

South Worcestershire Open Space Assessment – Typologies and Draft Standards

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1.0 OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGIES AND APPROACH TO MAPPING

1.1. Overview

This report provides information on the typologies and proposed standards for open space, which will be used in the Open Space Assessment (main report).

The typologies that have been agreed are as follows:

Typologies with standards	Typologies mapped but no standards ¹
• Allotments • Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha) • Park and Recreation Grounds (Public and Private Combined) - Consisting of Parks and Recreation Grounds, Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private). • Play Space (Children) • Play Space (Youth) • Accessible Natural Green Space	• Education Sites • Churchyards and Cemeteries • SWDP 38 Green Space (Green Space that has not been mapped as a typology)

As part of the audit process, sites were mapped into their different functions using a multi-functional approach to mapping. Where open spaces cross ward boundaries, in order to calculate the quantity of open space by ward, these have been split by the ward boundary.

Only open spaces within the Study Area have been mapped i.e. although cross-border use of open space has been noted and considered (including within the Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report 2018), open spaces falling outside of the Study Area boundary have not been mapped.

The study maps open space typologies in the context of the wider Green Space (policy SWDP 38 layer) network. Although this study deals with certain typologies of open space, with a focus on accessible open space, the importance of the wider green space network e.g. in terms of green infrastructure, biodiversity, visual amenity, health and wellbeing is recognised, and is afforded protection through current policy SWDP 38.

It should be noted that the typologies mapping is as accurate as possible (as of December 2018) following cross checking with the council's layers, desktop mapping, consultation with town/parish councils and site visits. However, there may be anomaly sites which are picked up at a later date. The mapping will also be kept up to date by SWC, as new open space is provided through development.

¹ An explanation for not developing standards for these typologies is outlined in the following sections

1.2 Open Space Typologies with Standards

Allotments

Allotments provide areas for people to grow their own produce and plants. It is important to be clear about what is meant by the term 'Allotment'. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 obliged local authorities to provide sufficient allotments and to let them to persons living in their areas where they considered there was a demand.

The Allotment Act of 1922 defines the term 'allotment garden' as:

“an allotment not exceeding 40 poles in extent which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family”

(n.b. 40 Poles equals 1,210 square yards or 1,012 square metres. A Pole can also be known as a Rod or Perch.)

The Allotments Act of 1925 gives protection to land acquired specifically for use as allotments, so called Statutory Allotment Sites, by the requirement for the need for the approval of Secretary of State in event of sale or disposal. Some allotment sites may not specifically have been acquired for this purpose. Such allotment sites are known as “temporary” (even if they have been in use for decades) and are not protected by the 1925 legislation.

No allotments were quality audited, as access is generally restricted.

Amenity Green Space

The category is considered to include those spaces (minimum 0.15ha in size²) open to free and spontaneous use by the public, but neither laid out nor managed for a specific function such as a park, public playing field or recreation ground; nor managed as a natural or semi-natural habitat. These areas of open space will be of varied size, but are likely to share the following characteristics:

- Unlikely to be physically demarcated by walls or fences.
- Predominantly lain down to (mown) grass.
- Unlikely to have identifiable entrance points (unlike parks).
- They may have shrub and tree planting, and occasionally formal planted flower beds.
- They may occasionally have other recreational facilities and fixtures (such as play equipment, informal football or ball courts).

² The quality audit only covered those amenity green spaces 0.30 ha or above, due to resources. However, all amenity spaces above 0.15ha in size were included within the quantity and access analysis.

Examples might include both small and larger informal grassed areas in housing estates and general recreation spaces. They can serve a variety of functions dependent on their size, shape, location and topography. Some may be used for informal recreation activities, whilst others by themselves, or else collectively, contribute to the overall visual amenity of an area.

It should be noted that amenity green spaces smaller than 0.15 ha and amenity roadside verges were not included within the analysis for this typology, as it is considered that these sites will have limited recreation function and therefore should not count towards open space provision (although they may have other functions such as visual amenity or biodiversity value, and some areas may be included under policy SWDP 38).

Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))

This typology brings together the function of Parks and Recreation Grounds and Outdoor Sports Space as identified in the former PPG17 typology. The distinction between the two typologies in the study area is blurred, with very few formal gardens and many parks and/or outdoor sports space having multi-functions used for both informal and formal recreation. The consultation undertaken indicated that people refer to their local park or rec, and communities do not make a distinction between outdoor sports space and parks and recreation grounds. Therefore, for the study an overarching typology for Park and Recreation Grounds has been used.

For the purpose of this study, a Park and Recreation Ground is defined as an open space that:

- Has at least two facilities e.g. a children's play area and tennis courts, or;
- Has provision for formal sport e.g. football or cricket pitch;

Those outdoor sports grounds which are privately managed and have varying levels of public access (but none the less still provide a community facility) have been mapped as Outdoor Sport (Private) and are included within the quantity and access analysis along with the Park and Recreation Ground typology.

This typology comprises the general open space surrounding play areas, sports facilities etc. used for general recreation and includes those areas laid out as pitches (although the pitches themselves have not been mapped and audited as part of this study) which are accessible i.e. they can be walked over/used informally. Pitches which have no access e.g. they are fenced off/private managed have been mapped as Outdoor Sport (Private).

The quantity analysis for Parks and Recreation Grounds also includes fixed outdoor sports space (comprising all other non-pitch based provision including tennis courts and outdoor gyms which are publicly accessible/available to book.

The quantity figure for Parks and Recreation Grounds excludes the provision of children and youth play spaces which have a separate typology (see below).

As with formal pitches, informal football pitches have not been mapped, and these are generally found within amenity green spaces (see above).

Parks and Recreation Grounds take on many forms, and may embrace a wide range of functions including:

- Play space of many kinds;
- Provision for a range of formal pitch and fixed sports;
- Provision of outdoor gyms and fitness trails;
- Informal recreation and sport;
- Providing attractive walks and cycle routes to work;
- Offering landscape and amenity features;
- Areas of formal planting;
- Providing areas for 'events';
- Providing habitats for wildlife;
- Dog walking.

The recommended standards for this typology are intended to provide sufficient space for facilities and sport. The current South Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy (2015) should be referred to for evidence relating to recommendations for playing pitch requirements and their provision. The quantity standard is designed to be flexible so that the councils can make the case for what type of open space/facilities are required where there are multiple use opportunities for example, or where one use is needed more than another, particularly for off site contributions e.g. in some cases, additional full pitches may not be required, however junior pitches or extensions for training may be more appropriate – this would be justified on the analysis of particular local circumstances and on a case-by-case basis.

As already stated above, the quantity analysis (and therefore the standards) for parks and recreation grounds includes fixed outdoor sports space (e.g. tennis, bowls), privately managed outdoor sports space (which have varying levels of access) and ancillary space e.g. footpaths, landscaping etc³. The proposed standard for park and recreation grounds is designed to include an allowance for formal pitches as per the standard detailed in the current SWC Developer Contributions SPD (2018) of 1.2ha per 1,000 population. This allowance will provide for additional flexibility in the type of new provision, as mentioned above. Therefore, the proposed quantity standards accommodate the allowance within the SPD and associated ancillary space and fixed outdoor sports facilities and is justified through this assessment. Further details of how, and through what types of scenarios this standard could be applied, will be set out in the developer contributions section (Section 8) of the main report.

All parks and recreation grounds were subject to quality audits.

³ Section 3 of this reports set out the justification for the proposed standards, and that a quantity standard based on the existing levels of provision of parks and recreation grounds, fixed outdoor sports and privately managed outdoor sports space is justified, as the recent consultation undertaken as part of this study identified that the priority is for improvements to existing facilities, rather than a need for additional parks and recreation grounds.

Play Space (Children and Youth)

It is important to establish the scope of the study in terms of this kind of space. Children and young people will play/'hang out' in almost all publicly accessible "space" ranging from the street, town centres and squares, parks, playing fields, "amenity" grassed areas etc. as well as the more recognisable play and youth facility areas such as equipped playgrounds, youth shelters, BMX and skateboard parks, Multi-use Games Areas etc. Clearly many of the other types of open space covered by this study will therefore provide informal play opportunities.

To a child, the whole world is a potential playground: where an adult sees a low wall, a railing, kerb or street bench, a child might see a mini adventure playground or a challenging skateboard obstacle. Play should not be restricted to designated 'reservations' and planning and urban design principles should reflect these considerations.

The study has recorded the following:

- **Children's Play Space** – Areas of play that cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years. Play Areas are an essential way of creating safe but adventurous places for children of varying ages to play and learn. The emphasis in play area management is shifting away from straightforward and formal equipment such as slides and swings towards creating areas where imagination and natural learning can flourish through the use of landscaping and natural building materials and the creation of areas that need exploring.
- **Youth Play Space** - informal recreation opportunities for, broadly, the 13 to 16/17 age group, and which might include facilities like skateboard parks, basketball courts and 'free access' Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). In practice, there will always be some blurring around the edges in terms of younger children using equipment aimed for youths and vice versa.

Teenagers should not be ignored, it is important to create areas for 'hanging out' such as shelters and providing them with things to do such as bike ramps. Currently recognisable provision for teenagers is few and far between.

All children's and youth play spaces were quality audited.

Natural Green Space

For the purpose of this study, natural and semi-natural green space covers a variety of partly or wholly accessible spaces including meadows, woodland and copses all of which share a

trait of having natural characteristics and wildlife value, but which are also open to public use and enjoyment.

There are large tracts of open countryside within the study area, much of this is private land used for farming, however, there is access to the countryside provided through the rights of way network. It was not the intention of this audit to survey and map all these areas, but to focus on sites where there are definitive boundaries or areas of natural green space which have some form of public access. In some cases, access may not be fully clear, however there is evidence of some level of informal use and access.

Some sites may provide access in different ways, for example, rivers or lakes are often used for water recreation (e.g. canoeing, fishing, sailing). Whilst access may not be available fully across all areas of these sites (e.g. the middle of a lake or dense scrub in a woodland), the whole site has been included within the assessment.

Some natural spaces were found to have no access at all, and whilst they cannot be formally used by the general community, they can be appreciated from a distance, and contribute to visual amenity, green infrastructure and biodiversity. Whilst every effort was made to exclude these spaces from the assessment, as already identified, in certain sites access was not always clear. Although such spaces are not the subject of standards developed by this study, their value is recognised.

The local consultation and strategy review, and research elsewhere (e.g. Natural England⁴)) have identified the value attached to natural spaces for recreation and emotional well-being. A sense of 'closeness to nature' with its attendant benefits for people is something that is all too easily lost in urban areas. Natural green spaces can make important contributions towards local Biodiversity Action Plan targets and can also raise awareness of biodiversity values and issues.

Due to resources, not all natural green spaces were quality audited. A number of the larger natural green spaces were desktop audited e.g. using google earth and internet searches.

1.3 Open Space Typologies with no Standards

None of the typologies below were subject to quality audits – due to access and resources (for churchyards and cemeteries).

Churchyards and Cemeteries

The study area has many churches and cemeteries, and these provide significant aesthetic value and space for informal recreation such as walking and relaxing. Many are also important in terms of biodiversity, particularly closed churchyards. Their importance for informal recreation, aesthetic value and contribution towards biodiversity must be acknowledged, and as such, investment in their upkeep, maintenance and quality is an important factor. Churchyards and Cemeteries have been identified and mapped where

⁴ Natural England have published a variety of health and the natural environment publications at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/127020>

known, however, no quantity or access standard for provision have been set, as it is outside the scope of this study to make recommendations related to requirements for new provision.

Education

Many schools and colleges have open space and sports facilities within their grounds. This may range from a small playground to large playing fields with several sports pitches. More often than not, public access to these spaces is restricted and in many cases forbidden. Nevertheless, many of the sports facilities are used by local people on both an informal and formal basis.

Sports clubs may have local informal arrangements with a school to use their pitches, and in some cases more formal 'dual-use' agreements may be in place. School grounds can also contribute towards the green infrastructure and biodiversity of an area.

The following dual-use agreements are in place in Malvern (Dual use is not a consideration in Worcester⁵ and Wychavon):

Dyson Perrins CofE Academy: Dual Use Agreement between the Council and School, for the Sports Centre which is branded 'Sport Dyson Perrins'. Separate Community Use Agreement between Council and School in relation to the more recently installed 3G pitch.

The Chantry School: Dual Use Agreement between the Council and the School, for the Sports Centre which is branded as 'Sport Martley'.

Malvern College: Community Use Agreement between the Council and Malvern College, for the Sports Centre which is branded 'Malvern Active'.

Malvern St James Girls School: Community Use Agreement between the Council and the school, for the Sports Centre which is branded 'MSJ Sports'.

Quantity, quality and access standards have not been proposed for education sites. This is because they are not openly accessible to the public and whilst important to the local community, there is less opportunity for the Council to influence their provision and management.

SWDP 38 Green Space

This Green Space layer shows all green space, as identified on the SWDP Policies Map. This layer was provided by the SW Councils. It includes a range of public and private open spaces and associated community facilities. It highlights where the important GI routes are.

⁵ It is understood that Bishop Perowne School in Worcester has Community Use of School Facilities, but there may not be a formal community/dual agreement in place.

The open space typologies within this open space study have therefore been mapped in context of the wider green space network. It is also worth noting that a greater GI network also exists within South Worcestershire beyond SWDP 38.

2.0 EXISTING PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE

The existing provision of open space is based on the desktop mapping and site surveys undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning which included:

- analysis of existing GIS data held by SWC and from other sources such as the Ordnance Survey Greenspace layer;
- desktop mapping of open space from aerial photography;
- questionnaires to town and parish councils;
- liaison with council officers; and
- Site visits to check accessibility, boundaries, typologies and complete quality audits.

We understand that new sites will come forward and there may have been sites that are used by the local community that have not been recorded. Local communities are encouraged to share this information with SWC for future updates of this assessment.

2.1 Study Area level (ha and ha/1000):

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000) ⁶
Allotments	83.99	0.28
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	220.79	0.72
Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))	516.03	1.69
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	<i>326.08</i>	<i>1.07</i>
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	<i>3.96</i>	<i>0.01</i>
<i>Outdoor Sport (Private)</i>	<i>185.99</i>	<i>0.61</i>
Play (Child)	14.82	0.05
Play (Youth)	3.06	0.01
Accessible Natural Greenspace	2763.48	9.06
Cemeteries and Churchyards	150.73	0.49
Education	415.25	1.36

⁶ Calculated using ONS 2017 mid year population estimates

2.2 By District/City (ha and ha/1000):

Ha

District/City	Allotment	Amenity Green Space	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Cemetaries and Churchyard	Education	Population
Malvern Hills	9.38	83.82	119.33	62.50	0.61	56.22	3.41	0.92	1,928.22	56.11	154.43	77,165
Worcester	27.36	60.48	179.21	135.50	1.36	42.35	4.18	0.74	170.14	24.81	119.33	102,314
Wychavon	47.25	76.49	217.49	128.08	1.99	87.42	7.24	1.41	665.12	69.81	141.49	125,378

Ha/1000

District/City	Allotment	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Parks and Recreation Grounds	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace	Cemetaries and Churchyard	Education	Population
Malvern Hills	0.12	1.09	1.55	0.81	0.01	0.73	0.04	0.01	24.99	0.73	2.00	77,165
Worcester	0.27	0.59	1.75	1.32	0.01	0.41	0.04	0.01	1.66	0.24	1.17	102,314
Wychavon	0.38	0.61	1.73	1.02	0.02	0.70	0.06	0.01	5.30	0.56	1.13	125,378

2.3 By Ward (ha and ha/1000):

Ha

Row Labels	Sum of Allotments	Sum of Amenities Green Space	Sum of Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Sum of Parks and Recreation Grounds	Sum of Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Sum of Outdoor Sport (Private)	Sum of Play (Child)	Sum of Play (Youth)	Sum of Accessible Natural Space	Sum of Cemeteries and Churchyards	Sum of Education	Sum of Population
Malvern Hills	9.38	83.82	119.33	62.50	0.61	56.22	3.41	0.92	1928.22	56.11	154.43	77165
Alfrick and Leigh	1.60	0.36	3.15	3.10	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.00	103.90	2.83	3.82	3493
Baldwin	0.00	2.43	7.04	2.30	0.00	4.74	0.03	0.00	142.98	1.72	0.27	2182
Broadheath	1.13	17.55	5.75	2.69	0.00	3.06	0.24	0.04	3.23	1.71	1.91	3593
Chase	0.00	19.74	14.13	0.00	0.00	14.13	0.30	0.03	18.33	0.44	12.99	6113
Dyson Perrins	0.59	3.31	1.05	0.82	0.24	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.71	0.20	8.03	4666
Hallow	0.43	1.39	2.59	2.19	0.00	0.39	0.08	0.12	69.65	1.57	1.39	1848
Kempsey	0.00	2.88	3.95	2.86	0.19	0.89	0.05	0.01	159.82	1.80	0.83	4096
Lindridge	0.00	0.21	0.96	0.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.45	3.17	1.20	2248
Link	1.72	0.43	11.26	5.81	0.12	5.33	0.34	0.16	26.18	1.70	0.42	6368
Longdon	0.00	0.92	2.80	1.13	0.00	1.67	0.01	0.00	76.68	1.98	20.63	2092
Martley	0.11	1.72	2.09	2.09	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.06	0.64	1.00	7.43	1917
Morton	0.00	0.43	2.07	2.07	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.02	352.92	1.62	1.03	2251
Pickersleigh	0.10	7.54	15.40	6.11	0.00	9.29	0.36	0.08	14.49	5.76	4.13	6446
Powick	0.91	5.88	6.97	4.67	0.00	2.30	0.43	0.05	242.18	11.29	1.88	3922
Priory	0.00	1.60	14.60	4.38	0.00	10.22	0.04	0.00	67.29	1.30	26.11	4463
Ripple	0.16	1.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.91	0.87	0.00	1766
Terne Valley	0.17	0.00	1.33	1.33	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	6.76	2.51	0.45	1879
Tenbury	0.00	3.36	7.84	7.84	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.10	54.22	2.91	13.81	4025
Upton and Hanley	0.99	4.19	10.84	7.99	0.00	2.85	0.31	0.16	85.34	3.44	5.11	4153
Wells	0.00	4.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	262.62	5.26	6.79	3242
West	1.50	0.00	5.38	4.03	0.00	1.35	0.06	0.00	141.49	1.59	3.68	4112
Woodbury	0.00	4.00	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.08	3.44	1.45	32.50	2290
Worcester	27.36	60.48	179.21	135.50	1.36	42.35	4.18	0.74	170.14	24.81	119.33	102314
Arboretum	4.05	0.63	10.09	4.69	0.01	5.39	0.17	0.06	0.00	0.00	3.82	6301
Battenhall	4.96	1.54	8.38	8.13	0.00	0.24	0.44	0.01	3.29	0.02	21.72	5295
Bedwardine	1.47	2.93	8.82	3.23	0.00	5.59	0.09	0.00	13.03	0.25	27.55	8399
Cathedral	3.38	6.91	40.55	38.48	0.00	2.07	0.45	0.07	14.42	1.37	8.80	11488
Claines	7.73	0.31	55.46	41.82	0.12	13.51	0.22	0.18	2.74	1.42	3.11	8211
Gorse Hill	0.19	0.60	0.32	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	8.67	0.00	1.79	5749
Nunnery	0.00	0.72	17.52	8.46	0.00	9.07	0.45	0.06	47.97	0.00	9.49	8028
Rainbow Hill	0.00	0.08	13.70	13.21	0.28	0.21	0.09	0.13	0.00	0.16	0.00	5525
St Clement	0.37	21.60	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.02	0.00	0.99	0.00	7.16	6037
St John	3.91	11.24	3.76	2.83	0.93	0.00	0.77	0.05	3.31	3.88	5.17	9074
St Peter's Parish	0.00	1.30	12.55	12.55	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.08	0.00	0.00	2.21	5536
St Stephen	0.89	0.00	4.98	0.00	0.00	4.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.86	17.07	5430
Warndon	0.00	4.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	29.72	0.69	0.07	5754
Warndon Parish North	0.42	5.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.01	45.94	0.00	1.47	5376
Warndon Parish South	0.00	3.39	2.95	1.76	0.01	1.18	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.16	9.90	6111
Wychavon	47.25	76.49	217.49	128.08	1.99	87.42	7.24	1.41	665.12	69.81	141.49	125378
Badsey	0.00	0.00	6.97	6.96	0.01	0.00	0.29	0.02	0.00	0.54	1.13	3096
Bengeworth	0.00	3.34	11.79	11.43	0.36	0.00	0.88	0.12	1.06	1.99	3.50	7661
Bowbrook	1.08	1.30	3.53	3.35	0.12	0.06	0.19	0.05	42.87	1.28	1.10	2870
Bredon	4.28	0.00	5.86	3.70	0.22	1.94	0.09	0.08	37.58	0.92	0.63	2666
Bretforton and Offenham	0.00	0.00	5.24	4.04	0.00	1.20	0.16	0.00	0.00	1.36	6.43	2966
Broadway and Wickhamford	0.00	0.36	6.70	2.64	0.00	4.05	0.71	0.07	19.78	2.54	1.24	4662
Dodderhill	3.09	1.46	3.25	3.24	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.10	16.36	0.77	0.66	2835
Drakes Broughton	2.01	0.00	1.68	1.68	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	12.83	17.97	1.99	2519
Droitwich Central	0.00	2.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.44	3.61	2570
Droitwich East	0.28	4.26	22.82	21.70	0.19	0.94	0.61	0.05	3.40	1.95	3.77	5561
Droitwich South East	0.00	6.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	5.75	0.00	0.00	5400
Droitwich South West	0.50	2.69	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.39	1.01	6.61	4985
Droitwich West	0.94	10.12	12.36	11.69	0.00	0.67	0.07	0.06	11.74	0.00	15.36	5364
Eckington	0.16	0.45	4.50	2.10	0.00	2.40	0.18	0.01	42.68	2.14	0.93	2673
Elmley Castle and Somerville	0.78	0.33	3.44	2.22	0.00	1.22	0.26	0.00	0.06	2.31	1.33	2457
Evesham North	2.65	15.60	9.14	0.00	0.00	9.14	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	14.48	5293
Evesham South	0.00	2.69	3.87	3.87	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.00	3.26	14.14	5417
Fladbury	5.03	0.49	7.14	3.88	0.02	3.23	0.28	0.03	0.00	2.39	0.92	2783
Great Hampton	0.00	4.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	7.64	0.89	1.08	3168
Hartlebury	1.12	0.38	1.11	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.11	93.04	1.47	3.38	2936
Harvington and Norton	2.72	0.96	3.19	1.19	0.00	2.00	0.26	0.09	26.71	1.01	0.88	2704
Honeybourne and Pebworth	1.55	6.51	3.43	3.43	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.11	0.00	1.61	0.90	2758
Inkberrow	2.20	0.28	25.53	10.35	0.12	15.05	0.41	0.08	3.43	9.66	1.84	5685
Little Hampton	0.19	0.42	2.92	2.92	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	5665
Lovett and North Claines	1.04	1.52	24.34	0.97	0.00	23.37	0.18	0.00	95.29	2.27	25.12	5641
Norton and Whittington	1.32	2.52	4.54	1.86	0.05	2.63	0.39	0.06	0.53	1.27	2.00	3647
Ombersley	3.40	0.00	5.44	0.97	0.00	4.47	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.25	1.41	2451
Pershore	8.64	3.52	14.63	10.05	0.27	4.32	0.27	0.04	103.50	2.46	14.24	7716
Pinvin	2.23	1.37	8.04	4.23	0.00	3.81	0.36	0.03	8.87	1.05	2.05	3001
South Bredon Hill	0.81	0.00	6.35	3.98	0.57	1.81	0.13	0.01	2.93	1.65	5.16	2419
The Littletons	0.92	1.95	4.90	2.31	0.00	2.59	0.29	0.02	65.06	1.12	1.30	3111
Upton Snodsbury	0.30	0.49	4.69	2.14	0.06	2.49	0.17	0.01	62.24	3.24	4.30	2698
Grand Total	83.99	220.79	516.03	326.08	3.96	185.99	14.82	3.06	2763.48	150.73	415.25	304857

Ha/1000 (n.b. overall figures by district for each typology to be included in final report – the table in section 2.2 provides these figures)

Row Labels	Sum of Allotments	Sum of Amenity Greenspace	Sum of Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Sum of Parks and Recreation Grounds	Sum of Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Sum of Outdoor Sport (Private)	Sum of Play (Child)	Sum of Play (Youth)	Sum of Accessible Natural Green space	Sum of Cemeteries and Churchyards	Sum of Education	Sum of Population
Malvern Hills												
Alfrick and Leigh	0.46	0.1	0.9	0.89	0.02	0	0	0	29.75	0.81	1.09	3493
Baldwin	0	1.11	3.22	1.05	0	2.17	0.02	0	65.53	0.79	0.13	2182
Broadheath	0.31	4.88	1.6	0.75	0	0.85	0.07	0.01	0.9	0.48	0.53	3593
Chase	0	3.23	2.31	0	0	2.31	0.05	0	3	0.07	2.12	6113
Dyson Perrins	0.13	0.71	0.23	0.17	0.05	0	0.07	0	0.15	0.04	1.72	4666
Hallow	0.23	0.75	1.4	1.19	0	0.21	0.05	0.07	37.69	0.85	0.75	1848
Kempsey	0	0.7	0.96	0.7	0.05	0.22	0.01	0	39.02	0.44	0.2	4096
Lindridge	0	0.09	0.43	0.43	0	0	0	0	12.65	1.41	0.53	2248
Link	0.27	0.07	1.77	0.91	0.02	0.84	0.05	0.02	4.11	0.27	0.07	6368
Longdon	0	0.44	1.34	0.54	0	0.8	0	0	36.65	0.95	9.86	2092
Martley	0.05	0.9	1.09	1.09	0	0	0.05	0.03	0.33	0.52	3.88	1917
Morton	0	0.19	0.92	0.92	0	0	0.04	0.01	156.78	0.72	0.46	2251
Pickersleigh	0.01	1.17	2.39	0.95	0	1.44	0.06	0.01	2.25	0.89	0.64	6446
Powick	0.23	1.5	1.78	1.19	0	0.59	0.11	0.01	61.75	2.88	0.48	3922
Priory	0	0.36	3.27	0.98	0	2.29	0.01	0	15.08	0.29	5.85	4463
Ripple	0.09	0.59	0	0	0	0	0	0	37.89	0.49	0	1766
Terne Valley	0.09	0	0.71	0.71	0	0	0.19	0	3.6	1.34	0.24	1879
Tenbury	0	0.84	1.95	1.95	0	0	0.03	0.03	13.47	0.72	3.43	4025
Upton and Hanley	0.24	1.01	2.61	1.92	0	0.69	0.08	0.04	20.55	0.83	1.23	4153
Wells	0	1.49	0	0	0	0	0.04	0	81.01	1.62	2.1	3242
West	0.36	0	1.31	0.98	0	0.33	0.01	0	34.41	0.39	0.9	4112
Woodbury	0	1.75	0.05	0.05	0	0	0.02	0.03	1.5	0.63	14.19	2290
Worcester												
Arboretum	0.64	0.1	1.6	0.75	0	0.85	0.03	0.01	0	0	0.61	6301
Battenhall	0.94	0.29	1.58	1.54	0	0.05	0.08	0	0.62	0	4.1	5295
Bedwardine	0.17	0.35	1.05	0.38	0	0.67	0.01	0	1.55	0.03	3.28	8399
Cathedral	0.29	0.6	3.53	3.35	0	0.18	0.04	0.01	1.26	0.12	0.77	11488
Claines	0.94	0.04	6.75	5.09	0.01	1.65	0.03	0.02	0.33	0.17	0.38	8211
Gorse Hill	0.03	0.1	0.06	0.06	0	0	0.01	0	1.51	0	0.31	5749
Nunnery	0	0.09	2.18	1.05	0	1.13	0.06	0.01	5.98	0	1.18	8028
Rainbow Hill	0	0.01	2.48	2.39	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.02	0	0.03	0	5525
St Clement	0.06	3.58	0.02	0	0	0.02	0	0	0.16	0	1.19	6037
St John	0.43	1.24	0.41	0.31	0.1	0	0.08	0.01	0.36	0.43	0.57	9074
St Peter's Parish	0	0.23	2.27	2.27	0	0	0.1	0.01	0	0	0.4	5536
St Stephen	0.16	0	0.92	0	0	0.92	0	0	0	3.11	3.14	5430
Warndon	0	0.71	0	0	0	0	0.06	0	5.17	0.12	0.01	5754
Warndon Parish North	0.08	0.96	0	0	0	0	0.08	0	8.55	0	0.27	5376
Warndon Parish South	0	0.55	0.48	0.29	0	0.19	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	1.62	6111
Wychavon												
Badsey	0	0	2.25	2.25	0	0	0.09	0.01	0	0.17	0.36	3096
Bengeworth	0	0.44	1.54	1.49	0.05	0	0.12	0.02	0.14	0.26	0.46	7661
Bowbrook	0.38	0.45	1.23	1.17	0.04	0.02	0.07	0.02	14.94	0.45	0.38	2870
Bredon	1.61	0	2.2	1.39	0.08	0.73	0.03	0.03	14.1	0.35	0.24	2666
Bretforton and Offenham	0	0	1.77	1.36	0	0.4	0.06	0	0	0.46	2.17	2966
Broadway and Wickhamford	0	0.08	1.44	0.57	0	0.87	0.15	0.01	4.24	0.54	0.27	4662
Dodderhill	1.09	0.52	1.15	1.14	0	0	0.06	0.03	5.77	0.27	0.23	2835
Drakes Broughton	0.8	0	0.67	0.67	0	0	0.04	0	5.1	7.13	0.79	2519
Droitwich Central	0	0.96	0	0	0	0	0.03	0	0	0.17	1.4	2570
Droitwich East	0.05	0.77	4.1	3.9	0.03	0.17	0.11	0.01	0.61	0.35	0.68	5561
Droitwich South East	0	1.14	0	0	0	0	0.01	0	1.07	0	0	5400
Droitwich South West	0.1	0.54	0.01	0.01	0	0	0	0	0.28	0.2	1.33	4985
Droitwich West	0.18	1.89	2.3	2.18	0	0.13	0.01	0.01	2.19	0	2.86	5364
Eckington	0.06	0.17	1.68	0.79	0	0.9	0.07	0	15.97	0.8	0.35	2673
Elmley Castle and Somerville	0.32	0.13	1.4	0.9	0	0.5	0.11	0	0.03	0.94	0.54	2457
Evesham North	0.5	2.95	1.73	0	0	1.73	0	0	0.07	0	2.74	5293
Evesham South	0	0.5	0.71	0.71	0	0	0.01	0.01	0	0.6	2.61	5417
Fladbury	1.81	0.18	2.56	1.4	0.01	1.16	0.1	0.01	0	0.86	0.33	2783
Great Hampton	0	1.54	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.41	0.28	0.34	3168
Hartlebury	0.38	0.13	0.38	0.38	0	0	0.04	0.04	31.69	0.5	1.15	2936
Harvington and Norton	1	0.35	1.18	0.44	0	0.74	0.1	0.03	9.88	0.37	0.33	2704
Honeybourne and Pebworth	0.56	2.36	1.24	1.24	0	0	0.13	0.04	0	0.59	0.33	2758
Inkberrow	0.39	0.05	4.49	1.82	0.02	2.65	0.07	0.01	0.6	1.7	0.32	5685
Little Hampton	0.03	0.07	0.51	0.51	0	0	0.02	0.03	0	0	0	5665
Lovett and North Claines	0.18	0.27	4.32	0.17	0	4.14	0.03	0	16.89	0.4	4.45	5641
Norton and Whittington	0.36	0.69	1.25	0.51	0.01	0.72	0.11	0.02	0.14	0.35	0.55	3647
Ombersley	1.39	0	2.22	0.4	0	1.82	0.01	0	0	0.51	0.58	2451
Pershore	1.12	0.46	1.9	1.3	0.03	0.56	0.03	0.01	13.41	0.32	1.84	7716
Pinvin	0.74	0.46	2.68	1.41	0	1.27	0.12	0.01	2.96	0.35	0.68	3001
South Bredon Hill	0.34	0	2.63	1.64	0.23	0.75	0.05	0.01	1.21	0.68	2.13	2419
The Littletons	0.3	0.63	1.58	0.74	0	0.83	0.09	0.01	20.91	0.36	0.42	3111
Upton Snodsbury	0.11	0.18	1.74	0.79	0.02	0.92	0.06	0.01	23.07	1.2	1.6	2698

3.0 DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

Local provision standards have been proposed, with three components, embracing:

- quantity;
- accessibility;
- quality.

Development of standards at the district level and by the whole study area have been considered in the sections below, followed by a discussion on whether there should be a set of standards for the whole study area, or whether they should be broken down by District.

Proposed Quantity Standards

The GIS database and mapping produced by Ethos has been used to assess the existing provision of open space across the Study Area. The existing levels of provision are considered alongside findings of previous studies, the local needs assessment and consideration of existing and national standards or benchmarks. The key to developing robust local quantity standards is that they are locally derived, based on evidence and most importantly achievable. Typically, standards are expressed as hectares per 1000 people. The recommended standards are then used to assess the supply of each type of open space across the Ward, Districts and Study Area.

Proposed Access Standards

Evidence from previous studies, the needs assessment and consideration of national benchmarks are used to develop access standards for open space. Typically, standards are expressed as straight line walk distances⁷. A series of maps assessing access for different typologies are presented in section 6 of this report. The maps are intended to be indicative, and more detailed maps by district and ward will be provided as part of the full report. They show the straight line walking distance buffers along with population density (2011 census output areas) so that the key gaps in access can be identified.

The straight line walking distances do not take into account roads or barriers to access, and so the actual route walked (the pedestrian route) is generally further i.e. straight line distances are around 60% of actual distances. The standard walk time and straight line/pedestrian route distances are shown in the table below:

walk time (minutes)	Pedestrian Route (metres)	Straight line (metres)
1	100	60
2	160	96
3	240	144
4	320	192
5	400	240
6	480	288
7	560	336

⁷ We are not proposing drive time standards as these are normally only appropriate for strategic sites such as sports hub sites. Drive time standards generally do not work well for analysing access to local facilities/open space, as they do not generally show where the gaps in access are, and in addition, the consultation has shown that the majority of households access open spaces on foot.

walk time (minutes)	Pedestrian Route (metres)	Straight line (metres)
8	640	384
9	720	432
10	800	480
11	880	528
12	960	576
13	1040	624
14	1120	672
15	1200	720
16	1280	768
17	1360	816
18	1440	864
19	1520	912
20	1600	960

Proposed Quality Standards

Quality standards have been developed drawing on previous studies, national benchmarks and good practice, evidence from the needs assessment and the findings of the quality audits. The quality standards also include recommended policies to guide the provision of new open space through development in the future.

3.1 Proposed Draft Standards by District

3.1.1 Worcester City

Allotments: Worcester City

Proposed standards for allotments in Worcester City

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.30 ha/1000	720 metres (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national or local standards

National standards for allotments and other such open spaces are difficult to find. The closest thing to such standards appears to be those set out by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). These are as follows:

- Standard Plot Size = 330 sq yards (250sqm)
- Paths = 1.4m wide for disabled access
- Haulage ways = 3m wide
- Plotters shed = 12sqm
- Greenhouse = 15sqm
- Polytunnel = 30sqm

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) sets the following standards for allotments:

- 0.4ha/1000 (provision at that time fell well below this standard – but waiting lists were identified as significant);
- Minimum size: 1.3ha;
- Allotments are demand led and as such provision should be to the current City Standard of 0.4 ha per 1000 pop as demand exceeds supply with 100+ people on waiting lists across the City

Quantity

- 85% of all respondents from the household survey ‘never’ use allotments, meaning this is the least used type of open space;
- The existing average level of provision across the city is 0.27ha/1000
- The level of provision varies by ward, with a low number of wards having high levels of provision
- The household survey identified 39% of people felt there should be more allotments, however, 37% felt there are enough;
- The propensity for higher density new housing with smaller gardens is likely to increase demand (this was also highlighted within the consultation);
- Whilst the need and value of allotments is recognised, there is no solid evidence which justifies a large increase against the existing levels of provision within the district and the existing standard (0.4ha/1000) is therefore considered to be too high;
- Therefore, a standard in line with current provision levels is recommended to analyse current and future provision – 0.3ha/1000.
- We do not recommend a minimum site size, as allotments/food growing areas should be required on developments of 100+ or 200+ dwellings (thresholds to be agreed), and the previous minimum size threshold for Worcester City (1.3ha) is considered to be undeliverable on smaller developments.

Access and Quality standards

The access and quality standards for allotments are set out in section 3.2.1 of this report.

Amenity Green Space: Worcester City

Proposed standards for amenity green space in Worcester City

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.6 ha/1000 population (sites > 0.15ha)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes’ walk time

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (Previously known as the National Play Fields Association) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.6ha/1000 population of amenity green space, and a walking distance guideline of 480m. FIT recommend that the quantity guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) Sets the following standards for amenity green space:

- 0.5ha/1000, minimum size: 1.61ha;
- Residents should have access to good quality amenity space within 0.67 miles of their home.

Quantity

- Existing average level of provision in the district is 0.59 ha/1000 population (for sites greater than 0.15 ha in size);
- The household survey identified that 39% of people felt there was a need for more informal open space areas, whilst 34% felt there were enough and 27% felt there don't need to be as many;
- Provision varies by ward, with some areas falling well below the average, and others exceeding it;
- Considering the above factors, a minimum standard of 0.60 ha/1000 is recommended for analysing existing provision and for new provision of amenity green space, which is in line with the existing average level of provision across the City and also the FIT standard;
- The existing minimum site size is (1.61 ha) is considered too high. The minimum size of a space that will be considered acceptable and count towards open space provision is recommended to be 0.15 ha in size (about the size of a mini football pitch). This will avoid a proliferation of small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function. Any spaces below this size will be acceptable in terms of their visual amenity but would not count towards the required level of provision.
- When delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the natural green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.60 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces.

Access and Quality standards

The access and quality standards for amenity green space are set out in section 3.2.2 of this report.

The existing (2006) access standard for amenity green space is 0.67 miles (1078m), is in line with our proposed straight line walk standard (600m) – see walk time table above.

Park and Recreation Grounds: Worcester City

Proposed standards for Park and Recreation Grounds space in Worcester City

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.75 ha/1000 population	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (FIT) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.80ha/1000 population for parks and gardens, with a walking distance guideline of 710m. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

- Playing pitches: 1.20ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- All outdoor sports: 1.6ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- Equipped/designated play areas: 0.25ha/1000 population, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks): 0.30ha/1000 population and a walking distance of 700m.

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) Sets the following standards for parks and gardens:

- 0.61ha/1000 (based on provision level at that time, and consultation), minimum size of future provision: 6.1ha;
- Residents should have access to a good quality park within 0.67 miles of home

And the following for outdoor sports:

- 1.8ha/1000 (doesn't make clear what this is based on), minimum size of future provision: 1.8ha,
- Residents should have access to a good quality facility within 1.4 miles.

Quantity

- Existing average level of provision in the study area is 1.34 ha/1000
- There is an additional 0.41 ha/1000 of private sports space with varying levels of public access which includes a variety of uses (excluding golf courses);
- The household survey identified that 54% of people felt there were enough parks and recreation grounds (compared to 39% who felt there was a need for more);
- The consultation revealed that the priority was for improvements to existing facilities (53%) over new provision (32%);

- A proposed standard of 1.75 ha/1000 (combining public and privately managed provision) is therefore proposed for assessing existing provision and for assessing requirements for new provision of parks and recreation grounds;
- This is slightly higher than the FIT guidelines (1.6ha/1000 for all outdoor sports), but reflects the local situation and takes account of the recent consultation.
- It should be reiterated that this standard is intended to provide sufficient space for facilities including pitches and fixed outdoor sport. It excludes play space (which is provided in addition to this standard).

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for park and recreation grounds are set out in section 3.2.3 of this report.

The existing (2006) access standard for parks and gardens is 0.67 miles (1078m), is in line with our proposed straight line walk standard (600m) – see walk time table above.

Play Space (children and youth): Worcester City

Proposed quantity and access standards for children's and youth play space in Worcester City

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children's Play Space	0.05 ha/1000 population	600m (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)
Youth Play Space	0.04 ha/1000 population	720m (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing National and Local standards

The FIT guidance 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' recommends provision of 0.25ha/1000 population of equipped/designated play areas, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). The guidance does not specifically cover the needs of most teenagers.

The previous FIT guidance (The Six Acre Standard) recommended provision of 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision. These standards had been criticised because they are often seen as undeliverable, and can result in a proliferation of play areas that can be difficult to maintain, as well as setting unrealistic aspirations in urban areas where insufficient land is available to provide facilities, especially higher density development on brownfield sites. The level recommended within the new guidance (0.25 ha/1000 population), although lower than previously, is still considered to be high.

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) sets the following standards for provision for children and young people:

- 0.6ha/1000, minimum size for future provision: 400m²;
- Residents should have access to good quality play provision within 0.5 miles of their home.

Quantity standards for play

- Current average levels of provision of children's play space in the City is 0.04 ha/1000 population, for youth space this is 0.01 ha/1000 population;
- The household survey identified that 35% of people felt there was a need for more children's play areas (compared to 52% who felt there are enough); whereas for facilities for teenagers 48% felt there was a need for more (compared to 35% who felt there are enough);
- The household survey also found that when asked about the kind of improvement needed, 70% of respondents thought that additional facilities were needed (whereas 27% thought quality improvements were needed), and in relation to children's play space there was less of a clear divide – with 43% identifying that additional facilities are required, compared 49% who felt that quality improvements to existing facilities is the priority;
- It is therefore recommended that existing levels of youth play facilities are increased with a standard of 0.04 ha/1000 for analysing existing and required provision, and that provision of children's play space remains in line with existing levels of provision, at 0.05 ha/1000;
- This is well below the existing quantity standard for Worcester City, which is very high and not considered to be deliverable.
- It should be reiterated that these are **minimum standards for equipped provision** and **do not include the need for surrounding playable space** as recommended by Play England⁸ i.e. this surrounding playable space will need to be provided in addition to the quantity standard.
- NB. We are not recommending a hierarchy for provision of children's play space (as per the FIT guidance), only a standard for children's play space and youth play space. The quality assessment will highlight those spaces where quality and play value could be improved, and the study will recognise that all open space provides 'playable space'.
- The hierarchy approach (LAPs, LEAPs, NEAPs etc.) is a bit dated and it directs developers towards providing standardised play rather than thinking about what is needed locally, and opportunities for more creative play design e.g. natural play. A single standard for children's play aims to move away from lots of little play areas which are not sustainable, and providing fewer, bigger, better play areas.

Access and Quality standards

The access and quality standards for children's and youth play space are set out in section 3.2.4 of this report.

⁸ Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces

The current access for children and young people is in line with our proposed standard for children's play space. However, we have recommended a greater access standard for youth play space, as the recent consultation indicates that people are willing to travel further to access this typology.

Natural Green Space: Worcester City

Proposed quantity and access standard for Natural Green Space in Worcester City

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.0ha/1000 population	920m (20 minutes' straight line walk time)
	ANGst Standards

Existing National and Local standards

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt):

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live should have accessible natural greenspace:

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 meters (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) sets the following standards for Natural Green Space:

- 2.0ha/1000 (based on English Nature 2ha/1000 national standard), minimum size of future provision: 3.8ha
- Access standard: residents should have access to good quality natural green space within 1.4 miles of home

Quantity standards for natural green space

- The existing level of provision across the District area is 1.66ha/1000, however this is highly variable by ward, and therefore a standard based on this level of provision is not considered deliverable or effective;
- In terms of analysing existing provision, it is recommended that the ANGst standards are applied, to identify where there are any key gaps in access – although these are aspirational standards;
- In addition, it is recommended that a standard is set for new provision from development; and also that an access standard is applied for analysing access to all natural green space across the district;

- The household survey identified that 48% felt there is a need for more woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves, compared to 38% who felt there are enough;
- The purpose of the quantity standard is therefore to ensure that wards with comparatively low quantities of provision do not lose further space, and also that developments provide natural green space in areas of need;
- It is therefore recommended that a standard of 1.0ha/1000 is used for assessing existing provision (it will highlight those areas which have particularly low levels of provision) and also for providing new provision through development. As with all standards, this is a minimum requirement;
- Just because a ward may have levels of provision above the minimum standard, it does not necessarily mean these spaces are surplus to requirement;
- The importance of natural green spaces is recognised not only in their contribution to recreation and health and wellbeing, but also importantly in terms of Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity.
- As already mentioned under the quantity standard for amenity green space, when delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the amenity green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.60 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces.

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for natural green space are set out in section 3.2.5 of this report.

3.1.2 Malvern Hills

Allotments: Malvern Hills

Proposed quantity and access standard for allotments in the Malvern Hills

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.30 ha/1000	720 metres (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national or local standards

National standards for allotments and other such open spaces are difficult to find. The closest thing to such standards appears to be those set out by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). These are as follows:

- Standard Plot Size = 330 sq yards (250sqm)
- Paths = 1.4m wide for disabled access
- Haulage ways = 3m wide
- Plotters shed = 12sqm
- Greenhouse = 15sqm
- Polytunnel = 30sqm

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for allotments:

- 0.14ha/1000
- All settlement areas within 120m of a site up to 0.66ha and/or 1200m of a site between 0.66ha and 1ha and/or 900m of a site between 1ha and 10ha and/or a site of more than 10ha

Quantity standard for allotments

- 85% of all respondents from the household survey ‘never’ use allotments, meaning this is the least used type of open space;
- The existing average level of provision across the district is 0.12 ha/1000;
- Provision is generally very low across the majority of wards;
- It was noted from the parish councils within this area that there is demand for more allotments;
- The household survey identified 39% of people felt there should be more allotments, however, 37% felt there are enough;
- However, consultation with Town/Parish Councils and local organisations (including local councils) highlighted specific concern around a lack of provision in some areas, and also long waiting lists;
- The propensity for higher density new housing with smaller gardens is likely to increase demand (this was also highlighted within the consultation);
- The existing standards are considered to be very low for the Malvern Hills,
- With the above in mind, an increased standard against the existing provision levels is recommended. Therefore, a standard of 0.30 ha/1000 is proposed for analysing existing provision and for new provision of allotments is proposed.
- This will highlight the low provision of allotments within the Malvern Hills and will be deliverable in terms of new provision.

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for allotments are set out in section 3.2.1 of this report.

Amenity Green Space: Malvern Hills

Proposed quantity and access standard for amenity green space within the Malvern Hills

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.1 ha/1000 population (sites > 0.15ha)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes’ walk time

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (Previously known as the National Play Fields Association) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report ‘Beyond the Six Acre Standard’ proposes a benchmark

guideline of 0.6ha/1000 population of amenity green space, and a walking distance guideline of 480m. FIT recommend that the quantity guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for amenity green space:

- 1.86ha/1000
- All settlement areas within 120m of a site up to 0.66ha and/or 1200m of a site between 0.66ha and 1ha and/or 900m of a site between 1ha and 10ha and/or a site of more than 10ha

Quantity standard for amenity green space

- Existing average level of provision in the District is 1.09ha/1000 population (for sites greater than 0.15 ha in size);
- The household survey identified that 39% of people felt there was a need for more informal open space areas, whilst 34% felt there were enough and 27% felt there don't need to be as many;
- Provision varies by ward, with some areas falling well below the average, and others exceeding it;
- Considering the above factors, a minimum standard of 1.1 ha/1000 is recommended for analysing existing provision and for new provision of amenity green space;
- The minimum size of a space that will be considered acceptable and count towards open space provision is recommended to be 0.15 ha in size (about the size of a mini football pitch). This will avoid a proliferation of small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function. Any spaces below this size will be acceptable in terms of their visual amenity, but would not count towards the required level of provision.
- When delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the natural green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 2.1 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces – this is in accordance with the existing standards for the Malvern Hills within the South Worcestershire Developer Contributions SPD (2018), which is 2.0ha/1000.

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for amenity green spaces are set out in section 3.2.2 of this report.

Park and Recreation Grounds: Malvern Hills

Proposed quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.55 ha/1000 population	600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (FIT) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.80ha/1000 population for parks and gardens, with a walking distance guideline of 710m. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

- Playing pitches: 1.20ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- All outdoor sports: 1.6ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- Equipped/designated play areas: 0.25ha/1000 population, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks): 0.30ha/1000 population and a walking distance of 700m.

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for parks and gardens:

- 0.14ha/1000
- 400m of a local park, 1,200m of a district park and 3,200m of a borough park.

And the following for outdoor sports:

- 1.83ha/1000
- Teams to have access to appropriate site at relevant time

Quantity of park and recreation grounds

- Existing average level of provision in the District is 0.82 ha/1000
- There is an additional 0.73 ha/1000 of private sports space which includes a variety of uses (excluding golf courses), highlighting the importance of privately managed provision within the District;
- The household survey identified that 54% of people felt there were enough parks and recreation grounds (compared to 39% who felt there was a need for more);
- The consultation revealed that the priority was for improvements to existing facilities (53%) over new provision (32%);

- A proposed standard of 1.55 ha/1000 (combining publicly and privately managed provision) is therefore proposed for assessing existing provision and for assessing requirements for new park and recreation grounds;
- It should be reiterated that this standard is intended to provide sufficient space for facilities including pitches (whereas play space is provided in addition to this standard).
- We are not recommending a hierarchy of provision – we feel a more simple approach is needed.

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for park and recreation grounds are set out in section 3.2.3 of this report.

Play Space (children and youth): Malvern Hills

Proposed quantity and access standards for children's and youth play space within the Malvern Hills

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children's Play Space	0.04 ha/1000 population	600m (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)
Youth Play Space	0.04 ha/1000 population	720m (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing National and Local standards

The FIT guidance 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' recommends provision of 0.25ha/1000 population of equipped/designated play areas, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). The guidance does not specifically cover the needs of most teenagers.

The previous FIT guidance (The Six Acre Standard) recommended provision of 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision. These standards had been criticised because they are often seen as undeliverable, and can result in a proliferation of play areas that can be difficult to maintain, as well as setting unrealistic aspirations in urban areas where insufficient land is available to provide facilities, especially higher density development on brownfield sites. The level recommended within the new guidance (0.25 ha/1000 population), although lower than previously, is still considered to be high.

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for provision for children and young people:

- 0.04ha/1000

- All settlement areas within 400m of a LEAP (pedestrian route) and/or 1,000m of a NEAP (pedestrian route) and/or 1,000 or a site greater than a SEAP (Straight line distance)

Quantity standards for play

- Within the District, current average levels of provision of children's play space is 0.04 ha/1000 population, for youth space this is 0.01 ha/1000 population;
- The household survey identified that 35% of people felt there was a need for more children's play areas (compared to 52% who felt there are enough); whereas for facilities for teenagers 48% felt there was a need for more (compared to 35% who felt there are enough);
- The household survey also found that when asked about the kind of improvement needed, 70% of respondents thought that additional facilities were needed (where as 27% thought quality improvements were needed), and in relation to children's play space there was less of a clear divide – with 43% identifying that additional facilities are required, compared 49% who felt that quality improvements to existing facilities is the priority.
- It is therefore recommended that existing levels of youth play facilities are increased with a standard of 0.04 ha/1000 for analysing existing and required provision, and that provision of children's play space remains in line with existing levels of provision, also at 0.04 ha/1000;
- It should be reiterated that these are **minimum standards for equipped provision** and **do not include the need for surrounding playable space** as recommended by Play England⁹ i.e. this surrounding playable space will need to be provided in addition to the quantity standard.
- NB. We are not recommending a hierarchy for provision of children's play space, only a standard for children's play space and youth play space. The quality assessment will highlight those spaces where quality and play value could be improved, and the study will recognise that all open space provides 'playable space'.
- The hierarchy approach (LAPs, LEAPs, NEAPs etc.) is a bit dated and it directs developers towards providing standardised play rather than thinking about what is needed locally, and opportunities for more creative play design e.g. natural play. A single standard for children's play aims to move away from lots of little play areas which are not sustainable, and providing fewer, bigger, better play areas.

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for children's and youth play space are set out in section 3.2.4 of this report.

We are not recommending different access standards within the children's play space typology, as we are not recommending a hierarchy approach.

⁹ Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces

Natural Green Space: Malvern Hills

Proposed quantity and access standard for Natural Green Space within the Malvern Hills

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.0ha/1000 population	920m (20 minutes' straight line walk time)
	ANGst Standards

Existing National and Local standards

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt):

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live should have accessible natural greenspace:

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 meters (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for provision for natural/semi-natural green space:

- 7.72ha/1000
- All settlement areas within 120m of a site up to 0.66ha and/or 1200m of a site between 0.66ha and 1ha and/or 900m of a site between 1ha and 10ha and/or a site of more than 10ha

Quantity standards for natural green space

- The existing level of provision across the study area is 24.99ha/1000, however this is highly variable by ward, and a standard based on this level of provision is not considered deliverable or effective;
- In terms of analysing existing provision, it is recommended that the ANGst standards are applied, to identify where there are any key gaps in access – although these are aspirational standards;
- In addition, it is recommended that a standard is set for new provision from development; and also that an access standard is applied for analysing access to all natural green space across the Study Area;
- The household survey identified that 48% felt there is a need for more woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves, compared to 38% who felt there are enough;
- The purpose of the quantity standard is therefore to ensure that wards with comparatively low quantities of provision do not lose further space, and also that developments provide natural green space in areas of need;

- It is therefore recommended that a standard of 1.0ha/1000 is used for assessing existing provision (it will highlight those areas which have particularly low levels of provision) and also for providing new provision through development. As with all standards, this is a minimum requirement;
- Just because a ward may have levels of provision above the minimum standard, it does not necessarily mean these spaces are surplus to requirement;
- The importance of natural green spaces is recognised not only in their contribution to recreation and health and wellbeing, but also importantly in terms of Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity.
- As already mentioned under the quantity standard for amenity green space, when delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the amenity green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.70 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces.

Access and quality

The access and quality standards for natural green space are set out in section 3.2.5 of this report.

3.1.3 Wychavon

Allotments: Wychavon

Proposed quantity and access standard for allotments in Wychavon

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.40 ha/1000	720 metres (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national or local standards

National standards for allotments and other such open spaces are difficult to find. The closest thing to such standards appears to be those set out by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). These are as follows:

- Standard Plot Size = 330 sq yards (250sqm)
- Paths = 1.4m wide for disabled access
- Haulage ways = 3m wide
- Plotters shed = 12sqm
- Greenhouse = 15sqm
- Polytunnel = 30sqm

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for allotments:

- 0.39ha/1000
- 15-minute walk time

Quantity standard for allotments

- 85% of all respondents from the household survey ‘never’ use allotments, meaning this is the least used type of open space;
- The existing average level of provision across the District is 0.38 ha/1000;
- Provision varies greatly by ward;
- The household survey identified 39% of people felt there should be more allotments, however, 37% felt there are enough;
- Consultation with Town/Parish Councils and local organisations (including local councils) highlighted specific concern around a lack of provision in some areas, and also long waiting lists;
- The propensity for higher density new housing with smaller gardens is likely to increase demand (this was also highlighted within the consultation);
- There is no solid evidence which justifies a large increase against the existing levels of provision at the District area;
- With the above in mind a standard in line with current provision levels are recommended. Therefore, a standard of 0.40 ha/1000 is proposed for analysing existing provision and for new provision of allotments is proposed.

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for allotments are set out in section 3.2.1 of this report.

The proposed access standard is in accordance with the existing standard for Wychavon.

Amenity Green Space: Wychavon

Proposed quantity and access standard for amenity green space within Wychavon

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.6 ha/1000 population (sites > 0.15ha)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes’ walk time

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (Previously known as the National Play Fields Association) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report ‘Beyond the Six Acre Standard’ proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.6ha/1000 population of amenity green space, and a walking distance guideline of 480m. FIT recommend that the quantity guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for amenity green space:

- 0.61ha/1000
- 10-minute walk time

Quantity standard for amenity green space

- Existing average level of provision in the District is 0.61 ha/1000 population (for sites greater than 0.15 ha in size);
- The household survey identified that 39% of people felt there was a need for more informal open space areas, whilst 34% felt there were enough and 27% felt there don't need to be as many;
- Provision varies by ward, with some areas falling well below the average, and others exceeding it;
- Considering the above factors, a minimum standard of 0.60 ha/1000 is recommended for analysing existing provision and for new provision of amenity green space;
- The minimum size of a space that will be considered acceptable and count towards open space provision is recommended to be 0.15 ha in size (about the size of a mini football pitch). This will avoid a proliferation of small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function. Any spaces below this size will be acceptable in terms of their visual amenity, but would not count towards the required level of provision.
- When delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the natural green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.60 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces.

Access and quality

The access and quality standards for amenity green space are set out in section 3.2.2 of this report.

The proposed access standard is slightly greater than that recommended in the previous study.

Park and Recreation Grounds: Wychavon

Proposed quantity and access standards for Parks and Recreation Grounds within Wychavon

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.70 ha/1000 population	600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (FIT) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.80ha/1000 population for parks and

gardens, with a walking distance guideline of 710m. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

- Playing pitches: 1.20ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- All outdoor sports: 1.6ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- Equipped/designated play areas: 0.25ha/1000 population, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks): 0.30ha/1000 population and a walking distance of 700m.

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for parks and gardens:

- 0.76ha/1000
- 15-minute walk time (urban)

And the following for outdoor sports:

- 1.9ha/1000 (excluding golf courses)
- 15-minute walk for grass pitches and tennis courts. 15-minute drive for STP's, golf courses and bowling greens.

Quantity of park and recreation grounds

- Existing average level of provision in the District is 1.02 ha/1000
- There is an additional 0.70 ha/1000 of private sports space with varying levels of public access which includes a variety of uses (excluding golf courses), highlighting the importance of privately managed facilities;
- The household survey identified that 54% of people felt there were enough parks and recreation grounds (compared to 39% who felt there was a need for more);
- The consultation revealed that the priority was for improvements to existing facilities (53%) over new provision (32%);
- A proposed standard of 1.70 ha/1000 (combining publicly and privately managed provision) is therefore proposed for assessing existing provision and for assessing requirements for new provision of parks and recreation grounds;
- It should be reiterated that this standard is intended to provide sufficient space for facilities including pitches (whereas play space is provided in addition to this standard).

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for park and recreation grounds are set out in section 3.2.3 of this report.

The recommended access standard for parks and recreation grounds is slightly less than the previous (2006) Study recommendation.

Play Space (children and youth): Wychavon

Proposed quantity and access standard for Children's and Youth Play Space within Wychavon

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children's Play Space	0.06 ha/1000 population	600m (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)
Youth Play Space	0.04 ha/1000 population	720m (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing National and Local standards

The FIT guidance 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' recommends provision of 0.25ha/1000 population of equipped/designated play areas, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). The guidance does not specifically cover the needs of most teenagers.

The previous FIT guidance (The Six Acre Standard) recommended provision of 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision. These standards had been criticised because they are often seen as undeliverable, and can result in a proliferation of play areas that can be difficult to maintain, as well as setting unrealistic aspirations in urban areas where insufficient land is available to provide facilities, especially higher density development on brownfield sites. The level recommended within the new guidance (0.25 ha/1000 population), although lower than previously, is still considered to be high.

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for provision for children and young people:

- Children: 0.07ha/1000, Urban: 10-minute walk for children, Rural: 10 minute walk for children
- Young People: 0.02ha/1000, Urban: 15-minute walk, Rural: not defined

Quantity standards for play

- Within the District, current average levels of provision of children's play space is 0.06 ha/1000 population, for youth space this is 0.01 ha/1000 population;
- The household survey identified that 35% of people felt there was a need for more children's play areas (compared to 52% who felt there are enough); whereas for facilities for teenagers 48% felt there was a need for more (compared to 35% who felt there are enough);

- The household survey also found that when asked about the kind of improvement needed, 70% of respondents thought that additional facilities were needed (where as 27% thought quality improvements were needed), and in relation to children's play space there was less of a clear divide – with 43% identifying that additional facilities are required, compared 49% who felt that quality improvements to existing facilities is the priority.
- It is therefore recommended that existing levels of youth play facilities are increased with a standard of 0.04 ha/1000 for analysing existing and required provision, and that provision of children's play space remains in line with existing levels of provision, at 0.06 ha/1000;
- It should be reiterated that these are **minimum standards for equipped provision** and **do not include the need for surrounding playable space** as recommended by Play England¹⁰ i.e. this surrounding playable space will need to be provided in addition to the quantity standard.

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for children's and youth play space are set out in section 3.2.4 of this report.

The proposed access standard for youth play space is in accordance with the existing standard, where as for children's play space it is slightly greater.

Natural Green Space: Wychavon

Proposed quantity and access standard for Natural Green Space in Wychavon

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.0ha/1000 population	920m (20 minutes' straight line walk time) ANGst Standards plus 20min drive time for sites above 20ha.

Existing National and Local standards

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt):

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live should have accessible natural greenspace:

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 meters (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

¹⁰ Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for provision for natural and semi-natural open space:

- 0.75ha/1000
- 15 minute walk time (urban)

Quantity standards for natural green space

- The existing level of provision across the study area is 5.3ha/1000, however this is highly variable by ward, and therefore a standard based on this level of provision is not considered deliverable or effective;
- In terms of analysing existing provision, it is recommended that the ANGst standards are applied, to identify where there are any key gaps in access – although these are aspirational standards;
- In addition, it is recommended that a standard is set for new provision from development; and also that an access standard is applied for analysing access to all natural green space across the Study Area;
- The household survey identified that 48% felt there is a need for more woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves, compared to 38% who felt there are enough;
- The purpose of the quantity standard is therefore to ensure that wards with comparatively low quantities of provision do not lose further space, and also that developments provide natural green space in areas of need;
- It is therefore recommended that a standard of 1.0ha/1000 is used for assessing existing provision (it will highlight those areas which have particularly low levels of provision) and also for providing new provision through development. As with all standards, this is a minimum requirement;
- Just because a ward may have levels of provision above the minimum standard, it does not necessarily mean these spaces are surplus to requirement;
- The importance of natural green spaces is recognised not only in their contribution to recreation and health and wellbeing, but also importantly in terms of Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity.
- As already mentioned under the quantity standard for amenity green space, when delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the amenity green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.60 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces.

Access and Quality

The access and quality standards for natural green space are set out in section 3.2.5 of this report.

3.1.4 Summary of Proposed Open Space Standards by District

Proposed quantity and access standards by District

Typology	Worcester City		Malvern Hills		Wychavon	
	Quantity	Access	Quantity	Access	Quantity	Access
Allotments	0.3ha/1000	720m	0.3ha/1000	720m	0.4ha/1000	720m
Amenity Green Space	0.6ha/1000	600m	1.1ha/1000	600m	0.6ha/1000	600m
Park and Recreation Grounds (public and private)	1.75ha/1000	600m	1.55ha/1000	600m	1.70ha/1000	600m
Children's Play Space	0.05ha/1000	600m	0.04ha/1000	600m	0.06ha/1000	600m
Youth Play Space	0.04ha/1000	720m	0.04ha/1000	720m	0.04ha/1000	720m
Natural Green Space	1.0ha/1000	920m & ANGst	1.0ha/1000	920m & ANGst	1.0ha/1000	920m & ANGst
Total for new provision	3.74ha/1000		4.03ha/1000		3.80ha/1000	

The proposed quantity standards are largely the same across each District, the exceptions being allotments in Wychavon (where the standard is slightly higher due to the higher level of existing provision), and amenity green space in Malvern Hills (again where existing provision is much higher). For Parks and Recreation Grounds, the recommended standard is also slightly lower within Malvern Hills.

The proposed access standards are the same for each typology across all districts, as these are based on study area-wide consultation and are considered in more detail in the section below.

3.2 Proposed Draft Standards by Study Area

This section sets out the justification for Study Area wide standards (rather than separate standards for each District).

3.2.1 Allotments

Proposed quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.30 ha/1000	720 metres (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national or local standards

National standards for allotments and other such open spaces are difficult to find. The closest thing to such standards appears to be those set out by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). These are as follows:

- Standard Plot Size = 330 sq yards (250sqm)
- Paths = 1.4m wide for disabled access
- Haulage ways = 3m wide
- Plotters shed = 12sqm
- Greenhouse = 15sqm
- Polytunnel = 30sqm

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) sets the following standards for allotments:

- 0.4ha/1000 (provision at that time fell well below this standard – but waiting lists were identified as significant);
- Minimum size: 1.3ha;
- Allotments are demand led and as such provision should be to the current City Standard of 0.4 ha per 1000 pop as demand exceeds supply with 100+people on waiting lists across the City

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for allotments:

- 0.14ha/1000
- All settlement areas within 120m of a site up to 0.66ha and/or 1200m of a site between 0.66ha and 1ha and/or 900m of a site between 1ha and 10ha and/or a site of more than 10ha

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for allotments:

- 0.39ha/1000
- 15-minute walk time

Quantity standard for allotments

- 85% of all respondents from the household survey ‘never’ use allotments, meaning this is the least used type of open space;
- The existing average level of provision across the study area is 0.28 ha/1000;
- Provision varies greatly by ward;
- The level of provision within the Malvern Hills is comparatively very low (at 0.12 ha/1000), and it was noted from the parish councils within this area that there is demand for more allotments;
- The household survey identified 39% of people felt there should be more allotments, however, 37% felt there are enough;
- However, consultation with Town/Parish Councils and local organisations (including local councils) highlighted specific concern around a lack of provision in some areas, and also long waiting lists;
- The propensity for higher density new housing with smaller gardens is likely to increase demand (this was also highlighted within the consultation);
- Whilst the need and value of allotments is recognised, there is no solid evidence which justifies a large increase against the existing levels of provision at the Study Area;
- The existing standards are considered to be too low for the Malvern Hills, and too high for Worcester. The existing standard for Wychavon 0.39ha/1000 is acceptable, however, the higher level of provision in this district is caused by a low number of wards that have large/large amounts of allotment space, and therefore a lower standard is considered appropriate when analysing supply and requirements for new provision;
- With the above in mind a standard in line with current study area provision levels is considered appropriate. Therefore, a standard of 0.30 ha/1000 is proposed for analysing existing provision and for new provision of allotments.
- This will highlight the low provision of allotments within Malvern Hills and will be deliverable through new provision.
- We do not recommend a minimum site size, as allotments/food growing areas should be required on developments of 100+ or 200+ dwellings (thresholds to be agreed), and the previous minimum size threshold for Worcester City (1.3ha) is considered to be undeliverable on smaller developments.

Access standard for allotments

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to allotments from the household survey identified a mix in responses, with 23% wanting allotments within

5 minutes, 29% between 6 to 10 minutes, 22% between 11 to 15 minutes and 13% between 16 to 20 minutes; and that they access allotments by foot (60%).

- This suggests that people do not want to travel to far to reach their allotment;
- It is considered that the availability of allotments is more important than having them very close to home, nevertheless there is some demand for facilities relatively nearby. Therefore, a standard of no more than 15 minutes' walk time (720 metres straight line walk) is proposed.

Quality standards for allotments

The household survey identified that only 19% of respondents thought that allotments were either good or very good quality - whereas 27% thought they were average, 26% poor and 28% very poor. This typology was also rated as a high priority for improvement by 39% of respondents. Allotment sites were not subject to quality audits as part of this study, this was agreed by the project group as the majority of allotments are locked/not accessible.

However, a number of general recommendations are made in relation to quality, which should include the following:

- Well-drained soil which is capable of cultivation to a reasonable standard.
- A sunny, open aspect preferably on a southern facing slope.
- Limited overhang from trees and buildings either bounding or within the site.
- Adequate lockable storage facilities, and a good water supply within easy walking distance of individual plots.
- Provision for composting facilities.
- Secure boundary fencing.
- Good access within the site both for pedestrians and vehicles.
- Good vehicular access into the site and adequate parking and manoeuvring space.
- Disabled access.
- Toilets.
- Notice boards.

3.2.2 Amenity Green Space

Proposed quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.70 ha/1000 population (sites > 0.15ha)	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time

Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (Previously known as the National Play Fields Association) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.6ha/1000 population of amenity green space, and a walking distance guideline of 480m. FIT recommend that the quantity guidelines are adjusted to take account of local circumstances.

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) Sets the following standards for amenity green space:

- 0.5ha/1000, minimum size: 1.61ha;
- Residents should have access to good quality amenity space within 0.67 miles of their home.

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for amenity green space:

- 1.86ha/1000
- All settlement areas within 120m of a site up to 0.66ha and/or 1200m of a site between 0.66ha and 1ha and/or 900m of a site between 1ha and 10ha and/or a site of more than 10ha

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for amenity green space:

- 0.61ha/1000
- 10-minute walk time

Quantity standard for amenity green space

- Existing average level of provision in the study area is 0.72 ha/1000 population (for sites greater than 0.15 ha in size);
- The household survey identified that 39% of people felt there was a need for more informal open space areas, whilst 34% felt there were enough and 27% felt there don't need to be as many;
- Provision varies by ward, with some areas falling well below the average, and others exceeding it; at the district level, provision is similar within Worcester and Wychavon (at 0.63ha/1000 and 0.64ha/1000 respectively, while provision in Malvern Hills is much higher at 1.28ha/1000.
- Considering the above factors, a minimum standard of 0.70 ha/1000 is recommended for analysing existing provision and for new provision of amenity green space;
- The minimum size of a space that will be considered acceptable and count towards open space provision is recommended to be 0.15 ha in size (about the size of a mini football pitch). This will avoid a proliferation of small amenity spaces which have no real recreation function. Any spaces below this size will be acceptable in terms of their visual amenity, but would not count towards the required level of provision.
- When delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the natural green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.70 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces.

Access standard for amenity green space

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to informal open space from the household survey identified that people expect informal open space/amenity green space to be close by, with 50% expecting informal open spaces to be within a 10 minute travel time (of which 26% expecting to travel no more than 5 minutes) and a further 22% expecting to travel no more than 15 minutes; and that they access these spaces by foot (76%);
- Therefore, a standard of no more than 600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time) is proposed.

Quality standards for amenity green space

The household survey revealed that the majority (50%) of respondents think that the quality of informal open space is good or very good quality, 26% average and 24% poor or very poor. This typology was also rated as a high priority for improvement by 47% of respondents.

The audit of provision as well as the consultation has identified the importance attached by local people to open space close to home. The value of 'amenity green space' must be recognised especially within housing areas, where it can provide important local opportunities for play, exercise and visual amenity that are almost immediately accessible. On the other hand, open space can be expensive to maintain and it is very important to strike the correct balance between having sufficient space to meet the needs of the community for accessible and attractive space, and having too much which would be impossible to manage properly and therefore a potential liability and source of nuisance. It is important that amenity green space should be capable of use for at least some forms of public recreation activity.

It is therefore recommended that in addition to the minimum size threshold identified above (0.15ha), that all amenity green space should be subject to landscape design, ensuring the following quality principles:

- Capable of supporting informal recreation such as a kickabout, space for dog walking or space to sit and relax;
- Include high quality planting of trees and/or shrubs to create landscape structure and biodiversity value;
- Include paths along main desire lines (lit where appropriate);
- Be designed to ensure easy maintenance.

3.2.3 Park and Recreation Grounds (public and private combined)

Proposed quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.70 ha/1000 population	600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line

	walk time)
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Existing national or local standards

The Fields in Trust (FIT) Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' proposes a benchmark guideline of 0.80ha/1000 population for parks and gardens, with a walking distance guideline of 710m. In addition to this they also recommend the following standards:

- Playing pitches: 1.20ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- All outdoor sports: 1.6ha/1000 population with a walking distance of 1,200m
- Equipped/designated play areas: 0.25ha/1000 population, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks): 0.30ha/1000 population and a walking distance of 700m.

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) sets the following standards for parks and gardens:

- 0.61ha/1000 (based on provision level at that time, and consultation), minimum size of future provision: 6.1ha;
- Residents should have access to a good quality park within 0.67 miles of home

And the following for outdoor sports:

- 1.8ha/1000 (doesn't make clear what this is based on), minimum size of future provision: 1.8ha,
- Residents should have access to a good quality facility within 1.4 miles.

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for parks and gardens:

- 0.14ha/1000
- 400m of a local park, 1,200m of a district park and 3,200m of a borough park.

And the following for outdoor sports:

- 1.83ha/1000
- Teams to have access to appropriate site at relevant time

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for parks and gardens:

- 0.76ha/1000
- 15-minute walk time (urban)

And the following for outdoor sports:

- 1.9ha/1000 (excluding golf courses)
- 15-minute walk for grass pitches and tennis courts. 15-minute drive for STP's, golf courses and bowling greens.

Quantity of park and recreation grounds

- Existing average level of provision in the study area is 1.08 ha/1000
- There is an additional 0.61 ha/1000 of private sports space which includes a variety of uses (excluding golf courses);
- The household survey identified that 54% of people felt there were enough parks and recreation grounds (compared to 39% who felt there was a need for more);
- The consultation revealed that the priority was for improvements to existing facilities (53%) over new provision (32%);
- A proposed standard of 1.70 ha/1000 (combining public and privately managed provision) is therefore proposed for assessing existing provision and for assessing requirements for new provision of park and recreation grounds;
- It should be reiterated that this standard is intended to provide sufficient space for facilities including pitches (whereas play space is provided in addition to this standard).
- We are not recommending a hierarchy of provision – we feel a more simple approach is needed.

Access standard for park and recreation grounds

- 17% of people want facilities to be within a 5 minute travel time, 32% within 10 minutes and 25% within 15 minutes and 77% of people walk to parks and recreation grounds. This indicates that people do not want to travel too far to reach their park and recreation ground.
- A standard of 600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time) is therefore recommended.

Quality standards for park and recreation grounds

60% of respondents from the household survey felt that the quality of parks and recreation grounds is either good or very good, and 28% average. 43% also felt they are a high priority for improvement, and a further 40% a medium priority for improvement.

National guidance relevant to this typology is provided in the 'Green Flag' quality standard for parks which sets out benchmark criteria for quality open spaces. For outdoor sports space, Sport England have produced a wealth of useful documents outlining the quality

standards for facilities such as playing pitches, changing rooms, MUGAS and tennis courts plus associated ancillary facilities. The Rugby Football Union have provided guidance on the quality and standard of provision of facilities for rugby, and the England and Wales Cricket Board have provided guidance for cricket facilities. It is recommended that the guidance provided in these documents is adopted by the Council, and that all new and improved provision seeks to meet these guidelines.

3.2.4 Play Space (children and youth)

Proposed quantity and access standard

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children's Play Space	0.05 ha/1000 population	600m (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)
Youth Play Space	0.04 ha/1000 population	720m (15 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing National and Local standards

The FIT guidance 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard' recommends provision of 0.25ha/1000 population of equipped/designated play areas, with a walking distance of 100m for Local Areas for Play (LAPs), 400m for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) and 1000m for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). The guidance does not specifically cover the needs of most teenagers.

The previous FIT guidance (The Six Acre Standard) recommended provision of 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision. These standards had been criticised because they are often seen as undeliverable, and can result in a proliferation of play areas that can be difficult to maintain, as well as setting unrealistic aspirations in urban areas where insufficient land is available to provide facilities, especially higher density development on brownfield sites. The level recommended within the new guidance (0.25 ha/1000 population), although lower than previously, is still considered to be high.

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) sets the following standards for provision for children and young people:

- 0.6ha/1000, minimum size for future provision: 400m²;
- Residents should have access to good quality play provision within 0.5 miles of their home.

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for provision for children and young people:

- 0.04ha/1000

- All settlement areas within 400m of a LEAP (pedestrian route) and/or 1,000m of a NEAP (pedestrian route) and/or 1,000 or a site greater than a SEAP (Straight line distance)

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for provision for children and young people:

- Children: 0.07ha/1000, Urban: 10-minute walk for children, Rural: 10 minute walk for children
- Young People: 0.02ha/1000, Urban: 15-minute walk, Rural: not defined

Quantity standards for play

- Current average levels of provision of children's play space is 0.05 ha/1000 population, for youth space this is 0.01 ha/1000 population;
- The household survey identified that 35% of people felt there was a need for more children's play areas (compared to 52% who felt there are enough); whereas for facilities for teenagers 48% felt there was a need for more (compared to 35% who felt there are enough);
- The household survey also found that when asked about the kind of improvement needed, 70% of respondents thought that additional facilities were needed (where as 27% thought quality improvements were needed), and in relation to children's play space there was less of a clear divide – with 43% identifying that additional facilities are required, compared 49% who felt that quality improvements to existing facilities is the priority.
- It is therefore recommended that existing levels of youth play facilities are increased with a standard of 0.04 ha/1000 for analysing existing and required provision, and that provision of children's play space remains in line with existing levels of provision, at 0.05 ha/1000;
- It should be reiterated that these are **minimum standards for equipped provision** and **do not include the need for surrounding playable space** as recommended by Play England¹¹ i.e. this surrounding playable space will need to be provided in addition to the quantity standard.
- NB. We are not recommending a hierarchy for provision of children's play space, only a standard for children's play space and youth play space. The quality assessment will highlight those spaces where quality and play value could be improved, and the study will recognise that all open space provides 'playable space'.
- The hierarchy approach (LAPs, LEAPs, NEAPs etc.) is a bit dated and it directs developers towards providing standardised play rather than thinking about what is needed locally, and opportunities for more creative play design e.g. natural play. A single standard for children's play aims to move away from lots of little play areas which are not sustainable, and providing fewer, bigger, better play areas.

Access standards for play

¹¹ Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces

- The household survey identified that for children's play space 57% of people want facilities within 10 minutes and a further 25% within 15 minutes. For teenage facilities 42% of people wanted facilities within 10 minutes, with a further 40% willing to travel up to 15 minutes;
- 81% of people walk to children's facilities, and 66% walk to outdoor teenage facilities.

In light of these findings, the following access standards are recommended:

- Children's provision – 600m (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time),
- Youth Provision – 720m (15 minutes' straight line walk time).

Quality standards for play

Children's play space was considered to be good or very good quality by 62% of respondents of the household survey, whereas 27% felt they were average quality. A similar number felt that facilities for teenagers were average quality (28%), whereas 31% felt they were good or very good quality, and 41% felt they were poor or very poor (compared to 11% for children's play space).

Play England are keen to see a range of play spaces in all urban environments:

- A** Door-step spaces close to home
- B** Local play spaces – larger areas within easy walking distance
- C** Neighbourhood spaces for play – larger spaces within walking distance
- D** Destination/family sites – accessible by bicycle, public transport and with car parking.

Moving forward, Play England would like their new Design Guide; '*Design for Play*' to be referenced and added as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in standard configuration. Play England have also developed a '*Quality Assessment Tool*' which can be used to judge the quality of individual play spaces. It has been recommended that all Council's consider adopting this as a means of assessing the quality of play spaces in their District. Play England also highlight a potential need for standards for smaller settlements and rural areas where the doorstep, local, neighbourhood, and destination hierarchy is unlikely to be appropriate.

Disability access is also an important issue for Play England and they would like local authorities to adopt the KIDS¹² publication; '*Inclusion by Design*' as an SPD. Their most recent guidance document, '*Better Places to Play through Planning*' gives detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space and is considered as a background context for the standards suggested in this study.

¹² KIDS, is a charity which in its 40 years, has pioneered a number of approaches and programmes for disabled children and young people. KIDS was established in 1970 and in 2003, KIDS merged with KIDSACTIVE, previously known as the Handicapped Adventure Play Association.

3.2.5 Natural Green Space

Proposed quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.0ha/1000 population	920m (20 minutes' straight line walk time)
	ANGst Standards

Existing National and Local standards

Natural England Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt):

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live should have accessible natural greenspace:

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 meters (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- a minimum of 1 hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The Worcester City Council PPG17 Assessment (2006) sets the following standards for Natural Green Space:

- 2.0ha/1000 (based on English Nature 2ha/1000 national standard), minimum size of future provision: 3.8ha
- Access standard: residents should have access to good quality natural green space within 1.4 miles of home

The Malvern Hills District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2007) sets the following standards for provision for natural/semi-natural green space:

- 7.72ha/1000
- All settlement areas within 120m of a site up to 0.66ha and/or 1200m of a site between 0.66ha and 1ha and/or 900m of a site between 1ha and 10ha and/or a site of more than 10ha

The Wychavon District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) sets the following standards for provision for natural and semi-natural open space:

- 0.75ha/1000
- 15 minute walk time (urban)

Quantity standards for natural green space

- The existing level of provision across the study area is 9.06ha/1000, however this is highly variable by district and ward, and therefore a standard based on this level of provision is not considered deliverable or effective;
- In terms of analysing existing provision, it is recommended that the ANGst standards are applied, to identify where there are any key gaps in access – although these are aspirational standards;
- In addition, it is recommended that a standard is set for new provision from development; and also that an access standard is applied for analysing access to all natural green space across the Study Area;
- The household survey identified that 48% felt there is a need for more woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves, compared to 38% who felt there are enough;
- The purpose of the quantity standard is therefore to ensure that wards with comparatively low quantities of provision do not lose further space, and also that developments provide natural green space in areas of need;
- It is therefore recommended that a standard of 1.0ha/1000 is used for assessing existing provision (it will highlight those areas which have particularly low levels of provision) and also for providing new provision through development. As with all standards, this is a minimum requirement;
- Just because a ward may have levels of provision above the minimum standard, it does not necessarily mean these spaces are surplus to requirement;
- The importance of natural green spaces is recognised not only in their contribution to recreation and health and wellbeing, but also importantly in terms of Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity.
- As already mentioned under the quantity standard for amenity green space, when delivering new provision, consideration should be given to combining this with the amenity green space standard (i.e. a combined standard of 1.70 ha/1000) in order to provide bigger, more biodiverse spaces.

Access standards for natural green space

- The household survey identified 11% want woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves within 5 minutes travel time, 14% within 10 minutes, 21% within 15 minutes, 24% within 20 minutes and 29% more than 20 minutes – of these, 46% walk and 46% drive.
- This indicates that people are generally willing to travel further to access this type of open space compared to other typologies, and therefore a standard of 960m (20 minutes straight line walk time is proposed).

Quality standards for natural green space

52% of respondents from the household survey felt that woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves were good or very good, a further 34% felt they were average and 14% felt they were poor or very poor. Natural green space was also noted as a high priority for improvement by significant numbers (54%) in the household survey. Consultation results also highlight the value attached to certain attributes of open space, in particular:

- Good maintenance and cleanliness
- Ease of access
- Lack of antisocial behaviour, noise etc.

This suggests that the provision of new or improved open space cannot be considered in isolation from the means of maintaining such space, perceptions of antisocial behaviour, and ease of access from within the surrounding environment.

The shape and size of space provided should allow for meaningful and safe recreation. Provision might be expected to include (as appropriate) elements of woodland, wetland, heathland and meadow, and could also be made for informal public access through recreation corridors. For larger areas, where car borne visits might be anticipated, some parking provision will be required. The larger the area the more valuable sites will tend to be in terms of their potential for enhancing local conservation interest and biodiversity. Wherever possible these sites should be linked to help improve wildlife value as part of a network.

In areas where it may be impossible or inappropriate to provide additional natural green space consistent with the standard, other approaches should be pursued which could include (for example):

- Changing the management of marginal space on playing fields and parks to enhance biodiversity.
- Encouraging living green roofs as part of new development/ redevelopment.
- Encouraging the creation of mixed species hedgerows.
- Additional use of long grass management regimes.
- Improvements to watercourses and water bodies.
- Innovative use of new drainage schemes / Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
- Use of native trees and plants with biodiversity value in high quality soft landscaping of new developments.

The above should in any event be principles to be pursued and encouraged at all times.

3.2.6 Summary of Proposed Open Space Standards by Study Area

Table 13 Summary of open space standards

Typology	Quantity standards for existing provision and new provision (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.30	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space (sites >0.15 ha)	0.70 for analysing existing provision	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Park and Recreation Grounds (public and private combined)	1.70	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.05	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.04	720 metres or 15 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	1.0	920 metres or 20 minutes' walk time ANGst Standards
Total for new provision	3.79 ha/1000	

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF DISTRICT VERSES STUDY AREA STANDARDS

The Open Space Assessments for each of the three south Worcestershire Councils were produced some time ago, in 2006 and 2007 and a more up to date assessment of provision standards for the whole south Worcestershire area is therefore now required. The existing standards set out under policy SWDP 39¹³ have been considered in section 3 above when developing the proposed new standards.

Based on the analysis of open space provision at different levels (Study Area, District/City and Ward), there is justification for global standards for the whole Study Area, rather than having different standards for each District.

The standards we are proposing above are designed to be simple to apply, deliverable (in terms of provision from new development) and highlight where the key areas of need are.

¹³ The South Worcestershire Development Plan -

SWDP 39: Provision for Green Space and Outdoor Community Uses in New Development

- A. Development proposals exceeding 5 dwellings should make provision for Green Space and outdoor community uses as set out in Table 10, together with secure arrangements for its long-term management and on-going maintenance. Enhancing accessibility to these open spaces, e.g. through improvements to the Rights of Way Network, is strongly encouraged. The total amount of Green Space will be within the overall quantum of Green Infrastructure required by SWDP 5. In addition to Table 10, the precise amount, form and type of outdoor community use will be informed by local evidence, e.g. Parish and Town Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements.

Open Space Type	Malvern Hills	Worcester (within its administrative boundary)	Wychavon
	Hectares per 1,000 resident population		
Amenity (including informal pitches) and semi-natural greenspace	2.00	1.11	1.03
Equipped Play Space	0.04	0.61	0.04
Cemeteries, churchyards	0.41	No set standard	No set standard
Civic space	0.03	0.03	0.03
Allotments	0.14	0.40	0.39
Formal pitches, etc	No set standard ⁴	No set standard ⁴	No set standard ⁴
Total	2.62	2.15	1.49

The average levels of provision (ha/1000) by District do vary – notably for allotments and amenity green space, with similar average levels of provision in Worcester and Wychavon, and notable differences in Malvern Hills. Although this indicates that there may be justification for having different standards for allotments and amenity green space for Malvern Hills, on closer inspection of the levels of provision (ha/1000) by ward, it is clear that there is large variation in provision (across all Districts), and the reason why, for example that the levels of provision of allotments in Wychavon are so high is due to high levels of provision in a low number of wards.

For example, for allotments in Malvern Hills, provision by ward varies from 0 to 0.46 ha/1000. A large number of wards have no provision (10 wards). A standard based on the study area average levels of provision (0.3ha/1000) would result in only 3 wards being in sufficient supply. A standard based on the existing average level of provision for the district (0.15ha/1000) would only result in a further 4 wards being in sufficient supply, with the majority of wards (15) having below 0.15ha/1000 – basically levels of provision are very low across the district, with a large number of wards having no provision. This does not mean it is right (and indeed the consultation with town/parish councils identified a need for more allotments in the Malvern Hills) – the standards are designed to address this, whilst being achievable. It is also worth noting that a standard based on existing levels of provision in Malvern Hills for new provision of 0.15ha/1000 would only generate very small allotments through new development. For example, a new development of 100 dwellings (based on a 2.3 average household occupancy rate) would only result in a 300 sq m plot.

When considering the provision of allotments in Worcester, it is clear that the higher average levels of provision are due to those few wards with large/a larger number of allotments, and actually provision levels vary greatly by ward: In Worcester levels vary from 0 to 0.94 ha/1000, and the majority have levels well below the district average.

For Wychavon the provision levels by ward vary even more greatly – between 0 and 1.61 ha/1000. The majority of wards (17) have provision levels above 0.30ha/1000 (with 12 above the existing average (0.38ha/1000) for the district, however a large number also have comparatively low levels of provision – 14 wards have less than 0.20 ha/1000.

Therefore, a standard set at 0.30ha /1000 seems to work well – it will highlight those areas which have comparatively good levels of provision, and those that have comparatively poor levels – so that existing space can be protected and the priorities for new provision in the areas of most need can be identified. The standard is also realistic and deliverable through new development.

The very high levels of amenity green space within Malvern Hills are due to a few very large sites. Therefore, a standard based on the existing levels of provision in Worcester and Wychavon (0.6ha/1000) would be justified. There is little difference in applying 0.6 ha/1000 or 0.7ha/1000 (the study area average) in terms of the resulting number of parishes that have sufficient supply or under supply – the only difference being a negligible amount more that developers would need to contribute/provide. Therefore, either 0.6ha/1000 or 0.7ha/1000 seems justified. Setting a standard of 1.0ha/1000 for Malvern Hills (in line with

existing average provision levels for the district) will result in the majority of wards being in shortfall, and is significantly higher in terms of new provision through development (especially considering we are asking for separate provision of natural green space).

The same argument can apply to parks and recreation grounds, where provision varies greatly by ward, but a standard based on the study area average level of provision will serve to highlight the areas of most need, and provide a deliverable standard for new provision.

5.0 APPLICATION OF QUANTITY STANDARDS

The tables below show the existing supply (in hectares) of open space at the Study Area, District/City level and also by Ward for each typology open space. The supply is calculated using the population figures for each geographical boundary – Study Area, District and Ward (using 2017 mid year population estimates), and the quantity of open space compared to what the requirements for open space are against the recommended standards¹⁴.

5.1 Supply of Open Space Against Proposed South Worcestershire Study Area Standards

Supply by Study Area (ha and ha/1000):

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Standard/ Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	83.99	0.28	91.46	0.30	-7.47	-0.02
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	220.79	0.72	213.40	0.70	7.39	0.02
Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))	516.03	1.69	518.26	1.70	-2.23	-0.01
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	326.08	1.07	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	3.96	0.01	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Private)</i>	185.99	0.61	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	14.82	0.05	15.24	0.05	-0.42	0.00
Play (Youth)	3.06	0.01	12.19	0.04	-9.13	-0.03
Accessible Natural Greenspace	2763.48	9.06	304.857	1.00	2458.62	8.06

¹⁴ For example, for Alfrick and Leigh Ward the population is 3,493 (ONS 2017 mid year estimate). The existing quantity of allotments within this ward is 1.60 ha, and the required provision (using the standard of 0.30ha/1000) is 1.05ha. Therefore, the resultant supply is 0.55ha i.e. there is sufficient supply against the quantity standard.

Supply by District/City (ha and ha/1000):

Worcester City

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Standard/ Required Provision ha/1000	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	27.36	0.27	30.69	0.30	-3.34	-0.03
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	60.48	0.59	71.62	0.70	-11.14	-0.11
Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))	179.21	1.75	173.93	1.70	5.28	0.05
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	135.50	1.32	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	1.36	0.01	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Private)</i>	42.35	0.41	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	4.18	0.04	5.12	0.05	-0.94	-0.01
Play (Youth)	0.74	0.01	4.09	0.04	-3.35	-0.03
Accessible Natural Greenspace	170.14	1.66	102.314	1.00	67.82	0.66

Malvern Hills

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Standard/ Required Provision ha/1000	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	9.38	0.12	23.15	0.30	-13.77	-0.18
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	83.82	1.09	54.02	0.70	29.80	0.39
Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))	119.33	1.55	131.18	1.70	-11.85	-0.15
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	62.50	0.81	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	0.61	0.01	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Private)</i>	56.22	0.73	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	3.41	0.04	3.86	0.05	-0.45	-0.01
Play (Youth)	0.92	0.01	3.09	0.04	-2.17	-0.03
Accessible Natural Greenspace	1928.22	24.99	77.165	1.00	1851.05	23.99

Wychavon

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Standard/ Required Provision ha/1000	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	47.25	0.38	37.61	0.30	9.64	0.08
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	76.49	0.61	87.76	0.70	-11.27	-0.09
Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))	217.49	1.73	213.14	1.70	4.35	0.03
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	128.08	1.02	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	1.99	0.02	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Private)</i>	87.42	0.70	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	7.24	0.06	6.27	0.05	0.97	0.01
Play (Youth)	1.41	0.01	5.02	0.04	-3.61	-0.03
Accessible Natural Greenspace	665.12	5.30	125.378	1.00	539.74	4.30

Supply by Ward (ha)

Ward	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace
Malvern Hills						
Alfrick and Leigh	0.55	-2.09	-2.79	-0.16	-0.14	100.41
Baldwin	-0.65	0.90	3.33	-0.08	-0.09	140.80
Broadheath	0.05	15.03	-0.36	0.06	-0.10	-0.36
Chase	-1.83	15.46	3.74	-0.01	-0.21	12.22
Dyson Perrins	-0.81	0.04	-6.88	0.09	-0.19	-3.96
Hallow	-0.12	0.10	-0.55	-0.01	0.05	67.80
Kempsey	-1.23	0.01	-3.01	-0.15	-0.15	155.72
Lindridge	-0.67	-1.36	-2.86	-0.11	-0.09	26.20
Link	-0.19	-4.03	0.43	0.02	-0.09	19.81
Longdon	-0.63	-0.54	-0.76	-0.09	-0.08	74.59
Martley	-0.47	0.38	-1.17	-0.01	-0.02	-1.28
Morton	-0.68	-1.15	-1.76	-0.03	-0.07	350.67
Pickersleigh	-1.83	3.03	4.44	0.04	-0.18	8.04
Powick	-0.27	3.13	0.30	0.23	-0.11	238.26
Priory	-1.34	-1.52	7.01	-0.18	-0.18	62.83
Ripple	-0.37	-0.20	-3.00	-0.09	-0.07	65.14
Teme Valley	-0.39	-1.32	-1.86	0.27	-0.08	4.88
Tenbury	-1.21	0.54	1.00	-0.08	-0.06	50.19
Upton and Hanley	-0.26	1.28	3.78	0.10	-0.01	81.19
Wells	-0.97	2.55	-5.51	-0.04	-0.13	259.38
West	0.27	-2.88	-1.61	-0.15	-0.16	137.38

Ward	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace
Woodbury	-0.69	2.40	-3.77	-0.06	-0.01	1.15
Worcester						
Arboretum	2.16	-3.78	-0.62	-0.15	-0.19	-6.30
Battenhall	3.37	-2.17	-0.62	0.18	-0.20	-2.01
Bedwardine	-1.05	-2.95	-5.46	-0.33	-0.34	4.63
Cathedral	-0.07	-1.13	21.02	-0.12	-0.39	2.93
Claines	5.27	-5.44	41.50	-0.19	-0.15	-5.47
Gorse Hill	-1.53	-3.42	-9.45	-0.26	-0.23	2.92
Nunnery	-2.41	-4.90	3.87	0.05	-0.26	39.94
Rainbow Hill	-1.66	-3.79	4.31	-0.19	-0.09	-5.53
St Clement	-1.44	17.37	-10.15	-0.28	-0.24	-5.05
St John	1.19	4.89	-11.67	0.32	-0.31	-5.76
St Peter's Parish	-1.66	-2.58	3.14	0.29	-0.14	-5.54
St Stephen	-0.74	-3.80	-4.25	-0.27	-0.22	-5.43
Warndon	-1.73	0.04	-9.78	0.07	-0.23	23.97
Warndon Parish North	-1.19	1.41	-9.14	0.16	-0.21	40.56
Warndon Parish South	-1.83	-0.89	-7.44	-0.23	-0.16	-6.05
Wychavon						
Badsey	-0.93	-2.17	1.71	0.14	-0.10	-3.10
Bengeworth	-2.30	-2.02	-1.23	0.50	-0.19	-6.60
Bowbrook	0.22	-0.71	-1.35	0.05	-0.06	40.00
Bredon	3.48	-1.87	1.33	-0.04	-0.03	34.91
Bretforton and Offenham	-0.89	-2.08	0.20	0.01	-0.12	-2.97
Broadway and Wickhamford	-1.40	-2.90	-1.23	0.48	-0.12	15.12
Dodderhill	2.24	-0.52	-1.57	0.03	-0.01	13.52
Drakes Broughton	1.25	-1.76	-2.60	-0.04	-0.10	10.31
Droitwich Central	-0.77	0.67	-4.37	-0.06	-0.10	-2.57
Droitwich East	-1.39	0.37	13.37	0.33	-0.17	-2.16
Droitwich South East	-1.62	2.35	-9.18	-0.19	-0.22	0.35
Droitwich South West	-1.00	-0.80	-8.41	-0.25	-0.20	-3.60
Droitwich West	-0.67	6.37	3.24	-0.20	-0.15	6.38
Eckington	-0.64	-1.42	-0.04	0.05	-0.10	40.01
Elmley Castle and Somerville	0.04	-1.39	-0.74	0.14	-0.10	-2.40
Evesham North	1.06	11.89	0.14	-0.26	-0.21	-4.92
Evesham South	-1.63	-1.10	-5.34	-0.22	-0.15	-5.42
Fladbury	4.20	-1.46	2.41	0.14	-0.08	-2.78
Great Hampton	-0.95	2.66	-5.39	-0.16	-0.12	4.47
Hartlebury	0.24	-1.68	-3.88	-0.04	-0.01	90.10
Harvington and Norton	1.91	-0.93	-1.41	0.12	-0.02	24.01
Honeybourne and Pebworth	0.72	4.58	-1.26	0.21	0.00	-2.76
Inkberrow	0.49	-3.70	15.87	0.13	-0.15	-2.26
Little Hampton	-1.51	-3.55	-6.71	-0.19	-0.04	-5.67
Lovett and	-0.65	-2.43	14.75	-0.10	-0.23	89.65

Ward	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (Child)	Play (Youth)	Accessible Natural Greenspace
North Claines						
Norton and Whittington	0.23	-0.03	-1.66	0.21	-0.09	-3.12
Ombersley	2.66	-1.72	1.27	-0.08	-0.10	-2.45
Pershore	6.33	-1.88	1.51	-0.12	-0.27	95.78
Pinvin	1.33	-0.73	2.94	0.21	-0.09	5.87
South Bredon Hill	0.08	-1.69	2.24	0.01	-0.09	0.51
The Littletons	-0.01	-0.23	-0.39	0.13	-0.10	61.95
Upton Snodsbury	-0.51	-1.40	0.10	0.04	-0.10	59.54

5.2 Supply of Open Space by District against the Proposed District Standards

Worcester City

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Standard/ Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	27.36	0.27	30.69	0.30	-3.34	-0.03
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	60.48	0.59	61.39	0.60	-0.91	-0.01
Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))	179.21	1.75	179.05	1.75	0.16	0.00
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	135.50	1.32	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	1.36	0.01	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Private)</i>	42.35	0.41	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	4.18	0.04	5.12	0.05	-0.94	-0.01
Play (Youth)	0.74	0.01	4.09	0.04	-3.35	-0.03
Accessible Natural Greenspace	170.14	1.66	102.314	1	67.82	0.66

Malvern Hills

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Standard/ Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	9.38	0.12	23.15	0.30	-13.77	-0.18
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	83.82	1.09	84.88	1.10	-1.06	-0.01
Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))	119.33	1.55	119.61	1.55	-0.27	0.00
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	62.50	0.81	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A

<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	0.61	0.01	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Private)</i>	56.22	0.73	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	3.41	0.04	3.09	0.04	0.32	0.00
Play (Youth)	0.92	0.01	3.09	0.04	-2.17	-0.03
Accessible Natural Greenspace	1928.22	24.99	77.165	1.00	1851.05	23.99

Wychavon

Typology	Existing (ha)	Existing (ha/1000)	Required Provision (ha)	Standard/ Required Provision (ha/1000)	Supply (ha)	Supply (ha/1000)
Allotments	47.25	0.38	50.15	0.40	-2.90	-0.02
Amenity Greenspace (>0.15ha)	76.49	0.61	75.23	0.60	1.26	0.01
Parks and Recreation Grounds (including Outdoor Sport (Fixed) and Outdoor Sport (Private))	217.49	1.73	213.14	1.70	4.35	0.03
<i>Parks and Recreation Grounds</i>	128.08	1.02	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Fixed)</i>	1.99	0.02	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Outdoor Sport (Private)</i>	87.42	0.70	0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Play (Child)	7.24	0.06	7.52	0.06	-0.28	0.00
Play (Youth)	1.41	0.01	5.02	0.04	-3.61	-0.03
Accessible Natural Greenspace	665.12	5.30	125.378	1.00	539.74	4.30

6.0 APPLICATION OF ACCESS STANDARDS

6.1 Access to allotments

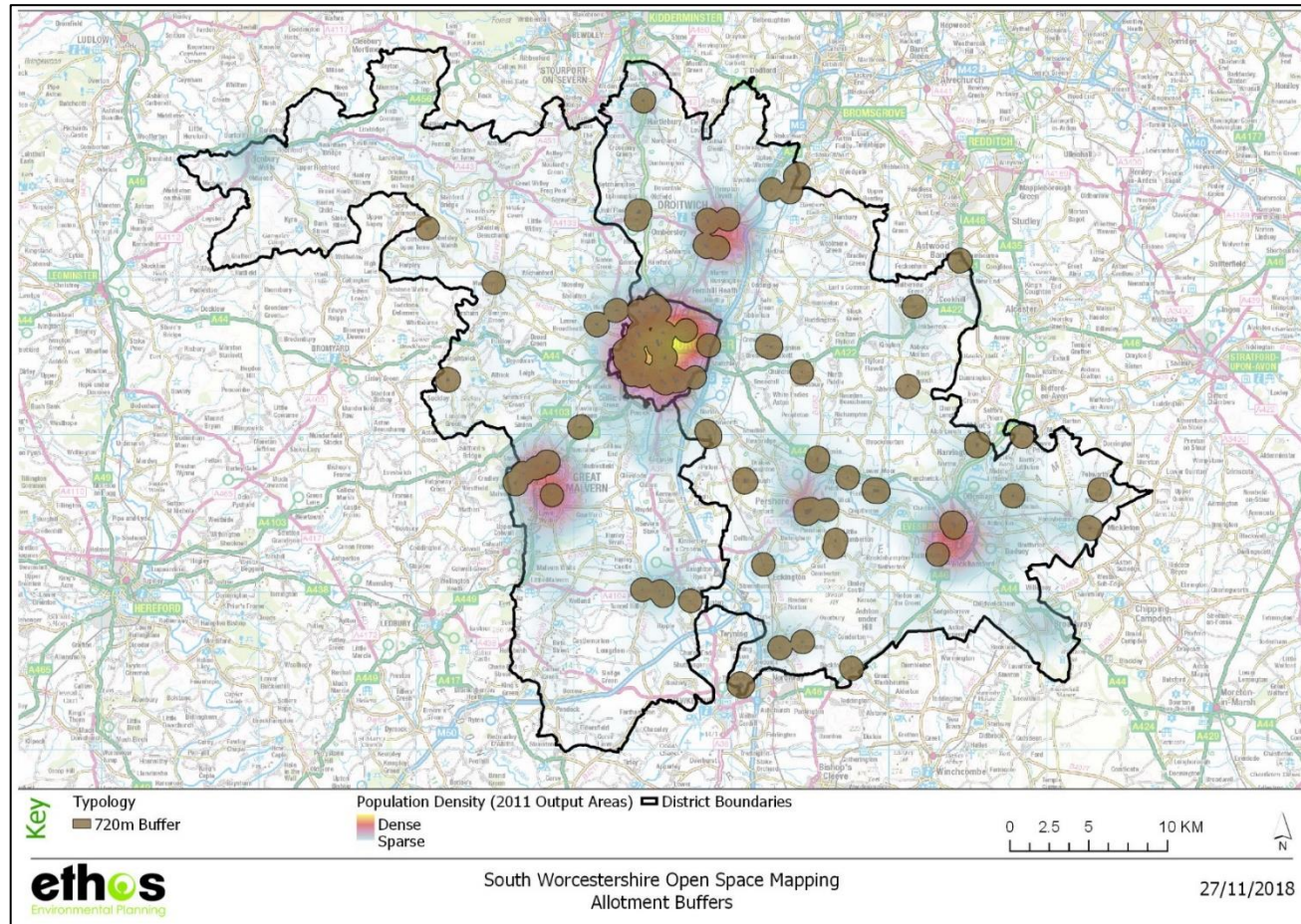


Figure 1 Access to allotments (720m buffer)

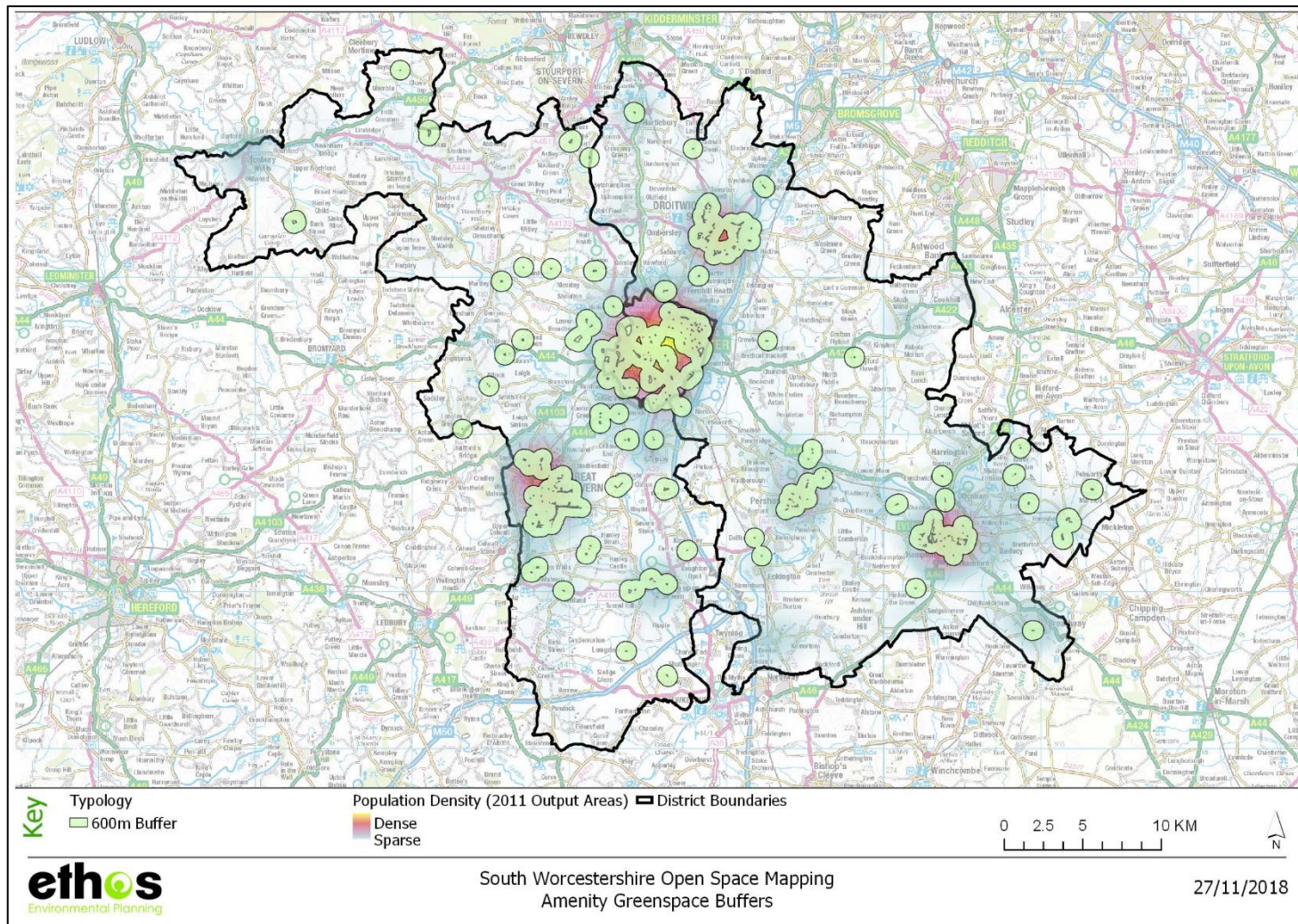


Figure 2 Access to amenity green space (600m buffer)

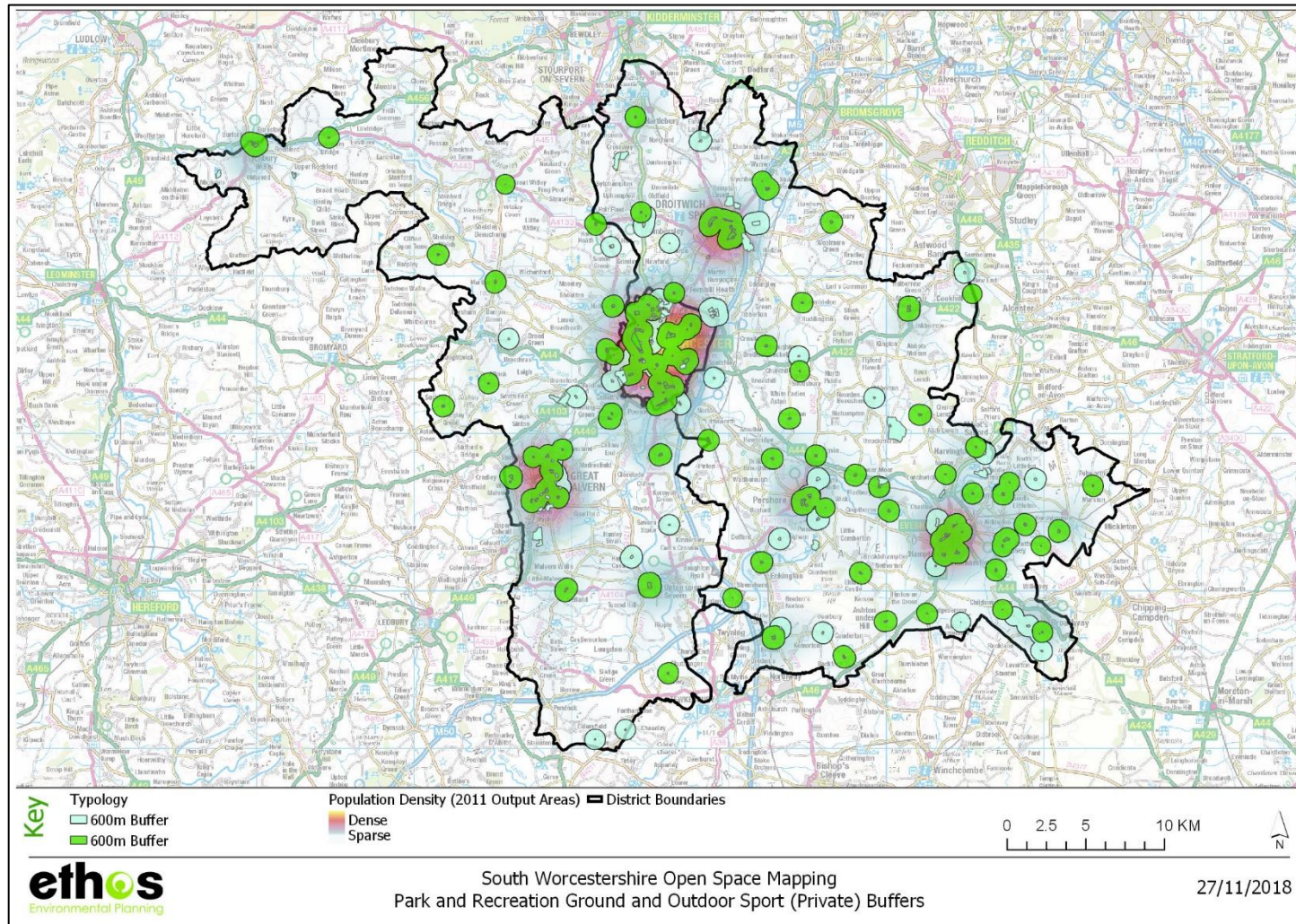


Figure 3 Access to Parks and Recreation Grounds and Outdoor Sport (Private)

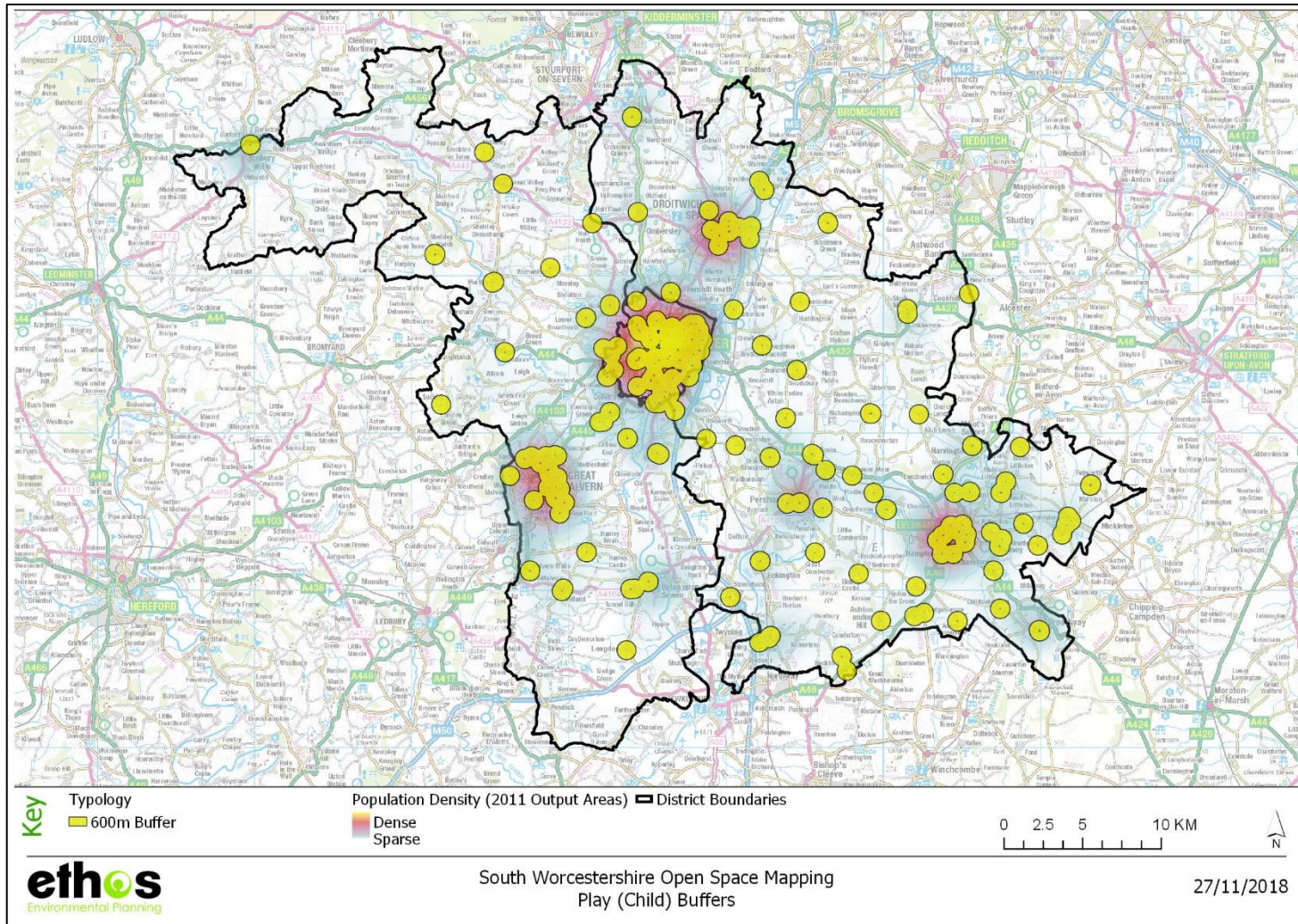


Figure 4 Access to children's play space (600m buffer)

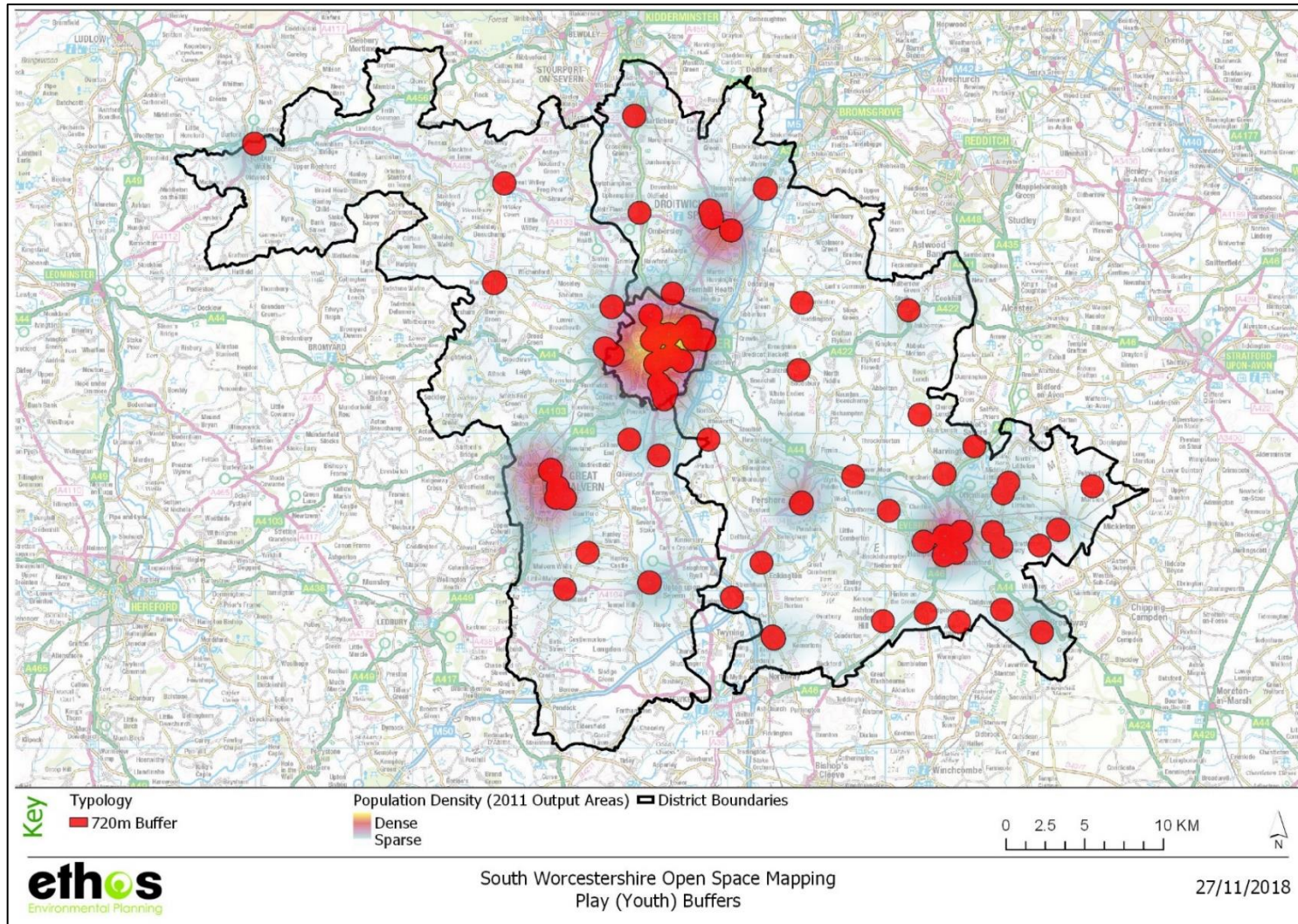


Figure 5 Access to youth play space (720m buffer)

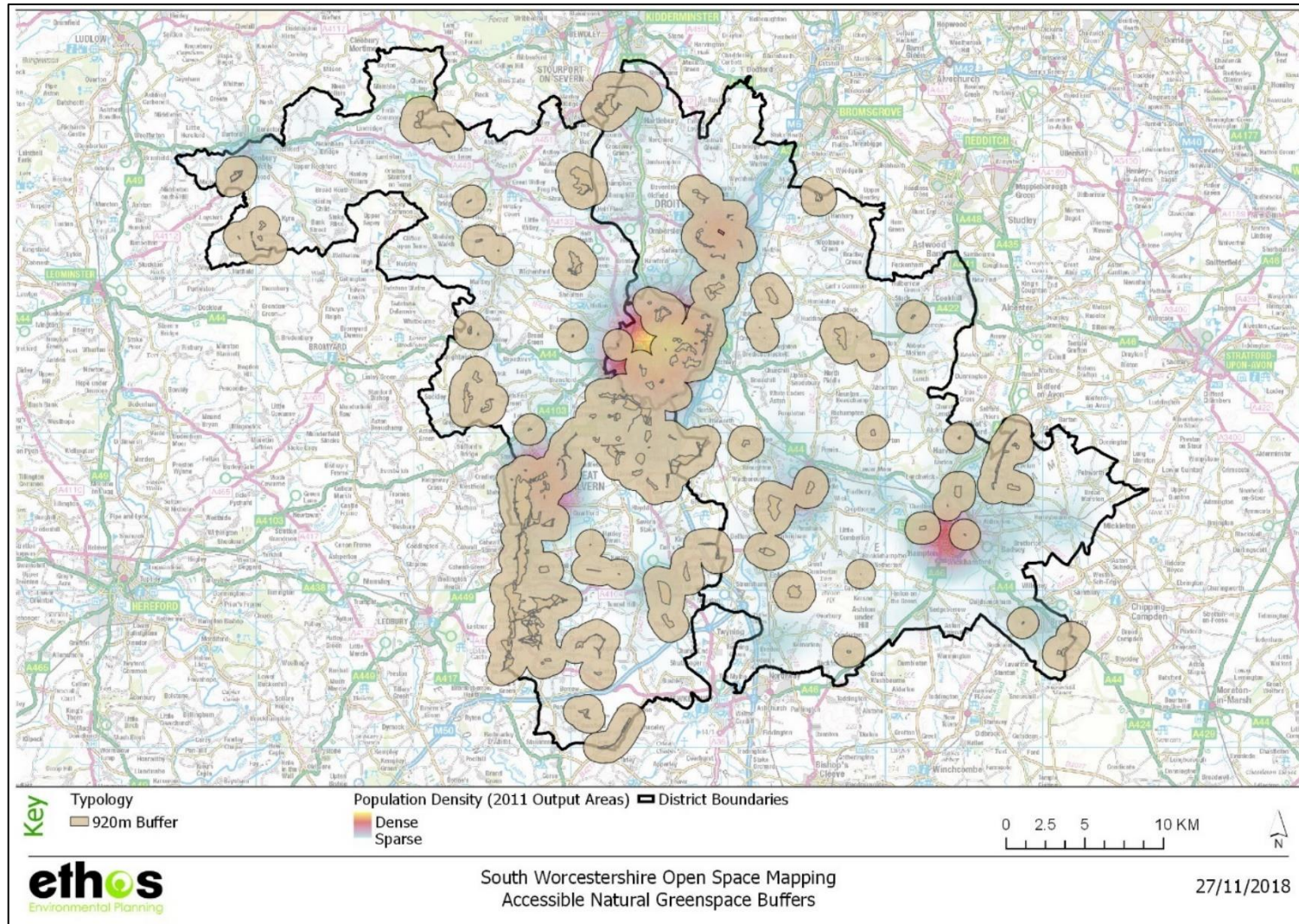


Figure 6 Access to Natural Green Space (920m buffer)

Access to Natural Green Space (ANGst Standards)

