential pedestrian catchment.



The four bowling greens are distributed throughout the District and are accessible to some of the local population given the recommended pedestrian catchment of these areas.

The priority areas for additional bowling greens or improved accessibility to existing facilities should be within areas where a deficit has been identified (Map 7.3), and those areas outside the recommended pedestrian catchment.

Golf Courses and Driving Ranges

Quantity

There are three golf courses and two driving ranges situated within the District. These are:

- Ballards Gore Golf Club, Gore Road, Canewdon
- Lords Golf and Country Club, Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh
- Rochford Hundred Golf Club, Hall Road, Rochford
- Hockley Golf Range, Aldermans Hill, Hockley
- Rayleigh Golf Range, London Road, Rawreth

The size and provision of golf courses and driving ranges by ward area can be found in Appendix A. The total combined area of golf courses and driving ranges is approximately 184.6 hectares, which equates to 2.35 hectares per 1000 of the District's population.

Table 7.9 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of Golf Courses/Driving Range (ha)	Golf Courses/Driving Range provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	184.6	2.35

Quality

The golf courses and driving ranges are privately owned and maintained facilities, and as such, their quality is not considered as part of this assessment. An example of the golf courses in shown in the figure below:

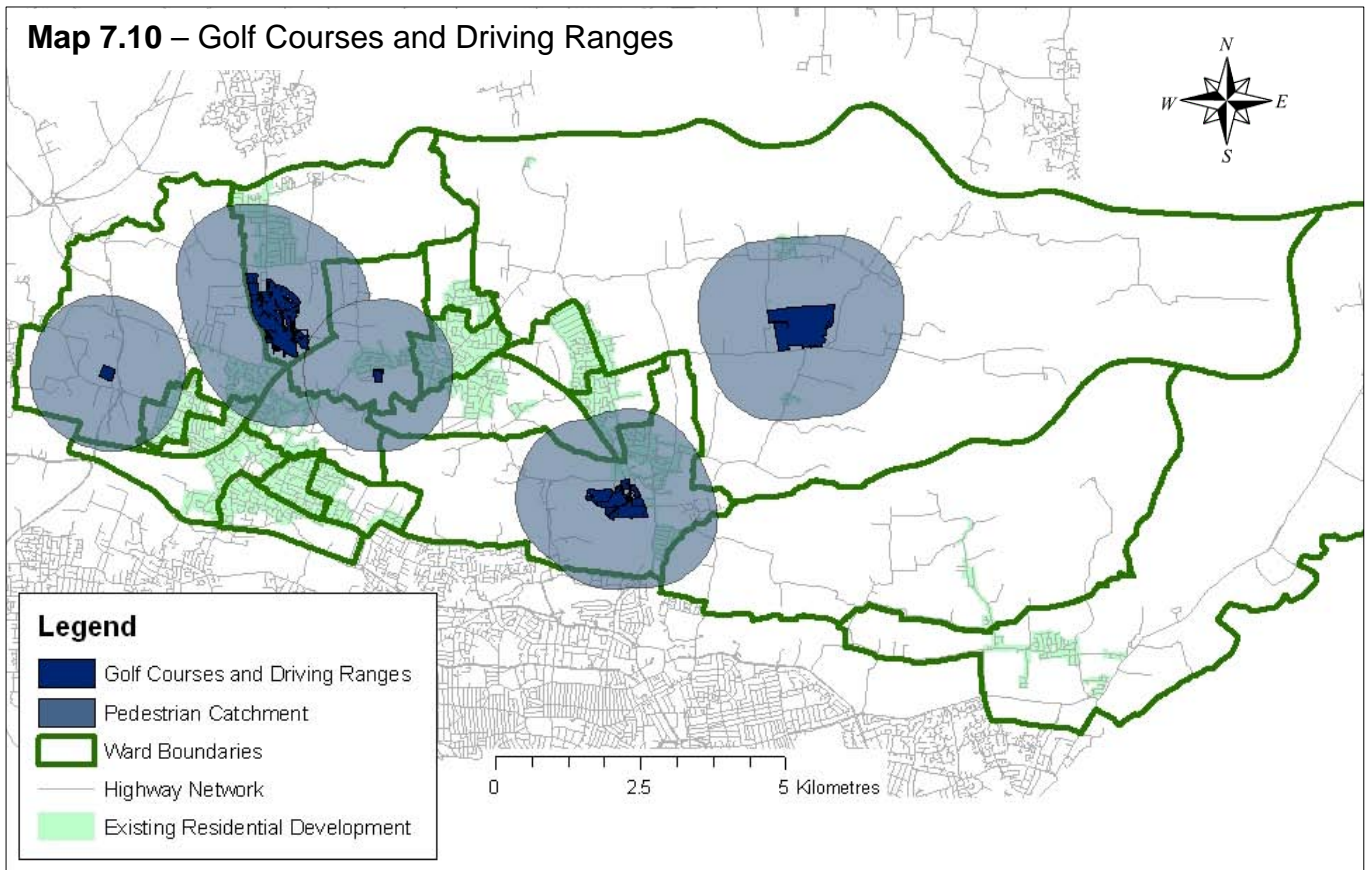


Figure 7.17 – Rochford Hundred Golf Club

Accessibility

The three golf courses are large facilities which have a network of public footpaths running through them.

The recommended travel time and equivalent distance have been determined above (Table 7.2). The location of the golf courses and driving ranges in the District and their potential pedestrian catchment are shown in Map 7.10 below.



The golf courses and driving ranges are distributed predominantly towards the District and are accessible to some of the local population given the recommended pedestrian catchment of these areas.

The priority areas for additional golf courses and driving ranges, where appropriate, or improved accessibility to existing facilities should be within areas where a deficit has been identified (Map 7.3), and those areas outside the recommended pedestrian catchment.

Yacht Clubs

Quantity

There are four yacht clubs situated along the banks of the River Crouch and two situated along the River Roach. These are:

- Up River Yacht Club, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge
- Hullbridge Yacht Club, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge
- Brandy Hole Yacht Station, Kingsmans Farm Road, Hullbridge
- Great Wakering Yacht Club, Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochehall Way, Rochford
- Essex Marina Yacht Club, Essex Marina, Wallasea Island, Rochford
- Hostellers Sailing Club, Paglesham Boatyard, Waterside Road, Paglesham

The total combined area for yacht clubs is approximately 8.62 hectares (although the size of club facilities at Essex Marina and Paglesham Boatyard encompasses the whole site which

may be used for other activities). This equates to 0.11 hectares per 1000 of the District’s population.

Table 7.10 – Provision per 1000 of the population for the District

Total population (2001)	Approximate size of yacht clubs (ha)	Yacht club provision (ha)/1000 Population
78489	8.62	0.11

Quality

These yacht clubs are private facilities, and as such their quality was not assessed as part of this audit. The extent of some of these facilities can be seen in the aerial photos below.



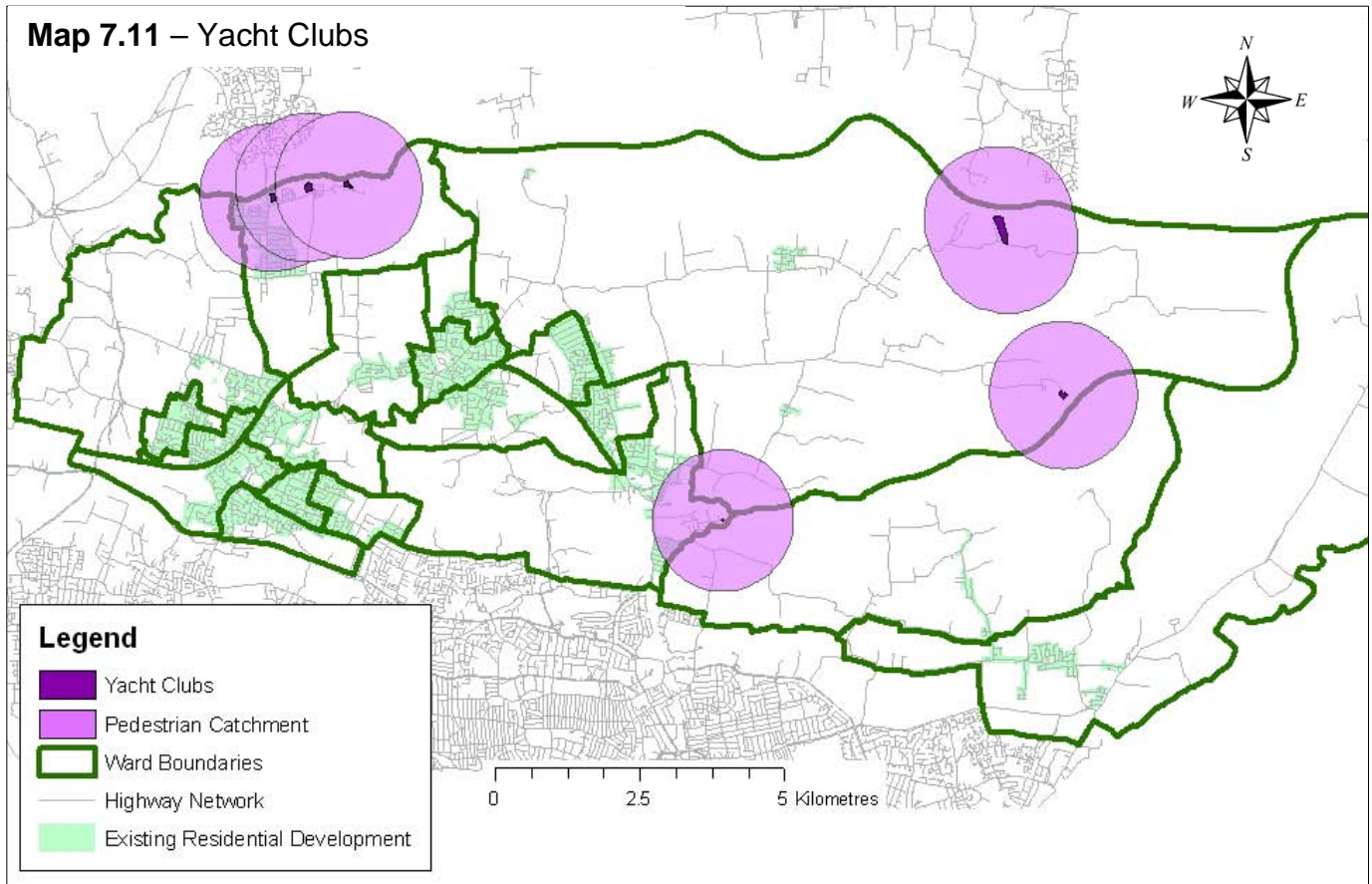
Figure 7.16 – Aerial view of Up River Yacht Club



Figure 7.17 – Aerial view of Great Wakering Yacht Club

Accessibility

The yacht clubs are situated on the banks of the River Crouch and River Roach, and as such are generally not located in close proximity to, or are not generally situated within easy walking distance from, the residential areas. However the recommended travel time and equivalent distance for outdoor sports facilities have been determined above (Table 7.2). The location of the yacht clubs in the District and their potential pedestrian catchment are shown in Map 7.11 below.



The yacht clubs are distributed throughout the District within the Coastal Protection Belt and are accessible to some of the local population given the recommended pedestrian catchment of these areas.

The priority areas for additional yacht clubs, where appropriate, or improved accessibility to existing facilities should be within areas where a deficit has been identified (Map 7.3), and those areas outside the recommended pedestrian catchment.

Vision

‘A range of outdoor sports facilities are provided across the District which meet the recreational needs of local communities. These provide community and health benefits, providing a wide range of opportunities for leisure and recreation which are high quality and are accessible by various transport methods including sustainable transport where appropriate.’

To work towards this vision, the following objectives should be met:

- Provide additional provision of outdoor sports facilities where a need has been identified;
- Ensure facilities have an adequate range and quantity of amenities to meet the needs of users, for example bins and seating;
- Address quality issues identified within the football playing fields; and
- Improve accessibility to outdoor sports facilities as appropriate.

Cemeteries and Churchyards

Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards are important places for quiet contemplation and reflection, alongside their burial purpose. They also have a secondary, but nonetheless important, role in providing areas of wildlife conservation and biodiversity and can provide wider benefits to local communities, including green connections, ecological, cultural and heritage value and creating a sense of place.

Quantity

There are numerous churchyards within the District, such as St Andrew's Church in Ashingdon, St Nicholas Church in Canewdon and St Nicholas Church in Great Wakering. There are also two council-owned cemeteries (Rayleigh Cemetery along Hockley Road, Rayleigh and Hall Road Cemetery along Hall Road, Rochford) and one identified private cemetery (Thorntons Meadow Wildflower Cemetery along Canewdon Road, Ashingdon).

Cemeteries and churchyards were found to be the least visited type of open space according to participants of the open space survey, with fewer than 10% of respondents visiting either facility at least once a week. However, over 70% of respondents consider churchyards and cemeteries to be an important to very important type of open space.

As suggested in the guidance a quantitative assessment of churchyards is inappropriate as they "can only exist where there is a church", and as such quality is more important than quantity. However, it is recognised that in general every individual burial ground has a finite capacity and therefore there is a steady need for more of them.

In terms of the amount of space available for plots in the council's existing cemeteries, Rayleigh Cemetery has reached its capacity for adult plots, and the cemetery in Rochford now serves the whole of the District for the purchase of new graves and cremation plots (for further information visit www.rochford.gov.uk). As in the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (2006), an area of land to the north of the cemetery in Rochford has been allocated for future extension to increase its capacity, and in April 2009 planning permission was granted for this.

It is recognised that every cemetery has a finite capacity; hence demand for cemeteries is steady. The application of a quantitative standard would need to be calculated using a combination of population estimates and the average number of deaths resulting in a burial in the area. However, given the future extension of the cemetery in Rochford, this assessment does not seek to set a quantitative standard for cemeteries.

Quality

Maintenance of grass areas within the cemeteries is undertaken by the Council's contractors. A supply of water, watering cans and litter facilities are provided at both cemeteries for visitors tending graves.

Over 58% of respondents to the consultation consider cemeteries and churchyards to be in a good condition, with nearly 23% having no opinion.

Accessibility

Travelling by car was found to be the preferred method of travel to churchyards and cemeteries by 32% with a further 16% stating that they would normally travel on foot. Over three-quarters of respondents recommended that less than 20 minutes travelling time was acceptable.

The council-owned cemeteries are open to the public everyday throughout the year.

Vision

'Cemeteries and churchyards are accessible, well maintained and managed open spaces providing opportunities for contemplation and reflection. They are important local areas for conserving and enhancing local wildlife and biodiversity.'

To work towards this vision, the following objectives should be met:

- Ensure that demand for such open space facilities within the District is constantly monitored and facilities are enhanced as appropriate;
- Promote the ecological value of cemeteries and churchyards through protection and habitat creation;
- Improve public transport links to existing cemeteries; and
- Ensure that these spaces are of good quality.

Streets, Squares and Pedestrian Areas

Introduction

The District's town and village centres function as key civic spaces for the local community providing the setting for public buildings, community events and public demonstrations.

The District's three main town centres of Rayleigh, Hockley and Rochford contain the majority of the District's commercial activities and provide pedestrian areas and spaces for civic events, such as regular markets in Rochford Market Square and Christmas events along Spa Road, Hockley.

The District's local village and neighbourhood centres provide for the day-to-day needs of local residents, providing top-up shopping and other local services. The four local village centres are as follows:

- Ferry Road, Hullbridge;
- High Street, Great Wakering;
- Main Road, Hawkwell;
- High Street, Canewdon.

There are numerous neighbourhood centres which also provide important services for local communities, for example in Ashingdon and throughout Rayleigh.

Quantity

The District's towns and villages form a tier of settlements, of which there are four, with the highest tier being the main settlements containing the largest populations with the best access and range of services. Rayleigh is a minor district centre, whereas Rochford and Hockley are local and minor local centres respectively.

Streets, squares and pedestrian areas were found to be the most frequently visited type of open space through the consultation, and over 60% of respondents consider them to be very important facilities. They have been identified as one of the least needed types of open space in the District, after greenspaces, allotments, play space, youth facilities and outdoor sports facilities.

Town and villages generally have well-established centres which provide a focal point for community activities and facilities. It is therefore not appropriate to determine a quantitative provision standard for this type of open space as such places will evolve to meet local needs, having regard to local demand and planning policy.

No Provision Standard Set

Quality

Each town and village has distinct local identity and character. The historic centres of Rayleigh, Rochford, Canewdon and Great Wakering, in particular, are designated Conservation Areas.

Rayleigh, Rochford and Hockley centres have been identified as areas in need of change or conservation, and as such, Area Action Plans are being prepared to improve the viability, vitality and amenity of these key areas.

Nearly half of respondents to the survey consider the District's streets, squares and pedestrian areas to be of 'good' quality, however, opinions ranged from 'very poor' to 'very good'.

General comments from the survey were regarding the loss of green areas in and around Rayleigh town centre and the lack of pedestrian areas and a defined centre in Hockley. Other issues were raised concerning the potential need for fewer cars in some areas, the importance of insuring the cleanliness of these areas, the need to ensure that any problems are tackled promptly, and reference was made to the problems of youths congregating in some areas.

The Council are currently in the process of producing Area Action Plans for Hockley, Rochford and Rayleigh centres. These will provide a detailed qualitative assessment of these spaces.



Figure 9.1 – Market Square, Rochford



Figure 9.2 – Spa Road, Hockley

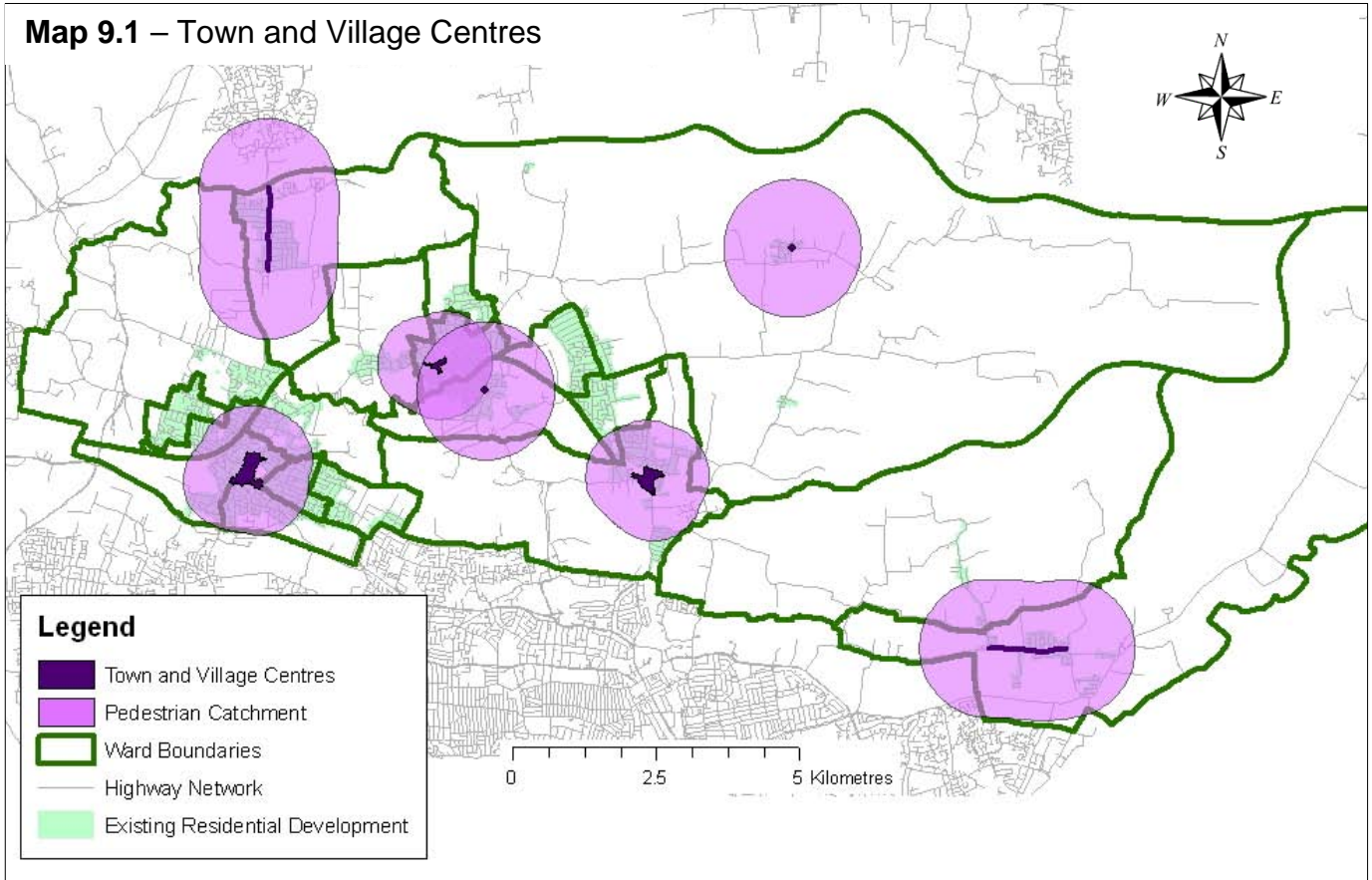
Accessibility

The survey found that over 50% of the participants normally walk to streets, squares and pedestrian areas and the majority of respondents consider that journey time of less than 15 minutes is an acceptable distance to travel to these areas. It is recommended as shown in the summary table below, that streets, squares and pedestrian areas should in general be located up to 1200 metres (the equivalent walking distance) from residents.

Table 9.1 – Accessibility Standard

Recommended travel time	Indicative equivalent distance
<15 minute walk	<1200m

The extent of the District’s three town centres and five village/neighbourhood centres and the potential pedestrian catchment of these are shown in Map 9.1 below.



Vision

‘Create safe, accessible high quality environments for residents and visitors, providing a diverse mix of retail, leisure, community and other uses, as appropriate, to meet local needs.’

To work towards this vision, the objectives may include the following:

- A range of evening leisure uses to enhance the vibrancy of centres providing increased activity and natural surveillance throughout the day;
- Enhancement of community facilities and other local facilities such as healthcare;
- Provision of a range of additional youth facilities where appropriate;
- Promote a retail offer which caters for a variety of local needs;
- Improved links to existing and new public open space;
- Enhancements to visual amenity and legibility of spaces as appropriate; and
- Improved connectivity between important local spaces.

Recommendations

This Open Space Study has identified the range of open spaces throughout the District. It is important to remember, however, that the District is not an island and has a relationship with neighbouring authorities whose residents may use the District's open space facilities and vice versa.

To summarise the following minimum standards for quantity, quality and accessibility of different types of open space are recommended:

Type of Open Space	Recommended Quantity Standard	Recommended Quality Standard	Recommended Accessibility Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	3.00 hectares	>40%	Less than 1200m (less than 15 mins) walk
Amenity Greenspaces	0.30 hectares	>40%	Less than 1200m (less than 15 mins) walk
Country Park	No standard set	No standard set	Less than 1200m (less than 15 mins) walk
Allotments	0.20 hectares	No standard set	Less than 6km (less than 15 mins) drive
Provision for children and young people	0.05 hectares (children)	>50%	Less than 800m (less than 10 mins) walk
	0.02 hectares (young people)	>50%	Less than 1200m (less than 15 mins) walk
Outdoor sports facilities	2.00 hectares	No standard set	Less than 1200m (less than 15 mins) walk
Cemeteries and churchyards	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set
Streets, squares and pedestrian areas	No standard set	No standard set	Less than 1200m (less than 15 mins) walk

A number of general conclusions can be drawn:

- New areas of open space should be provided within new development, particularly in areas where a deficit in current supply of open space has been identified;
- Access to existing areas of open space should be improved where appropriate;
- The District's open space are valued facilities which have quality of life, community and environmental benefits;
- The shortage of allotments and appropriate facilities for young people are a key issue;
- There is an uneven distribution of the typologies of open space;

Recommendations

- There are local accessibility issues throughout some areas of open space which need to be addressed;
- All types of open space have an important role to play in the community; and
- The sites are of varying quality, some significant issues identified with vandalism and litter recognised as significant issues.

Appendix A – Current Provision

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

The current provision and approximate size of each natural and semi-natural greenspace is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of greenspaces (ha)
Barling and Sutton	Barling Magna Wildlife Park, Mucking Hall Road, Barling	4.45
Foulness and Great Wakering	Great Wakering Common, Common Road, Great Wakering	5.87
Hullbridge	Kendal Park, Ferry Road, Hullbridge (leased to Hullbridge Parish Council)	6.13
Rochford	Rochford Reservoir and open space, Bradley Way, Rochford	3.44
	Doggetts Wildlife Area, St Clare Meadows, Rochford (leased to Rochford Parish Council)	6.84
Hawkwell North	Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell (leased to Hawkwell Parish Council)	10.66*
Hawkwell West	Spencers Park Public Open Space, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell (leased to Hawkwell Parish Council)	4.81
	Glencroft open space, White Hart Lane, Hawkwell (leased to Hawkwell Parish Council)	1.71
Hockley North	Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley (leased to Hockley Parish Council)	7.45*
	Marylands Avenue Nature Reserve, Marylands Avenue, Hockley (leased to Hockley Parish Council)	2.94
Hockley West	Betts Wood, Westminster Drive, Hockley	2.1
Lodge	Grove Wood (nature reserve and including open space at Grove Road), Rayleigh	13.02
Downhall and Rawreth	Sweyne Park open space, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	22.57*
	Land off Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	3.8
Trinity	Hambro Hill open space, Hambro Hill, Rayleigh	4.54

Ward	Site	Approximate size of greenspaces (ha)
Wheatley	Kingley Wood open space, near Western Road, Rayleigh	4.21
	Rayleigh Mount, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh (owned by the National Trust)	2.5
Whitehouse	Lower Wyburns open space, Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh (transferred to the Woodlands Trust)	3.04
Hockley West, Hawkwell West	Hockley Woods, Main Road, Hockley	85.6*
Downhall and Rawreth, Grange	Wheatley Wood, Rayleigh (transferred to the Woodlands Trust)	33.95
Total		229.63

* Play space is present and has been deducted from the total area of the site

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of natural and semi-natural greenspaces per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of greenspace (ha)	Greenspace provision (ha) per Ward	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Barling and Sutton	1784	4.45	2.49	3.00	-0.51
Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	5.87	1.03	3.00	-1.97
Hullbridge	6445	6.13	0.95	3.00	-2.05
Rochford	6870	10.28	1.50	3.00	-1.50
Hawkwell North	4369	10.66	2.44	3.00	-0.56
Hawkwell West	3938	6.52	1.66	3.00	-1.34
Hockley North	1872	10.39	5.55	3.00	+2.55
Hockley West	2008	2.1	1.05	3.00	-1.95
Lodge	3974	13.02	3.28	3.00	+0.28
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	26.37	6.50	3.00	+3.50
Trinity	3580	4.54	1.27	3.00	-1.73
Wheatley	3885	6.71	1.73	3.00	-1.27
Whitehouse	3728	3.04	0.82	3.00	-2.18
Hockley West, Hawkwell West	5946	85.6	14.40	3.00	+11.40
Downhall and Rawreth, Grange	7423	33.95	4.57	3.00	+1.57

Please note that Map 2.1 shows the overall current provision, according to the table above. Thus for example although Hawkwell West and Hockley West wards suggest a deficit in provision, when Hockley Woods is included (which extends across both wards) these wards have an overall surplus in provision.

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of natural and semi-natural greenspaces per 1000 of the District's population by settlement area.

Settlement Area	Population per Area (2001)	Approximate size of greenspace (ha)	Greenspace provision (ha) per Area	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Rayleigh/ Rawreth	31199	87.63	2.81	3.00	-0.19
Rochford/ Ashingdon	15200	20.94	1.38	3.00	-1.62
Hockley/ Hawkwell	13929	104.61	7.51	3.00	+4.51
Hullbridge	6445	6.13	0.95	3.00	-2.05
Canewdon	4208	0	0	3.00	-3.00
Great Wakering/ Barling/ Foulness	7508	10.32	1.37	3.00	-1.63

Amenity Greenspace

The current provision and approximate size of each amenity greenspace is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of amenity greenspaces (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Village Green, Sycamore Way, Canewdon	0.87
	Open space, Rowan Way, Canewdon	0.108
Barling and Sutton	Open space, Little Wakering Road, Barling	0.87
Hullbridge	Open space, Ferndale Road, Rayleigh	1.25
Rochford	Open space, Millview Meadows, Rochford	4.5
	Open space, Southend Road, Rochford	0.06
Hawkwell West	Hawkwell Common, Main Road, Hawkwell	0.31
Hockley Central	Open space, Broad Parade, Hockley	0.01
Hockley West	Open space, Buckingham Road, Hockley	0.21

Appendix A – Current Provision

Ward	Site	Approximate size of amenity greenspaces (ha)
Sweyne Park	Open space, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh	0.45
	Open space, Hartford Avenue, Rayleigh	0.07
	Open space, Fyfield Path, Rayleigh	0.19
Trinity	Open space, Lower Lambricks, Rayleigh	0.54
	Turret House open space, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	4.5
Wheatley	Open space, Hollytree Gardens, Rayleigh	2.7
	Brooklands Gardens, Hockley Road, Rayleigh	1.05
Whitehouse	Open space, Woodlands Avenue and the Weir Buffer Strip, Rayleigh	2.12
	Open space, Bedford Close, Rayleigh	0.24
Total		20.048

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of amenity greenspaces per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of greenspace (ha)	Greenspace provision (ha) per Ward	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	0.978	0.23	0.30	-0.07
Barling and Sutton	1784	0.87	0.49	0.30	+0.19
Hullbridge	6445	1.25	0.19	0.30	-0.11
Rochford	6870	4.56	0.66	0.30	+0.36
Hawkwell West	3938	0.31	0.08	0.30	-0.22
Hockley Central	6111	0.01	0.002	0.30	-0.298
Hockley West	2008	0.21	0.10	0.30	-0.20
Sweyne Park	4325	0.71	0.16	0.30	-0.14
Trinity	3580	5.04	1.41	0.30	+1.11
Wheatley	3885	3.75	0.97	0.30	+0.67
Whitehouse	3728	2.36	0.63	0.30	+0.33

Appendix A – Current Provision

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of amenity greenspaces per 1000 of the District's population by settlement area.

Settlement Area	Population per Area (2001)	Approximate size of greenspace (ha)	Greenspace provision (ha) per Area	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Rayleigh/ Rawreth	31199	11.86	0.38	0.30	+0.08
Rochford/ Ashingdon	15200	4.56	0.30	0.30	0
Hockley/ Hawwell	13929	0.53	0.04	0.30	-0.26
Hullbridge	6445	1.25	0.19	0.30	-0.11
Canewdon	4208	0.978	0.23	0.30	-0.07
Great Wakering/ Barling/ Foulness	7508	0.87	0.12	0.30	-0.18

Country Park

The current location and size of the country park is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of country park (ha)
Rochford, Lodge	Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park, Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford	70.4
Total		70.4

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of the country park per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of country park (ha)	Country park provision (ha) per Ward
Rochford, Lodge	10844	70.4	6.49

Allotments

The current provision, number of plots and approximate size of each allotment site is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Number of plots	Approximate size of allotments (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Anchor Lane, Canewdon	45 ^①	0.8
Foulness and Great Wakering	Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering	131 ^②	1.9
Hullbridge	Lower Road, Hullbridge	110 ^③	2.4
Rochford	Rocheway, Rochford	180	2.8
Lodge	Bramfield Road East, Rayleigh	17	0.27
Downhall and Rawreth	Caversham Park Avenue, Rayleigh	32 ^④	0.48
Grange	Kenilworth Gardens, Rayleigh	25	0.41
Whitehouse	Lower Wyburns, Rayleigh	59 ^⑤	0.78
Total		599	9.84

Some of the plots are divided into half plots, as such with reference to the table above, it should be noted that:

- ① Five of the plots in Canewdon allotments are half plots
- ② The site is being expanded to encompass an additional 46 plots, to create a total of 177 plots
- ③ A small number of plots in Hullbridge are divided into half plots
- ④ Two of the plots in Caversham Park Avenue allotments are half plots
- ⑤ Nine of the of the plots in Lower Wyburns allotments are half plots

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of allotments per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of allotments (ha)	Allotment provision (ha) per Ward	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	0.8	0.19	0.2	-0.01
Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	1.9	0.33	0.2	+0.13
Hullbridge	6445	2.4	0.37	0.2	+0.17
Rochford	6870	2.8	0.41	0.2	+0.21
Lodge	3974	0.27	0.07	0.2	-0.13
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	0.48	0.12	0.2	-0.08
Grange	3366	0.41	0.12	0.2	-0.08
Whitehouse	3728	0.78	0.21	0.2	+0.01

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of allotments per 1000 of the District’s population by settlement area.

Settlement Area	Population per Area (2001)	Approximate size of allotments (ha)	Allotment provision (ha) per Area	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Rayleigh/ Rawreth	31199	1.94	0.06	0.2	-0.14
Rochford/ Ashingdon	15200	2.8	0.18	0.2	-0.02
Hockley/ Hawkwell	13929	0	0	0.2	-0.20
Hullbridge	6445	2.4	0.37	0.2	+0.17
Canewdon	4208	0.8	0.19	0.2	-0.01
Great Wakering/ Barling/ Foulness	7508	1.9	0.25	0.2	+0.05

Provision for Children and Young People

Provision for Children

The current provision and approximate size of each play space is shown in the table below:

Ward	Play Space	Ownership / Management of Play Space	Approximate Size of Play Space (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Play Space, King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	In trust to King George V Foundation	0.07
	Play Space, Rowan Way, Canewdon	Rochford Housing Association	0.002
	Play Space, Canewdon Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon	Rochford District Council	0.13
Barling and Sutton	Play Space, Little Wakering Road, Barling	Rochford District Council	0.03
Foulness and Great Wakering	Play Space, Seaview Drive, Great Wakering	Rochford District Council	0.06
	Play Space, Morrins Close, Great Wakering	Rochford District Council	0.13 (mini football)
	Play Space, Glebe Close, Great Wakering	Rochford Housing Association	0.03
	Play Space, Conway Avenue, Great Wakering	Rochford District Council	0.06

Appendix A – Current Provision

Ward	Play Space	Ownership / Management of Play Space	Approximate Size of Play Space (ha)
Foulness and Great Wakering (continued)	Play Space, High Street, Great Wakering	Rochford District Council	0.07
	Play Space, Church End, Foulness	Defence Estates	0.08
Hullbridge	Play Space, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Rochford District Council	0.07
Rochford	Play Space, Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	Transferred to National Playing Fields Association	0.24 (includes 0.05ha mini football)
	Play Space, Warwick Drive, Rochford	Rochford Housing Association	0.06
Hawkwell North	Play Space, Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Rochford District Council	0.06
Hawkwell West	Play Space, Clements Hall, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Rochford District Council	0.11
	Play Space, Hawkwell Common, Main Road, Hawkwell	Rochford District Council	0.08
	Play Space, Elizabeth Close, Hawkwell	Hawkwell Parish Council	0.04
Hockley North	Play Space, Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Hockley Parish Council	0.18
Hockley West	Play Space, Betts Wood, Westminster Drive, Hockley	Rochford District Council	0.07
	Play Space, Hockley Woods, Main Road, Hockley	Rochford District Council	0.6
	Play Space, Laburnum Grove, Hockley	Hockley Parish Council	0.14
Lodge	Play Space, Grove Road Playing Field, Rayleigh	Transferred to National Playing Fields Association	0.15
Downhall and Rawreth	Play Space, Sweyne Park, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	Transferred to National Playing Fields Association	0.22
	Play Space, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Rochford District Council	0.05
Sweyne Park	Play Space, Elsenham Court, Rayleigh	Rochford Housing Association	0.04
	Play Space, Hartford Close, Rayleigh	Rochford Housing Association	0.09
	Play Space, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh	Rochford Housing Association	0.05 (includes 0.01ha mini football)

Appendix A – Current Provision

Ward	Play Space	Ownership / Management Of Play Space	Approximate Size of Play Space (ha)
Sweyne Park (continued)	Play Space, St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Rochford District Council	0.08 (includes 0.03ha mini football)
	Play Space, Fyfield Path, Rayleigh	Rochford Housing Association	0.04
Trinity	Play Space, Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Rochford District Council	0.08
	Play Space, south west of Causton Way, Rayleigh	Rochford District Council	0.13
Wheatley	Play Space, King George Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Rayleigh Town Council	0.21
Whitehouse	Play Space, Bedford Close, Rayleigh	Rochford District Council	0.07
Total			3.522

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of play space per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of play space (ha)	Play space provision (ha) per Ward	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	0.202	0.05	0.05	0
Barling and Sutton	1784	0.03	0.02	0.05	-0.03
Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	0.43	0.08	0.05	+0.03
Hullbridge	6445	0.07	0.01	0.05	-0.04
Rochford	6870	0.3	0.04	0.05	-0.01
Hawkwell North	4369	0.06	0.01	0.05	-0.04
Hawkwell West	3938	0.23	0.06	0.05	+0.01
Hockley North	1872	0.18	0.1	0.05	+0.05
Hockley West	2008	0.81	0.4	0.05	+0.35
Lodge	3974	0.15	0.04	0.05	-0.01
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	0.27	0.07	0.05	+0.02
Sweyne Park	4325	0.3	0.07	0.05	+0.02
Trinity	3580	0.21	0.06	0.05	+0.01
Wheatley	3885	0.21	0.05	0.05	0
Whitehouse	3728	0.07	0.02	0.05	-0.03

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of play space per 1000 of the District’s population by settlement area.

Settlement Area	Population per Area (2001)	Approximate size of play space (ha)	Play space provision (ha) per Area	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Rayleigh/Rawreth	31199	1.21	0.04	0.05	-0.01
Rochford/Ashingdon	15200	0.36	0.02	0.05	-0.03
Hockley/Hawkwell	13929	1.22	0.09	0.05	+0.04
Hullbridge	6445	0.07	0.01	0.05	-0.04
Canewdon	4208	0.202	0.05	0.05	0
Great Wakering/ Barling/ Foulness	7508	0.46	0.06	0.05	+0.01

Provision for Young People

The current provision and approximate size of each youth area/facility is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Facilities	Approximate size of youth areas (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Canewdon Recreation Ground, Althorne Way, Canewdon	Skateboarding, basketball and teen shelter	0.07
	King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	Basketball	0.02
Foulness and Great Wakering	Great Wakering Recreation Ground, High Street, Great Wakering	Basketball, teen shelter and other youth facilities	0.05
	Morrins Close, Great Wakering	Basketball	0.04
Hullbridge	Hullbridge Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Skateboarding, basketball and BMX tracks	0.1
	Ferry Road Car Park, Ferry Road, Hullbridge	Teen shelter	0.001
Rochford	Warwick Drive, Rochford	Basketball	0.02
	Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	Basketball and teen shelter	0.07
Hawkwell North	Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Basketball and teen shelter	0.04

Appendix A – Current Provision

Ward	Site	Facilities	Approximate size of youth areas (ha)
Hawkwell West	Clements Hall Playing Field, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Skateboarding, basketball and teen shelter	0.05
Hockley West	Laburnum Grove Play Space, Laburnum Grove, Hockley	Basketball	0.02
Lodge	Grove Road Playing Field, Grove Road, Rayleigh	Basketball, BMX tracks and other youth facilities	0.3
Downhall and Rawreth	Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Priory Chase, Rayleigh	Skateboarding	0.04
	Sweyne Park Open Space, Downhall Park Way, Rayleigh	Basketball	0.01
Sweyne Park	St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Basketball and other youth facilities	0.07
Trinity	Fairview Playing Fields, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Basketball	0.05
Wheatley	King George Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Skateboarding, basketball and teen shelter	0.05
Total			1.001

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of youth facilities per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of youth areas (ha)	Youth provision (ha) per Ward	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	0.09	0.02	0.02	0
Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	0.09	0.02	0.02	0
Hullbridge	6445	0.101	0.02	0.02	0
Rochford	6870	0.09	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Hawkwell North	4369	0.04	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Hawkwell West	3938	0.05	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Hockley West	2008	0.02	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Lodge	3974	0.3	0.08	0.02	+0.06
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	0.05	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Sweyne Park	4325	0.07	0.02	0.02	0
Trinity	3580	0.05	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Wheatley	3885	0.05	0.01	0.02	-0.01

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of youth facilities per 1000 of the District's population by settlement area.

Settlement Area	Population per Area (2001)	Approximate size of youth areas (ha)	Youth provision (ha) per Area	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Rayleigh/Rawreth	31199	0.52	0.02	0.02	0
Rochford/Ashingdon	15200	0.13	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Hockley/Hawkwell	13929	0.07	0.01	0.02	-0.01
Hullbridge	6445	0.101	0.02	0.02	0
Canewdon	4208	0.09	0.02	0.02	0
Great Wakering/Barling/Foulness	7508	0.09	0.01	0.02	-0.01

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Many of the open spaces identified in this assessment have a multifunctional use; however, where this is the case, the area utilised for multiple sporting activities has been included. A breakdown of each type of outdoor sports facility included in this assessment is detailed within the following sections. Golf courses, however, are not included within the calculation of outdoor sports facilities. The current provision and approximate size of each outdoor sports facility is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of outdoor sports facilities (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Canewdon Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon	1.92
	Stambridge Memorial Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	1.71
	King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Rochford	6.58
	Broomhills Cricket Ground, Stambridge Mills, Rochford	1.74
	Essex Marina Yacht Club, Essex Marina, Wallasea Island, Rochford	4.36
	Hostellers Sailing Club, Paglesham Boatyard, Waterside Road, Paglesham	1.17
Barling and Sutton	Bowling Green, Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering	0.11

Appendix A – Current Provision

Ward	Site	Approximate size of outdoor sports facilities (ha)
Rochford	Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	4.19
	Adult Education Centre, Rocheway, Rochford	2.4
	Cherry Orchard Way Playing Field, Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford	5.43
	Westcliff Rugby Club, Aviation Way, Southend	7.8
	Rochford Tennis Club, 2 Church Walk, Rochford	0.17
	Kent Elms Tennis Club, Aviation Way, Southend	0.17
	Great Wakering Yacht Club, Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochehall Way, Rochford	0.25
Hawkwell West	Clements Hall Playing Field, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	5.84
Hawkwell North	Rochford Hundred Rugby Club, Magnolia Road, Rochford	3.5
Hockley North	Apex Playing Field, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	5.86
	Greensward Academy, Greensward Lane, Hockley	0.04
Foulness and Great Wakering	Great Wakering Recreation Ground, Great Wakering Leisure Centre, High Street, Great Wakering	5.91
	Burroughs Park, Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering	1.22
	Cupids Country Club, Cupids Corner, Great Wakering	3.55
	Cricket Ground, Great Wakering Primary School, High Street, Great Wakering	1.29
Hullbridge	Hullbridge Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	3.65
	Hullbridge Sports and Social Club, Lower Road, Hullbridge	7.27
	Riverside Infants/Junior School, Ferry Road Hullbridge	1.26
	Up River Yacht Club, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	0.95
	Hullbridge Yacht Club, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	0.83
	Brandy Hole Yacht Station, Kingsmans Farm Road, Hullbridge	1.06

Ward	Site	Approximate size of outdoor sports facilities (ha)
Hockley West	Hockley Primary School, Chevening Gardens, Hockley	0.75
	Hockley Community Centre, Playing Field, Plumberow Mount Avenue, Hockley	1.27
	Hockley Golf Range, Aldermans Hill, Hockley	2.9
	Hockley Tennis Club, Folly Lane, Hockley	0.15
Hockley Central	Bowling Green, The Green, Highams Road, Hockley	0.14
Lodge	Grove Road Playing Field, Grove Road, Rayleigh	3.82
Downhall and Rawreth	Vincent Valley Playing Field, Trenders Avenue, Rayleigh	1.87
	Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	6.87
	Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Priory Chase, Rayleigh	0.14
	Down Hall Primary School, Brooklyn Drive, Rayleigh	0.82
	Rayleigh Sports & Social Club, London Road, Rayleigh	4.65
	Rayleigh Cricket Club, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	1.79
	Rayleigh Golf Range, London Road, Rawreth	4.7
Sweyne Park	St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	5.32
Trinity	Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	6
Wheatley	King George V Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	3.74
Whitehouse	Rayleigh Tennis Club, Watchfield Lane, Rayleigh	0.26
Total		125.42

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of outdoor sports facilities per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Appendix A – Current Provision

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of outdoor sports facilities (ha)	Outdoor sports facilities (ha) per Ward	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	17.48	4.15	1.8	+2.35
Barling and Sutton	1784	0.11	0.06	1.8	-1.74
Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	11.97	2.09	1.8	+0.29
Hullbridge	6445	15.02	2.33	1.8	+0.53
Rochford	6870	20.41	2.97	1.8	+1.17
Hawkwell West	3938	5.84	1.48	1.8	-0.32
Hawkwell North	4369	3.5	0.80	1.8	-1
Hockley North	1872	5.9	3.15	1.8	+1.35
Hockley West	2008	5.07	2.52	1.8	+0.72
Hockley Central	6111	0.14	0.02	1.8	-1.78
Lodge	3974	3.82	0.96	1.8	-0.84
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	20.84	5.14	1.8	+3.34
Sweyne Park	4325	5.32	1.23	1.8	-0.57
Trinity	3580	6	1.68	1.8	-0.12
Wheatley	3885	3.74	0.96	1.8	-0.84
Whitehouse	3728	0.26	0.07	1.8	-1.73

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of outdoor sports facilities per 1000 of the District's population by settlement area.

Settlement Area	Population per Area (2001)	Approximate size of outdoor sports facilities (ha)	Outdoor sports facilities provision (ha) per Area	Local Minimum Standard	Above / Below standard
Rayleigh/ Rawreth	31199	39.98	1.28	1.8	-0.52
Rochford/ Ashingdon	15200	23.91	1.57	1.8	-0.23
Hockley/ Hawkwell	13929	16.95	1.22	1.8	-0.58
Hullbridge	6445	15.02	2.33	1.8	+0.53
Canewdon	4208	17.48	4.15	1.8	+2.35
Great Wakering/ Barling/ Foulness	7508	12.08	1.61	1.8	-0.19

Football Facilities

The current provision and approximate size of football facilities is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of football facilities (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Canewdon Recreation Ground, Althorne Way, Canewdon	1.92
	Stambridge Memorial Ground, Stambridge Road, Stambridge	1.71
	King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	6.58
Foulness and Great Wakering	Great Wakering Recreation Ground, High Street, Great Wakering	5.8
	Burroughs Park, Little Wakering Hall Lane, Great Wakering	1.22
	Cupids Country Club, Cupids Corner, Great Wakering	3.55
Hullbridge	Hullbridge Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	3.65
	Hullbridge Sports and Social Club, Lower Road, Hullbridge	7.27
	Riverside Infants/Junior School, Ferry Road, Hullbridge	1.26
Rochford	Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	3.96
	Castle Point & Rochford Adult Community College, Rocheway, Rochford	2.4
	Cherry Orchard Playing Field, Cherry Orchard Way, Rochford	5.43
Hawkwell West	Clements Hall Playing Field, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell (including multiuse pitch)	5.84
Hockley North	Apex Playing Field, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	5.86
	Greensward Academy, greensward Lane, Hockley	0.04
Hockley West	Hockley Primary School, Chevening Gardens, Hockley	0.75
	Hockley Community Centre, Westminster Drive, Hockley	1.27
Lodge	Grove Road Playing Field, Grove Road, Rayleigh	3.82
Downhall and Rawreth	Vincent Valley Playing Field, Trenders Avenue, Rayleigh	1.87
	Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	6.87
	Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Priory Chase, Rayleigh (multiuse pitches)	0.14

Ward	Site	Approximate size of football facilities (ha)
Downhall and Rawreth (continued)	Down Hall Primary School, Brooklyn Drive, Rayleigh	0.82
	Rayleigh Sports and Social Club, London Road, Rayleigh	4.65
Sweyne Park	St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	5.32
Trinity	Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	5.78
Wheatley	King George Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	3.59
Total		91.37

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of football facilities per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of football facilities (ha)	Football facilities (ha) per Ward
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	10.21	2.43
Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	10.57	1.85
Hullbridge	6445	12.18	1.89
Rochford	6870	11.79	1.72
Hawkwell West	3938	5.84	1.48
Hockley North	1872	5.9	3.15
Hockley West	2008	2.02	1.01
Lodge	3974	3.82	0.96
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	14.35	3.54
Sweyne Park	4325	5.32	1.23
Trinity	3580	5.78	1.61
Wheatley	3885	3.59	0.92

Rugby Facilities

The current provision and approximate size of rugby facilities is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of rugby facilities (ha)
Rochford	Westcliff Rugby Club, Aviation Way, Southend	7.8
Hawkwell North	Rochford Hundred Rugby Club, Magnolia Road, Rochford	3.5
Total		11.3

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of rugby facilities per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of rugby facilities (ha)	Rugby facilities (ha) per Ward
Rochford	6870	7.8	1.14
Hawkwell North	4369	3.5	0.80

Cricket Facilities

The current provision and approximate size of cricket facilities is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of cricket facilities (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Broomhills Cricket Ground, Stambridge Mills, Rochford	1.74
	Canewdon Cricket Ground, Althorne Way, Canewdon	1.44
Foulness and Great Wakering	Great Wakering Cricket Ground, Great Wakering Primary School, High Street, Great Wakering	1.29
Hullbridge	Hullbridge Sports and Social Cricket Ground, Lower Road, Hullbridge	1.46
Hawkwell West	Clements Hall Cricket Ground, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	2.25
Downhall and Rawreth	Rayleigh Cricket Club, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	1.79
	Rayleigh Sports & Social Club, London Road, Rayleigh	2.41
Total		12.38

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of cricket facilities per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of cricket facilities (ha)	Cricket facilities (ha) per Ward
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	3.18	0.76
Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	1.29	0.23
Hullbridge	6445	1.46	0.23
Hawkwell West	3938	2.25	0.57
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	4.2	1.04

Tennis Facilities

The current provision and approximate size of tennis facilities is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of tennis courts (ha)
Foulness and Great Wakering	Great Wakering Recreation Ground, High Street, Great Wakering	0.11
Rochford	Rochford Tennis Club, 2 Church Walk, Rochford	0.17
	Kent Elms Tennis Club, Aviation Way, Southend	0.17
Hawkwell West	Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	0.15
Hockley West	Hockley Tennis Club, Folly Lane, Hockley	0.15
Downhall and Rawreth	Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Priory Chase, Rayleigh	0.14
Trinity	Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	0.22
Whitehouse	Rayleigh Tennis Club, Watchfield Lane, Rayleigh	0.26
Total		1.37

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of tennis facilities per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of tennis courts (ha)	Tennis courts (ha) per Ward
Foulness and Great Wakering	5724	0.11	0.02
Rochford	6870	0.34	0.05
Hawkwell West	3938	0.15	0.04
Hockley West	2008	0.15	0.07
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	0.14	0.03
Trinity	3580	0.22	0.06
Whitehouse	3728	0.26	0.07

Bowling Greens

The current provision and approximate size of bowling greens is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of bowling greens (ha)
Barling and Sutton	Bowling Green, Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering	0.11
Rochford	Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambridge Road, Rochford	0.23
Hockley Central	Bowling Green, The Green, Highams Road, Hockley	0.14
Wheatley	King George Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	0.15
Total		0.63

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of bowling greens per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of bowling greens (ha)	Bowling greens (ha) per Ward
Barling and Sutton	1784	0.11	0.06
Rochford	6870	0.23	0.03
Hockley Central	6111	0.14	0.02
Wheatley	3885	0.15	0.04

Golf Courses and Driving Ranges

The current provision and approximate size of golf courses and driving ranges is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of golf facilities (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Ballards Gore Golf Club	47.4
Hullbridge	Lords Golf and Country Club	87.5
Rochford	Rochford Hundred Golf Club	42.1
Hockley West	Hockley Golf Range	2.9
Downhall and Rawreth	Rayleigh Golf Range	4.7
Total		184.6

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of golf courses and driving ranges per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of golf facilities (ha)	Golf facilities (ha) per Ward
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	47.4	11.26
Hullbridge	6445	87.5	13.58
Rochford	6870	42.1	6.13
Hockley West	2008	2.9	1.44
Downhall and Rawreth	4057	4.7	1.16

Yacht Clubs

The current provision and approximate size of yacht clubs is shown in the table below:

Ward	Site	Approximate size of yacht clubs (ha)
Ashingdon and Canewdon	Essex Marina Yacht Club, Essex Marina, Wallasea Island, Rochford	4.36
	Hostellers Sailing Club, Paglesham Boatyard, Waterside Road, Paglesham	1.17
Rochford	Great Wakering Yacht Club, Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochehall Way, Rochford	0.25
Hullbridge	Up River Yacht Club, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	0.95
	Hullbridge Yacht Club, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	0.83
	Brandy Hole Yacht Station, Kingsmans Farm Road, Hullbridge	1.06
Total		8.62

The table below shows the breakdown of the current provision of yacht clubs per 1000 of the District's population by ward area.

Ward	Population per Ward (2001)	Approximate size of yacht clubs (ha)	Yacht clubs (ha) per Ward
Ashingdon and Canewdon	4208	5.53	1.31
Rochford	6870	0.25	0.04
Hullbridge	6445	2.84	0.44

Appendix B – Recommended Quantity Standards Benchmarked Against Other Local Authorities

Appendix B – Recommended Quantity Standards Benchmarked Against Other Local Authorities

Local Authority	Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Amenity Greenspaces	Allotments	Provision for children and young people	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Cemeteries and Church yards	Streets, squares and pedestrian areas
Chelmsford Borough Council	2.00 hectares	2.00 hectares	0.81 hectares	0.3 hectares (including community gardens)	0.81 hectares (0.405 hectares for children and 0.405 hectares for young people)	1.25 hectares	No standard set	N/A
Castlepoint Borough Council	2.936 hectares (Country Parks only)	2.377 hectares	0.584 hectares	0.058 hectares (including community gardens)	0.25 sites (standard based on sites rather than area)	3.217 hectares	No standard set	N/A
Colchester Borough Council	1.76 hectares	9.83 hectares	1.10 hectares	0.20 hectares	0.05 hectares (children)	2.1 hectares (with golf courses)	N/A	N/A
Mid Sussex District Council	2.00 sq m/person	-	-	1.75 sq m/person	0.05 hectares (young people)	0.50 sq m/person (artificial turf pitches) 0.17 sq m/person (bowling greens) 12.25 sq m/person (grass Pitches) 0.44 sq m/person (tennis courts)	N/A	N/A
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	0.47 hectares	No standard set	0.35 hectares	17 plots	0.04 hectares (0.01 hectares for casual play and 0.03 hectares for equipped play)	1.28 pitches	No standard set	No standard set
Swale Borough Council	1.11 hectares	4.36 hectares	0.45 hectares	0.20 hectares	0.24 hectares	1.09 hectares	No standard set	N/A
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	14.40 hectares	6.29 hectares	1.36 hectares	0.13 hectares	Between 0.2 and 0.3 hectares or provision for children and/or teenagers	2.12 hectares	No standard set	No standard set
Rochford District Council	0.9 hectares (Country Park only)	2.93 hectares	0.26 hectares	0.13 hectares	Current Provision		N/A	N/A
					0.04 hectares (children)	0.01 hectares (young people)		
					1.60 hectares	1.60 hectares		
Rochford District Council	No standard set (Country Park only)	3.00 hectares	0.30 hectares	0.20 hectares	Recommended Provision		No standard set	No standard set
					0.05 hectares (children)	0.02 hectares (young people)		
						2.00 hectares	No standard set	No standard set

Appendix C – Recommended Accessibility Standards Benchmarked Against Other Local Authorities

Local Authority	Parks and Gardens		Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces		Amenity Greenspaces		Allotments		Provision for children and young people		Outdoor Sports Facilities		Cemeteries and Church yards		Streets, squares and pedestrian areas	
	Travel Time	Distance	Travel Time	Distance	Travel Time	Distance	Travel Time	Distance	Travel Time	Distance	Travel Time	Distance	Travel Time	Distance	Travel Time	Distance
Chelmsford Borough Council	10 mins	4km	20 mins	1.6km	10 mins	800m	10 mins	2km-4km	5-10 mins	400m-800m	10-15 mins	4km-6km	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set
	Parks and Gardens															
	15 mins	720 m (straight-line)	15 mins	720m	10 mins	480m (straight-line distance)	10 mins	2400m (straight-line distance)	10 mins	480m (straight-line distance)	10 mins	2400m	No standard set	No standard set	N/A	N/A
Castlepoint Borough Council	Country Park															
	10 mins	2400m														
	15 mins	-	15 mins	-	10 mins	-	15 mins	-	15 mins	400m	20 mins	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Colchester Borough Council	Urban areas															
	15 mins	-	15 mins	-	10 mins	-	15 mins	-	10 mins	400m	20 mins	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	15 mins	-	15 mins	-	10 mins	-	15 mins	-	15 mins	-	20 mins	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mid Sussex District Council	Rural areas															
	15 mins	900m	10	600m	5 mins	300m	15 mins	900m	5 mins walk or 300m (Play areas – young children)	10 mins or 600m walk (Play areas – older children)	15 mins or 900m walk or 2250m cycle or 5,625m drive (bowling greens, grass pitches, tennis/ multi courts)	15 mins or 900m walk or 2250m cycle or 5,625m drive (bowling greens, grass pitches, tennis/ multi courts)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	15 mins	2250m	10	1500m	5 mins	300m	15 mins	5625m	10 mins or 600m walk or 1500m cycle (teenage areas)	10 mins or 600m walk or 1500m cycle (teenage areas)	15 mins or 900m walk or 2250m cycle or 5,625m drive (bowling greens, grass pitches, tennis/ multi courts)	15 mins or 900m walk or 2250m cycle or 5,625m drive (bowling greens, grass pitches, tennis/ multi courts)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	Country Park															
	-	2.5km	15 mins	1km	-	0.5km	-	3km	5 mins	300m	15 mins	0.5 - 1km	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set
	-	2.5km	15 mins	1km	-	0.5km	-	3km	5 mins	300m	15 mins	0.5 - 1km	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set
Swale Borough Council	2,000m of a destination site, or 800m of a local site, or 400m of a neighbourhood site		2,000m of a destination site, or 800m of a local site, or 400m of a neighbourhood site		< 400m of where people live		< 800m of where people live		< 400m of where people live		< 800m of where people live		No standard set		N/A	
	15 mins	1km	15 mins	1km	5 mins	400m	15 mins	1 km	15 mins	1km	15 mins	1 km	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	Country Park															
	15 mins	1km	15 mins	1km	5 mins	400m	15 mins	1 km	Children's play areas: LAP - 100m LEAP - 400m NEAP - 1 km	15 mins	1 km	15 mins	1 km	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set
	15 mins	1km	15 mins	1km	5 mins	400m	15 mins	1 km	Children's play areas: LAP - 100m LEAP - 400m NEAP - 1 km	15 mins	1 km	15 mins	1 km	No standard set	No standard set	No standard set
Rochford District Council	Country Park															
	<15 mins	<1200m	<15 mins	<1200m	<15 mins	<1200m	<15 mins	<6km	<10 mins	<800m	<15 mins	<1200m	No standard set	No standard set	<15 mins	<1200m
	<15 mins	<1200m	<15 mins	<1200m	<15 mins	<1200m	<15 mins	<6km	<10 mins	<800m	<15 mins	<1200m	No standard set	No standard set	<15 mins	<1200m

Appendix D – Open Space Survey Questionnaire

1. How old are you?

Age Range (Years)	Under 18	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65

2. What is your gender?

Male	
Female	
Prefer not to answer	

3. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to answer	

4. What is your ethnic origin?

Asian or Asian British	Mixed Ethnic Background	Chinese or Any Other Ethnic Background
Bangladeshi	White & Asian	Chinese
Indian	White & Black African	Any other ethnic background
Pakistani	White & Black Caribbean	
Any other Asian background	Any other mixed ethnic background	
Black or Black British	White	Prefer not to answer
African	British	
Caribbean	Irish	
Any other black background	Any other white background	

5. Which ward area do you live in?

6. How often do you visit the following spaces? Please score the following (1=At least once a week; 2=At least once a fortnight; 3=At least once a month; 4=Less than once a month; 5=Never):

Public Open Space	Frequency
Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces	
Amenity greenspaces (e.g. village green)	
Allotments	
Play space	
Youth facilities	
Outdoor sports facilities	
Indoor sport and recreation facilities	
Churchyards and cemeteries	
Squares, streets, pedestrian areas	

7. How do you normally get to public open space, if at all?

		Method					
		Walk	Cycle	Bus	Car	Other	N/A
Public Open Space	Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces						
	Amenity greenspaces (e.g. village green)						
	Allotments						
	Play space						
	Youth facilities						
	Outdoor sports facilities						
	Indoor sport and recreation facilities						
	Churchyards and cemeteries						
	Squares, streets, pedestrian areas						

8. What do you consider to be an acceptable travelling time to public open space via the method stated above?

		Travelling Time (Minutes)						
		Less than 5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	Greater than 25	N/A
Public Open Space	Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces							
	Amenity greenspaces (e.g. village green)							
	Allotments							
	Play space							
	Youth facilities							
	Outdoor sports facilities							
	Indoor sport and recreation facilities							
	Churchyards and cemeteries							
	Squares, streets, pedestrian areas							

9. How do you value the different types of public open space?

		Value					N/A
		Not very important	Quite Important	No opinion	Important	Very important	N/A
Public Open Space	Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces						
	Amenity greenspaces (e.g. village green)						
	Allotments						
	Play space						
	Youth facilities						
	Outdoor sports facilities						
	Indoor sport and recreation facilities						
	Churchyards and cemeteries						
	Squares, streets, pedestrian areas						

10. How do you perceive the quality of current public open space?

		Quality					
		Very poor	Poor	No opinion	Good	Very good	N/A
Public Open Space	Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces						
	Amenity greenspaces (e.g. village green)						
	Allotments						
	Play space						
	Youth facilities						
	Outdoor sports facilities						
	Indoor sport and recreation facilities						
	Churchyards and cemeteries						
	Squares, streets, pedestrian areas						

11. What type of additional public open space do you feel your area is most in need of?

Please score the following (1=Public open space most needed; 9=Public open space least needed):

Public Open Space	Need
Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces	
Amenity greenspaces (e.g. village green)	
Allotments	
Play space	
Youth facilities	
Outdoor sports facilities	
Indoor sport and recreation facilities	
Churchyards and cemeteries	
Squares, streets, pedestrian areas	

12. Please feel free to add any additional comments you may have on public open space below.

Appendix E – Quality Criteria

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

Main Entrance Criteria	
4	Easy to find, with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting
3	Appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting
2	Obvious, open inviting and clean
1	Apparent as an entrance and clean
Boundary Conditions Criteria	
3	All clearly defined and well maintained
2	All clearly defined – maintenance 'patchy'
1	All clearly defined – maintenance needed
Roads/paths and Access Criteria	
5	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, surfaces clean and debris and weed free, good disabled access throughout
4	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, disabled access in most areas
3	Suitable materials, level for safe use, some disabled access
2	Suitable materials but with some faults, disabled access poor
1	Road/paths in correct place, but in need of obvious repair, disabled access poor and very restricted
Planted Areas Criteria	
5	Numerous plants, with an appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a very high standard
4	Numerous plants, with an appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a reasonable standard
3	Numerous plants, with an appropriate mix of plants and 'patchy' maintenance
2	Limited range of plants, maintenance acceptable
1	Limited planting with limited maintenance
Grass Areas Score *	
3	Full grass cover, minimal visible bald areas, good colour
2	Good grass cover, some 'thin' patches evident, good colour
1	Poor grass cover, lots of patchy areas evident, poor colour
Bins Criteria	
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition
3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition

* It is noted that most natural and semi-natural greenspaces have areas which are left wild

Appendix E – Quality Criteria

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

1	Insufficient seats in poor condition
Seats Score	Seats Criteria
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition
3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition
1	Insufficient seats in poor condition
Toilets Score	Toilets Criteria
5	Provided within the park, easy to access, signed and well maintained
4	Provided within or adjacent to the park, difficult to find, maintenance/condition is average
3	Provided within the park or adjacent to it and visible, but not well cared for and generally uninviting
2	Provided within the park or adjacent to it, but in very poor condition and generally avoided by park users
1	Temporary toilet provision for events only
Parking Score	Parking Criteria
5	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces, site clean, tidy, in good condition and well signed
4	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces but maintenance could be better
3	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, limited spaces, maintenance good or reasonable
2	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, limited space, maintenance poor
1	Parking provision very limited
Lighting Score	Lighting Criteria
3	Good lighting scheme installed and well maintained
2	Reasonable lighting scheme installed
1	Poor lighting scheme
Information Score	Information Criteria
2	Information available for locals and visitors (could be on boards or leaflet form) in some detail
1	Limited information about the park made available
Cleanliness Score	Cleanliness Criteria
5	No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
4	Very limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
3	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade B
2	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade C
1	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade D

Appendix E – Quality Criteria

Amenity Greenspaces

Boundary Conditions Score	Boundary Conditions Criteria
3	All clearly defined and well maintained
2	All clearly defined – maintenance 'patchy'
1	All clearly defined – maintenance needed
Roads/paths and Access Score	Roads/paths and Access Criteria
5	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, surfaces clean and debris and weed free, good disabled access throughout
4	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, disabled access in most areas
3	Suitable materials, level for safe use, some disabled access
2	Suitable materials but with some faults, disabled access poor
1	Road/paths in correct place, but in need of obvious repair, disabled access poor and very restricted
Planted Areas Score	Planted Areas Criteria
5	Numerous planting, with appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a very high standard
4	Numerous plants, with an appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a reasonable standard
3	Numerous plants, with an appropriate mix of plants and 'patchy' maintenance
2	Limited range of plants, maintenance acceptable
1	Limited planting with limited maintenance
Grass Areas Score	Grass Areas Criteria
5	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut
4	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut, few weeds, grass cut frequently to keep length short
3	Full grass cover throughout main area but some 'thin' patches evident; some bald areas discreet; grass cut frequently but length excessive between cuts, cut quality good (no tearing)
2	General grass cover average and patchy with some bald patches, cut infrequently or at poor frequency, clippings obvious or cut quality poor
1	General grass cover poor, wear has led to patchy and poor cover with little or no serious attempts to correct the problem, clippings obvious and cut quality poor
Bins Score	Bins Criteria
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition
3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition
1	Insufficient seats in poor condition
Seats Score	Seats Criteria
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition
3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition
1	Insufficient seats in poor condition

Appendix E – Quality Criteria

Amenity Greenspaces

Lighting Score	Lighting Criteria
3	Good lighting scheme installed and well maintained
2	Reasonable lighting scheme installed
1	Poor lighting scheme
Information Score	Information Criteria
2	Information available for locals and visitors (could be on boards or leaflet form) in some detail
1	Limited information about the park made available
Cleanliness Score	Cleanliness Criteria
5	No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
4	Very limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
3	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade B
2	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade C
1	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade D

Provision for Children

Main Entrance Score	Main Entrance Criteria
4	Easy to find, with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting
3	Appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting
2	Obvious, open inviting and clean
1	Apparent as an entrance and clean
Boundary Conditions Score	Boundary Conditions Criteria
3	All clearly defined and well maintained
2	All clearly defined – maintenance 'patchy'
1	All clearly defined – maintenance needed
Roads/paths and Access Score	Roads/paths and Access Criteria
5	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, surfaces clean and debris and weed free, good disabled access throughout
4	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, disabled access in most areas
3	Suitable materials, level for safe use, some disabled access
2	Suitable materials but with some faults, disabled access poor
1	Road/paths in correct place, but in need of obvious repair, disabled access poor and very restricted
Bins Score	Bins Criteria
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition
3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition

Appendix E – Quality Criteria

Provision for Children

1	Insufficient seats in poor condition
Seats Score	Seats Criteria
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition
3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition
1	Insufficient seats in poor condition
Equipment Score	Equipment Criteria
5	Good range of play equipment in good condition, minimal evidence of graffiti and vandalism
4	Good range of play equipment in ok condition, some evidence of graffiti and vandalism
3	Adequate range of play equipment in good condition, minimal evidence of graffiti and vandalism
2	Adequate range of play equipment in ok condition, some evidence of graffiti and vandalism
1	Poor range of play equipment in ok condition, some evidence of graffiti and vandalism
Lighting Score	Lighting Criteria
3	Good lighting scheme installed and well maintained
2	Reasonable lighting scheme installed
1	Poor lighting scheme
Information Score	Information Criteria
2	Information available for locals and visitors (could be on boards or leaflet form) in some detail
1	Limited information about the park made available
Cleanliness Score	Cleanliness Criteria
5	No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
4	Very limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
3	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade B
2	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade C
1	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade D

Provision for Young People

Roads/paths and Access Score	Roads/paths and Access Criteria
3	Good access, generally level pathways
2	Adequate access, pathways uneven in places
1	Poor access, no pathways
Bins Score	Bins Criteria
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition

Appendix E – Quality Criteria

Provision for Young People

3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition
1	Insufficient seats in poor condition
Seats Score	
1	At least one item of seating available, including teen shelters
Toilets Criteria	
5	Provided within the park, easy to access, signed and well maintained
4	Provided within or adjacent to the park, difficult to find, maintenance/condition is average
3	Provided within the park or adjacent to it and visible, but not well cared for and generally uninviting
2	Provided within the park or adjacent to it, but in very poor condition and generally avoided by park users
1	Temporary toilet provision for events only
Facilities Score	
3	Three or more youth facilities are present
2	Two youth facilities are present
1	One youth facility is present
Lighting Criteria	
3	Good lighting scheme installed and well maintained
2	Reasonable lighting scheme installed
1	Poor lighting scheme
Cleanliness Criteria	
5	No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
4	Very limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
3	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade B
2	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade C
1	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade D

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Main Entrance Criteria	
4	Easy to find, with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting
3	Appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting
2	Obvious, open inviting and clean
1	Apparent as an entrance and clean
Boundary Conditions Criteria	
3	All clearly defined and well maintained
2	All clearly defined – maintenance 'patchy'

Appendix E – Quality Criteria

Outdoor Sports Facilities

1	All clearly defined – maintenance needed
Roads/paths and Access Score	
5	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, surfaces clean and debris and weed free, good disabled access throughout
4	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, disabled access in most areas
3	Suitable materials, level for safe use, some disabled access
2	Suitable materials but with some faults, disabled access poor
1	Road/paths in correct place, but in need of obvious repair, disabled access poor and very restricted
Planted Areas Score	
5	Numerous planting, with appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a very high standard
4	Numerous plants, with an appropriate mix of plants, installed and maintained to a reasonable standard
3	Numerous plants, with an appropriate mix of plants and 'patchy' maintenance
2	Limited range of plants, maintenance acceptable
1	Limited planting with limited maintenance
Grass Areas Score	
5	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut
4	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut, few weeds, grass cut frequently to keep length short
3	Full grass cover throughout main area but some 'thin' patches evident; some bald areas discreet; grass cut frequently but length excessive between cuts, cut quality good (no tearing)
2	General grass cover average and patchy with some bald patches, cut infrequently or at poor frequency, clippings obvious or cut quality poor
1	General grass cover poor, wear has led to patchy and poor cover with little or no serious attempts to correct the problem, clippings obvious and cut quality poor
Bins Score	
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition
3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition
1	Insufficient seats in poor condition
Seats Score	
5	Numerous for the size of the site and in good condition
4	Numerous for the size of the site and in average condition
3	Adequate number in good/ average condition
2	Insufficient seats but in good condition
1	Insufficient seats in poor condition
Toilets Score	
5	Provided within the park, easy to access, signed and well maintained
4	Provided within or adjacent to the park, difficult to find, maintenance/condition is average

Appendix E – Quality Criteria

Outdoor Sports Facilities

3	Provided within the park or adjacent to it and visible, but not well cared for and generally uninviting
2	Provided within the park or adjacent to it, but in very poor condition and generally avoided by park users
1	Temporary toilet provision for events only
Parking Score	
5	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces, site clean, tidy, in good condition and well signed
4	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, adequate spaces but maintenance could be better
3	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, limited spaces, maintenance good or reasonable
2	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the park, limited space, maintenance poor
1	Parking provision very limited
Lighting Score	
3	Good lighting scheme installed and well maintained
2	Reasonable lighting scheme installed
1	Poor lighting scheme
Information Score	
2	Information available for locals and visitors (could be on boards or leaflet form) in some detail
1	Limited information about the park made available
Cleanliness Score	
5	No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
4	Very limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti
3	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade B
2	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade C
1	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade D

Appendix F – Quality Comments

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

Greenspace	Comments
Magnolia Park Nature Reserve	Poor disabled access to and throughout the nature reserve, uneven pathways, debris in waterway, no lighting, minimal litter and rubbish around teen shelter, sporadic graffiti and litter throughout, weeds in grass, proper pathway, seating and bins around field area (front of site), information sign graffitied
Spencers Park	Poor disabled access - entrances too narrow, sporadic seating of varying quality, mostly left as wildlife area with pathways mown into grass, boundary maintenance ok, stony, uneven path in places and narrow across the park, some broken glass, evidence of some graffiti, lots of weeds in grass, information provided
Grove Wood	Notable quantities of rubbish, unmade track leading to car park shared by users of the wood and playing field, wooded area with stone and dirt track, way markers need replacing (some removed/destroyed), some evidence of graffiti
Wheatley Wood	Some maintenance needed - pathways need widening in some areas, parking shared with adjacent playing field, minimal graffiti, lake near Langham Drive Entrance, this entrance has no disabled access, some evidence of graffiti, information provided (graffitied)
Kendal Park	Six pedestrian entrances, one includes vehicle access, free car park nearby, adequate disabled access, paths narrow and stony which get wider, minimal litter and sporadic dog fouling, wild grass area in amongst trees, some dog bins, some seating
Sweyne Park	Main entrance via Down Hall Park Way, limited signage to car park, adequate number of spaces, stone with no marked bays, play space, large area, wide range of equipment, graffitied wall with basketball hoops in proximity to play space, fishing lake with footpath around, poor disabled access from bridleway- needs trimming, wild grass area within paths moved, paths possibly need mowing again, sporadic stone path around park, no lighting, mown grass near play space, information provided
Hockley Woods	Adequate car parking, stone with no marked bays, some seating near car park and play space possibly require replacing, poor lighting, lots of information about the site, separate picnic area, way markers, lots of bins, dirt/stone paths - quite wide, some roots along various pathways inhibiting accessibility but in woodland, sloping areas, mostly kept wild, except play area where grass is cut, some weeds visible, good accessible toilets, information provided
Betts Wood	Entrance not very visible although sign to woods, limited car parking, car park to community centre nearby where play space is located, limited defined pathways, no hard surfacing, narrow and very uneven in places therefore poor disabled access, 4 identified pedestrian entrances, sharp barbed wire hanging in places, no seating and bins only found outside the woods (near entrances e.g. from Buckingham Road open space)
Marylands Avenue Nature Reserve	Two pedestrian entrances with information boards at both, 2 x bins, 4 x benches, circular surfaced path mostly gravel, mostly wild area with narrow mown paths through, some litter, graffiti and sporadic fouling, poor disabled access from main road, no lighting
Plumberow Mount	Situated on a hill, limited pathway (not to top of hill), potentially poor disabled access if gate locked, grass cut, evidence of cutting, weeds patchy, monument fence is in good condition, some graffiti, no bin bag but rubbish in bin, limited bins and seats
Rochford Reservoir	Wide mown pathways, disabled access, open water, plentiful wildlife, no lighting, wide gravel pathways around reservoir, bins and some seating provided
Doggetts Wildlife Area, St Clare Meadows, Rochford	Not easy to find, information sign, lakes and wild grassy areas, minimal bins - overflowing near St Clare Meadow entrance, evidence of litter, graffiti and fouling, narrow pathways in some areas, wide mown pathways in other areas particularly near open lakes by Doggetts Chase

Appendix F – Quality Comments

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

Greenspace	Comments
Glencroft Nurseries open space, White Hart Lane, Hawkwell	Near public footpath/bridleway, information sign, 2 entrances, some graffiti - mainly around entrances, stone path, narrow and weedy in places - holes in some areas, some wild areas
Rayleigh Mount, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Welcome entrance, car park nearby, lots of information, minimal bins, slopes to climb (as it is a mound), steps in some areas, mown grass and wild planted areas, no lighting
Land off Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Public footpath runs through space, accessible from Rawreth Lane playing field, mowed grass area with wild planting, no seating or bins, no lighting, parking at Rawreth Lane
Kingley Wood open space, near Western Road, Rayleigh	Wooded area, includes a playing field, accessible from Hollytree Gardens POS, some litter, no seating, minimal bins, sign indicating woods, limited pathways (to open space but not wood), litter around bin by wood entrance from open space, parking not provided from Hollytree Gardens entrance, no lighting

Amenity Greenspaces

Greenspace	Comments
Hawkwell Common, Hawkwell	Pathways not very wide, boundary not defined by hedges or fences etc., grass area with trees, numerous seating and bins provided; play area within boundary of site, quite overlooked
Little Wakering Road open space, Barling	Situated down unmade lane to the rear of dwellings, no lighting, uneven beginning of path, bench in need of repair, two entrances, path only from Little Wakering Road to play space, large grass area bounded by trees and shrubs, information sign identifying it as an area of public open space
The Village Green, Canewdon	Grass area, information available, sign identifying it as an area of public open space, path with street lighting around edge of grass, minimal on-street parking, bins provided, no seating, dwellings fronting it, good for natural surveillance
Broad Parade open space, Greensward Lane, Hockley	Poorly defined boundary, no hedges or fences etc., 3 x bins, 2 x benches, range of planting, good metal fencing, grass cut, some weeds, wide paving generally acceptable, although some weeds
Buckingham Road open space, Hockley	Entrance situated between houses, adjacent to Betts Wood which can be accessed near bin, somewhat overlooked, no gate to close entrance, no lighting, grass area - cut with some bald patches, big dip in middle of grass, no bins, seating or paths, no information to identify the space
Boston Avenue open space, Rayleigh	Long area of public open space with play space in the middle, situated at the end of a road, concrete path around play space, grass area - cut with weeds, minimal bins and no seating available, no lighting, no sign identifying the area (only within play space)
Hartford Avenue open space, Rayleigh	Square area of public open space opposite play space, wide path through area onto London Road, 2 x pedestrian entrances, somewhat overlooked, grass area - cut, minimal bins, no seating, no sign identifying the area (only within play space)
Fyfield Path open space, Rayleigh	Grass area - cut, overlooked by houses, several entrances, path runs along dwelling frontage to play space, adequate lighting - but one entrance has poor access and lighting, bins and seating in play space only, no sign identifying the area (only within play space)
Woodlands Avenue and the weir buffer strip, Rayleigh	Some litter and fouling evident, several entrances to public open space, information signs, bounded on some sides by housing, adjacent to Industrial estate, predominantly tree lined throughout, good boundary, some bins, no seating, no lighting, some disabled access, no pathway through site
Ferndale Road open space,	Grass area - cut, wide gravel path leading to public open space with some lighting (cover has been broken), poor disabled access, 2 x

Appendix F – Quality Comments

Amenity Greenspaces

Greenspace	Comments
Rayleigh	bins, no seating, public footpath running adjacent to site, possibly overlooked on one side by dwellings
Lower Lambricks open space, Rayleigh	Grass area - cut, several entrances - steep entrance from Drakes Way with some lighting and nettles/overgrown at bottom of slope, bounded by dense trees, poorly overlooked, drains in grass, several bins, no seating, no lighting, some evidence of dog fouling
Hollytree Gardens open space, Rayleigh	Several entrances, links up to Kingley Woods public open space, no lighting, several bins, some seating, several pathways, bounded by dense trees, poorly overlooked
Bedford Close open space, Rayleigh	Several entrances, pathway with lighting (possibly broken) along open space and leading to play space, grass area around play space, bounded by dense trees on all sides, possibly slightly overlooked in places, some evidence of litter
Rowan Way open space, Canewdon	Overlooked with dwellings fronting it, grass area with play space (one swing), bins provided, path to swing, no seating, some lighting
Turret House open space, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Grass area, minimal bins and seating, path in need of repair, no lighting, information sign identifying it as an area of public open space, bounded by trees and hedges, some natural surveillance, several entrances
Millview Meadows open space, Millview Meadows, Rochford	Poor accessibility (situated between houses), no information sign identifying the area, pathway around open space, grass area with planting, some seating and bins provided, broken fence to rear of playing field, no lighting
Southeast Road open space, Rochford	Open space fronting the main road, bounded on three sides by trees and hedges, grass area with some planting, seating, lighting from the road/path

Provision for Children

Play Space	Comments
King George Playing Field Play Space, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	Play space in good condition, grass and woodchip flooring, bins and seating available, wide variety of play equipment, minimal litter, boundary in good condition, information sign identifying the area, separate fenced/gated area with a tyre swing for older children with sand to land on, situated near car park and entrance to playing field, some graffiti nearby
Play Space, Rowan Way, Canewdon	Play space in ok condition, two swings with tarmac flooring only for children, no fence - predominantly amenity space opposite housing, insufficient bins and no seating
Play Space, Canewdon Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon	Play space in good condition, narrow entrance from Gay's Lane nearby, no lighting, situated near teen area, wide range of equipment, bins and seating provided, well maintained, information sign identifying the site, different surfaces in use (e.g. sand, grass, tarmac), wide gates in boundary (painted yellow)
Play Space Little Wakering Road, Barling	Path from the Little Wakering Road entrance could be improved, bench nearby in poor state in need of replacement, grass and woodchip flooring, reasonable range of play equipment in good condition, insufficient bins and seating provided, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, South of Morrins Close, Great Wakering	Poorly lit entrance enclosed with trees and fence, play space - no equipped play area only children's football goal posts with adjacent basketball court for older children (see provision for young people), no information identifying the site
Play Space, Glebe Close, Great Wakering	Play space in good condition, grass and woodchip flooring, high fence some overlooking from surrounding dwellings, 2 benches and bins in good condition, poor lighting, wide pathway leading to wide entrance gate (painted yellow), information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Conway Avenue, Great Wakering	Play space in good condition, grass well maintained, bin and bench available, entrance located between two houses and accessible between driveways, broken play equipment left in play space, enclosed with minimal overlooking from surrounding dwellings, information

Appendix F – Quality Comments

Provision for Children

Play Space	Comments
Play Space, High Street, Great Wakering	sign identifying the site Play space in good condition, wide access gate in the boundary (painted yellow), close proximity to youth facilities, close to main entrance and parking, good range of equipment, information sign identifying the site, range of flooring including woodchip and grass, seating provided, inadequate number of bins
Play Space, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Play space in good condition, good range of equipment, range of flooring including woodchip and grass, adjacent to car park and teen skateboard area, no lighting, seating and bins provided, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Rochford Recreation Ground, Rochford	Play space in good condition, good range of equipment, adjacent to car park, grass and woodchip flooring, no paths in play space, information sign identifying the site, includes a zip-wire, adequate seating and bins provided
Play Space, Warwick Drive, Rochford	Play space in ok condition, includes a basketball area in good condition (see provision for young people), entrance from several roads, poor lighting, wide pathways, fencing around whole play area, adequate seating and bins provided, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Play space in ok condition, reasonable range of equipment, path up to equipment in ok condition, adequate seating and bins provided, situated adjacent to car park, entrance ok, safety surface around equipment
Play Space, Clements Hall, Hawkwell	Play space in good condition, predominately grass and wood chip flooring, wide access in boundary (painted yellow), close proximity to car park and remote from youth facilities, adequate bins and seating provided, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Hawkwell Common, Hawkwell	Play space in ok condition, several pieces of equipment, paint chipping on swings, grass and woodchip flooring, wide access in boundary (painted yellow), wide path leading to play area, adequate bins and seats available in ok condition, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Elizabeth Close, Hawkwell	Access from two roads through an alleyway, poor lighting, situated between houses, metal fencing along alleyway boundary in good condition and lockable gate, equipment in good condition, safety flooring in ok condition, 1 x bench and bin, sign identifying the site possibly in need of replacement (some vandalism)
Play Space, Plumberow Mount, Plumberow Avenue, Hockley	Potentially difficult disabled access into the greenspace, play space in good condition, situated next to main greenspace entrance, reasonable range of equipment, adequate seating, more bins may be provided, surfaced footpath throughout, two wide access points in boundary (painted yellow), information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Betts Wood, Hockley	Play space in good condition, wood chip flooring throughout, long, narrow play space adjacent to community centre, car park and woods, no seating available, bins located outside play space at southern end, poorer fencing to boundary of play space bordering woods, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Hockley Woods, Hockley	Play space in good condition, wide range of play equipment, sand, woodchip and grass flooring, some graffiti on play equipment, small part of play equipment (snail?) missing, no lighting, situated adjacent to car park and picnic area, possibly more safety flooring needs to be provided beneath equipment, some seating and bins provided within the play space but it is a large area and more may be provided, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Laburnum Grove, Hockley	Play space in good condition, located in corner of Laburnum Grove between houses, wide access from this road, slightly overlooked, includes a basketball court in good condition (see provision for young people), two entrances into the play space, good boundary, information sign identifying the site, adequate seating and bins provided
Play Space, Grove Playing Fields, Rayleigh	Play space in ok condition, predominantly grass, good fencing, far away from youth facilities, near allotments and pedestrian entrance, information sign identifying the site in need of replacement (some vandalism), possibly more safety flooring needs to be provided beneath equipment as there is a minimal amount, more seating and bins may be provided
Play Space, Swayne Park, Rayleigh	Play space in good condition, low wooden fencing bounding the site, situated adjacent to car park, central path leading to seating area, sufficient seating and bins provided, good range of play equipment, no lighting, multiple surfaces beneath play equipment, information

Appendix F – Quality Comments

Provision for Children

Play Space	Comments
Play Space, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	sign identifying the site in need of replacement (some vandalism) Play space in good condition, narrow path up to play space, situated adjacent to car park, good range of equipment, information sign identifying the site, no lighting, insufficient bins and seating provided, woodchip flooring beneath equipment, wide access in boundary (painted yellow)
Play Space, Eisenham Court, Rayleigh	Footpath from Eisenham Court possibly restricts disabled access, well overlooked play space, hard safety flooring throughout, limited play equipment (only two pieces, one piece possibly missing), play space in generally good condition, adequate seating and bins provided, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Hartford Close, Rayleigh	Play space in good condition, grass covering with tarmac and wood chip, good range of play equipment for several age ranges, includes a zip-wire, path running along side of play space, adjacent to amenity space, insufficient bins and seating provided, information sign identifying the site, wide access in boundary (painted yellow)
Play Space, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh	Play space in good condition, good footpath access to play space, low fencing bounding the site, adjacent to amenity space, overlooked by some dwellings, some litter, insufficient bins and seating provided, includes nearby mini goal posts, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, St John Fisher Playing Field, Rayleigh	Play space in good condition, wide access in boundary (painted yellow), good range of play equipment, grass and multiple surfaces beneath equipment, some evidence of graffiti, some seating and bins provided, no information sign to identify the site – need replacing
Play Space, Fyfield Path, Rayleigh	Play space in good condition, well overlooked (with dwellings fronting it), adequate bins and seating provided, adjacent to amenity space, three entrances to the greenspace and play space, safety surfaces beneath equipment, lighting along path adjacent to greenspace, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh	Play space in ok condition, limited range of equipment, situated next to seating area then basketball court, adjacent to nursery, few bins and seating provided, wide pathway and entrance to play space, possibly more safety flooring needs to be provided beneath equipment, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, south west of Causton Way, Rayleigh	Play space in ok condition, reasonable range of equipment, access to the south-west end of Causton Way, lockable gate, situated on a slope which may impede disabled access, several benches provided, poor lighting, inadequate bin provision, some maintenance of entrance required, minimal evidence of graffiti, information sign identifying the site
King George V Playing Field Play Space, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Play space in good condition, smaller children area separated from main play space, includes a zip-wire, wide range of play equipment, adequate seating and bins provided in good condition, information sign identifying the site
Play Space, Bedford Close, Rayleigh	Play space in ok condition, wide access in boundary (painted yellow), footpath along Bedford Close boundary, situated within an area of amenity greenspace, some bins and seating provided, some graffiti and litter evident, surface just inside entrance needs repairing, information sign identifying the site
Play space, Church End, Foulness	Play space in ok condition, wooden fencing bounding the site, three pieces of play equipment, 1 bench, grass surface only, wide entrance, no pathway leading to play space, no lighting, minimal information provided

Appendix F – Quality Comments

Provision for Young People

Youth Area	Comments
Canewdon Recreation Ground, Althorne Way, Canewdon	Basketball court in good condition but graffiti on backboard, graffiti on skateboard ramps and information sign, graffiti and rubbish around teen shelter, in close proximity to children's play space, close to pedestrian entrance and pathway
King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	Situating in the middle of the playing field, poor accessibility, lots of evidence of graffiti, no lighting, no pathway, swinging tyre near play space, no seating or bins provided near the basketball court
Great Wakering Recreation Ground, High Street, Great Wakering	Teen shelter and other youth facilities situated adjacent to play space and car park, second teen shelter situated on the opposite side of the leisure centre near another facility currently being developed, some evidence of graffiti, no bins provided near teen facilities
South of Morrins Close, Great Wakering	Poorly lit entrance enclosed with trees and fence, situated adjacent to mini goal posts, no information identifying the site
Hullbridge Playing Field, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge	Information available identifying skateboarding and BMX areas, minimal graffiti on basketball hoops, minimal litter, bins and seating provided in skateboard area, wide pathway parallel to the main road which runs past most of the youth facilities, BMX area situated to the rear of the playing field
Ferry Road Car Park, Ferry Road, Hullbridge	Situating at the northern end of the car park near toilets, no litter, open but not entirely overlooked (car park is opposite dwellings, but shelter is situated slightly behind the toilets)
Warwick Drive, Rochford	Basketball court enclosed by fencing and netting (assumed to prevent balls from going out of the designated area), in good condition, situated adjacent to play space, situated within a residential area, entrance from several roads, poor lighting, wide pathways, fencing around whole area, adequate seating and bins provided
Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambidge Road, Rochford	Enclosed youth area with basketball court and teen shelter, graffiti on shelter, backboard for basketball net broken, bins provided within the area
Magnolia Nature Reserve, Magnolia Road, Hawkwell	Lone basketball net situated near the beginning of the nature reserve on the playing field, bins provided nearby, minimal litter around teen shelter, seating provided nearby, sporadic graffiti, no pathway leading to youth facilities
Clements Hall Playing Field, Hawkwell	Lots of graffiti on teen shelter and skateboard ramps, rubbish around youth facilities, path leading to skateboard area, situated adjacent to car park, no bins provided, backboard for basketball net broken
Laburnum Grove Open Space, Hockley	Single basketball net situated adjacent to play space, adequate seating and bins provided, no evidence of litter or graffiti, site located in corner of Laburnum Grove between houses, wide access from this road, slightly overlooked, good boundary, information sign identifying the site
Grove Road Playing Field, Rayleigh	Single basketball net in proximity to other youth facilities, grass surface, other youth climbing facilities, no pathway to these facilities, separate BMX area moulded from dirt, dirt pathway to this area, no seating and minimal bins provided
St John Fisher Playing Field, Rayleigh	Several youth facilities (involving ball games) are grouped together, close proximity to car park, near play space, no bins or seating provided, some evidence of graffiti
Fairview Playing Fields, Rayleigh	One basketball court, situated adjacent to car park, in proximity to a separate seating area and play space, poor fencing bounding the court, insufficient seating and bins provided
King George V Playing Field, Rayleigh	Skateboard area adjacent to car park with lots of graffiti, separate bounded teen shelter with additional seating provided - some graffiti and minimal rubbish, separate basketball area - one hoop by playing pitches, insufficient bins and seating provided
Sweyne Park, Rayleigh	Situating in proximity to the car park and play space, includes 2 hoops attached to a graffitied wall, bin provided nearby, no seating provided
Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Rayleigh	Skateboard ramps with lots of graffiti and rubbish, bins provided, flood lights, situated to the rear of the leisure centre

Appendix F – Quality Comments

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Outdoors Sports Facility	Comments
Rochford Recreation Ground, Stambidge Road, Rochford	Pedestrian access from numerous entrances around the field, additional access from the car park, grass cut, generally good ground cover, some weeds, inadequate seating and bins provided, no pathways around the playing field, evidence of graffiti and some litter, graffiti near teen shelter, minimal lighting, information sign identifying the site
St John Fisher Playing Field, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	Parking shared with adjacent Community Centre, but adequate spaces available, range of youth facilities available including mini goal posts, no pathways around the playing field, new trees planted – one by car park broken, grass cut, generally good ground cover, some weeds, insufficient bins and seating provided (predominantly in play space), no lighting, leads into Wheatley Woods via a public footpath, minimal litter and graffiti
King George Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Rochford	Pedestrian access from Ashingdon Road - poor disabled access, adequate seating within planted area near pedestrian entrance and within play area, some seating provided elsewhere, information sign identifying the site, plentiful adjacent car parking, evidence of graffiti near car park, well maintained planted area, toilets provided, new trees planted bordering the playing field - one notably broken, grass cut, generally good ground cover, some notable patchiness, some bins provided, graffiti around teen area in middle of field, poor lighting throughout the playing field
King George V Playing Field, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	Plentiful information about the park available, lots of graffiti on skateboard ramps, teen shelter fenced off with minimal graffiti, wide paths throughout the site which are well maintained, fenced off smaller children area in play space, multifunctional as an area of amenity greenspace within proximity to the town centre, pitch has recently been levelled and drainage improved, situated adjacent to Webster Way car park, accessible from several roads, adequate provision of seating and bins, well maintained planted area along Eastwood Road boundary
Fairview Playing Field, Victoria Road, Rayleigh	Parking integral to the playing field with some planted areas and pathways, new trees planted bordering the playing field, some evidence of graffiti, grass cut, generally good ground cover, some weeds, path running the length of the playing field, information sign identifying the site, adequate bins and seating provided, basketball facilities, 4 x tennis courts and play space
Rawreth Lane Playing Field, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh	Parking available integral to the playing field, grass cut quite short, some weeds and notable bald patches, new trees planted around edge of first field, insufficient seating in the first field, additional seating and bins provided in the second field, pathway only near car park and to play space, public footpath runs through the playing fields to the greenspace to the rear, main entrance not well signposted, evidence of litter
Pooles Lane Playing Field, Hullbridge	Adequate car parking integral to the playing field, poor signage to main entrance, seating and bins provided near skateboard area, play space and basketball court/hoops, grass cut quite short with generally good coverage, weeds visible, some evidence of litter throughout playing field, wide stony path along Pooles Lane boundary, adequate seating and bins provided, toilets available (male/female and disabled), adequate information provided especially on skateboard and BMX areas, lots of graffiti on building/toilet block near car park
Great Wakering Leisure Centre Playing Field, High Street, Great Wakering	Inadequate signage to Leisure Centre, adequate car parking provided integral to the site, outdoor toilet available (locked at the time of assessment) - path to toilet is uneven and narrow, evidence of graffiti (on teen shelters and football wall), running track appears disused, poor disabled access from pedestrian entrance to field (e.g. Coronation Close), some seating around playing field needs replacing, no pathway around field, planted area near main entrance, more seating and bins may be provided, grass cut, generally good ground cover
Clements Hall Playing Field, Clements Hall Way, Hawkwell	Plentiful parking provided internal to the site (by the Leisure Centre and near play space), limited pathways around playing field, litter and graffiti predominantly near youth facilities, grass cut, generally good ground cover, lots of weeds evident, cricket pitch marked out and cut shorter, generally adequate bin provision and limited seating around edge of playing field although more seating may be provided
Canewdon Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon	Two pedestrian entrances (the one from Gays Lane does not have good access), not very well signposted, minimal litter except near youth facilities, no lighting within the playing field, information sign identifying the site, path along playing field to play space and youth facilities, adequate bins and some seating provided, no car parking provided, public footpath runs parallel to playing field, grass cut,

Appendix F – Quality Comments

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Outdoors Sports Facility	Comments
Grove Road Playing Field, Grove Road, Rayleigh	generally good ground cover Parking provided integral to the site but limited spaces, inadequate pathways - only by play space, some evidence of graffiti (e.g. on bench bordering playing field) and litter, minimal fouling, information sign identifying the site, grass cut, generally good ground cover but some sporadic bald patches, insufficient bins and seating provided