

Bath & North East Somerset Green Space Strategy

*Connecting people to green spaces throughout Bath and
North East Somerset*

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

2015 – 2029

Part 1 of 2
(Version 10)

'I am pleased to introduce you to the Green Spaces Strategy 2015

Bath and North East Somerset is renowned for the variety and quality of its green space but it is important that the provision and development continues to meet the needs of our changing population

This document sets the framework for the strategic delivery of green space across the district for the next 15 years, working towards our vision:

'To deliver and sustain diverse, beautiful, green spaces for people, wildlife and future generations'

It recognises the importance of parks and other green spaces to the lives of the residents and visitors to BaNES and offers a context against which investment and other spending decisions can be made.

It is based on the feedback received to a comprehensive consultation and links to other council policies'

**Councillor Martin Veal, Cabinet Member For Neighbourhoods,
December 2015**

Bath & North East Somerset Green Space Strategy

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields In Trust (originally known as the 'National Playing Fields Association')
GIST	Green Infrastructure Strategy
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
PPS	Planning Policy Statement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 Introduction

The aims of this study are to provide a robust assessment of needs and deficiencies in open spaces in order to inform policies within the B&NES Placemaking Plan, establish local provision standards and create an up to date evidence base which can be maintained to aid implementation of the policies and the provision of open spaces during the plan period.

The study has been carried out in-line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Para 73 and 74) and informed by the former guidance provided in '*Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation*', and its Companion Guide '*Assessing Needs and Opportunities*', which is a tried and tested methodology and takes a consistent approach with many other local authorities. This report is **part 1** of the Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Green Space Strategy which is presented in two parts:

- *Part 1:* Main Report
- *Part 2:* Area Profiles

2.0 Methodology

The study has been informed by the PPG17 guidance highlighted above and has followed the following six key stages:

- *Step 1:* Strategic Overview
- *Step 2:* Identify local needs
- *Step 3:* Audit local provision
- *Step 4:* Set provision standards
- *Step 5:* Apply the provision standards
- *Step 6:* Draft policies / recommendations

3.0 Strategic Overview

This section includes a review of the most relevant national and local policies related to the study, which have been considered in developing the methodology and findings of the study.

4.0 Local Needs Assessment

The report has examined local need for a wide range of different kinds of recreational open space. It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques including a review of consultation findings from relevant play, sports, leisure and open space studies. Questionnaire surveys were undertaken as below:

- A general household survey
- A children and young people's survey.

Council Officers also provided a range of consultation and research data that had been completed prior to this study, most importantly:

- "Voicebox" household surveys
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) data
- Relevant Strategy Documents
- Parish Council consultation

The results of the primary research and consultation review has informed the content of the recommended local standards. The findings also helped the study to understand stakeholder and local people's appreciation of open space, outdoor recreation facilities, and the wider green infrastructure; and the values attached by the community to the various forms of open spaces and facilities.

5.0 Audit of Local Provision

The audit of local provision has included a comprehensive mapping and audit process to collate data on the current provision and quality of open space across Bath and North East Somerset. Over 2,000 open spaces have been mapped onto a GIS system, and broken down into individual open space typologies. In addition to this 500 site audits were undertaken at key sites across Bath and North East Somerset.

6.0 Proposed standards of provision

The information from the assessment of local needs and the audit of provision has been used to develop standards of provision for open space, sports and recreation facilities. The standards have three aspects – Quantity, Access and Quality – and they are summarised below:

6.1 Proposed open space standards (quantity and access)

The proposed standards for open space are summarised in the table below:

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.3	960 metres or 20 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	0.3	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	1.3	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time

Play Space (Children)	0.05	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.03	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	1.30 to include natural and amenity green space for new provision	ANGSt and Woodland Trust for analysing existing provision
Community Growing Spaces	None, but sites mapped	None
Historic Parks and Gardens	None, but sites mapped	None
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed	None
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed	None

6.2 Open space standards (quality)

All open space has been assessed against quality standards outlined in the PPG17 guidance and 'Green Flag' standards. A comprehensive database of the quality scores of all sites has been developed and used to identify priorities for improving the quality of open space across B&NES.

7.0 Application of the standards

The standards outlined above have been used to identify existing deficiencies or surplus in the quantity, access and quality of facilities across B&NES. Detailed maps and analysis are provided within part 2 (Area Profiles) of this document. The following summarises the key findings made across B&NES:

- There is insufficient supply of youth play space across all area profiles;
- There is insufficient supply of parks and recreation grounds across all area profiles with the exception of Bathavon, which is the area with sufficient supply of most open space typologies (with the exception of youth and children's play space);
- All area profiles have a deficiency in at least two open space typologies.

8.0 Policies and recommendations

The policies and recommendations that are made in the study identify where new provision is required and where provision needs to be enhanced, protected or relocated. The following identifies the key findings for open space:

- *New provision.* Open space should be provided as part of new development in line with the B&NES standard. Where it is not practical to provide open space on site, there should be new provision off site or enhancement to existing facilities.

- *Enhanced provision.* Key sites for improvement have been identified through the study, and opportunities to improve sites through development and external funding need to be sought.
 - *Protected provision.* Public open space should be afforded protection through planning policy. There is little opportunity for disposing of open space, unless there is a greater community need and/or alternative provision can be provided.
 - *Relocated provision.* With significant variation in supply across B&NES, neighbourhood plans need to consider addressing the 'balance' between different types of open space.
-

9.0 Aims and objectives for Green space from 2015-2029

Based on the findings of this study and in recognition of the council's commitment to delivering other strategies and policies relating to green spaces, the following set of objectives has been developed to guide the development and management of our green asset until 2029:

Bath and North East Somerset's green spaces will:

- **Be managed sustainably**
- **Deliver spaces which help support fit and healthy communities**
- **Encourage communities to explore their green infrastructure through a connected green grid**
- **Support communities to connect with their green spaces**
- **Enhance the unique and beautiful landscape of the district**
- **Reveal and celebrate the unique local heritage**
- **Help mitigate the impacts of climate change and pollution**
- **Showcase excellence**

These objectives will inform the service plans for the Parks and Green spaces team, will help support opportunities for partnership working and will provide a sound focus for future investment.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

This report is **part 1 of 2** of the Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Green Space Strategy. The study has been undertaken by Ethos Environmental Planning and is intended to inform the Core Strategy (2014) - a key policy document for Bath & North East Somerset that puts in place a strategic planning framework to guide change and development in the District over the next 14 years and beyond - and the Placemaking Plan currently under preparation and which will include site allocations and detailed development management policies.

The study has been carried out in-line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (*Para 73 and 74*). Since the adoption of the NPPF, there have been major changes to national planning policy. Open space assessment has primarily been affected by the omission of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) from the new national policy framework. Whilst the government has not published anything specifically to replace this document (it does signpost the Sport England guidance for sports facilities assessments¹), there is however, still a clear reference made in the new guidance to the principles and ideology established within PPG17. As such the underlying principles of this study have been informed by the former guidance provided in '*Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation*', and its Companion Guide '*Assessing Needs and Opportunities*', which is a tried and tested methodology and takes a consistent approach with many other local authorities.

1.2 Scope of Study and Objectives

1.2.1 Overall Aim of the Study

The aims of the study are to provide a robust assessment of needs and deficiencies in open spaces in order to inform policies within the B&NES Placemaking Plan, establish local provision standards and create an up to date evidence base which can be maintained to aid implementation of the policies and the provision of open spaces during the plan period.

1.2.2 Scope of Study and Objectives

The study covers all forms of public open space as referred to in Annex A of the PPG17 Companion Guide. Indoor facilities are not included. In order to deliver the aims of the study, the following objectives will be met:

- Evaluate the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sports and recreational facilities for all Community Areas, identifying any specific needs or deficiencies;

¹ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities>

- Identify mechanisms to meet future needs including recommendations for appropriate standards of provision by new development;
- Provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to underpin the development and implementation of detailed planning policies, and facilitate the future management of open space and recreational assets;
- To provide information to justify the collection of developer contributions towards open space;
- To provide information to help to inform the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy.

1.2.3 Principles of the Green Space Strategy

Bath and North East Somerset's vision for the area led by the Council is that:

'Bath and North East Somerset will be internationally renowned as a beautifully inventive and entrepreneurial 21st century place with a strong social purpose and a spirit of wellbeing, where everyone is invited to think big – a 'connected' area ready to create an extraordinary legacy for future generations'.

Green spaces will play a leading role in helping to realise this vision. The district's green spaces create a backdrop to some of the area's key tourist destinations, they provide free publically accessible spaces for residents to pursue active lifestyles and venues for community events and activities and, through provision of a functioning green infrastructure, they also help to attract and retain investment.

This strategy will help to ensure that green spaces continue to deliver these benefits until 2029, supporting the delivery of the seven key objectives of the Local Plan:

- Pursue a low carbon and sustainable future in a changing climate
- Protect and enhance the District's natural, built and cultural assets and provide green infrastructure
- Encourage economic development, diversification and prosperity
- Invest in our city, town and local centres
- Meet housing needs
- Plan for development that promotes health and well being
- Deliver well connected places accessible by sustainable means of transport

Where relevant, green spaces will need to play an important role in helping to deliver these objectives and this strategy will help identify how resources can best be allocated towards this end.

This strategy identifies where surpluses and deficiencies in provision exist, which will enable Bath and North East Somerset to work with partners to enhance existing, and create new, provision - meeting the needs of those living and working within the district. This in turn will inform the council's services plans for the existing, and developing estate- directing the work of annual team plans. Area action plans will help to inform and direct efforts more locally and will provide evidence for related work such as the Play and Playing Pitch

Strategies. Finally, the results of the quality audit will help to target resources where they are most needed in specific sites -guiding the aspirations and objectives of management plans- and again feeding back into the design and monitoring of team plans.

1.3 Structure of the report

The open space study is presented in two key parts.

Part 1: Main Report follows the five key stages as summarised below:

- Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
- Step 2 – Audit of Existing Open Space Assets
- Step 3 – Setting Local Standards
- Step 4 – Applying Local Standards
- Step 5 – Drafting Policy Recommendations

Part 2: Green Space Area Profiles have been developed for five areas as outlined in figure 3. These draw on the established forum areas (see section 1.3.4), and the City of Bath, which is currently not established as a community forum area, however, for the purpose of this study, the wards that comprise Bath have been grouped together as an individual analysis area.

Within each of the area profiles, there will be the following information:

- A description of the area;
- Maps showing the provision of green space;
- Quantitative analysis of current provision of open space'
- Analysis of access to open space;
- Summary of quality issues and opportunities;
- Analysis of future need for open space;
- Priorities for the area.

The area profiles are intended to be a starting point to inform other strategies and plans, including neighbourhood plans, planning policies, development control policies; parks and open spaces service and action plans.

The area profiles will be presented as part 2 of the overall green space strategy. Part 1 will form an overview of green space at a more strategic level, and set out details of the wider green space strategy. However, it is intended that parts 1 and 2 of the report would be considered together in decision making.

1.4 The Study Area

1.4.1 Overview of Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES)

The key areas within B&NES comprise:

- **Bath** is well known as an international visitor destination and a key economic centre in the West of England, thanks to its cultural and built heritage, thermal springs and landscape - encapsulated in its inscription as a World Heritage site.
- **Keynsham** has retained its own identity and is surrounded by countryside which is protected by the Bristol / Bath Green Belt. The population is about 15,500 people with a high proportion of adults aged 65 and over.
- **The Somer Valley.** The Somer Valley covers the urban areas of Midsomer Norton, Westfield and Radstock, together with a rural hinterland containing the principal villages of Peasedown St John and Paulton. The area houses around 25% of the population of Bath and North East Somerset (about 21,000).
- **Rural Areas.** Over 90% of the District is rural and it has 47 rural parishes. The character of villages and landscape varies distinctly across the District, with almost a third of the District lying within the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

1.4.2 Administrative Boundaries

B&NES is split into Wards and Parishes as shown in figures 1 and 2. These boundaries are the basis for collating census data across the council area. Of particular relevance to this study are population statistics (census, 2011), which have been used as the basis for much of the current and future assessment of need for open space.

Figure 1 Parish Boundaries

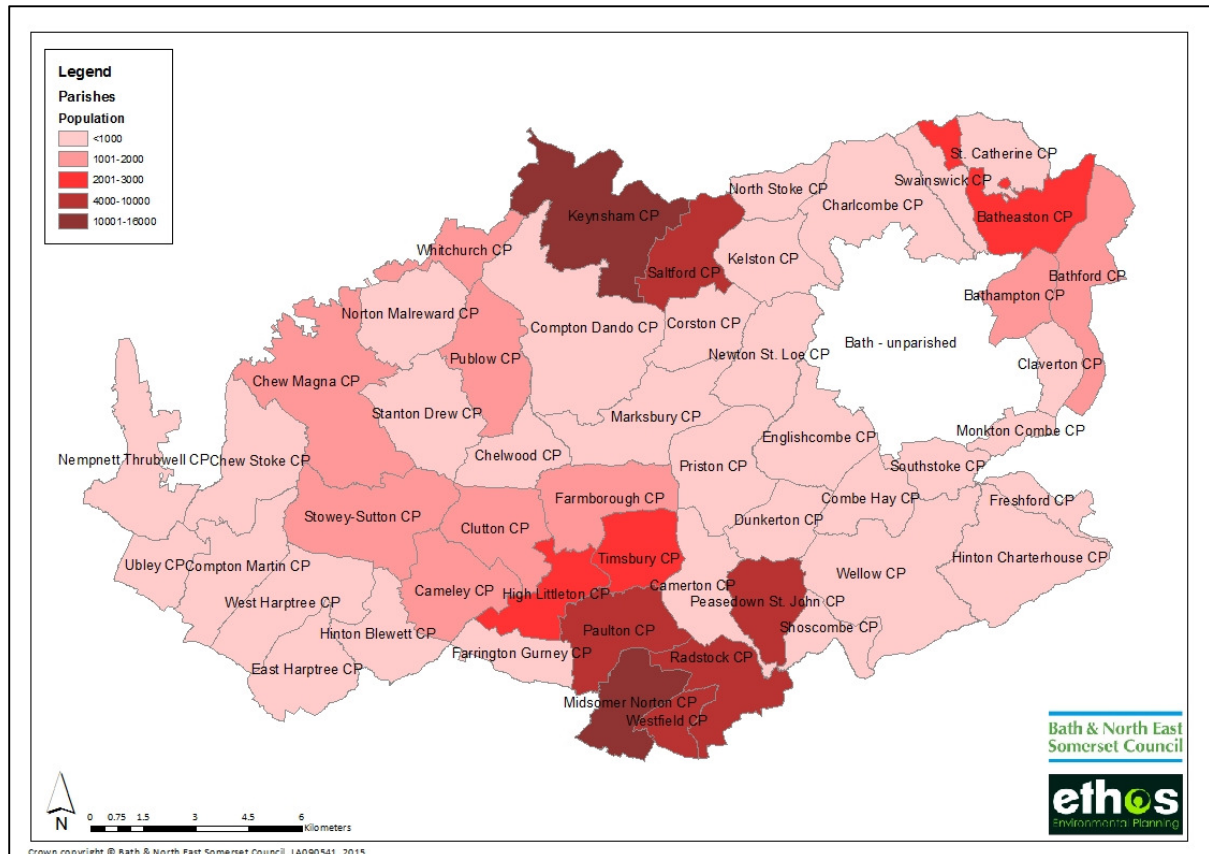
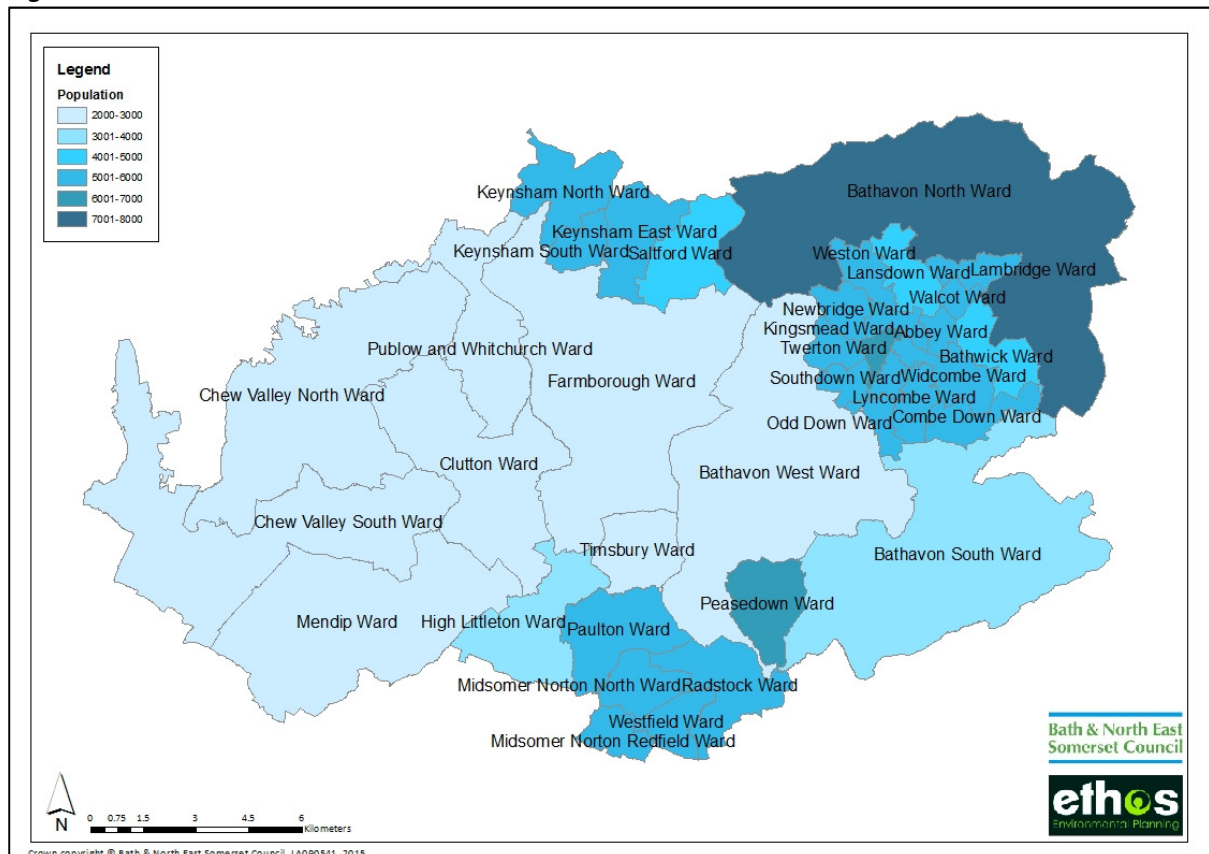


Figure 2 Ward Boundaries



1.4.3 Population Statistics

Table 1 Parish population statistics (Census, 2011)

Parish	Population	Parish	Population
Bathampton	1,603	Marksbury	397
Batheaston	2,735	Midsomer Norton	10,997
Bathford	1,759	Monkton Combe	554
Cameley	1,292	Nempnett Thrubwell	177
Camerton	655	Newton St. Loe	581
Charlcombe	422	North Stoke	72
Chelwood	148	Norton Malreward	246
Chew Magna	1,149	Paulton	5,302
Chew Stoke	991	Peasedown St. John	6,446
Claverton	115	Priston	232
Clutton	1,602	Publow	1,119
Combe Hay	147	Radstock	5,620
Compton Dando	579	Saltford	4,073
Compton Martin	508	Shoscombe	443
Corston	494	Southstoke	460
Dunkerton	502	St. Catherine	69
East Harptree	644	Stanton Drew	787
Englishcombe	318	Stowey-Sutton	1,361
Farmborough	1,035	Swainswick	265
Farrington Gurney	901	Timsbury	2,624
Freshford	551	Ubley	331
High Littleton	2,104	Wellow	529
Hinton Blewett	308	West Harptree	439
Hinton Charterhouse	515	Westfield	5,854
Kelston	248	Whitchurch	1,354
Keynsham	15,641		

Table 2 Ward population statistics (Census, 2011)

Ward	Population	Ward	Population
Abbey	5,670	Midsomer Norton North	5,875
Bathavon North	7,147	Midsomer Norton Redfield	5,122
Bathavon South	3,052	Newbridge	5,938
Bathavon West	2,435	Odd Down	5,681
Bathwick	4,863	Oldfield	5,882
Chew Valley North	2,386	Paulton	5,302
Chew Valley South	2,377	Peasedown	6,446
Clutton	2,537	Publow and Whitchurch	2,473
Combe Down	5,419	Radstock	5,620
Farmborough	2,505	Saltford	4,073

High Littleton	3,005	Southdown	5,529
Keynsham East	5,404	Timsbury	2,624
Keynsham North	5,213	Twerton	5,315
Keynsham South	5,024	Walcot	5,920
Kingsmead	5,516	Westfield	5,854
Lambridge	5,469	Westmoreland	6,469
Lansdown	4,589	Weston	5,324
Lyncombe	5,505	Widcombe	5,770
Mendip	2,683		

1.4.4 Defining geographical areas

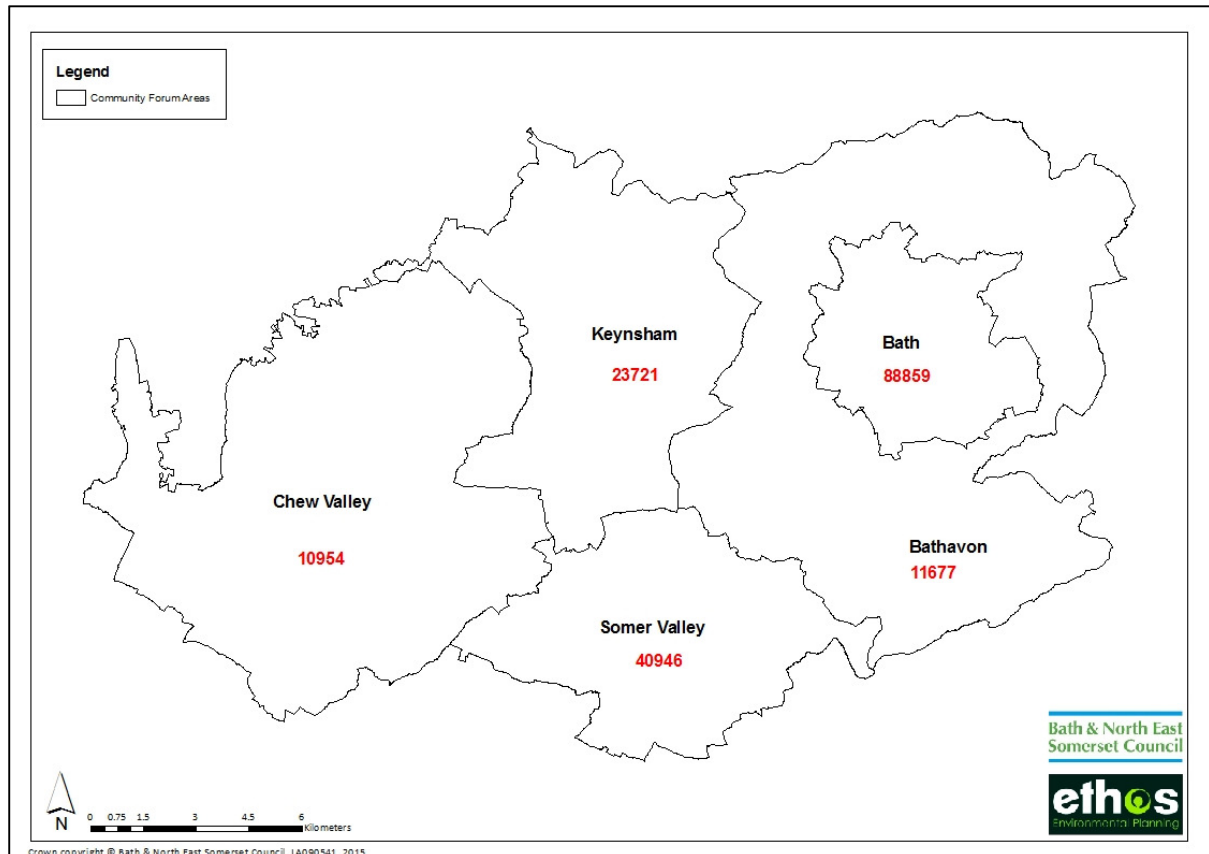
The B&NES 'Connecting Communities' programme is an initiative designed to help public service providers listen to, and meet the needs of, all the diverse people and communities who live in the area. The approach has been built around five key principles: 'listen, prioritise, join-up, work with you and share ideas'. Area Forums have been established to streamline and simplify local engagement.

They bring together neighbourhoods, villages and towns to reflect local issues and develop a more joined-up approach to addressing these concerns. To date, there are four community area forums:

- Chew Valley;
- Keynsham;
- Somer Valley;
- Bathavon.

These forum areas, along with the City of Bath, have been used as the basis for defining geographical areas for the purpose of analysing the provision of open space across B&NES – see section 1.4 below. The use of the forum areas was agreed by the project steering group as open space was seen as very relevant to the issues being considered by the forum areas.

Figure 3: Study Areas for Open Space



Populations statistics (census 2011) shown in each area

2.0 METHODOLOGY

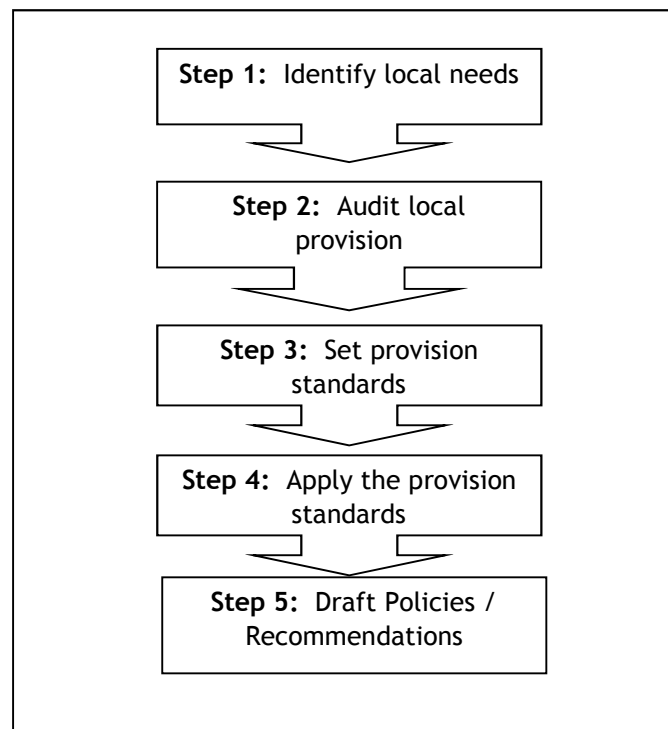
2.1 General

The starting point for this study has been the guidance in Section 8 of the NPPF, which adheres to but has superseded PPG17. The new policy gives clear recommendations for the protection of and appropriate provision for open space, however it does not provide any detailed guidance on how to conduct an open space assessment. It is therefore both logical and acceptable to reference the guidance for assessment provided in the former PPG17 and its Companion Guide. PPG17 placed a requirement on local authorities to undertake assessments and audits of open space, sports and recreational facilities in order to:

- identify the needs of the population;
- identify the potential for increased use;
- establish an effective strategy for open space/sports/recreational facilities at the local level.

The Companion Guide to PPG17 recommended an overall approach to this kind of study as summarised below:

Figure 4 Summary of methodology



Within this overall approach the Companion Guide suggests a range of methods and techniques that might be adopted in helping the assessment process. Where appropriate, these methods and techniques have been employed within this study and are explained at the relevant point in the report. In addition, they are summarised in the paragraphs below.

2.2 Identifying Local Need (Step 1)

The report examines identified local need for various types of open space, sports and recreational opportunities. It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques as well as a detailed review of existing consultation data and other relevant documentation. The report details the community consultation and research process that has been undertaken as part of the study as well as the main findings. The findings of this assessment are summarised in this document and full details are provided as an appendix (1).

2.3 Audit of Existing Open Space Assets (Step 2)

2.3.1 Defining the scope of the audit

In order to build up an accurate picture of the current open space and play provision in B&NES, an audit of assets was carried out, this included:

- analysis of existing GIS data held by B&NES Council;
- desktop mapping of open space from aerial photography;
- questionnaires to town and parish councils;
- liaison with council officers;
- discussions with local user groups and clubs.

Site visits were undertaken by Ethos at approximately 300 sites to assess the existing and potential quality issues with sites. The quality audit drew on criteria set out in the 'Green Flag Award²', and sites were given an 'existing', 'potential' and 'gap' quality score. The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a sites existing and potential quality rather than a full asset audit. Clearly, local communities may have aspirations which are not identified in the quality audit, but it is hoped that these can be explored further through site management plans and neighbourhood/parish plans as appropriate.

2.3.2 Approach to mapping

As part of the audit process, sites were mapped into their different functions using a multi-functional approach to mapping. The advantage of the multi-functional approach is that it gives a much more accurate picture of the provision of open space. This is more advantageous than the primary typology approach which tends to result in an over assessment of provision, and which can significantly impact decisions on quantity standards. The differences in approach are demonstrated in figures 5 and 6 below:

² <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/judges/judging-criteria>

Figure 5 Primary approach to open space mapping

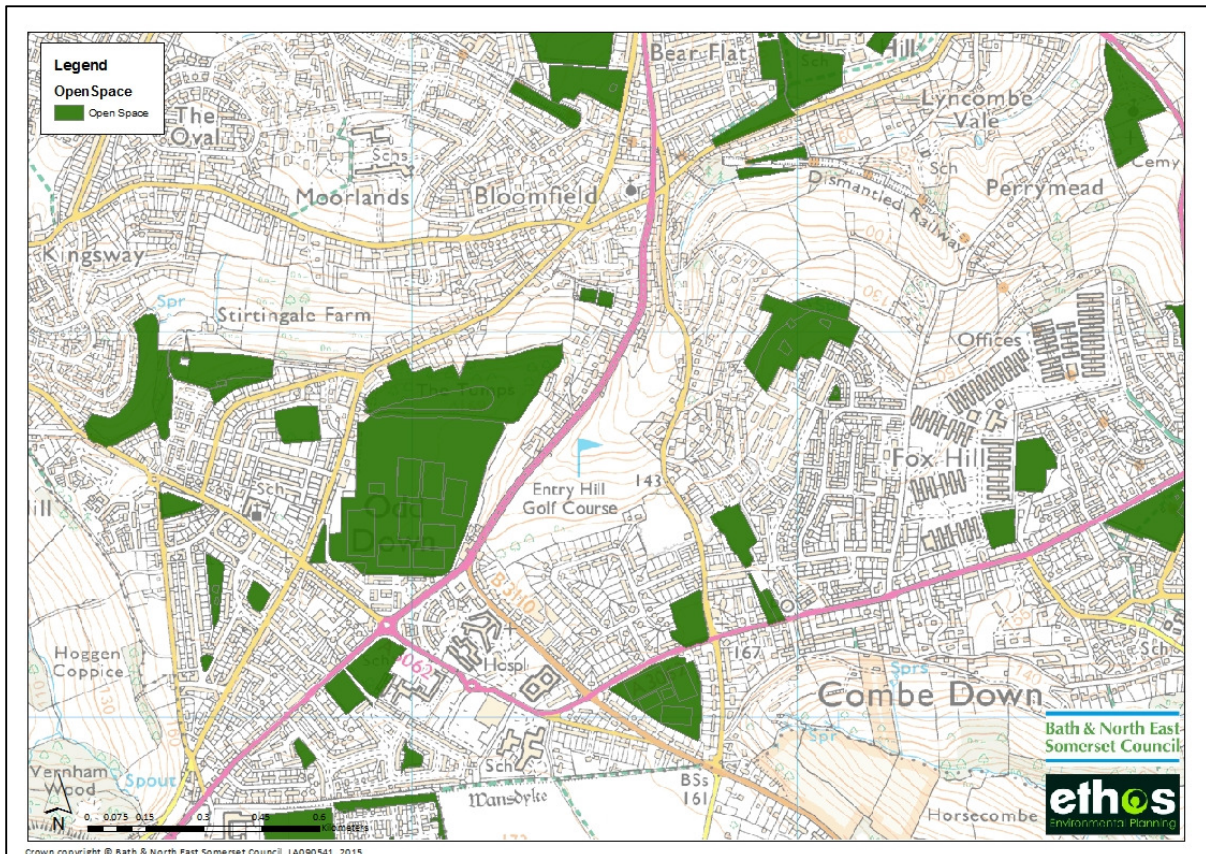
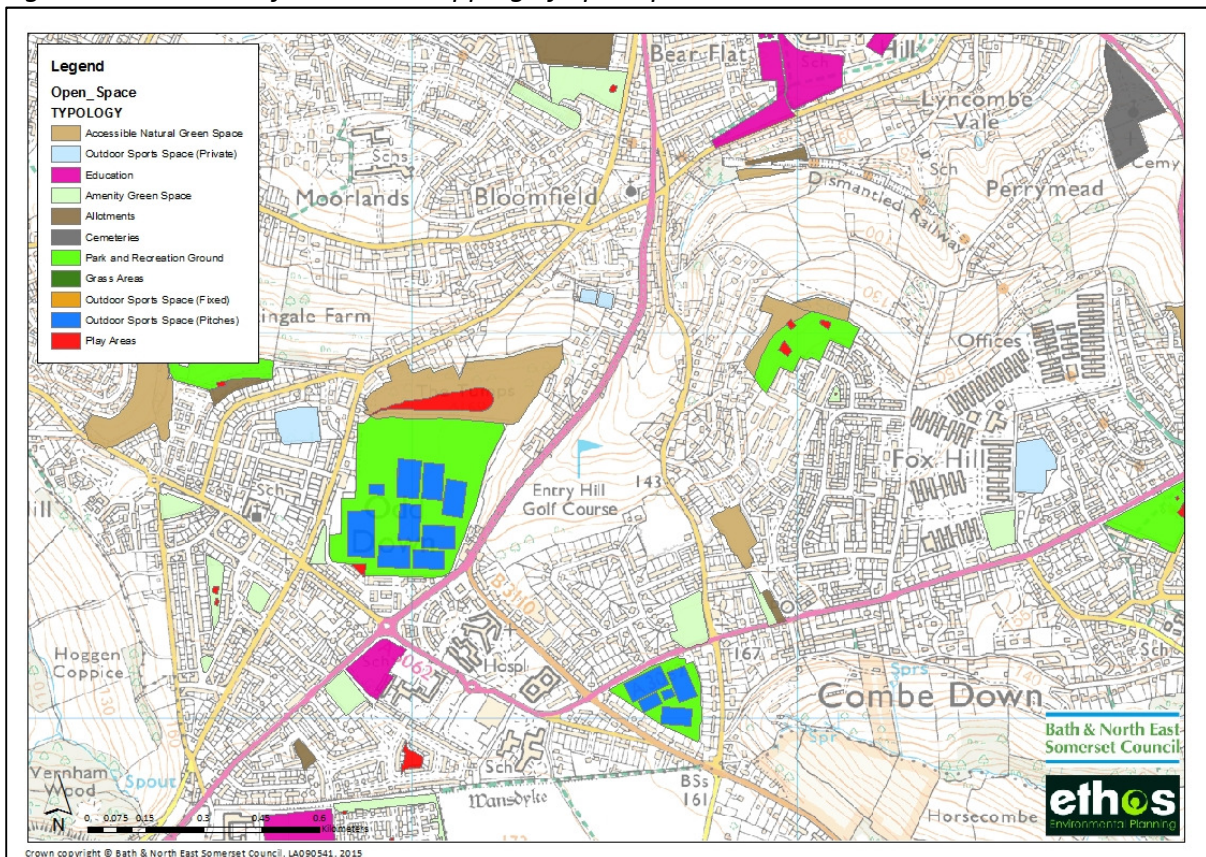


Figure 6 Multi-functional mapping of open space



2.4 Set and Apply Provision Standards (Steps 3 and 4)

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

- quantity;
- accessibility;
- quality.

Quantity

The GIS database and mapping 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 study area.

Access

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 times. A series of maps assessing access for different typologies are presented in the report.

Quality

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.

2.5 Drafting Policy Recommendations (Step 5)

This section outlines higher level strategic options which may be applicable at town, parish community area board and study area wide level. The strategic options address five key areas:

1. Existing provision to be protected;
 2. Existing provision to be enhanced;
 3. Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
 4. Identification of areas for new provision;
 5. Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.
-

In addition, this section will also draw a number of conclusions in relation to the requirements of the brief, specifically:

- To provide recommendations in relation to onsite or offsite provision required as a consequence of new developments, including commuted sums for maintenance or establishment;
 - To propose draft wording for inclusion in the new policy within the B&NES Core Strategy;
 - To identify alternative mechanisms for meeting local need such as community asset transfer of land, adoption and management of open spaces by town and parish councils, use of CIL receipts and externally funded projects.
-

3.0 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This section sets out a brief review of the most relevant national and local policies related to the study, which have been considered in developing the methodology and findings of the study.

Policies and strategies are subject to regular change, therefore the summary provided in this section was correct at the time of writing. Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) reserve the right to change and update this section as policies change.

3.1 Introduction

The policy overview will include analysis of the councils' existing policy and the forthcoming development documents to ensure clarity and consistency with the new national policy as outlined in the strategy brief.

It also includes a review of other strategies of relevance at national and local levels and assesses their implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation opportunities. In addition, an assessment of the relationship between the proposed study and other relevant council strategies and initiatives is included.

The PPG17 companion guide identified the importance of understanding the implications of existing strategies on the study. Specifically, before initiating local consultation, there should be a review of existing national, regional and local plans and strategies, and an assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of existing planning policies and provision standards.

3.2 National Strategic Context

3.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. The NPPF must be adhered to in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF contains the following references that relate to green infrastructure and open spaces:

- **Para 17 - Achieving Sustainable Development - Core Planning Principles:** Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, a set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking.
- **Para 58** - Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area.
Para 73 - Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and

quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

- **Para 75** - Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
- **Para 99** - Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.
- **Para 109** - The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment.

3.2.2 Green Infrastructure

The concept of green infrastructure (GI) is now firmly embedded in national policy with the NPPF requiring local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. It defines green infrastructure as *‘a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’*.

The district has a wide range of existing green infrastructure assets such as open spaces, parks and gardens, allotments, woodlands, street trees, green roofs, fields, hedges, lakes, ponds, meadows and grassland playing fields, as well as footpaths, cycleways and waterways. However, the concept of GI looks beyond existing designations, seeking opportunities to increase function and connectivity of assets to maximise the benefits for the community.

3.2.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)

The white paper³ recognised that a healthy natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It sets out how the value of nature can be mainstreamed across our society by facilitating local action; strengthening the connections between people and nature; creating a green economy and showing leadership in the EU and internationally.

3.2.4 Sport England Strategy 2012-17 (creating a sporting habit for life)

The 2012-17 Youth and Community Strategy for Sport England was launched in January 2012⁴. It describes how Sport England will invest over £1 billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding over five years into four main areas of work;

³ <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.sportengland.org/media/130949/DCMS-Creating-a-sporting-habit-for-life-1-.pdf>

- 1) National Governing Body (NGB) 2013-17 funding;
- 2) facilities;
- 3) local investment; and
- 4) the 'School Games'.

The overall ambition is to increase the number of people who play sports regularly and reduce the number of young people who stop playing when they finish school. Funding for governing bodies will be tied to their own specific participation targets.

3.3 Local Context

3.3.1 B&NES Core Strategy (2011-2029)

The Core Strategy for B&NES was adopted in July 2014. The Core Strategy forms part of the Development Plan for the District and will be used in the determination of all planning applications alongside policies in the Joint Waste Core Strategy (2011) and those saved policies in the Local Plan (2007) not replaced by the Core Strategy.

Whilst broad-brush in approach, the Core Strategy emphasises that the Council has a central role in the provision, delivery and planning of green infrastructure through its role as local planning authority and direct provider of significant areas of open spaces. It recognises its wealth of existing green assets and understands that the concept of GI looks beyond existing designations, seeking opportunities to enhance the physical and functional connectivity of assets, and extend the benefits for the community.

It explains that the Council will work in partnership with key public and private bodies, local communities and the voluntary sector to protect and enhance the green infrastructure network and ensure a strategic approach is taken. The impact of new development on green infrastructure will be assessed through the Development Management process. The Council's approach to delivery of GI is set out in the GI Strategy 2013 (see below).

Policy CP7 relates to Green Infrastructure (GI) and describes the aims of B&NES in relation to GI as: *'The integrity, multi-functionality, quality and connectivity of the strategic Green Infrastructure (GI) network will be maintained, protected and enhanced. Opportunities will be taken to connect with, improve and extend the network. Existing and new GI must be planned, delivered and managed as an integral part of creating sustainable communities'*.

Policy CP13 (Infrastructure): *'Seeks to ensure that all new developments are supported by the necessary infrastructure, including green infrastructure'*.

The saved Local Plan policies which currently relate to open green space are being reviewed through the Placemaking Plan. Policies in the B&NES Local Plan can be viewed on the Council's website⁵.

3.3.2 B&NES Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)

⁵ www.bathnes.gov.uk/planningpolicy

The Green Infrastructure Strategy provides a framework for delivery with success dependent on coordinated, targeted activity and strong working relationships with many partners including the local community. Cross boundary working and multi-agency cooperation are essential and delivery will be achieved in a wide variety of ways.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy is all about making sure that the natural environment works for the community, by making the most of the benefits that the natural environment can and should be providing for people, places and nature.

Green infrastructure is a key component of sustainable development, fundamental to creating successful places and should be central to the design of new developments.

The purpose of this is to generate a multifunctional, connected and added value solution to achieve multiple benefits for the community, especially those that promote health and well-being. It is intended therefore to include a detailed criterion based policy to provide clear guidance to developers.

The Green Infrastructure principles, delivery aims and objectives set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy need to be embedded in development proposals of all scales.

3.3.3 B&NES Green Space Strategy (2007)

The Green Space Strategy (GSS) for Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) was adopted as a corporate strategy in March 2007. The purpose of the GSS was to support the policies for green space management within the Local Plan (2007). The GSS identified all freely accessible green space, regardless of owner or manager, and divided it into 3 land types as per the table below:

Table 3 Green space typologies

B&NES CLASSIFICATION	TYPOLOGIES COVERED
Formal Green Spaces	Including parks and gardens along with, amenity green spaces, recreation grounds and spaces for informal activities/ open green spaces
Natural Green Spaces	Including woodland, natural and semi natural spaces, green corridors and a limited number of burial grounds
Allotments	Including community gardens and community orchards

Draft standards were produced for each of the three classifications of natural green space as follows:

Table 4 Green space standards

Type of provision	Draft standard	
	ha/1000	m ² /person
Formal	1.50	15.0
Natural	1.50	15.0
Allotments	0.30	3.0

The strategy also includes a hierarchy of green space provision, as a method of categorising the importance of the space based on a number of factors including size, range of facilities and catchment. There are a hierarchy of four levels of provision for formal green space and two levels of provision for natural green space (see tables below). This recognises that in order to have different experiences within green spaces it is necessary to have different sized sites, and that it is appropriate to expect to travel different distances for different experiences. No hierarchies have been assigned to allotments.

Table 5 Green space hierarchies

Level	Characteristics of Formal Green Spaces					
	Size	Catchment – walking distance / time from home	Straight line walking distance	Accessibility	Other factors	Functions / features
District	Over 10 ha	Within each of the urban areas of the district	N/A	Accessible to all and free of the fear of harm or crime	Site functions / features designed in such a way to not cause unreasonable nuisance to neighbours	Often including the functions / features of a neighbourhood green space plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Venue for appropriate major outdoor events
Neighbourhood	Over 2 ha	1000m (2/3rds mile / 12.5 minutes)	750m	Accessible to all and free of the fear of harm or crime	Site functions / features designed in such a way to not cause unreasonable nuisance to neighbours Can sometimes be of national historic landscape importance as well as local importance	Often including the functions / features of a local green space plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Formal activities for young people 12 and over □ Formal provision for active pursuits e.g. tennis courts, bowling greens etc □ Venue for larger appropriate neighbourhood events □ Opportunities for local people to become involved in the management of the site and to provide voluntary labour towards the maintenance of the site

Level	Characteristics of Formal Green Spaces					
	Size	Catchment – walking distance / time from home	Straight line walking distance	Accessibility	Other factors	Functions / features
Local	Over 1ha (10,000m ²)	600m (1/3rd mile / 7.5 minutes)	450m	Accessible to all and free of the fear of harm or crime	Site functions / features designed in such a way to not cause unreasonable nuisance to neighbours	Often including the functions / features of a doorstep green space plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Formal play (equipped) for children aged up to 12 years □ Informal active pursuits e.g. walking, jogging, work outs etc □ Features of horticultural or landscape interest □ Venue for appropriate small-scale local events □ Areas specifically managed for wildlife benefit
Doorstep	Over 1000 m ² (and with a minimum dimension of 15m)	400m (1/4 mile / 5 minutes)	300m	Accessible to all without the need to cross a road and free of the fear of harm or crime	Situated / designed so that casual use of the space does not cause unreasonable nuisance to neighbours	Often consisting of the following functions / features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Informal play (unequipped), with adult supervision as appropriate □ Somewhere to walk □ Somewhere to sit □ Somewhere for shade □ Somewhere to appreciate nature □ Somewhere to meet friends

Level	Characteristics of Natural Green Space					
	Size	Catchment – walking distance / time from home	Straight line walking distance	Accessibility	Other factors	Functions / features
District	Over 10 ha (and most significant natural space)	Within or on the outskirts of each of the urban areas of the district	N/A	Accessible to all and free of the fear of harm or crime	Site functions / features designed in such a way to not cause unreasonable nuisance to neighbours	Often including the functions / features of a neighbourhood natural space plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Marked and maintained paths where appropriate ☐ Signage around the site giving information about the space ☐ Venue for educational activities
Neighbourhood	Over 2 ha	1000m (2/3rds mile / 12.5 minutes)	750m	Accessible to all and free of the fear of harm or crime	Site functions / features designed in such a way to not cause unreasonable nuisance to neighbours	Often including the following functions / features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Entrance signage with details of site interest ☐ Somewhere to sit ☐ Somewhere for shade ☐ Significant nature interest ☐ Opportunities for local people to become involved in the management of the site and to provide voluntary labour towards the maintenance of the site

3.3.4 Placemaking Plan

Whilst the Core Strategy (part 1 of the Local Plan) sets out the broad and strategic approach to the level and location of new development throughout B&NES, the Council's emerging Placemaking Plan (which will form Part 2 of the Local Plan) focuses more on the specifics; setting out the development aspirations and the planning requirements for the delivery of key development sites, and updating and reviewing the planning policies used in the determination of planning applications.

The allocation of specific sites for development will help to ensure that the strategic housing and employment requirements outlined in the Core Strategy are delivered in the most suitable locations and through high quality development.

This is also an important document in relation to greenspace management and allocation for development. Section 1 (Development Sites) of the Placemaking Plan outlines on a place by place basis progress in identifying green areas for potential designation as areas for special protection. This is in-line with the NPPF process of encouraging local communities to identify green areas of particular importance to them. There are a number of sites allocated throughout the document, some which accord with the guidelines stipulated in the NPPF and some which don't. Each site is assessed on its individual characteristics. This process allows the protection of the local green sites which are not only important to the green infrastructure but also allow for the identification of sites which are deemed important assets to the local community.

Section 2 (Development Management Policies) of the Placemaking Plan, will include a range of policies relating to the protection and management of the natural environment for multifunctional benefits including policies which:

- aim to ensure development makes a positive contribution to the wider Green Infrastructure network through the creation and management of new, and/or enhancement and management of existing Green Infrastructure components, and ensures that suitable links to local networks/assets are provided and maintained
- safeguard against the loss of community and sports facilities, unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer needed by the community they serve and are not needed for any other community or recreational uses
- promote the provision and development of recreational land including green space for recreation, encourage participation in community and cultural facilities by ensuring that these are well located and accessible
- encourage flexible use of community and recreational facilities and venues, co-location of services and protect land for and expansion of cemeteries
- protect existing allotments and provide new allotments and community food growing spaces.

3.3.5 B&NES Play Strategy (2006-2012)

B&NES Play Strategy (PS) was produced to work alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy in order to highlight areas for development and provision for both formal and informal play environments in the district.

The standards set for children's play space provision was made on the basis of 0.8ha per 1,000 population, however this was later superseded by the local standards set out in the GSS when it was adopted in 2007. The space required for children and young people's facilities, along with outdoor sports facilities, was included in the standard for formal green space which was calculated as 1.50ha per 1,000 population. Whilst the amount appears to increase it should be noted that this includes an array of greenspace types and it is not only related to children's play. Therefore the provision may actually decrease compared to the original standard which looked specifically at children's play space provision.

An important point derived from the study was that children do not always use allocated play spaces for the action of play and that sometimes play spaces are inaccessible due to barriers such as roads or even anti-social behaviour and bullying. The PS therefore takes others factors affecting play into account and helps to inform the GSS in this respect by investigating play in a more holistic manner.

Play space forms an important part of the Green Space Network and the identification of space which is used for but not allocated as play is also important to help assess if provision is lacking in certain areas of the district. The detailed mapping of play space in the updated GSS will help to ascertain provision across the district and identify areas moving forward which may require extra funding and development of play.

An updated Parks Play Plan, dealing specifically with play provision in B&NES green spaces, will be developed in 2016.

3.3.6 B&NES Playing Pitch Strategy (2015)

At the time of writing the Playing Pitch Strategy had not been completed and will be available at a later date.

3.3.7 B&NES Allotment Management Plan

The Allotment Management Plan has been developed with the full involvement of representatives of the Allotment Association. Its key purpose is to maximise participation in allotment gardening. The plan recognises the importance of allotments as a leisure and recreational facility and for their benefits to local communities, green spaces, health and well-being and wildlife, as well as their role in producing low-cost, healthy food produced locally in a sustainable way.

3.3.8 Fit for Life Strategy (2014)

The Fit for Life Strategy sets out the Council's ambitions for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities in Bath and North East Somerset through increasing physical activity levels. It seeks to find ways to make physical activity more central to people's lives through making explicit links to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The strategy has identified the following priority groups for increasing participation in Sport and Active Lifestyles:

- Ethnic Minorities.
- 14-18 year olds (particularly females) – this is the age where levels of activity start to drop.
- Middle aged men.
- Families.
- Those experiencing health inequalities.
- Older People.
- Those who are carrying excess weight, both children and adults.
- Those with long term health conditions.
- Those with disabilities.

3.3.9 Healthy Weight Strategy (2015)

Research for the healthy weight strategy indicated that:

- In B&NES over half (55.7%) of adults are estimated to be obese or overweight, which is lower than the UK national average
 - However B&NES has a higher than national average of reception-aged children who are obese or overweight (23%) and therefore addressing childhood obesity is a particular priority for the district.
 - Elderly people are also vulnerable to diet-related ill-health and suffer disproportionately from malnutrition.
-

- Diet-related health inequalities are apparent in B&NES with poor diet and unhealthy weight disproportionately affecting residents who live in areas of multiple deprivation and children who are from a black or ethnic minority background.

3.3.10 Local Food strategy (2014 -2017)

Adopted in 2014, one key deliver theme of the Local Food Strategy is Local Food Production, which has relevance to allotments and community gardens. A specific objective is to "improve opportunities for community food growing". The strategy notes that community food growing "provides people with a source of local and healthy food, contributes to physical activity, provides dietary and mental health benefits and can improve opportunities for community cohesion and social engagement".

The strategy notes that "in B&NES there is a high demand for allotments with nearly every site across the District now full with a waiting list. Further provision of allotments and community food growing space is needed to meet the demand for community food growing and to enable a wider number of people to benefit from the benefits of food growing.

4.0 LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The consultation and research programme comprised of a review of existing consultation data plus additional survey work. In addition to this a number of officer interviews were undertaken as well a meeting with the Bath Allotments Association. The work was undertaken from January to April 2015. The full consultation report and detailed findings are available as an appendix (1) to the main report.

4.1.1 Primary research

Two questionnaire surveys were undertaken looking at the adequacy of current provision in terms of the quantity, quality and access, in relation to the various typologies of open space covered by the brief. The surveys were:

- A general household survey
- A children and young people's survey.

The two surveys were specifically designed to provide relevant information in relation to the production of local standards for future provision of open space; and to help provide an understanding of local people's priorities for improvements.

4.1.2 Consultation review

Council Officers provided a range of consultation and research data that had been completed prior to this study, most importantly:

- "Voicebox" household surveys
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) data
- Relevant Strategy Documents
- Parish Council consultation

All the data provided was reviewed to identify consultation and research findings of relevance to the Green Spaces Study.

The results of the primary research and consultation review have informed the content of the recommended local standards. The findings also helped the study to understand stakeholder and local people's appreciation of open space, outdoor recreation facilities, and the wider green infrastructure; and the values attached by the community to the various forms of open spaces and facilities.

4.2. Primary Research – The Surveys

4.2.1 The general household survey

A postal questionnaire survey was undertaken based upon a random sample of addresses from the electoral register. Respondents were asked to respond to provide a view on behalf of their household, rather than simply as individuals. 3000 surveys were distributed and 594 surveys were returned - a response rate just under 20%.

Some of the key findings are noted below:

The importance of Green Spaces

- Most local households (67%) think that open/green spaces are very important in their everyday lives (an additional 26% rate them as quite important). Only 5% think they are not important.
- Households value open/green spaces for many reasons, with health benefits being the most commonly highlighted (80%). The next most common reason people value open and green spaces are for experiencing wildlife, flowers etc. (74%) and for their visual interest (72%).
- A majority of households also note the importance of open and green spaces for quiet relaxation (69%); providing space for picnic, dog walking and hobbies; and for providing play and recreational opportunities for children and young people.

Frequency of use of open spaces and outdoor recreational facilities

- It is B&NES's footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths that are most commonly used by all households at least monthly (75% - including 27% weekly and 25% almost daily).
- 69% of households also visit country parks, local countryside and woodlands at least monthly (including 25% weekly and 20% almost daily).
- 64% use local parks/gardens and recreation grounds at least monthly (including 25% weekly and 17% almost daily).
- Other spaces used regularly, at least monthly, by a majority of households are informal open spaces for dog walking, informal games, picnics etc; and areas for water recreation - riversides, lakes etc.
- Play areas are also fairly frequently used but with fewer households (28%) using them on a regular basis (at least monthly).
- 80% of allotment users visit them at least weekly (of which 27% visit almost daily).
- At least 64% of tennis and bowls players use their facilities at least weekly (of which 20% of bowlers play nearly daily).
- 49% of play area users visit them at least weekly (of which 6% visit almost daily).

Quantity of open space, sport and recreation facilities

- For most kinds of open space/outdoor recreation facilities a majority of households think there are enough of such spaces.

- The most commonly identified shortfall was for provision of teenage facilities where 61% thought there was insufficient currently.
- 56% or more of households thought there was a need for more wildlife areas/nature reserves.
- In addition, a significant minority (over 40%) also thought there were insufficient outdoor fitness facilities e.g. trim trails; footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths; country parks and accessible countryside/woodlands; allotments; and informal open space

Quality of open space, sport and recreation facilities

- 82% of households reported that in general they were quite (67%) or very (15%) satisfied with B&NES Council parks and green spaces.
- 17% said that they were quite (15%) or very (2%) dissatisfied with the Councils parks and green spaces.
- 80% thought that it was important that open spaces should be multifunctional⁶ as regards their use.
- All open space facilities are rated average or better by a majority of households.
- Over 30% thought that in general the quality of teenage facilities, MUGAs, outdoor fitness facilities and tennis courts was poor or very poor.
- The high quality of parks and recreation grounds stands out notably, being viewed by around 73% of respondents as very good or good. Other kinds of open spaces where quality is widely thought to be good/very good by at least 60% of households are children's play areas; footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths; and country parks and accessible countryside/ woodlands.

Access Issues

Acceptable times to access open spaces

- 63% of households would not expect to travel more than 15 minutes to access a local park or recreation ground (of which 40% would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes).
- 69% would not expect children (unaccompanied) to travel more than 10 minutes to access a local play area (of which 39% thought it should take less than 5 minutes).
- 65% would not expect teenagers to travel more than 15 minutes to access outdoor youth facilities (of which 32% would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes).
- 46% of households would travel more than 20 minutes to visit a wildlife area/nature reserve and an additional 20% would travel between 16 and 20 minutes.
- 39% of households would travel more than 20 minutes to visit a water recreation site and an additional 21% would travel between 16 and 20 minutes.
- 37% of households would travel more than 20 minutes to visit a country park and accessible countryside/woodland; and 19% would travel between 16 and 20 minutes.

- 64% of households would not expect to travel more than 15 minutes to access an allotment (of which 45% would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes).
- 73% of households would not expect to travel more than 15 minutes to access informal open space (of which 45% would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes).

Mode of travel

In general, walk times would be more appropriate for:

- Parks/gardens/recreation grounds
- Play areas for children
- Teenage facilities
- Village greens
- Allotments
- Rights of way
- Informal open space

Drive times may, in general, be more appropriate for: wildlife areas/nature reserves; and county parks and accessible countryside/woodlands.

Importance of Footpath/cycle access

- 77% of residents confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved
- 79% said that if the quality of the route was improved they would make the journey more often.

This is a significant finding in terms of illustrating the potential benefit of ensuring good foot and cycle path access to open space facilities.

The detailed findings from this research are further discussed later in the report in relation to drawing up the access elements of relevant standards for different kinds of open space.

Key Issues and priorities for improvement

- The category highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was for improvements to parks and recreation grounds (59%)
 - Following this the most commonly identified high priority categories were footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths (57%); country parks and accessible countryside/woodland (54%); and wildlife areas/nature reserves (50%).
 - Other notable high priorities for improvement highlighted by significant numbers were play areas (41%); facilities for teenagers (36%); areas for water recreation (34%); and informal open spaces for games, picnics etc.
 - For youth facilities a majority of households (52%) suggest that the primary general need for facility improvements is to provide additional facilities.
 - In relation to wildlife areas/nature reserves more households suggest a need for additional facilities (42%) than for improvements at existing sites (38%).
-

- For other categories the most commonly identified need is to improve the quality of existing facilities, most notably for parks and recreation grounds; children's play areas; tennis courts; bowling greens; and churchyards/cemeteries.
- For some categories it is not clear whether the primary need is for more facilities or to improve what exists. For example, allotments (35% suggest more are needed compared to 37% suggesting improvements to existing); and informal open spaces (41% additional and 46% improvements).
- Improvements to access is significant aspect in relation to some categories, for example, allotments; churchyards and cemeteries; country parks and countryside/woodland; wildlife areas/nature reserves; areas for water recreation; footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths; and bowling greens (around 20%).

The survey also provided an opportunity for households to highlight any specific issues they would like to raise; or to make other comments. These comments can be found in the full consultation report.

4.3 The Youth Survey

An online survey was set up in liaison with the Bath and North East Somerset Youth Parliament in February 2015 for one month. This was promoted by the Youth Parliament and 269 responses were received from young people from 12 to 21 years old. The main findings are provided below.

4.3.1 Current use of open spaces and play/youth facilities

- Local parks are the most commonly used kind of open space (nearly 64%).
- Most children and young people also use their own and their friends outdoor garden space to meet, play and hang out.
- A high proportion of children and young people (over 40%) play and hang out "on the street", in their city/town/village and near local shops - indicating the wider importance of planning for a child friendly "public realm".
- Following the above, the most common areas of open space currently used are local equipped playgrounds (35%); playing fields and courts (35%); and wild, natural areas (29%).
- Other kinds of outdoor open spaces used by young people include fields, countryside and woods; cemeteries/graveyards; school playgrounds; and cycle tracks.

4.3.2 Quantity, Quality and Access

Quantity

- 77% of young people agreed that there are enough play areas for younger children in their local area.
 - A small majority (52%) thought that there was a need for more outdoor youth facilities and spaces for young people (13+) to meet in their local area.
-

This suggests that while a large majority of children and young people (77%) tended to be fairly happy about the level of provision for younger children, most young people thought there were not enough facilities for teenagers.

Quality

- 64% of young people agreed that play areas for younger children are well maintained and of good quality
- A small majority (51%) thought that youth facilities and spaces for young people to meet are *not* similarly well maintained or of good quality.

Similarly, while a clear majority (64%) thought that the current quality of play areas for younger children was satisfactory, a majority were not happy with the overall quality of outdoor youth provision.

Access

- 81% of young people said that they would be prepared to walk further than normal to somewhere that had more to do and was more interesting.
- 72% of young people thought that it is more important to keep and improve their nearest open space facility/area than have a new more exciting area further away.

In very broad terms, these access findings suggest the need for providing and maintaining easy access to some kind of open spaces near to homes where children and young people can play and hang out; along with a strategic provision of facilities that are seen as more of a "destination" - to which young people are prepared to travel further.

4.3.3 Priorities for improvement

- Over 50% of young people highlighted improvements to parks as being one of their top 3 priorities (of which just over 25% chose it as their top priority).
- Over 40% chose provision of youth shelters and outdoor seated areas as one of their top 3 priorities (including 30% for whom it was priority 1 or 2).
- Local equipped play areas was chosen by nearly 38% as one of their top 3 (though it was top priority for only around 5% of those).
- Improved provision of wild natural areas was the next most commonly prioritised kind of open space provision with over 32% highlighting it as one of their top 3 priorities. For nearly 15% of those it was their top priority.

A number of young people suggested other priorities that should be considered:

- Improved access to local fields, countryside, and woodlands
 - Better provision of seating with bins nearby
 - More advanced and challenging equipment in local parks for older children - teen activity areas.
 - Places where younger kids can hang out without the older kids.
 - Parkour provision
-

- Water park features
- More cycle tracks
- More land and open space near where young people live.

Finally, 81% confirmed that they would like to have a say in how new open space facilities for young people should be built and how existing spaces can be improved.

There was an opportunity at the end of survey for young people to make additional comments and these can be found in the full consultation report.

4.4 Review of existing consultation and research

Council Officers provided a range of consultation and research data that was completed prior to this study. The main source categories as covered are noted below:

- "Voicebox" household surveys
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) data
- Town and Parish Council Consultation
- Strategy documents and other information

All the data provided was reviewed to identify consultation and research findings of relevance to the Green Spaces Study.

4.4.1 "Voicebox" household surveys

Findings from relevant Voicebox surveys are noted below:

Sport and Active Lifestyles (2011)

- Recreational walking has a higher percentage (48%) of respondents regularly participating compared to all other forms of physical activity.
 - Cycling, running, swimming, sport, exercise classes, gym and other regular recreational activities have the next highest levels of participation; though less than half of the percentage of respondents as those taking part in recreational walking.
 - Out of the 18% of those regularly taking part in recreational sport, respondents participated in Golf, Tennis, Badminton, Bowls, Football, Cricket, and Rugby.
 - Running and sport are the most common forms of challenge / competition participation amongst respondents with 5% of residents regularly participating in each. The lowest type of competition is cycling, with only 1% of respondents regularly participating.
 - Activity initiatives that respondents would most like to see are running groups (14%) and beginner sports classes (14%). Amongst other opportunities specified by respondents, dance was the most popular followed by more/better cycle paths/routes, badminton and a bowls centre. The least popular option was cycle loan schemes with only 3% of respondents wanting to see this available.
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- Use of facilities: Bath Sports and Leisure Centre is used by the highest number of respondents (30%). Other commonly used facilities include: cycle paths, Alice/Victoria Park tennis, local places to walk, Longwell Green, Victoria Park, and golf clubs.
- Barriers to participation: overall, 42% of respondents believe that time is a reason for them not taking part in physical activity, followed by 33% citing cost as a reason. Only 3% of respondents thought of other reasons why they didn't take part; the most common other answers include ill health (mainly chronic diseases), timing of classes or activities, injury, laziness, cost of travel/parking and too busy being a carer.

Leisure Time (2014)

- Other than socialising and leisure activity at home; and going out with friends and family; physical leisure activities and visiting parks and gardens were the two most common forms of leisure activity undertaken regularly (at least once a month).
- The 3 most common factors respondents were looking for in relation to participating in leisure activities (i.e. influenced them a lot) were fun (50%); relaxation/comfort (39%); and being outdoors (36%).

Environmental Services (2013)

- 68% of respondents were satisfied with parks and open spaces; 25% of respondents rating this service as very good and 43% of respondents rating it as good.
- 73% agreed that staff working in Parks and Open Spaces services are polite, courteous and treat all of their customers fairly.

4.4.2. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

The JSNA fully recognises the key role that green spaces play in promoting better health. It notes that:

- Studies demonstrate that there are positive links between health and wellbeing and levels of contact with the natural environment and green spaces.
- The Government's health white paper indicates that the availability of green and open spaces, influence the health and wellbeing of the local population.
- Parks and green spaces can contribute to all aspects of health and well-being including increasing levels of physical activity. Studies suggest that being outside in a green space can promote mental well-being, relieve stress, overcome isolation, improve social cohesion and alleviate physical problems so that fewer working days are lost to ill health.
- Urban vegetation and green space helps to reduce pollution and the build-up of the particulates that can aggravate respiratory diseases such as asthma and bronchitis. However, there has also been research that indicates that green space can contribute to stress reduction and the alleviation of depression and dementia.
- Similarly, green travel, including foot, cycle, horse and boat, can promote healthier lifestyles. Improving recreational links within urban areas and with surrounding

landscapes, can encourage access to natural spaces, facilitate active lifestyles and help address health inequalities.

The full consultation report highlights many specific points of relevance to open spaces and play provision.

4.4.3. Town and Parish Councils - Neighbourhood Plans and the Green Space Designation

Neighbourhood Plans

4 neighbourhood Plans were reviewed in relation to open/green space issues:

- Clutton Neighbourhood Plan (Draft)
- Englishcombe Neighbourhood Plan
- Freshford Neighbourhood Plan
- Stowey Sutton Neighbourhood Plan (Draft)

These plans contain specific green space policy guidance that are taken into account in relation to the 5 detailed area profiles produced as part of the Green Space Strategy process.

Local Green Space designation

B&NES Council undertook extensive consultation with town and parish councils in 2014 in relation to the Local Green Space Designation process. Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Local Green Spaces may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or in a neighbourhood in a town or city.

The town and parish councils were invited to propose sites for Local Green Space Designation and were provided with advice and guidance on the criteria need for sites to be thus designated. The full consultation report highlights all the local green spaces that were put forward for designation from the following parishes:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| • Bathampton | • Hinton Charterhouse |
| • Batheaston | • Keynsham |
| • Camerton | • Midsomer Norton |
| • Charlombe | • Paulton |
| • Claverton | • Newton St Loe |
| • Clutton | • Peasedown St John |
| • Comton Dando | • Radstock |
| • Compton Martin | • Saltford |
| • Dunkerton | • Timsbury |
| • East Harptree | • Ubley |
| • Englishcombe | • Wellow |
-

- Farmborough
- Farrington Gurne
- High Littleton
- Hinton Blewitt
- West Harptree
- Westfield
- Whitchurch

This information will feed into the 5 area profiles.

4.4 Strategy and Research Review

This section highlights the findings from consultation that has been undertaken as part of other B&NES strategies.

4.4.1 Green Spaces Strategy (2007)

A variety of different forms of market research and consultation were undertaken including consultations with equalities groups and focus groups from Bath, Keynsham and Norton Radstock. In addition to this an on-street survey was carried out across the district.

A brief summary of the findings is noted below:

- 95% of those who were interviewed had visited a green space in the district in the previous 12 months
- The respondents from Bath and Keynsham were more satisfied with green space provision than those from Norton Radstock.
- Formal green spaces were visited by a larger proportion of the respondents.
- Informal green spaces were visited more frequently.
- Informal green spaces were largely located closest to people's homes and therefore were the easiest to get to and the quickest to walk to.
- Royal Victoria Park was seen as the 'jewel' of green space provision in Bath and North East Somerset and there was demand for similar provision in other areas.
- Natural green spaces and sports facilities were most in need of improvement
- Families were harder to please due to their higher expectations which are harder to meet
- The most important improvements to formal green spaces were;
 - Provision of toilets
 - Rain shelter and sun shade
 - Sufficient good quality seating and litter bins
 - Cleanliness (free of litter, graffiti, dogs mess)
 - Managed sensitively for wildlife
 - Sense of safety

4.4.2 Play Strategy (2006 - 2012)

The Play Strategy process involved consultation with children, young people and parents. Some of the key findings were:

- Play Parks were mentioned as one of the best places to play, particularly Radstock Park, Victoria Park in Bath and the Memorial Park in Keynsham.
- Issues that prohibit enjoyment of parks by children included dog mess not being cleared, broken glass and litter, broken play equipment, vandalism of equipment, motorcyclists, adults shouting at them and gangs of older children.
- Children wanted more adults to keep an eye on play parks and more police and CCTV cameras.
- Play facilities are one of the main motivating factors behind visits to formal and informal green spaces.
- Local green space provision is crucial for children as they are limited to how far they can travel alone.
- The distance children travelled increased with age, but parents (and children's) perception of the safety of a green space and the route to it is also critical.
- Both parents and children had high levels of fear in relation to play and public space. This was based partly on experience of bullying and intimidation by older children and adults and partly on a perception that the parks were not safe places to be.
- In urban parts of the district there appears to be an oversupply of small-equipped play areas, located within sites that are too small, and with limited appeal to older children.
- The potential of informal play within green spaces generally is not being fully exploited.
- Children want a range of types of green space and activities from informal (kicking a ball around), natural (e.g. playing and cycling) and play facilities.
- There is an increasing demand from children and young people for BMX dirt tracks to play on (and other kinds of wheeled sports).

4.4.3 Play and Youth - more recent consultation and research

The B&NES Youth Connect Service highlighted a number of more recent studies and consultation of relevance as noted below:

- A Cold Bath - youth survey and report (2015)
- Foxhill - Children and Young People - Survey and report (2013)
- Bishop Sutton - local need for improved provision
- Radstock - local need for improved provision
- Bath BMX Club - aspirations for improvements

These are detailed in the full consultation report.

4.4.4 Other strategies reviewed

Other relevant strategy reviews that can be found in the full consultation report are:

- Fit for Life Strategy (2014)
 - Healthy Weight Strategy (2015)
 - Food strategy (2014)
-

4.5 Concluding remarks

The primary survey work, officer engagement, and review of exiting strategy documents, research and consultation have highlighted a wide range of issues of value to the wider Green Spaces Study.

The findings and evidence highlighted in this document will feed into the main report in relation to:

- The development of green space policy statements
- The recommended standards for typologies of green spaces (quantity, quality and access elements).
- The 5 area profiles
- The recommended action plans

There is a strong degree of consistency across the various sources on key areas of local need and aspiration from which we can be confident that the findings are robust and reliable, providing a strong evidence base to be combined with the detailed facilities audit.

5.0 AUDIT OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE ASSETS

5.1 General approach

This section sets out the proposed typologies which will have standards developed or have been included within the quantitative or access analysis. The typologies of open space have drawn on guidance provided within PPG17, and through discussions with the project Steering Group. The agreed list of typologies is locally derived and appropriate for the type and range of open spaces that exist within B&NES. The following typologies are proposed:

Table 6 B&NES typologies

Typologies with standards	Typologies mapped but no standards ⁷
Formal provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Amenity Green Space • Park and Recreation Grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor sports space (Pitches) - Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed) • Outdoor Sports Space (Private) • Play Space (Children) • Play Space (Youth) • Accessible Natural Green Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Growing Spaces • Historic Parks and Gardens • Churchyard and Cemetery • Education sites

5.2.1 Allotments



This typology covers all forms of community growing areas including formal allotments, and growing areas. For the purpose of this study, the term 'allotments' will be used throughout, however, it is intended that this does refer to the wider typology as outlined.

The B&NES Placemaking Plan identifies local food growing space including public, open and/or residential space used for communal or individual food growing. Local food growing space includes both allotments and informal local food growing space:

⁷ An explanation for not developing standards for these typologies is outlined in the following sections

Allotments

Allotment gardens have a statutory definition, and are made of allotment plots. The Allotment Act of 1922 defines the term “allotment garden” as: “an allotment not exceeding 40 poles [i.e. equivalent to 112m²] 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.” The Allotments Act of 1925 gives protection to land acquired specifically for use for allotments, so called Statutory Allotment Sites. “Temporary” allotments sites refer to sites that have not been specifically acquired for allotment use, although many are often used for decades and are not protected by the 1925 legislation.

5.2.2 Amenity Green Space



The category is considered to include those spaces 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 or ball courts).

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.

5.2.3 Parks and Recreation Grounds



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 Parks and Recreation Grounds has been used comprising three elements:

- **Park and Recreation Ground.** This comprises the general open space surrounding play areas, sports facilities etc used for general recreation.
- **Outdoor Sports Space (Pitches).** This comprises publicly accessible sports pitches (including football and rugby).
- **Outdoor Sports Space (Fixed).** This comprises all other non-pitch based provision including publicly accessible tennis courts and bowling greens.

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 multi-functional approach to mapping has provided detail to the range of functions that exist within parks and recreation grounds, with all outdoor sport and play facilities being

mapped (see section 2.3.2). This has meant that more accurate assessment of these facilities can be undertaken.

Several of the open spaces that fall within this typology also have a distinct additional typology which is considered important in B&NES – Heritage Parks. Further details on these open spaces is provided in section 5.2.6.

5.2.4 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.

However, there are a number of recognised types of play area including Local Areas for Play (LAPs), Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs), Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs), School Playgrounds, informal ball courts, and 'hang out' areas.

The study has recorded the following:

- Children's play space
- Youth play space

The former comprises equipped areas of play that cater for the needs of children up to and around 12 years. The latter comprises 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.

Play space (Children)

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.

Play Space (Youth)

This category includes skate parks/BMX tracks and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA) for ease, as most of these are predominantly used by young people and have been installed with this key client group in mind.

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.

5.2.5 Outdoor Sport (Private)

Outdoor sports space with limited public access (e.g. private sports grounds), have also been recorded and mapped where known. Private sport space makes up an important part of outdoor sports provision across the District, and forms an important part of the community facilities. The private sports spaces have been mapped separately to publicly accessible sites, to determine exact provision of the different types of provision.

5.2.6 Community Growing Spaces

The B&NES Placemaking Plan includes emerging policy LCR8, a new policy to guide the provision of allotments and community food growing space, with aims including supporting the increased provision of informal food growing space. Emerging policy LCR9 is also relevant, concerned with the identification of all new allotments sites which must be suitable for productive use, accessible to the area they serve and be suitable for use as allotments through appropriate design. The current Food Strategy hasn't explored in detail the provision of community growing spaces or proposed standards for provision. However, as and when this work is progressed, it is envisaged that these aspirations would be included within the Green Space Strategy.

5.2.7 Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic England (formerly English Heritage) has compiled a Register of Historic Parks and Gardens which are of national importance by virtue of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments. Sixteen of these lie within, or partly within the District, and four are public parks, maintained by the authority:

- Royal Victoria Park, Bath
- Sydney Gardens, Bath
- Hedgemoor Park, Bath
- Parade Gardens, Bath

The increased demand for land for development means that some of these parks and gardens are under threat. Many are particularly vulnerable to housing schemes, especially where the previous use has become redundant or historic designs have become overgrown. However, transport infrastructure, golf courses and other recreational development can be just as damaging to the unique character of parkland. The local planning authority is required to consult Historic England where a planning application is likely to affect a Grade I or II* registered site or its setting, and the Garden History Society must be consulted on all applications affecting any site on the Historic England register.

5.2.8 Churchyards

The District 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. 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 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.

However, the quality of churchyards can be influenced by this study, particularly closed churchyards which have become the responsibility of the Local Authority. This reflects the priorities established through consultation, which identifies the need to provide and improve open spaces. Churchyards can provide important open space, particularly closed churchyards, where the ownership is often transferred to the local authority to manage and maintain.

5.2.9 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.

Quantity 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. However, their existence is still an important factor of local provision, and as such they will be subject to the same policy considerations as publicly accessible space.

5.3 Natural Green Space



For the purpose of this study, natural and semi-natural green space covers a variety of spaces including meadows, woodland, copses, river valleys and lakes all of which share a trait of having natural characteristics and biodiversity value, and are also partly or wholly accessible for informal recreation.

The nature of the geography of B&NES means there are large tracts of open countryside in and around settlement areas. Much of this is private land used for farming, however, there is significant access to the countryside provided through the rights of way network (see section 7.3.2). 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.

Access to these spaces may be provided via statutory rights of access or permissive codes allowing the public to wander freely, or via defined Rights of Way or permissive routes running through them. In some cases, access may not be fully clear, however, there was 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.

The local consultation and research elsewhere (Natural England) 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.

5.4 Existing provision of open space

5.4.1 Provision in wards

The GIS mapping of open space has been used to assess the existing quantity of open space within the wards. A summary of existing provision is shown in tables 7 and 8.

Table 7 Existing provision of open space (hectares) in wards

WARD	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Abbey Ward	0	0.67	3.3	3.3	0	0	4.33	0	0	127.38	0.12	0
Bathavon North Ward	4	1.86	32.78	23.15	9.63	0	108.72	0.22	0.1	516.62	2.55	24.1
Bathavon South Ward	0.31	1.12	4.22	3.96	0.24	0.02	6.37	0.27	0	303.75	1.77	26.42
Bathavon West Ward	0	2.06	3.06	2.33	0.73	0	5.52	0.18	0.04	335.92	14.19	15.42
Bathwick Ward	0.55	0	3.75	3.48	0	0.27	59.85	0.12	0	148.25	1.9	29.65
Chew Valley North Ward	0	0	0.7	0.47	0.23	0	6.93	0.09	0.02	589.75	1.31	12.67
Chew Valley South Ward	0	0.72	1.25	1.07	0.18	0	2.41	0.08	0	811.82	1.11	0.56
Clutton Ward	0.85	0	0.51	0.37	0.14	0	1.16	0.2	0	302.56	1.07	0.86
Combe Down Ward	1.35	0.91	1.96	1.96	0	0	1.21	0.15	0.01	11.48	0	27.54
Farmborough Ward	0.96	0	3.19	2.24	0.88	0.07	129.73	0.22	0.01	193.75	1.49	0.87
High Littleton Ward	2.13	0	3.76	1.84	1.92	0	0.07	0.22	0	201.88	1.17	0.52
Keynsham East Ward	0	1.29	14.42	11.9	2.52	0	1.73	0.53	0.01	150.28	0	13.86
Keynsham North Ward	0	0.98	11.71	11.49	0.22	0	87	0.37	0.12	127.38	2.2	11.79
Keynsham South Ward	1.74	1.61	11.21	11.04	0.17	0	0	0.13	0.01	8.41	0	2.18
Kingsmead Ward	4.9	4.21	17.86	17.05	0	0.81	0.24	0.41	0.16	143.06	7.59	0
Lambridge Ward	0.74	2.04	5.51	4.89	0.26	0.36	7.04	0.24	0	147.44	0	4.03
Lansdown Ward	1.02	1.55	9.03	9.03	0	0	22.42	0.15	0	4.74	1.22	36.59
Lyncombe Ward	2.29	2.66	17.15	10.75	6.4	0	13.72	0.27	2.63	27.18	0	9.42
Mendip Ward	0	0.32	3.48	2.77	0.65	0.06	1.31	0.17	0	806.44	1.5	0.93
Midsomer Norton North Ward	0.59	0	2.69	1.81	0.88	0	1.12	0.26	0.3	35.84	0.45	0.82
Midsomer Norton Redfield Ward	0	0.21	2.23	1.86	0.37	0	6.31	0.48	0.01	2.01	1.46	14.56
Newbridge Ward	0.18	1.71	4.37	3.54	0.7	0.13	2.35	0.63	0.05	150.63	6.81	5.28
Odd Down Ward	0.83	3.21	1.82	1.45	0.37	0	2.43	0.36	0.04	7.87	0	4.6
Oldfield Ward	2.82	6	1.13	1.09	0.04	0	0	0.24	0	4.87	0	0.8
Paulton Ward	0.15	0.13	5.11	5.03	0.08	0	10.24	0.11	0.13	110.22	1.37	2.06
Peasedown Ward	1.4	0.52	3.9	3.9	0	0	4.61	0.25	0.05	123.14	1.86	1.82
Publow and Whitchurch Ward	0.65	0.34	1.93	1.93	0	0	75.53	0.11	0	32.92	1.61	0.84
Radstock Ward	0.59	1.51	5.66	4.36	1.3	0	1.86	0.76	0.11	69.32	1.8	14.75
Saltford Ward	0.44	0.08	3.57	0.91	2.66	0	71.92	0.19	0	155.7	0.27	1.55
Southdown Ward	0	7.18	2.98	2.75	0.23	0	0	0.65	0.01	0	12.84	0.98
Timisbury Ward	0.83	1.61	2.52	1.6	0.91	0.01	0	0.15	0.07	103.15	0.52	2.6
Twerton Ward	0.46	3.41	3.93	3.66	0.27	0	3.27	0.37	0.08	190.21	0	0
Walcot Ward	0.85	0.66	6.3	5.66	0.64	0	3.11	0.25	0	127.8	0	4.03
Westfield Ward	0.27	0.78	3.12	1.89	1.2	0.03	0.24	0.16	0.14	66.9	1.8	6.63
Westmoreland Ward	0.25	2.3	4.02	3.32	0.7	0	0	0.17	0.09	132.25	0.91	0
Weston Ward	1.03	2.74	3.83	3.24	0.46	0.13	15.15	0.2	0	8.73	0.54	7.52
Widcombe Ward	1.81	1.05	4.32	4.18	0	0.14	1.27	0.38	0	230.09	7.76	21.37
Total	33.99	55.44	212.28	175.27	34.98	2.03	659.17	9.74	4.19	6509.74	79.19	307.62

Table 8 Existing provision of open space (ha/1000 population) in wards

WARD	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Abbey Ward	0	0.12	0.58	0.58	0	0	0.76	0	0	22.47	0.02	0
Bathavon North Ward	0.56	0.26	4.59	3.24	1.35	0	15.21	0.03	0.01	72.28	0.36	3.37
Bathavon South Ward	0.1	0.37	1.39	1.3	0.08	0.01	2.09	0.09	0	99.52	0.58	8.66
Bathavon West Ward	0	0.85	1.26	0.96	0.3	0	2.27	0.07	0.02	137.95	5.83	6.33
Bathwick Ward	0.11	0	0.78	0.72	0	0.06	12.31	0.02	0	30.49	0.39	6.1
Chew Valley North Ward	0	0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0	2.9	0.04	0.01	247.17	0.55	5.31
Chew Valley South Ward	0	0.3	0.53	0.45	0.08	0	1.01	0.03	0	341.53	0.47	0.24
Clutton Ward	0.34	0	0.21	0.15	0.06	0	0.46	0.08	0	119.26	0.42	0.34
Combe Down Ward	0.25	0.17	0.36	0.36	0	0	0.22	0.03	0	2.12	0	5.08
Farmborough Ward	0.38	0	1.27	0.89	0.35	0.03	51.79	0.09	0	77.35	0.59	0.35
High Littleton Ward	0.71	0	1.25	0.61	0.64	0	0.02	0.07	0	67.18	0.39	0.17
Keynsham East Ward	0	0.24	2.67	2.2	0.47	0	0.32	0.1	0	27.81	0	2.56
Keynsham North Ward	0	0.19	2.24	2.2	0.04	0	16.69	0.07	0.02	24.44	0.42	2.26
Keynsham South Ward	0.35	0.32	2.23	2.2	0.03	0	0	0.03	0	1.67	0	0.43
Kingsmead Ward	0.89	0.76	3.24	3.09	0	0.15	0.04	0.07	0.03	25.94	1.38	0
Lambridge Ward	0.14	0.37	1.01	0.89	0.05	0.07	1.29	0.04	0	26.96	0	0.74
Lansdown Ward	0.22	0.34	1.97	1.97	0	0	4.89	0.03	0	1.03	0.27	7.97
Lyncombe Ward	0.42	0.48	3.11	1.95	1.16	0	2.49	0.05	0.48	4.94	0	1.71
Mendip Ward	0	0.12	1.29	1.03	0.24	0.02	0.49	0.06	0	300.57	0.56	0.35
Midsomer Norton North Ward	0.1	0	0.46	0.31	0.15	0	0.19	0.04	0.05	6.1	0.08	0.14
Midsomer Norton Redfield Ward	0	0.04	0.43	0.36	0.07	0	1.23	0.09	0	0.39	0.29	2.84
Newbridge Ward	0.03	0.29	0.74	0.6	0.12	0.02	0.4	0.11	0.01	25.37	1.15	0.89
Odd Down Ward	0.15	0.57	0.33	0.26	0.07	0	0.43	0.06	0.01	1.39	0	0.81
Oldfield Ward	0.48	1.02	0.2	0.19	0.01	0	0	0.04	0	0.83	0	0.14
Paulton Ward	0.03	0.02	0.97	0.95	0.02	0	1.93	0.02	0.02	20.79	0.26	0.39
Peasedown Ward	0.22	0.08	0.61	0.61	0	0	0.72	0.04	0.01	19.1	0.29	0.28
Publow and Whitchurch Ward	0.26	0.14	0.78	0.78	0	0	30.54	0.04	0	13.31	0.65	0.34
Radstock Ward	0.1	0.27	1.01	0.78	0.23	0	0.33	0.14	0.02	12.33	0.32	2.62
Saltford Ward	0.11	0.02	0.87	0.22	0.65	0	17.66	0.05	0	38.23	0.07	0.38
Southdown Ward	0	1.3	0.54	0.5	0.04	0	0	0.12	0	0	2.32	0.18
Timsbury Ward	0.32	0.61	0.96	0.61	0.35	0	0	0.06	0.03	39.31	0.2	0.99
Twerton Ward	0.09	0.64	0.74	0.69	0.05	0	0.62	0.07	0.02	35.79	0	0
Walcot Ward	0.14	0.11	1.07	0.96	0.11	0	0.53	0.04	0	21.59	0	0.68
Westfield Ward	0.05	0.13	0.53	0.32	0.2	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.02	11.43	0.31	1.13
Westmoreland Ward	0.04	0.36	0.62	0.51	0.11	0	0	0.03	0.01	20.44	0.14	0
Weston Ward	0.19	0.51	0.72	0.61	0.09	0.02	2.85	0.04	0	1.64	0.1	1.41
Widcombe Ward	0.31	0.18	0.74	0.72	0	0.02	0.22	0.07	0	39.88	1.34	3.7
Average	0.19	0.31	1.21	0.99	0.20	0.01	3.74	0.06	0.02	36.95	0.45	1.75

5.4.2 Existing provision of open space in parishes

Table 9 Existing provision of open space (hectares) in parishes

PARISH	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Bath	20.35	37.58	85.68	73.9	10.07	1.71	118.12	4.42	3.07	442.62	30.97	135.38
Bathampton	0.65	0.78	0.43	0.3	0.13	0	59.71	0.06	0	247.05	0	0.26
Batheaston	0	0.58	0.86	0.52	0.34	0	0	0.11	0.09	338.92	0.84	0.16
Bathford	1.56	0.51	2.25	1.82	0.43	0	2.89	0.05	0.01	127.38	0.53	0.81
Cameley	0	0	1.74	1.73	0.01	0	1.31	0.04	0	131.91	0.27	0.58
Camerton	0	1.51	0.34	0.28	0.06	0	0	0.09	0.04	145.06	0	0.29
Charlcombe	1.78	0	29.24	20.51	8.73	0	46.06	0	0	32.41	0.13	22.81
Chelwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133.6	0.14	0
ChewMagna	0	0	0.47	0.36	0.11	0	1.32	0.03	0.02	588.29	0.68	12.19
ChewStoke	0	0	0.23	0.11	0.12	0	2.51	0.06	0	589.75	0.41	12.5
Claverton	0	0	0	0	0	0	59.71	0	0	217.5	0.28	0
Clutton	0.43	0	0.19	0.12	0.07	0	1.16	0.13	0	302.56	0.6	0.32
Combe Hay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104.51	0	0.17
Compton												
Dando	0	0	0	0	0	0	56.72	0	0	15.97	0.39	0
Compton												
Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	590.91	0.28	0
Corston	0	0	1.03	0.67	0.36	0	73.01	0.06	0.01	161.53	0.38	0
Dunkerton	0	0	2.44	1.84	0.6	0	1.08	0.05	0	99	0.27	0.17
East Harptree	0	0	1.74	1.04	0.64	0.06	0	0.08	0	86.24	0.26	0.34
Englishcombe	0	0.55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29.74	13.18	0
Farmborough	0.96	0	2.15	1.57	0.51	0.07	0	0.07	0	16.25	0.39	0.87
Farrington												
Gurney	2.01	0	2.26	1.03	1.23	0	0.07	0.13	0	0	0.43	0.11
Freshford	0	0.35	0	0	0	0	0	0.03	0	127.38	0.35	0.22
High Littleton	0.12	0	1.5	0.81	0.69	0	0	0.09	0	201.88	0.74	0.41
Hinton Blewett	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	0.37	0
Hinton												
Charterhouse	0	0	2.04	1.92	0.1	0.02	2.11	0.05	0	4.33	0.45	0
Kelston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150.63	0.3	0
Keynsham	1.74	3.87	18.21	15.3	2.91	0	88.73	1.03	0.14	158.69	2.2	27.83
Marksbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.09	0	50.4	0.34	0
Midsomer												
Norton	0.59	0.21	4.91	3.66	1.25	0	7.44	0.74	0.31	37.85	1.91	15.38
Monkton												
Combe	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.26	0	0	194.37	0.47	25.56
Nempnett												
Thrubwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	0	120.23	0.19	0
Newton St Loe	0	0	0.29	0.22	0.07	0	2.86	0.04	0	190.32	0.36	14.95
North Stoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	38.6	0	0	138.84	0	0
Norton												
Malreward	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.1	0	0	0	0.23	0
Paulton	0.15	0.13	5.11	5.03	0.08	0	10.24	0.11	0.13	110.22	1.37	2.06
Peasedown St John	1.4	0.52	3.9	3.9	0	0	4.61	0.25	0.05	123.14	1.86	1.82
Priston	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.58	0	0	41.73	0.37	0
Publow	0.4	0	1.93	1.93	0	0	3.84	0.04	0	32.92	0.58	0
Radstock	0.59	1.51	5.66	4.36	1.3	0	1.86	0.76	0.11	69.32	1.8	14.75
Saltford	0.44	0.08	3.57	0.91	2.66	0	71.92	0.19	0	155.7	0.27	1.55
Shoscombe	0	0	1.35	1.21	0.14	0	0	0.06	0	0	0	0.46
Southstoke	0.31	0.77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105.65	0.17	0
Stanton Drew	0.42	0	0.32	0.25	0.07	0	0	0.08	0	100.68	0.33	0.54
St Catherine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	163.05	0	0
Stowey Sutton	0	0	1.14	1.07	0.07	0	2.41	0.07	0	688.97	0.38	0.56
Swainswick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	156.29	0.47	0.06
Timsbury	0.83	1.61	2.52	1.6	0.91	0.01	0	0.15	0.07	103.15	0.52	2.6
Ubley	0	0.72	0.11	0	0.11	0	0	0	0	116.35	0.26	0
Wellow	0	0	0.83	0.83	0	0	0	0.13	0	107.06	0.35	0.18
Westfield	0.27	0.78	3.12	1.89	1.2	0.03	0.24	0.16	0.14	66.9	1.8	6.63
West Harptree	0	0.32	0	0	0	0	0	0.05	0	603.15	0.6	0
Whitchurch	0.25	0.34	0	0	0	0	71.69	0.07	0	0	1.02	0.84
Total	35.00	52.38	187.56	150.69	34.97	1.90	667.52	9.51	4.19	8619.40	69.47	302.52

Table 10 Existing provision of open space (ha/1000 population) in parishes

PARISH	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Bath	0.23	0.42	0.96	0.83	0.11	0.02	1.33	0.05	0.03	4.98	0.35	1.52
Bathampton	0.41	0.49	0.27	0.19	0.08	0	37.25	0.04	0	154.12	0	0.16
Batheaston	0	0.21	0.31	0.19	0.12	0	0	0.04	0.03	123.92	0.31	0.06
Bathford	0.89	0.29	1.27	1.03	0.24	0	1.64	0.03	0.01	72.42	0.3	0.46
Cameley	0	0	1.35	1.34	0.01	0	1.01	0.03	0	102.1	0.21	0.45
Camerton	0	2.31	0.52	0.43	0.09	0	0	0.14	0.06	221.47	0	0.44
Charlcombe	4.22	0	69.29	48.6	20.69	0	109.15	0	0	76.8	0.31	54.05
Chelwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	902.7	0.95	0
ChewMagna	0	0	0.41	0.31	0.1	0	1.15	0.03	0.02	512	0.59	10.61
ChewStoke	0	0	0.23	0.11	0.12	0	2.53	0.06	0	595.11	0.41	12.61
Claverton	0	0	0	0	0	0	519.22	0	0	1891.3	2.43	0
Clutton	0.27	0	0.11	0.07	0.04	0	0.72	0.08	0	188.86	0.37	0.2
Combe Hay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	710.95	0	1.16
Compton Dando	0	0	0	0	0	0	97.96	0	0	27.58	0.67	0
Compton Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1163.21	0.55	0
Corston	0	0	2.09	1.36	0.73	0	147.79	0.12	0.02	326.98	0.77	0
Dunkerton	0	0	4.87	3.67	1.2	0	2.15	0.1	0	197.21	0.54	0.34
East Harptree	0	0	2.69	1.61	0.99	0.09	0	0.12	0	133.91	0.4	0.53
Englishcombe	0	1.73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93.52	41.45	0
Farmborough	0.93	0	2.08	1.52	0.49	0.07	0	0.07	0	15.7	0.38	0.84
Farrington Gurney	2.23	0	2.51	1.14	1.37	0	0.08	0.14	0	0	0.48	0.12
Freshford	0	0.64	0	0	0	0	0	0.05	0	231.18	0.64	0.4
High Littleton	0.06	0	0.71	0.38	0.33	0	0	0.04	0	95.95	0.35	0.19
Hinton Blewett	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	321.43	1.2	0
Hinton Charterhouse	0	0	3.96	3.73	0.19	0.04	4.1	0.1	0	8.41	0.87	0
Kelston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	607.38	1.21	0
Keynsham	0.11	0.25	1.17	0.98	0.19	0	5.67	0.07	0.01	10.15	0.14	1.78
Marksbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.23	0	126.95	0.86	0
Midsomer Norton	0.05	0.02	0.44	0.33	0.11	0	0.68	0.07	0.03	3.44	0.17	1.4
Monkton Combe	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.69	0	0	350.85	0.85	46.14
Nempnett Thrubwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.06	0	679.27	1.07	0
Newton St Lo	0	0	0.5	0.38	0.12	0	4.92	0.07	0	327.57	0.62	25.73
North Stoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	536.11	0	0	1928.33	0	0
Norton Malreward	0	0	0	0	0	0	12.6	0	0	0	0.93	0
Paulton	0.03	0.02	0.97	0.95	0.02	0	1.93	0.02	0.02	20.79	0.26	0.39
Peasedown St John	0.22	0.08	0.61	0.61	0	0	0.72	0.04	0.01	19.1	0.29	0.28
Priston	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.81	0	0	179.87	1.59	0
Publow	0.36	0	1.72	1.72	0	0	3.43	0.04	0	29.42	0.52	0
Radstock	0.1	0.27	1.01	0.78	0.23	0	0.33	0.14	0.02	12.33	0.32	2.62
Saltford	0.11	0.02	0.87	0.22	0.65	0	17.66	0.05	0	38.23	0.07	0.38
Shoscombe	0	0	3.05	2.73	0.32	0	0	0.14	0	0	0	1.04
Southstoke	0.67	1.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	229.67	0.37	0
Stanton Drew	0.53	0	0.41	0.32	0.09	0	0	0.1	0	127.93	0.42	0.69
St Catherine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.72	0	0	2363.04	0	0
Stowey Sutton	0	0	0.84	0.79	0.05	0	1.77	0.05	0	506.22	0.28	0.41
Swainswick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	589.77	1.77	0.23
Timsbury	0.32	0.61	0.96	0.61	0.35	0	0	0.06	0.03	39.31	0.2	0.99
Ubley	0	2.18	0.33	0	0.33	0	0	0	0	351.51	0.79	0
Wellow	0	0	1.57	1.57	0	0	0	0.25	0	202.38	0.66	0.34
Westfield	0.05	0.13	0.53	0.32	0.2	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.02	11.43	0.31	1.13
West Harptree	0	0.73	0	0	0	0	0	0.11	0	1373.92	1.37	0
Whitchurch	0.18	0.25	0	0	0	0	52.95	0.05	0	0	0.75	0.62
Average	0.20	0.30	1.06	0.86	0.20	0.01	3.79	0.05	0.02	48.93	0.39	1.72

5.4.3 Existing provision by Community Forum Areas

Table 11 Existing provision of open space (hectares) in Forum Areas

FORUM AREA	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Bath	18.57	37.58	85.68	73.9	10.07	1.71	118.12	4.42	3.07	445.97	30.97	135.38
Bathavon	4.31	3.53	38.37	27.95	10.4	0.02	120.61	0.52	0.1	702.55	18.51	65.19
Chew Valley	1.25	1.04	7.87	6.61	1.2	0.06	15.65	0.59	0.02	1101.4	5.43	15.01
Keynsham	3.39	4.29	24.97	18.45	6.45	0.07	178.38	1.51	0.15	374.99	5.12	31.09
Somer Valley	5.95	4.75	29.31	22.41	6.86	0.04	23.33	2.53	0.85	351.3	8.63	44.51
Total	33.47	51.19	186.2	149.32	34.98	1.9	456.09	9.57	4.19	2976.21	68.66	291.18

Table 12 Existing provision of open space (ha/1000 population) in Forum Areas

FORUM AREA	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Bath	0.21	0.42	0.96	0.83	0.11	0.02	1.33	0.05	0.03	5.02	0.35	1.52
Bathavon	0.37	0.3	4.24	2.39	0.89	0	10.33	0.04	0.01	60.17	1.59	5.58
Chew Valley	0.11	0.09	4	0.6	0.11	0.01	1.43	0.05	0	100.55	0.5	1.37
Keynsham	0.14	0.18	1.77	0.78	0.27	0	7.52	0.06	0.01	15.81	0.22	1.31
Somer Valley	0.15	0.12	1.77	0.55	0.17	0	0.57	0.06	0.02	8.58	0.21	1.09
Average	0.19	0.29	1.06	0.85	0.20	0.01	2.59	0.05	0.02	16.90	0.39	1.65

5.4.4 Summary of provision

The table below shows the differences in analysis between the wards, parishes and forum areas, as can be seen, for most typologies, the analysis of wards results in a higher total and average compared to the parishes and forum areas – the reason for this is that a number of open spaces cross ward boundaries, particularly in the Bath area, so are counted twice giving a higher quantity figure. This is less so with parishes and forum areas. Very few open spaces cross forum areas (only a small number of larger natural green spaces), therefore, these figures have been used as the basis for developing the open space standards.

Table 13 Summary of analysis by ward, parish and community forum

TOTAL	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Wards Total	33.99	55.44	212.28	175.27	34.98	2.03	659.17	9.74	4.19	6509.74	79.19	307.62
Wards Average	0.19	0.31	1.21	0.99	0.20	0.01	3.74	0.06	0.02	36.95	0.45	1.75
Parish Total	35.00	52.38	187.56	150.69	34.97	1.90	667.52	9.51	4.19	8619.40	69.47	302.52
Parish Average	0.20	0.30	1.06	0.86	0.20	0.01	3.79	0.05	0.02	48.93	0.39	1.72
Forum Area Total	33.47	51.19	186.20	149.32	34.98	1.90	456.09	9.57	4.19	2976.21	68.66	291.18
Forum Area Average	0.19	0.29	1.06	0.85	0.20	0.01	2.59	0.05	0.02	16.90	0.39	1.65

6.0 THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS

6.1 Introduction

Following the completion of the assessment of local needs and the audit of provision (the first two steps of this study), new standards of provision for open space are proposed below. This section explains how the standards for Bath & North East Somerset have been developed, and provides specific information and justification for each of the typologies where standards have been proposed.

The standards for open space have been developed in-line with the NPPF. Standards comprise the following components:

- **Quantity standards:** These are determined by the analysis of existing quantity, consideration of existing local and national standards and benchmarks and evidence gathered from the local needs assessment. It is important that quantity standards are locally derived and are realistic and achievable. The recommended standards need to be robust, evidence based and deliverable through new development and future mechanisms of contributions through on site provision and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- **Accessibility standards:** These reflect the needs of all potential users including those with physical or sensory disabilities, young and older people alike. Spaces likely to be used on a frequent and regular basis need to be within easy walking distance and to have safe access. Other facilities where visits are longer but perhaps less frequent, for example country parks, can be further away. Consideration is also given to existing local or national standards and benchmarks
- **Quality standards:** The standards for each form of provision are derived from the quality audit, existing good practice and from the views of the community and those that use the spaces. Again, quality standards should be achievable and reflect the priorities that emerge through consultation.

The standards that have been proposed are for **minimum guidance levels of provision**. So, just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards does not mean there is a surplus, as all such provision may be well used.

6.2 Allotments (and Community Gardens)

Table 14 *Summary of quantity and access standard*

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.3 ha/1000 population	960m (20 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

Quantity standard for allotments

Quantity:

- 75% 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 0.19 ha/1000;
- The BANES existing standard for allotments is 0.3 ha/1000;
- The household survey identified 42% of people felt there should be more allotments, however, 54% felt there are enough;
- Other consultation (e.g. Allotments Association) identified several areas where there are long waiting lists and an unmet demand for allotments;
- Council Officers have confirmed that there is a waiting list on all sites across the district
- Discussions with Council Officers highlight the need to at least maintain existing levels of provision, and seek additional provision through new development;
- The Council's adopted Local Food Strategy (Delivery Theme 1 iii 'Improve opportunities for community food growing') calls for 'increased provision of allotments and community food growing space to enable a wider number of people to realise the benefits of food growing';
- The propensity for higher density housing across the district is likely to increase demand for allotment plots.
- A minimum standard of 0.3 ha/1000 is proposed for analysing existing provision and for new provision.

Access standard for allotments

- Responses received in relation to acceptable travel times to allotments from the household survey identified a mix in responses, with 20% wanting allotments within 5 minutes, 25% within 10 minutes, 19% in 15 minutes, 15% up to 20 minutes, and 21% willing to travel more than 20 minutes;
- This suggests that there is a real mix in people's willingness to travel, and to some extent an acceptance that one may have to travel to reach an allotment;
- However, it is also interesting that of those respondents who use allotments, 70% of them walk there;
- 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 20 minutes' walk time (960 metres straight line walk) is proposed.

Quality standards for allotments

Few comments were received in relation to the quality of allotments, furthermore the information gathered in relation to allotments is more difficult to assess in comparison to other types of open space. The reason for this is twofold: Firstly, the number of people who actually use allotments is very low compared to the numbers who use other types of open space and, therefore specific comments related to the quality of allotments are less frequent; Secondly, the majority of allotments sites are locked, and the quality audit only allows for assessment against key criteria such as the level of cultivation and general maintenance, which is less comprehensive than the assessments of other open space.

For allotments, 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.
 - The provision of toilets (subject to consultation with site users and the landowner over maintenance).
 - Notice boards.
-

6.3 Amenity Green Space

Table 15 *Summary of quantity and access standard*

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
0.3 ha/1000 population from sites > 0.2ha	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time

Existing national or local standards

There is no national guidance suggesting a standard for the provision of Amenity green space. The Fields in Trust (FIT) 'Six Acre Standard' proposes casual or informal playing space should be provided within housing areas as part of the overall standard. This is equivalent to 0.4 – 0.5 ha/1000 population of informal space for play.

Quantity standard for Amenity green space

- Existing average level of provision in the study area is 0.29 ha/1000 population;
- The household survey identified that 41% of people felt there was a need for more informal open space areas, whilst 55% felt there were enough;
- Provision varies greatly with some areas having no provision or falling well below the average, and others far exceeding it;
- There is no strong need or justification for significantly increasing current levels of provision, therefore a minimum standard of 0.3 ha/1000 population is proposed;
- The minimum size of a space that will be considered acceptable and count towards open space provision is recommended to be 0.2 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.

Access standard for amenity green space

- Consultation identified people want spaces relatively close to home (45% less than 10 minutes and 28% up to 15 minutes), and that they access these spaces by foot (78%);
- Proposed standard in urban areas of 600 metres (12-13 minutes' walk time).

Quality standards for amenity green space

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, 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 (suitable for disabled access) along main desire lines (lit where appropriate);
- Be designed to ensure easy maintenance.

6.4 Parks and Recreation Grounds

Table 16 Summary of quantity and access standard

Quantity Standard	Access Standard
1.3 ha/1000 population for public and private provision	600 metres (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing national and local policies

Fields in Trust (FIT), previously known as the National Playing Fields Association promoted the Six Acre Standard of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) per 1000 persons, but with a specific provision of 1.6-1.8 hectares per 1000 persons of outdoor sports space (and 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision). The new FIT 'Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Sport and Play' also suggest similar overall levels of provision as a guide to local authorities, although FIT does accept the importance of developing locally researched standards. No standards have been developed specifically for outdoor gyms and fitness trails as these were not included in the initial scope of the study.

Quantity of parks, sport and recreation grounds

- Existing average level of provision in the study area is 1.06 ha/1000;
- There is an additional 2.59 ha/1000 of private sports space which includes a variety of uses (including Golf Clubs);
- The household survey identified the following in relation to this typology:
 - 67% of people felt there was enough local parks and recreation grounds;
 - 64% felt there were enough tennis courts and 72% for bowling greens;

- The existing average level of provision (1.02 ha/1000) falls below the FIT standards (1.6-1.8ha/1000), however, it is considered that increasing levels in line with the FIT standards is not deliverable in all areas;
- However, it is considered that a marginal increase of 1.3 ha/1000 population is achievable for publicly accessible parks and recreation grounds.

Access standard for parks, sport and recreation grounds

- 40% of people want facilities within 10 minutes of home, with a further 23% within 15 minutes;
- 75% of people walk to these facilities;
- Therefore, a standard of 600 metres (12-13 minutes' walk time) is recommended.

Quality standards for parks and recreation grounds

This type of provision was identified as the highest priority for improvement within the study area. 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 District councils, and that all new and improved provision seeks to meet these guidelines.

6.5 Play Space (children and youth)

Table 17 Summary of quantity and access standards

Typology	Quantity Standard	Access Standard
Children's Play Space	0.05 ha/1000 population	• 480m (10 minutes' straight line walk time)
Youth Play Space	0.03 ha/1000 population	• Youth Provision – 600m (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time)

Existing National and Local Policies

The FIT guidance recommends provision of 0.8 hectares per 1000 people for children's play of which around 0.3 hectares should be equipped provision. These standards have been criticised in recent years 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. An additional problem is that the current FIT guidance does not specifically cover the needs of most teenagers within the 'Standard Youth Provision'.

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 0.02 ha/1000 population;
- The household survey identified that 65% of people felt there sufficient children's play space, in contrast only 31% of people felt there was sufficient youth facilities, with 61% of people identifying a need for more;
- The youth survey 77% of young people agreed that there are enough play areas for younger children in their local area. A small majority (52%) thought that there was a need for more outdoor youth facilities and spaces for young people (13+) to meet in their local area;
- It is therefore recommended that existing levels of children's play facilities are maintained with a standard of 0.05 ha/1000, however, there is an increase in facilities for young people with a standard of 0.03 ha/1000.
- It should be reiterated that these are minimum standards for the 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.

Access standards for play

- The household survey identified that for children's play space around 50% of people want facilities within 10 minutes. For teenage facilities this figure was less with just over 32% of people stating 10 minutes, with a further 33% willing to travel up to 15 minutes;
- 75% of people walk to children's facilities, the figure for teenage facilities is less with 57% walking, the rest using other modes (car, bus, bike).
- The youth survey found that 81% of young people said that they would be prepared to walk further than normal to somewhere that had more to do and was more interesting.
- 72% of young people thought that it is more important to keep and improve their nearest open space facility/area than have a new more exciting area further away.

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

- Children's provision – 480m (10 minutes' straight line walk time), and
- Youth Provision – 600m (12-13 minutes' straight line walk time).

Quality standards for play

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

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

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 both 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 KIDS⁹ 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.

6.6 Natural Green Space

For Natural Green Space, there are a number of national standards recommended by Natural England and the Woodland Trust, which are summarised below.

6.6.1 Natural England Accessible Natural Green space Standards (ANGSt)

- 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 one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home.

6.6.2 Woodland Trust Access Standards

The Woodland Trust also produced access standards:

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

6.6.3 Local standards

⁹ 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.

For this purpose of this study, it is recommended that the analysis should include both the Natural England ANGSt and the Woodland Trust standards to identify current levels of provision and gaps.

It is also recommended that local standards are adopted for providing new levels of provision through new development. It is recommended that this provision is considered in tandem with provision of amenity green space in new development. The aim would be to provide guidance for development to provide amenity/natural green spaces which have both a recreational value and biodiversity value through native planting. There should be a move away from providing numerous small amenity grass area, to providing fewer, larger amenity/natural spaces in new development. This is reflected in the natural green spaces standards below:

Table 18 Summary of natural provision standards

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)		Access standard
	For assessing current and future provision	Requirement from new development	
Natural Green Space	ANGSt and Woodland Trust	1.30 to include natural and amenity green space	ANGSt and Woodland Trust

6.6.4 Quality of natural and semi-natural green space

Satisfaction levels with the quality of natural green space are above average, with over 60% of people in the household sample survey rating their quality as good or very good. 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.
- Experiencing wildlife

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. Further guidance in this regard should be included in appropriate SPDs.

6.7 Summary of open space standards

Table 19 *summary of open space standards*

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)	Access standard
Allotments	0.3	960 metres or 20 minutes' walk time
Amenity Green Space	0.3	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Parks and Recreation Grounds	1.3	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Children)	0.05	480 metres or 10 minutes' walk time
Play Space (Youth)	0.03	600 metres or 12-13 minutes' walk time
Natural Green Space	1.30 to include natural and amenity green space for new provision	ANGSt and Woodland Trust for analysing existing provision
Community Growing Spaces	None, but sites mapped	None
Historic Parks and Gardens	None, but sites mapped	None
Churchyards and Cemeteries	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed	None
Education	None, but sites mapped and quantity analysed	None

7.0 APPLYING LOCAL STANDARDS

7.1 Introduction

This part of the report uses the recommended standards to analyse provision across the study area. This section provides an overview of provision across the five 'study areas', with further detail being provided in the Green Space Area Profiles in part 2 of the report. This section includes:

Quantity analysis

The quantity of provision is assessed using the recommended quantity standards for each of the typologies where a quantity standard has been developed. Recommended standards are expressed as hectares of open space per 1000 people.

The quantity assessment looks at the existing levels of provision, then uses the recommended standard to assess the required level of provision. From this a calculation is made of the supply, which will either be sufficient or insufficient. Within this section, levels of provision are provided for each of the five study areas (further detail to the parish/ward level is provided in part 2 of the report).

For each typology, a table showing quantity analysis is shown, it provides:

- Existing provision (hectares);
- Required provision against the standards (hectares);
- Surplus or deficiency of Supply (hectares);

Access analysis

This section of the report provides analysis of the recommended access standards for each typology across the study area. The maps and analysis in this section are intended to be indicative, providing an overall picture of provision and highlighting any key issues across the study area.

However, the key to access analysis, is understanding the picture at a more localised level, therefore, maps showing local access provision are provided within the area profiles (part 2 of the report).

Quality analysis

This section of the report makes analysis of each typology across the study area – it highlights any common themes or issues that have arisen from the quality audit. Again, local recommendations are highlighted within the area profiles (part 2 of the report).

7.2 Application of quantity standards

7.2.1 Current supply against the B&NES standards

Table 20 shows the existing provision of open space in hectares for each typology for each of the five forum analysis areas. The figures for 'Park and Recreation Grounds' include a combination of the following three typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground;
- Outdoor Sport (Pitches);
- Outdoor Sport (Other);

Table 21 shows the required level of provision (in hectares), against the recommended standards.

Table 22 shows the supply of open space against the recommended standards. This is expressed in hectares and shows where there supply is sufficient or deficient.

A more detailed breakdown of quantity provision is shown for each of the forum areas in the green space area profiles in part 2 of the report.

Table 20 Existing provision of open space (hectares) in forum analysis areas

FORUM AREA	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Bath	18.57	37.58	85.68	73.9	10.07	1.71	118.12	4.42	3.07	445.97	30.97	135.38
Bathavon	4.31	3.53	38.37	27.95	10.4	0.02	120.61	0.52	0.1	702.55	18.51	65.19
Chew Valley	1.25	1.04	7.87	6.61	1.2	0.06	15.65	0.59	0.02	1101.4	5.43	15.01
Keynsham	3.39	4.29	24.97	18.45	6.45	0.07	178.38	1.51	0.15	374.99	5.12	31.09
Somer Valley	5.95	4.75	29.31	22.41	6.86	0.04	23.33	2.53	0.85	351.3	8.63	44.51
Total	33.47	51.19	186.2	149.32	34.98	1.9	456.09	9.57	4.19	2976.21	68.66	291.18

Table 21 Required provision of open space in forum analysis areas (hectares)

FORUM AREA	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space
Bath	26.66	26.66	115.52	4.44	2.67	88.86
Bathavon	3.5	3.5	15.18	0.58	0.35	11.68
Chew Valley	3.29	3.29	14.24	0.55	0.33	10.95
Keynsham	7.12	7.12	30.84	1.19	0.71	23.72
Somer Valley	12.28	12.28	53.23	2.05	1.23	40.95

Table 22 Supply of open space in analysis areas against the B&NES Standard (Ha/1000)

PARISH	Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Park and Recreation Ground (combined)	Park and Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sport (Pitches)	Outdoor Sport (Fixed)	Outdoor Sport (Private)	Play Space (Children)	Play Space (Youth)	Accessible Natural Green Space	Churchyards and Cemeteries	Education
Bath	-8.09	10.92	-29.84	-41.62	10.07	1.71	118.12	-0.02	0.40	357.11	30.97	135.38
Bathavon	0.81	0.03	23.19	12.77	10.40	0.02	120.61	-0.06	-0.25	690.87	18.51	65.19
Chew Valley	-2.04	-2.25	-6.37	-7.63	1.20	0.06	15.65	0.04	-0.31	1090.45	5.43	15.01
Keynsham	-3.73	-2.83	-5.87	-12.39	6.45	0.07	178.38	0.32	-0.56	351.27	5.12	31.09
Somer Valley	-6.33	-7.53	-23.92	-30.82	6.86	0.04	23.33	0.48	-0.38	310.35	8.63	44.51

7.3 Application of access standards

This section provides an overview of access to different types of open space typologies across the whole study area. The maps are intended to provide an overview and are for illustrative purposes only. More detailed maps by forum area are provided within the green space area profiles in part 2 of this report.

7.3.1 Access to open space in forum areas

Figure 7 Access to allotments (960 metres)

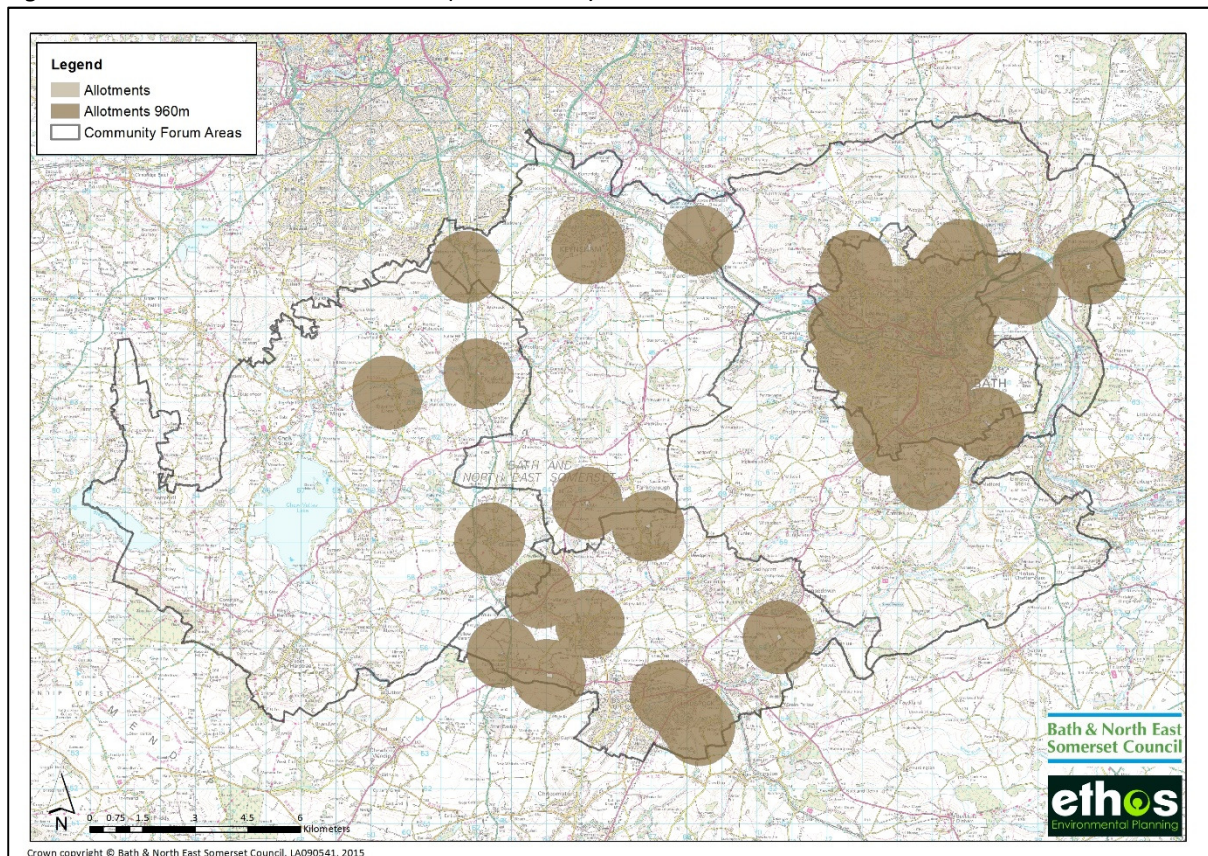


Figure 8 Access to amenity green space (600 metres)

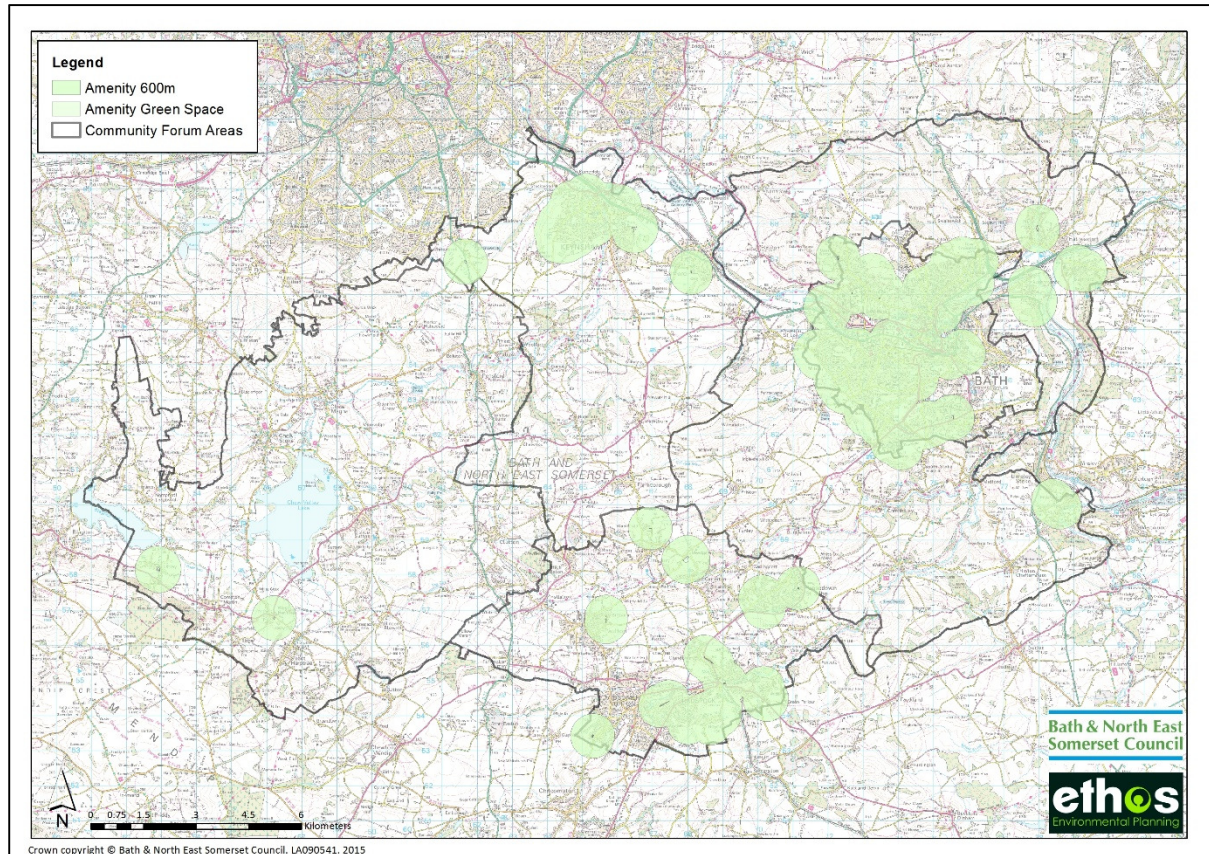


Figure 9 Access to parks and recreation grounds (600 metres)

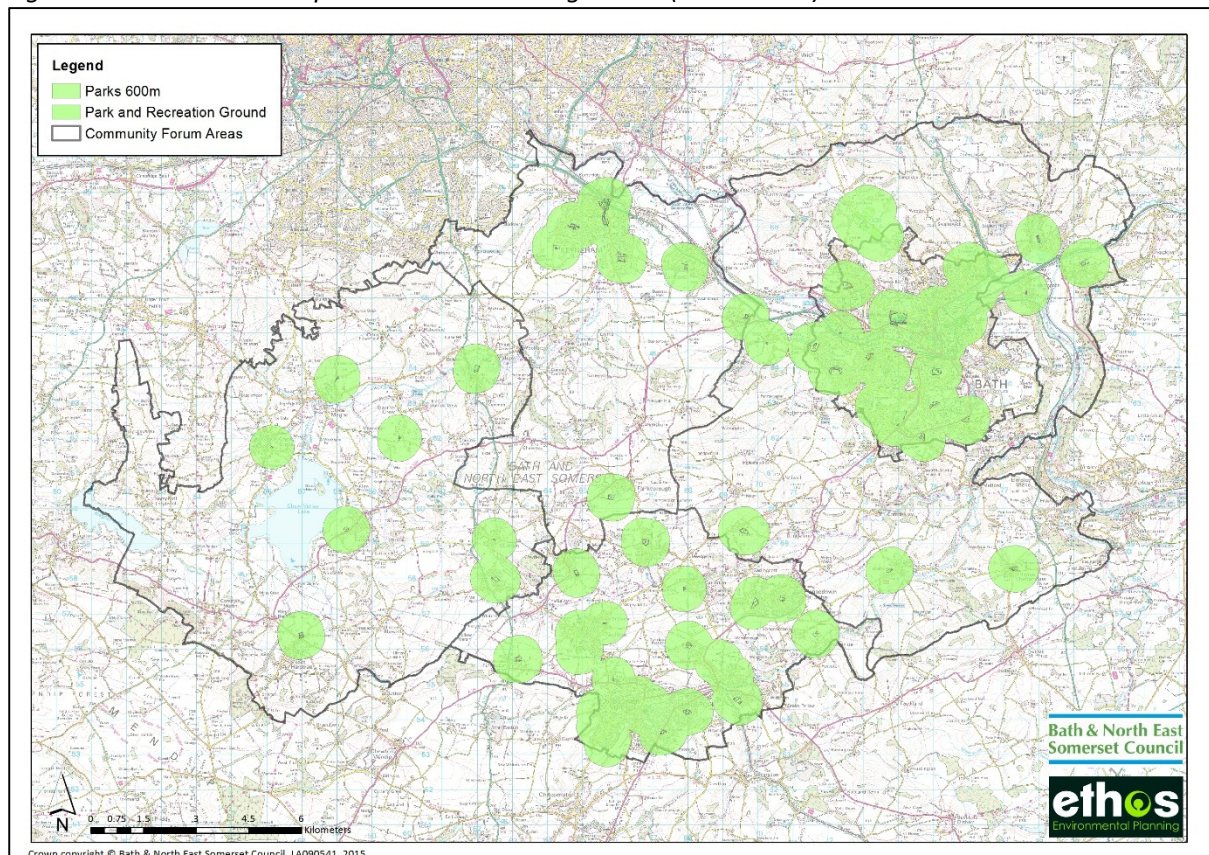


Figure 10 Access to children's play space (480 metres)

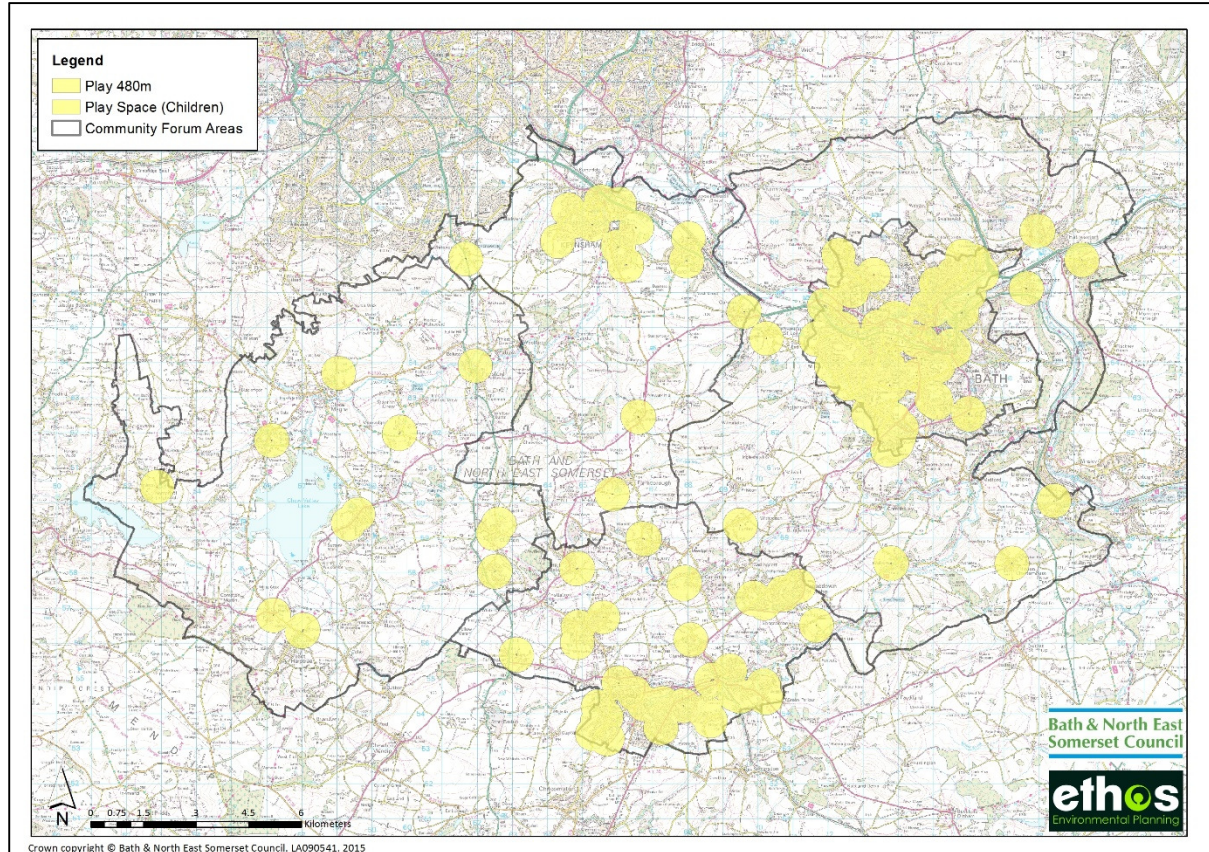
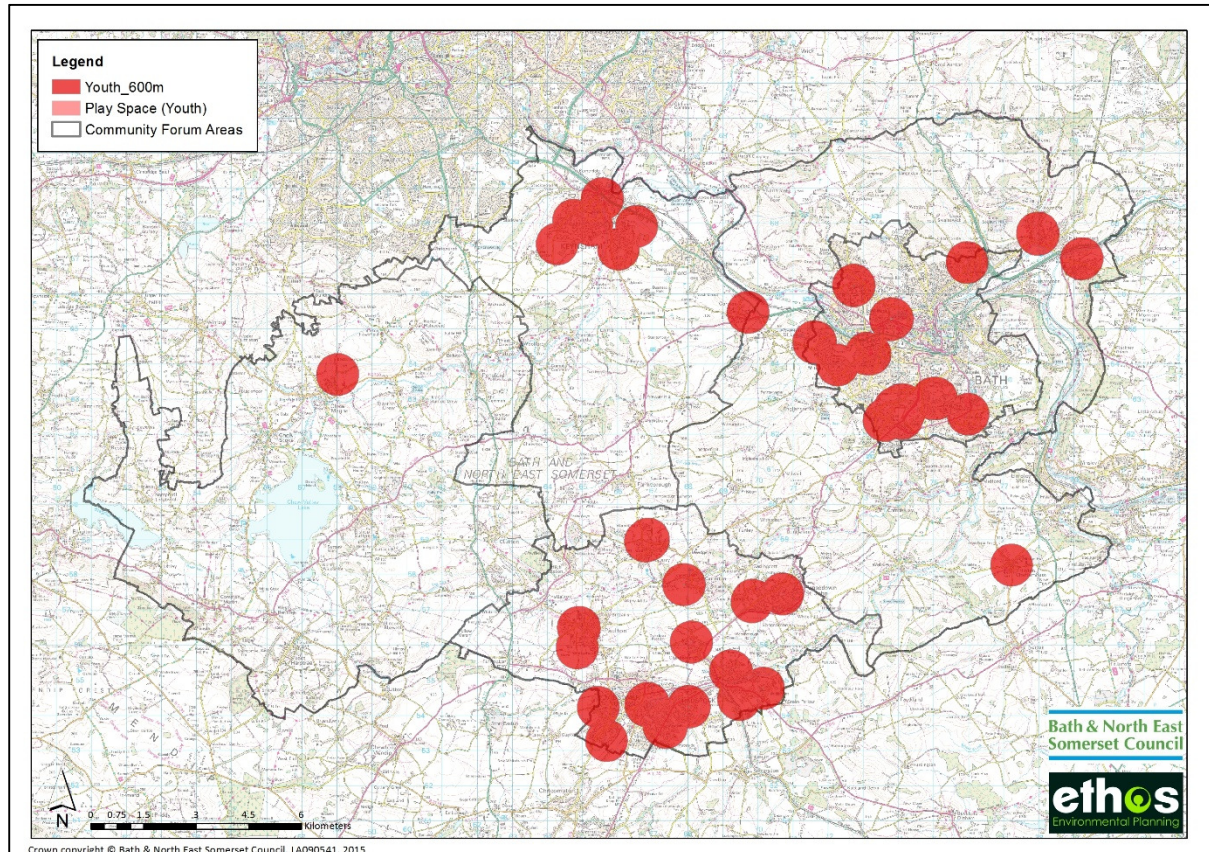


Figure 11 Access to youth play space (600 metres)



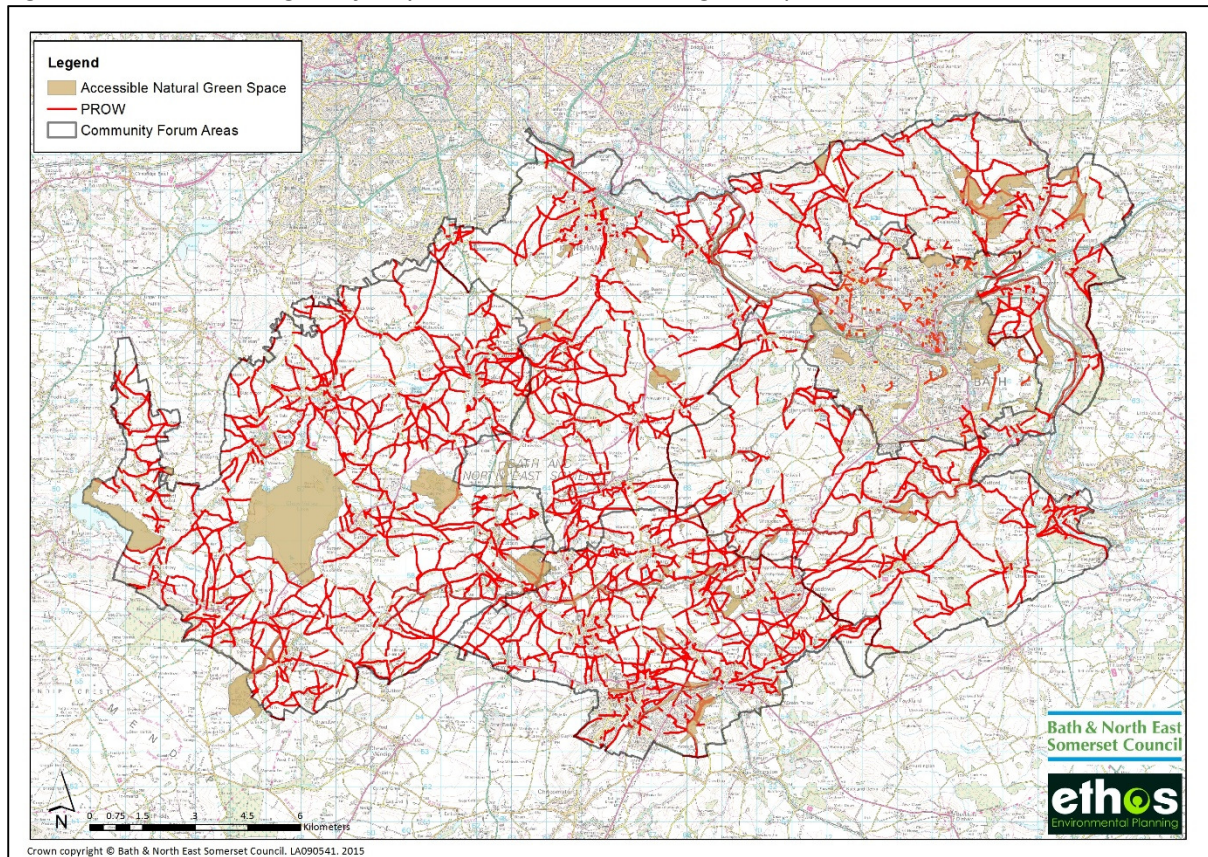
7.3.2 Application of standards (natural green space)

This section looks at the application of standards for natural green space, and also considers the provision of rights of way.

Access via the public right of way (PROW) network

Figure 12 below illustrates the provision of public rights of way (PROW) across B&NES in relation to accessible natural green space. As already identified (section 5.3), there is a large PROW network which provides access to the wider countryside. The focus of the assessment of natural green space has been on those sites where there is a defined site boundary with some form of public access. Figure 12 shows some areas are better provided for than others - this is covered in more detail within each of the 5 area profiles (part 2).

Figure 12 Public rights of way and accessible natural green space



Accessible Natural Green space Standards (ANGST)

The ANGST are:

- 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 one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home;

Figure 13 Access to 20 ha site within 2km

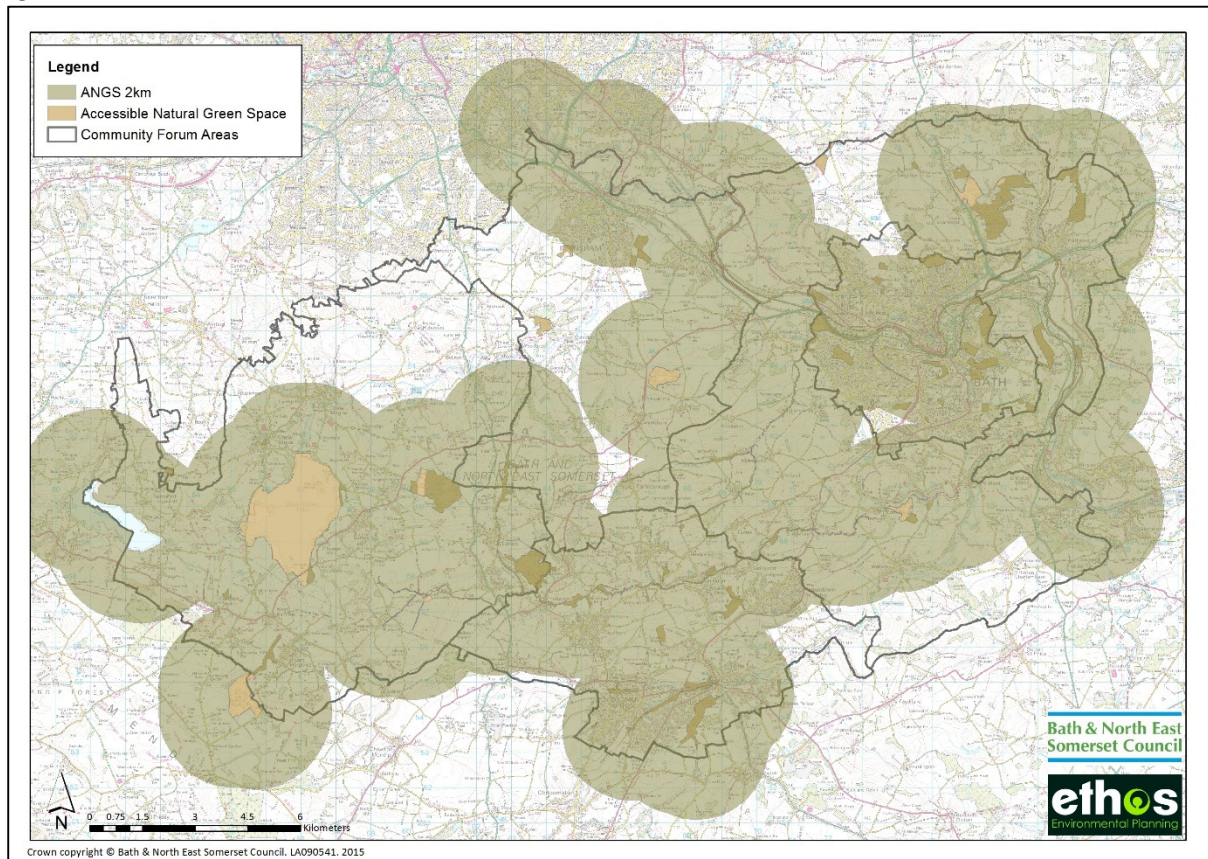


Figure 14 Access to 100 ha site within 5 km

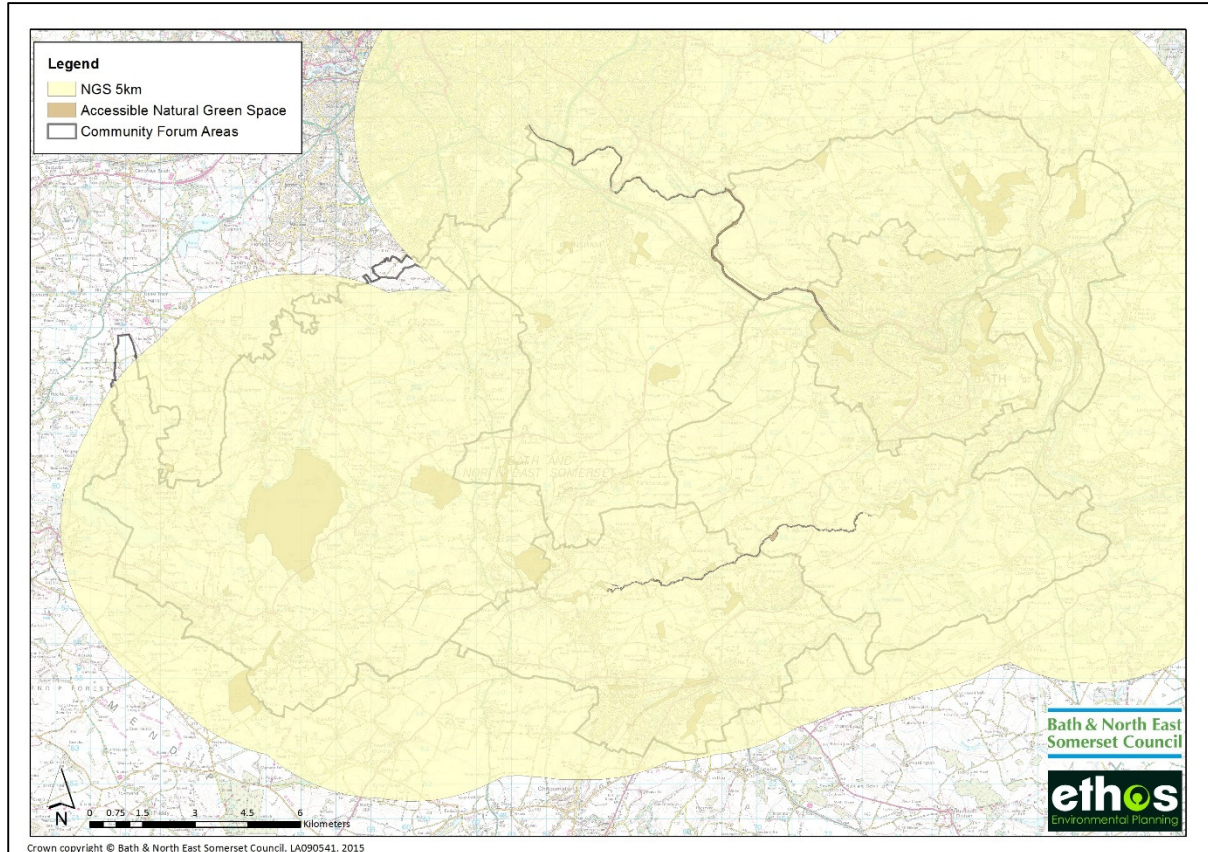


Figure 15 Access to 500 ha site within 10 km

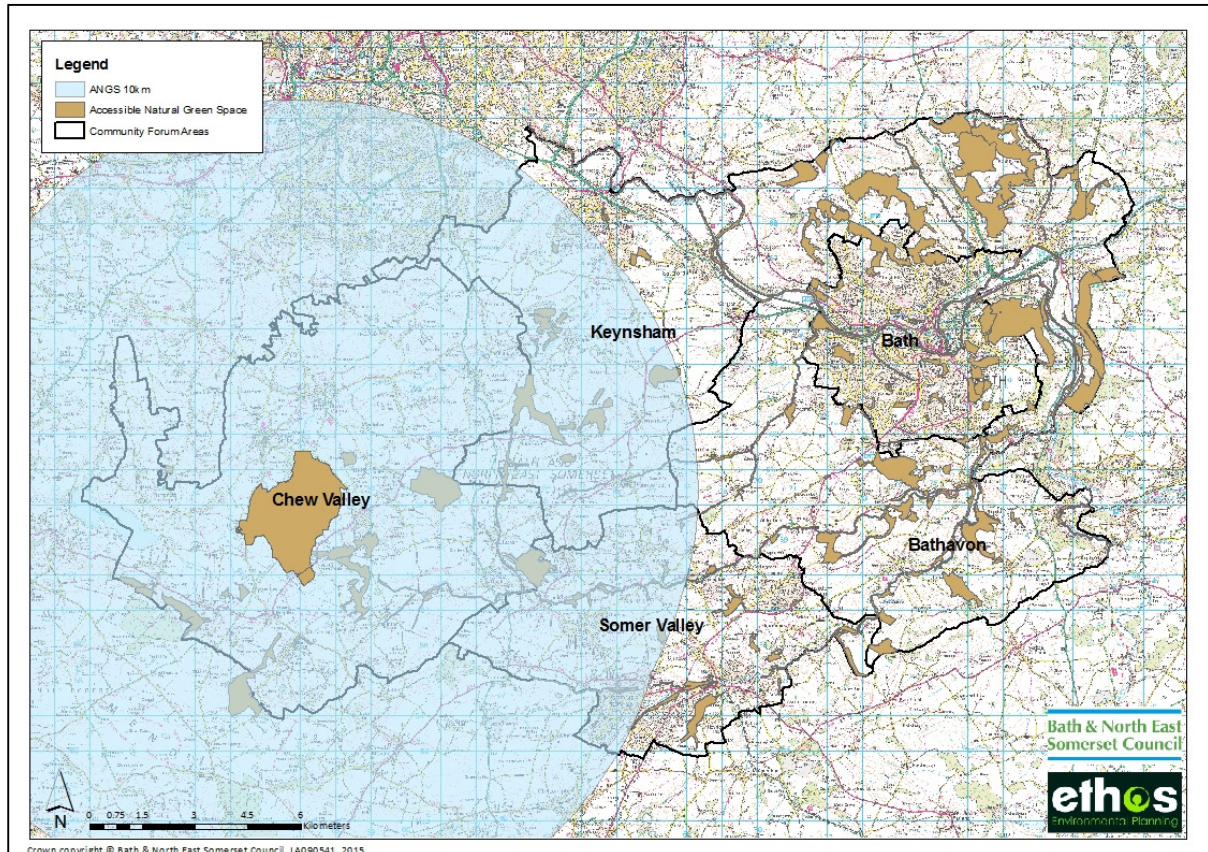
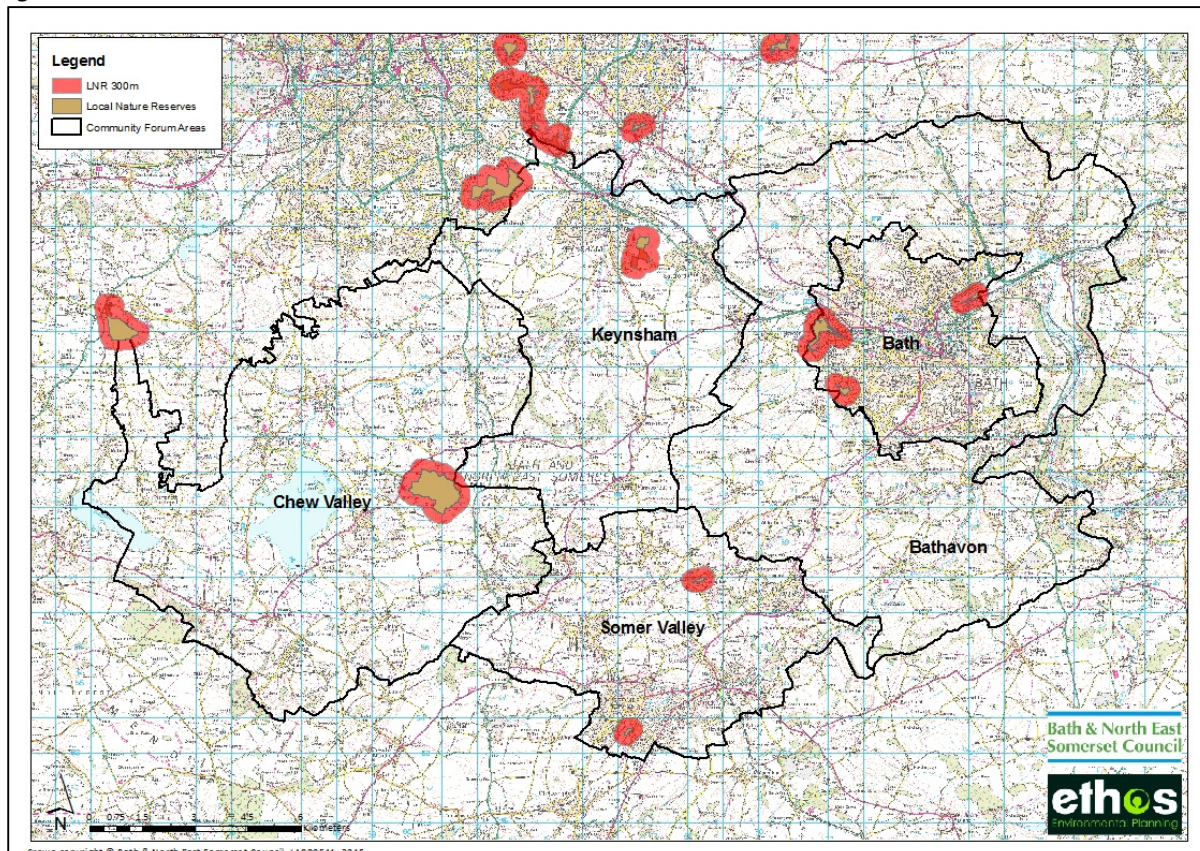


Figure 16 Access to Local Nature Reserves



As there are so few Local nature Reserves in the study area, figure 30 shows the location of each LNR with a buffer of 300 metres. As the map illustrates, there are significant deficiencies in attaining this standards across the study area.

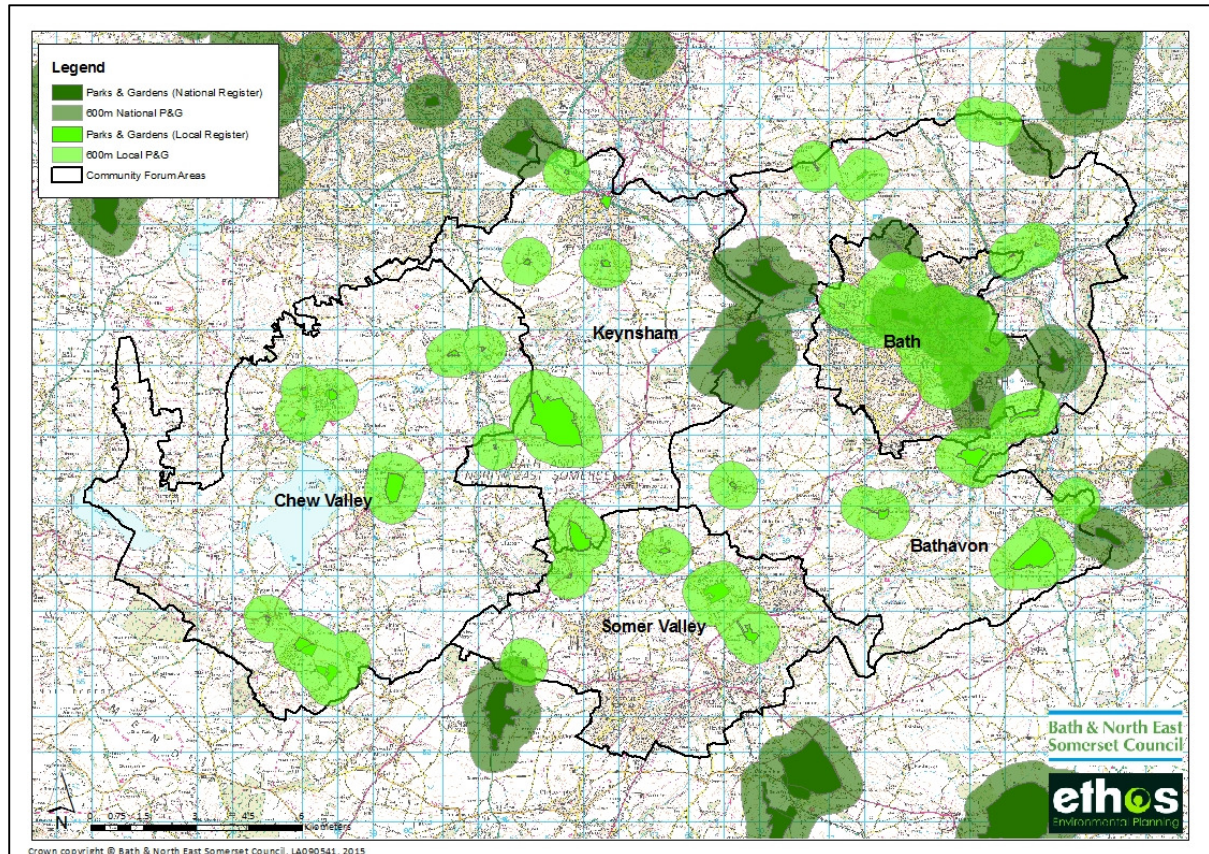
Table 23 Summary of access issues for natural green space

Standard	Key access Issues
ANGST:	
at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home	Standard met across the majority of the study area with gap only in north of Keynsham and Chew Valley forum areas
one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home	Standard met across study area
one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home	Provision restricted to Chew Valley Forum, with gap[s] across the whole eastern part of the study area
minimum of one hectare of statutory LNR's per thousand population at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home	Very little provision within the study area, therefore significant gaps with little real chance of fulfilling this standard

7.3.3 Provision and access to historic parks and gardens

This section provides an overview of the provision of historic parks and gardens. It includes maps of 'local parks and gardens' from the Council's Historic Environment Record and 'historic parks and gardens' from the national register. For the purpose of analysing access for illustrative purpose, the standards of 600 metres (12-13 minutes' walk time) has been used.

Figure 17 Access to local and national historic parks and gardens (600 m)

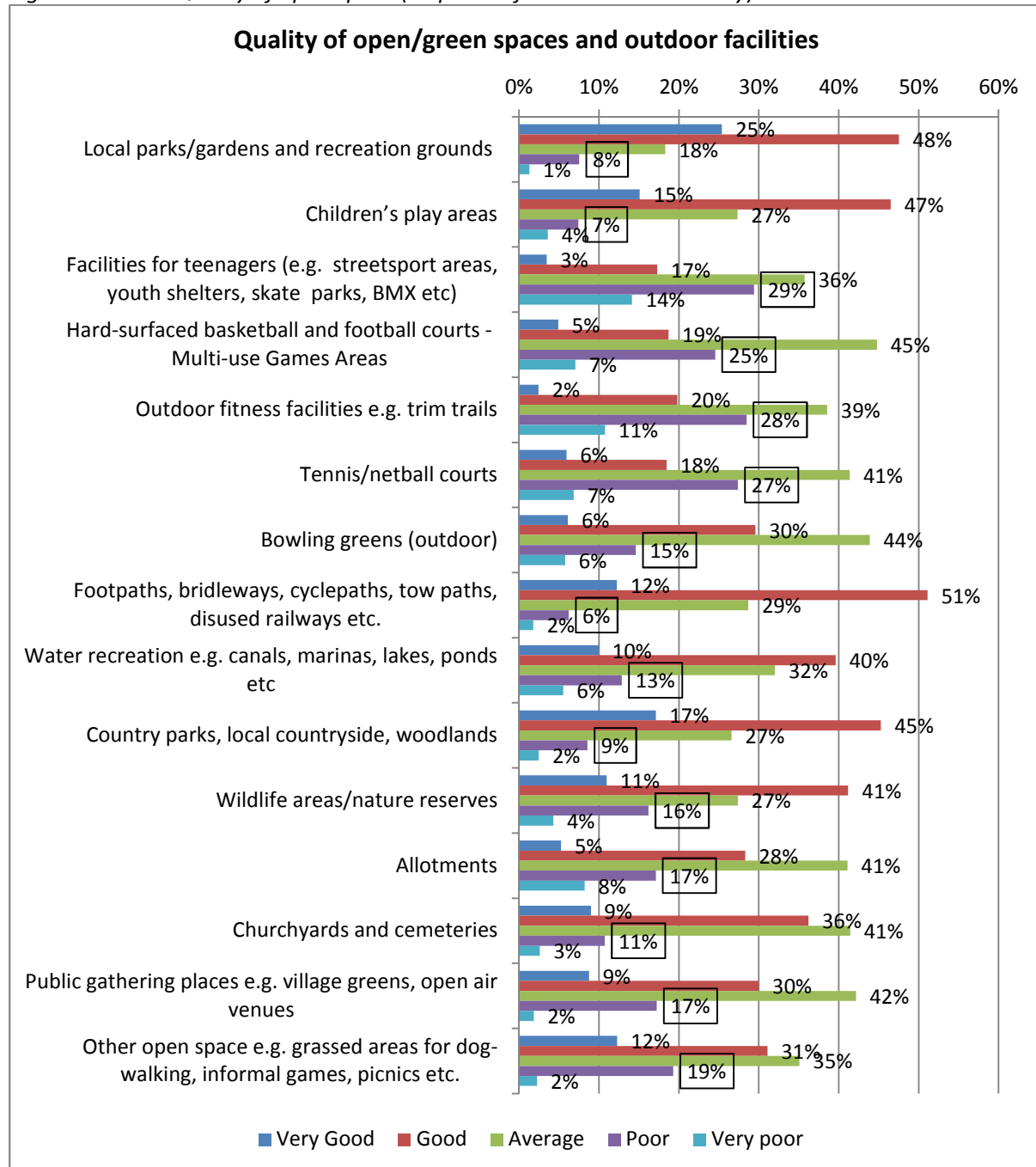


7.5 Application of quality standards

7.5.1 Quality of open space – consultation key findings

Respondents were asked how they rated various types of facilities in the study area in terms of quality. The responses of those expressing an opinion on specific categories of facility are illustrated below:

Figure 17 Quality of open space (responses from household survey)



- All facilities are rated average or better by a majority of households.
- Over 30% thought that in general the quality of teenage facilities, MUGAs, outdoor fitness facilities and tennis courts was poor or very poor.

- The high quality of parks and recreation grounds stands out notably, being viewed by around 73% of respondents as very good or good. Other kinds of open spaces where quality is widely thought to be good/very good by at least 60% of households are children's play areas; footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths; and country parks and accessible countryside/ woodlands.

7.5.2 Quality of open space – audit findings

The quality audit was undertaken at 500 sites across the study area. The details on the sites audited are provided in a quality audit database which has been provided as an electronic document as part of this study. The key findings and sites with most potential for improvements are highlighted in the green space area profiles (part 2 of this report).

8.0 STRATEGIC OPTIONS, POLICY & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out strategic options and policy recommendations for open space within B&NES. It draws on all the previous steps of the study to bring together informed recommendations, and addresses a number of specific requirements of the study brief.

8.1 Strategic Options

8.1.1 Introduction

This section outlines higher level strategic options which may be applicable at town, parish and study area wide level. The strategic options addresses four key areas:

- 1) Existing provision to be protected;
- 2) Existing provision to be enhanced;
- 3) Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space;
- 4) Identification of areas for new provision;
- 5) Facilities that may be surplus to requirement.

8.1.2 Delivering Strategic Options

Since the National Planning Policy Framework was issued in 2012, the move towards localism puts more focus on local authorities to work with local communities to make decisions and deliver services, rather than relying on national guidance. This will clearly impact how some of the recommendations in this study will be delivered.

Whilst the Local Authority will have an important role in delivering open space, sport and recreation facilities, their role may move from that of 'deliverer' to 'facilitator'. The aim will be to work with community organisations to make local decisions about how facilities and services will be provided. Organisations such as neighbourhood fora, residents groups, voluntary organisations, sports clubs and societies will all have a key role in this.

One of the emerging priorities from localism is for there to be much more local decision making with regards to planning, and for local communities to develop neighbourhood plans. Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities within neighbourhood plans, the information provided within the area profiles in this study will form a good basis to inform any decisions related to the provision of open space.

The following sections, consider the key issues for open space in the study area, and the recommendations that emerge need to be taken in context with the Localism Act and consider how they can fit into local decision making. With this agenda still relatively new, the following sections serve to highlight issues, but do not necessarily resolve how they may be delivered.

8.1.3 Existing provision to be protected

The starting point of any policy adopted by the Council should be that all open space should be afforded protection unless it can be proved it is not required.

Existing open space or sport and recreation facilities which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system are those which are either:

- Critically important in avoiding deficiencies in accessibility, quality or quantity and scored highly in the value assessment; **or**
- Of particular nature conservation, historical or cultural value.

The area profiles (part 2) of this study provide more detailed results at Community Forum level as to the above considerations. The following draws on this and makes some more general observations and recommendations.

Open Space Policy Recommendations (protecting open space):

- | | |
|------------|--|
| OS1 | The distribution of open space varies across the study area, however, there are identified shortages of at least 1 typology of open space in most areas. It is therefore recommended that priority is placed on protecting those open spaces where there is an existing shortfall of supply as highlighted in the area profiles. |
| OS2 | Sites which are critical to avoiding deficiencies, or making existing deficiencies worse, in quality, quantity or access should be protected unless suitable alternative provision can be provided which would compensate for any deficiencies caused. |
| OS3 | Sites which have significant nature conservation, historical or cultural value should be afforded protection, even if there is an identified surplus in quality, quantity or access in that local area. |
| OS4 | The importance of privately managed spaces (e.g. sports grounds) as a community facility has been highlighted in this study. Therefore it is recommended the above policies apply to both public and private open space protection. |

8.1.4 Existing provision to be enhanced

In areas where there is a quantitative deficiency of provision but no accessibility issues then increasing the capacity of existing provision may be considered. Alternatively, in areas where facilities or spaces do not meet the relevant quality standards, qualitative enhancements will be required.

The previous Green Space Strategy (2007) set out a hierarchy policy in order to help categorise the importance of sites (see Section 3 for more detail). Within this current study, the Destination and Neighbourhood hierarchy classifications have been taken forward, in

order to help identify priority sites for improvement, in combination with the results from the quality audit. It is recognised that Destination and Neighbourhood sites will attract people from a wider area, and therefore enhancements to these sites, rather than provision of new open space may be the preferred option. These hierarchy's have been considered in more detail within the 5 area profiles in section 2, and their importance is recognised in policy recommendation OS9 below.

This includes those spaces or facilities which:

- Are critically important in avoiding deficiencies in diversity, accessibility or quantity, **but**
- Scored poorly in the quality or value assessment.

Those sites which require enhancement are identified within the quality audit that was undertaken. Some of the key observations related to site enhancement include:

1. The importance of providing high quality provision and maintenance of formal facilities such as Parks and Recreation Grounds and Play Space.
2. The important role some open spaces play in serving the wider community and visitors to BANES e.g. Royal Victoria Park;
3. The role of private sports spaces to some local communities and the need to provide opportunity for investment.
4. The need to ensure high quality open spaces are designed and provided through new development where feasible.
5. The importance of rights of way and natural green space within the Study area, and the need to maintain and enhance provision for biodiversity.
6. The role of open space in contributing to wider initiatives and strategies, for example providing background information for B&NES' green infrastructure strategy.
7. Extending and enhancing the network of green infrastructure including the connectivity between sites and improved accessibility to existing sites.

Open Space Policy Recommendations (enhancing open space):

- | | |
|------------|---|
| OS5 | Future DPD's and Neighbourhood Plans should consider the opportunities for creating and enhancing a network of both utility and recreation routes for use by foot and bike in both urban and rural areas. Creative application of the amenity green space/natural green space components of the proposed overall standard in respect of new development should be explored. |
| OS6 | The study makes recommendations for improving the quality of open space across the study area. However, a long term strategy for achieving improvements is required which could be delivered through a Green space Strategy, neighbourhood plans and be considered within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. |
| OS7 | Priorities for improvement include the enhancement of the rights of way network and improving provision for teenagers. |

- | | |
|------------|---|
| OS8 | Management plans should be developed for the main parks, sport and recreation grounds. These priorities could be considered in neighbourhood plans and by the local community. |
| OS9 | Developer contributions for off-site improvements to open space will be targeted at open spaces within the immediate locality (e.g. parish or ward), and also allow for improvements of destination sites or neighbourhood parks within the wider area. |

8.1.5 Opportunities for re-location/re-designation of open space

In some areas it may be possible to make better use of land by relocating an open space or sport and recreation facility, especially if this will enhance its quality or accessibility for existing users, or use land which is not suitable for another purpose. This needs to be determined at a local level, considering the quality, quantity and access to facilities at neighbourhood level and in some cases across the study area.

Although it is up to local communities to define their own priorities within neighbourhood plans, the information provided within the area profiles in this study will form a good basis to inform any decisions related to the provision or replacement of open space, sport and recreation facilities. Some settlements may seek a consolidation of facilities on a single site, such as a new sports hub.

These decisions could include the spatial and investment plans for green space, and set the foundations for green space provision (e.g. for the next 20 years). They should outline where different types of facilities and space - such as children's playgrounds, sports pitches, young people's facilities etc. are to be located. It will also identify if any green space is no longer needed and its disposal or re use can be used to fund improvements to other spaces.

Each plan should apply the standards and draw on the recommended policies set out in this study and ensure that the significant investment anticipated for green spaces is prioritised with the help of stakeholders and communities. The standards agreed in this study can determine a minimum level of quality and quantity of green space provision and the maximum distance people should have to travel to access different types of green space.

The area profiles provided with this study provide information on the existing supply of different types of open space, an analysis of access and identify local issues related to quality. They will act as a good starting point for feeding into neighbourhood plans in consultation with the local community.

Open Space Policy Recommendations (relocating open space):

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| OS10 | Develop a pilot project within one of the towns to develop a neighbourhood plan which incorporates green space planning. |
|-------------|--|

8.1.6 Identification of areas for new provision

New provision will be required where there is a new development and a planned increase in population, and/or an existing deficiency in supply or access to facilities exists. The area profiles outline the existing situation with regards to supply and access to green infrastructure. As discussed, neighbourhood plans would form a good mechanism to determine exactly where new provision is required, however, this study can be used as the basis for decision making, as follows:

Quantity

Within the study report, for each typology, there is an identified 'sufficient supply' or 'under supply' for each of the urban and rural analysis areas. If an area has an existing under supply of any typology, there may be need for additional provision. This could be delivered through developing a new site (for example as part of a housing development), acquiring land to extend the site or changing the typology of an existing space (which may be in over supply).

The supply statistics should be used as part of the decision making process in development management to determine if a new development should provide facilities on-site or enhance existing provision through developer contributions.

The use of the quantity statistics should not be in isolation, and considered alongside the access standards.

Access

This study considers how access to different types of open space varies across parishes against the proposed standards. The maps show where there are deficiencies and potential over supply of facilities. This information can be used alongside the quantity statistics to determine if new provision or improved accessibility is required in an area. For example, if a new development is proposed, the maps should be consulted to determine if there is an existing gap in provision of a particular typology which could be met by the development.

Therefore, even though the quantity statistics may identify a sufficient supply of a particular typology, there may be gaps in access, and thus a new facility may still be required.

Delivering new provision

There are a number of opportunities for delivering new facilities through new development – developer contributions and to a lesser extent through capital and grant funding.

New development, CIL and developer contributions

B&NES Council have adopted their charging schedule and policy for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Many community needs and aspirations have a call on this levy.

This open space study clearly identifies that there are needs for new and /or enhanced open space provision, particularly where new development is planned.

Outside of CIL, new development will also be required to provide on-site open space in line with the standards outlined in this study. Whilst not all developments will be of a size that will generate the requirement for on-site open space, when considering future housing numbers for B&NES, there will be many that will. This study should be used to make local decisions about where and when new on-site provision will be required.

Capital and grant funding

Although the availability of capital and grant funding has diminished in recent years, nevertheless funding does become available for providing facilities for open space, sport and recreation. National and governing bodies for individual sports should be consulted where new infrastructure is required, such as changing rooms and sports pitches. Environmental grants and stewardship schemes are available for managing natural green space. As neighbourhood plans are developed and open space priorities are established within these, funding requirements will be identified and delivery through grant funding can be considered.

Open Space Policy Recommendations (new provision of open space):

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| OS11 | <p>New provision of open space will be required as part of new development in towns or parishes where there are existing deficiencies in quantity or access to open space and/or where the new development will result in deficiencies.</p> <p>Where on-site provision is required, it should be provided in line with the proposed open space standards. Where on-site provision is deemed impractical, or not required, consideration will be given to opportunities for off-site provision through pooling of S106 contributions in line with policy.</p> |
| OS12 | <p>The priorities for new provision are for teenage facilities and improving access to the countryside via the rights of way network.</p> |

8.1.7 Facilities that are surplus to requirement

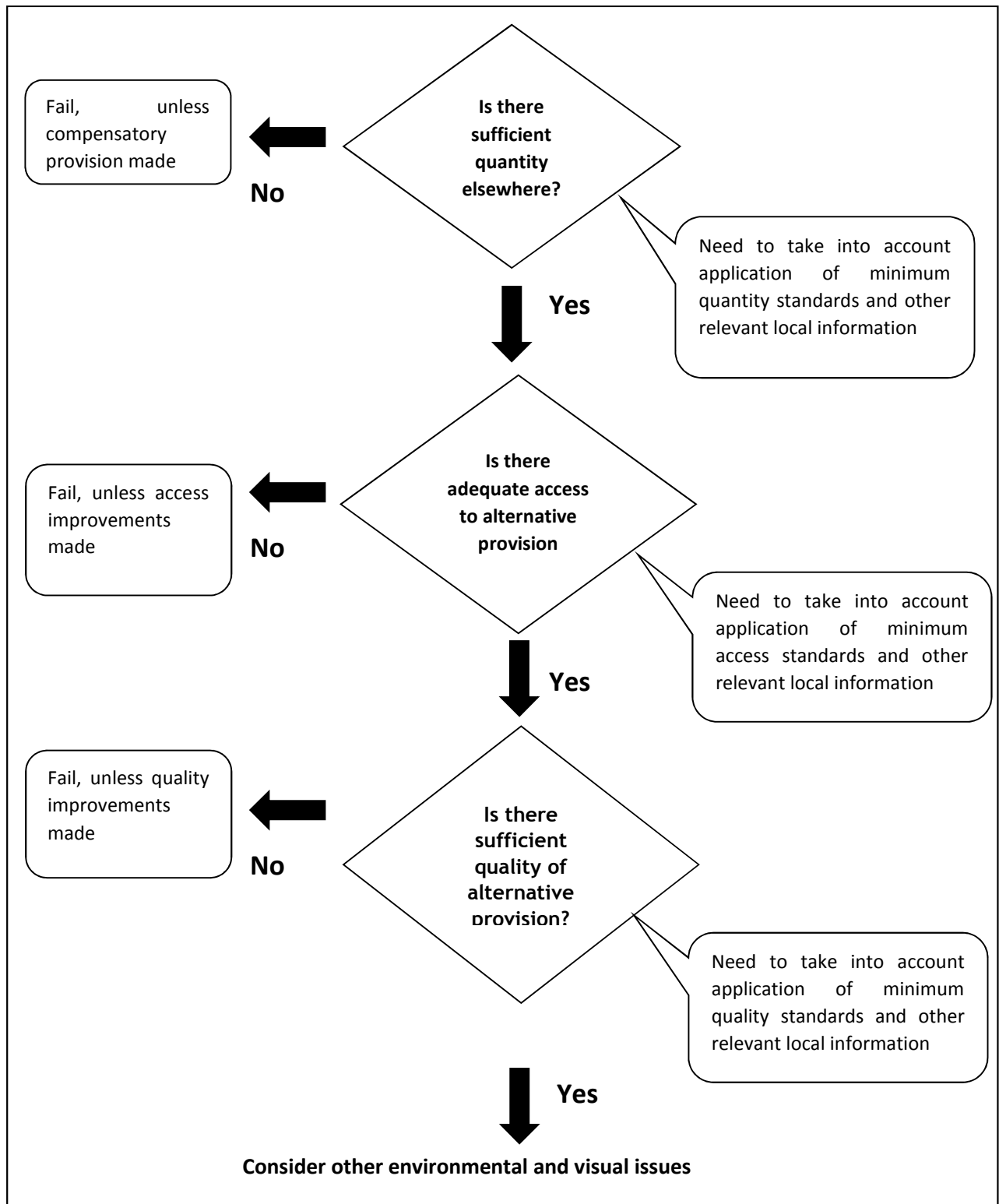
In addition to the strategic options outlined above, consideration should also be given to facilities that are surplus to requirement. There are important issues to resolve in terms of getting the correct balance of green infrastructure across the study area before any disposal can be contemplated. Whilst there is under provision relative to the minimum standards in several areas, there are other areas where provision compares favourably with the standards. However, it is once again emphasised that the proposed standards are for *minimum* levels of provision. Factors to be taken into account before any decision to release open space for alternative uses can be taken include:

- The local value and use of a given open space - as it may be a locally popular resource.

- Whether future local development/population growth might generate additional demands for open space.
- Whether there is a demonstrable need for some other type of open space within the locality that a given space (subject to a change of management regime) would be well placed to meet.
- Other non-recreational reasons that suggest a space should be retained (which might include ecological and visual reasons).

Figure 18 suggests an outline of the decision process that should be followed before the development of an open space can be seriously contemplated.

Figure 18 Outline decision making process in relation to sanctioning (re)development of open space



A hypothetical example of how this might be applied follows, and relates to an area of amenity open space.

Q. Is there sufficient quantity?

A. If the minimum quantitative standard for amenity green space is exceeded in a defined geographical area, the relative provision of other forms of open space must then be considered. (Amenity green space can in principle be converted into other forms of open space where the need arises). If a) provision meets the minimum quantitative standard; b) there is no significant local information suggesting a need to retain the site; and, c) there is not a perceived lack of other forms of open space. The next question can be addressed.

Q. Is there adequate access to alternative provision?

A. Within the defined geographical area there may be good overall provision of amenity green space relative to the quantity standard, but is it in the right place and can it be easily reached? Applying the accessibility component of the minimum standards will help to answer this question. If other similar open space cannot be easily reached, the site's disposal for other uses may be unacceptable.

Q. Are other accessible and similar opportunities elsewhere of sufficient quality?

A. If it can be demonstrated that alternative opportunities are sufficient both in quantity and accessibility, there may still exist issues with the quality of these alternative provisions. The quality component of the proposed standards may indicate that certain improvements to alternative opportunities must be made which should be funded and secured before development is sanctioned.

Even if these three tests are passed there may be other reasons for the site to remain as open space. For example, it may have value as a natural habitat or be visually important. Such considerations are important, but beyond the scope of this report.

8.2 Developer Contributions

This section draws on the policy recommendations in the previous section and outlines a process for calculating developer contributions for on-site provision and recommendations for management and maintenance procedures and costs.

8.2.1 Developer contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy

This section sets out higher level strategic recommendations and recommends an approach to developer contributions which can be used to inform policy for on-site contributions and to inform the feasibility for any off site investment proposed (through CIL or other external funding mechanisms).

1) *Capital cost of providing open space*

In order to calculate developer contributions for facilities, a methodology has been adopted which calculates how much it would cost the Local Authority to provide them. These costs have been calculated using local information, and have also been benchmarked against other Local Authorities costs for providing facilities. A summary of the costs are outlined in table 24 below (details of how the costs have been calculated are provided in an electronic spreadsheet – appendix 2).

Contributions towards the provision or improvement of open space are calculated using the capital cost of provision. The same charges apply to both provision of new facilities and the upgrading/improvement of existing facilities, which more often than not includes new provision. Contribution per person is therefore taken to be a reasonable measure of that impact, irrespective of whether new provision or improvement of existing facilities is required. The calculated costs have drawn on the standards of provision for urban areas, as this is where the majority of proposed growth is planned.

Table 24 Costs for providing open space

Typology	Standard (m ²) per person	Cost of provision	
		Cost / m ²	Contribution per person
Allotments	2.5	£30.00	£75.00
Parks and Recreation grounds	13	£72.00	£936.00
Play Space (Children's Provision)	0.5	£170.00	£85.00
Play Space (Youth Provision)	0.3	£170.00	£51.00
Amenity/Natural green space	13	£15.00	£195.00
Total	29.3		£1,342

This shows that it costs £1,342 per person to provide new open space to meet the B&NES standard for open space. These calculations are to be used to calculate developer contributions for on-site provision and where feasible any off site projects.

2) Maintenance Contributions for on-site provision

If a development is required to provide open space on-site, the developer would be expected to maintain the open space for a minimum period of 1 year. Developers will then be asked to maintain the new provision through a management company. It is expected that a management plan for the open space would be submitted and approved by the council as a planning condition.

If the developer does not wish to assume responsibility for maintaining the open space, the council may be willing to accept a commuted sum and make arrangements for management of the open space through the council or a third party. The amount payable for the commuted sum will be calculated using the figures in table 25.

Table 25 Maintenance sums payable for open space

Typology	Cost/m ² per annum
Play Space (Children's and Youth Provision)	£4.23
Parks, Sport & Recreation Grounds	£4.23
Amenity and Natural Green Space	£1.20
Allotments	£1.00

The figures in table 25 show how much it costs to maintain open space per metre squared. The figures match those used in B&NES 2015 Planning Obligations SPD and have been based on RPI indexed calculations from grounds maintenance figures calculated for the 2006 Green Spaces Strategy. Further information can be obtained from Bath and North East Somerset's Parks Projects Manager.

3) Eligible types of development for on-site provision

Table 26 outlines the type of housing that will be considered eligible for making contributions towards open space to meet the needs of future occupants.

Table 26 Eligible types of residential development

Category	Open Market Housing / Flats	Affordable Housing *	Housing for the active elderly	Permanent mobile homes
Play Space	✓	?	×	✓
Outdoor Sports Space	✓	?	✓	✓
Parks and Gardens	✓	?	✓	✓
Amenity Open Space	✓	?	✓	✓
Natural Green Space	✓	?	✓	✓
Allotments	✓	?	✓	✓

[* Should recognise that affordable housing generates a need for new green infrastructure, but it is a policy decision as to whether GI contributions should be provided]. Includes agricultural workers' dwellings. Excludes extensions (for administrative reasons)
Excludes replacement dwellings and nursing houses types.

4) *Thresholds for provision*

The required open space, sport and recreation facilities can be provided by on-site provision, or through CIL (if included in adopted policy). Where facilities are to be provided on-site, the Council will expect the developer to provide the land for the facility and either:

- Design and build the provision to the satisfaction of the Council; or
- Make a financial contribution to the Council so that it may arrange for the construction and development of the required facility.

The decision on whether facility provision is to be on-site, off-site or both depends on the following considerations:

- The scale of the proposed development and site area;
- The suitability of a site reflecting, for example, its topography or flood risk;
- The existing provision of facilities within the neighbourhood and/or the sub area;
- Other sites in the neighbourhood where additional provision is proposed;
- Existing access to facilities within the neighbourhood and/or sub area.

Table 27 provides a guide to assess which scales of housing generate a need for facilities in the categories listed to be provided on-site. For developments 20 – 49 dwellings the minimum size of amenity green space or parks, sports and recreation grounds is 0.1Ha. For developments of over 50 dwelling the minimum will be 0.2Ha.

Table 27 Requirements for open space

Type of Provision	1-19 dwellings	20-49 dwellings	50-99 dwellings	100+ dwellings
Allotments	X	X	✓	✓
Amenity/Natural Green Space	X	✓	✓	✓
Parks and Recreation Grounds	X	✓	✓	✓
Play Space (children)	X	X	✓	✓
Play Space (Youth)	X	X	✓	✓

KEY: ✓ on-site provision normally sought
 X off-site provision normally required

9.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The information contained in this strategy provides a solid snapshot of the status of green spaces in Bath and North East Somerset in 2015, a suit of policy recommendations and a methodology for interpreting and informing the needs for these assets in the coming years.

Further information on the recommendations for each of the community forum areas and Bath) is provided within each of the five area profiles which forms Part Two of this report.

This work will provide the background for delivering the following set of objectives for green spaces until 2029:

Bath and North East Somerset's green spaces will:

- Be managed sustainably
- Deliver spaces which help support fit and healthy communities
- Encourage communities to explore their green infrastructure through a connected green grid
- Support communities to connect with their green spaces
- Enhance the unique and beautiful landscape of the district
- Reveal and celebrate the unique local heritage
- Help mitigate the impacts of climate change and pollution
- Showcase excellence

The next steps will be to use this information to help develop more detailed action plans for managing the existing and future asset for the next 15 years throughout the district. These action plans will help direct external funding (such as developer's contributions) towards those locations where investment is most needed - to build a resilient and effective asset. Managing this asset effectively will also depend on a range of other factors, such as financial challenges and opportunities, political priorities and public aspirations, and external threats and challenges - all of which will need to inform strategic plans.

Working with other key strategic developments (such as the Green Infrastructure, Fit For Life and transport strategies), this current piece of work will be used to develop a series of action plans which in turn will inform delivery at a more local level - through management and site plans for parks and green spaces. Working in partnership will be key to developing and delivering these plans effectively: partnership between different services within the authority and with other authorities; with existing and new partners in the public and private sectors; and with the communities that B&NES serves.

Parks and green spaces will also need to work harder than ever in the next 15 years, and additional work is now needed to develop action plans to ensure that resources can best be allocated, that opportunities for cost saving and income-generation are realised and that expectations are understood and met.
