

Mansfield District Council

Local Plan (2013-2033)

Community Open Space Assessment



May 2018

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Mansfield
District Council



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1 Overview

1.1 Outdoor recreation and sport are considered essential activities underpinning people's physical and emotional health and well-being. Increasing emphasis towards healthier lifestyles supports the need to provide safe and easy access to green space close to where people live. Providing a good balance of different types of open spaces (e.g. for formal sport, walking, socialising, play and quiet contemplation) can help ensure that people have access to a range of provision to enrich their lives.

1.2 In addition to their recreational uses, community open spaces contribute a wide range of benefits. Ensuring that these spaces are of good quality can contribute positively to:

- enhancing the character and appearance of the local environment, softening harsh urban views
- preserving and enhancing our local and national heritage
- supporting wildlife
- improving our physical and mental well being and
- improving resilience to climate change, significantly helping lower the urban heat effect and acting as 'green sponges' during times of flooding.

In order to ensure that the district's community open spaces contribute positively to supporting the health and well being of its residents, it is important to understand if and how existing and, where possible, future provision can support this. This includes making sure that these spaces are of high quality, safe and accessible. This approach is supported by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012).

It is expected that as the district grows, so too will the need for open space. Where need exists, new residential development, independently and cumulatively, can help contribute the creation of new open space and/or the upgrading of existing open space and its facilities. To a lesser extent, other sources of investment, where and when available may also help contribute to improvements.



Community open space (definition)

Any land used for the purposes of public recreation and is available for community use and enjoyment in a variety of ways, regardless of ownership. Community open spaces support formal sport and play and/or informal activities (e.g. walking, cycling and relaxation). These include local parks and recreation grounds, amenity and memorial spaces, natural green spaces, and larger district (i.e. destination) parks and recreation grounds.

Most community open spaces have some element of greenness (e.g. grassed area, trees, landscaping, etc.), but can also include hard-standing areas (play areas, multi-use games areas, civic spaces, etc.); the ratio of these vary according to the type of open space. The words *green* and *open spaces* are used interchangeably in this document. They both refer to community open spaces.

For open space to encourage healthy lifestyles, it must be of a suitable size and nature to encourage a mix of recreational uses and interests, for example: sport, active or passive recreation, and/or play provision meeting a range of ages and abilities. Where new open space is created, identified local need(s) and who the development caters for will likely influence the size and design of the open space.

In relation to this study, open spaces may contain community orchards or formal gardens, but not allotments as these are addressed in separately. Incidental spaces necessary to screen development or for road safety are not considered as community open space. Unless part of a wider green corridor, grass verges along roads or cycle routes also don't count as community open space.

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) can positively contribute to the setting of open space but this depends on how these are designed, the nature of the SuDS and how the open space is designed to address safety needs. A SuDS, in itself is not considered to act as community open space.

Picture 1.1 Carr Bank Park



1.1 About this document

1.3 This document is important evidence underpinning the Mansfield District Council Local Plan (2013 to 2033) and the Mansfield District Council Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. It is written in response to the need to review the district's existing open space provision in relation to identifying needs for now and the future. It responds to the requirement in the National Planning Policy Framework to assess the need for community green and open spaces on a local (district) level. In doing so, it draws upon National guidance, local knowledge, the health and well-being agenda, and district and community needs. As such, this assessment is an important evidence document underpinning the Mansfield District Council Local Plan (2013-2033).

1.4 The main functions of this document are listed below (1 to 5):

1. Establishes an understanding the district's existing provision:
 - a. what types of open spaces there are and where these are located
 - b. what is the quality of these spaces
 - c. how close are these open spaces in relation to where people live and if they are accessible, and
 - d. what are some of the wider roles that open spaces provide (e.g. minimising flood risk).



2. Reviews current policy (1998 adopted local plan) and makes revision recommendations.
3. Provides a locally-based approach for assessing and identifying quantitative and qualitative gaps, deficits and surplus in open space provision based on:
 - a. community, elected member and officer feedback
 - b. future growth and
 - c. review of national benchmarks, best practice and guidance.
4. Sets out key priorities and actions for future investment based on identified need.
5. Establishes a standard for informing and defining:
 - a. where new open space and improvements to existing open space area needed to fill gaps in provision
 - b. where open space could be considered surplus to requirements, meaning that the whole or part of the site could be developed
 - c. how much open space is expected from new development and
 - d. defines what *good* quality means.

All of the above, help provide a rationale for securing external funding for additional community open space provision and improvements, particularly via developer contributions.

1.5 It is important to note, that at the time of writing this document, the NPPF (2012) is currently being revised. There are no known significant changes, as per the NPPF consultation proposals (5th March 2018), that pertain to open space that would affect the content of this assessment.

2 Setting the scene

2.1 There is no single recognised formula for determining whether there is enough community open space, the right balance of different types of open space or whether it is of good enough quality within a given area. As each district or town is different, an open space assessment needs to reflect the circumstances of the local area.

2.2 This assessment builds upon a number of sources including: planning policy guidance, nationally recognised standards, best practice, research and local knowledge.

2.3 For the purposes of this study all open spaces that are recognised as fully publicly accessible (i.e. open for public use) are included in the assessment. This excludes areas that only offer permissible access, private land with only a public rights of way passing through or where access is restricted to a membership fee. Whilst many open spaces fall within the Council's ownership and management, some may be owned and managed by trusts, charities, Nottinghamshire County Council, Forestry Commission, community groups, private management companies and other land owners.

2.1 Planning Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) sets out Government policy and directs planning policy at a local level. Protecting and improving green spaces is an important part of the NPPF's definition of sustainable development (paragraph 7).

2.5 The NPPF (para 73) emphasises that: *'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.'*

2.6 We have addressed the requirements in the NPPF by:

- mapping all the publicly accessible green and open spaces in the district, regardless of ownership
- assessing this resource against Nationally benchmarks/standards
- refining these and establishing a local standard (*Mansfield Green Space Standard*)
- identifying deficits and a means for assessing surpluses in provision and
- setting out a framework for implementing the standard.

2.7 Separate playing pitch studies - *Mansfield District Council Playing Pitch Assessment and adopted Strategy/Action Plan (2015)* - identify protection and enhancement needs in relation to outdoor sports provision and help satisfy requirements of the NPPF. These evidence documents focus on team and club use of playing pitches only and not the wider role of a park or recreation ground.



Thus, the findings from this community open space assessment and the playing pitch assessment and strategy are needed to inform the protection and enhancement of community accessible open space in the district.

2.8 Additionally, a Green Infrastructure Study (2018) identifies strategic green infrastructure networks in the district, of which open space makes up a portion of these networks where open spaces are physically or functionally connected to other areas of green space (e.g. recreational green corridors) and countryside.

The 1998 Adopted Mansfield District Council Local Plan policies

2.9 The 1998 adopted Mansfield District Council Local Plan, which is currently saved in part under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, includes eight policies related to the protection and enhancement of community open space:

- LT1 - addresses the protection of major areas of public open space and local parks
- LT2 - addresses the protection of other areas of public open spaces that aren't covered by LT1 and LT3
- LT3 - addresses the protection of amenity open spaces (0.3 hectares or less)
- LT4 - addresses the protection of private sports clubs/facilities and miners welfare organisational recreational facilities
- LT9 - supports the creation of proposed (new) open space
- LT10 - general policy on open space and sports pitches
- LT11 - supports the creation of proposed (new) country park and
- LT12 - supports the creation of proposed (new) major recreational areas on formal colliery sites.

2.10 Wording for the above policies is provided in Appendix E.

2.11 The policies are annotated by specific policy references on the local plan's policies map, which help define which open spaces are covered by which policy. It is difficult to understand what the main differences are between LT1 and LT2 open spaces. This makes it difficult to determine which policy new open space would fall under. Natural green spaces are also somewhat under represented. In order to simplify the policy approach, it also makes sense to consolidate policy wording to address open space, as a whole.

2.12 The 1998 policies, also don't particularly address the need for enhancements of existing provision or for the creation of open space outside of identified development sites (policy LT9). Additionally, the policy wording or supporting text don't define

the terms '*sufficient public open space in the immediate area*' and '*current and long-term needs of the local population*' or provide a context for how these should be measured or assessed.

2.13 In many ways, the requirements of the NPPF, in relation to community open space, haven't changed significantly. Thus, it is likely that the policy in the Local Plan (2013-2033) will need to take a similar approach such that development would be acceptable on an open space or sports pitch where:

- it is ancillary to open space, such that it supports appropriate use (activities and operation) of the open space; or
- there is sufficient open space within a given area to meet need, and therefore a particular open space is surplus (whole or part); or
- if not surplus, acceptable replacement provision can be provided.

2.14 Other planning policy changes with regards to how off-site and on-site planning contributions (Section 106) requirements need to be taken into consideration when drafting new policy. Policy would also need to address the creation of new open space within proposed development sites to address gaps in provision, including deficiencies in access to and quality of open space.

The Mansfield District Local Plan (2013-2033)

2.15 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires every local planning authority in England to have a clear, up-to-date local plan, which conforms to the framework, meets local development needs, and reflects local people's views of how they wish their community to develop. It should also be based on well researched and up-to-date evidence, of which this assessment is one of them.

2.16 Mansfield District Council is preparing the Local Plan Publication Draft which will guide development across the district up to 2033. This will include a vision, objectives and policies which are reflective of the need for new homes and jobs and their associated infrastructure, like open space, required to sustain this growth. The Local Plan will set out the spatial strategy for the district, including the level of growth and where new homes and jobs will be located. It will contain policies to improve the natural and built environment which aim to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors, like policies related to open space, outdoor recreation, green infrastructure and designing healthy neighbourhoods.

2.17 Once adopted, the Local Plan (2013-2033) will replace the existing Mansfield District Local Plan (1998).

2.18 Office of National Statistics (ONS) figures indicate that the population of Mansfield district as a whole is forecast to grow from 105,296 in 2013 to 111,827 by the year 2033. To meet growth needs, the Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation document (October 2017) established a need for 7,520 homes with an additional



20% buffer to provide flexibility in case any of the sites allocated or with extant planning permission do not come forward or come forward more slowly than anticipated (i.e. a total of 9,024 homes). Demographics derived from ONS data indicate that the age profile of the population will continue to change, especially in terms of increases in the resident population that will be over the age of 65. Section 4 of this document takes these projected growth figures into consideration when assessing need.

2.19 In addition to assessing existing and future need, this community open space assessment helps underpin policy development and its implementation with regards to community open space in the Local Plan.

2.20 Other related Local Plan evidence documents underpin related policy approaches to sports pitches, green infrastructure and a local green space designation:

- MDC Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy
- MDC Green Infrastructure Study and
- MDC Local Green Space Technical Paper.

2.2 Mansfield District corporate plan

2.21 It should also be noted that this work accords with Mansfield District Council's Corporate Plan which highlights the council's vision for the district and the values which guide every aspect of council business. The corporate priorities were updated in autumn 2015 to ensure that the council is focusing on the issues which need tackling to make the district an even better place to live, work and visit.

2.22 The Corporate Plan vision is 'maintaining a safe and caring district where everybody can succeed.'

2.23 This vision will be realised through a set of priority areas around economic prosperity, quality of life and community safety. These three priorities, and their corresponding objectives to 2019 are:

- **Key Priority - A thriving, vibrant and sustainable district**
 - Creating a thriving market and vibrant town centres – 'Destination Mansfield'.
 - Celebrating and promoting Mansfield's retail, leisure and heritage offer
 - Facilitating and encouraging regeneration of key sites for the provision of good quality housing schemes, retail and commercial developments
 - Supporting our businesses to thrive and grow and encouraging new business

- Creating and enabling a spatial vision for the district through a new Local Plan
- Helping people to achieve their potential, enhancing and developing skills through our apprenticeship and graduate programmes
- **Key priority - Strong, safe and resilient communities**
 - Maintaining safe communities where people are able to enjoy their home and neighbourhoods
 - Enabling people to live independent lives through provision of good quality affordable housing, and developing homes for life
 - Engaging with our communities, listening, talking to and involving people in developing a cohesive tolerant community
 - Ensuring our housing provision including private sector HMOs is safe and appropriate to the needs of the community.
 - Supporting people to live longer through healthier lifestyles, encouraging active lifestyles through increased participation in sport, promoting tobacco cessation and tackling obesity
 - Working in partnership to tackle homelessness
- **Key priority - Clean and welcoming environment**
 - Providing a clean attractive district, using direct actions to tackle environmental crime, poor housing, eyesore properties, and derelict land
 - Providing and maintaining high quality green spaces which enhance Mansfield as a destination through our leisure facilities and parks and open spaces
 - Encouraging community pride in our green spaces by working in partnership with friends groups, the voluntary sector and community group.
 - To tackle climate change and improve the district's environment by reducing our own carbon footprint, increasing recycling rates and encouraging 'green industries' and alternative energy sources.

2.24 The protection, creation and improvement of green spaces address all of the key priorities, specifically in relation to enabling a spatial vision for the district in a new local plan, identifying need, protection and enhancement of the green infrastructure required to support healthier lives, assessing the quality of open space and prioritising where enhancements are still needed to support a clean and welcoming environment.



2.3 National Green Space Standards and Guidance

2.25 This study uses the principles set out in former Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2002) & its companion guide, and other guidance (e.g. Sport England and Natural England, the Design Council former CABE Space, Fields in Trust, and Woodland Trust) as a basis for developing an appropriate locally based standard.

2.26 Whilst the NPPF and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), replace previous national planning policy guidance, these do not provide details for assessing quality and need for open space at the local (district) level. PPG17 is still commonly used to help provide guidance for open space assessments. PPG17 suggests five key assessment areas to focus on:

- **Accessibility** - Is green space located within an appropriate distance to where people live and is it accessible?
- **Quality** - Is the green space fit for purpose? Does it meet current expectations and can it continue to do so? This considers attributes, such as: design, maintenance, and management.
- **Multi-functionality** - What combined benefits do green spaces provide? This is useful information as it may highlight green spaces that perform important roles in addition to recreation needs.
- **Primary purpose** - What is the main or primary recreational use of a green space? For example, is a site primarily used for outdoor sport or walking and relaxation? Do residents have access to a good balance of formal and informal recreation provision?
- **Quantity** - Does the amount of green space help meet existing and future need or demand, and is it well distributed?

2.27 *Accessibility* and *quantity* are often best delivered through the planning system because they relate to the location and use of land. *Quality*, *multi-functionality*, and *primary purpose* are typically delivered through good design, but are sustained and protected through good management and maintenance. The planning system can also assist with these by ensuring local plan policies support the appropriate design of new open space.

2.28 Financial contributions (i.e. Section 106 contributions) from an individual development site or combined from more than one nearby development sites are sometimes needed to improve existing facilities where additional need from future residents can be demonstrated. These may fund maintenance requirements for managing new open space within the new development or come in the form of off-site contributions to fund new facilities or improve existing facilities nearby.

2.29 The following table summarises the methodology that this assessment took based on the PPG17 recommended approach. Assessment details are provided in Section 4.

Table 2.1 Questions and considerations based on the PPG17 approach

Step 1: Identify local need, for example:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult with relevant council departments for local studies undertaken, etc. 2. Consider national and local strategies. 3. Review planning and other policy guidance. 4. Consider consultation comments from communities e.g. local attitudes and values informing a broad vision of what communities want. 5. Consider local issues such as population and health trends and statistics.
Step 2: Prepare the audit (assess the number, amount and quality) of existing green and open spaces:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify which open spaces are used for sport and recreation. Is there a minimum size? What defines usable community space? 2. Identify categories or typologies (different types) of green space. 3. Identify reasonable walking distances people might be prepared to travel from their homes to green and open spaces (by type as identified above), considering National guidance standards, best practice and research. 4. Agree how the quality of green and open spaces should be measured i.e. What should this include? What are reasonable benchmarks? How do people value quality and what is 'good' quality based on? Consider National guidance standards. 5. Determine effective ways of assessing the minimum amount of green space needed to serve the existing population within neighbourhood areas, considering National guidance standards.
Step 3: Undertake an audit of all green and open spaces	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map all recreational green and open spaces and facilities, including play areas within the district, regardless of ownership. These were digitally mapped and recorded in a database to be kept up-to-date. Site information to include, for example: ownership, management, protected status, etc. 2. Assess quality of all spaces based on defined criteria above. 3. Gather relevant information on planned new open space. 4. Quantify information on amount, distribution and balance of types of green space. 5. Consider the value of green spaces based on context, level and type of use, and their wider benefits.
Step 4: Consider the results from the audit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantity - Is there the right amount of green and open space in the district? 2. Access to green space - Is green space in the right location near enough to where people live?



	<p>3. Quality - Is green space of good enough quality?</p> <p>4. Value/wider significance - does the green space have a high level of district or local significance?</p>
Step 5: Apply local issues and priorities	Apply this to step 4 based on step 1 above.
Step 6: Set out the Mansfield local green space standards	See Section 5.

2.30 National open space benchmarks/standards were also considered to help inform this assessment and the steps above. These include:

- Fields in Trust National recommended benchmark guidelines for open space and play provision: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play England (October 2015)
- Natural England's access to green space standard: 'Nature Nearby - Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance' (October 2011)
- Woodland Trust's access 'Access to Woodland' standard: Space for People - Targeting Action for Woodland Access (January 2015)
- Green Flag quality criteria
- Play England's quality standards for play space: Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool (October 2009) and
- Sport England's Active Design guide (Active Design: Planning for health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity, October 2015).

2.31 The following table summarises existing National benchmarks (i.e. standards) which demonstrate the ideal levels of open space for a given population. These have been further refined, alongside other relevant criteria, research, and local circumstances, to develop a more bespoke local standard for assessing community open space need on a district level. Please see Section 3 for more detail.

Table 2.2

Type of open space	National Guidance	Quantity: Amount of green space required per resident (hectare/ 1,000 population)	Minimum Area of individual type of green space	Accessibility (walking) distance standard in metres (m) from dwellings	Quality Standard
Parks, recreation grounds, and amenity space	Informed by the Fields in Trust (FIT) (2015) which addresses quantity, size, accessibility, and quality for different types of open space. The following benchmarks to the right relate to these benchmarks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.6 - open space with formal sports provision with natural and artificial surfaces incl. Tennis, football, athletics, bowling, rugby, etc. 	<p>Size guidelines are provided which relate to individual sports provision which are more relevant when assessing playing pitch requirements.</p> <p>There are no minimum guidelines for parks and amenity space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 metres to - open space with formal sports provision with natural and artificial surfaces incl. Tennis, football, athletics, bowling, rugby, etc. 	<p>FIT includes the following quality guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks to be of Green Flag status Appropriately landscaped Positive management Provision of footpaths Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime <p>Green Flag Park assessment criteria provide a basis for understanding what defines a high quality standard of provision.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.80 - urban parks and gardens (incl. country parks and formal gardens) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 710 metres to - urban parks and country parks and formal gardens 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.60 - amenity space (incl. informal recreation spaces and communal and village greens) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 480 metres to - amenity space 	
				<p>Please note that this guideline assumes that 250 metres is equivalent to a 2-3 minute walk, 400 metres as a 5 minute walk, 1,200 metres - a 15-minute walk; all measured in a straight line (i.e. as the crow flies).</p>	



Type of open space	National Guidance	Quantity: Amount of green space required per resident (hectare/ 1,000 population)	Minimum Area of individual type of green space	Accessibility (walking) distance standard in metres (m) from dwellings	Quality Standard
Children and young people's play areas	Informed by the Fields in Trust (FIT) recommended benchmark guidelines (2015) which addresses quantity, size, accessibility, and quality for different types of play provision identified as:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0.25 - equipped children's play provision (LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs) 	FIT includes minimum activity zone guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LAP – maximum size 100m² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LAP - 100 metres or an equivalent 1 minute walk from home 	Play England's quality standards for play space (2009)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LAP – Local area for play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0.30 - other outdoor provision (incl. MUGAs and skateboard parks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LEAP – 400m² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LEAP – 400 metres or an equivalent 5 minute walk from home 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LEAP – Local Equipped area for play 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NEAP – 1,000m² minimum size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NEAP – 1,000 metres or about a 15 minute walk from home 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NEAP – Neighbourhood equipped area for play <p>The following benchmarks to the right relate to these benchmarks.</p>		Fit also includes minimum buffer zones between play spaces and dwellings (habitable room facade of dwelling): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LAP - 5 m ● LEAP- 20 m ● NEAP - 30 m 		

Type of open space	National Guidance	Quantity: Amount of green space required per resident (hectare/ 1,000 population)	Minimum Area of individual type of green space	Accessibility (walking) distance standard in metres (m) from dwellings	Quality Standard
Natural and semi-natural green space	<p>Natural England's Natural Green Space Standard (ANGSt) is the main source providing a benchmark for natural and semi-natural green space (Nature Nearby 2010).</p> <p>Fields in Trust also provides recommended benchmark guidelines (2015).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population (Natural England). 1.80 ha/1000 population of natural and semi-natural green space (FIT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 2 hectares for small green space (Natural England). FIT doesn't identify a benchmark for this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural England includes a guideline of 300 metres (equivalent to a 5 minute walk) to local areas of natural green space FIT includes a 720 m walk to natural/semi-natural green space Natural England includes a guideline of 2 kilometres straight line distance from dwellings to natural areas over 20 hectares 	<p>Natural England's ANGSt guidance recommends identifying different levels of naturalness from those with 100% naturalness (e.g. woodland) to urban parks with some smaller areas of natural space.</p>
Woodland	<p>Woodland Trust's 'Access to Woodland' standard is the primary source.</p> <p>To be included, woodlands need to have unrestricted open access and restricted, but permissive, access (e.g. fee-payable, fixed-hours access). It doesn't include woods served only by public rights of way.</p>	None given.	Minimum 2 hectares for woodland (e.g. local woodlands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 metre walk to local woodlands 4 kilometre (or an 8 km round trip) to woodland over 20 hectares 	None given.



2.4 Health priorities

2.32 Nearby access to good quality green space is necessary for supporting a healthy population, providing the infrastructure for supporting physical activity. Collectively, green spaces provide the green lungs for an area, reducing the impact of air pollution and providing shade and absorbing flood waters - helping urban areas adapt to the impacts from climate change. Equally important, these spaces provide spaces for learning, relaxation, and social cohesion necessary for our mental health and well-being (e.g. stress reduction, alleviation of depression, coping with dementia). This requires a mixture of formal parks and recreation grounds and informal areas, including natural green space, areas for informal play and other landscaped areas. This is backed by a strong (and growing) national and international evidence base.

2.33 The potential costs savings to the health service from improved access to green space are significant. For example, if every household in England were provided with good access to quality green space an estimated £2.1 billion in healthcare costs could be saved⁽¹⁾.

2.34 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 gave local authorities new responsibilities to improve the health of their populations and specifically to reduce health inequalities. Planning has an important role to help guide the creation of healthy places to live, work and spend leisure time. Part of this role includes ensuring, through policy and guidance, that good design is adequately defined and identifies where new provision and improvements are needed. Thus, underpinning health and well-being in the district. There is a wealth of research that points to how green spaces support healthy communities. For example, a study by (Alcock et al., 2014)⁽²⁾ showed that people who move to greener urban areas benefited from sustained improvements in their mental health. Taylor et al. (1998)⁽³⁾ found that nearly twice as many children chose to play in open spaces with trees compared with barren spaces lacking nature. They engaged in much more creative play and were more likely to spend time with adults, which facilitated social development.

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- 1 An estimate of the economic and health value and cost effectiveness of the expanded WHI scheme 2009. 2009. Natural England Technical Information Note TIN055
 - 2 Alcock I., White M. P., Wheeler B. W., Fleming L. E., Depledge M. H. (2014). Longitudinal effects on mental health of moving to greener and less green urban areas. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 48, 1247–1255. 10.1021/es403688w
 - 3 Taylor A F, Wiley A, Kuo F E & Sullivan W C. 1998. Growing up in the inner city: green spaces as places to grow. *Environment and Behaviour*, 30, 3-27

Picture 2.1 Titchfield Park



2.35 This assessment aims to address health and well being by defining a green space standard that takes into account:

- different access needs (e.g. different age groups)
- physical barriers restricting easy access to green space
- a balance and range of different green spaces
- key quality assessment indicators relating to, for example: accessibility, social cohesion, safety, etc.
- access to natural play space and nature and
- the wider role and significance of green spaces, in addition to their recreational functions.

2.36 According to the most up-to-date Public Health England's health profile report for Mansfield district (2016), the health of residents is generally worse than national levels. This is based on key health indicators such as deaths from heart disease, obesity levels, diabetes life expectancy. Public Health England's 2016 published health profile for the district are summarised in the table below. Public Health's website: www.healthprofiles.info/.

Table 2.3 Summary of key health indicators in Mansfield district and how these relate to National averages

Health indicator	Summary	Overall comparison with national averages
Life expectancy (from birth)	There is evidence of significant variation across Mansfield district in life expectancy. This depends	Slightly higher



Health indicator	Summary	Overall comparison with national averages
	on levels of deprivation. The greater the area of deprivation, the lower the life expectancy. The gap in men is 8.9 years and for women is 9.3 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local value (78.1 for men and 81.8 for women) National value (79.5 for men and 83.2 for women)
Early deaths from all causes (under 75 years of age)	Over the past 10 years, all-cause mortality rates have fallen. For those in the most deprived areas in the district, averages for early deaths are higher than national averages and lower or equal to national averages for those in the least deprived areas.	Slightly higher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific figures available.
Deaths from heart disease and stroke	The early death rate from heart disease and stroke has also fallen but remains slightly worse than the England average. Rates are based on per 100,000 population aged under 75.	Higher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local value (85.7) National value (75.7)
Obesity and physically activity	<p>The obesity rates for both children (percentage of year 6 children) and adults (obese or overweight) are higher than national averages with adults showing more significantly higher values.</p> <p>The percentage of adults that are physically active is 7% less than the national average. More importantly only half of the population in the district are classed as physically active.</p>	<p>Obesity (higher):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local value (70.3 for adults, 19.6 for children) National value (64.6 for adults, 19.1 for children) <p>Physical activity (lower):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local value (50.7) National value (57.0)
Recorded diabetes	Diabetes can often be linked to obesity and low levels of physical activity. Levels (percentage) of diabetes are slightly higher than the national averages as measured by people on GP registers with a recorded diagnosis of diabetes.	Slightly higher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local value (6.9) National value (6.2)

2.37 How these figures relate to green and open spaces in the district are explored further in Section 4.4 (Healthy Communities).

2.5 Community perspective

2.38 Perspectives on local need for open space in the district were explored through separate consultations with the public involving the Mansfield District Council citizen's panel and feedback sought from the Mansfield District Parks department. Consultation questions generally focused on quality of open space or how people travel to open space. This information shows us:

- the general values residents place on green and open spaces

- how green spaces are used
- why they are important
- what qualities limit residents' use of green spaces (i.e. deter people from using green spaces)
- generally how people travel to green spaces.

2.39 Key results are summarised below and helped inform the quality assessment criteria.

2.40 Although these surveys were carried out some time ago (2005 to 2010), common threads have been identified. These include:

- There is a high value placed on viewing and having access to natural green space. In 2010, a majority of citizen panel respondents (97.3 percent) agreed that having access to natural green space for outdoor activity was important (473 respondents out of 486 agreed).
- The 2010 Citizen Panel also revealed that walking to urban green spaces appears to be the main mode of travel.
- Actual and also perceived levels of quality of an open space (e.g. anti-social behaviour, poorly maintained spaces and cleanliness) influence whether or not a space is used. Thus, poor quality can act as a key psychological barrier for accessing green space.
- In 2007, there was an overall perception that the district has limited access to smaller, neighbourhood parks and also teenager provision.
- Also 68 percent (%) of citizen panel member respondents said that they were satisfied with their local park. 21 percent (%) were neither satisfied or dissatisfied and 11 percent (%) were dissatisfied.
- Generally, for the majority of age groups, respondents felt that the facilities within green spaces were of 'good' or 'fair' quality. Panel members felt that provision for children (aged 0 to 12) were good, whereas quality of provision for teenagers needed improving.
- Members of the Citizen Panel were asked what were some of the main reasons why they visit parks. Respondents had the opportunity to provide their own reasons. The majority of people said that getting some fresh air (55%), walking enjoying their surroundings (41%) were their main reasons. This was followed by visiting play areas (24%), walking the dog (23%) and relaxing (20%).
- Other results from various citizen panel questionnaires found that a majority of residents found it easy to get around their local park (82%). Generally, panel members under 55 years of age had trouble accessing play grounds and others found it difficult to get around in a pushchair. Those who were over 55 years of age found that improve path surfaces, more clearly defined paths and increased access points would help getting to and around green spaces.

2.41 These consultation responses indicate that:

- Overall, residents are happy with their green and open spaces but there is room for improvement.



- A general trend for improvements to teenager facilities. The general trend for a need to have more small, nearby pocket parks, indicates that people prefer to have open spaces located nearby to where they live.
- Quality is a perceived barrier to accessing green spaces, which can be a greater barrier than crossing a busy road.
- Access to and around green spaces is a key consideration for prioritising improvements and when designing new green space.
- A majority of people walk to urban parks and recreation grounds.
- Residents enjoy a diverse range of formal and informal recreational activities on their local green spaces.
- Having access to natural green space is highly valued by residents.

3 How we set the Mansfield standard

3.1 The following section sets out how we assessed the need for green and open spaces in Mansfield district and how this informed the Mansfield Green Space Standard.

3.1 Overview

3.2 Four main issues were explored in order to help guide this assessment in developing a Mansfield green space standard. These included:

1. **Amount of green space:** Is there the right amount of green space for everyone in the district now and for the future?
2. **Access to green space:** Is green space in the right location near enough to where people live and if there are barriers, where are these?
3. **Quality of green space:** Is green space welcoming & accessible, safe & secure, clean and well maintained? Do they support a range of recreation activities, wildlife and a positive image for the area?
4. **Wider significance:** Are there other unique roles, other than recreation, that green and open spaces provide? This looks at other significant roles that green spaces play such as helping to lessen the impacts from climate change, supporting biodiversity, historic significance, and supporting health and well being.

3.3 The process used to assess the type, amount, quality and access to green and open spaces was based on the Planning Policy Guidance Note 17, as set out in Section 2 of this document.

Study area

3.4 This assessment includes the whole of Mansfield district including the parish of Warsop.

3.5 Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) recommends assessing the need for green and open spaces at the neighbourhood level. In this study, district wards were used when assessing need, as these were already predefined. Because wards are drawn to meet electoral requirements, they do not relate perfectly to open space provision, but for the most part they do try to reflect known communities (i.e. neighbourhoods).

3.2 Identifying the existing green space resource

What green spaces were included in the study?

3.6 All publicly accessible green spaces, regardless of ownership, were included in this assessment. The focus is on all green and open spaces that are accessible (open) to the public and intended for public use. As such, all green and open spaces in this assessment include all of the following characteristics:

- Are open during normal opening hours i.e. 9am to dusk - this includes spaces that might be locked at night but open during the day.
- Do not require a fee and/or membership.
- Are accessible to the public for a majority of the site (at least 75% of the area). This excludes spaces which only have permissible access by private landowner or are only accessible along a public rights of way trail.

3.7 Spaces which are not currently managed in a way that allows for free access (e.g. overgrown and/or no apparent access network around and through the site) were not considered as existing green spaces, even when owned by a public body (e.g. Mansfield District Council or Nottinghamshire County Council).

3.8 Allotments, school playing fields, green corridors, golf courses and private sports facilities were excluded from the study as they don't meet the criteria above. Playing pitches and other outdoor sports provision and green infrastructure networks are considered within separate studies. Cross-cutting issues are briefly touched on in Section 6.

3.9 Designated wildlife sites sensitive to public access were excluded from the assessment. These include:

- Nationally designated nature conservation sites, such as Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are also not Local Nature Reserves (LNR).
- Locally designated wildlife sites (Local Wildlife Sites) where specifically sensitive to human disturbance.
- Areas supporting ground nesting birds, Nightjar and Woodlark, which are sensitive to human disturbance.



3.10 A small number of planned future green and open spaces from approved planning applications were included where detailed plans were available, as of December 2015. Any additional green spaces would need to be assessed in future updates to this study.

How were green spaces defined?

3.11 It is important to distinguish between the different types or categories of open space, in order to better understand how green space is used. Information such as, the type of facilities present, is likely to inform how far people may be willing to travel to certain types of green space.

3.12 In view of the wide range of green spaces in the district (particularly the variety of recreational uses they serve), it was considered reasonable to assign different types of green and open space into suitable categories, otherwise known as *typologies*.

3.13 PPG17 typology definitions were used as a starting point for categorising green and open spaces in the district. These categories were further refined by looking at the various types of green and open spaces in the district from an overall use and catchment-based approach.

Table 3.1 Types of green space considered in this assessment

Grouping	Typology	Definition
Parks (formal recreation)	District Parks and Recreation Grounds	These are established green spaces that provide a landscape setting with a variety of facilities and features including; outdoor sports facilities, play areas and informal recreation opportunities. Or the space offers at least one unique facility or experience of wider district importance. Green spaces with a district or greater community importance include, for example Green Flag parks, green spaces that accommodate Park Run events, district and county championships, festivals, band stand, memorials, and more.
	Local Parks and Recreation Grounds	These include green spaces with formal sports and/or play provision limited to no more than two facilities. Generally include seating areas and paths, but lack formalised planting areas and features such as pavilions etc.
Amenity space (informal recreation)	Amenity space	Areas for informal recreation, for example: walking, sitting etc. These spaces are formally maintained i.e. mown and typically open in appearance, though may have small planted areas. These are sites greater than 0.4 hectares.
	Incidental open space	Small areas of amenity space used for passive recreation or play which sometimes have seating. These spaces are generally mown, open areas but may have some landscaping features. These are sites which are 0.4 hectares or less.
Natural and semi-natural green space (informal recreation)	Large and connected natural green spaces and small	Includes:

Grouping	Typology	Definition
	natural/semi-natural green spaces were grouped into one typology - Natural Green Space	<p>Large areas of natural green space over two hectares (ha) in size. These are typically outside of the urban area, or areas within the urban area, such as green corridors and local nature reserves. These generally give the impression of being in the countryside; these areas allow for walking and quiet contemplation.</p> <p>Smaller sites are two hectares (ha) in size or less. Some connect to other natural green spaces.</p> <p>All natural green spaces typically include natural or semi-natural habitats such as: woodland, wetland, pond, river, heathland, and/or grassland. They are primarily managed for their wildlife/habitat value, although are open to the public. Some may be 'naturalised' brownfield land, including restored mineral sites of which are now publicly accessible.</p> <p>Larger areas of open countryside are not generally included. Exceptions to this includes: publicly accessible woodlands, restored collieries and other accessible areas of naturalised brownfield land.</p>

3.14 Outdoor sports facilities weren't specifically categorised as a typology in this assessment, as they are being studied as part of a separate playing pitch strategy. Instead, their presence or absence defines whether a green space is a park/recreation ground or an amenity space.

3.15 In addition, the following types of play provision were categorised as:

Table 3.2 Play areas

Grouping	Typology	Definition
Provision for children and teenagers	Teenage Areas	Facilities which typically cater for young people aged 12 and over but due to their multi-use, may be used by younger children. For simplicity sake, these include: skate parks, bmx tracks, Multi-Use Game Areas (MUGA's), Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP's), and outdoor gyms.
	Children's Play Areas	Facilities which typically cater for children aged up to 8 years of age but may be used by older children up to 12 years of age. Typically meet the National Playing Fields definition for Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs).
	Local Areas for Play	Facilities which generally cater for children 6 years of age and younger and typically meet the National Playing Fields definition for Local Areas of Play (LAPs).

3.16 For the purposes of this study, two play area categories were used when considering access to open spaces: teenager provision and children's play provision (LEAPS and LAPs combined). See Section 3.4 for more details.

The audit - when and how was information gathered?

3.17 The assessment of sites took place from 2015 to 2017.



3.18 Information gathering was informed through previous open space assessment work undertaken in 2007 and updated through this assessment using the following data, for example:

- the most up-to-date aerial photography maps available (2016)
- Google Street View map
- local knowledge of the area
- consultation with Mansfield District Council Parks colleagues
- land registry records to inform ownership
- targeted site visits
- Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) to inform the location of residential properties in the district (2015)
- planning permissions for housing developments completed or within final stages of construction (end of 2016)
- location of open spaces in neighbouring authorities
- Officer for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates for wards (mid 2013) and ONS 2012 sub-national population projections for over the Local Plan period
- 2016 Public Health England - health profile for Mansfield District (www.healthprofiles.info) and
- quality assessments of all green and open spaces - conducted in August 2015 with a select few sites assessed which had been created by end of 2016.

3.19 All open spaces were plotted using computer-based GIS mapping. Comments received during the Local Plan Consultation Draft (2016) also informed the assessment.

Was there a minimum or maximum size of open space used in the assessment?

3.20 Although it is recognised that larger green spaces can offer more diverse recreational opportunities (e.g. organised sport or longer walks and cycle rides), smaller spaces are still beneficial for more informal recreational uses such as quiet contemplation and socialising. They can also act as areas of natural play for younger children. This is true as long as these smaller amenity and play areas are located in the right locations such that they are safe from road traffic and offer natural surveillance from nearby development or nearby well-used routes. It was considered that the use or function of green space was more important than its overall size.

3.21 As such, this assessment didn't involve defining a minimum or maximum size threshold in relation to the inclusion or exclusion of sites from the assessment. Only areas with an apparent recreational use (e.g. play, sport, quiet contemplation) were included. This meant that green areas used primarily for visual amenity or road safety (traffic calming, road verges, general landscaping around houses or street scenes) were excluded.

3.22 This study did use size to define more specific categories or types of green space, (e.g. incidental open space). Small amenity spaces or 'incidental open space' were classified as space 0.4 hectares (ha) or less. The smallest open space was 0.02 hectares (ha).

3.23 At the other end of the size spectrum, very large areas of green space such as green corridors often allow for access between smaller areas of open space. They can serve important informal recreation functions for walking, cycling, wildlife watching and quiet contemplation. Larger areas of green space mostly included restored mineral sites, green corridors or areas of publicly accessible woodland. These are located within both the urban and urban fringe areas of the district, but mainly outside the urban envelope.

3.24 The table below shows the range and type of green and open spaces in the district.

Table 3.3 Size range of green and open spaces in the district

Size range	Number of open spaces	Percentage of overall number of sites within each size category	Total area (hectares) per size category	Percentage of overall area of sites within each size category	Types of green space included within each size category
Small range - 0.40 ha or less	78	42.2%	12.55 ha	1.4%	Small amenity space and small natural areas
Medium range - 0.41 ha to 2 ha	50	27.0%	50.71 ha	5.7%	Local parks / recreation grounds and amenity space. Areas of isolated natural green space such as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), urban woodlands,
Large range - over 2 ha to 12 ha	48	25.9%	255.22 ha	28.8%	Local and district parks / recreation grounds. Natural green space such as, LNRs, urban woodlands and those adjoining green corridors. Also included two amenity space sites.



Size range	Number of open spaces	Percentage of overall number of sites within each size category	Total area (hectares) per size category	Percentage of overall area of sites within each size category	Types of green space included within each size category
Very large range - 20 to 157 ha	9	4.9%	568.33 ha	64.1%	Restored mineral sites, large areas of accessible woodland, 2 larger district parks and Vicar Water Country Park
Total numbers	185		886.81 ha		

Picture 3.1 Lawrence Avenue Amenity Space, Mansfield Woodhouse (incidental open space typology)



Spatial requirements

3.25 Although a minimum size threshold wasn't used when assessing the overall quantity of and access to open space, size does influence how an open space is used and has implications regarding safety and efficient use of space when maintenance is considered. For example, it is reasonable to consider minimum size requirements for a play area or sports pitch as to allow for safe margins and movement. Sport England and the Fields in Trust provide minimum size requirements including suitable buffer zones so that facilities are not overlooked by neighbours, residents aren't negatively impacted by noise and light from sports pitches, or to reduce conflict between residents and those at play.

3.26 The location, design, function and type of provision, including facilities required on a new open space are likely to influence the size of an individual open space. The type of provision included is likely to depend on the community it is intended to serve (e.g. families, retirement accommodation, or a mix of users) and also what green infrastructure is located nearby where recreational linkages may be required. Careful consideration is needed, in consultation with the Council and local communities to inform what may be required. The Mansfield Green Space Standard also includes further guidance on minimum amount of open space required for the creation of on-site open space within new development (Section 5).

3.27 The table below outlines the Fields in Trust (October 2015) recommended minimum benchmarks for play provision:

Table 3.4

Type of play provision	Minimum size and dimensions	Buffer zone
Local Area for Play (LAP)	0.01 hectares (10 x 10 metres - minimum activity zone of 100sqm)	5 metre minimum separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings
Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	0.04 hectares (20 x 20 metres - minimum activity zone of 400sqm)	20 metre minimum separation between activity zone and the habitable room façade of dwellings
Neighbourhood Area for Play (NEAP)	0.1 hectare (31.6 x 31.6 metres- minimum activity zone of 1,000sqm). This includes an area for play equipment and structures & a hard surfaced area of at least 465sqm (the minimum needed to play five-a-side football).	30 metre minimum separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings
Multi-use games area (MUGA)	0.1 hectare (40 x 20 metres)	30 metre minimum separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings

Additional areas of recreational provision

3.28 There are recognised green spaces located outside the district boundary that are within five and ten minute walks for residents. Generally, these include green spaces within the adjacent urban areas of Clipstone, Rainworth, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Pleasley. A majority of these sites are areas of natural green space or amenity space. These were not included in the quantity and quality analyses as these are outside the control of Mansfield District Council's remit.

3.29 Future green and open spaces as part of approved, but not yet completed, new development were generally not included in this assessment, as sometimes these are subject to changes, except where these developments were in advanced stages of completion. Exceptions include the almost completed developments at Goose Farm in Market Warsop, the Sandlands development in Forest Town, Flint Avenue in Forest Town, Debdale Lane/Sherwood Rise, and Spion Kop.

3.30 The assessment of any additional new green and open spaces will need to be considered as part of any future updates to this assessment. For example, new open spaces created as part of the approved urban extension (1,700 homes) in the



south of the district known as Lindhurst, including green spaces with play areas and other formal and informal recreational provision, connecting green corridors, and a community park near to Harlow Woods within the district of Newark and Sherwood.

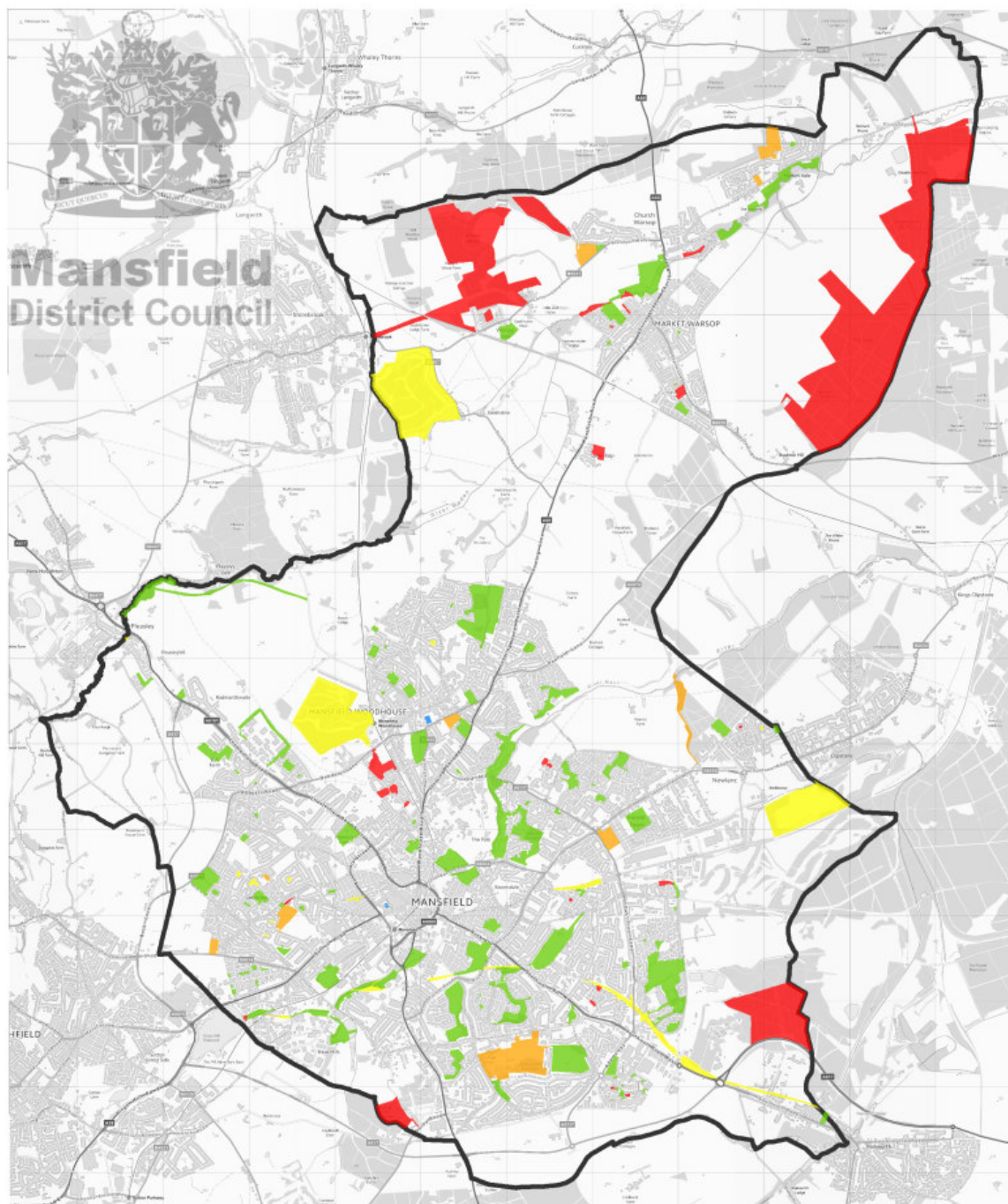
Ownership

3.31 All green and open spaces, regardless of ownership, were included in this assessment as long as they are accessible to the public, as discussed earlier in this section.

3.32 The map below (Picture 3.1) shows what we understand to be the ownership of the areas considered, although this map cannot be taken to be legally binding. A majority of green and open spaces are in public ownership (e.g. Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Forestry Commission). A small number of green spaces are owned by charities or community trustee groups or are in other types of community ownership. There are also a number of sites where ownership was not known at the time of this assessment.

3.33 Planning obligations, known as Section 106 agreements, are normally required in order to make a development acceptable which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. Where open space provision is required to meet identified recreational need, financial contributions may be required to fund the creation and maintenance of new open space facilities (e.g. play area, paths, furniture, etc.) or new/enhanced facilities on existing open space. Section 106 monies, as agreed through planning obligations, are normally only allocated to Mansfield District Council (MDC) or Nottinghamshire County Council where the local authority will be responsible for the ownership and/or management of the new or enhanced provision. Section 106 monies are not normally allocated for new or enhanced open space provision on land owned by other organisations or private land owners. Exceptions may be made in special circumstances where a registered charity or chartered community group, enters a legal agreement with the Council.

Figure 3.1 Ownership of green spaces in Mansfield district



Key

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Mansfield District Council | ■ Other Community Group |
| ■ Other Local Authority | ■ Private or Unknown |
| ■ Trustee Community Group | |



3.3 Do we have enough green space?

3.34 This part of the assessment considered how much green space is in the district and if it meets existing need based on the Fields in Trust (FIT) and Natural England national benchmarks as set out in Section 2.

Table 3.5 Minimum quantity of green and open space based on national benchmarks

Type of recreational open space	Benchmark (hectares per 1,000 population)
All outdoor sports - all district and local parks and recreation grounds with formal outdoor sports provision	1.6 ha/1,000 population
Urban parks - all district and local parks	0.8 ha / 1,000 population
Amenity space - all amenity and incidental open space included	0.6 ha / 1,000 population
Equipped/designated children's play areas - LAPs, LEAPs, NEAPs, MUGAs and skate parks included	<p>0.25 ha / 1,000 population of equipped/ designated children's play provision</p> <p>0.30 ha / 1,000 population of other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks)</p> <p>These were added together as these types of play provision are often interlinked within play spaces in the district = combined benchmark of 0.55 ha / 1,000 population.</p>
Natural green space	<p>One Local Nature Reserve (LNR) per 1,000 population</p> <p>1.80 ha / 1,000 population (natural and semi-natural green space)</p>

3.35 These benchmarks are widely used by many local authorities and are seen as a relatively easy means for comparing outcomes at a national level. Within this assessment, these are used as baseline indicators rather than used to inform local assessment standards. Quantity has limited relevance for defining local standards without considering the issues of accessibility and quality. Thus, a greater emphasis has been placed on measurements such as access (distance to open space) and quality of open space to help determine gaps and surplus.

3.36 Although it may seem like quantity is good measurement for determining whether or not there is enough green space in the district or a ward to meet needs, this approach has major limitations. Recognised limitations include:

- Assessments of accessibility and quality are also needed to understand the overall open space resource and thus overall need. For example, two very large but low quality sites within a given area, sited away from the population, could still result the benchmark being met.

- If assessed on a ward basis, an area could be identified as being deficient in green space despite lying immediately adjacent to a large high quality site in an adjacent ward.
- Quantity standards don't necessarily address the balance of facilities or types of green space that people have access to. Essentially it ignores if the sites are within appropriate distances to where people live.
- A degree of interpretation is also required when applying the benchmarks with regard to specific types (or definitions) of open space. For example, the Field in Trust definitions don't fit neatly with the typologies defined locally within this assessment.
- It is also a time consuming and difficult task to separately map out and measure individual outdoor sports provision (e.g. tennis courts, athletic tracks, football pitches). These pitches may take up only a small portion of the overall open space's area.

3.37 For the purposes of this assessment, it is assumed that if a park or recreation ground includes an outdoor sports facility, that the whole of the site meets the the FIT typology for 'All outdoor sports'.

3.4 Is green space accessible?

Key considerations

3.38 Access to open space considers how far people should be expected to travel to a green space. This is a key factor for informing standards. Appropriate specific benchmarks for assessing this can sometimes be challenging to define as access can depend on, for example:

- who generally visits certain type of green space or who the green space is aimed at attracting based on the activities it supports
- the age range of those likely to visit, e.g. young families, teenagers, elderly
- how far people of different ages are prepared to travel
- residents' overall health and ability
- level of motivation
- whether or not the visitor is a dog owner
- level of car ownership
- whether someone's aim is using their journey to and around the green space as part of their exercise or enjoyment
- if the green space is someone's final destination
- the size of the green space and
- the facilities available.

3.39 Fields in Trust, Natural England and the Woodland Trust provide national benchmarks to help guide this part of an assessment. Different benchmarks are also provided for different types of open space and play areas (see Section 2.3).



The aim of this assessment was to define local access benchmarks based on defined walking times and distances, setting out maximum expected journey times from home, on foot, to a nearby green space.

Picture 3.2



3.40 The approach for defining these included:

1. Defining expected reasonable walking times and distances for different types of green space based on research, national standards and examples of other green space assessments (best practice).
2. Mapping walking distances (straight line or 'as-the-crow-flies' equivalent) around the different types of green spaces, creating distance buffer zones.
3. Using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer to identify the location of all residential properties in the district.
4. Identifying key geographical barriers to accessing green spaces, including: main/busy roads, rivers, railway lines and general layout of roads/access routes.
5. Identifying gaps in access where people generally don't have access to nearby green space from their homes.

3.41 According to the MENE (Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment) national study (2012) and consultation with residents, the majority of people walk to outdoor spaces. Walking, as a mode of travel, also fits in with the healthy lifestyles and good development design principles; the focus is on sustainable travel and promoting walking as a low cost form of exercise. Most green spaces in the district are designed for foot access and don't include car parks.

3.42 Various research studies support the benefits of living within a walkable distance of green space. For example, research suggests that elderly people living in areas with walkable green spaces positively influences longevity of urban senior citizens independent of their age, sex, marital status, and socioeconomic status ⁽⁴⁾. Reflecting this, the access standards (i.e. distance travelled) for this assessment are based on walking distances, rather than a journey by bus or car.

3.43 The following table sets out this assessment's recommended walking journeys to specified types of green spaces as shown. The information used to inform this table is detailed below.

Table 3.6 Recommended walking journey times

Type of green space	Maximum expected walking times
Any type of formal or informal recreational green space, including: local and district park / recreation grounds, amenity space, incidental open space and natural green space	5 minutes
Additional access requirements	
District park / recreation ground	15 minutes
Natural green space	10 minutes
Teenager play space	15 minutes
Children's play space	5 minutes

Measuring access to open space

3.44 Computer-based mapping was used to determine where residents currently have and don't have access to green space based on the suggested walking journeys above in Table 3.5.

3.45 In this study, straight-line walking distances were used to inform buffered contours around each identified green space. For example, a 240-metre contour was mapped around the outside of each green space. Thus, it was then assumed that all residential properties within this contour had access to green space within 5-minutes or 400m. This is an approximation to give an indication of where there are gaps in provision.

3.46 It is acknowledged that this is a simplified (but reasonable) way of assessing gaps and overlaps in access, and that street patterns and other land features may, in reality, alter walking times to make sites more or less accessible.

4 T Takano, K Nakamura, and M Watanabe (2002) "Urban Residential Environments And Senior Citizens' Longevity In Megacity Areas: The Importance Of Walkable Green Spaces" J Epidemiol Community Health 56: 913-918.



3.47 The associated straight line and pedestrian walking distance equivalents are available below.

Table 3.7 Walking times and distance equivalents

Time	Pedestrian route	Straight line distance (as-the-crow-flies)
One minute	100 metres	60 metres
Five minutes	400 metres	240 metres
10 minutes	800 metres	400 metres
15 minutes	1.2 kilometres	600 metres

Access to green space

3.48 Table 3.6 above shows how we translated a journey time into a straight line distance and from there into a radial distance which could be used for mapping purposes. Whilst not an exact science this is generally considered to be a robust and reasonable approach. Actual pedestrian routes are measured based on the Department for Transport's publication: Journey Time Statistics: Notes and Definitions (April 2017) which identifies an estimated walking speed of 4.8 kilometres per hour (km/h) for on road/path walking journeys.

3.49 A 400-metre walking journey (or a five minute walking time) was considered a reasonable distance that residents could expect to travel to their nearest open space, taking into account people's busy lives and abilities. This distance provides an inclusive approach at a neighbourhood level. Distance can be a psychological deterrent to accessing green space. The 5-minute journey, as an expected maximum journey-travelled, reduces this impact. It is also more likely to reduce the chance of walking journeys being disrupted by busy roads and other barriers.

3.50 A five-minute journey was chosen as an optimum expected walking time based on the following:

- **How far dog walkers generally travel to a green space:** Studies of dog owners found that, on average, people walk no further than a 400 to 500-metre pedestrian route to get to a green space suitable for exercising their pets. ⁽⁵⁾.

5 For example: Hampshire County Council (March 2013)
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1191352.pdf>

- **How far people with small children are willing to travel to their local green space:** The Field in Trust access standard for locally equipped play areas is five minutes which considers provision for up to children 8 years of age.
- **How far older people are will travel to green space:** A Department of Health, Physical Activity, Health Improvement and Protection study 'Get Active, Stay Active' Chief Medical Officer's report (2011) found that, to encourage older people 65 and over to get walking, they need to be within 5–10 minutes' walking distance of local shops and amenities.
- **How far people are willing to walk to public town centre amenities:** A 400 metre or 5-minute walking distance is commonly referred to in urban transit studies.

Additional access requirements

Natural green space

3.51 In addition to the benefits of keeping active, access to nature (e.g. woodland walks, seeing wildlife, visual amenity, supporting play) contributes significantly to our physical and mental wellbeing, including, for example:

- restorative benefits such as lowering stress and anxiety
- facilitating higher levels of imagination and problem solving skills in children and
- preventative benefits such as helping to boost our immune systems and lowering blood pressure.

3.52 If well managed, these green spaces can also contribute positively to an area's identity, moderate the effects from climate change and air pollution and provide joined-up spaces for wildlife to flourish. All in return adding to our improved well-being.

3.53 In relation to addressing access, the term 'natural green space' includes, for the purposes of this study:

- green spaces managed for their nature conservation value (e.g. country parks, local nature reserves, green corridors) and
- urban parks with inclusive natural areas (e.g. community orchards, wildflower meadows, pockets of urban woodland and areas designed for natural play).

3.54 Thus, the definition of natural green space used for the access standard is wider than the open space typology - 'natural green space' - as defined in Section 3.1. This is important for recognising the role of formal open spaces which may include significant areas of naturalness. For a space to be considered 'natural' it was assumed that at least one-third of a site's area was covered by trees, woodland, wetlands, grassland, hedges, other natural habitats, soft landscaping and/or non-equipped play spaces.



3.55 A 10-minute walking journey was considered to be the optimal maximum distance travelled to natural green space, based on the following:

- **Natural England's access to natural green space standard (ANGSt):** this includes access to natural green space (of 2ha or greater) within 300m (straight-line distance).
- **Natural England's national results from its Monitoring Engagement in the Natural Environment (MENE) survey 2012:** states the majority of people access the natural environment on foot within 15 minutes walking journey. We have translated this into a 600m straight-line distance.
- **Woodland Trust's access to woodland standard:** this includes a 500m pedestrian journey to woodland. This translates into a 300m straight-line distance.

3.56 These straight-line distances were averaged to inform the 10-minute optimum journey used in this assessment. No minimum size threshold was identified.

District parks

3.57 It is assumed that most people will walk further to access parks with a greater diversity of facilities and experiences. District parks and recreation grounds in the district include, for example: Titchfield Park and Yeoman Hill Park. A 15-minute walking journey was considered a reasonable distance for people to walk to a district-scale park. See Section 3.1 for definitions of open space.

Play provision

3.58 Access standards to play areas and teenager facilities are based on the Fields in Trust recommended benchmark guidelines (see Section 2.2), and includes five and 15-minute respective walking journeys.

Access Barriers

3.59 It is important, when assessing access to green and open spaces, to understand what types of barriers can deter or limit people accessing nearby green spaces or unnecessarily increasing journey times. This may include (but is not limited to):

- **Geographical barriers:** include busy roads, railways, rivers and also awkward (indirect) street layouts. These may impact on people's ability to safely access a site or may increase the distance needed to access a green space. Improving access locations into, or safe crossings to, a site may help address this.
- **Lack of appropriate type or size of open space or facilities available:** This may impact on how well a site is used by people living nearby. A very small amenity space has limited uses, so people may have to travel further to a park or play area to meet their needs.
- **Perceived quality of an open space:** This generally is in reference to perceived safety and cleanliness. It addresses, quality of equipment, design (e.g. is the

site overlooked) and anti-social behaviour (e.g. the presence of litter/fly tipping). This is addressed through site quality assessments.

- **Various social barriers:** these may include, for example: level of health, mobility, and age. The elderly, those in ill health, those with lower mobility and small children are less likely to access sites further away. Confidence and motivation are key factors impacting use and frequency of use. A combination of approaches, such as improving proximity, quality and addressing physical access barriers can help address this.

3.60 In this study, **geographical barriers** were used to identify key localised areas in the district in which journey times to nearby green space may be additionally limited and to prioritise how this should be addressed.

3.61 Key aspects related to perceived quality and social barriers were used to inform the design of quality assessments and standards. Potential lack of facilities was addressed by considering access to different types of green and open space (typologies) separately and then addressing any observed imbalances in distribution.

3.5 Is green space of good quality?

3.62 This part of the assessment looked at the quality of all green and open spaces in the district. In order to answer the question - 'are green spaces in the district of good quality?'. Quality assessment criteria were developed based on the following:

- **Green Flag Parks criteria** - This is a nationally recognised quality assessment scheme. Many of the district's larger parks have Green Flag status. Green Flag assessment categories were used to establish key categories used in the assessment, such as 'welcoming and accessible'.
- **Examples from other local authorities' quality assessments** - these were used to help define specific quality criteria benchmarks. Benchmarks for 'very good', 'good', etc. criteria were based on real examples of parks in the district to gauge scores.
- **Play England's 'Playable Space Quality Assessment Tool (October 2009)** - This is a nationally recognised quality assessment for play areas. It sets assessment criteria and how to rank these. These criteria were modified slightly in order to make it bespoke to Mansfield district.
- **Accessibility guidance** - Guidance from the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer, the Fieldfare Trust, and various inclusive play guidance documents were used to ensure that inclusive access for those with a range of abilities and disabilities was taken into account. This open space assessment doesn't include a formal accessibility audit as this is a role for the MDC Parks team for existing open space. Rather, higher-level accessibility criteria were defined and included to help recognise that accessibility plays an important part a green space's overall quality.
- **Feedback from MDC Parks team** - The Mansfield District Council Parks team was consulted during the development of the quality assessment and comments were integrated accordingly. This also took into consideration comments Parks



had received from elected members such as the importance of green spaces being *welcoming and safe*. This feedback was important for designing the criteria.

3.63 Up to 20 different individual criterion were used in the assessment. These were adjusted slightly based on the type of green space surveyed (e.g. formal park, amenity space without recreation facilities, natural green space, amenity space under 0.4 hectares, and play areas). This was important for reflecting reasonable score for different uses.

3.64 The quality survey criteria were grouped by the following categories:

- **Welcoming and accessible** - This considered, for example: if a site is accessible by public transport; movement through and around the site; if the main entrance is welcoming and easy to find; whether visitors could safely get to the site; if the site has inclusive access for people with disabilities and those with pushchairs and other aspects such as parking and signs.
- **Safe and secure** - A 'good' or 'very good' quality score was weighted primarily on whether the site had natural surveillance in order to assess if its location and design led to it being more resilient to anti-social behaviour. It looked at lighting, safe and secure boundaries which deterred illegal vehicles and the provision of safe places to play. It also assessed the overall condition of any benches or on-site facilities.

The safety of play equipment was not assessed as this is currently assessed by a trained independent inspector overseen by the Mansfield District Parks team.

- **Cleanliness and maintenance** - This included issues such as dog fouling, litter, graffiti, bins, grass and landscaping.
- **Overall use, image and setting** - This category focused on whether the green space contributed positively to the surrounding neighbourhood. It looked at a site's ability to support wildlife and if it encouraged positive social interaction through the facilities and spaces provided or the potential for the site to do so.

3.65 The quality assessments primarily took place in August 2015 by members of the Planning Policy team. A few assessments of play areas created as part of new development completions were undertaken June 2017.

3.66 Scoring was based on values given to the individual criteria based on the following whole values:

- 4 - very good
- 3 - good
- 2 - average
- 1 - poor

3.67 'Very Good' quality green spaces are generally those associated with Green Flag status. It is a quality associated with excellent contributions to place shaping, providing a high range of facilities and/or types of spaces for social interaction. They are actively welcoming in how they are designed with good access for all. They have a high maintenance standard. Sites have good natural surveillance and provide safe spaces for children to play.

3.68 'Good' quality green spaces have the same level of safety as 'very good' but are more functional in their overall design and appearance. The condition of paths, areas and facilities are well maintained and tidy. Access to and around sites feels safe with adequate safety measures put in place.

3.69 Green space may have minor issues affecting accessibility for all but are likely to be easily addressed. It creates a pleasant visual experience based upon first impressions. It may have distinct individual features or areas, in their own right but these are not integral to the overall character/setting of the surrounding area.

3.70 'Average' quality green spaces are generally considered more functional and in need of repairs and improvements. Overall, a sites' features and facilities don't present major safety concerns but enhancements would improve the area's image and encourage more people to use the site. As such, access to and around sites may deter some people but would not prevent them from using the site. Natural surveillance of sites and safe crossings to sites are limited and could be improved. Minor issues could be addressed to improve overall accessibility for those with disabilities.

3.71 These areas lack overall place shaping features and spaces as reflected in its overall design and layout. These are spaces that are more nondescript without character and distinctive qualities. Spaces for socialising are limited or don't appear to be integral to the overall design of the site. It also recognises that there are some sites that have potential for providing social spaces due to their location or layout, and would benefit from physical improvements in order to support this more fully.

3.72 A '**poor**' quality rating indicates that the site would benefit from a number of major improvements. There are likely to be issues acting as major psychological barriers to accessing these sites. These include safety, cleanliness and other anti-social issues. These sites detract from the image of the surrounding area. Routes, facilities, access points, surveillance accessibility, lighting and other security issues require priority attention. Sites visually detract from the neighbourhood/surrounding area. Sites lack spaces or seating areas to support positive social engagement and activities.

3.73 Scores for each criterion were assigned based on specific descriptions. The criteria were also bespoke to the type of green space, such that separate assessment forms were created for: parks and recreation grounds, natural green spaces, amenity spaces, incidental open space (small amenity space less than 0.4 ha) and play areas. Table 3.7 below provides an example:

**Table 3.8 Example quality criteria - parks and recreation areas**

Welcoming and accessible				
Scores	4	3	2	1
Main Entrance	Easy to locate with a clear and welcoming/inviting entrance (e.g. clear singe, interpretation. sculpture, ornate gate, etc.) that is clear of obstructions, well maintained (e.g. tidy, gate, etc. in good order). This is an entrance that helps define the site (has a 'wow' factor), rather than it is functional and looks nice.	Easy to locate and is well maintained (e.g. tidy, gate, etc. in good order), clear of obstructions. It is functional rather than place shaping.	Easy to locate but appears a bit 'tired'. It is still reasonably functional, generally tidy (minimal rubbish) and clear of major obstructions. OR it is difficult to determine where the main entrance as there is no clear difference between entrances but these are still functional, tidy and clear of obstructions.	Entrance does not appear inviting as it is not well maintained (e.g. graffiti, dangerous, etc.) and/or it is difficult to access due to major obstructions/barriers. May have health and safety issues.

3.74 Detailed information on quality criteria used to assess the different types of green space can be found in Appendix A.

3.6 Healthy communities

3.75 The assessment recognises that green and open spaces contribute other benefits in addition to their primary recreational use. This part of the assessment addresses the PPG17 'value of open space' component. Most importantly, it recognises that there are important qualities which contribute towards helping sustain and shape healthy communities including:

- ensuring spaces are nature friendly
- designing places to be socially inclusive, including the need for accessible places
- improving resilience to climate change
- conserving green space heritage

3.76 The assessment quantifies where these qualities are most strongly represented and identifies where improvements could be prioritised. It also looks at how these relate to the district's health portrait.

Health and well-being portrait

3.77 As reflected in Section 2.4, generally the health of the district's residents is worse off when compared to national averages. This assessment looks at two key indicators to see if there is any relationship with patterns in open space provision

across the district. The two main indicators used were: A) percentage of children in Year 6 who were classified as obese (2015) and B) percentage of people in bad or very bad health (2011).

Promoting healthy lifestyles

3.78 It is clear from studies on inactivity and also from feedback from residents in the district, that *accessibility* (close proximity), *quality* (high/good) and the types of facilities are important factors for enabling people to want to visit open spaces. These are key factors for encouraging the uptake of exercise when it comes to planning for new development. The main aim is to encourage physical activity in our everyday lives, promoting a more active society. Thus, the design of the urban landscape can have a significant influence on this. This is supported by studies such as:

- *Start Active, Stay Active: A report on physical activity for health from the four home countries Chief Medical Officers*, by the Department of Health (2011)
- *Turning the Tide of Inactivity*, by UK Active (2014)
- *Active Design - Planning for health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity*, by Sport England (2015)

Nature friendly spaces

3.79 Green spaces designed with nature in mind are more likely to contribute positively to our well-being - such as hearing bird song and seeing wildlife. There is strong evidence suggesting that being out in nature can have a beneficial impact on our physical and mental wellbeing. For example, interacting with nature can help people control symptoms from depression or even recover more quickly from illness. Benefits for children playing and learning in natural settings can, for example: increase self-esteem, improve concentration and encourage creativity.

3.80 Collectively, natural green spaces provide important habitat for wildlife, especially where they connect up to form green corridors linking with larger green spaces and the countryside. This allows wildlife to move and adapt to an ever changing urban environment.

3.81 Based on Natural England's guidance regarding accessible natural green space: Nature Nearby (May 2010), green and open spaces were categorised into the following levels of naturalness:

- **Level-1** included sites containing designated wildlife protection areas including: Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), woodland, natural green space adjacent to the countryside, and other Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats such as heathland.



- **Level-2** consisted of sites with unimproved grassland, areas that were once previously developed but have naturalised, green spaces within the floodplain, green corridors/trails and orchards.
- **Level-3** included formal parks in which a third or more of the green space's area contained natural areas such as: tree cover, wildflower meadows, areas of natural play, etc.

3.82 Each green space was assigned a level of naturalness based on the information above.

3.83 In addition, the quality assessment criteria used to assess individual green spaces in the district was used to help identify areas that had further potential for supporting wildlife. This helped to identify open spaces with greater potential for improvement. Together with the accessibility assessment findings, this information helps inform where enhancements should be prioritised.

Climate change resilience

3.84 To a certain extent, all green spaces within the district will contribute positively to mitigating and adapting to climate change, helping to regulate hot, dry summer temperatures, minimising impacts from poor air quality and providing areas for safely directing surface water run-off. However, this can vary greatly based on the way a green space is designed and managed.

3.85 This part of the assessment considers whether a green space was within a flood risk zone (within Flood Zone 2 or 3 or a high risk for surface water flooding), and therefore its ability to act as a flood storage area in time of heavy rainfall. It also identified open spaces containing woodland, indicating those spaces with a higher degree of shade and likely increased ability to absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Socially inclusion spaces and accessibility for all

3.86 Having access to community is a well known contributor to supporting well-being. For example, evidence suggests that for people with dementia, social interaction and access to the outdoors and nature is important to their quality of life ⁽⁶⁾.

3.87 This part of the assessment looks at a green space's ability to support socially inclusive activities. Spaces supporting the following were considered to be the most socially inclusive:

- support an active Friends Group

6 Greening Dementia: Natural England Commissioned Report NECR137. 2013. Natural England

- ability to host fairs/carnivals/events or included features such as bandstands or skate parks.
- Inclusion or close proximity of community centres such as a scouts hut
- overall design and inclusion of certain features for supporting sport and more informal social activities such as picnics.

3.88 The quality assessment findings helped to identify a green space's existing or potential ability to support social activities.

3.89 The quality audit also assessed all open spaces and play spaces' overall ability to support accessible provision for people with disabilities (i.e. accessible for all). This didn't rely on formal accessibility audits, but rather drew from a range of information from access audits and best practice guidance, including the Field Fare Trust and Play England.

Historic importance

3.90 Green and open spaces contribute positively to our sense of place and pride in an area. Green spaces supporting the district's heritage were identified including areas providing an important setting for, listed buildings, ancient monuments or other asset of local historic importance, including the district's mining heritage.

3.91 The district also has parks with a long history dating back to the 1800s or earlier either as grounds of larger estates or those given to the people of Mansfield by local aristocracy such as the Duke of Portland. Other parks contain war memorials or are located in Conservation Areas. Other green spaces are also part of the district's industrial heritage, such as restored mineral railways or colliery sites.



4 Key findings - how are we doing?

4.1 This section summaries the main findings in the assessment based on quantity (amount), balance, distribution, access, quality and value of green spaces and play provision.

4.1 How much do we have and where

4.2 This section details the assessment findings based on the amount, type, balance and distribution of green space in the district.

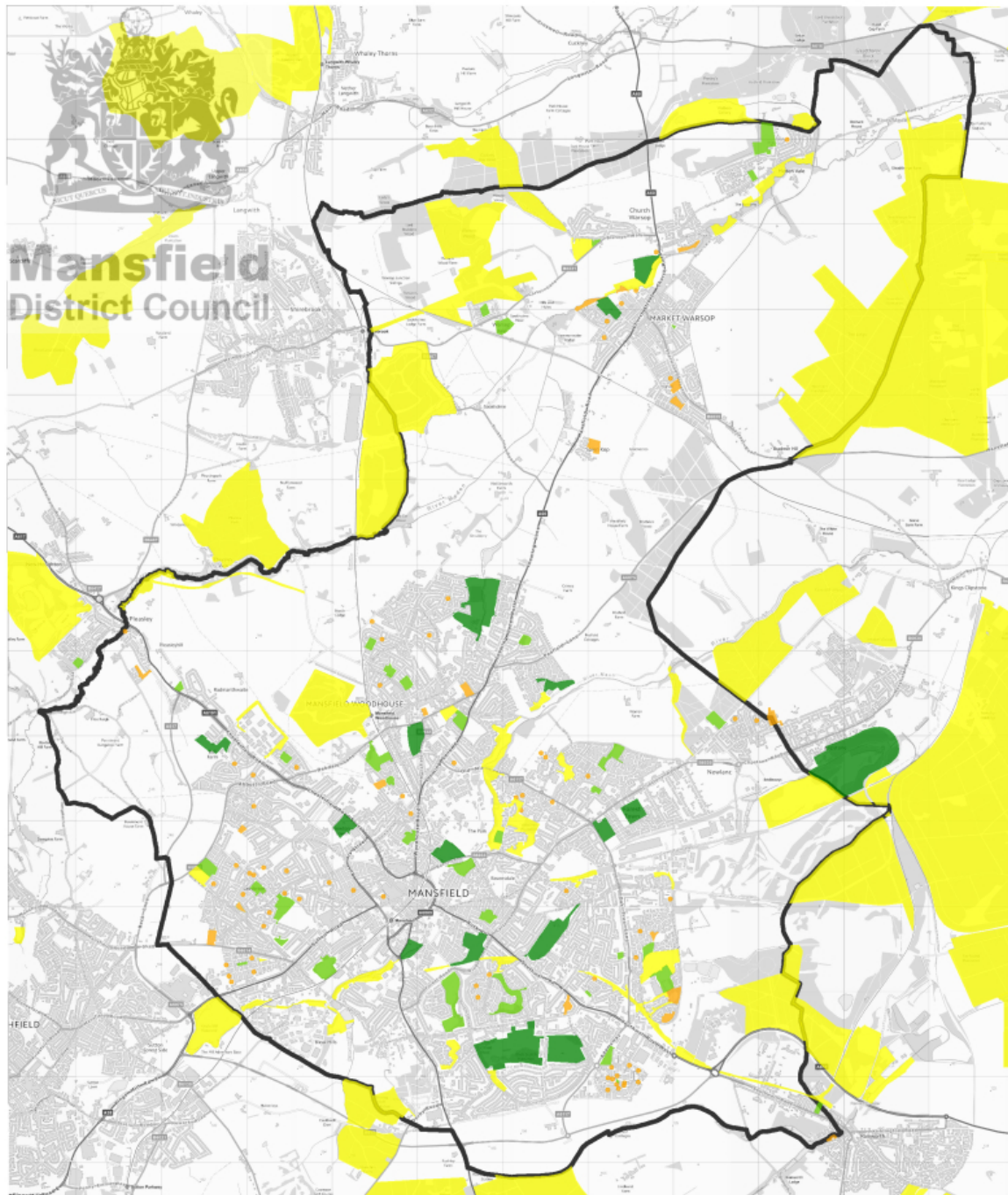
District summary

Table 4.1 Existing provision - how much by type

Type	Number	Percentage of total open space (number)	Area in hectares (ha)	Percentage of total open space (area)
District parks and recreation grounds	15	8.1%	120.28	13.56%
Local parks and recreation grounds	38	20.5%	76.53	8.63%
Amenity space	18	9.7%	18.10	2.04%
Incidental (less than 0.4 ha) amenity space	68	36.8%	10.49	1.18%
Natural green space	46	24.9%	661.41	74.58%
Total provision	185		886.81	

4.3 It is important not to rely on these figures alone to drawn key conclusions. Instead we need to look at the relationships between the types of green space, the recreational opportunities they bring and whether they are within reasonable walking distances for residents from their homes. The table below shows the distribution of green space in the district as categorised by the five key open space typologies.

Figure 4.1 Types of open space



Key

- | | |
|--|--|
| District park and recreation ground | Amenity space |
| Local park and recreation ground | Incidental open space |
| Natural areas | |

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Balance and distribution of green spaces

Relationship between formally managed green space and natural green space

4.4 Looking at the figures in Table 4.1, we can conclude that, based on land area, over a quarter (25.42%) of the land is formally managed provision; this includes parks and recreation grounds, amenity space and incidental open space. Around three quarters (74.58%) is natural green space. This includes spaces which are generally managed for their nature conservation value or as green ways but doesn't include small areas of natural green space within parks and recreation grounds. However, this ratio is reversed when considering the number of sites with 25% natural green space and 75% formally managed green space. Essentially we have fewer, but much larger areas of natural green space than compared with formally managed sites, accessible to residents.

4.5 It is important to recognise that some formally managed parks have areas of significant natural space contained within them (i.e. one-third or more of the area). When this is considered, the number of sites that offer some form of natural space is more or less even (53% with natural space to 47% and without natural space).

4.6 It would appear that based on the number of sites, there is a good balance of natural areas and formal recreation provision for residents to enjoy. But this is only part of the picture as it is important to consider where these sites are distributed across the district, their recreational use and who has access to them based on standard walking distances. Access to open space and the relationship between quality and access are covered in Sections 4.2 and 4.3.

Distribution of natural green space

4.7 Many of the larger areas of natural green space are located outside but, mostly immediately adjacent to the urban areas. These are mainly restored colliery sites and publicly accessible woodland. Although these are connected to the urban areas by public footpaths and well-used long-distance trails, their urban edge location, does however make these larger natural green spaces somewhat less accessible to the majority of residents in the district.

4.8 Wards with good access to these larger, urban edge natural green spaces include (7 out of the 36 wards):

- Meden
- Warsop Carrs
- Ransom Wood
- Oak Tree
- Sherwood

- Market Warsop
- Newlands

4.9 Within the urban area, large and connected green spaces generally take on the form of green walking and cycling corridors. These are made up of a combination of smaller and larger joined-up areas of natural green space, mainly located along former mineral railway tracks and along the district's river valleys. Where natural green spaces meet up with formally managed parks, these offer good opportunities for long-distance walking and cycling, forming green infrastructure corridors. These include, but not limited to:

- **River Maun Valley Green Corridor (north-east)** - Carr Bank Park, Maun Valley and Ravensdale Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), connecting further to Peafield woodland and Park located in the wards of Carr Bank, Peafields, Maun Valley and Yeomanhill
- **River Maun Valley Green Corridor (south-west)** - Land around Kings Mill Reservoir, Oakham, Hermitage and Quarry Lane LNRs located in the wards of Grange Farm, Oakham, and Portland
- **Mansfield Way Green Corridor** - Disused railway green spaces extending from Racecourse Park all the way through Rainworth located in the wards Earkring, Lindhurst, Oaktree and Ransom Wood
- **Sherwood Forest (south)** - Oak Tree LNR and adjoining recreation grounds and amenity spaces in Oaktree ward
- **Berry Hill Area/South Mansfield** - Berry Hill Park, King George V Park and adjoining woodland at Litchfield Lane/ The Avenue in Berry Hill and Lindhurst wards
- **River Meden Green Corridor** - green spaces along the River Meden including The Carrs Recreation Ground and LNR, Carr Lane Park, amenity spaces and The Bottoms LNR.

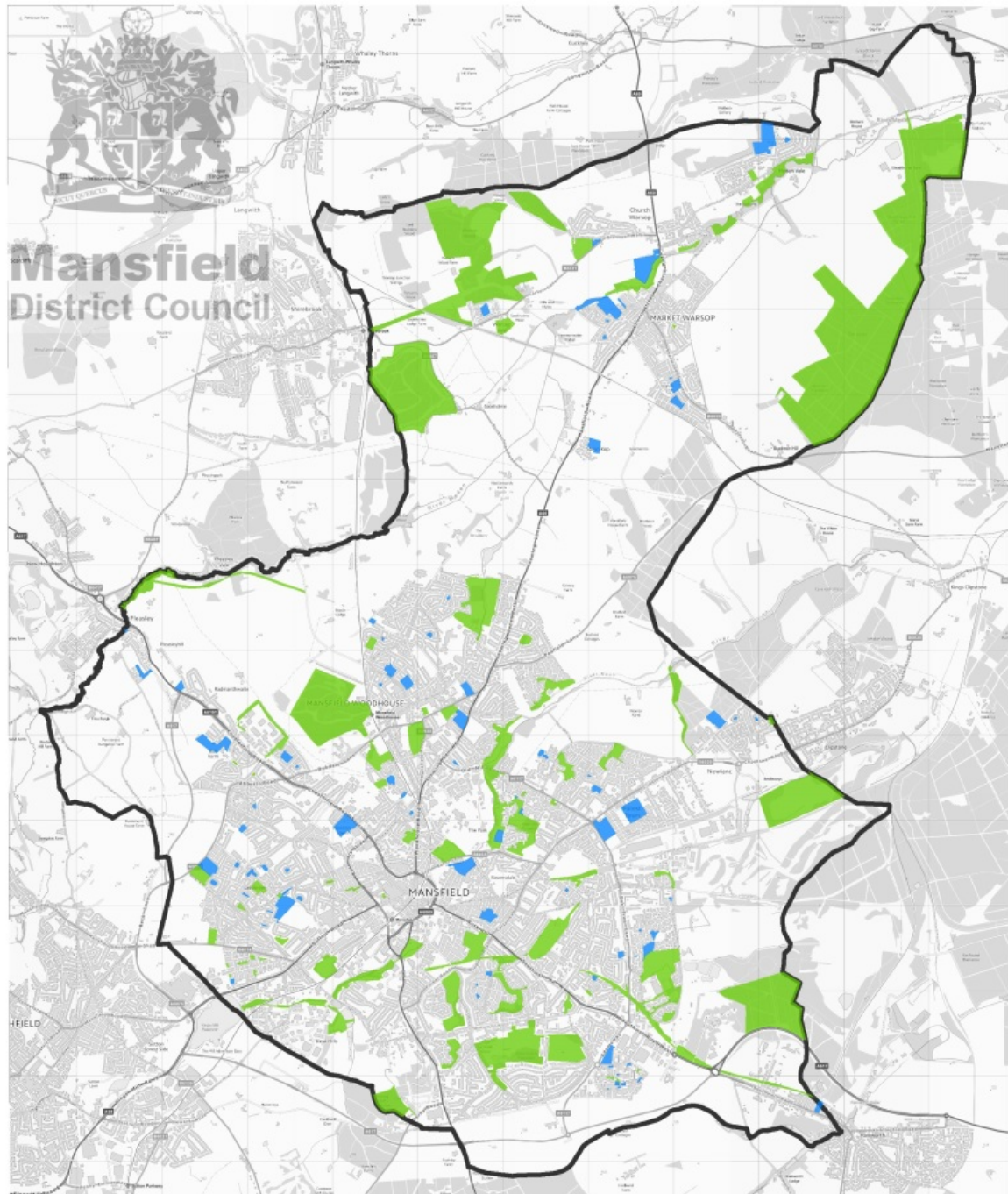
4.10 Many of these green corridors stretch over long distances, mainly running east-west across the district. For example, the River Maun green corridor stretches from Kings Mill Reservoir to Titchfield Park near Water Meadows Leisure Centre near the town centre. There is a short gap where it then extends from Carr Bank Park to Peafield Park and beyond the district stretching towards the Sherwood Forest. These areas are identified as strategic green infrastructure (GI). More detail on strategic GI can be found in a separate study (Mansfield District Council Green Infrastructure Technical Paper).



4.11 Just over a third (approximately 35%) of the total area of natural green space and other open space with natural areas can be found within the urban area. There are significantly greater numbers of sites with natural areas located within the urban area than outside the urban area; this is down to a greater number of smaller sites found within the urban area. This information suggests that there is a relatively good balance of natural green space within the urban area, as well as spaces located on the urban edge, indicating a fairly good distributed resource throughout the district. An general exception to this trend, is the western section of the district which is generally lacking in this resource.

4.12 Overall, the majority of open spaces offering access to nature are located within walking distance to where people live; this is explored in greater detail in Section 4.2. Figure 4.2 below shows where green spaces offer significant natural areas based on Natural England's Nature Nearby guidance (2010).

Figure 4.2 Nature nearby



Key

- Green space with natural areas
- Green space without natural areas



Relationship between formal sport/play and informal recreation areas

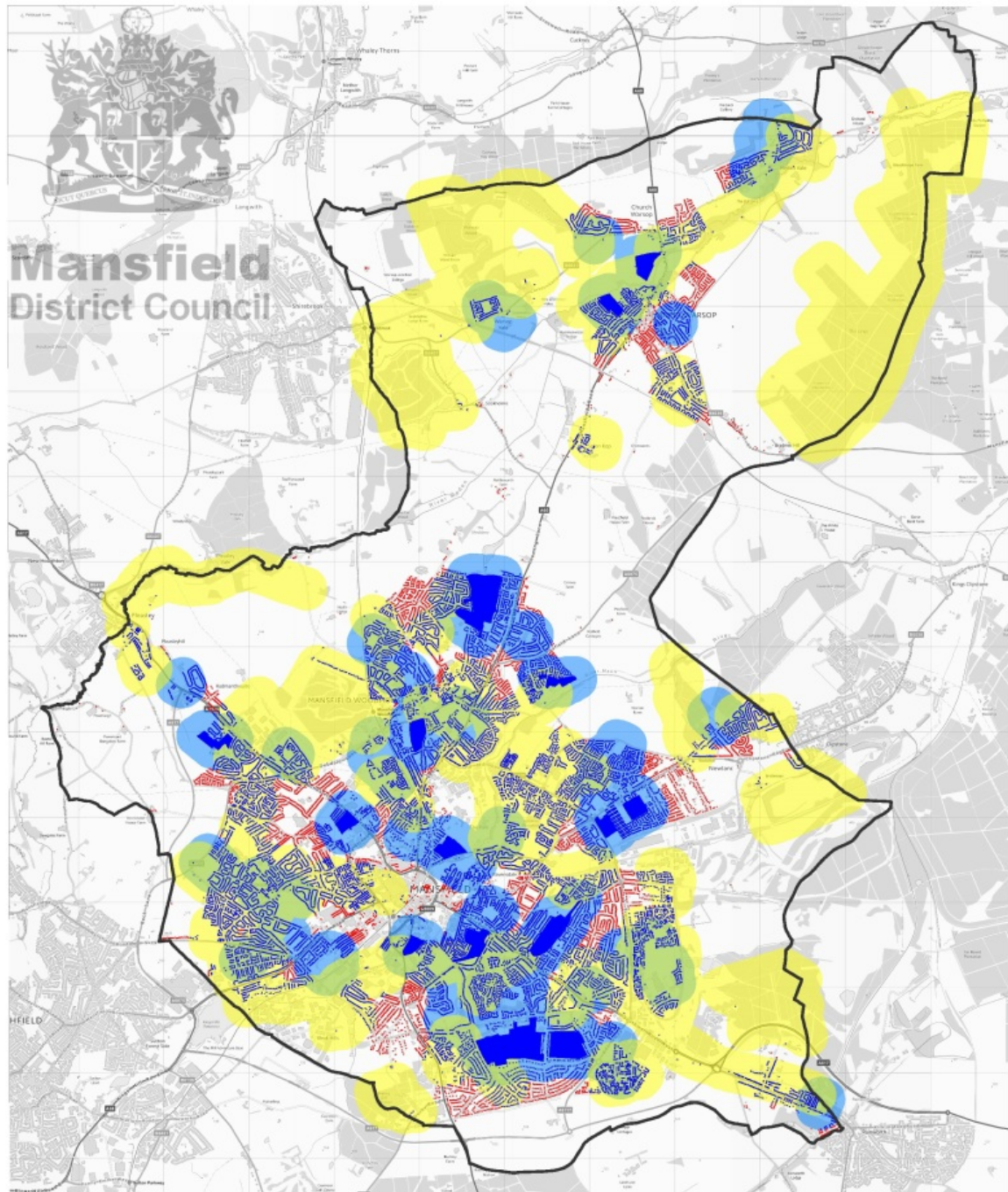
4.13 Having access to a balance of informal and formal recreational opportunities is an important consideration in meeting the varied needs of residents. *Formal* is defined as sites with established facilities for sport (e.g. pitches, bowls greens) and equipped play areas. *Informal* refers to sites without formalised facilities which mainly support walking, cycling and/or relaxing. Informal recreation provision includes amenity, incidental open space (small amenity spaces) and natural green space typologies. Studies show ⁽⁷⁾ that providing a greater amount of features (e.g. trails/paths, formal and informal play space, sports and outdoor exercise areas, social spaces, etc.) has a positive impact on increased uptake of physical activity and improved health and well being.

4.14 Based on area, the ratio of formal to informal recreation sites is approximately 1 to 3 (196.81 hectares formal to 690 hectares informal). Thus, based on total area, there appears to be a wealth of informal recreational space and possibly a more limited supply of formal parks and recreation grounds. In reality, it is likely that a small number of very large natural green spaces (6 out of 46), ranging from 30 - 156 hectares (ha), skews this picture. The number of formal to informal recreation sites is closer to 1 to 2.5 (53 formal to 132 informal), suggesting a closer relationship.

4.15 The distribution of green spaces and how close they are in relation of where people live gives us the clearest picture for understanding the current balance of provision and provision needs. Figure 4.3 shows the distribution of and access to formal and informal recreational green space within a 5-minute walk. The red dots show where people lack access to open space within a 5-minute walk. Where the blue (access to formal within a 5-min walk) and yellow buffer (access to informal within a 5-min walk) overlap, show where residents have access to both formal and informal open space.

7 Kaczynski, A.T., Potwarka, L. R., Saelens, B. E. 2008. Association of park size, distance and features with physical activity in neighborhood parks. American Journal of Public Health. Aug (98(8), 1451-6.

Figure 4.3 Distribution and access to formal and informal green space



Key

*Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

- District park and recreation ground
- Access* to formal open space
- Access* to informal open space

- Access* to both formal and informal space
- Residential property with access* to open space
- Residential property without access* to open space

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4.16 Another significant contribution to understanding the overall resource of open space in the district, concerns the distribution of incidental open space. These are small amenity spaces measuring less than 0.4 hectares (ha). These vary in what they offer residents. Some are just mown open areas of grass without any benches or place shaping features. Others act as local greens, areas of quiet contemplation or informal play space. In some areas of the district, they are the closest and only areas of green space for residents. Generally, they are more limited in their recreational uses.

4.17 Even through these small amenity spaces make up just 1.18% of the total land area, they account for 37.3% of the total number of open spaces in the district. In Abbott ward, incidental open space accounts for 100% of the total open space.

4.18 Amenity spaces (including incidental) offer limited recreational choice for residents, especially where there is also limited access to formal sports and play facilities nearby. In Park Hall, Abbott, and Brick Kiln wards amenity space accounts for 70-100% of the total area of open space. In these areas of the district, the creation of new formal green space and ensuring safe and easy access to district-level parks are especially important priorities for ensuring that residents have adequate access to open space.

4.19 In addition to the four wards above, there are also a number of other wards in which informal recreational space (amenity and/or natural green space) makes up the majority of the total area (80% of total green space or greater). These include:

- Grange Farm
- Market Warsop
- Meden
- Newlands
- Oakham
- Ransom Wood
- Sherwood and
- Warsop Carrs.

4.20 Residents in these wards are likely to have more limited range of recreational choice. As discussed earlier, relying solely on the amount of green and open space available within a ward doesn't often tell the full story and needs to be combined with an access assessment (Section 4.2). Some examples within the district are highlighted below:

- **Eakring ward** - Although there is only a small amount of green space within this ward, most residents have good access to green space located in adjoining wards. Provision is likely to be adequate for residents within this area of the district.
- **Abbott ward** - Incidental open space makes up the majority of green space within this ward AND the majority of residents don't have access to play or sport provision near to where they live. Where opportunities arise, it is likely that open space needs creating.
- **Ransom Wood ward** - Residents within this ward have limited access to formal recreation provision as the only formal park within the ward isn't centrally located. No households have access to a district level park, but generally most residents have very good access to natural green space. The balance of access to natural green space and formal parks/play area may need addressing.

4.21 Priorities bring the full assessment of needs are summarised in Section 5.1 and Appendix C.

Distribution of district parks

4.22 District parks and recreation grounds include a range of leisure and recreational facilities and a mixture of informal and formal areas. These can act as important community hubs for sporting and social events. They are also often larger sites and range from three hectares (Titchfield and Peafield parks) to over 25 hectares (Manor Park). A majority of these are Green Flag awarded parks. Overall, they offer a range of recreational choice and are, generally, of a high quality standard.

4.23 There are 15 recognised district-level parks located across the district. Thirteen are located within the Mansfield urban area and two located within Market Warsop. Figure 4.1 shows where these are located in the district. Generally, district parks are centrally located within the district with the exception of Bullfarm Park, Queensway Park and Forest Town Miners Welfare. Access to district parks is discussed in Section 4.2.

Table 4.2 Summary of district-level parks

Ward / Area	District park	Ward / Area	District park
Market Warsop (Warsop Carrs ward)	The Carrs and Carr Lane Park	Mansfield Woodhouse (Manor and Peafield wards)	Manor Park Sports Complex and Peafield Park
Berry Hill area (Berry Hill and Lindhurst wards)	Berry Hill Park and King George V Playing Field	Portland ward	Titchfield Park



Ward / Area	District park	Ward / Area	District park
Bull Farm area (Bull Farm and Pleasley ward)	Bull Farm Park, Sports Ground and Community Centre	Racecourse ward	Racecourse Recreation Ground
Carr Bank ward	Carr Bank Park	Sandhurst ward	Fisher Lane Park
Broomhill ward	Chesterfield Road Recreation Ground	Yeoman Hill ward (Mansfield Woodhouse)	Yeoman Hill Park
Forest Town (Kingsway ward)	Forest Town Miners Welfare and		

Play Space

4.24 Play areas were assessed within two main categories:

- teenager provision (12 years and older) and
- children's play areas (Locally Equipped Areas of Play up to 12 years and Local Areas for Play up to 6 years).

4.25 The table below summarises the types and numbers of facilities available in the district.

Table 4.3 - Provision for children and young people

Type of provision	Targeted Age Range	Number	Total area (hectares)
Local Areas for Play (LAP)	Children 6 years of age and younger	7	0.28 ha
Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP)	Children up to 8 years of age but may be used by older children up to 12 years of age	27	3.18 ha
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP)	Children 8 years of age and up to teenagers	5	1.14 ha
Multi-use Game Area (MUGA)	Generally teenagers but can also used be people of all ages	6	0.47 ha
Skate Park or BMX track	Generally teenagers but can also used be people of all ages	7	0.77 ha
Outdoor gyms	Generally teenagers but can also used be people of all ages	4	1.45 ha

4.26 Based on distribution, there are noticeable areas within the district that lack play provision, including (but not limited to):

- southern Market Warsop
- southwestern Mansfield urban area
- central Mansfield urban area

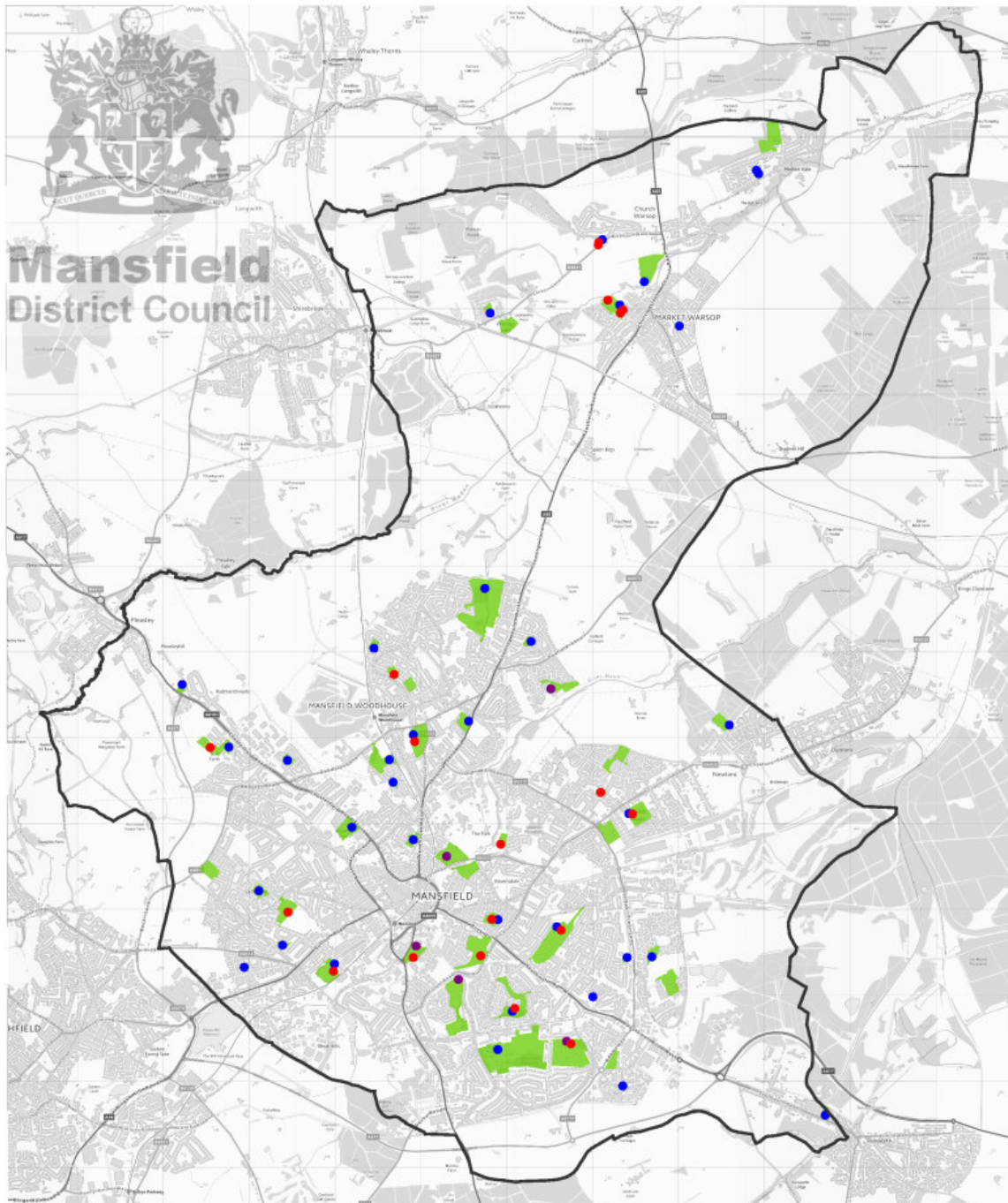
- northern Mansfield Woodhouse and
- eastern Mansfield urban area.

4.27 This pattern is reflected within wards that have a higher proportion of amenity and natural green space. The map below (Figure 4.4) shows the distribution of play areas in the district and the parks that contain them.

4.28 Please note, for the purposes of this study, Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) cater for both teenagers and younger age groups.



Figure 4.4 Types of play space




Key

 Park and recreation ground

 Childrens play area

 Teenage area

 Both childrens and teenager provision

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Summary of findings: how does the district compare to national standards?

4.29 Section 2.2 sets out national benchmarks used to help guide local standards for the provision of green and open space within this assessment. The table below shows how the district compares to national benchmarks in relation to the amount of open space in the district. Results are discussed in the 'Comments' column, including limitations with regards to applying the national benchmarks.

4.30 As discussed previously, quantity offers a limited understanding of open space provision, however it is often seen as an initial useful benchmark and for comparing the district to other districts across the country. It may be useful for informing how much open space should be required to meet the needs of future residents when planning for new development. But should only be considered alongside access, quality and local facility needs.

4.31 Research in 2014 (Turning the Tide of Inactivity- UK Active) found that there is no significant connection between levels of physical inactivity and the amount of green space in a local authority area. Levels of inactivity were found to be more significantly linked to the safety and accessibility of outdoor areas and could be influenced by the way green space is utilised. Therefore, the assessment work regarding *access to green spaces* and *quality* (Sections 4.2 and 4.3) have primarily informed the development of the Mansfield green space standard.



Table 4.4 Reporting on National standards - amount of open space

Open space category	Explanation of type(s) of open space considered for this assessment	National standard/benchmark	Results for the district (2013)	Results for the district (2033) considering no change in open space	Comments
Open space with outdoor sports provision	Includes all open spaces with some form of outdoor sports provision including, for example: tennis, football, rugby, athletics, cricket and petanque. Excludes community accessible school playing fields and private playing pitches, and MUGAs, skate parks and outdoor gyms. Excludes parks without	1.6 ha/1,000 population (Fields in Trust)	1.44 hectares / 1,000 population	1.36 hectares / 1,000 population	<p>This benchmark is not met as the figure falls below the national benchmark but there are other factors to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The figure includes the total area of the open space for which the sports provision is contained within. The Fields in Trust guidance is not clear if the benchmark only applies to the exact boundary of the outdoor sports provision or the site that contains the provision. If it is the former, the total hectares per population figure could be less than 1.44. Based on existing amount of open space with outdoor sports provision (no gains or losses), this benchmark would not be met in 2033. The figures to the left also exclude community accessible sports provision on school playing fields and private sport facilities. By including these, the national benchmark might be met or exceeded. Playing pitch provision for club sports has been assessed through a separate MDC Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy (2016). Results from this assessment show that most of the sports provision in the district adequately meets identified needs for organised clubs and other sports groups. Unlike the MDC Playing Pitch Assessment, this open space study considers informally managed sports pitches, or petanque or outdoor cycle track provision for the purposes of this benchmark. These types of outdoor provision are mostly integrated alongside other play and social provision

Open space category	Explanation of type(s) of open space considered for this assessment	National standard/benchmark	Results for the district (2013)	Results for the district (2033) considering no change in open space	Comments
	outdoor sports provision.				within parks and recreation grounds (below). This open space study doesn't consider demand for informal sports provision but rather considers that the choice of provision within a particular open space is reflected in the open space's overall quality.
Urban parks and gardens	Includes all parks and recreation grounds with play and/or sports provision. Sports provision may be informally managed and doesn't necessarily support formal clubs but does currently include e.g. goal posts.	0.80 ha/1,000 population (Fields in Trust or FIT)	1.87 hectares / 1,000 population	1.76 hectares / 1,000 population	<p>This benchmark is met as the figure is greater than the national benchmark but there are other factors to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not clear if the FIT national benchmark excludes outdoor sports provision (as to prevent overlap with reporting on the benchmark above). If this is the case, the ha/ 1,000 population is likely to be lower. Based on it is estimated that if outdoor pitches from were excluded parks and recreation grounds in the district, the benchmark may be met but not exceeded. Based on existing amount of urban parks and gardens (no gains or losses), this benchmark would be exceeded in 2033. But as discussed above, it is not clear what the FIT benchmark definition includes. Access to open space is considered to be a more appropriate method for assessing need within the district.
Amenity space	Includes open space without any form of play or sports provision. Includes the typologies: amenity	0.60 ha/1,000 (Fields in Trust)	0.27 hectares / 1,000 population	0.26 hectares / 1,000 population	<p>This benchmark is not met as the figure is falls below than the national benchmark but there are other factors to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A majority of amenity spaces in the district are less than 0.4 hectares. Areas of amenity space within parks and recreation grounds and natural green space were not included in this figure.



Open space category	Explanation of type(s) of open space considered for this assessment	National standard/benchmark	Results for the district (2013)	Results for the district (2033) considering no change in open space	Comments
	space and incidental open space (amenity space less than 0.4 hectares).				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on existing amount of amenity space (no gains or losses), this benchmark would not be met in 2033. Access to open space is considered to be a more appropriate method for assessing need within the district.
Natural green space	Includes all open space (including formal parks) where one-third or more of the area includes some form of natural space e.g. trees, woods, river, natural play space, meadow, heathland, local wildlife site, etc.	1 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) per 1,000 population (Natural England) AND 1.80 ha/1,000 population (Fields in Trust)	There are 9 full LNRs in the district and part of another (Vicar Water Country Park LNR). AND 7.69 hectares / 1,000 population	7.24 hectares / 1,000 population	<p>This benchmark is met as the figure is greater than the national benchmark but there are other factors to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This figure includes formal parks with smaller natural areas and those entirely natural green space (e.g. local nature reserves, green corridors). Therefore the figure includes some formally managed areas. If this area was removed, it is estimated that the benchmark for area per 1,000 population would still be exceeded (approx. 6.28 ha / 1,000 population). Based on existing amount of open space with natural green space (no gains or losses), this benchmark would be exceeded in 2033, but as discussed above, it is not clear what the FIT benchmark definition includes. This figure includes a few very large open/green spaces outside the urban area which potentially screws the data. The balance of provision with formal sports and play provision and access to natural green space are two key factors which are considered to be more appropriate methods for assessing need within the district.

Open space category	Explanation of type(s) of open space considered for this assessment	National standard/benchmark	Results for the district (2013)	Results for the district (2033) considering no change in open space	Comments
Play provision	Includes play provision and other outdoor provision including skate parks, MUGAs and outdoor gyms.	Combined benchmark of 0.55 ha / 1,000 population. Includes 0.25 ha / 1,000 population of equipped/ designated children's play provision AND 0.30 ha / 1,000 population of other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks).	A) 0.07 ha/1,000 population when considering just the play provision area and not the total area of the park which contains it. OR B) 1.64 ha/1,000 population when considering the area of parks which contain play provision.		<p>This benchmark is not met as the figure falls below the national benchmark but there are other factors to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not clear from the Fields in Trust guidance if the benchmark only considers the equipped play provision area or the area of wider open space that contains the play area. Based on the former, 54 additional hectares /1,000 population would be required to meet the national benchmark. The average size of a play area in the district is 0.23 hectares. This would mean that over 200 play areas would be required to meet the benchmark, which is unrealistic. Based on the later, the benchmark is exceeded but there are areas within the district where play space is clearly lacking. Distribution of and access to play space are considered to be more appropriate methods for assessing need within the district.
<p>Please note: The population figures are based on the 2013 National Statistic mid-year estimates and amount of open space as of December 2016. The Fields in Trust benchmarks are taken from their most up-to-date guidance - 'Guidance for outdoor sport and play: beyond the six acre standard' (October 2015).</p> <p>Office of National Statistics (ONS) figures indicate that the population of Mansfield district as a whole is forecast to grow from 105,296 (2013) to 111,827 by the year 2033 (end of the Local Plan period). This equates to a 6.2% growth rate.</p>					



4.2 Access to green space

4.32 As observed in Section 4.1, the amount, balance and distribution of green and open spaces gives us an initial, but partial picture of how well the district provides for community open spaces. This section builds on the findings in the previous section looking at whether the district's green spaces are close enough to where people live in order to support residents' recreation, health and wellbeing needs. It uses a locally set walking journey or *access standard* for the different types of open space based on research as discussed in Section 3.

4.33 This part of the assessment primarily focuses on looking at gaps in access and identifying the locations where people don't appear to have safe access to green space within reasonable walking distances of their homes. These gaps are useful for informing where resources and improvements can be prioritised, including the allocation of new development to facilitate the creation of new open space.

4.34 Determining surplus of provision should be based on the Mansfield Green Space Standard discussed in Section 5. This is likely to be applied on a case by case basis, given key factors and identified priorities that should be considered when assessing needs within the district.

District summary

4.35 The following table shows what proportion of residents in the district have and don't have access to the different types of green space based on reasonable walking distances from people's homes.

Table 4.5 Access to green and open spaces by buffer analysis

Ref	Type of provision and walking distance	Percentage (%) of residential properties with access	Percentage (%) of residential properties without access
A	Access to any type of green space within a 5-minute walking distance	82.8%	17.2% (8,379 properties)
B	Access to sites with natural green space within a 10-minute walking distance (Includes formal parks and amenity space with at least 1/3 of the site's area containing natural space)	84.7%	15.3% (7,456 properties)
C	Access to district level parks within a 15-minute walking distance	61.7%	38.3% (18,629 properties)
D	Access to all types of play space within a 5-minute walking distance	49.9%	50.1% (24,386 properties)

Ref	Type of provision and walking distance	Percentage (%) of residential properties with access	Percentage (%) of residential properties without access
E	Access to parks with teenager facilities (12 and up) within a 15-minute walking distance	64.7%	35.3% (17,170 properties)
F	Access to parks with younger children facilities (up to 12) within a 5-minute walking distance	45.2%	54.8% (21,985 properties)

4.36 When considering access across the whole of the district, most residents have access to some form of green / open space within a 5-minute walk from their home. There are some localised areas where this isn't the case. These areas are likely to benefit from the creation of new green space and/or access improvements, where opportunities exist.

4.37 The figures above don't take into account how well balanced access is to informal and formal recreational provision or the physical barriers (e.g. busy roads, rivers, awkward road layouts) which limit or lengthen the journey times to nearby green space. When these are considered, the numbers of residents who have access to nearby (within a 5-minute walk) open space decreases. These are discussed later in this section.

Access to green space maps

4.38 The following maps show where residents have and don't have access to green space within specified walking journey times. The results are also summarised within Table 4.12 at the end of this section.

4.39 To help assess *access to green space* at a neighbourhood level, ward boundaries were used. The map (figure 4.5) below shows the 36 ward boundaries that make up the district. This should be used as a point of reference for the subsequent maps in this section and also Section 4.3 (quality of green space).



Figure 4.5 Ward Map



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Overall access

4.40 Overall assessment findings show that, when considering access to *any* type of green space, the areas in the district where residents lack access to nearby green space (5-minute walk) are:

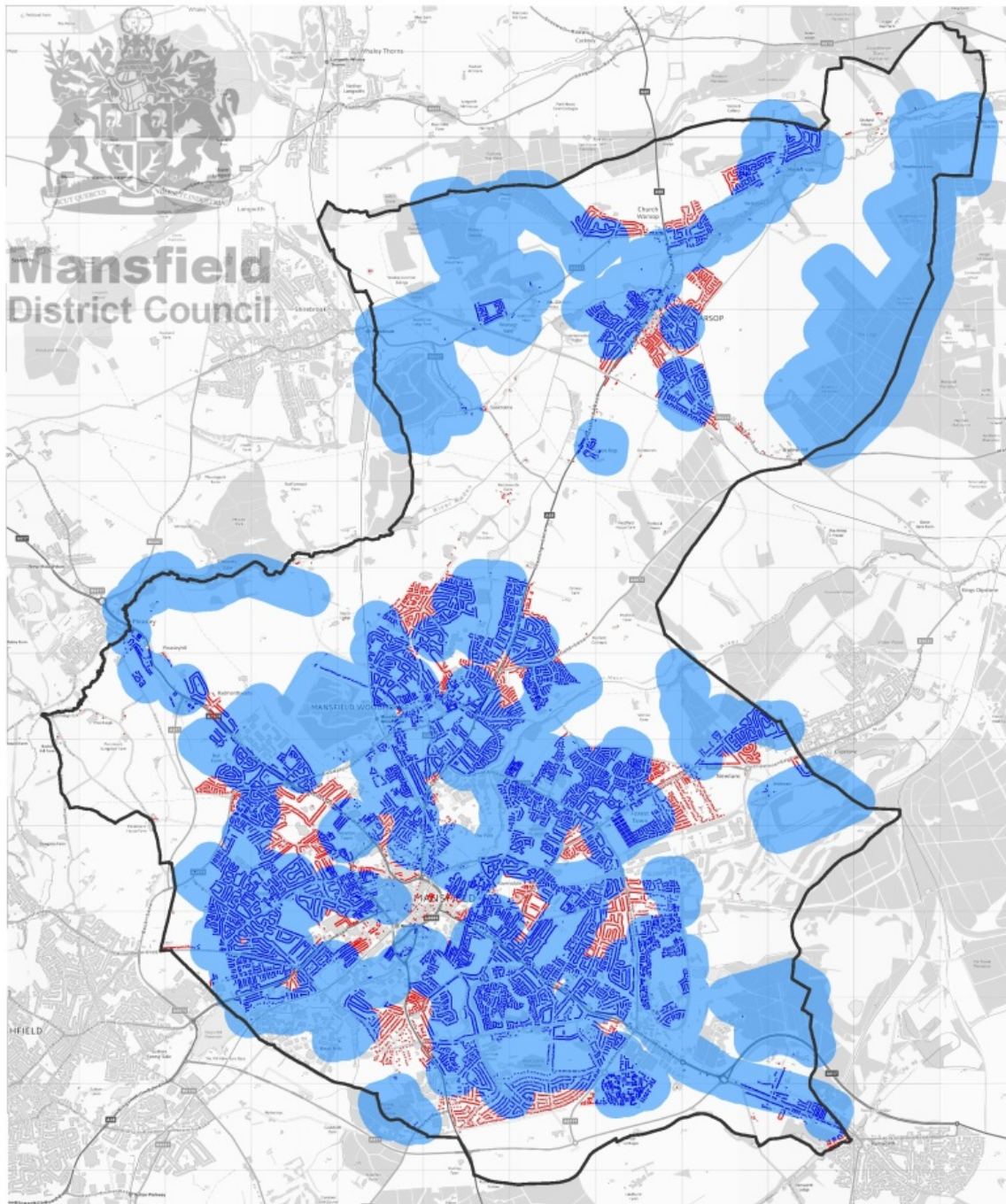
- parts of Market Warsop, Church Warsop and Meden Vale (southern sections)
- parts of Forest Town
- northern Mansfield Woodhouse
- parts of Oak Tree, and
- parts of western, central and southern Mansfield urban areas.

These are shown in Figure 4.6: access to all green spaces within a 5-minute walking journey.

4.41 Planned new development within areas of, for example: Lindhurst (southern Mansfield urban area located within Berry Hill, Lindhurst and Ransom Wood wards) and Park Hall (northern Mansfield Woodhouse within Park Hall ward), may help to fill some these gaps. But more investment is likely to be needed in other areas of the district in the form of planning contributions from planned new development and larger funding schemes.



Figure 4.6 Access to all green spaces within a 5-minute walking journey



Key

*Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

- Access* to open space(s)
- Residential property with access* to open space
- Residential property without access* to open space

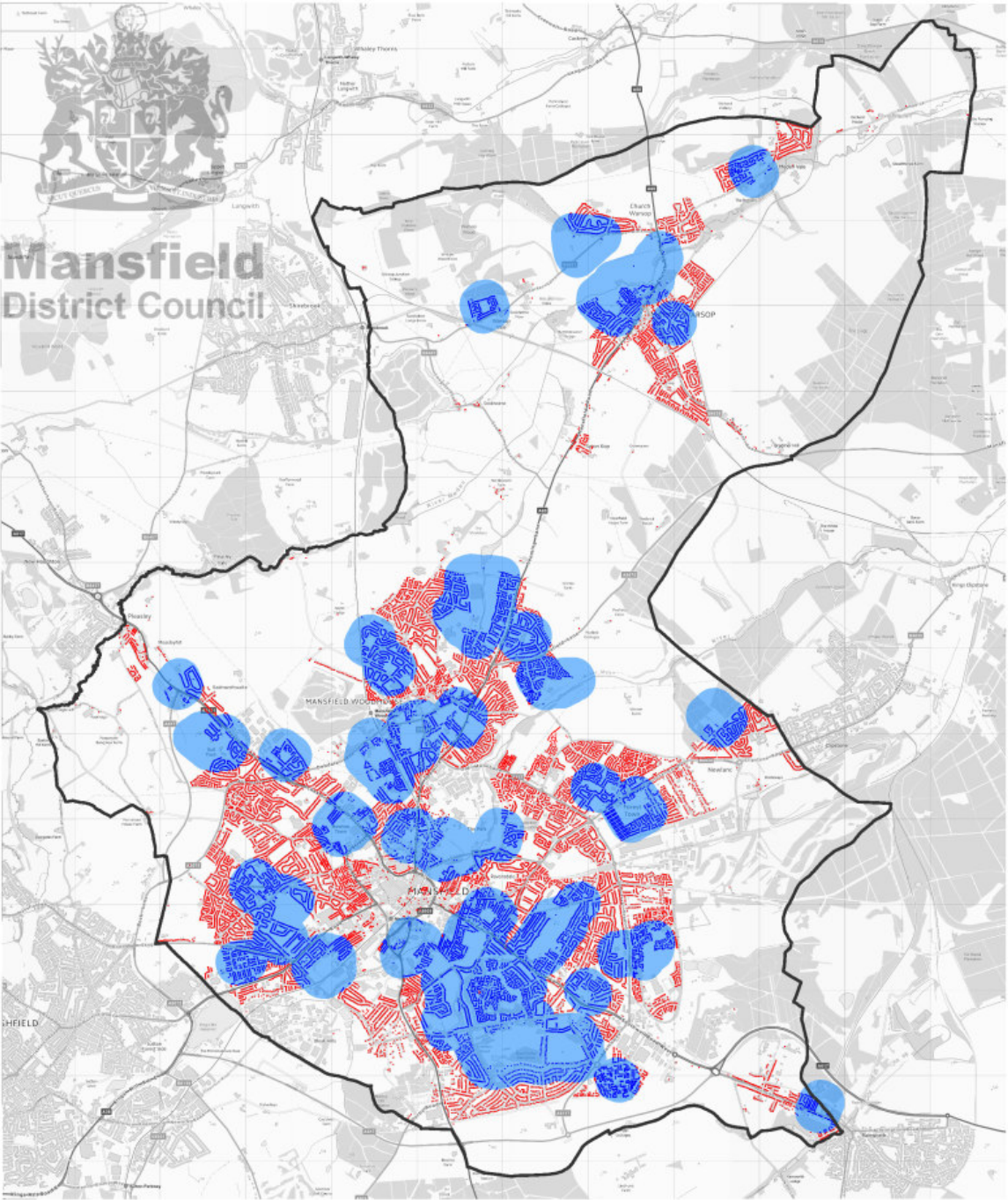
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Access to play space

4.42 Based on the findings, there are clear gaps in access to play space (both younger and teenager provision) within a 5-minute walking journey. This is reflected where there is limited access of formal recreational provision. These are shown in Figure 4.7: access to play space within a 5-minute walking journey.



Figure 4.7 Access to play space within a 5-minute walking journey



Key *Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

- Access* to play space(s)
- Residential property with access* to play space
- Residential property without access* to play space

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Access to nature

4.43 Overall, residents have good access to open space with natural areas. This includes formally managed parks with natural areas. These are shown in Figure 4.8: access to natural green space within a 10-minute walking journey.

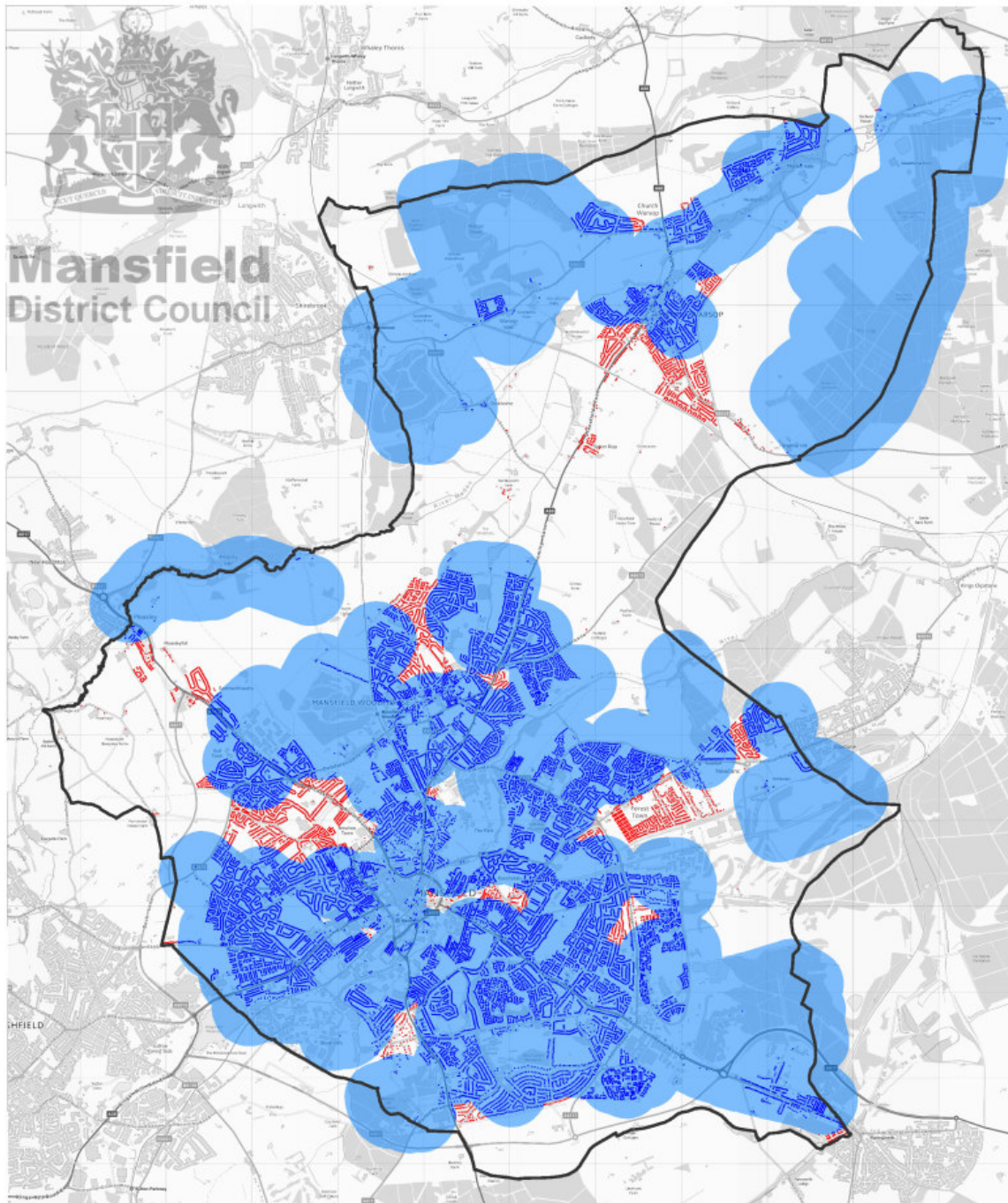
4.44 General gaps in this provision include the areas of:

- southern Market Warsop
- northern Mansfield Woodhouse
- Spion Kop
- central and western Mansfield
- Pleasley Hill
- parts of Forest Town and
- parts of Oak Tree.

4.45 Access to the countryside via public footpaths and green corridors also provide gateways to natural areas. Unfortunately, not all paths are accessible to people with disabilities and push chairs, and therefore this is limiting for some residents. Gaps in access could be addressed by improving the 'naturalness' quality of nearby parks and amenity spaces and improving the accessibility within (i.e. grading, surfaces and access points) areas of natural green space.



Figure 4.8 Access to natural green space within a 10-minute walking journey



Key

*Access is defined as being within a ten minute walk (700m)

- Access* to natural green space(s)
- Residential property with access* to natural green space
- Residential property without access* to natural green space

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Access to district-level parks

4.46 There are more residents in the district that have access to a district-level park than those that don't have access, within a 15-minute walk. Most district parks are centrally located. On the plus side, this means that generally residents have good access to district parks but due to the distribution of the urban area, there are also major gaps in access to this provision. All in all, there are 21 wards (out of 36) which require improved access to district-level parks. These are shown in Figure 4.9: access to district parks and recreation grounds within a 15-minute walking journey.

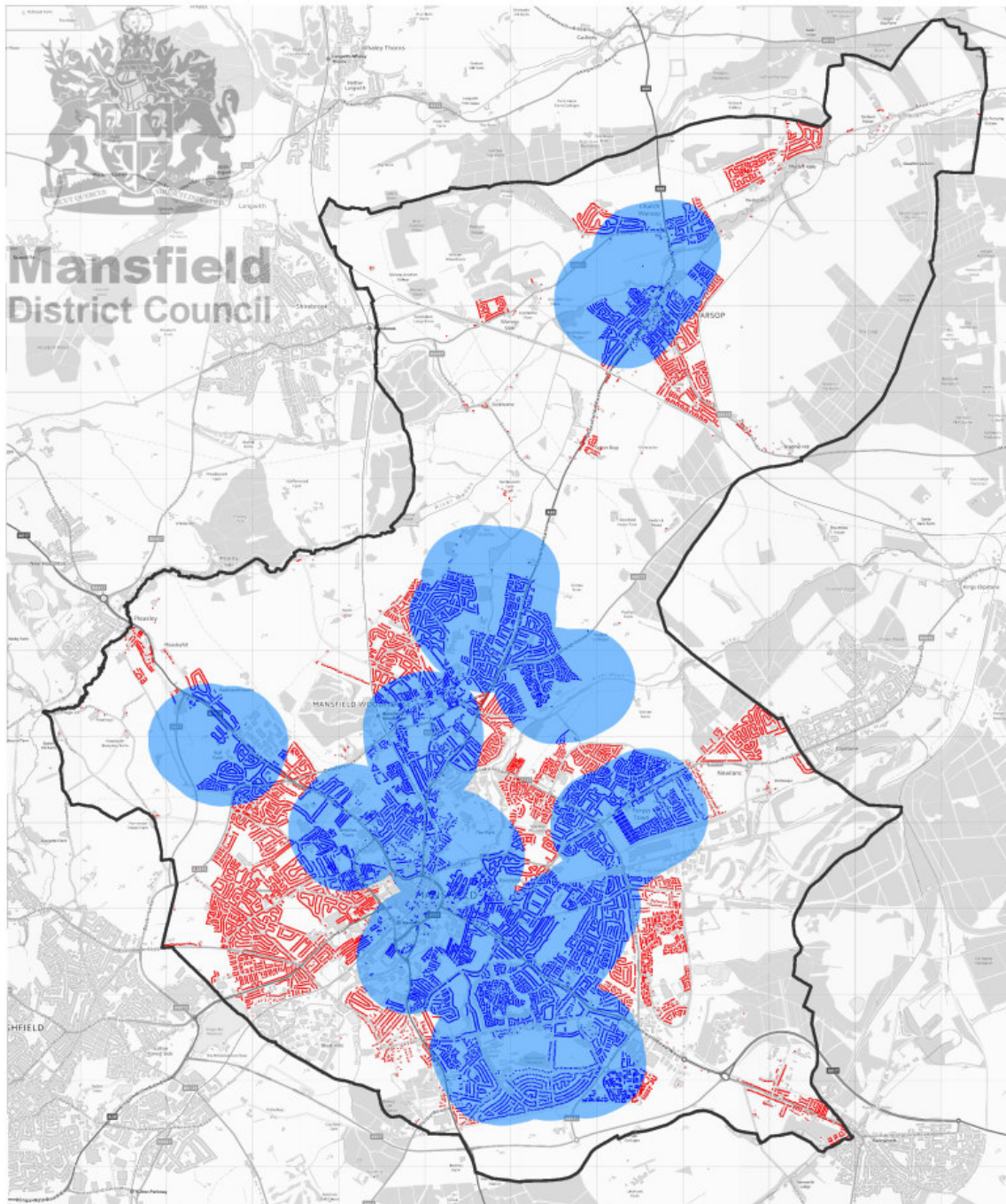
4.47 Actions to address these deficiencies may include:

- upgrading local parks or amenity space to an equivalent 'district park' level - this may include improving the choice and quality of facilities
- creating new district-level parks as part of new development or
- create new and/or better access points and pathways from nearby residential areas (new and existing).

4.48 Access to district parks is particularly important for residents whose access to green space is limited to small amenity spaces (0.4 hectares or less), as small amenity spaces lack facilities to support choice and varied health benefits. Areas in the district where this is the case are identified in Table 4.12.



Figure 4.9 Access to district parks and recreation grounds within a 15-minute walking journey



Key

*Access is defined as being within a fifteen minute walk (1km)



Access* to district park and recreation ground(s)



Residential property with access* to a district park and recreation ground



Residential property without access* to a district park and recreation ground

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Key considerations

4.49 Access buffer zones are shown on the maps according to a pedestrian equivalent distance from each green space measured in a straight-line (see Table 3.7, Section 3.4). This is based on standard best practice methods for open space assessments. It is important to note that these mapped access buffers zones may take into account walking distances greater than the buffered distance.

4.50 For example, it is reasonable to recognise that on main (straight line) arterial routes away from parks, a 5-minute walk would include people who are up to 400m walking distance away, and not those only within a 240m as-the-crow-flies buffer zone. Whereas, it is unlikely that anyone within the 240m buffer would be more than a 5-minute (400m) walk. Within a given area, this accounts for most routes from home to parks that aren't in a straight line. Therefore, it is more likely that we are under-reporting accessibility rather than over-reporting it.

4.51 The table below sets out the approach taken to assessing gaps based on identified scenarios and observed patterns of open space within the district. It also suggests recommended actions required to address identified deficiencies. This approach feeds into the priorities identified in Section 5.

Table 4.6 Identifying access issues

Key Considerations	Method used to identify gaps in the overall resource	Identified actions for improving the resource
Identifying overall access improvements	Wards where overall access is limited: This includes identifying wards (or specific areas within wards) in which an estimated 25% or more of the households don't have access to a green or open space regardless of the type or size.	This helped identify which areas would potentially benefit from the creation of additional green space where opportunities exist.
	Wards where there are known geographical barriers to accessing green space: This involved identifying major barriers to accessing nearby green space, such as: busy roads, railway lines, rivers, etc. A ward-level analysis was undertaken to help identify localised areas in the district which may benefit from further investigation.	These areas could benefit from one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> creation of new green space such that major access barriers don't need to be crossed inclusion of safe pedestrian crossings creation of more direct routes and creation of additional access points into green spaces.
Identifying improvements towards accessing a more diverse range of recreational provision	Wards where access is limited to small amenity spaces: Identifies specific areas of the district in which residents' access to open space is limited to incidental open space (amenity space less than 0.4 hectares in size).	These areas are likely to benefit from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved investment in new green spaces offering greater choice of recreation activities, e.g. play and sport. Ideally these will be larger green spaces, where opportunities exist.



Key Considerations	Method used to identify gaps in the overall resource	Identified actions for improving the resource
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prioritising the improved quality of existing open space in the area and/or availability of new recreational provision on these spaces. Link nearby amenity spaces through a shared activity trail or theme (e.g. edible spaces like community orchards). <p>Prioritising improvements and access to nearby district-level parks is also important for residents in these wards, or the creation of new district parks.</p>
	Wards where access is limited to just informal recreational space: Identifies wards where access to green and open spaces is primarily limited to sites with just informal recreation opportunities (i.e. amenity space and natural green space).	<p>Includes opportunities to improve access to formal recreational facilities on existing informal green spaces. This could include introducing a new outdoor activity trail or new play area.</p> <p>Improvements will need to be sensitive to a site's protection status and wildlife and natural features.</p>
	Wards with limited access to play space: Wards with limited access to play space within a 5-minute walk	<p>These areas will benefit from the creation of new green spaces with play provision or improving play facilities within existing open spaces.</p>
	Wards with limited access to natural space: Identifies wards with limited access to green spaces with natural areas within a 10-minute walk.	<p>These areas will benefit from improving existing green spaces so that they include natural spaces supporting wildlife and natural play space. For example: woodland, community orchards and wildflower meadow creation.</p>
	Wards with limited access to district parks: Identifies wards with limited access to district parks within a 15-minute.	<p>These areas will benefit from improving access to and provision within existing local parks offering a greater choice of recreation facilities.</p>

Identifying access gaps and improvements

Ensuring access to green space for all

4.52 Based on the work carried out, ten wards were identified in which 25% or more of residential properties currently don't have access to green space within a 5-minute walk. These are listed in Table 4.12 and residents here would benefit from the creation of nearby green space, where opportunities exist.

Addressing barriers to access

4.53 A desk-based review of access barriers was also undertaken. After considering this for each ward, 10 wards were identified as having likely 'major access barrier issues'; thus, further limiting access for existing residents within a 5-minute walk to green space. Addressing improvements to access barriers is likely to result in a safer and more accessible resource for residents.

4.54 Wards were highlighted as having '**major access barrier issues**' if approximately a third or more of all households (i.e. residential properties) are likely to be affected by a lack of overall access to open space, including where major geographical barriers restrict access. Major geographical barriers are defined as one or more of the following:

- A-listed roads such as the A60
- railway lines
- rivers
- difficult road layouts
- limited access points to green space and
- more than one busy B-listed road.

4.55 For example, in Carr Bank ward, based on the access buffer zone mapping, it appears that most residents have access to some form of green space (95% have access within a 5-minute walk). But after reviewing major geographical barriers, it appears that access to existing green spaces may be significantly limited by a combination of:

- the A60 and the railway line cutting off access to Hadden Road park and Carr Bank park
- access to Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve and a green corridor south of Samworth Academy is reduced as there are limited access points to the east, north and south of the site
- the River Maun is likely to increase walking journeys for residents on the western half and
- two busy B roads Sherwood Hall Road and Ravensdale road restrict north-south access.

4.56 Additionally, there were 14 wards identified with '**medium access barrier issues**', limiting access for existing residents within a 5-minute walk to green space. Wards were highlighted as having 'medium access barrier issues' if approximately one-third (33%) or more of all households (i.e. residential properties) are likely to be affected by a lack of overall access to open space, including where medium geographical barriers restrict access. Medium geographical barriers are defined as one or more of the following:



- a busy B-listed road where crossing were considered difficult and
- where major access barriers (as listed above) limit access to specific types of green space (e.g. district parks)

4.57 For example, residents in Abbott ward mainly have access to small incidental open spaces because Chesterfield Road (a busy A-road) is likely to deter access to nearby play space and natural green space on the other side of the road.

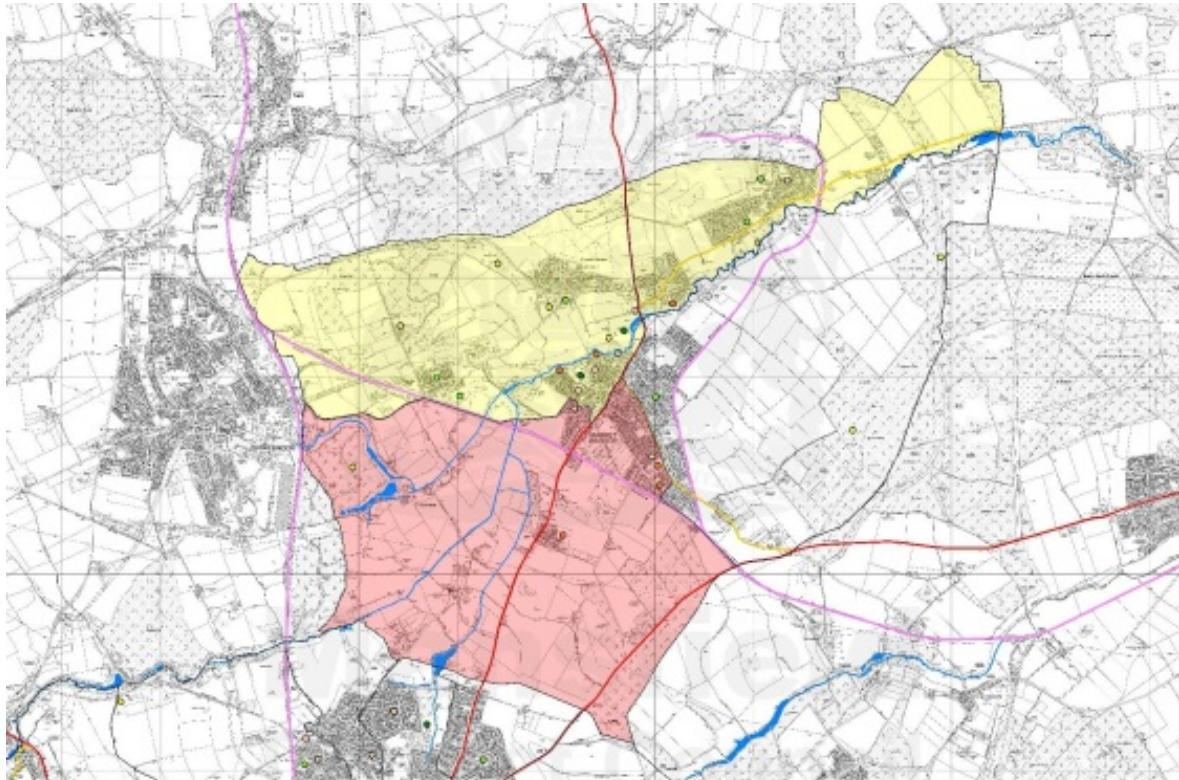
4.58 '**Minor access issues**' were identified for 12 wards. This included access barriers which only affected a small portion of the overall households, or where busier B-listed roads appeared to have adequate crossings or traffic calming measures.

4.59 Table 4.6 below shows where likely major, medium and minor access barrier issues were identified at the ward level. These could be investigated further to identify the actual impact and the potential resolutions on a site-specific scale. Those highlighted in orange are where greater priority to access improvements should be given. The maps below (Figures 4.10 and 4.11) also help illustrate where major and medium access barriers (according to ward) have been identified.

Table 4.7 Prioritising improvements to access barriers





Overall access to green space within wards	Wards with major barrier access issues likely to restrict access further	Wards with medium barrier access issues likely to restrict access further	Wards with minor access barrier issues to no barrier issues
Wards with limited access for 25-50% of residential properties (10)	4: Portland, Oakham, Ling Forest & Spion Kop (in Market Warsop)	2: Abbott, Newlands	4: Berry Hill, Broomhill, Meden, Park Hall
Wards with limited access for 10-25% of residential properties (16)	5: Woodlands, Sherwood, Peafield, Kingsway & Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill	8: Lindhurst, Neitherfield, Racecourse, Sandhurst, Hornby, Church Warsop (in Warsop Carrs), Maun Valley, Holly	3: Ladybrook, Manor, Newgate,
Wards with limited access for 10% or less of residential properties (10)	1: Carr Bank	4: Brick Kiln, Grange Farm, Ransom Wood, Yeoman Hill,	5: Eakring, Kings Walk, , Oak Tree, Penniment, Woodhouse

Figure 4.10 Identified access barrier issues within Warsop Parish



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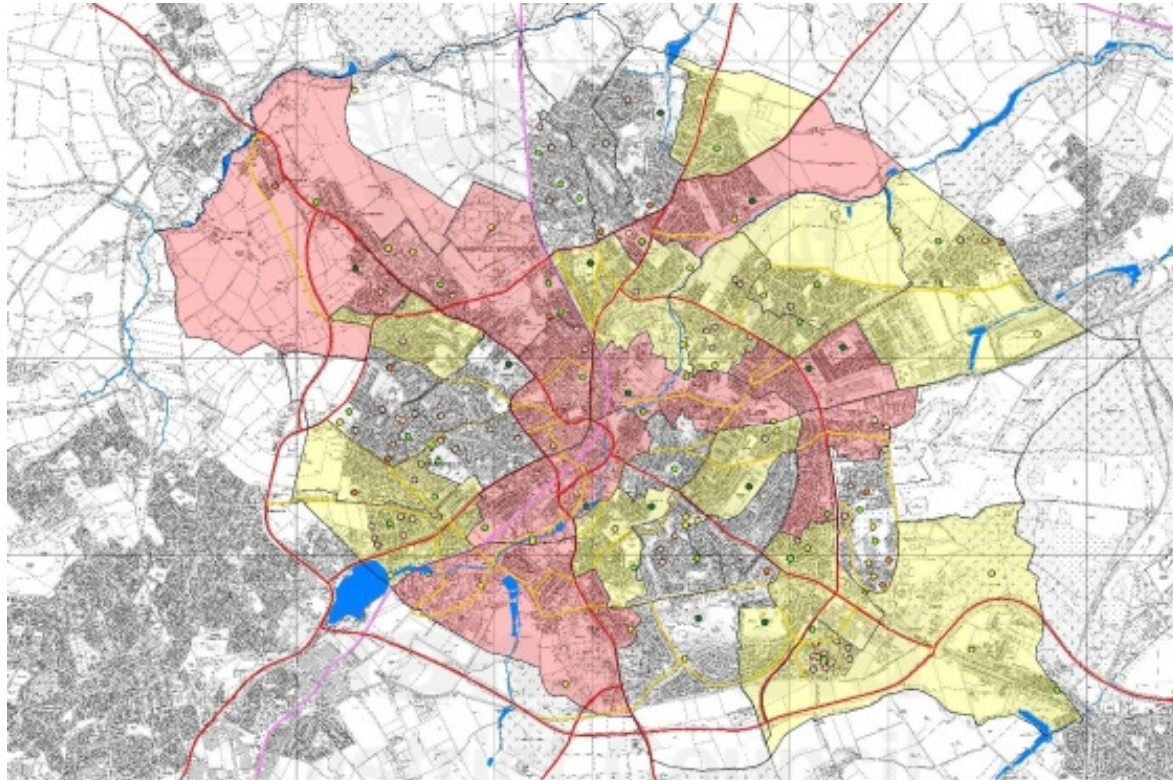
Key

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|  | District park and recreation ground |  | Major road |
|  | Local park and recreation ground |  | Local road |
|  | Amenity space |  | Railway line |
|  | Incidental open space |  | River/stream |
|  | Large and connected natural area |  | Major access barrier issue |
|  | Small natural area |  | Medium access barrier issue |
|  | Ward boundary | | |

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Figure 4.11 Identified access barrier issues within Mansfield urban area



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Key

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | District park and recreation ground | | Major road |
| | Local park and recreation ground | | Local road |
| | Amenity space | | Railway line |
| | Incidental open space | | River/stream |
| | Large and connected natural area | | Major access barrier issue |
| | Small natural area | | Medium access barrier issue |
| | Ward boundary | | |

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Balanced and equitable access to recreational resources

4.60 In some areas of the district, residents' choice of recreational activities may be limited based on the type and/or size of available green space located nearby (within a 5-minute walk). As discussed previously, this can have impacts on the uptake of physical activity and opportunities for improving health.

4.61 Across the district, just under a third (31%) of households have access to both forms of informal and formal recreational provision. This initial indicator shows that there are significant gaps to be filled in order to ensure that the district's residents have equal opportunities to improve health and wellbeing based on the balance of facilities available. This is illustrated in Figure 4.3 - distribution and access to formal and informal green space (Section 4.1).

4.62 Broad areas in the district where these gaps exist include, but are not limited to:

- in and around the Mansfield town centre
- Forest Town
- Oakham
- Bull Farm
- Spion Kop and
- southern Market Warsop.

4.63 Where residents only have access to informal provision, having access to the larger district parks, for the most part, helps readdress this imbalance. This is because district-level parks generally offer distinct areas with informal provision (e.g. areas for quiet contemplation, woodland and other natural areas, etc.) and formal provision (e.g. play areas, bandstands, skate parks, outdoor gyms, etc.).

4.64 For residents within a small number of wards (seven in total), access to green space is mainly limited to small amenity areas (incidental open space) of less than 0.4 hectares (ha). These areas would benefit from improved quality and an investment in provision (e.g. play area) on existing sites, improved access to larger green space and/or creation of new green space with formal provision. Where it isn't feasible to improve resources within a 5-minute walk (e.g. lack of available land), improvements to the next nearest district or local park could be key.

4.65 There are 18 additional wards in which residents' access to green space is primarily limited to natural green space and/or larger amenity spaces within a 5-minute walk. Wards were identified in which access to these spaces (within a 5-minute walk) accounted for approximately 25% or more of residential properties within the ward.



Households in these wards would also benefit from prioritising the creation of new formal recreation provision (e.g. play equipment or outdoor activity hubs) on existing amenity and natural green spaces.

4.66 Integrating formal play and exercise equipment may not be appropriate on all natural green spaces. Its inclusion will be determined by the sensitivity of the site. (e.g. existing nature conservation designation, habitats and/or wildlife).

4.67 The table below summaries these findings.

Table 4.8 Prioritising access to formal outdoor recreation provision

Limited recreational choice	Ward names
7 wards/areas where access is limited to primarily small amenity spaces of less than 0.4 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abbott* ● Broomhill ● Ladybrook* ● Park Hall (north) ● Penniment* ● Ransom Wood (Bellamy estate)* ● Woodlands (south of Westfield Lane bordering Ladybrook Ward)
18 wards/areas where access is limited to primarily larger amenity areas and/or natural green space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Berry Hill (southern and western sections) - primarily natural green space ● Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill (Pleasley Hill area only) - amenity space and wider countryside access ● Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill (Pleasley Hill) - amenity space and wider countryside access ● Brick Kiln* - primarily amenity space ● Carr Bank (Ravensdale area only) - primarily natural green space ● Grange Farm* - primarily natural green space ● Ling Forest - primarily natural green space ● Manor (western and southern sections) - primarily amenity space ● Maun Valley* - primarily natural green space ● Market Warsop (Spion Kop* and southwestern Market Warsop) - amenity space and wider countryside access ● Meden* (southeastern Market Warsop) - amenity space and wider countryside access ● Netherfield* - primarily amenity space

Limited recreational choice	Ward names
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Newlands - primarily natural green space and wider countryside access ● Oak Tree* - primarily amenity space and some natural green space ● Oakham* - natural green space ● Racecourse* (northern half) - primarily natural green space ● Ransom Wood (Rainworth)* - primarily the Mansfield Way green corridor (natural green space) ● Warsop Carrs (Church Warsop)* - primarily natural green space and open countryside
	<p>* Shows where access to district parks is also limited (i.e. not within a 15-minute walk) for 30% to 100% of residential properties.</p>

Access to play provision

4.68 Based on a 5-minute walking distance to local and district parks with play provision, 50.1% of the district's households have access to formal play provision. When considering only children's provision (up to 12), 45.2% of households have access within a 5-minute walk. These figures indicate significant gaps in play provision. The picture for teenager provision is better, with 64.7% of households having access within a 15-minute walk. This difference in overall provision for teenagers and younger children is down to the overall need. The amount of parks with teenager facilities is less than those that cater for younger children, but the need for teenager provision is also less. This is typically down to the standard walking distances.

4.69 Formal play provision includes equipment such as: slides, swings, climbing frames, out door gyms, multi-use games areas, etc. Walking distances were measured from the edge of parks which contained play provision and not the exact play area boundary. It was assumed that, generally, parks include areas of informal play space and this is likely to be part of a visitor's overall play experience. For smaller, local parks, the play space generally accounts for a majority of the park's area.



Picture 4.1 Roston Open Space, Oak Tree



4.70 Figure 4.12 below shows access to play space, including young people's spaces (5-minute walk), teenager facilities (15-minute walk) and both types of play provision.

4.71 For 21 wards, 50% or more households didn't have access to children's play provision within a 5-minute walk. And out of these eight wards, lack of access was greater than 80%; these were:

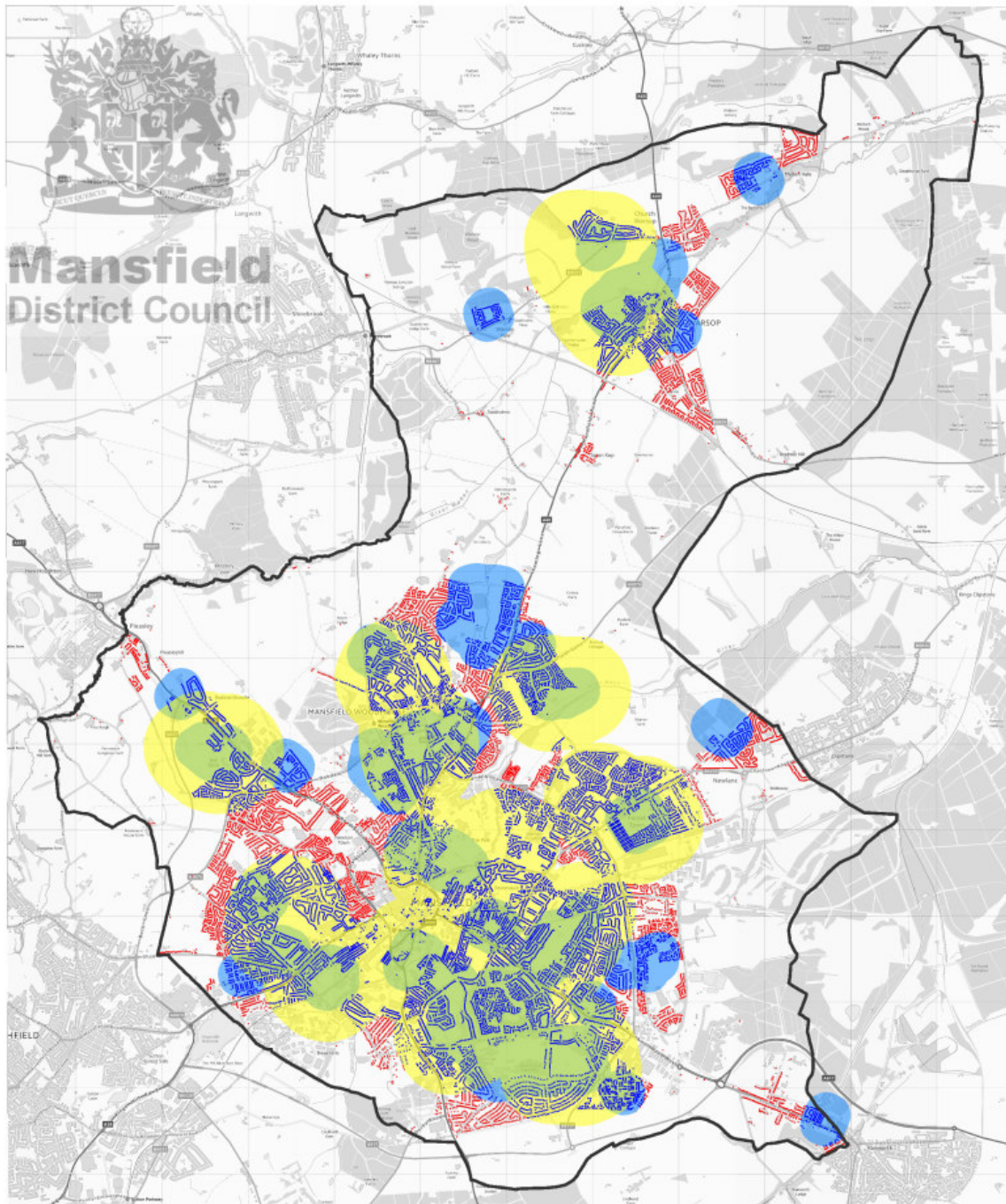
- Broomhill
- Holly
- Ladybrook
- Ling Forest
- Market Warsop
- Maun Valley
- Oakham and
- Park Hall.

4.72 For 12 wards 50% or more households didn't have access to teenager provision within a 15-minute walk. And out of these five wards, residents lacking access to teenager provision (by ward) was greater than 75%; these were:

-
- Manor
 - Meden
 - Netherfield (100% lacked access)
 - Newlands and
 - Oaktree.



Figure 4.12 Access to play for young children (5 minute walk) and teenagers (15 minute walk)



Key

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | Access to childrens play area within a five minute walk (400m) |  | Access to both types of play provision |
|  | Access to teenage area within a fifteen minute walk (1km) |  | Residential property with access to play provision |
| | |  | Residential property without access to play provision |

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4.73 This assessment did not take into account a detailed assessment of access barriers. This would need to be done on a site-by-site basis. An overall 'poor' quality score may help indicate which play areas are more less likely to be visited, thus acting as a psychological access barrier or deterrent.

Role of district parks

4.74 Due to their size, available facilities and range of recreational opportunities, district parks are more likely to attract a higher number of visitors. District parks are also more likely to be awarded 'green flag' status. Greater investment has historically been prioritised around district parks. Based on their quality, range of facilities, and size people are more likely to travel further to these parks.

Picture 4.2 Carr Bank Park



4.75 Based on a 15-minute walking distance, approximately 62% of households *have* access and 38% of households *don't have* access to district parks (see Figure 4.9 above).

4.76 When access barriers like busy roads and railway lines are taken into account, the number of households that have access to district parks (within 15-minute walk) decreases in some areas. Examples include: the A60 cuts off residents in Hornby ward from safely accessing Manor Park (all households) and Eakring Road cuts off residents in Racecourse ward from safely accessing Racecourse Park (approximately 50% of households).



Access to natural green space

4.77 Having access to good quality natural green space is important for our mental and physical well-being. A wealth of evidence points to a variety of benefits, for example: reduced stress levels, improved immunity, greater feelings of revitalisation, capacity to direct and restore attention (mindfulness) and improved overall health.

4.78 Research demonstrates that factors such as children's social play, concentration and motor ability are all positively influenced following play in nature⁽⁸⁾.

Picture 4.3 Meden Local Nature Reserve, Pleasley



4.79 A majority of households (84.7% of residential properties) have good access to natural green space within a 10-minute walking journey (see Figure 4.8). This figure includes sites that are primarily natural in their character such as local nature reserves (LNRs), and also urban parks with smaller natural areas contributing usable recreation space and additional visual amenity benefits (e.g. a feeling of naturalness through the positioning of landscape features).

4.80 Ensuring continued access to the open countryside is especially important for residents where access to natural green spaces within the urban and urban fringe areas is limited. The maps above do not take into account access to the open countryside. Through a desk-top study of public rights of way, approximately one-third of households in the following wards currently have access to the open countryside

8 Fjortoft, I. 1999. The natural environment as a playground for children. The impact of outdoor play activities in pre-primary school children. Proceedings of OMEP's 22nd World Congress and 50th Anniversary on the child's right to care, play and education. Copenhagen, Denmark. AND Jorgensen, A. 2001. Why is it important to encourage nature and wildlife near the home? Overvecht, Utrecht City Council.

within a 10-minute walk via public rights of way or other long distance walking trails. This typically includes wards on the periphery of the district. It is important to note that the information in the table may be subject to change where development is allocated within the countryside and adjacent to the existing urban boundary, as part of the local plan (2013 to 2033). It is important that future development continues to facilitate access to nature for existing and new residents by:

- designing in local green ways and natural areas
- enhancing green spaces and strategic green infrastructure and
- enabling access to the countryside.

4.81 This will need to be accomplished in a way that manages impacts on wildlife and sensitive wildlife areas.

Table 4.9 Access to the countryside within a 10-minute walk (approximately one-third of households)

Ward	Ward
Abbott	Newlands
Bull Farm and Pleasley	Park Hall
Holly	Peafields
Manor	Penniment
Market Warsop	Ransom Wood
Maun Valley	Sherwood
Meden	Warsop Carrs
Netherfield	Woodhouse

4.82 The table below identifies recommended actions to improve access to nature within wards where residents lack access to existing natural areas and/or where access barriers are likely to increase walking distances to areas of natural green space. Any requirements for new open space (i.e. new natural areas) would need to be considered on site-specific level.

Table 4.10 Recommendations for improving access to nature by ward

Ward	Recommended improvements
Abbott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve natural qualities of existing amenity spaces and Chesterfield Road Park • Create/improve safer access points across Chesterfield Road near to Little Debdale Lane.



Ward	Recommended improvements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create of new green space where opportunities arises. ● Retain and improve multi-user access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via existing trails /public rights of way (e.g. extending from Concorde Way and Little Barn Lane/Emerald Close) and new recreational links towards Pleasley (northwest of ward).
Broomhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve natural qualities of existing amenity spaces and Chesterfield Road Park ● Improve access to Chesterfield Road Recreation Ground through the creation of additional access points to the south of this open space, where opportunities arise. ● Create of new open space where opportunities arises. ● Create/improve safer access points across Chesterfield Road near to Little Debdale Lane. ● Create/improve safer access points across Ladybrook Lane. ● Retain and improve multi-user access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via existing trails /public rights of way (e.g. extending from Little Barn Lane/Emerald Close and Pheasant Hill).
Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For Bull Farm - create natural areas within Bull Farm Park to improve access to nature. Retain and improve access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via existing trails /public rights of way (e.g. west of Water Lane, Meden Trail and Radmanthwaite areas). ● For Pleasley Hill - Retain and improve access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via existing trails /public rights of way (e.g. at Radmanthwaite, Moorhaigh areas and Meden Vale) and create/improve safer access points across Chesterfield Road. Improve natural qualities of existing opens spaces (Terversal Avenue amenity space and Woburn Road recreation ground).
Carr Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create/improve safer access points across Ravensdale Road. ● Retain and improve multi-user access to and along the Timberland Trail via local recreational links to the existing green corridor south of Samworth Academy through the creation of additional access points. ● Retain and improve multi-user access to and along the Maun Valley Trail.
Grange Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create/improve safer access points across Sutton Road (A38) to allow greater access to the Hermitage Lane and Quarry Lane local nature reserves and strategic green infrastructure.
Holly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create/improve safer access points across New Mill Lane to allow greater access to the countryside to the north.
Kingsway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve natural qualities of existing opens spaces (Queensway Park) and/or create of new green space where opportunities arise: to improve access to nature.

Ward	Recommended improvements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Retain and improve multi-user access to the countryside and Vicar Water Country Park via the Timberland Trail (Newlands Road and Crown Farm Way). ● Improve access to the Timberland Trail via the existing green corridor south of Samworth Academy through the creation of additional access points (from Pump Hollow Rd/Crown Farm Way).
Ling Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve natural qualities of existing opens spaces (Roston Open Space and Longmoor Walk amenity space) to improve access to nature. ● Retain and improve multi-user access to strategic green infrastructure via existing trails /public rights of way (e.g. at Vicar Water Country Park north from Jubilee Way North/Eakring Road).
Manor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve natural qualities of existing amenity space (Warsop Road Amenity Space) to improve access to nature.
Market Warsop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve natural qualities of existing amenity space (Oakfield Lane, Sookholme Lane and Cottage Lane amenity spaces) and/or create of new green space where opportunities arises: to improve access to nature. ● Ensure access to the surrounding countryside are safeguarded.
Maun Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create/improve safer access points across New Mill Lane to allow greater access to the countryside to the north. ● Retain and improve access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via existing trails /public rights of way (e.g. Maun Valley Trail and connecting local green corridors, Warren Farm area, Queensway Park and nearby PROW).
Meden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve natural qualities of existing amenity space (Oakfield Lane and Cottage Lane amenity spaces) and/or create of new green space to improve access to nature. ● Retain and improve access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via existing trails /public rights of way.
Newgate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve natural qualities of existing amenity space (Jackson's Field) to improve access to nature. ● Create of new green space to improve access where gaps exist and to improve access to nature, where opportunities arrise. ● Create/improve safer access points across Rock Hill to Fisher Lane Park.
Newlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve natural qualities of existing amenity space (Newland's Playing Field) and/or create of new green space to improve access to nature, where opportunities arise.



Ward	Recommended improvements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and improve access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via existing trails /public rights of way to Vicar Water Country Park. Create/improve safer access points across Clipstone Road East to improve access to Queensway Park leading to Vicar Water Country park and countryside to the south.
Oak Tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and improve multi-user access to the countryside and Vicar Water Country Parks via Jubilee Way North and Eakring Road. Improve natural qualities of existing amenity space (Longmoor Walk amenity space) to improve access to nature.
Oakham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and improve access to to nearby community accessible woodland, local nature reserves and green corridors, where opportunities arise.
Park Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve natural qualities of existing open space (amenity space off of Cedar Ave, Vale Road Open Space, and Lords Ground) and/or create of new green space to improve access to nature, where opportunities arises. Retain and improve multi-user access to the countryside via new and existing recreational links (e.g. in and around Park Hall Road, north of Felton Ave., Littlewood Lane).
Peafields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and improve multi-user access to Maun Valley green corridor via public rights of way and new recreational links.
Penniment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve natural qualities of existing open space (amenity space off Wainwright Ave, Abbott Rd playing fields, and various small (incidental) amenity spaces) and/or create of new green space to improve access to nature, where opportunities arises. Retain and improve access to the countryside via public rights of way. Improve multi-user access as appropriate.
Portland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve/create safer access points across Sutton Road (A38) to allow improved access to nearby open spaces in Ladybrook ward. Improve safety of access points across the Robin Hood railway, especially from Princess Street and around Field Mill/Mansfield Town FC areas). Retain and improve access to nearby Maun valley green corridor via public rights of way and other multi-user recreational routes. Improve the safety of existing recreational routes
Racecourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and improve access connecting Racecourse Park and green corridor (south of Samworth Academy) along the Timberland Trail, especially at Goodwood Way. Improve/create safer access points across Skerry Hill and access points from Kempton Road.

Ward	Recommended improvements
Ransom Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within Bellamy Estate, improve access to nature by creating new open space with natural design/natural areas, improve the natural qualities of existing amenity spaces where these are only open mown spaces and link these together with existing natural areas. Improve the interpretation and opportunity for natural play and quiet areas for contemplation and overall place shaping qualities throughout the estate. Improve/create a new access points and pathways connecting to the Mansfield Way green corridor from Bellamy Estate and Rainworth Village.
Sherwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve natural qualities of existing open space (Chesterfield Road Park) to improve access to nature. Retain/improve access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via existing public rights of way and/or new green corridors (in and around Queen Elizabeth Academy and extending from Little Barn Lane/Emerald Close and Pheasant Hill). Improve multi-user access as appropriate. Improve/create safer access points across Chesterfield Road and Debdale Lane.
Warsop Carrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain/improve access to the surrounding countryside and strategic green infrastructure, especially through public rights of way and other local recreational links connecting Church Warsop with Market Warsop; access to woodland and to cycle lanes. Improve multi-user access as appropriate.
Woodhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and improve multi-user access to the countryside via new and existing public rights of way and other recreational links (e.g. in and around Common Lane, Northfield Lane, Littlewood Lane).

Summary of findings

4.83 The table below highlights where efforts should be prioritised to improve access to green space. The areas in 'grey' indicate where access is less of a priority or not an issue. Priorities by ward are summarised in Appendix D. The headings and notes in the table below are defined on the following basis:

Table 4.11

Priority action	Explanation
Prioritise the creation of nearby green space	<p>Areas within these wards would likely benefit from the creation of new green space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Yes' - indicates where 25% or more of households within specified wards currently lack overall access to any green space within a 5-minute walk. <p>This assumes no new planned growth (i.e. new houses) within the area. Hence, new development may generate the need for new open space(s) depending on the location and size of the development.</p>



Priority action	Explanation
Reduce access barriers	<p>This includes, for example, putting in place road crossings to ensure safe access to nearby green spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 'Yes*' - indicates where major access barrier issues have been identified and should be addressed further at a more detailed site level. ● 'Yes' - indicates where medium access barrier issues have been identified and should be addressed further at a more detailed site level.
Improve access to play provision	<p>New play spaces are required in order for residents to have access to children's play provision within a 5-minute walk or access to teenager provision within a 15-minute walk. These figures don't take into account specific access barriers, so the results may be under-representative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CPP - indicates where 25% to 49% of households don't currently have access to a children's play provision within this journey. ● CPP* - indicates where 50% or more households don't currently have access to a children's play provision within this journey time. ● TPP - indicates where 25% to 49% of residents don't have access to teenager provision within a 15-minute walk. ● TPP* - indicates where 50% or more of residents don't have access to teenager provision within a 15-minute walk. <p>Children's play provision is targeted at provision designed for 12 years and younger. It also includes NEAPs which meet older children and teenager provision.</p>
Improve access to formal provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes - Identifies wards where there are significant areas within wards where residents primarily have access to green spaces offering informal recreation, These areas generally lack access to formal play and sports provision within a 5-minute walk. This could be addressed by improving formal provision on existing green spaces, sensitive to the type of green space. ● Yes* - indicates wards in which households additionally lack access to a district park (within a 15-minute walk). These areas are of the highest priority to improve access to formal provision.
Improve access to district park	<p>Indicates where access to district-level provision is required for residents within a 15-minute walk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes - indicates where 25% to 49% of households don't currently have access within this journey time. ● Yes* - indicates where 50% or more households don't have access within this journey time.
Improve access to nature	<p>Indicates where improvements to existing provision are required to improve access to natural areas within a 10-minute walk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes - indicates where approximately 25% to 49% of households don't have access within this journey time or where existing access barriers are likely increase journey times. Prioritise the creation of new open space with natural areas or prioritise improving the natural qualities of existing open space.

Priority action	Explanation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes* - indicates where approximately 50% or more of households don't have access within this journey time or where existing access barriers are likely increase journey times. Prioritise the creation of new open space with natural areas or prioritise improving the natural qualities of existing open space. 'GI' - indicated where improvements and safeguarding of access pathways to the countryside and wider green corridors should be encouraged.

4.84 The table below identifies priorities for improvement by ward level.

Table 4.12 Priority action areas - access improvements required

Ward	Create nearby green space	Reduce access barriers	Improve access to play provision	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to district park	Improve access to nature
Abbott	Yes (38% without access)	Yes	CPP* / TPP*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes & GI
Berry Hill	Yes (27% without access)	Minor issues	CPP* / TPP	Yes (southern and western sections)		
Brick Kiln		Yes	CPP* / TPP	Yes*	Yes*	
Broomhill	Yes (28 % without access)	Minor issues	CPP* / TPP*	Yes		Yes* & GI
Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill		Yes*	CPP* / TPP	Yes* (Pleasley Hill)	Yes* (Pleasley Hill)	Yes & GI
Carr Bank		Yes*	CPP* only	Yes (Ravensdale area)		GI
Eakring		Minor issues				
Grange Farm		Yes	CPP / TPP	Yes*	Yes*	GI
Holly		Yes	CPP* only		Yes	
Hornby		Yes	TPP* only		Yes* (by improving access barrier)	
Kings Walk		Minor issues				
Kingsway		Yes*	CPP only			Yes* & GI
Ladybrook		Minor issues	CPP* / TPP	Yes*	Yes*	



Ward	Create nearby green space	Reduce access barriers	Improve access to play provision	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to district park	Improve access to nature
Lindhurst		Yes	TPP only		Yes	
Ling Forest	Yes (46% without access)	Yes*	CPP* / TPP	Yes		Yes & GI
Manor		Minor issues	CPP / TPP*	Yes (west and south)		Yes
Market Warsop	Yes (40% without access)	Yes* (Spion Kop)	CPP* / TPP	Yes* (Spion Kop & southwestern Market Warsop)	Yes (Spion Kop & southwestern Market Warsop)	Yes* & GI
Maun Valley		Yes	CPP* only	Yes*	Yes*	GI
Meden	Yes 35% without access)	Minor issues	CPP* / TPP*	Yes* (southeastern Market Warsop)	Yes*	Yes & GI
Netherfield		Yes	CPP* / TPP*	Yes*	Yes*	
Newgate		Minor issues	CPP			Yes & GI
Newlands	Yes 39% without access)	Yes	CPP* / TPP*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes & GI
Oak Tree		Minor issues	CPP* / TPP*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes & GI
Oakham	Yes (49% without access)	Yes*	CPP* / TPP	Yes*	Yes*	GI
Park Hall	Yes (39% without access)	Minor issues	CPP* / TPP	Yes (northern section)		Yes & GI
Peafields		Yes*	CPP / TPP			GI
Penniment		Minor issues	CPP* / TPP*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes & GI
Portland	Yes (36% without access)	Yes*	CPP* only			GI
Racecourse		Yes	CPP only	Yes (north of Skerry Hill have limited access to formal parks)	Yes* (northern half has limited access due to major access barrier)	GI

Ward	Create nearby green space	Reduce access barriers	Improve access to play provision	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to district park	Improve access to nature
Ransom Wood		Yes	CPP / TPP*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes & GI
Sanhurst		Yes	CPP only			
Sherwood		Yes*	CPP / TPP*		Yes	Yes & GI
Warsop Carrs		Yes (Church Warsop)		Yes* (Church Warsop)	Yes (Western Church Warsop and Warsop Vale*)	GI
Woodhouse		Minor issues	CPP* only		Yes*	GI
Woodlands		Yes*	CPP* / TPP*	Yes (south of Westfield Lane bordering Ladybrook Ward)		
Yeoman Hill		Yes	CPP only			

4.3 Quality of green space

4.85 The quality of green space can influence how it is valued by residents which influences how and if a site is used. Good quality green space can bring a range of benefits including, for example:

- reducing crime
- bringing inward investment
- shaping place and overall image of an area and
- improving health and well-being.

4.86 As discussed in Section 3.5, a good quality green space is one which is accessible, welcoming, safe, clean and well-maintained and positively supports biodiversity and social interaction. The quality assessment criteria are detailed in Appendix B.

District summary

Quality of open spaces

4.87 When taking all green and open spaces in the district into consideration, the overall quality is 'good'. This is reflected in the averaged quality scores in the table below.

**Table 4.13 Summary of open space quality across the district**

Quality Category	Aspects assessed	Average score	Variation of average scores (standard deviation)
Welcoming and accessible	Assessed trails around the site; welcoming and easy to find entrance; getting safely get to the site; inclusive access; parking; and signs.	Good (3.20)	3.83 to 1.2 (+ or - 0.73)
Safe and secure	Natural surveillance; level of lighting; safe and secure boundaries to deterred illegal vehicle and ensure safe places to play; and safety of facilities present.	Good (3.32)	4 to 1 (+ or - 0.66)
Cleanliness and maintenance	Dog fouling; litter; graffiti; bins; grass; and landscaping.	Very Good (3.61)	4 to 1 (+ or - 0.44)
Overall use, image and setting	Positive contributions to: the image of the surrounding neighbourhood; biodiversity and encouraging positive social interaction.	Average (2.63)	4 to 1 (+ or - 0.74)
Overall score		Good (3.18)	4 to 1 (+ or - 0.50)

4.88 The category 'cleanliness and maintenance' scored the highest followed by 'safe and secure' and then 'welcoming and accessible', which all fell within the *very good* to *good* ranges.

4.89 Improvements to place shaping are needed to ensure that the district's open spaces are better able to contribute positively to the image of the surrounding area, biodiversity and social interaction. The 'overall use, image and setting' and 'welcoming and accessible' categories also showed the greatest variation in quality scores (see standard deviation above - the larger the standard deviation score, the greater the variation of scores).

4.90 Open space quality scores ranged from 1 (poor) to 4 (very good) with most falling in the *good* range. These also tended to vary according to the type of green space. District parks came out top (3.65 or *very good*) with individual site results ranging from *good* to *very good*. Most district-level parks and recreation grounds have been awarded Green Flag status which is maintained through continued investment in these open spaces.

4.91 On the other hand, natural green spaces showed the lowest averaged score (2.88) but also the greatest variation in individual scores ('poor' to 'very good'). Natural green spaces vary greatly in the level of management and investment that they receive. Although the quality criteria used to assess this type of green space were adapted to reflect their use and overall nature, some lack formal paths or aren't

accessible to all users, for example. Better interpretation around entrances, parking, accessible entrances and surfacing and cutting back obtrusive vegetation are some examples of what is needed to improve the overall quality of natural green spaces.

4.92 Additionally, not all residents have access to good quality green space. These areas are best prioritised to ensure that residents have fair and equal access to green space resources nearby to where they live. The 'quality by type of green space' and 'access to good quality' results are discussed in more detail later in this section.

Quality of play provision

4.93 As with open spaces, the overall averaged quality score for play provision in the district is *good*.

Table 4.14 Summary of play provision quality across the district

Quality category	Aspects assessed	Averaged score (all play areas)
Location	This looked at whether a site: had good natural surveillance, was well used (popular) and if used appropriately, how easy it was to find and get there by sustainable transport, how easy was it to get around the site, if it was welcoming and located where children are more likely to use it.	Good (2.82)
Play value	This looked at how well the site was designed for play including accessibility for those with disabilities, how variable and adaptable the space and equipment was in providing a stimulating play environment, if there were areas of natural play, places to sit and socialise, and the range in choice of activities available.	Average (2.37)
Care and maintenance	This looked at how well a play area was maintained (planting to equipment), if there are areas for adults to supervise their children, overall tidiness, and what provision was in place to exclude dogs from the play area.	Good (2.66)
Overall score		Good (2.58)

4.94 A majority of the play spaces (children and teenager provision combined) were assessed as overall 'good' quality (74.1%), followed by 'average' (24.1%) and one site assessed as poor quality (1.7%). These results mirror the quality ratings for children (up to 12 years) and teenager (12 and up) provision.

4.95 Children's play provision quality scores were made up of: 74% good; 26% average; and 0% poor.

4.96 Teenager provision quality scores were made up of: 75% good; 20% average; and 5% poor.

4.97 Generally play spaces scored well in relation to 'care and maintenance', and 'location' (i.e. getting there and around). The results also show that there is a need to improve the 'play value' for sites. Key areas for improvement include helping



ensure that the play spaces and equipment provide a stimulating environment for play and are inclusive for children (and their carers) with a range of abilities and disabilities.

Key considerations

4.98 Before proceeding further, it's important to highlight the following assumptions and considerations that were taken into account for this assessment:

- **Quality standard** - the overall aim is to support improvements to green space and play provision so that they can achieve a minimum 'good' quality status.
- **Quality scores** - overall, there were four quality categories included in the assessment. These were made up of different individual quality criteria. Criteria scores were based on whole number values: 4 (very good), 3 (good), 2 (average) and 1 (poor). If some criteria weren't applicable to the site (e.g. the site didn't have its own car park, so this wasn't assessed), these weren't included in the averaged scores.
- **Quality ranges** - in order to report on overall quality score results in a simplified but reasonable way, quality ranges were assigned. For green spaces ranges included: very good (4 - 3.5), good (3.49 - 3), average (2.99 - 2) and poor (1.99 - 1). For play space provision ranges included: good (3 to 2.5), average (2.49 to 1.5) and poor (1.49 to 1).
- **Incidental open space** - Originally, the quality assessment for small amenity green spaces (i.e. incidental open space) included quality score values of 3, 2 or 1. Thus, 3 was the highest score given to this type of green space during the site assessments. In order to ensure that quality scores for incidental open space were comparable with rest of the typology quality scores, these were standardised accordingly (a standardised multiplier of 1.33333).
- **Quality emphasis** - this open space assessment places an emphasis on three of the four quality components: 'welcoming and accessible'; 'safe and secure'; and 'overall use, image and setting'. These are more easily addressed through planning contributions or other funding initiatives.

Table 4.15 Key quality improvements by quality category

Quality component	Examples of improvements that may be sought
Welcoming and accessible	Integrating safe crossing points, pedestrian routes to and/or through an existing green space such that access is improved for all users. Emphasis is placed on eliminating existing access barriers for all users.
Safe and secure	<p>Boundary treatments may need altering in some areas to provide additional entrances required to meet access requirements and/or improve safety from road hazards.</p> <p>It may be beneficial to improve the safety of a site, where natural surveillance is limited, by releasing some of the site for development and implementing improved natural surveillance through better designed development.</p> <p>Improvements to safety may also include re-locating play or sports provision to an area within a green space such that natural surveillance is improved.</p>

Quality component	Examples of improvements that may be sought
Overall use, image and setting	<p>This includes improving the number and/or variety of spaces/provision for social interaction proportionate to the site's size and the communities it serves, such that people with a range of abilities and interests are catered for.</p> <p>Improving a site's ability to support biodiversity will improve access to natural green space and help to integrate on-site and adjacent features as part of a wider habitat network.</p>

Observed trends and identified areas for improvement

Accessing good quality green space

4.99 When taking into account 'access to nearby green space' (Section 4.2), quality is an important consideration. This is especially important where residents might have limited choice in the type of green space nearby to where they live. There are localised areas within the district in which residents only have access to *average* quality green spaces. These areas provide the best locations to prioritise quality improvements in order to ensure that all residents have equal access to good quality green space nearby.

4.100 It is assumed that green spaces of *average* quality are less likely to attract people, thus creating a potential barrier to access, but not necessarily preventing use. It is also assumed that residents who only have access to sites of *average* and/or *poor* quality, within a close distance, are likely to be at a greater disadvantage (i.e. health and well-being) than those with close access to green spaces of *good* to *very good* quality.

4.101 Maps below show where there are gaps in access to *good* and *very good* green spaces. These maps show access to green spaces based on their overall quality scores and also scores based on the four quality component areas:

- welcoming and accessible
- safe and secure
- cleanliness and maintenance and
- overall use, image and setting.

4.102 The maps below show access to all green spaces within a 5-minute walk based on the most prevalent quality result. If residents have access to more than one green space, the maps show the highest level of quality green space that they have access to. Where residents have access to both *average* and *good* quality open spaces, the maps show where access to *good* quality open space is more widely spread. This helps identify where improvements are needed so that residents have access to at least one green space of *good* or *very good* quality.

4.103 This assessment was carried out based on the maps below. Table 4.20 in the 'Summary of findings' below, shows where priorities (by ward) should be focused to improve access to good quality green spaces.

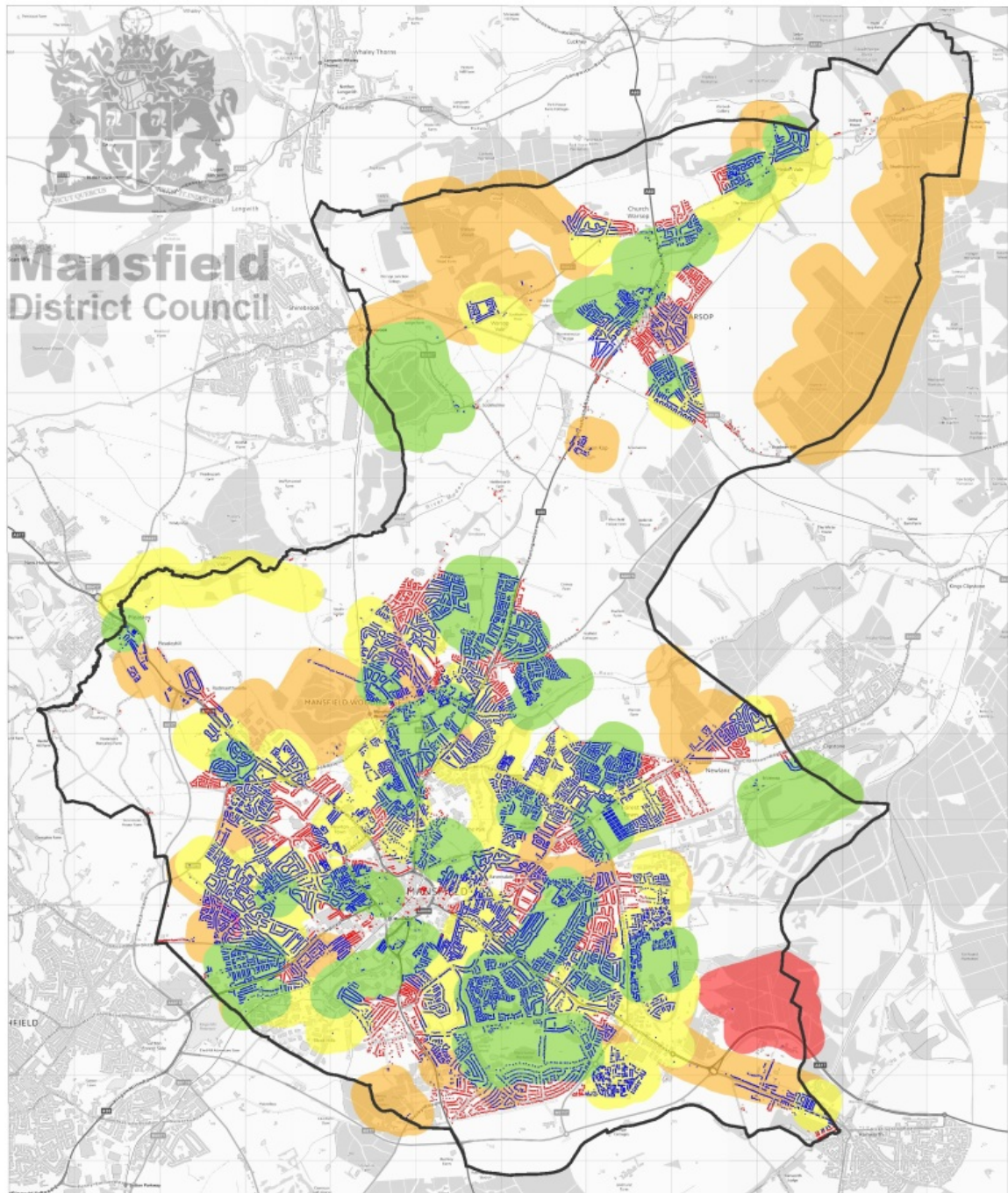


4.104 When considering the overall quality scores (Figure 4.13), most residents in the district have access to *very good* or *good* quality open spaces. General areas where the quality of open space is *average* includes, but is not limited to:

- Rainworth
- parts of Oakham
- Pleasley Hill
- Mansfield parts of Woodhouse
- Newlands
- Spion Kop
- parts of Market Warsop
- Brick Kiln ward
- Penniment ward
- Grange Farm ward
- Portland ward and
- parts of Forest Town.

4.105 More detailed results are provided in Table 4.20 at the end of this section.

Figure 4.13 Quality of green space within a 5-minute walk - Overall Average



Key

*Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

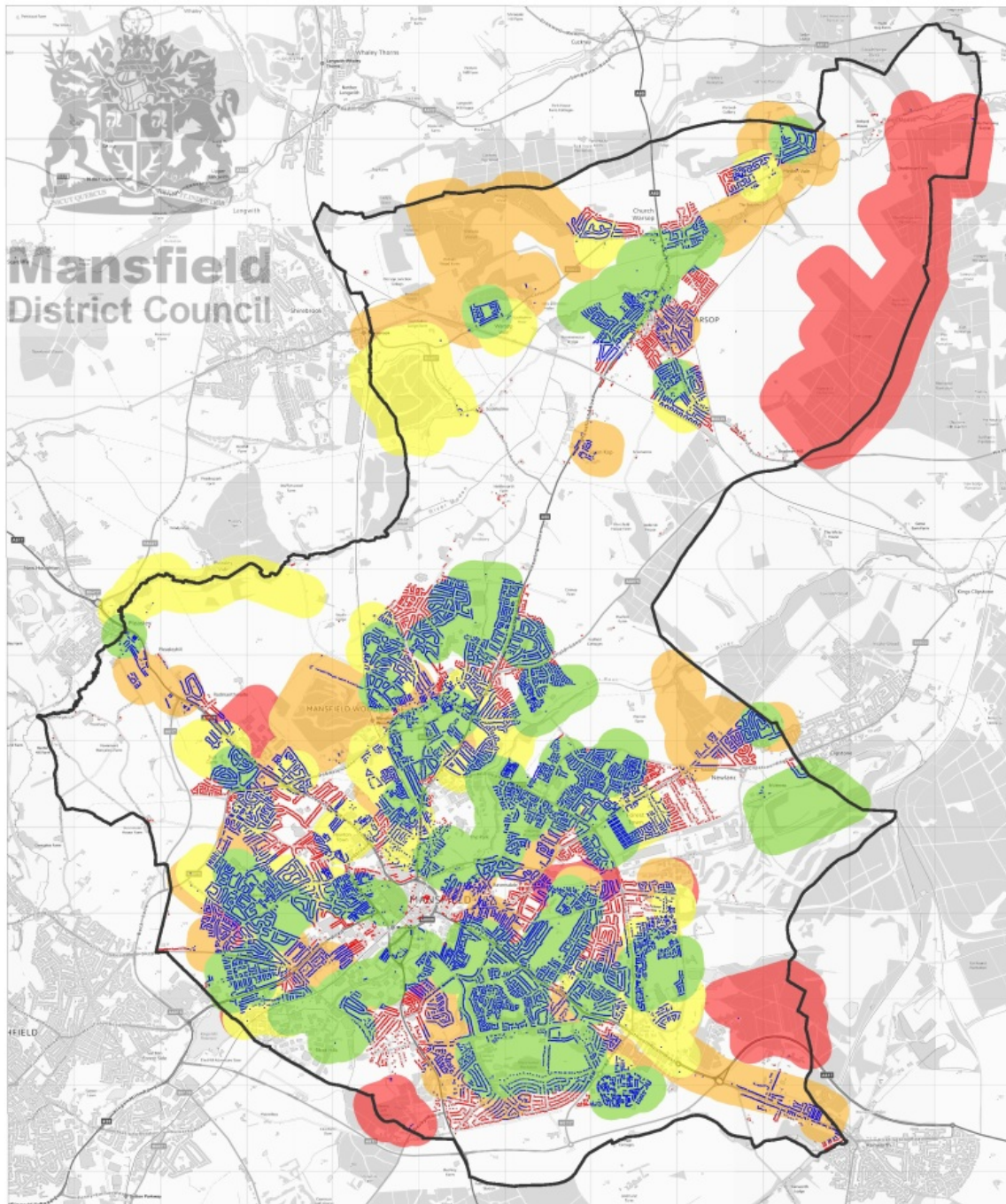
- Access* to very good site(s)
- Access* to good site(s)
- Access* to average site(s)
- Access* to poor site(s)

- Residential property with access* to open space
- Residential property without access* to open space

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Figure 4.14 Quality of green space within a 5-minute walk - welcoming and accessible scores



Key

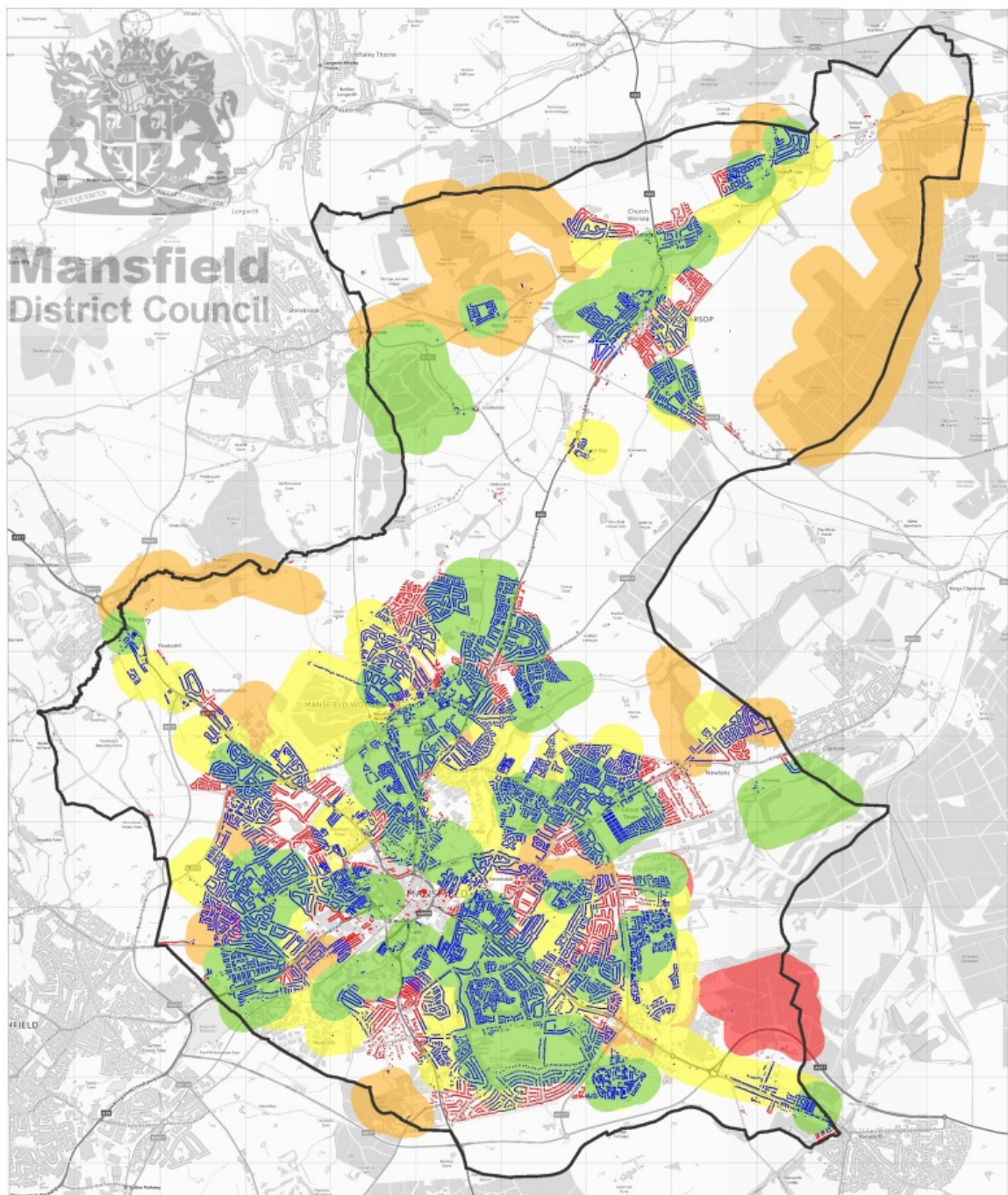
*Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

- Access* to very good site(s)
- Access* to good site(s)
- Access* to average site(s)
- Access* to poor site(s)

- Residential property with access* to open space
- Residential property without access* to open space

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Figure 4.15 Quality of green space within a 5-minute walk - safe and secure scores



Key

*Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

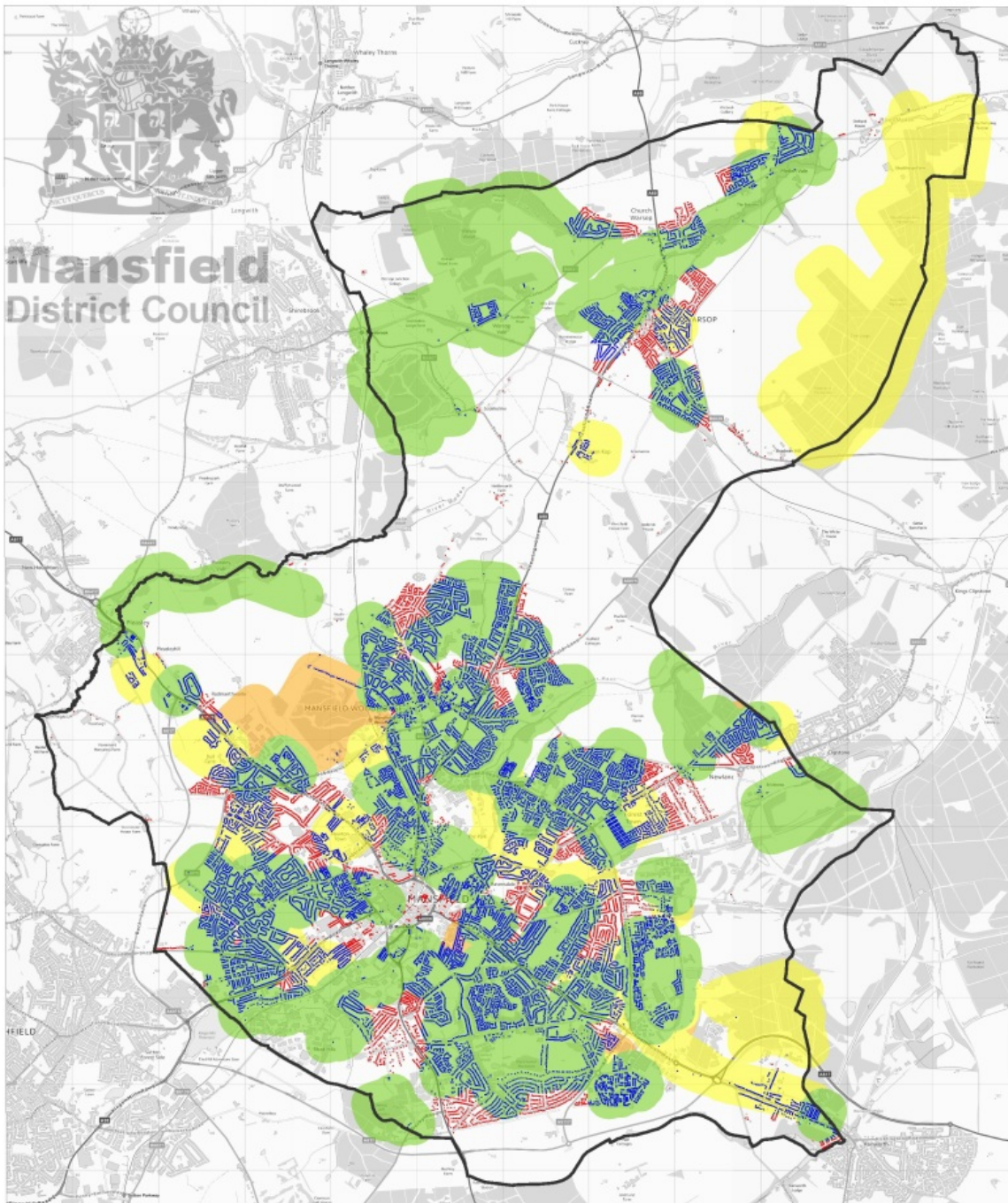
- Access* to very good site(s)
- Access* to good site(s)
- Access* to average site(s)
- Access* to poor site(s)

- Residential property with access* to open space
- Residential property without access* to open space

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Figure 4.16 Quality of green space within a 5-minute walk - cleanliness and maintenance scores



Key

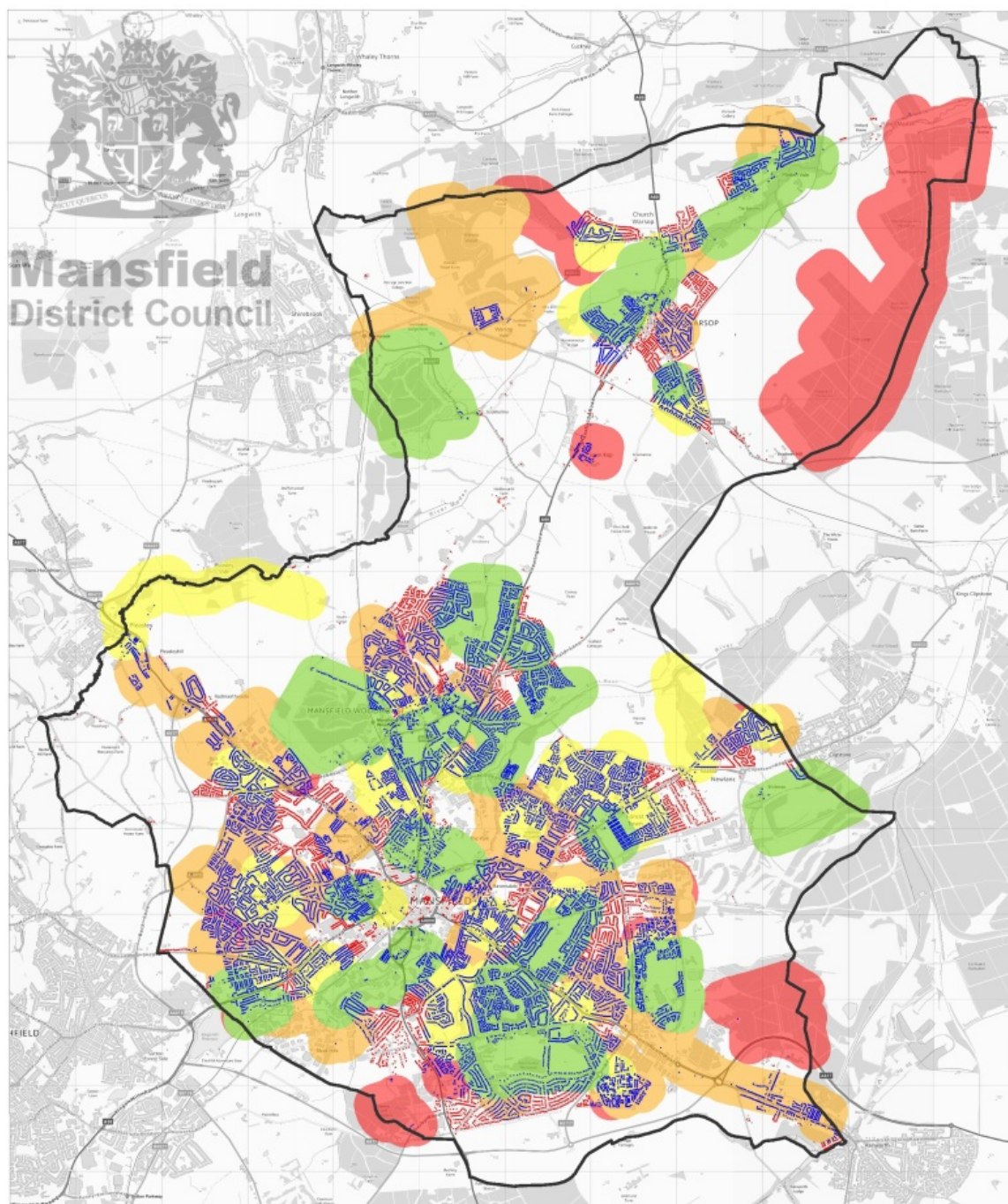
*Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

- Access* to very good site(s)
- Access* to good site(s)
- Access* to average site(s)
- Access* to poor site(s)

- Residential property with access* to open space
- Residential property without access* to open space

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Figure 4.17 Quality of green space within a 5-minute walk - use, image and setting scores



Key

*Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

- Access* to very good site(s)
- Access* to good site(s)
- Access* to average site(s)
- Access* to poor site(s)

- Residential property with access* to open space
- Residential property without access* to open space

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Quality and type of green spaces

4.106 The graphs below show the quality results according to the different types of green spaces.

Figure 4.18 Quality Results: Overall Score

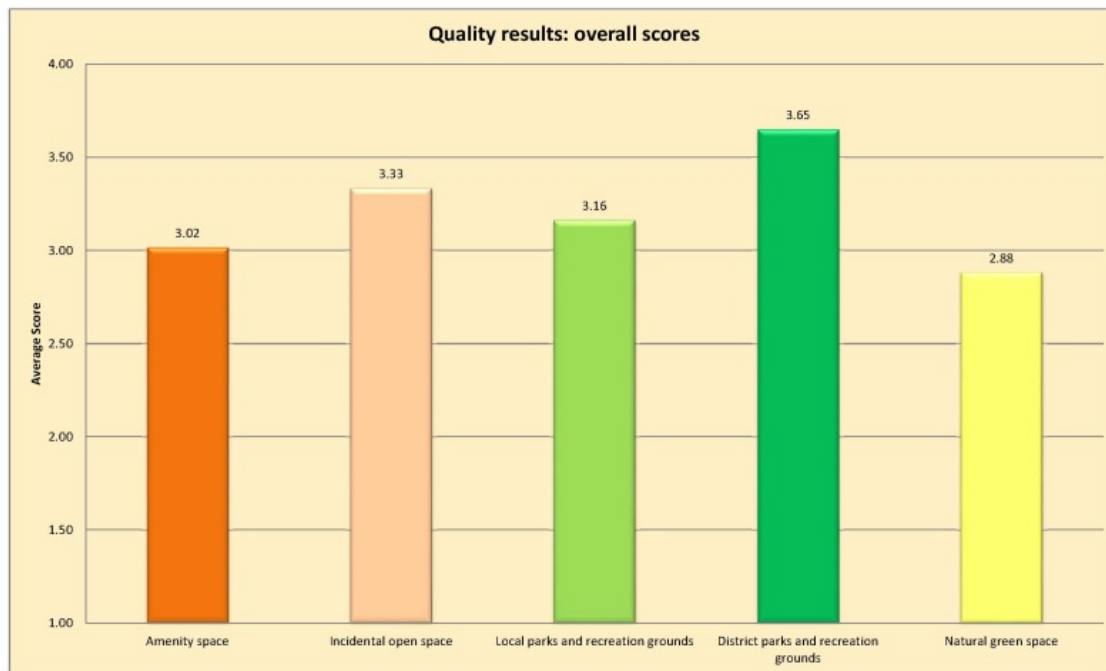


Figure 4.19 Quality Results:welcoming and accessible

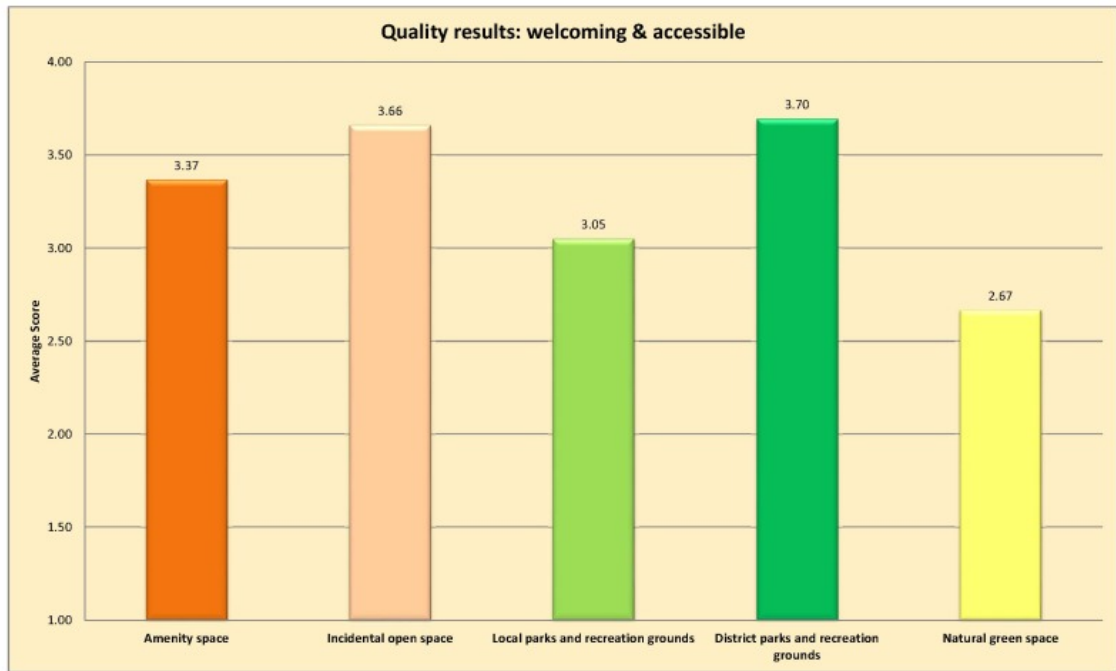


Figure 4.20 Quality Results: safe and secure

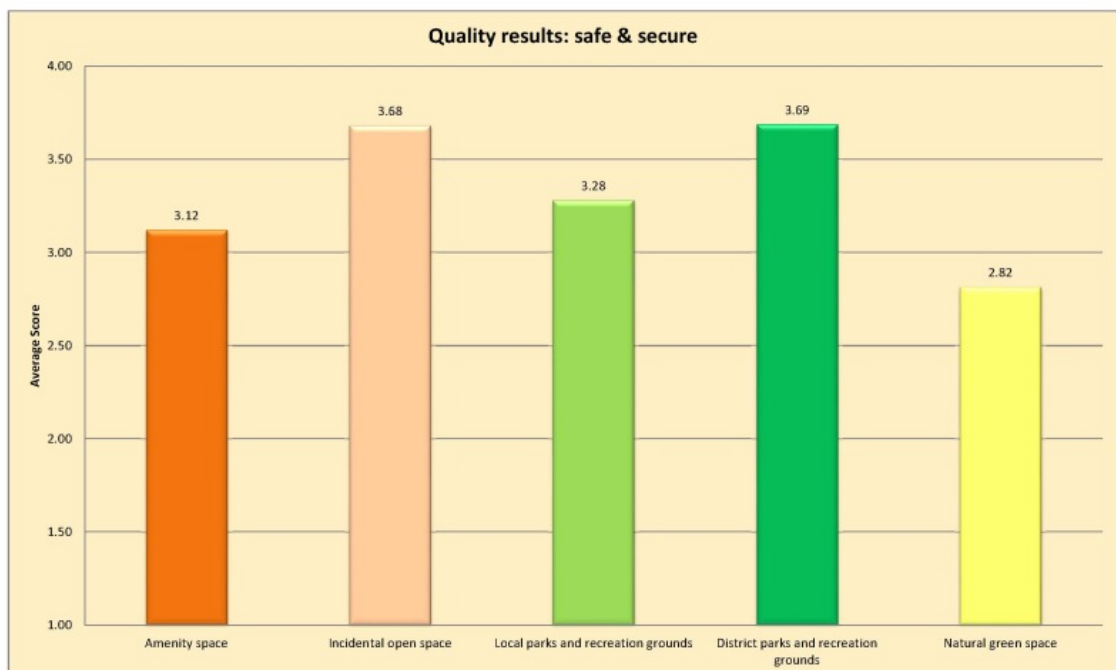
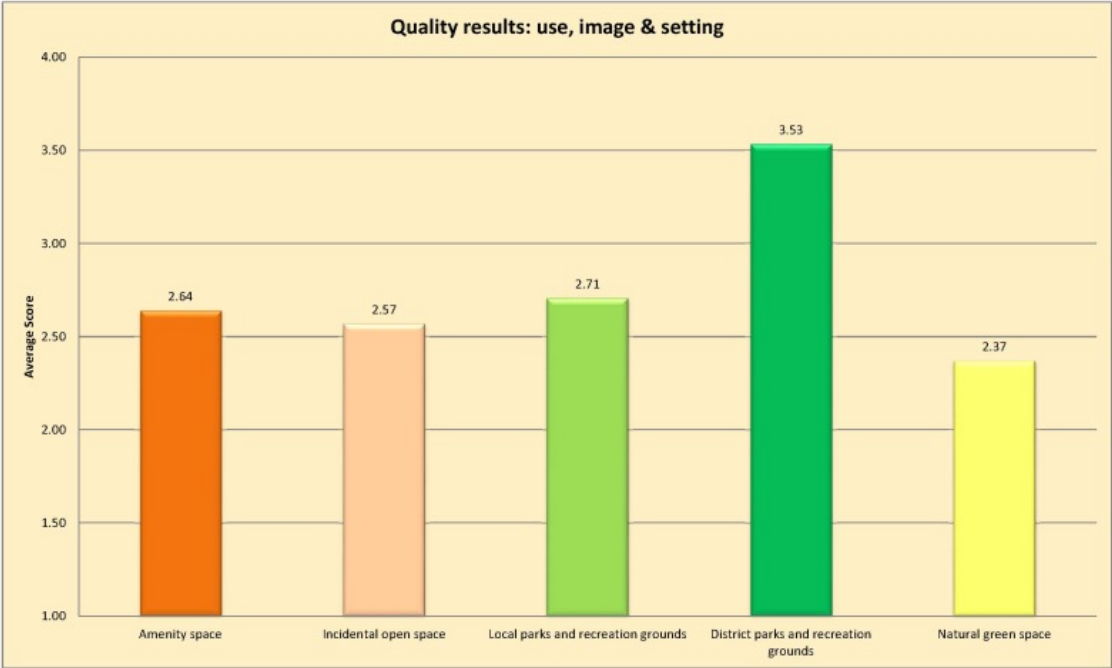




Figure 4.21 Quality Results: Maintenance and cleanliness



Figure 4.22 Quality Results: Image, use and overall setting



4.107 District parks: As expected, district parks did well. The *very good* quality criteria were based on Green Flag criteria. Six of the 15 district-level parks have been awarded Green Flag status (Yeoman Hill, Carr Bank, Titchfield, Peafield, King George V, and The Carrs Recreation Ground). Part of the Carrs Recreation Ground green flag status is shared with The Carrs Local Nature Reserve. Most scored *very good* (10) and the rest *good*. The main area of improvement for three of the district parks was in relation to their place shaping qualities (overall use, image and setting). These parks were:

- Chesterfield Road Park
- Fisher Lane Park
- Bull Farm Park.

4.108 Improvements to Chesterfield Road and Bull Farm parks are especially important to prioritise as residents living within a 15-minute walk of these parks, generally only have access to small (incidental) amenity spaces nearby (i.e. within a 5-minute walk).

4.109 Local parks: Approximately two-thirds of the local parks in the district were assessed as overall *good* or *very good*, leaving one-third of parks with an overall *average* rating.

4.110 Areas in need of quality improvements include issues related to parks being 'welcoming and accessible' (42% of local parks were *average*) and having a positive 'overall use, image and setting' (61% of local parks were *average* and one site of *poor* quality which is Epperstone Court Play area (ref Rw018) in the Bellamy estate.

4.111 The overall goal should be to improve the quality of all open spaces to at least *good* quality. In order to identify areas in the greatest need, it was considered that prioritising improvements should be focused in areas where residents:

- don't have access to a district park (15-minute walk) and
- only have access to a local park of *average* and/or *poor* quality (5-minute walk)

4.112 Table 4.16 below summarises where quality improvements to local parks should be prioritised on a ward-level based the above criteria. It is important to keep in mind that there may be localised issues which may need investigating on a site-specific level. All the areas and parks listed below were of overall *average* quality. More specific areas for improvement are also identified based on the four quality component areas assessed.

Table 4.16 Prioritise improvements to local parks

Area where improvements are required	Ward location	Type of improvements sought*	Local park(s) identified needing improvements
Bellamy Estate	Ransom Wood	welcoming and accessible + safe and secure + clean and maintained + place shaping (Rw018 = poor)	Epperstone Court Play Area (Rw018) and Bellamy Road Recreation ground (Rw006)



Area where improvements are required	Ward location	Type of improvements sought*	Local park(s) identified needing improvements
Oak Tree Lane area	Ling Forest/Lindhurst	welcoming and accessible + safe and secure + place shaping	Ling Forest Play Area (Lf003)
Barringer Road area	Carr Bank Park/ Maun Valley	clean and maintained + place shaping	Barringer Road Recreation Ground (Cb009)
Mansfield Woodhouse- New Mill Lane/Warsop Rd in	Peafields	welcoming and accessible + safe and secure + place shaping	Leeming Lane South Play Area (Pf007)
Mansfield Woodhouse - north of Oxclose Lane/Park Rd	Woodhouse and Park Hall	welcoming and accessible (Wh009 = good)+ safe and secure (Wh009 = good) + clean and maintained (Wh010 = v. good)+ place shaping	Vale Road Open Space (Wh009) and Lords Ground (Wh010)
Pleasley Hill - Woburn Road area	Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill	welcoming and accessible + place shaping	Woburn Road Playing Field (Bf007)
South-west Mansfield - area between Sheepbridge Lane, Sutton Rd and Moor St/Victoria St/ Princess St	Grange Farm and Portland	welcoming and accessible + safe and secure	Moor Lane Recreation Ground (Po005)
Newlands Estate	Newlands	welcoming and accessible + place shaping	Newlands Playing Fields (NI007)
Market Warsop - area between Sherwood St, Cheery Grove, Sandy Lane and High Street	Meden	welcoming and accessible + place shaping	Appleton Street Play Area (Me008)
Meden Vale (East of Elkesley Road)	Netherfield	welcoming and accessible + safe and secure + place shaping	Welbeck Miners Welfare (Ne008)
*Identified as average quality unless otherwise indicated.			

4.113 Natural green space: Generally, natural green spaces such as restored collieries, urban woodland sites, and green corridors were assessed as *average* quality. The quality assessment criteria was designed to take account of the differences types of green spaces, but there may be a bias towards sites with established facilities such as trails and benches. For the most part, the more established natural green spaces (e.g. local nature reserves) scored *good* to *very good*. Two local nature reserves (Quarry Lane LNR and The Carrs LNR) are Green Flag awarded green spaces.

4.114 Prioritising improvements to natural green space across the district is likely to encourage greater use of these green spaces. This will in turn help promote increased health and well-being across the district. Overall, particular areas to prioritise more specific enhancements include qualities related to: 'place shaping' and 'accessibility'.

4.115 Amenity space: These types of green spaces generally scored *average* or *poor* in relation to 'welcoming and accessible' and 'place shaping' (i.e. Use, image and setting) quality areas. Based on their access (i.e. 5-minute walk) and quality scores, the following amenity spaces would benefit from improvements. These amenity spaces also contribute significantly to available accessible green spaces in these wards. These wards or areas and the green spaces people has access to include:

- Brick Kiln (ward) - Millennium Green, Skegby Lane, Bosworth Street Amenity Space
- Penniment (ward) - Land off Wainwright Avenue and Bosworth Street Amenity Space (*poor* overall quality)
- Pleasley Hill - Teversal Avenue, Pleasley Hill
- Spion Kop - Amenity Space at Spion Kop (scored *poor* in relation to 'welcoming and accessible')
- Market Warsop - Former Welbeck Colliery Cricket Ground (now small pocket park - Mw003)

4.116 Incidental amenity space (less than 0.4 hectares in area): These small areas of amenity space generally score 'good'. Place shaping' is the main quality element which scores 'average' or 'poor'. Generally, these spaces lack features to entice people to stop and socialise, engage in play or contribute positively to the natural environment. Although small, these spaces often play, or have the potential to play, a positive role within a neighbourhood or estate's identify.

4.117 Good examples of where incidental open spaces contribute positively to place shaping, include, but are not limited to:

- Ladybrook Memorial Garden
- St Edmunds community orchard in Mansfield Woodhouse
- a small pocket park in Market Warsop (the Wickets) and
- several small amenity spaces in Grange Farm ward.



Picture 4.4



4.118 There are specific wards where improvements to incidental open space 'place shaping' qualities should be prioritised for the following wards (i.e. those falling into the 'average' to 'poor' score ranges):

- Abbott ward
- Bellamy estate (Ransom Wood ward)
- Brick Kiln ward
- Broomhill ward
- Ladybrook ward
- Penniment ward and
- Park Hall ward (northern part).

Quality and recreational use

4.119 Wards or areas in which informal green space (amenity and natural green space) is the primary form of accessible green space within a 5-minute walk were identified earlier in Section 4.2 (Table 4.8). Areas in which residents have access to mostly informal open spaces of *average* quality open spaces are identified in the table below. Thus, if quality and access improvements are made for identified green spaces (below), residents in these areas/wards would likely benefit by having access to nearby *good* quality open space.

4.120 Additionally, it's important to note that improving access to formal provision (e.g. creation of new playing fields, outdoor gyms, play areas, etc.) is also necessary within these areas, where opportunities arise.

Table 4.17 Priority areas for improvements to natural green space or amenity space provision

Ward / Area within district	Type of improvements required	Green space(s)
Berry Hill (southern and western areas of ward)	Quality improvements	Natural green space - Land off Johnson Drive and Berry Hill Lane (Oa003) & Chatsworth spinny wood off Chatsworth Drive (Bh002)
Brick Kiln (western area of ward)	Quality improvements	Amenity space - Millennium Green off Skegby Lane (Bk001) Natural green space - Former cycle proficiency site off Armstrong Road (Pe005), Amenity space (Bosworth Street Pe004)
Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill (Pleasley Hill area)	Quality improvements	Amenity space - Teversal Avenue (Bf003)
Carr Bank (eastern area of ward)	Quality and access improvements to green space	Natural green space - Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009); Urban woodland south of Samworth Academy along the Timberland Trail (Ra006); and Goodwood Way woodland (Ra007)
Ling Forest (various ward sections)	Quality and access improvements to green space	Natural green space - Urban woodland south of Samworth Academy along the Timberland Trail (Ra006) and Goodwood Way woodland (Ra007)
Market Warsop (Spion Kop area)	Quality improvements	Amenity space at Spion Kop (Mw024)
Newlands (Newlands area of ward)	Quality improvements	Amenity and natural green space - Spa Ponds (NI001)
Oakham (eastern area of ward)	Quality and access improvements to green space	Natural green space - Chatsworth spinny wood off Chatsworth Drive (Bh002) & Cauldwell Wood (Oa001)
Penniment (north eastern area of ward)	Quality and access improvements to green space	Amenity space - Land off Wainwright Avenue (Pe002)
Racecourse (area north of Skerry Hill)	Quality and access improvements to green space	Natural green space - Urban woodland south of Samworth Academy along the Timberland Trail (Ra006) and Goodwood Way woodland (Ra007)
Sherwood	Quality and access improvements to green space	Natural green space - Oxclose Woods (former Sherwood colliery, Sh011)
Ransom Wood (Rainworth)	Quality and access improvements to green space	Natural green space - Mansfield Way trail and wood from Ransom Wood to Rainworth (Rw020)
Warsop Carrs (Church Warsop)	Quality and access improvements to green space	Natural green space - Warsop Wood off Wood Lane(Wc001) and Church Warsop Miners Welfare (Wc010)



Quality of play space

4.121 Quality of play spaces were assessed based on three main areas including: location, quality of play and care and maintenance. Scores for individual criteria assigned values of good (3), average (2) or poor (1). Table 4.14 summarises the quality scores for play space. Quality ranges are: good (3 to 2.5), average (2.49 to 1.5) and poor (1.49 to 1).

Table 4.18

Quality component	Aspects assessed	Average score
Location	The play area is located so there is good natural surveillance, it is safe and it is easily accessible for all users, including those with disabilities and those with push chairs. It is welcoming and well used by children.	Good (2.82)
Play value	The play space encourages different and varied types of play through offering opportunities for creative play and movement. It offers good access to natural features which can be integrated into play and is accessible for children with different ability needs.	Average (2.37)
Care and maintenance	This component assesses cleanliness (litter and dog mess) and maintenance of the play space. It excludes a formal assessment of equipment safety as the Parks team regularly assesses this.	Good (2.66)
Overall quality	Good (2.58)	

4.122 Only one area scored *poor* in terms of overall quality which includes outdoor exercise gym equipment at the former miners welfare site in Church Warsop. This area doesn't appear to be currently managed.

4.123 Quality and access are illustrated in Figures 4.23 and 4.24 below.

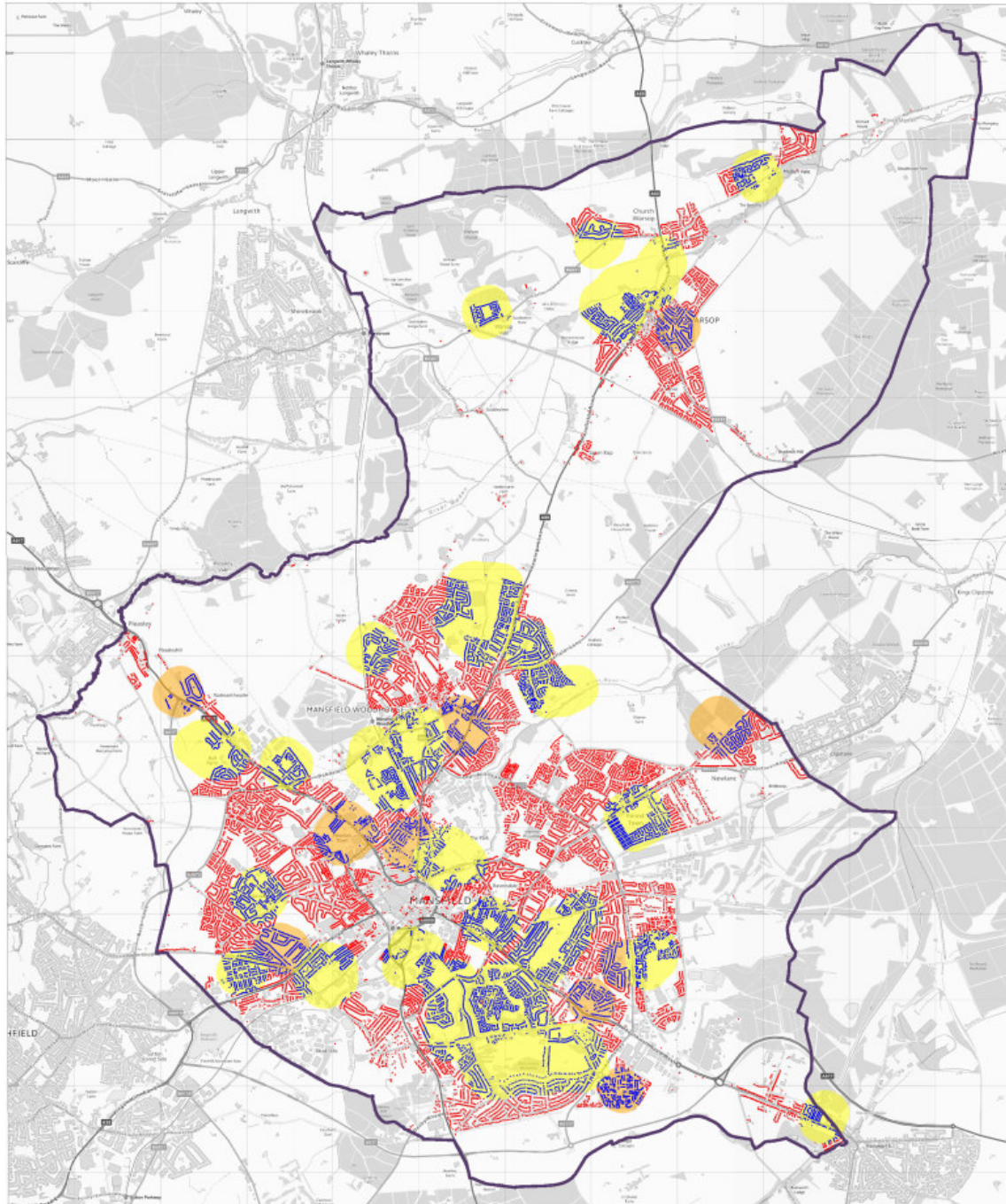
4.124 A majority of sites scored *good* (74.1%). The quality of teenager provision (75% *good* quality) and children provision (73.7% *good* quality) similarly reflect this overall quality result.

4.125 Enhancing the 'play value' of provision is key to supporting quality improvements. Over half (56.9%) of the play areas in the district scored either 'poor' or 'average' for this quality component. This includes ensuring equipment is suitable for children with disabilities and also that the layout, features and equipment are able to offer a range of activities for supporting healthy play and socialising.

4.126 The maps below show the play provision overall quality results in relation to access to green spaces within a 5-minute walk.



Figure 4.23 Access to play provision for children and young people by quality



Key

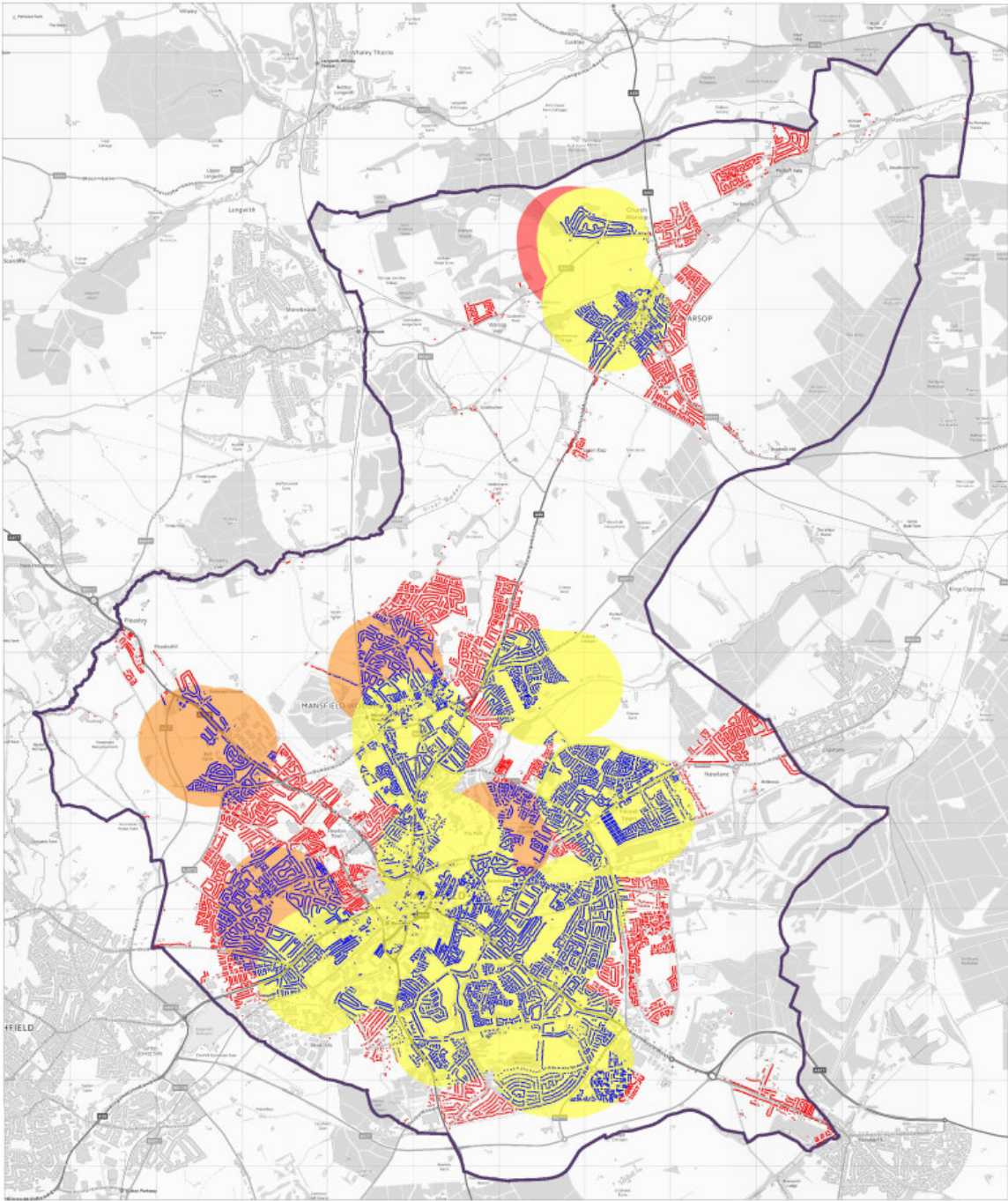
*Access is defined as being within a five minute walk (400m)

- Access* to good site(s)
- Access* to average site(s)
- Access* to poor site(s)

- Residential property with access* to childrens play area
- Residential property without access* to childrens play area

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Figure 4.24 Access to play provision for teenagers by quality



- Key
- *Access is defined as being within a fifteen minute walk (1km)

Access* to good site(s)

Access* to average site(s)

Access* to poor site(s)

Residential property with access* to teenage area

Residential property without access* to teenage area
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- 118



4.127 The following table summarises the assessment findings for play provision for children 12 years and younger. Those wards highlighted in orange indicate where the majority of residents only have access to average quality play provision.

Table 4.19 Quality of play provision in the district for children (12 years and younger)

Ward	Comments	Ward	Comments
Abbott	No accessible play space available.	Meden	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to average quality with limited access to good.
Berry Hill	Generally access to good quality but south of ward lacks access altogether.	Netherfield	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality at Meden Vale.
Brick Kiln	Over half of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to average quality with minimal access to good quality.	Newgate	Generally access to good quality. Some areas without access to any play provision.
Broomhill	Over half of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access only have access to average quality with very limited access to good quality play provision.	Newlands	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to mostly average quality (Newlands Estate area) and limited access to good quality provision (near to Queensway Park).
Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill	Within Pleasley Hill, less than half of households have access to average quality provision. Within Bull Farm just under half of households have access to average quality provision.	Oak Tree	Over half of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to mostly good quality play provision (Roston Open Space).
Carr Bank	Over half of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality.	Oakham	Very limited access to any play provision. Access restricted by lack of access points and busy roads (Nottingham Road - A60).
Eakring	Those who have access to play provision generally access to good quality.	Park Hall	Majority of residents don't have access to play provision. Those who have access, generally have access to play provision mostly average with limited access to good quality.
Grange Farm	Generally access to good quality with some access to average.	Peatfields	Generally access to good quality (Peatfield Park) with some access to average (Leeming Lane South Play Area). Approximately one-third without access to play provision.
Holly	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality play provision.	Penniment	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality play provision.



Ward	Comments	Ward	Comments
Hornby	Generally most have access to good quality.	Portland	Over half of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality play provision.
Kings Walk	Generally most have access to good quality.	Racecourse	Most households generally access to good quality. But there are gaps where residents have no access to play provision.
Kingsway	Over half of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality.	Ransom Wood	Within Bellamy Estate, most households have access to average quality provision. Within Rainworth Village a limited number of households have access to good quality provision but there are major gaps in access to play provision.
Ladybrook	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality play provision.	Sandhurst	Approximately half of households have access to good quality play provision.
Lindhurst	Access is to play provision is both good (around King George V) and average (local park adjacent to Ryedale Avenue / Briar Lane).	Sherwood	Households generally have access to good quality with minimal access to average quality play provision. Major access barriers (Chesterfield Road and Debdale Lane) and awkward road layouts limit access to provision.
Ling Forest	Generally access to average quality with limited access to good, but access via busy road (Oak tree Lane).	Warsop Carrs	Generally most residents have access to good quality. Although, access for residents in Church Warsop is limited.
Manor	Over half of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality with some access to average.	Woodhouse	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to good quality play provision.
Market Warsop	Majority of residents don't have access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to average quality play provision (Appleton Street Play Area).	Woodlands	Those who have access to play provision generally have access to average quality and some with limited access to good quality.
Maun Valley	Majority of residents don't have access to play provision. Minimal access to good quality (Queensway Park), but access via busy road (Clipstone Road West).	Yeoman Hill	Generally access to good quality play provision (around Yeoman Hill Park) with some access to average provision (around Leeming Lane South Play Area). Less than half of households are without access to any play provision.

4.128 Overall in the district, residents have access to good quality teenage provision within a 15-minute walk. Assessment results show that residents in the following wards have access primarily to 'average' quality teenager spaces:

- Abbott
- Bull Farm and Pleasley
- Brick Kiln
- Broomhill
- Carr Bank (eastern area of ward only)
- Grange Farm (south of Skegby Lane)
- Ladybrook
- Maun Valley
- Park Hall
- Penniment and
- Woodhouse.

Summary of findings

4.129 With the exception of most district parks, overall, priority should be given to improving the place shaping qualities of green and open spaces across the district. Improvements are also required to ensure that local parks and natural green spaces are welcoming and accessible for users. This includes ensuring green spaces are accessible for people with disabilities, are well signed, and are easy to get around and to.

4.130 Table 4.20 below, summarises quality results at a ward level. It identifies, generally where improvements are needed according to:

- overall quality
- welcoming and accessible
- safety and
- place shaping qualities (overall use and setting).

4.131 The table below identifies the types of green spaces where improvements should be prioritised. It also indicates if residents, generally, don't have access to a *good* quality district-level park within a 15-minute walk. This is an important consideration where access to green space is *average* or, as discussed in Section 4.2, where access within a 5-minute walk is limited to only small amenity space.

4.132 The table is colour-coded to indicate where resources should be prioritised in an order of precedence (red, orange to yellow):

- **Green** indicates wards where there the quality of access was predominately *good* or *very good*.
- **Yellow** indicates where less than one-third of residents in a ward only have access to *average* or *poor* quality open space. Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.



- **Orange** indicates where there are significant areas within a ward where residents only have access to *average* or *poor* quality open space (one-third or more). Moderate to significant quality improvements to open space are required.
- **Red** indicates where, like 'orange' above, significant quality improvements to open space are required due to residents only have access to *average* or *poor* quality open space (one-third or more). Additionally, access to district parks (within a 15-minute walk) is limited AND overall quality of local parks is *average* or *poor within a 5-minute walk*. Therefore, improvements to local parks need prioritising. Significant quality improvements to open space are required.

4.133 It's important to keep in mind that this analysis looks at overall access to nearby open space. If an area has two open spaces that are of different overall quality scores (e.g. *good* and *average*) next to each other, the better of the two quality scores will be reported. Whilst the adjacent open space may be of lesser quality, the assessment shows where residents generally have access to the better quality open space nearby to where they live. This doesn't take into consideration access to the different types of green space. Thus, quality improvements to the adjacent poorer quality open space may still be needed when considering, for example, access to natural green space or play provision.

Table 4.20 Summary of quality improvements to existing green space (within a five-minute walk)

Ward / area	Overall quality	Site accessibility	Safety	Place shaping sought	Limited access to a District Park (within 15 minutes)
Abbott		Amenity land at Cobden Place (Ab005) - Incidental open space		Incidental open space off Chesterfield Street (Ab004)	Yes, access to overall quality is good. Although access limited to incidental open space. Prioritise improving place shaping qualities for Chesterfield Road & Bull Farm district parks.
Berry Hill	Natural green space off Johnson Dr and Berry Hill Lane (Oa003) & Woodland off Chatsworth Drive (Bh002)	Natural green space off Johnson Dr and Berry Hill Lane (Oa003) & Woodland off Chatsworth Drive (Bh002)		Natural green space off Johnson Dr and Berry Hill Lane (Oa003) & Woodland off Chatsworth Drive (Bh002)	
Brick Kiln	Millennium Green (Bk001), Natural green space (Armstrong Rd Pe005), Amenity space (Bosworth Street Pe004)	Millennium Green (Bk001) & Natural green space (Armstrong Rd Pe005), Amenity space (Bosworth Street Pe004)	Millennium Green (Bk001), Amenity space (Bosworth Street Pe004)	The Knoll Play Area (Bk004), Millennium Green (Bk001), Pe005 and various incidental open spaces, Amenity space (Bosworth Street Pe004)	Yes, overall access to quality is mixed. Although access limited to incidental open space.
Broomhill				Chesterfield Road District Park (Br001), Incidental space off Williamson Court, and incidental space off Langham Place	Prioritise improving place shaping qualities for Chesterfield Road district park.
Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill	Woburn Road playing field (Bf007) & Teversal Ave amenity space (Bf003) both in Pleasley Hill area.	Woburn Road playing field (Bf007) & Teversal Ave amenity space (Bf003) both in Pleasley Hill area.	Green corridor adjacent to Millennium Business Park (Sh002)	Woburn Road playing field (Bf007) & Teversal Ave amenity space (Bf003) both in Pleasley Hill area. And Bull Farm district park (Bf011)	Yes (Pleasley Hill area) with access to overall average quality.
Carr Bank	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009) & Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009) & Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009) & Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009) & Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy	



Ward / area	Overall quality	Site accessibility	Safety	Place shaping sought	Limited access to a District Park (within 15 minutes)
Eakring		Thompson's Grave amenity space (Bh001)	Urban woodland adjacent to Bramble Lane (Li007)	Urban woodland adjacent to Bramble Lane (Li007)	
Grange Farm	Moor Lane Park (Po005)	Moor Lane Park (Po005)	Moor Lane Park (Po005)	Millennium Green (Bk001) & Incidental space Morray Square (Gf007)	Yes and access limited to incidental open space. But access to overall quality is good.
Holly					Yes - but access to overall quality is good.
Hornby					Yes (major access barrier present), but access to overall quality is good
Kings Walk					
Kingsway	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009) & Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009) & Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009) & Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009), Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy and Incidental open space off Butterwick Close (Mv005)	
Ladybrook		Incidental open space off Daniel Crescent (La006)	Incidental open space off Daniel Crescent (La006)	Ladybrook Place Park (La003), Incidental open spaces at - Langham Place (La007) and Daniel Crescent (La006)	Yes and access limited to incidental open space. But overall quality good
Lindhurst	Bellamy Road Recreation Ground (Rw006)	Bellamy Road Recreation Ground (Rw006)	Bellamy Road Recreation Ground (Rw006) & Urban woodland adjacent to Bramble Lane (Li007)	Bellamy Road Recreation Ground (Rw006), Urban woodland adjacent to Bramble Lane (Li007) and various incidental open spaces in Bellamy Estate	Yes (major access barrier present), but overall quality good except for Bellamy Road Recreation Ground. Prioritise improving place shaping qualities for Chesterfield Road district park.
Ling Forest	Ling Forest Play Area (Lf003) & Urban woodland adjacent to Bramble Lane (Li007)	Ling Forest Play Area (Lf003) & Urban woodland adjacent to Bramble Lane (Li007) and Urban woodland off Kilton Ave (Lf005)	Ling Forest Play Area (Lf003) & Urban woodland adjacent to Bramble Lane (Li007)	The majority of accessible open spaces in this ward are average or poor quality.	Yes - especially the eastern part of the ward

Community Open Space Assessment

Ward / area	Overall quality	Site accessibility	Safety	Place shaping sought	Limited access to a District Park (within 15 minutes)
Manor				Warsop Road Amenity Space (Ma002), Incidental open spaces off Cedar Ave (Ph004), and Melbourne Street (Ma006)	
Market Warsop	Amenity space at Spion Kop (Mw024) & Appleton Street Play Area (Me008) Market Warsop	Amenity space at Spion Kop (Mw024) & Appleton Street Play Area (Me008) Market Warsop		Amenity space at Spion Kop (Mw024 - Poor) & Appleton Street Play Area (Me008) Market Warsop	Yes in relation to Spion Kop and southeastern Market Warsop.
Maun Valley				Small amenity space as entrance to Ravensdale LNR off Wensleydale Close (Mv010), Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve (Mv009) and incidental open space off Newton Ave (Mv001)	Yes, but access to overall quality is good.
Meden	Appleton Street Play Area (Me008) and Oakfield Lane Amenity Space (Mw004) -Southeast Market Warsop	Local park (south Market Warsop)		Appleton Street Play Area (Me008) and Oakfield Lane Amenity Space (Mw004)	Yes, southern area of Market Warsop without any access to district park. Mixed access to good and average quality green space.
Netherfield				Amenity Space off Barn Owl Close (Market Warsop) & Welbeck Miners Welfare in Meden Vale (Ne008)	Yes, but access to overall quality is good.
Newgate		Jackson's Field local park (NG001) & Rainers Field (Cb004)		Local parks: Fisher Lane Park (Sa004) & Rainers Field (Cb004)	
Newlands	Spa Ponds natural green space (NI001), Newlands Playing Fields (NI007), Incidental open space off Carlton Close (NI013), and The Brambles amenity space (NI016).	Spa Ponds natural green space (NI001), Newlands Playing Fields (NI007), Incidental open space off Carlton Close (NI013), and The Brambles amenity space (NI016).	Spa Ponds natural green space (NI001), Incidental open space off Carlton Close (NI013), and The Brambles amenity space (NI016).	Newlands Playing Fields (NI007), Incidental open space off Carlton Close (NI013), and The Brambles amenity space (NI016).	Yes, for area surrounding the Newlands Estate (north of Newlands Road East).



Ward / area	Overall quality	Site accessibility	Safety	Place shaping sought	Limited access to a District Park (within 15 minutes)
Oak Tree				Natural green space south of Crown Farm Industrial Estate (Lf006 and Lf005), Incidental open spaces off Hollington Way (Ot015) and Littleover Ave (Ot006) & Longmoor Walk Amenity Space (Ot002).	Yes, but access to overall quality is good.
Oakham	Johnson Drive open space (natural green space - Oa003), Trail adj to Quarry Lane LNR (Po007) & Forest Road Recreation Ground (Sa001)	Johnson Drive open space (natural green space - Oa003), Cauldwell Wood (Oa001), Trail adj to Quarry Lane LNR (Po007) & Forest Road Recreation Ground (Sa001)	Cauldwell Wood (Oa001) & Trail adj to Quarry Lane LNR (Po007)- both poor quality	Oakham Local Nature Reserve (Oa007), Johnson Drive open space (natural green space - Oa003), Trail adj to Quarry Lane LNR (Po007), Cauldwell Wood (Oa001) - last three poor quality.	Yes, overall limited access to formal open space provision. Eastern part of ward (adj to Berry Hill Ward) with mixed access to good, average and poor quality green space.
Park Hall	Lords Recreation Ground (Wh010) & Incidental Open Space off Collier Ave (Wh010)	Lords Recreation Ground (Wh010)	Lords Recreation Ground (Wh010)	Lords Recreation Ground (Wh010), Vale Road Open Space (Wh009) & Incidental Open Spaces off Collier Ave (Wh010 - poor quality), Cox's Lane (Wh008) and Cedar Ave (Ph004)	
Peafields				Warsop Road Amenity Space (Ma002)	Yes within western section of ward, but access to overall quality is poor.
Penniment	Hall Barn Lane amenity space (Pe002) & Lees Ave and Pye Ave (Pe013)	Incidental open space off Wainwright Ave (Pe002)	Incidental open space off Wainwright Ave (Pe002)	Abbott Road Playing Fields (Pe003), Natural green space (Armstrong Rd Pe005), Hall Barn Lane amenity space (Pe002) & Incidental open spaces off Wainwright Ave (Pe002), Lees Ave and Pye Ave (Pe013), Moor Lane Park (Po005) & Bailey Crescent (Pe012 and Pe011)	Yes, access to overall quality is mixed (good and average). Although access limited to incidental open space.
Portland	Moor Lane Park (Po005)	Moor Lane Park (Po005), Fisher Lane Park (Sa004) & Rainers Field (Cb004)	Moor Lane Park (Po005)		Yes, south western area of ward near to Grange Farm.
Racecourse	Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy & Goodwood Way natural green space	Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy & Goodwood Way natural green space	Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy & Goodwood Way natural green space	Fisher Lane Park (sa004), Woodland Trails off King George V Ave (Kw006), (Timberland Trail woodland(Ra006) south of Samworth Academy & Goodwood Way natural green space	

Ward / area	Overall quality	Site accessibility	Safety	Place shaping sought	Limited access to a District Park (within 15 minutes)
Ransom Wood (varied mixture of poor, average and good quality small sites within close proximity)	Natural green space - Rainworth Trail from Ransom Wood to Rainworth Village (Rw020)	Natural green space - Rainworth Trail from Ransom Wood to Rainworth Village (Rw020) & Rainworth Recreation Ground (Rw005)		Rainworth - Natural green space - Rainworth Trail from Ransom Wood to Rainworth Village (Rw020) & Rainworth Recreation Ground (Rw005). Bellamy Estate - Epperstone Court Play Area and various incidental open spaces interspersed throughout the estate. Incidental open space off Scarrington Court (Rw025) - poor quality.	Yes - within Rainworth overall quality mainly average. Within Bellamy Estate busy and awkward road layouts limit access to King George V district park. Overall access good, although limited to incidental open space with wide range of mostly average quality.
Sandhurst	Amenity land south of Forest Road Allotments (Sa005)	Forest Road Recreation Ground (Sa001), Amenity land south of Forest Road Allotments (Sa005) and Woodland adjacent to Millennium Business Park (Sh002)	Amenity land south of Forest Road Allotments (Sa005)	Amenity land south of Forest Road Allotments (Sa005)	
Sherwood	Oxclose Woods restored Sherwood Colliery (Sh011)	Burlington Drive Play Area (Sh006), Oxclose Woods restored Sherwood Colliery (Sh011)		Chesterfield Road Park (BR001), Burlington Drive Play Area (Sh006), Oxclose Woods restored Sherwood Colliery (Sh011) & Incidental open space off Illion Street (Sh013 - poor).	Yes, busy and awkward road layouts limit access to Chesterfield Road district-level park. Although access to open space is of good overall quality, Prioritise improving place shaping qualities for Chesterfield Road & Bull Farm district parks.
Warsop Carrs	Warsop Wood in Church Warsop (Wc001)	Warsop Wood in Church Warsop (Wc001) & Warsop Vale Sports ground (Wc012)	Warsop Wood in Church Warsop (Wc001) & Warsop Vale Sports ground (Wc012)	Warsop Vale Play Area (Wc003), Warsop Wood in Church Warsop (Wc001) & Warsop Vale Sports ground (Wc012) and Restored Warsop Colliery Woods (Wc018) in Warsop Vale	Yes - within Western Church Warsop and Warsop Vale but access to overall good quality of open space.



Ward / area	Overall quality	Site accessibility	Safety	Place shaping sought	Limited access to a District Park (within 15 minutes)
Woodhouse	Lords Ground (Wh010), Incidental open space off Collier Ave (Wh012) & Oxclose Woods restored Sherwood Colliery (Sh011)	Lords Ground (Wh010) & Oxclose Woods restored Sherwood Colliery (Sh011)	Lords Ground (Wh010)	Vale Road Open Space (Wh009), Lords Ground (Wh010), The Green (Wh006), Incidental open space off Collier Ave (Wh012) & Oxclose Woods restored Sherwood Colliery (Sh011)	Yes, for residents living within the northern half of this ward. Overall quality is mixed.
Woodlands		Amenity space off Birding Street (Sh010)		Chesterfield Road Park (Br001)	Prioritise improving place shaping qualities for Chesterfield Road district park.
Yeoman Hill	Leeming Lane South Play Area (Pf007)	Leeming Lane South Play Area (Pf007)	Leeming Lane South Play Area (Pf007)	Leeming Lane South Play Area (Pf007) & Green at Baggaley Crescent (Wl006)	Yes, eastern area of ward near to Maun Valley, but access to overall good quality of open space.

4.4 Healthy communities

Health indicators and open space

4.134 Despite overall good access to green and open spaces and the countryside, deprivation in the district is higher than the national average. This is most likely due to a number of factors but is outside the remit of this paper to explore. This section gives an high-level overview of how health and open space relate to each other. As discussed in previous sections, good quality open space is needed to support health and well being. It provides important green infrastructure for supporting healthy communities.

4.135 Overall, the district ranks low in relation to deprivation and health. The most up-to-date Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2010) ranked Mansfield District 38 out of 353 authorities (with 1 being the most deprived). In addition, twelve out of 36 Lower Super Output areas in the district fall within the top 10% of deprived areas in the country. Overall, long term rate of unemployment (10 %) is also higher than national (7.1%) and regional averages (measured as a crude rate per 1,000 population aged 16-64, 2014).

4.136 In nearly all instances; people living in the most deprived areas generally score worse in terms of health indicators than those in the most affluent areas within the district.

4.137 This assessment compared the relationship between:

- percentage (%) of obese children (year 6 from 2013/14 to 2015/16) and % of residents without access to overall play provision
- Percentage (%) of obese children (year 6 from 2013/14 to 2015/16) and % of residents without access to overall open space
- percentage (%) of obese adults (2010) and % of residents without access to overall open space
- general health (% of people in bad or very bad 2011) and % of residents without access to overall open space

4.138 These relationships were graphed using scatter graphs and a trendline (R^2 coefficient) was used to determine how strong the relationship is between the above. This analysis showed a positive but overall very weak relationship between access and poor health. When looking at ward level, for some wards it would appear that access and obesity have a very clear relationship, for example:

- Abbott ward has *high* levels of child obesity and a *poor* level of access to play provision and
- Berry Hill has *low* levels of child obesity and generally a *good* level of access to play provision.



4.139 Results for Oakham ward showed that child obesity levels are low but residents don't have good access to play provision and open space; this ward seemed to be the only exception to the above trends. If Oakham ward is not included in the data, the relationship between poor health and lack of access to play provision was marginally stronger.

4.140 The table below shows the relationship between access to provision and health:

Table 4.21 Trend in health and access to green space

Relationship	Trend relationship (R^2)
Percentage of obese children and % of residents without access to overall play provision	Upward, weak positive trend (0.082)
Percentage of obese children and % of residents without access to overall open space	Upward, weak positive trend (0.0302)
Percentage of obese adults and % of residents without access to overall open space	Upward, very weak positive trend (0.0069)
General health (bad or very bad) % of residents without and access to overall open space	Upward, weak positive trend (0.0558)
An R^2 value of 1 would show the strongest relationship (100%). Results relating to access to play provision excludes results for Oakham ward.	

4.141 In any case, a very weak but positive relationship is present between poor health and lack of access to green space within a 5-minute walk. There are likely to be other lifestyle, quality of open space and ease of access to open space (i.e. whether there are geographical or psychological barriers present) factors that have a positive influence on how active people are. Also, in some wards 'lack of access' to provision is very localised. Unfortunately, drilling down into how exactly access to provision affects health is beyond the scope of this assessment.

4.142 Overall, many research studies indicate that having access to green space has positive effects on health and wellbeing (see Section 3.6). It is important to keep in mind that if these green resources don't exist, then there are few opportunities to address inequalities locally.

Healthy green spaces, healthy communities

Picture 4.5 King George V Park



4.143 The following are key contributors for supporting healthy communities in relation to green and open spaces in the district:

- nature friendly spaces
- climate change resilience
- socially inclusion spaces
- historic importance and
- accessibility for all

4.144 In addition, to the two health indicators above, this assessment quantifies where these qualities are most strongly represented and where improvements could be prioritised. The table and graphs below demonstrate the findings.

Table 4.22 Green spaces with wider significance

Wider significance	Percentage (%) of sites in the	Observations and Suggestions
Contributing positively to biodiversity	53.8%	100 open spaces (out of 185) in the district, ranging across all types, contribute to supporting biodiversity. Out of these 100 sites, after natural green spaces, local parks (18%), incidental open space (15%), amenity space (10%) and district parks (9%) support biodiversity to some degree. It was positive to see that a relatively moderate proportion are incidental amenity space, given their limited size. Many of these small amenity spaces include tree cover and some include community orchards.



Wider significance	Percentage (%) of sites in the	Observations and Suggestions
		<p>District parks include woodland or moderate tree cover, rivers, wildflower meadows or larger areas of landscaping. Local parks and incidental amenity space are more limited in what they can offer due to their smaller size and lack of Friends Group support, but even small clumps of woodland/tree, meadows and landscaping make a positive contribution to biodiversity and place setting. Based on the size and what district-level parks have to offer, 60% (9 out of 15 district parks) support biodiversity to some degree, whereas 47% of local parks (15 out of 38) and 22% (15 out of 68) incidental amenity space support biodiversity.</p> <p>The main priority areas in need of improved access to nature nearby include the wards: Kingsway (Forest Town), Penniment and Portland.</p> <p>Improvements to the natural qualities of local and district parks and small amenity spaces are likely to also improve their place shaping quality. Small orchards and other edible spaces (community raised beds) can offer simple solutions.</p>
Historic importance	19.6%	<p>36 open spaces (out of 185) in the district have known historical significance. These include Victorian parks, those contributing to the setting of historic buildings or memorials and those representing the district's industrial heritage. It is recognised that there may be a wider number of green spaces with more localised historical significance which might not be captured in this data, for example, the role they play in the district's sporting history. This assessment gives an initial indication of where and which types of open space hold historic importance.</p> <p>Overall, natural green spaces make up the greatest number of open spaces with historic significance mainly due to their former mineral history (e.g. restored mineral railway lines and collieries). 6 out of the 15 district parks (40%) hold wider historic significance supporting war memorials, local festivals and/or historic settings. For example, the hall at Berry Hill Park formed part of an estate to Bury Hall (1730 to 1920s). The park was included in the grounds to the hall when it became a rehabilitation hospital in the 1920s. Titchfield Park is one of the district's oldest parks.</p> <p>The smallest of the open spaces with historic importance (classed as an incidental amenity space) is located in the town centre and contributes to the setting of the historic unitarian church, a Grade II* listed building built in the early 1700s.</p> <p>It is important to recognise and celebrate these sites such that their historical importance can be used to help shape the district's setting and people's awareness of how the district's open spaces contribute to our understanding of the past and present.</p>
Contributing positively to social interaction	21.2%	<p>These included known areas supporting established social groups and events. Both district parks and natural green space sites contributed the most positively to this area. All of the district parks support established social groups and/or events. These accounted for over a third of all sites supporting social interaction, followed by natural green spaces (36% or 14 out of 39 open spaces).</p> <p>A very small proportion of the local parks (7 out of 39) supported friends groups and/or events such as Parklife and had adjacent community facilities. A small number (3) incidental open spaces in Bellamy Estate were also included as they were adjacent to an established community centre.</p>

Wider significance	Percentage (%) of sites in the	Observations and Suggestions
		<p>In addition, the quality assessment of open spaces in the district sheds some light on the ability of open spaces to support place shaping, including an open space's ability to support social interaction. Generally a <i>good</i> score showed that an open space was welcoming and pleasant to be in and, although limited, there are areas (e.g. seating, picnic, or other features) within the site which are appropriately located and feel safe. An <i>average</i> score indicated that the feel of the open space was very functional but there was further opportunity to support social interaction due to its layout or location. A <i>poor</i> score indicated that the open space was very nondescript and not welcoming or safe, thus no incentive to stop and socialise and no potential to support further improvements.</p> <p>In relation to place shaping qualities, incidental amenity spaces scored most-in-need of improvement with 70.6% scoring <i>average</i> or <i>poor</i>, followed by natural green (67.4%), larger amenity spaces (67%), local parks (63.2%) and district parks (20%). There is a clear need for improving the place shaping qualities of open spaces in order to help support positive social interaction. Prioritising those that score <i>average</i> in this category would likely deliver the best value as these already have potential for improvement.</p>
Contribute to minimising impacts from flooding	42.4%	<p>This includes open spaces which are likely to contribute towards minimising the risk of river and surface water flooding, acting essentially like 'green sponges' during periods of heavy rainfall.</p> <p>42% of all open spaces (78 out of 185) in the district are likely to help minimise flood risk, supporting the important role open spaces play within the district. Not surprisingly, this includes a high number of natural green space (22 in total out of 78 open spaces). Unexpectedly, there is the same proportion of small amenity spaces (incidental open space) which are important for minimising impacts. Even though these are small, this analysis shows that they have an important role to play in adapting to climate change.</p> <p>It is important to recognise that all open spaces are important, to some degree, for helping to mitigate the impacts from flooding. Without them, it is likely that the impact could be even greater. Those identified as already contributing to minimising impacts are likely to have the greatest potential to further minimise impacts by re-trofitting sustainable drainage systems within these open spaces or improving the health of rivers that run through or alongside them. A key example is Titchfield Park in central Mansfield. The design and location of new open space within new development's should help contribute to a development's ability to minimise flood risk.</p>
Open space containing tree cover	72.8%	<p>A high percentage of open space in the district has either woodland or urban tree cover to some extent (almost three-quarters of open space). This figure doesn't recognise hedge boundaries which offer very little tree cover. Tree cover included: a few trees, orchards, moderate clusters of trees, tree-lined walkways, woodlands and community accessible conifer plantations. For, small amenity space (incidental open space), two or three trees can make a significant impact on the feeling of naturalness and the ability to provide shade and a positive quality score.</p> <p>With predicted climate change impacts (i.e. hotter summers), shade is an important element to design within open spaces. Trees also play an active role in minimising flood risk and absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂).</p>



Wider significance	Percentage (%) of sites in the	Observations and Suggestions
		Based on the number of sites that provide tree cover, natural green space and incidental open space accounted for the greatest number of open spaces with tree cover. When looking at each type of green space individually, the majority of district parks (13 out of 15) offered some element of shade from trees. The greatest room for improvement included larger amenity spaces. The inclusion of trees can have the added benefit of improving the quality or place shaping ability of open space and in the long-term reducing maintenance costs.
Provide good accessibility for all	<p>75.3% (very good and good) for open spaces</p> <p>76% of play areas provide 'good' accessibility for those with impairments and push chairs</p> <p>But just 25% of play areas provide 'good' quality provision for disabled children</p>	<p>A majority of the open spaces surveyed were assessed as <i>very good</i> or <i>good</i> in their ability to provide inclusive access for all. Access for all is inclusive of a variety of mobility, sensory, and learning difficulty needs. It also takes into account mental health needs and people with push chairs. Although most green and open spaces scored well, it also shows that over one-third scored <i>average</i> or <i>poor</i>.</p> <p>14.8% of all sites scored as <i>average</i>, meaning that some minor issues need addressing in order to ensure that sites meet adequate needs of users. 9.9% scored as 'poor' meaning that major issues were present. Based on the number of open spaces in each category, the majority were natural green space (83.3%) followed by amenity spaces (16.7%). The <i>poor</i> rating with natural green spaces isn't surprising given their general nature which can sometimes includes rough or uneven terrain and steep slopes.</p> <p>For those in the <i>very good</i> category, there were no specific issues identified for entrances, signage, terrain, surfaces, seating, and key areas such as picnic/ rest areas. For those in the <i>good</i> category, minor issues were present for secondary entrances, terrain and seating areas. An 'average' score signified minor issues with a number of key areas, including main entrances. A <i>poor</i> score showed that there was a major issue with one or more entrances, terrain, areas of use, etc.</p> <p>Although most play spaces were generally accessible in terms of getting there and around, a great deal of improvement is needed to ensure that, once there, these spaces are inclusive and equally stimulating for all children. Just over half of the play areas scored 'poor' (51.9%) and a just under a quarter scored 'average' (23.1%), suggesting the play equipment offered none to limited opportunities for disabled children. Improvements to the features and structures need prioritising so that disabled and non-disabled children can use the play areas equally.</p> <p>It is important to point out that this is an initial survey and not based on a formal assessment. More detailed surveys would need to be undertaken to fully investigate what specific improvements are needed for each open space. But it provides a good perspective on where open spaces require improvements, overall. Those with an 'average' score could be easily prioritised as they include minor issues where most are likely to be easily resolved.</p>

Figure 4.25 Open space supporting biodiversity by type

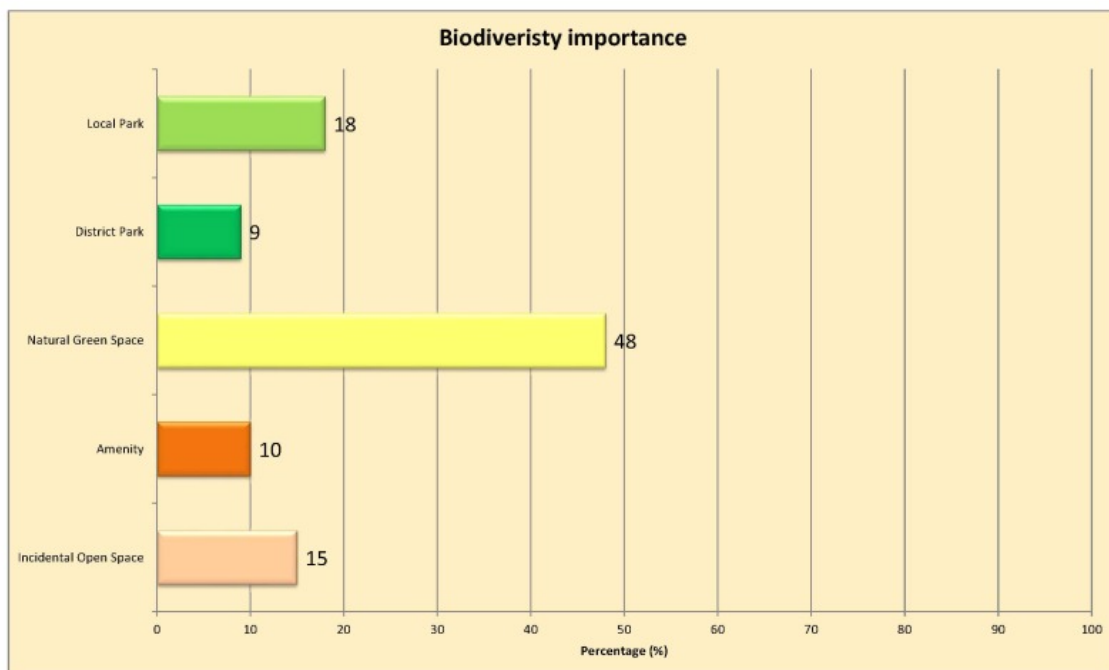


Figure 4.26 Open space with historic significance by type

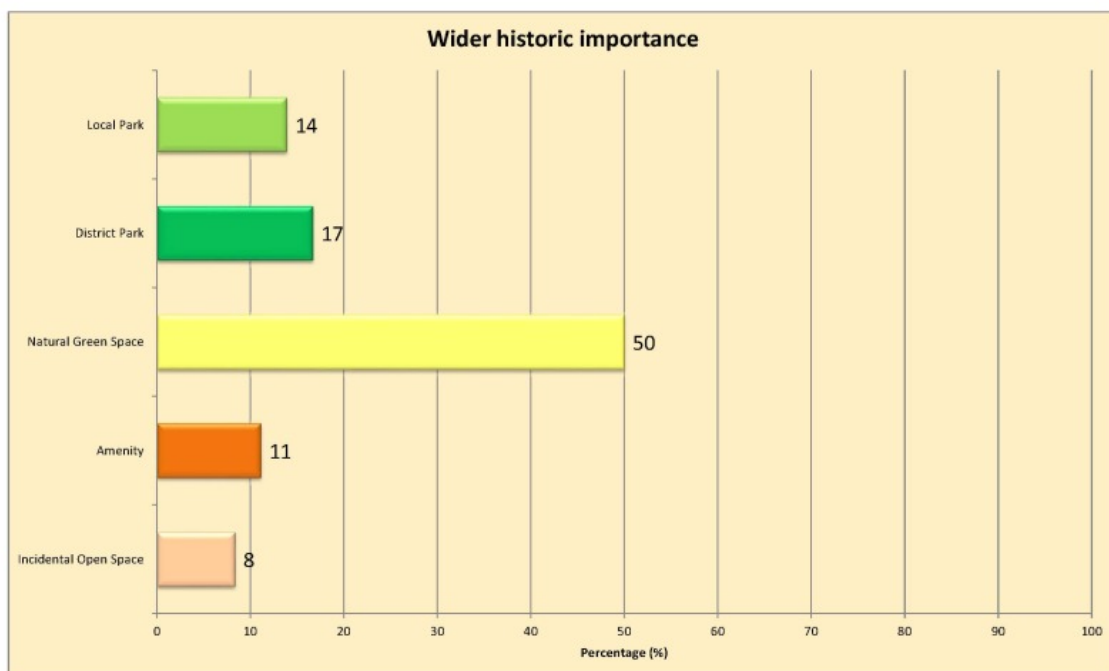




Figure 4.27 Open space supporting social interaction by type

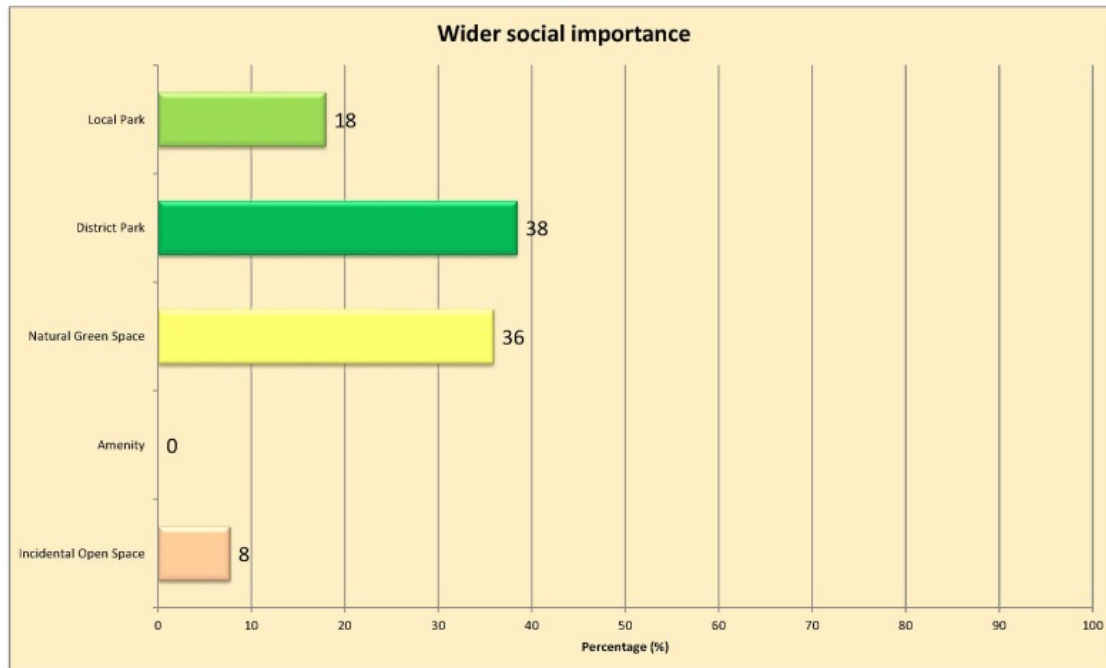


Figure 4.28 Open space providing areas of tree cover by type

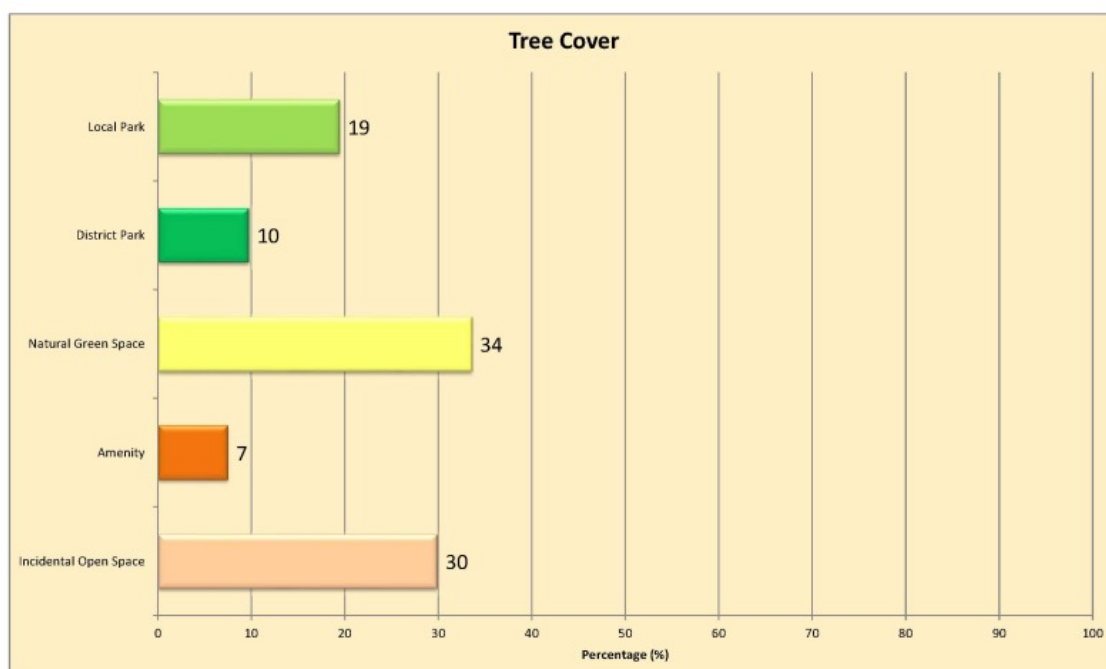
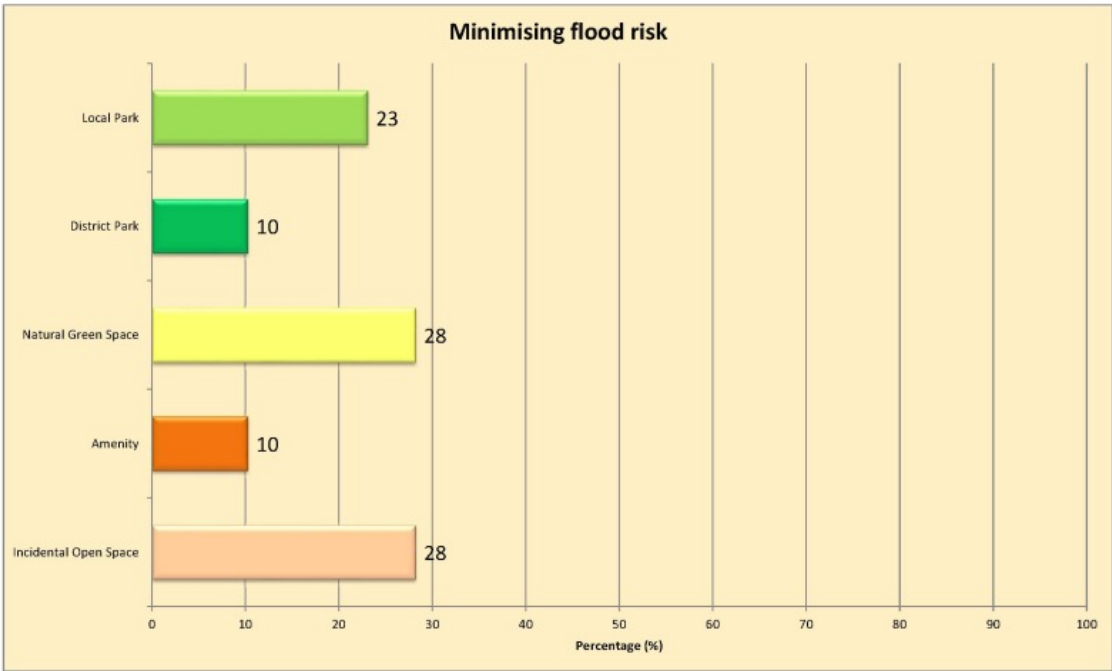


Figure 4.29 Open space contributing to minimising flood risk





5 Key findings and setting a standard

Overview

Picture 5.1 The Carrs Recreation Ground and Local Nature Reserve, Market Warsop



5.1 This section summarises the main findings from the assessment on the amount, distribution, access, types of open space, quality of open space, etc. It also identifies key priorities for improving this resource to the benefit of the district's residents for now and for the future. Along with a review of National guidance, research and examples of best practice, the main findings and key priorities help to establish a baseline for setting a standard.

5.2 This standard, referred to as the ***Mansfield Green Space Standard***, reflects a suitable minimum level of green space and play provision required to support growth and well-being in the district. The standard forms a foundation for informing planning policy and planning and other open space related decisions.

5.3 It is also incorporated into the Council's Parks and Green Spaces Strategy to help guide key objectives and actions. It must be recognised that, with limited budgets and resources within the Council, it will take time to improve the district's green space resources to the levels commensurate with the standard.

5.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that open space assessments should identify specific needs, qualitative and quantitative deficits (or gaps) and surpluses of open space. The summary tables found in Section 4 and also in Appendix D identify actions required to address gaps in the quantity or quality of provision, as organised at ward level.

5.5 Further to this, the Mansfield Green Space Standard helps inform the identification of more locally specific gaps and surpluses in provision. This allows for further refinement of the recommendations identified in this assessment based on exact (i.e. on-the-ground) walking routes rather than mapped *as-the-crow-flies* buffers used in this assessment. This ensures that all the elements of the standard can be reasonably taken into consideration when informing development decisions or the disposal of open space. Consultation with the Council will also be required to inform more specific facility requirements.

5.6 It is accepted that not all residential areas will currently meet the standard, but we now have a good picture of where there are gaps in provision and clear criteria against which to seek for improvements. Where there are recognised gaps in provision, the Council will seek ways in which to improve open space provision, for example: where new development can facilitate investment through:

- Section 106 contributions or the creation of new open space
- through partnership working and/or
- by seeking external funding or sponsorship.

5.7 Where areas exceed the standard, this does not mean that green space or facilities should necessarily be lost, but simply that those areas should continued to be maintained to a good quality standard and monitored for any future improvements. There may be some cases where an open space is demonstrated to be surplus to provision. Where this is the case, this would need to be demonstrated through the application the relevant Local Plan planning policies and informed through the application of the Mansfield Green Space Standard.



5.1 Summary of key findings

Quantity, distribution and balance of green space

Table 5.1 Summary of findings on quantity, distribution and balance of green space across the district

Headline facts and figures

Amount of open space in the district

A total of 185 green spaces were mapped and surveyed. This makes up a total of 886.48 hectares of usable public green space. This equates to 8.42 hectares of green space for every 1,000 people. That's slightly larger than one Fisher Lane Park or slightly smaller than eight international sized rugby pitches.

A large proportion of open spaces are owned by Mansfield District Council (approximately 66 percent). Others are owned by Nottinghamshire County Council, the Forestry Commission, community groups/trusts and others unknown. Figure 3.1 in Section 3.2 shows the distribution of ownership.

Section 4.1 show detailed results for how well the district's amount of green space fares in relation to National benchmarks. Overall, the district's green spaces appear to either fall short of national benchmarks (outdoor sport and amenity space) or exceed national benchmarks (parks and natural green space). In relation to play space, it is unclear as to whether national benchmarks are met, although there are noticeable large gaps when assessing the distribution of play provision across the district (see findings on 'access to green space' below).

It was clear from this assessment, that the amount of open space in the district and subsequent comparison with National benchmarks, gives a rather incomplete and skewed picture in relation to overall need. Therefore, the amount of open space findings (i.e. per 1,000 population) are not used to help develop the *Mansfield Green Space Standard*.

Rather, it was found that it's more important to consider: 1) how well the various types of open spaces and play areas are distributed across the district; 2) how accessible these are to residents and 3) what is their overall quality. As such, these three elements have helped with informing the standard and for prioritising:

- which spaces should be protected
- where new green spaces should be created (and what types) and
- improvements to the existing supply.

Balance of natural green space and formally managed open space

Although around a quarter of the land consists of formally managed provision (e.g. parks, recreation grounds, amenity space), a good proportion of these spaces have significant natural areas or areas for informal play contained within them. The balance is 53% of green spaces with natural space and 47% without. The urban area has a significant number of open spaces with natural areas than compared those without natural areas.

Headline facts and figures

Overall, there appears to be a good balance of open spaces offering some form of natural green space, although the western half of the district is generally lacking in this resource (see Figure 4.3 , Section 4.1).

Balance of formal and informal recreational provision

Another key factor includes the balance of formal and informal recreation provision. Formal recreation includes open spaces with play or sports provision and informal includes amenity and natural green space. The ratio of sites with formal to informal recreational provision is 1 to 3. This is reflective in gaps identified in access to play provision across the district.

There are a number of wards (10) in which informal recreational provision accounts for 80% or more of the total area. These areas need prioritising for creating additional (new) formal recreational provision, through the creation of new play areas, trim trails (i.e. outdoor gyms), and/or public outdoor sports facilities.

Providing access to natural green space and also to formal recreational provision are important factors for supporting healthy communities. The aim should be to provide balanced access to both formal and informal recreational provision (i.e. facilities, resting areas, natural areas). This could be either provided within a single open space or on a combination of separate types of open spaces located within close proximity of each other.

Balance of size

This study considers that the use or function of open space is more important than its overall size, granted they are well designed to be safe, welcoming and accessible. Incidental amenity spaces (less than 0.4 hectares) are on the small end of the spectrum and natural green space and district parks are on the other end. Generally, larger open spaces can offer a wider range of recreational opportunities and thus can better meet the diverse recreational needs of residents.

Although amenity space can offer valuable spaces for informal play areas or spaces to sit and socialise, they tend to offer limited opportunities for more active recreation pursuits. Over a third of the overall number of open spaces in the district is made up of small amenity space (less than 0.4 ha). This means that, in some areas, residents are disadvantaged when it comes to having sufficient types of green space to support active, healthy lifestyles. This is explained further in the next table (Table 5.2) below.

District-level parks

There are 15 recognised district-level parks in the district, including for example: Titchfield Park, Berry Hill Park and Manor Sports Complex. These are mostly located very centrally within the district (exceptions are Bullfarm Park, The Carrs, Queensway Park and Forest Town Miners Welfare). These offer a range of activities and experiences for residents (e.g. concerts, sporting events, fairs, sport, play).

Given their central distribution, some residents living on far eastern and western areas of the district don't have access to a district-level park. Having access to district-level parks is especially important where residents' existing access to green space is limited to small amenity spaces. Where access is restricted to amenity space, especially incidental open space (less than 0.4 ha), residents are likely to lack access to a wider range/choice of facilities required to support healthy lifestyles. Studies show that



Headline facts and figures

providing a greater amount of features (e.g. trails/paths, formal and informal play space, sports and outdoor exercise areas, social spaces, etc.) has a positive impact on increased uptake of physical activity and improved health and well being.

Play space

Based on distribution, there are noticeable areas within the district that lack play provision, including (but not limited to): southern Market Warsop, southwestern Mansfield, central Mansfield, northern Mansfield Woodhouse and eastern Mansfield.

This pattern is reflected within wards that have a higher proportion of amenity and natural green space.

It is unclear from the Fields in Trust guidance about how to apply the national benchmark for play space. Thus, it's difficult to determine if the quantity of play provision is either under or over provided in the district. Clearly assessing the distribution of play areas, how close these are to where people live (access to green space) and their quality are key factors in determining where improvements are needed. Quality and access to play provision are summarised below.

Accessing green space

Table 5.2 Summary of findings on access to green space

Headline facts and figures

Access to green space (any type)

Overall, a majority of residents (82.8%) have access to some form of open space within a 5-minute walk from where they live. But there are clearly gaps where this isn't the case that require closer attention. In general, these areas include (but are not limited to): southern areas of Market Warsop, Church Warsop/Meden Vale, parts of Forest Town, northern Mansfield Woodhouse, parts of Oak Tree, and western, central and southern Mansfield urban area.

Ten wards were identified in which 25 percent (%) or more, of residential properties currently don't have access to any type of green space within a 5-minute walk. These are listed in Table 4.12 (Section 4.2). In summary, these areas are likely to benefit from the creation of new green space, where opportunities arise. These gaps in provision are most likely to be financed through developer contributions (Section 106) or external funding such as grants. Understanding where these gaps exist should help inform where contributions are best prioritised.

When taking into account geographical barriers, which limit/prevent direct access or lengthen the journey times to nearby green space, the number of residents who don't have access to nearby open space is likely to increase.

Addressing access barriers

Geographical barriers include, for example: busy roads, rivers, railway lines, lack of appropriate access point(s) and awkward road layouts. These prevent or limit access to nearby green space, and can increase journey times. Busy roads are also likely to act as psychological barriers deterring people

Headline facts and figures

from using green spaces nearby, especially children and the elderly. Increased walking journeys to green space can deter people from using their local green space resource, potentially leading to lower physical activity levels or inactivity altogether.

Ten wards were identified as having likely 'major access barrier issues', further limiting access to open space for existing residents within a 5-minute walk. These wards include: Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill, Carr Bank, Kingsway, Ling Forest, Oakham, Peafield, Portland, Sherwood, Spion Kop (Market Warsop) and Woodlands. Additionally, medium-graded access issues (e.g. B-listed roads) are present for residents living within a further 14 wards. These are detailed in Section 4.2 (Table 4.7).

Major and then medium access barriers need prioritising when considering improvements within identified wards and where new development is proposed. Addressing improvements to access barriers is likely to result in safer and more appropriate access for residents. If these barriers can't be overcome, then new green space may need creating close to where people live. When considering whether an open space may be surplus to requirement, resolving access barrier is an important consideration. If these can't be resolved, it is important to retain the existing open space.

As above, improvements are likely to be funded through Section 106 contributions or part of capital improvement schemes.

Identifying improvements to support access to a healthier and more diverse range of open space provision

The choice of recreational provision available to residents is likely to impact on how and when people use green and open spaces; thus, improving residents' physical and emotional wellbeing. This means having access to both formal and informal provision, including natural areas, close to where people live.

Under a third (31%) of households have access to both forms of informal and formal recreational provision. This indicates that there are significant gaps to be filled in order to ensure that the district's residents have equal opportunities to improve health and wellbeing based on the balance of facilities available.

For residents within a small number of wards (seven in total), access to green space is mainly limited to small amenity areas (incidental open space) of less than 0.4 hectares (ha). This means that, in some areas, residents are disadvantaged when it comes to having access to sufficient types of green space for supporting active, healthy lifestyles. Priority should be given to improving the quality of these spaces and, where opportunities arise:

- create new formal provision (e.g. play areas) on existing nearby open spaces
- create new formal open space, or
- improve access to local or district parks.

Only where it isn't feasible to improve resources within a 5-minute walk (e.g. lack of available land), improvements to the next nearest open space are key. Wards are identified in Figure 4.5 and priorities summarised in Table 4.12 (Section 4.2).



Headline facts and figures

Sixteen (16) wards were identified in which residents' access to green space is primarily limited to informal green space (natural green space and/or larger formally managed amenity spaces) within a 5-minute walk. Households in these wards would benefit from prioritising the creation of new formal recreation provision (e.g. play equipment or outdoor activity hubs) on existing amenity and natural green spaces (see Tables 4.8, 4.10 and 4.12).

Access to nature nearby

Having access to good quality natural green space is important for our emotional and physical well-being. The majority of households (84.7% of residential properties) have good access to natural green space within a 10-minute walking journey.

Table 4.11 identifies recommended actions to improve access to nature within wards where some residents lack access to existing natural areas and/or where access barriers are likely to increase walking distances. Thirteen wards were identified in which approximately 25-49% of residents don't have access to natural areas within this journey time or where existing access barriers are likely increase journey times. Three wards were identified in which approximately 50% or more of residents don't have access to natural areas within this journey time or where existing access barriers are likely increase journey times.

Key actions to address deficiencies include: 1) creating new open space with natural areas, 2) natural areas within existing parks and amenity spaces and 3) improving access to the countryside and strategic green infrastructure via multi-user routes and safe road crossings (see Section 4.2 tables 4.10 and 4.12).

Access to district parks and recreation grounds

Larger parks and recreation grounds that offer a range of recreational facilities (e.g. play areas, sports pitches, bandstand, paths for longer walks) and experiences (e.g. concerts, Parklife events, fairs, Parkrun, etc.) are most likely to support more active lifestyles. 62 percent (%) of residents have access to a district-level park, within a 15-minute walking journey. This may be due to the fact that they are, generally, located centrally within the district.

Play provision

Based on a 5-minute walking distance to local and district parks with play provision, 50.1% of the district's households have access to formal play provision. When considering only children's provision (up to 12), 45.2% of households have access within a 5-minute walk. The figures for teenager provision is greater, with 64.7% of households having access within a 15-minute walk.

Overall, these figures indicate significant gaps in access to play provision. For 21 wards, 50% or more households didn't have access to children's play provision within a 5-minute walk. This includes eight wards, where 80% or more of residents lack access to play space; these were: Broomhill, Holly, Ladybrook, Ling Forest, Market Warsop, Maun Valley, Oakham and Park Hall.

For 12 wards, 50% or more households don't have access to teenager provision within a 15-minute walk. This includes five wards, where 75% or more of residents lack of access to play space. These are: Manor, Meden, Netherfield (100% lacked access), Newlands and Oaktree.

Priority should be given to providing new areas of play provision (formal or informal) within these areas of the district where opportunities arise. Reducing access barriers also needs to be considered on a site by site basis, including areas outside the wards highlighted in this report. Table 4.12 summaries the findings.

Quality of green space

Table 5.3 Summary of findings on green space quality

Headline facts and figures
<p>Defining good quality</p> <p>The quality of green space can influence how it is valued by residents which can, in turn, influence how and if a site is used. A good quality green space is one which is accessible, welcoming, safe, clean and well-maintained and positively supports biodiversity and social interaction. Where new facilities (e.g. play equipment, benches, landscaping, etc.) are required, it is important that they are easy to maintain and replace so that their quality can be sustained.</p> <p>A design guide checklist is provided in Appendix C.</p>
<p>Overall findings</p> <p>When taking all green and open spaces in the district into consideration, the overall quality is <i>good</i>. The category 'cleanliness and maintenance' scored the highest followed by 'safe and secure' and then 'welcoming and accessible', which all fell within the very good to good ranges.</p> <p>Improvements to place shaping are needed to ensure that the district's open spaces are better able to contribute positively to the image of the surrounding area, biodiversity and supporting positive social interaction. The 'overall use, image and setting' category also showed the largest variation in quality scores.</p> <p>Section 4.3, Table 4.20 provides details where improvements are needed in the district.</p>
<p>Quality and type of green space</p> <p>District parks generally scored the highest and natural green space the lowest (although natural green spaces also had the greatest variation in quality).</p> <p>Improvements to district-level parks - Chesterfield Road and Bull Farm parks are especially important to prioritise as residents living within a 15-minute walk of these parks, generally only have access to small (incidental) amenity spaces nearby (i.e. within a 5-minute walk). These scored <i>average</i> in relation to their 'overall use, image and setting' qualities.</p> <p>Generally, most local parks require improvements to 'welcoming and accessible' and 'overall use, image and setting' qualities. Areas within ten wards require improvements (see Table 4.16).</p> <p>For natural green spaces, better interpretation around entrances, parking, accessible entrances and surfacing and cutting back obtrusive vegetation are some examples of what is needed to improve the overall quality of these types of green spaces. Natural green spaces which are supported by Friends groups generally scored <i>good to very good</i>. Thus, securing support from committed voluntary groups or other formal management arrangements is to supporting good quality natural green space. Management needs to take into account the special protection status of certain sites and respect sensitive habitats and species.</p> <p>Amenity spaces generally scored <i>average</i> with one space scoring <i>poor</i> on overall quality. The following amenity spaces contribute positively to available green space but require quality improvements: Millennium Green, Skegby Lane, Land off Wainwright Avenue, Teversal Avenue, Pleasley Hill, Amenity</p>



Headline facts and figures

Space at Spion Kop, Former Welbeck Colliery Cricket Ground in Market Warsop (now small pocket park - Mw003). This will ensure that these areas support healthy communities. The inclusion of formal recreational provision or enhancements to informal play areas is a key consideration.

Incidental open spaces (small amenity spaces) generally scored good but improvements to 'overall use, image and setting' qualities require attention. Generally, these spaces lack features to entice people to stop and socialise, engage in play or contribute positively to the natural environment. Although small, these spaces often play, or have the potential to play, a positive role within a neighbourhood's or estate's identity. Specific wards where improvements to 'place shaping' qualities should be prioritised for the following wards include: Abbott ward, Bellamy estate (Ransom Wood ward), Broomhill ward, Ladybrook ward, Penniment ward and, Park Hall ward (northern part).

Access and quality (open space)

Not all residents have access to good quality green space. There are localised areas within the district in which residents only have access to *average* quality green spaces. These areas provide the best locations to prioritise quality improvements in order to ensure that all residents have equal access to good quality green space nearby.

General areas where the quality of open space is *average* include: Rainworth, parts of Oakham, Pleasley Hill, Mansfield parts of Woodhouse, Newlands, Spion Kop, parts of Market Warsop, Brick Kiln and Penniment wards and Grange Farm and Portland wards and parts of Forest Town. More detailed results are provided in Table 4.20.

Access and quality (play provision)

The majority of play spaces (children and teenager combined) scored good (74.1%). These results mirror quality scores for the two play provision age group types (children and teenagers).

Drilling down further into the quality results, enhancing the 'play value' of provision is key for supporting quality improvements. Over half (56.9%) of the play areas in the district scored either *poor* or *average* for this quality component. This includes ensuring equipment is suitable for children with disabilities and also that the layout, features and equipment are able to offer a range of activities for supporting healthy play and socialising. This is a key priority to improving the provision of play space across the district.

Eleven wards were identified in which the majority of residents only have access to *average* quality play provision. Within wards such as Abbott ward, residents have no access to play provision. Other wards have localised areas that lack sufficient access to play spaces. These issues are highlighted in Section 4.3 (Table 4.20).

Overall in the district, residents have access to good quality teenage provision within a 15-minute walk. Assessment results show that residents in the following wards have access primarily to 'average' quality teenager spaces: Abbott, Bull Farm and Pleasley, Brick Kiln, Broomhill, Carr Bank (eastern area of ward only), Grange Farm (south of Skegby Lane), Ladybrook, Maun Valley, Park Hall, Penniment and Woodhouse. Priority should be given to improving teenage provision in these areas.

Supporting healthy communities

Table 5.4 Summary of key findings on how green spaces support communities

Headline facts and figures
<p>Health profile</p> <p>Deprivation in the district is higher than the national average. It is ranked 38 out of 353 districts in the UK, where a rank of '1' is considered to be the worse deprived. The district also is worse than several national indicator averages that relate to health (e.g. obesity, physical activity, heart disease). See Section 2.4.</p> <p>Based on an informal ward-level analysis comparing health indicators and access to play provision and open space (see section 4.4), a very weak but positive relationship is present between poor health (child and adult obesity and general health) and lack of access to green space within a 5-minute walk. There are likely to be other <i>lifestyle</i>, <i>quality of open space</i> and <i>ease of access to open space</i> factors that influence on how active people are. Disentangling these factors is beyond the scope of this study.</p> <p>Overall, research studies indicate that having access to green space has positive effects on health and wellbeing (see Section 3.6). Positive impacts include better air quality, increases in physical activity and/or improvements to mental wellbeing, etc. Thus, if these areas of <i>green</i> infrastructure are not in place, then there are likely to be few opportunities to address inequalities locally. It is often much harder and costlier to re-create these retrospectively.</p>
<p>Existing provision</p> <p>The following are key contributors for supporting healthy communities in relation to green and open spaces in the district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● nature friendly spaces - 54.1% of open spaces support biodiversity.● climate change resilience - 42.2% of open spaces play a role in minimising flood risk and 72.4% of all open space contains trees or woodland to help provide shade.● socially inclusion spaces - 21.1% of open spaces support established <i>friends</i> groups or district or neighbourhood events and/or have key facilities that help community come together to socialise (e.g. community centres, band stand, skate parks, outdoor sports pitches and changing facilities).● historic importance - 19.5% of all open spaces provide important settings for heritage assets (e.g. listed buildings).● Access for all - 75.3% of open spaces scored <i>good</i> or <i>very good</i> in their ability to provide inclusive access for all. Access for all is inclusive of a variety of mobility, sensory, and learning difficulty needs. 76% of play areas provide 'good accessibility for those with impairments and push chairs' BUT just 25% of play provision provide 'good quality provision for disabled children'. <p>These are important considerations when designing new green space and planning for improvements to the existing resource.</p>



Headline facts and figures

Improving open space to better support health and well-being

From the results of this assessment, there is room to improve our existing green and open space resource so that they can better support health and well-being, for example:

- planting more trees and small pockets of urban woodland and improving flood attenuation within open spaces will help us adapt better to climate change
- improving accessibility to and around open spaces and access to their facilities for those with disabilities, including those with dementia, will improve social cohesion
- designing spaces that are nature friendly will improve the value and attractiveness of open spaces and
- improving the overall quality of open spaces will ensure more people use these spaces.

These qualities feed into the design guide checklist in Appendix C.

Key priorities

5.8 The following table identifies the key priorities as identified in this assessment. It needs to be looked at in combination with summary tables in Section 4 addressing access and quality of open space and play provision. These should be read alongside strategic objectives set out in the Mansfield District Council's Parks and Green Space Strategy⁽⁹⁾.

Table 5.5 Priorities and actions

Ref	Priorities	What this means in practice
A	Address the balance between informal and formal recreational provision to better support choice and healthy lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate this through the creation of formal recreational provision as part of new open space and/or improvements to existing open space where access is locally restricted to amenity space or natural green space. For example, create outdoor gyms, play areas or exercise trails. This needs to be looked at in combination with addressing gaps in play provision. • Larger areas of planned new development may need to provide both on-site provision and off-site contributions depending on the location and size.
B	Improve access to natural green space to better support health and well-being of residents within a 10-minute walk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create natural landscaped areas within existing parks and recreation grounds. This could include new areas of natural play spaces where play provision is needed.

Ref	Priorities	What this means in practice
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that new open space is designed to include natural areas (e.g. community orchards, woodland or small copse, wildflower meadow, sensory garden, etc.). • As part of new development, facilitate improved access to existing and new green space via green corridors and through links to the wider green infrastructure network and the wider countryside.
C	Improve access to larger open spaces with better provision where access to green space is primarily restricted to small amenity spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the location of new development within areas where access to open space is limited to small amenity spaces. This will help facilitate the creation of new larger open and help support healthy communities. • Link existing smaller sites together through facility and/or quality improvements via, for example: new signed pathways or exercise trails or themed social spaces. • Facilitate better access to district and local parks through e.g. new access points and green corridors and/or walking and cycling routes and improved road crossings.
D	Improve access to open space and children's play provision where access is lacking within a 5-minute walk to where people live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the location of new development within these areas to facilitate creation of new open space. • Create new access corridors and access points from new development to leading to existing open spaces. • Create new play space (equipped and/or natural play provision) on existing or new sites where deficiencies are identified. • Only where it isn't feasible to improve resources within a 5-minute walk (e.g. lack of available land), improvements to the next nearest open space are key.
E	Address major and medium access barriers such that walking journeys/ routes to green space are made safer and shorter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new pedestrian crossings across busy roads and/or create car-free routes which direct pedestrian away from busy junctions. • Create new access routes and points into existing open space from adjacent development. • Create more direct routes and avoid complicated layouts leading to new and existing open spaces. • Create new green space where barriers can't be improved.



Ref	Priorities	What this means in practice
F	Improve access to district level parks where access is lacking within a 15-minute walk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where feasible, prioritise location of new larger developments in these areas where provision is lacking. Improve provision on existing local parks to create a more diverse range of recreational facilities (e.g. social spaces, play, sport pitches and/or exercise gym or trail) and on these sites.
G	Improve access to teenager provision where access is lacking within a 15-minute walk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise the location of new development within these areas Create new teenager provision on existing or new sites where deficiencies are identified. This could be outdoor gyms or equipped exercise trails. Only where it isn't feasible to improve resources within a 5-minute walk (e.g. lack of available land), improvements to the next nearest open space are key.
H	Improve the quality of existing open space to <i>good</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise improvements to the place-shaping qualities of Chesterfield Road and Bull Farm district-level parks. Prioritise improvements to the quality of natural green spaces, e.g. better interpretation around entrances, parking, accessible entrances and surfacing and cutting back obtrusive vegetation, whilst respecting designations, sensitive habitats and species. Secure maintenance support for natural green space from a variety of sources (e.g. Friends Groups, private management services). Prioritise improvements to 'welcoming and accessible' and 'overall use, image and setting' qualities for local parks. Prioritise improvements to open spaces in the district where access to open space is predominately of <i>average</i> quality. Prioritise improvements to existing open space such that the overall design and facilities are suitable for people with disabilities and dementia in order to address aging the needs of an aging population.
I	Improve the quality of existing children's and teenager's play provision to <i>good</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise improvements to the play value of existing open space such that the layout of these spaces and the facilities are suitable for children with disabilities.

Ref	Priorities	What this means in practice
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the layout, features and equipment of play areas are able to offer a range of activities to best support healthy play and socialising. Prioritise improvements to play provision in the district where access to open space is predominately of <i>average</i> quality.
J	<p>Design new open space to a good quality standard such that they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accessible for all Welcoming Safe support positive social interactions help define place support biodiversity and support health and wellbeing by providing an appropriate range of leisure, recreation and play provision and addressing climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide supplementary planning guidance on open space to help guide policy implementation building on draft guidance provided in this assessment (Appendix C).

5.2 The Standard

5.9 The following table sets out the ***Mansfield Green Space Standard***. It's application is explained in more detail in Section 5.3.

5.10 The standard is made up of three parts:

- Accessibility** – defines what type of open space provision should be provided within a safe and reasonable walking distance to where people live (Parts A and B).
- Quality** – defines a quality standard for new and enhanced open space provision and what is meant by good quality. Also sets out key principles for supporting safe, accessible and active design of open space (Part C).
- Amount of open space** – defines the percentage of on-site open space required within new development where access standards aren't met (Part D).



Please note: the pedestrian journeys distances, indicated in the standard, relate to on-the-ground walking journeys, not as-the-crow-flies.

Table 5.6 The Mansfield Green Space Standard

A. Core Green space requirements

The council will seek to ensure, where feasible, that the majority^(a) residents have safe and easy access^(b) to all of the following:

1. open space within a 5-minute (400 metres) pedestrian journey and
2. play space (formal or natural play area)^(c) suitable for a range of ages within a 5-minute (400 metres) pedestrian journey OR other form of formal provision to meet the needs of a new development and
3. natural green space^(d) within a 10-minute pedestrian journey (800 metres).

Please note: This part of the standard can be met though the creation of either separate open spaces or a single open space which combines: play or other form of formal provision and natural green space.

Where the access requirements are not met, new on-site open space within a development and/or off-site contributions to existing open space will be required. See Part D below.

B. Access requirements to wider facilities

The council will seek, where feasible^(e), to ensure that the majority^(a) residents have safe and easy access^(b) to:

1. a district park^(f) within a 15-minute pedestrian journey (1,200 metres) and
2. teenager provision^(g) with a 15-minute pedestrian journey (1,200 metres).

Please note: This part of the standard can be met though the creation of either separate open spaces or a single open space which combines open space typologies.

The following relates to Parts A and B above

(a) It is recommended that 100% of residents within a proposed development should, where practicable, have access to provision within the defined walking distances. The size of existing nearby open space also needs to be taken into account and should be adequate to meet the needs of new development. In these cases, a common sense approach and consultation with the Council will be needed to inform requirements.

(b) The walking journey needs to take into consideration geographical access barriers (e.g. busy roads, railway lines, rivers) **and** award road layouts that are likely to lengthen or restrict journeys. This should consider how these can be most appropriately addressed (e.g. safe crossing points, new entrances/pathways to nearby open space).

(c) Where feasible, new play or other form of formal provision should cater for a range of ages and abilities, as it relates to the community it will serve.

(d) Natural green space is open space where around one-third (1/3) or more of its area consists of natural areas/features (e.g. trees, woodland, orchards, wildflower meadows, sensory gardens, nature trails or areas of natural play). Formal landscaping can be included where it contributes to the park's overall setting and feeling of tranquility, softening impacts from any nearby urban influences. Natural green space are places where *human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate*.

(e) New provision for district parks and teenagers facilities will most likely depend on available land and viability factors. Addressing deficiencies in Part A should be prioritised before Part B, although new play facilities should cater for a range of ages and abilities where feasible.

(f) District Parks are typically medium to larger parks that provide a range of recreational facilities, including play, sports facilities, or other features such as formalised gardens, sensory gardens, etc.). They may also support community facilities such as cafe, bandstand, outdoor theatre, or organised social events.

(g) Teenager provision includes open space with facilities such as, NEAPs, skate/BMX parks, trim trails, multi-use games areas, outdoor gyms, etc.

C. Quality Requirement

The council will seek to ensure that the all new and enhanced community open space is designed to meet the quality standard set out below.

1. **Overall quality** - All green spaces will be of overall 'good' quality, with priority given to following:
 - a. be welcoming and accessible, and be designed to be inclusive and accessible for all, including meet disability access requirements
 - b. incorporate safe and secure and active design principles and relevant codes of practice
 - c. support social interaction through design and available facilities
 - d. contribute positively to wildlife and access to natural green space, including natural play
 - e. contribute positively to the surrounding area through place shaping
 - f. meet the needs of local communities, for which a green space serves
 - g. incorporate principles and features which enable easy and cost-effective maintenance



- h. offer a proportional range of facilities for supporting choice and active and healthy lifestyles and
- i. integrate with and enhance nearby strategic and local green infrastructure.

2. **Location** - The location of new community open space should complement the existing land form, green infrastructure routes and other community facilities/civic spaces. Its location and design should enhance and help shape the identity of new estates, and where possible the wider setting. Its location, where all reasonably practicable, meet the 5-minute accessibility standard.
3. **Facilities and functions**- Minimum facility requirements include: accessible paths, signage, bins, bench(es), landscaping, and appropriate boundary treatment (e.g. knee rail, fencing, hedging, land forming, etc.).

D. Amount of open space within new residential development

1. Where new open space provision is required to meet Part A and/or B above, or the size of nearby open space isn't best suited to meet the needs of new development, a minimum amount of community open space to be provided on-site should be 10 percent (%) of the developable area of proposed residential developments.
2. The following green space/ landscaped amenity areas are **excluded** from the definition of open space; thus, should be provided in addition to the 10% requirement:
 - green space or landscaping (i.e. habitat buffer) required to mitigate impacts on protected species, priority society or designated sites
 - the physical area that a sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) takes up as required to mitigate impacts from flooding and meet drainage needs (e.g. infiltration basin or swale)
 - landscaping required to buffer industrial or other areas to mitigate impacts from statutory nuisances and
 - landscaped or open grass verges along roads or cycle routes or other amenity areas required to meet road safety requirements, unless integrated as part of a wider multi-functional green corridor.

5.3 The Standard Explained

Overview

5.11 Informal guidance for applying the Mansfield Green Space Standard is described below. It doesn't set out contribution requirements (on or off-site), but rather if on or off-site provision may be required, the amount of new open space (as required) and defines quality standards.

5.12 The standard should be applied in the following order when assessing needs in relation to proposed new development:

1. Access to open space - Parts A and B

5.13 Addressing deficiencies in Part A should be prioritised before Part B, although new play facilities should cater for a range of ages and abilities where feasible. This ensures that all residents have access to community open space (in some form) within a safe and easy walk of their homes. Part B is most likely to be delivered through larger development schemes to support the creation of district-level parks. Appendix D sets out priorities by ward which gives a general indication where there are deficits in accessing green space and where quality improvements are needed.

5.14 When assessing if Parts A and B of the standard, walking journey distances should be measured as *on-the-ground* pedestrian routes rather than *as-the-crow-flies* straight line measurement. *Only* where road layouts are unknown at early planning stages, is an as-the-crow flies assessment approach appropriate as an initial assessment of need.

5.15 When assessing whether a proposed development area meets these accessibility requirements, the following should be taken into consideration so that the standard is met:

- Are there any geographical barriers, lack of nearby access points and/or awkward road layouts which may inhibit or lengthen journey times to nearby open space? If so, can improvements be reasonably implemented (e.g. new entrances and/or new pathways to nearby open space; new or safer pedestrian road crossings). If these can't be addressed, new open space may be required to meet standards. See table below.
- Is the nearest open space a small amenity space (less than 0.4 hectares) or a small pocket park? If so, can this open space adequately meet the needs of future residents? If not, the development will need to either create new open space on-site or fund improvements for the next nearest green/open space according to policy and supplementary policy guidance requirements. A common sense approach and consultation with the Council will be needed to inform requirements.
- Is the nearest open space, as defined within Part A, contain the adequate provision to support the recreational needs of future residents? If not, the development may need to either create new open space on-site or fund improvements for the next nearest green/open space according to policy and supplementary policy guidance requirements. A common sense approach and consultation with the Council will be needed to inform requirements.
- Is the majority of the proposed development within the defined walking distance of open space? It is recommended that 100 percent (%) of future residents will have access to open space within the specified distances. It is recognised that



this may not be feasible due to topography or other limiting features or barriers to accessing open space. A common sense approach and consultation with the Council will be needed to inform requirements.

5.16 Where the proposed development site meets the accessibility test (i.e. the majority of the proposed development is within the defined walking distances) , then no new open space provision is likely to be required (on-site and/or off-site).

5.17 Where new open space provision isn't required, off-site Section 106 planning contributions to nearby open space may be required to facilitate quality improvements off-site, where an increase of use is likely to impact on existing provision. This should be informed through consultation with the Council.

5.18 *It is important to note that there may be rare circumstances where off-site contributions (rather than the creation of new on-site provision) may better meet the needs to the proposed development and surrounding area. Decisions should be informed through consultation with the Council. This will likely only be appropriate for smaller developments where off-site contributions would benefit the next nearest open space to better serve the new development.*

2. Amount of open space within new development (on-site) - Part D

5.19 Where access requirements (Part A and/or B) to open space are not met for the majority of the residents in a proposed development, this part of the standard defines how much open space is required (on-site) and what qualifies as open space.

3. Quality of new and enhanced open space and open space provision - Part C

5.20 Where access requirements (Part A and/or B) to open space are not met, this part of the standard defines design principles for new on-site open space and new provision (e.g. play area) within existing nearby open space.

Part A - Core green space requirements

5.21 As a basic core requirement, this ensures that all residents have access to community open space (in some form) within a safe and easy walk of their homes. This is an important factor when considering proposals for new development or decisions regarding the disposal of open space. It builds on research, guidance and best practice discussed in Section 3.4.

5.22 Access to Play / Formal Provision: The access requirement for a 5-minute walk to play or other formal provision needs to relate to the type of development proposed and the needs of the new community. This ensures that people will have access to at least one formal park within a 5-minute walk. Priority should be given to providing play space, as most development will most likely provide a mix of housing types.

5.23 Discussions with the Council will be required to determine the appropriate type of new or improved play or other formal provision required. Combining children and teenager provision is likely to help address deficits for both types of provision. Appendix D sets out the priorities for district where improvements to play and formal provision are needed. Where all feasible, formal facilities should cater towards a range of ages and abilities. For example, outdoor gym or exercise trails can cater for a wide age range, including teenagers. See table below.

Table 5.7 Defining play and formal provision

<p>Play provision includes play areas which can cater to a range of ages and abilities. These spaces should cater for children and young people with a range of facilities and spaces provided for outdoor play. Play facilities include LEAPs, NEAPs and LAPs. When creating new play areas, priority should be given to creating NEAPs, especially where there are recognised deficiencies in access to teenager facilities. Design of the play space, in terms of facilities and materials, will be influenced by: the size, location, nearby facilities and the type of space (e.g. one with a more natural setting). Consultation with residents should be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Formal recreational provision includes outdoor exercise spaces, including: sports pitches, trim trails and outdoor gyms.</p> <p>The overall design and type of facilities provided should provide opportunities varied types of play, sport and other forms of physical activity. Play and formal provision areas should be located such that they are naturally overlooked from nearby houses or well-used walking routes, whilst minimising conflicts between play activities (e.g. ball games) and neighbouring houses. A minimum 20 metre buffer from LEAPs and 30 metre buffer from NEAPs is recommended. This reflects Fields in Trust recommendations.</p> <p>Also see 'defining safe and easy access below'.</p>

Table 5.8 Defining safe and easy access

<p>Easy access refers to walking journeys as defined by the standard (e.g. 5-minutes to any type of open space or play area), as defined in Section 3.4 .</p> <p>Easy access also takes into account geographical barriers, such as awkward road layouts, rivers, busy roads, railway lines and access points. These can lengthen journey times or deter residents living nearby from walking to their nearest open space. As such, access to nearby open space should be improved through creating new pathways and entrances.</p> <p>Safe access refers to improving the safety of pedestrian routes and crossings; thus minimising barriers to accessing nearby open and play spaces. The location and layout of open space should minimise the need to cross or travel along busy roads.</p> <p>Also see quality standards and Appendix C (design guide) for more information.</p>

5.24 Access to Natural Green Space: The 10-minute walk to natural green space addresses Natural England’s and the Woodland Trust’s standards for accessing nature nearby, in a realistic way. Although there are green spaces in the district that are entirely natural in their setting and features (e.g. Local Nature Reserves), the standard also recognises that access to the countryside and formally managed



parks with a reasonable amount of natural features have a role to play in bringing nature into people's everyday lives. This may be also part of a wider green infrastructure corridor. See table below.

Table 5.9 Defining Natural Green Space

Natural green space generally includes areas of informal recreation such as Local Nature Reserves, green corridors and restored pit tips. But areas managed as formal parks and recreation grounds can also include significant natural areas, and thus, can qualify as **natural green space**.

In the context of this standard, **natural green space** is defined as community open space where approximately one-third (1/3) of the overall open space area includes natural areas and features such as: woodland, orchards, wildflower meadows, rivers and streams, ponds, wet meadows, sensory gardens, nature trails or areas of natural play (e.g. sensory gardens or living willow structures) or formal landscaping that contributes in a significant manner to the park's overall setting and feeling of tranquility, softening impacts from any nearby urban influences. Natural England defines natural green space as places where 'human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate'.

Natural spaces within the formally managed or landscaped open space should generally be accessible to the public for e.g. walking, sitting, play space and not merely exist as boundary landscaping of the site.

Sensitive wildlife areas (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites) will need to be managed appropriately so that impact from people is limited to footpaths and seating areas. Sensitive wildlife management, appropriate signs / interpretation and well positioned footpaths will be required in this case. Management will need to be based on knowledge of priority habitats within the site and the plants and wildlife that it supports.

Part B - Access requirements to wider facilities

5.25 This part of the standard seeks to improve access to district-level parks and teenager provision within the district. This part of the standard is required to be addressed where accessibility requirements (walking distances) to district parks and teenager provision, are not met or where access to open space is likely to be limited to smaller amenity areas (0.4 hectares or less). These areas in the district are identified in Section 4.2 and Appendix D.

5.26 Access distances, as defined in the standard, have been informed through research, guidance and best practice as identified in Section 3.4.

5.27 Deficiencies can be addressed through the creation of new district-level parks or teenager provision, or through off-site planning contributions to improve facilities on nearby local parks or amenity spaces, such that these meet the definition of a district-level park.

5.28 Gaps in access to district parks and teenager facilities may be also addressed through Mansfield District Council's strategic investment in parks and green spaces which could be supported through planning contributions from new developments. This requirement is useful for prioritising investment in areas of the district where residents lack access to a range of play and recreational facilities, including those

of higher quality. The varied benefits that these parks provide are more likely to support increased use and address existing inequalities in provision, especially in areas of deprivation.

5.29 Off-site contributions can also be pooled from more than one development to fund improvements to an existing local park to transform it into district-level park.

5.30 District-level Parks and Recreation Grounds: Where gaps have been identified in Part B, the creation of a new district-level park may be more feasible where the type and/or amount of available land within a given area is sufficient. Larger developments are likely to better support district-level parks due to amount of open space required on site (See Part D) and in relation to viability.

5.31 District parks in the district vary in size and function, so a flexible design approach is appropriate. The smallest district-level park in the district is Titchfield park which is approximately 3 hectares in size. But a new district park could be smaller, given it can meet the definition below. These could be, for example: linear parks integrated as part of new green corridors, incorporate nearby green infrastructure, be centrally located within a development, or community accessible open spaces integrated with community centres, health/leisure centres or schools.

Table 5.10 Defining district-level parks

<p>District-level parks typically provide a landscaped setting with a variety of recreational facilities and experiences , provided through, but not limited to, the following provision: play areas, formal outdoor sports provision, informal walking/cycling circuits, bandstand, memorial/sensory gardens, pond dipping areas. etc.).</p> <p>Or they may also include facilities that offer a unique experience attracting visitors from across the district (e.g. skate park, running track or other running routes, cafe, community buildings, fishing platforms, etc.).</p> <p>These parks offer a more varied experience for visitors (typically qualifying as Green Flag status parks).</p>

Table 5.11 Defining teenager play provision

<p>Teenager play provision are spaces which can include the following facilities, for example: NEAPs, skate/BMX parks, multi-use game areas, trim trails, outdoor gyms.</p> <p>Typically, these are part of a larger open space.</p> <p>Field in Trust (2016) benchmarks for NEAPs include a minimum activity zone of 0.1 hectare (ha) plus a 30 metre buffer between adjacent development.</p>

5.32 Teenager play provision: Generally these should be provided where there are identified gaps in provision (see Appendix D). Where all feasible, priority should be given to addressing teenager provision needs as part of the accessibility standard for play space/formal recreational space (Part A). Consultation with the Council is encouraged where deficiencies in teenager provision have been identified in order to inform the type of facilities required.



Part C - Quality Requirement

5.33 This sets out the quality standard for green spaces across the district based on the quality assessment criteria (Appendix B).

5.34 Part C-1 of the standard defines what good quality means.

5.35 Appendix C sets out a draft design guide to inform the creation of *good* quality new open space provision and to seek improvements to existing provision, where the quality is *average* or *poor*.

5.36 Section 4.3 identifies gaps where people don't have access to *good* or *very good* quality community open space, which can help with prioritising improvements. The Mansfield District Council Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and consultation with the Council will help to further fine-tune improvements to existing open space provision.

5.37 The quality assessment was based on four key considerations:

1. welcoming and accessible
2. safe and secure
3. well maintained and
4. overall setting, use and image.

5.38 Key priorities identified in this assessment emphasise support for:

- spaces accessible for people with all abilities, including those with special disability access needs and those with dementia
- sustained enjoyment and quality of green spaces (e.g. safe and secure design, integrating varied social spaces)
- a positive and improved image of neighbouring areas and/or the district as a whole
- varied play space
- biodiversity through sensitive management and creation of natural areas and
- consultation needs of local residents.

5.39 The type of new open space provided will influence the types of facilities it should contain and functions that it can support. The design of the open space should aim to meet the needs of type of community the proposed development caters for. As such, this part of the standard also sets out a minimum level of provision to be provided as part of new open space.

5.40 New open space and play provision and improvements to existing open space and play provision should meet identified safety and active lifestyle standards / codes of practice namely:

- up-to-date ROSPA Code of Good Practice for Play Areas and relevant play provision standards
- disability access statement best practice guidance and
- Sport England's 'Active by Design: Planning for health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity' guidance (October 2015).

5.41 Seeking to address any shortfalls in quality may need to be addressed through wider Council investment but may also inform more specific site improvement needs through planning contributions, as it relates to the development.

D. Amount of open space within new residential development

5.42 Where a proposed development site lacks access to the types of open space in *Accessibility Test* (Part A and/or B of the standard) or the size of nearby open space isn't best suited to meet the needs of new development, then open space should be provided on-site, based on the deficiencies of open space or play provision identified. The design, location and provision of open space should also be considered alongside green infrastructure (GI) needs, such as green corridors linking to strategic GI or public trails.

5.43 This part of the standard sets out a reasonable minimum requirement for the creation of new open space and/or play/formal recreation provision within proposed development sites, including the amount of new open space required. It also further defines what is meant by 'community open space' (i.e. what contributes to the 10%).

5.44 The 10 percent (%) minimum amount of open space requirement is based on a review of other local authority local plan open space requirements and a review of recent new development completions. It is considered that this is a reasonable approach.

5.45 Ideally, new open space must be of a suitable amount, size, type to encourage a mix of recreational uses and interests, for example: sport, active or passive recreation, and/or play provision meeting a range of ages and abilities. Identified local need(s) and who the development caters for will also likely influence the size and design of an open space.



5.46 New development should avoid creating multiple small areas of open space (i.e. 0.2-0.1 hectares or less). This can be unsustainable in terms of overall maintenance costs or lead to conflicts between open space users and nearby residents (e.g. ball games). Instead, the aim should be to consolidate facilities/provision within one or more larger areas of open space. On larger developments, it is important that a balance is struck between providing safe and easy access (Part A), ensuring that the quality standard (Part C) can be met, and the open space provision meets local need.

5.47 At this point in time a minimum size of open space hasn't been set. If and when this is established through policy and/or policy guidance (e.g. Supplementary Planning Document or SPD), and the accessibility requirements are not all met, off-site contributions for the next nearest open space should be required to address any short falls in accessibility.

6 Applying the Mansfield standard

Summary

6.1 This study assesses the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework by:

- mapping all the publicly accessible green and open spaces in the district, regardless of ownership
- assessing this resource against Nationally suggested standards
- refining these and establishing a local standard
- identifying deficits and potential surpluses in provision and
- setting out a framework for implementing the standard.

6.2 It summarises the findings at ward level and also identifies district-level priorities to help ensure that open space is accessible and of a good quality standard and supports the health and well-being of district's residents (Section 5.1).

6.3 It also establishes a local standard (Section 5.2) - *The Mansfield Green Space Standard* - for informing and defining:

- where new open space and improvements to existing open space area needed to fill gaps in provision
- what should be protected
- where open space could be considered surplus to requirements

- how much open space is expected from new development and
- defines what *good* quality means.

6.4 It is intended to inform planning policy in the Mansfield District Council Local Plan (2013-2033) in relation to requirements from new development at a site specific level. It has also been incorporated into the Council's Parks and Open Space Strategy (2017-2027).

6.5 Further guidance in the form of supplementary planning document (SPD), particularly with regards to planning contributions, may be needed to provide *formal* guidance on policy implementation. Consultation with the Council is also important for informing more specific facility needs.

6.6 This study also provides a draft Design Guide (Appendix C) which helps define what is meant by *good* quality and should be considered alongside the Mansfield Green Space Standard.

Implementation

Mansfield District Council Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (2017 - 2027)

6.7 This assessment and the Mansfield Green Space Standard has helped to inform the Council's Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. This strategy is a 'living' document in that The Mansfield District Parks department is responsible for overseeing the parks strategy. It is important that this strategy is read alongside this assessment.

6.8 The strategy's six green space strategic objectives include:

1. To create high quality and well maintained parks, green spaces and local nature reserves
2. To encourage the use of parks and green spaces to support healthier lifestyles
3. To improve links between our green spaces, town centres and neighbourhoods
4. To raise awareness and education of parks and green spaces including Local Nature Reserves and wildlife conservation
5. To improve the biodiversity of our parks and green spaces
6. To inform appropriate policies in the emerging Mansfield Local Plan to protect existing open space from development and establish appropriate standards for provision of new parks and green spaces through development



6.9 Funding improvements to green spaces stem from a variety of sources, for example: Section 106 obligations from new development, supporting Friends Group funding applications, partnership work, etc. Mansfield District Council will seek to identify funding streams to raise capital and revenue money for enhancements, where opportunities arise.

6.10 The strategy acknowledges that Mansfield District Council can only be responsible for the management and control of parks and green spaces the Council owns and manages. The Council will seek to work with partners, friends groups and others to ensure our communities get the most benefit from their facilities.

Mansfield District Local Plan (2013 - 2033) and new development

6.11 This assessment forms part of the evidence base for informing the Mansfield District Local Plan (2013 - 2033).

6.12 It is recognised that new development is a source contributor towards the creation of new green and open spaces required to meet increased demands through population growth. The information provided in this assessment and the Mansfield Local Green Space Standard helps inform the protection of open space, improvements required and open space which may be surplus to requirement through the application of the Mansfield Green Space Standard.

6.13 It is recommended that all open space identified in Appendix A should be protected, unless further identified as surplus through the application of the Mansfield Green Space Standard. Policies addressing the protection of open space and requirements for open space within proposed development sites will be set out in the Mansfield District Council Local Plan (2013-2033) and identified on the policies map.

6.14 In summary, when assessing need for new open space or improvements to existing open space, the following components of this assessment can be useful:

1. Summary Table 4.12 (Section 4.3) and Appendix D (Priorities by ward) help to identify general deficiencies in access to and quality of open space. Other relevant tables in Sections 4.3 and 4.4 also provide further detailed information
2. Mansfield Green Space Standard (Section 5.2) and how to apply it (Section 5.3)
3. Appendix C - design guide helps inform the creation of new open space

Additional resources include, the Council's Strategic Green Infrastructure Study and Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy. These inform any complementary needs.

Next Steps

6.15 Following on from this assessment, next steps include:

- Review of preferred development sites to identify open space need to inform the next stages of the local plan (i.e. Publication draft stage of the local plan and local plan adoption) and
- Explore the need for publishing a supplementary planning document (SPD) to replace existing interim planning guidance IPG3: Recreational Provision on New Residential Development.

Picture 6.1 Oak Tree Heath Local Nature Reserve





Appendix A Green and open spaces by ward

- A.1

This table provides a summary of open space by ward.
- A.2

In order to better understand notations in the tables below:

- Section 3.6 provides definitions on 'access to nature'.
 - Major and medium accessibility issues comments in the 'Notes' column, are based on results from the quality assessment scores. 'Major' refers to a *poor* score and 'medium' to an *average* score. See the Appendix B detailing quality assessment criteria.

Table A.1

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
	Abbott					
Incidental Open Space	Ab004	Incidental land access off Chester Street	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Ab005	Amenity Land at Cobden Place	Level 3	No	Good	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
	Berry Hill					
Amenity Space	Bh001	Thompsons Grave	Level 3	No	Good	Historic grave Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
District Park and	Bh004	Berry Hill Sports Stadium and Surroundings	Level 1	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Historic Park

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Recreation Ground						Outdoor sports provision: football, athletics, x-county Surface water flood risk
Large and Connected Natural Area	Bh002	Land off Chatsworth Drive (Chatsworth Spinney)	Level 1	No	Average	
	Brick Kiln					
Amenity Space	Bk001	Millennium Green	Level 3	No	Average	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Bk005	Incidental Land on Cherry Grove	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Bk006	Incidental Land at Goodhand Crescent	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Bk004	The Knoll Play Provision	Level 3	Yes (average quality)	Good	
	Broomhill					
District Park and Recreation Ground	Br001	Chesterfield Road Recreation Ground	None	Yes (average quality)	Good	Outdoor sports provision: cricket and small sized AGP Supports local carnival Surface water flood risk



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Incidental Open Space	Br010	Incidental land Williamson Court	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Br013	Vacant Plot Danvers Drive	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill						
Amenity Space	Bf003	Teversal Avenue, Pleasley Hill	None	No	Average	
District Park and Recreation Ground	Bf011	Bull Farm Park, Sports Ground and Community Centre	None	Yes (teenager - average; children - good quality)	Good	Outdoor sports provision: bowls & football Includes community centre
Incidental Open Space	Bf018	Rest Area between Peel Crescent and Booth Crescent	Level 3	No	Very Good	
Incidental Open Space	Bf021	Landscaped area with bus stop at Meden Square	None	No	Very Good	Within Flood Zone 2 and/or 3
Large and Connected Natural Area	Bf024	Meden Trail LNR	Level 1	No	Good	Within Conservation Area Supported by Friends Group Within Flood Zone 2 and/or 3
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Bf007	Woburn Road Playing Field	None	Yes (average quality)	Average	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch.

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
						Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
	Carr Bank					
District Park and Recreation Ground	Cb002	Carr Bank Park	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Within Conservation Area & historic park Supported by Friends Group, bandstand Outdoor sports provision: tennis & petanque
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Cb004	Sandy Lane Playing Fields (Rainers Field)	None	No	Good	Provides setting to listed building Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch. Surface water flood risk
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Cb009	Barringer Road Recreation Ground	None	Yes (average quality)	Average	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch. Surface water flood risk Contains bmx track
	Eakring					
None - although part of Kingswalk (Kw002) is located within this ward. See Kingswalk ward for more details.						
	Grange Farm					



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Incidental Open Space	Gf004	Incidental Space Craig's Green	Level 3	No	Good	
Incidental Open Space	Gf005	Incidental Area off Appin Road	None	No	Very Good	
Incidental Open Space	Gf006	Incidental space Arran Square	Level 3	No	Very Good	
Incidental Open Space	Gf007	Incidental Space Morray Square	Level 3	No	Very Good	Risk of surface water flooding
Incidental Open Space	Gf008	Incidental space Stirling Ave & Dunbar Drive	Level 3	No	Good	
Large and Connected Natural Area	Gf002	The Hermitage Local Nature Reserve	Level 1	No	Very Good	Setting to Ancient Monument Supported by Friends Group Within Flood Zone 2 and/or 3 Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Gf010	Natural space near Kings Mill Reservoir	Level 2	No	Average	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and	Gf003	Seaforth Square Play Area	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Good	

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Recreation Ground						
Small Natural Area	Gf009	Woodland (Renfrew Court and Square)	Level 1	No	Very Good	
	Holly					
Incidental Open Space	HI005	Sienna Gardens Open Space	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk
Large and Connected Natural Area	HI002	Rushpool Open Space	Level 1	No	Good	Supported by Friends Group Surface water flood risk
Local Park and Recreation Ground	HI003	Lark Hill Open Space (Larkhills)	Level 3	No	Very Good	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch Surface water flood risk
	Hornby					
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Hb001	Hornby Plantation / Marples Park	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Supported by Friends Group
	Kings Walk					
Incidental Open Space	Kw001	Incidental Area off Scholars Way	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
						Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Kw003	Amenity Space off King George V Avenue	None	No	Very Good	Former Quarry (Industrial Heritage) Surface water flood risk
Incidental Open Space	Kw007	Incidental Space off Sandmartins Close	None	No	Very Good	Surface water flood risk
Large and Connected Natural Area	Kw004	Pathways / trails off King George V Avenue	Level 1	No	Good	
Large and Connected Natural Area	Kw005	Trail running between Windsor Rd and Southwell Rd	Level 1	No	Good	Former Mineral Railway (Industrial Heritage)
Large and Connected Natural Area	Kw006	Woodland linking to Mansfield Way trail and Kings Walk open space (Kw002)	Level 1	No	Average	Surface water flood risk. Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Kw002	Kings Walk Open Space	Level 1	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Former Quarry (Industrial Heritage) Surface water flood risk
	Kingsway					

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
District Park and Recreation Ground	Ki001	Queensway Park	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	Supports community social events Outdoor sports provision: football & bowls
District Park and Recreation Ground	Ki004	Forest Town Miners Welfare	None	No	Very Good	Outdoor sports provision: football & cycle track Supports community social events Surface water flood risk
	Ladybrook					
Incidental Open Space	La005	Land between Ladybrook Lane and Daniel Crescent	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	La006	Incidental Land on Daniel Crescent	None	No	Good	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	La007	Incidental land at Langham Place	Level 3	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	La008	Incidental Land off Rosemary Street	Level 3	No	Very Good	
Local Park and Recreation Ground	La002	Ladybrook Park	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Good	Surface water flood risk
Local Park and	La003	Ladybrook Place	None	Yes (average quality)	Good	Surface water flood risk



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Recreation Ground						
Local Park and Recreation Ground	La009	Ladybrook Memorial Garden	Level 3	No	Very Good	Includes historic memorial Surface water flood risk
	Lindhurst					
District Park and Recreation Ground	LI001	King George V Playing Field	Level 1	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Outdoor sports provision: football Supports community social events
Incidental Open Space	LI006	Land adjacent Rochdale Court	None	No	Very Good	Surface water flood risk
Large and Connected Natural Area	LI003	Mansfield Way green corridor (southeast 1)	Level 1	No	Good	Former Mineral Railway (industrial heritage) Surface water flood risk
Large and Connected Natural Area	LI007	Mansfield Way green corridor (southeast 1)	Level 1	No	Good	Former Mineral Railway (industrial heritage) Surface water flood risk
Local Park and Recreation Ground	LI005	Land adjacent Ryedale Avenue (Briar Lane)	Level 3	Yes (average quality)	Good	Surface water flood risk
	Ling Forest					

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Lf003	Ling Forest Play Area	None	Yes (average quality)	Average	
Small Natural Area	Lf005	Urban Woodland and Landscaped Grass Area	Level 1	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Small Natural Area	Lf006	Urban Woodland with Trails	Level 1	No	Average	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
	Manor					
Amenity Space	Ma002	Warsop Road Amenity Space	None	No	Good	Located near to a Conservation Area Surface water flood risk
District Park and Recreation Ground	Ma007	Manor Park Sports Complex	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Outdoor sports provision: AGP, cricket, rugby, football and tennis courts. Supports community social (e.g. Sporting) events.
Incidental Open Space	Ma006	Land off Melbourne Street	None	No	Good	
	Market Warsop					
Amenity Space	Mw004	Oaklands	None	No	Average	Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Amenity Space	Mw005	Cottage Lane Open Space	None	No	Good	
Amenity Space	Mw024	Amenity Space at Spion Kop	None	No	Average	Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Mw003	Former Welbeck Colliery Cricket Ground (now small pocket park)	None	No	Very Good	
Incidental Open Space	Mw020	Sookholme Lane Green Space	None	No	Not surveyed	
Large and Connected Natural Area	Mw025	Shirebrook Colliery (restored)	Level 1	No	Very Good	Former quarry (industrial heritage) Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Maun Valley						
Incidental Open Space	Mv001	Incidental Area off Newtondale Avenue	Level 3	No	Good	
Incidental Open Space	Mv005	Land off Butterwick Close	Level 3	No	Good	
Incidental Open Space	Mv008	Land to end of Thorpeldands Avenue	None	No	Very Good	

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Incidental Open Space	Mv010	Entrance to Ravensdale LNR from Wensleydale Close	None	No	Good	
Incidental Open Space	Mv011	Incidental Land off Stinting Lane, Sandlands	None	No	Not surveyed	
Incidental Open Space	Mv012	Incidental Land off Sanderling Way, Sandlands	None	No	Not surveyed	
Large and Connected Natural Area	Mv009	Ravensdale Local Nature Reserve	Level 1	No	Average	Supported by Friends Group. Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Mv002	Flint Avenue Open Space	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	Surface water flood risk Green space adj to MDC Community Centre
Meden						
Large and Connected Natural Area	Me001	Sherwood Country Park and Birklands Forest	Level 1	No	Average	Part of Thynghowe Viking heritage area Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Me002	Sherwood Forest, Birklands	Level 1	No	Average	Part of Thynghowe Viking heritage area.



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Local Park and Recreation Ground						Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Me008	Appleton Street Play Area	Level 3	Yes (average quality)	Average	
	Netherfield					
Amenity Space	Ne014	Amenity Space off Bam Owl Close, Market Warsop	Level 1	No	Very Good	Within a Conservation Area Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Incidental Open Space	Ne006	Kirton Close Open Space	None	No	Very Good	
Large and Connected Natural Area	Ne005	Bottoms LNR	Level 1	No	Good	Within flood zone 2 and/or 3 Supported by Friends group Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Ne004	Netherfield Lane Play Area (Pencil Park)	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Surface water flood risk
Local Park and	Ne008	Welbeck Miners Welfare	None	No	Average	Outdoor sports provision: Rugby Union & football

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Recreation Ground						Surface water flood risk Former Quarry (Industrial Heritage)
	Newgate					
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Ng001	Jackson Field	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	
	Newlands					
Amenity Space	NI016	The Brambles	Level 3	No	Average	
Incidental Open Space	NI013	Incidental Area Carlton Close	None	No	Average	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	NI015	Incidental Land Kelvin Close	None	No	Good	
Large and Connected Natural Area	NI001	Spa Ponds	Level 1	No	Average	Royal and Mediaeval origins Within flood zone 2 and/or 3 Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Large and Connected Natural Area	Nl009	Vicars Water	Level 1	No	Very Good	Forms part of a larger natural green space (Local nature Reserve) within Newark and Sherwood district which has a play area and cafe and is supported by Friends group. Former Quarry (Industrial Heritage) Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Nl007	Newlands Playing Fields	None	Yes (average quality)	Average	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
	Oak Tree					
Amenity Space	Ot002	Longmoor Walk Amenity Space	None	No	Good	
Amenity Space	Ot012	Sawley Drive Open Space	Level 3	No	Good	Surface water flood risk
Amenity Space	Ot013	Land off Turnstone Grove	Level 3	No	Average	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Ot006	Land off Littleover Avenue	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Ot015	Land at Hollington Way	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Incidental Open Space	Ot017	Land at Mappleton Drive	None	No	Good	
Large and Connected Natural Area	Ot009	Oak Tree Heath LNR & SSSI	Level 1	No	Very Good	Supported by Friends group
Large and Connected Natural Area	Ot016	Trails between Housing Area	Level 1	No	Good	Surface water flood risk
Large and Connected Natural Area	Ot018	Trails adj Oak Tree Health Centre	Level 2	No	Good	
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Ot003	Oak Tree Playing Fields	Level 3	No	Good	Outdoor sport provision: football Surface water flood risk
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Ot005	Roston Open Space	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch Supported by Friends group Surface water flood risk
Oakham						
Large and Connected Natural Area	Oa001	Cautdwell Wood & Shining Cliff Plantation	Level 1	No	Average	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Large and Connected Natural Area	Oa003	Land off Johnson Drive & Berry Hill Lane (Johnson Drive Open Space)	Level 1	No	Average	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Oa007	Oakham LNR	Level 1	No	Good	Supported by Friends group Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Large and Connected Natural Area	Oa011	Trail between Hermitage and Quarry Lane LNR's	Level 1	No	Good	Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Park Hall						
Incidental Open Space	Ph004	Amenity land off Cedar Avenue	None	No	Good	
Amenity Space	Ph005	St Edmunds Community orchard and open space	Level 2	No	Average	Within Conservation Area Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Peafields						
District Park and Recreation Ground	Pf004	Peafield Park	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Supported by Friends group
Large and Connected	Pf003	Whinney Hill Woods (part of Peafield Park)	Level 1	No	Very Good	Supported by Friends group

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Natural Area						
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Pf007	Leeming Lane South Play Area	None	Yes (average quality)	Average	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Small Natural Area	Pf009	Millennium Green Mansfield Woodhouse	Level 2	No	Very Good	Within Conservation Area Supported by Friends group
Penninment						
Amenity Space	Pe002	Land off Wainwright Avenue	None	No	Average	Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Amenity Space	Pe004	Bosworth Street	Level 3	No	Poor	
Incidental Open Space	Pe009	Incidental Area Cumberland Drive	None	No	Average	Surface water flood risk. Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Pe010	Incidental area Milford Crescent	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Incidental Open Space	Pe011	Incidental land Bailey Crescent1 (Area 1)	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Pe012	Incidental land Bailey Crescent (Site 2)	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Pe013	Incidental land Lees Avenue and Pye Avenue	None	No	Average	Surface water flood risk
Large and Connected Natural Area	Pe005	Former Cycling Proficiency site off Armstrong Road (Abbott Road Playing Fields)	Level 2	No	Average	Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Pe003	Abbott Road Football Pitches	None	No	Good	Outdoor sports provision: football Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Portland						

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
District Park and Recreation Ground	Po003	Titchfield Park	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Outdoor sports provision: Petanque Historic park Supported by Friends group Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Large and Connected Natural Area	Po001	Quarry Lane Local Nature Reserve	Level 1	No	Very Good	Viaduc & Field Mill House Supported by Friends group Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Large and Connected Natural Area	Po007	Trail adjacent to Quarry Lane LNR	Level 1	No	Poor	Viaduc & Field Mill House. Within flood zone 2 and/or 3. Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Po005	Moor Lane Community Centre and Rec Ground (Moor Lane Park)	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Average	Surface water flood risk
	Racecourse					
District Park and Recreation Ground	Ra003	Racecourse Recreation Ground	Level 1	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Outdoor sports provision: tennis, football and bowls Supports community social events



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
						Surface water flood risk
Incidental Open Space	Ra005	The Patchills Centre Incidental Open Space	None	No	Very Good	
Large and Connected Natural Area	Ra006	Mansfield Way green corridor south of Samworth Academy	Level 1	No	Average	Former mineral railway Surface water flood risk Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Ra007	Green link to Mansfield Way Trail (Goodwood Way)	Level 1	No	Average	Surface water flood risk Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
		Ransom Wood				
Incidental Open Space	Rw002	Incidental Area at Epperstone Court	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Rw007	Incidental land off Redruth Drive	None	No	Good	

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Incidental Open Space	Rw012	Land adjacent Bodmin Court	None	No	Good	Green space adj to MDC Community Centre
Incidental Open Space	Rw013	Land at Greasley Court	Level 3	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Rw016	Land at the corner of Colston Road	Level 3	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Rw017	Land at Wilford Road	Level 3	No	Good	
Incidental Open Space	Rw021	Land to the left of Colston Road	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Rw022	Land at Bodmin Court	None	No	Good	Green space adj to MDC Community Centre
Incidental Open Space	Rw023	Land adjacent Bellamy Estate shops	None	No	Good	
Incidental Open Space	Rw024	Land to the east of Thorpe Road, Bellamy Estate	None	No	Average	Green space adj to MDC Community Centre Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Incidental Open Space	Rw025	Incidental land north of Scarrington Court	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk
Incidental Open Space	Rw026	Land south of roundabout off Bellamy Road	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Rw001	Clipstone Forest (between Strawberry Hills SSSI & MARR)	Level 1	No	Poor	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Rw020	Mansfield Way green corridor (southeast 3)	Level 1	No	Average	Former Mineral Railway
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Rw005	Rainworth Recreation Ground	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Rw006	Bellamy Road Recreation Ground	None	No	Average	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Rw018	Epperstone Court Play Area	None	Yes (average quality)	Average	Green space adj to MDC Community Centre

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
	Sandhurst					
District Park and Recreation Ground	Sa004	Fisher Lane Park	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Good	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch Supported by Friends group and has skate park Forms part of the Timberland Trail
Large and Connected Natural Area	Sa005	Amenity Land Adjacent to Forest Road Allotments	Level 2	No	Average	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Sa001	Forest Road Recreation Ground (Spider Park)	Level 1	Yes (good quality)	Good	Outdoor sports provision: informal (non-club) football pitch Supported by Friends group and has community orchard Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
	Sherwood					
Amenity Space	Sh010	Land off Birding Street	Level 2	No	Good	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Sh013	Amenity space Illion Street	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
						Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Sh002	Green corridor adj Millennium Business Park (1)	Level 1	No	Average	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Sh003	Green corridor adj Millennium Business Park (2)	Level 2	No	Average	Major accessibility issues (poor quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Sh011	Oxclose Woods (restored Sherwood Colliery)	Level 1	No	Average	Former Quarry (Industrial Heritage)
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Sh006	Burlington Drive Play Area	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	Surface water flood risk
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Sh014	Dunsil Road Play Area	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Sh015	Debdale Lane Local Park	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Good	
	Warsop Carrs					

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Amenity Space	Wc005	Flood plain Edward and Alexandra Street	Level 2	No	Good	Within flood zone 2 and/or 3 Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Amenity Space	Wc017	Land adjacent Cumberland Avenue	None	No	Very Good	Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
District Park and Recreation Ground	Wc011	Carr Lane Park	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	Outdoor sports provision: football Includes Scouts hut, skate park and bmx track Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
District Park and Recreation Ground	Wc016	The Carrs Recreation Ground	None	No	Very Good	Within Conservation Area Supported by Friends group Supports community social events (e.g. Warsop Carnival) Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Incidental Open Space	Wc006	Incidental space off Rutland Close	None	No	Good	Surface water flood risk
Incidental Open Space	Wc007	Woodland near River View	Level 3	No	Very Good	Within flood zone 2 and/or 3



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Incidental Open Space	Wc019	War Memorial Adj The Carrs Recreation Ground	None	No	Very Good	Within Conservation Area Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Incidental Open Space	Wc025	Incidental Land at Waterfield Avenue	None	No	Very Good	Surface water flood risk
Large and Connected Natural Area	Wc001	Warsop Wood	Level 1	No	Average	
Large and Connected Natural Area	Wc010	Church Warsop Miners Welfare	Level 1	Yes (poor quality)	Average	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Wc015	The Carrs LNR	Level 1	Yes (good quality)	Good	Within Conservation Area Former Quarry (Industrial Heritage) Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Large and Connected Natural Area	Wc018	Warsop Colliery (restored)	Level 1	No	Average	Former Quarry (Industrial Heritage) Surface water flood risk Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Local Park and	Wc003	Play Area Warsop Vale	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Recreation Ground						
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Wc009	Wood Lane Play Area	None	Yes (good quality)	Good	
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Wc012	Warsop Vale Sports Ground (Carter Lane Playing Field)	Level 1	No	Good	Outdoor sports provision: football
Woodhouse						
Incidental Open Space	Wh001	Seating Area Off Lawrence Avenue	None	No	Very Good	
Incidental Open Space	Wh008	Coxs Lane Open Space	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	Wh012	Amenity Space Collier Avenue	None	No	Average	
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Wh006	The Green	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Good	
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Wh009	Vale Road Open Space (Northfield Focus Point)	None	Yes (average quality)	Average	Near to MDC Community Centre



Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
Local Park and Recreation Ground	Wh010	Lords Ground	None	No	Average	Outdoor sports provision: rugby league Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
	Woodlands					
Incidental Open Space	WI006	Green at Baggaley Crescent	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Incidental Open Space	WI007	Amenity space Main Bright Walk	None	No	Very Good	
Incidental Open Space	WI009	Old Meeting House Amenity Space	Level 3	No	Very Good	Surface water flood risk Setting to listed building Surface water flood risk
Local Park and Recreation Ground	WI003	Haddon Road Open Space	Level 3	Yes (average quality)	Good	Within Conservation Area
	Yeoman Hill					
District Park and Recreation Ground	Yh004	Yeoman Hill Park	Level 3	Yes (good quality)	Very Good	Within Conservation Area Outdoor sports provision: football & bowls Supported by Friends group

Category	Site Ref	Site Name	Access to nature	Play provision	Overall Quality	Notes
						Supports community social events (e.g. bandstand)
Incidental Open Space	Yh006	Gladstone Terrace	None	No	Good	Medium accessibility issues (average quality) - improvements required to enable better provision for people with disabilities.
Large and Connected Natural Area	Yh003	Maun Valley Park LNR (Section 1)	Level 1	No	Good	Supported by Friends group Within flood zone 2 and/or 3
Large and Connected Natural Area	Yh005	Maun Valley Park LNR (Section 2)	Level 1	No	Good	Supported by Friends group Setting to listed building Within flood zone 2 and/or 3



Appendix B Quality Assessment Criteria

Parks and Recreation Areas - Quality Assessment Criteria				
	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)
1 Welcoming & Accessible Place				
1-a Main Entrance	Easy to locate with a clear and welcoming/inviting entrance (e.g. clear singe, interpretation, sculpture, ornate gate, etc.) that is clear of obstructions, well maintained (e.g. tidy, gate, etc. in good order). This is an entrance that helps define the site (has a 'wow' factor), rather than it is functional and looks nice.	Easy to locate and is well maintained (e.g. tidy, gate, etc. in good order), clear of obstructions. It is functional rather than place shaping.	Easy to locate but appears a bit 'tired'. It is still reasonably functional, generally tidy (minimal rubbish) and clear of major obstructions. OR it is difficult to determine where the main entrance as there is no clear difference between entrances but these are still functional, tidy and clear of obstructions.	Entrance does not appear inviting as it is not well maintained (e.g. graffiti, dangerous, etc.) and/or it is difficult to access due to major obstructions/barriers. May have health and safety issues.
1-a Notes: The main entrance to the site must be firstly established, even if it may be difficult to determine at first. This will usually be associated with a car park, community venue, main road or gated entrance. 'Not Applicable' (N/A) is not an option for this category. Disabled access is addressed separately for the whole of the site under criteria 1-e.				
1-b Secondary entrances (if applicable)	Easy to find with clear paths leading into the site. Tidy and welcoming. At least one secondary entrance helps to define the site and enhance the visitor experience. May include (but not necessary) signage directing visitors through the site and/or interpretation or other entrance features.	Easy to locate and clear of obstructions but functional in nature. Tidy and welcoming.	Easy to locate but appears a bit 'tired'. It is still reasonably functional, generally tidy (minimal rubbish) and generally clear of major obstructions.	Not easy to located and not well maintained. Rubbish, major dog fouling issues and/or major obstructions present. May have health and safety issues.
1-c Accessing the site from the surrounding area	There are accessible pathways to the site including a range of travel options: pedestrian and cycle routes and/or bus stops. Pedestrian and cycle routes lead up to the site. There are safe road crossing opposite or nearly opposite all entrances.	There are accessible pedestrian routes leading directly up to the site. Access to the area by bus is adequate (this may not be applicable for smaller residential areas). Generally roads nearby are quiet residential or traffic calmed. It feels safe to cross the street OR where roads are busier , pedestrian routes lead up to the site with safe road crossings opposite or nearly opposite all entrances.	Generally roads nearby are quiet residential or traffic calmed. Pedestrian access is only located access from (opposite the road) the site with no clear pedestrian crossings or safe access is questionable OR where roads are busier , pedestrian routes may be on both sides of the road and pedestrian crossings are observed further away from any entrances. This presents a deterrent but not a physical barrier to accessing the site.	Routes to the site appear unsafe for pedestrians and children. For example, site is adjacent to a busy road without direct pedestrian crossings OR the routes within the area appear confusing and awkward to navigate for most surrounding residents.
1-d Routes through and around the site	There are appropriate routes through and around the site which are safe and consistently provide appropriate surfacing with smooth surfacing (e.g. no potholes, bumps) without too many difficult slopes. Routes through the site make sense (lack of additional desire lines present) and are clear of debris / access barriers.	There are appropriate routes through and around the site which are safe and generally provide appropriate surfacing. Paths are clear of debris / access barriers. Occasional additional desire lines present but not classed as main travel routes through the site.	Routes through the site have suitable surfacing but may offer limited use for all abilities/users. These are generally clear of debris / access barriers. Additional desire lines are present which indicate that additional travel routes through the site are needed OR the site would benefit from different surfacing to key areas within the site.	Route(s) are in need of repair because they create a barrier to access through or around the site. This may be due to inappropriate surfacing, poorly managed surfacing or significant barriers are present of which would deter access within the site or pose a safety risk.
1-d Notes: 'Appropriate surfacing' refers to surfacing that fits the feel of the site as a whole and access to its individual spaces. Path surfacing might contain informally grassed surfaces created through managed mowing. This may be appropriate based on the intended experience for users within a more informal setting or certain areas of the park. Paths to more formal areas such as play areas may benefit from harder surfacing e.g. for pushchair users.				
1-e Inclusive Access	The site generally provides inclusive access for ALL of the main areas: 1) main entrance; 2) secondary entrances; 3) grade and terrain of routes to main areas within the site (e.g. play areas, sheltered areas, etc.); 4) surfacing of paths; 5) key areas such as play areas, picnic areas and view points/observation areas and 6) spacing of seating or rest areas. Main signage is also located in appropriate areas and/or formats. Areas that appear difficult to access may include signs or suggest alternative routes.	Similar to 'Very Good' BUT minor issues are present with regards to any of the following 2) secondary entrances; 3) grade and terrain of routes to main areas within the site and 6) seating or rest areas. Signs may need to be provided in better locations/formats, although any warning signs are provided in appropriate locations and/or formats. No issues with 1) main entrance and any 4) surfacing of paths.	Medium access issues where minor issues are also present for 1) main entrances; 2); 3); 4); 5) and/or 6). Main signs may need to be provided in better locations/formats, although any warning signs are provided in appropriate locations and formats.	Major issues are present for any of 1-6 areas. Any warning signs are not provided in appropriate locations and/or formats.
1-e Notes: This is not based on a formal disability access audit but helps to identify key areas likely to limit access within and to a site. More detailed audits are likely to be needed. Things to keep in mind are: locked gates; access through gates; appropriate surfacing (level, smooth and gradual); steps; 'lipped' entrances; are hand rails present; etc. Minor issues are those that are easily resolved through a change in maintenance or present minor disruptions for users accessing the site (e.g. through detours or limited use of all areas). Access for all is inclusive of a variety of mobility, sensory, and learning difficulty needs. It also takes into account mental health needs and people with pushchairs.				
1-f Signage (if applicable if any present)	Good signage and/or interpretation present that is easy to read, gives clear messages and is located in appropriate places. The signage present greatly improves the visitor's experience of the site.	Signage is present but it is more functional than enhancing of a visitor's experience. It should be easy to read. Some additional signage may be required to improve one's experience / use of the site (e.g. to find ones way around).	Signage easy to read but worn and needs replacing. Additional signage required to improve one's experience / use of the site (e.g. to find ones way around).	Signage not easy to read or understand. May be vandalised or broken.
1-g Parking (only applicable where designated parking areas are provided)	Provided parking is integral to the site and there are appropriate number of spaces. Area is well maintained, welcoming, and safe with appropriate surfacing and well signed. Disabled parking spaces provided.	Provided parking is integral to the site and there are appropriate number of spaces. Area is reasonably maintained and safe with appropriate surfacing and well signed. Disabled parking spaces provided.	Provided parking is integral to the site but there are limited number of spaces for all users. Improvements needed with regards to safety, surfacing or cleanliness.	Parking is limited and not integral to the site. Improvements needed with regards to safety, access, surfacing and cleanliness.
2 Safe and Secure				

2-a	Boundaries (including fencing, boundary planting, etc.)	Overall, boundaries help provide a positive image and are of an appropriate design for the site. They are safe and secure and are in good condition / well maintained. Controls are in place (if needed) to prevent illegal vehicle use. They help provide a safe space for children to play buffering hazards from road traffic.	Overall, boundaries are more functional than aesthetic. They are in good condition and well maintained. Controls are in place (if applicable) to prevent illegal vehicle use. They help provide a safe space for children to play buffering hazards from road traffic.	Most of the boundary treatment is appropriate to the site and is in reasonable condition but may need further maintenance or enhancement. For example, there may be gaps in fence or hedgerow or maintenance require with regards to painting, trimming or new type of boundary/materials needed. <u>OR</u> The boundary treatment may need altering in some areas to provide additional entrances required to meet access requirements and/or improve safety from road hazards.	Boundary features are in poor state, not well maintained, not appropriate to the site and/or don't exist but should exist. Controls may be required to prevent illegal vehicle use.
2	Safe and Secure				
		Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)
2-b	Personal safety	Site with good natural surveillance. Adequate lighting provided along paths (if applicable). Landscaping does not present security issues.	Site with good natural surveillance. Adequate lighting provided along paths (if applicable). Landscaping does not generally present security issues. (Receives same score as 'Very Good')	Site with limited natural surveillance (e.g. part of site). Limited lighting. Landscaping could present security issues. Controls are in place (if applicable) to prevent illegal vehicle use but these are damaged or ineffective.	No natural surveillance. No lighting. Does not feel safe for the lone visitor.
2-c	Condition of all present facilities (e.g. play, benches, bins, sports pitch structures, etc.). This criterion assesses all facilities and park furniture and features taken as a collective whole.	Overall, most facilities/features/furniture provided across the site are safe, clean and new-like condition.	Most facilities/features/furniture provided across the site are safe, clean and new-like condition. Some equipment, etc. are tired (not new) requiring minimal (aesthetic) maintenance but all equipment, etc. is safe to use.	Most facilities/features/furniture provided across the site are in a fair, safe and clean condition. Although equipment may be tired and worn, it is generally safe. There may be some issues that if not dealt with soon could present safety issues.	Most facilities/features/furniture provided across the site are generally in poor condition and need of repair. <u>OR</u> there are important safety issues that need urgently addressing.
3	Cleanliness and Maintenance				
3-a	Dog fouling	None to minimal dog fouling observed throughout site. Main paths, entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Some dog fouling observed throughout site. Main paths, entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Dog fouling is noticeably present, but mainly found side of paths and/or peripheral areas such as wooded or corner areas. Entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Dog fouling noticeably present, especially within entrances, main paths, play areas, and pitches.
3-b	Litter	None to nominal rubbish throughout site across the whole of the site.	Some rubbish throughout the site but doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects) BUT well-used areas such as main paths and pitch and play areas clear of rubbish.	The amount of rubbish is noticeably present throughout the site, especially in well-used areas. But doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects).	Substantial amount of litter throughout the site <u>OR</u> any fly-tipping present <u>OR</u> any litter that poses a health and safety risk.
	3-b Notes: More rubbish may result from windier conditions. Please take this into account as adjust scores accordingly as this should bias scores.				
3-c	Graffiti	No graffiti present.	No graffiti present (score as 'very good = 4).	Graffiti present but not located in highly visible areas.	Graffiti present on play area, entrances and other highly visible areas.
3-d	Bins (if applicable)	Appropriate number of bins provided and they are not overflowing.	Appears to be an appropriate number of bins provided as they are not overflowing. New locations may help improve use.	Some bins overflowing.	More bins need to be provided as they are all overflowing.
3-e	Grass	Good grass cover and colour (in accordance with recent weather conditions). Grass is well maintained and consistently cut throughout the site as appropriate to the area it covers.	Good grass cover and colour (in accordance with recent weather conditions). Grass is generally well maintained and generally consistently cut throughout the site as appropriate to the area it covers.	Generally good grass cover with some patchy areas and/or grass inconsistently cut within sports pitch (where relevant) and other general use areas (e.g. paths, picnic areas, etc.).	Grass cover is poor due to wear and tear in main use areas <u>OR</u> poor maintenance throughout the site.
	3-e Notes: Scores should take the following into account so that they are not biased by the following: Grass should generally be cut to a length appropriate to an area's use. For example, short grass is required for playing pitches and bowls greens. Longer grass is acceptable around trees, orchards and wildflower meadow areas, corners, etc. Reasonable wear and tear is expected in high use areas such as formal and informal playing pitches. Be mindful of recent weather conditions as this shouldn't influence scores. Grass that hasn't been cut recently does not pose a general problem as this is easily addressed and probably not indicative of major problems. It is important to pay attention to how and where the grass has been cut or if it appears weedy through neglect.				
3-f	Landscaping including trees, shrubs, floral areas, etc.	Formal and/or informal landscaping areas are maintained to a high standard as they appear inviting and well planned as part of the whole site. No to minimal maintenance required.	Formal and/or informal landscaping are maintained to a reasonable standard and appear well planned as part of the whole site. Some maintenance may be required but areas are still functional.	Formal and/or informal landscaping is in obvious need of maintenance and/or additional improvements are required to integrate these areas into the overall site layout.	Formal and/or informal landscaping is in obvious need of maintenance AND additional improvements are required to integrate these areas into the overall site layout.
	3-f Notes: This includes both hard and soft landscaping but not paths as this is covered above.				
4	Overall use, image and setting				
4-a	Range of facilities / activities for diverse user groups	There is a diverse range of facilities and/or individual spaces (formal and informal) available to satisfy different users (age and ability) that is in proportion to the site's size and/or location. This would likely be a site that exceeds expectations.	There is reasonable range of facilities and/or individual spaces (formal and informal) available to satisfy different users (age and ability) that is in proportion to the site's size and/or location. This would likely be a site that generally meets expectations and how the site is currently	The site generally provides minimal or limited facilities and/or individual spaces in proportion to its size and/or location. This would fall below expectations and how the site is currently being used.	The site grossly under provides for a mixture of park users and generally falls well below expectations due to its size and location.
	4-a Notes: It is important to keep in mind the size of the space and its overall function when assessing this category. Observations on how the site is being used currently (or evidence of use) should help to inform this criterion.				
4-b	Place shaping	The site contributes positively to the image of the surrounding area. It is visually distinct or unique in its overall design and/or layout in that it has many features that add to this impression. It may also create a distinct experience for visitors based on the overall character or setting of the site within the surrounding	The site contributes positively to the image of the surrounding area. It creates a pleasant visual experience based upon first impressions. It may have distinct individual features or areas, in their own right but these are not integral to the overall character/setting of the surrounding area.	Neither adds or detracts from the neighbourhood/ surrounding area. The site is more or less non-descript without any clearly distinctive qualities. 'It could be anywhere in the district.'	Site visually detracts from the neighbourhood/surrounding area. It creates a negative image and adds to the negative image of the area.
	4-b Notes: This may take into account the topography of the site, views in and out of the site, and/or special features (e.g. heritage, art, natural, formally landscaped, boundary or gate features).				



4-c	Space contributes positively to biodiversity	The site has a wide variety of small natural areas and/or features for supporting wildlife. These may be formal landscaped areas or more informal wild areas. <u>OR</u> over half of the site's area is covered by a larger habitat such as woodland, grassland, heathland or scrub or a mixture of these.	The site has a moderate variety of small natural areas and/or features for supporting wildlife. These may be formal landscaped areas or more informal wild areas. <u>OR</u> less than half of the site's area is covered by woodland, grassland, heathland or scrub or a mixture of these.	The site includes minimal features that could support wildlife, such as a few individual trees or boundary hedge.	The area is devoid of wildlife-friendly features or habitats.
4-c Notes: Small natural areas are defined as wildflower meadows, large areas of woodland or small pockets of trees (i.e. 8), river, orchards, sensory gardens, mixed shrub/flower planted areas, ponds. Other features include bird and bat boxes, bug hotels, hedges, worries, etc.					
4-d	Ability to support social interaction	The site provides an excellent variety of opportunities for social activities and interaction. The range/variety of opportunities should be in proportion to the site's size. Overall, the site feels welcoming and pleasant to sit or socialise (informal recreation) and exceeds expectations.	The site provides a moderate variety of opportunities for social activities and interaction which appear well integrated into the overall design of the site. Overall, the site feels welcoming and pleasant to sit or socialise (informal recreation). Areas supporting social interaction are good but don't exceed expectations. This area is appropriately located and feels safe and inviting.	Spaces for socialising are limited or don't appear to be integral to the overall design of the site. <u>OR</u> This site has potential for providing spaces due to location or layout.	The site doesn't provide any spaces or seating areas for social activities <u>OR</u> there is limited potential due to location or layout.
4-d Notes: This will be reflective of the facilities and spaces provided but may also be based on local knowledge of activities held on the site. Social interaction includes, but is not limited to: e.g. festivals, sport, music, weddings, fayre, carnival/fair, Friends Group events, general socialising, educational activities, etc. The range/variety of opportunities should be in proportion to the site's size.					

Amenity Green Space - Quality Assessment Criteria

	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)
1	Welcoming & Accessible Place			
1-a	Main Entrance Easy to locate with a clear and welcoming/inviting entrance (e.g. clear singe, interpretation, sculpture, ornate gate, etc.) that is clear of obstructions, well maintained (e.g. tidy, gate, etc. in good order). This is an entrance that helps define the site (has a 'wow' factor), rather than it is functional and looks nice.	Easy to locate and is well maintained (e.g. tidy, gate, etc. in good order), clear of obstructions. It is functional rather than place shaping.	Easy to locate but appears a bit 'tired'. It is still reasonably functional, generally tidy (minimal rubbish) and clear of major obstructions. <u>OR</u> it is difficult to determine where the main entrance as there is no clear difference between entrances but these are still functional, tidy and clear of obstructions.	Entrance does not appear inviting as it is not well maintained (e.g. graffiti, dangerous, etc.) and/or it is difficult to access due to major obstructions/barriers. May have health and safety issues.
1-a Notes: The main entrance to the site must be firstly established, even if it may be difficult to determine at first. This will usually be associated with a car park, community venue, main road or gated entrance. 'Not Applicable' (N/A) is not an option for this category. Disabled access is addressed separately for the whole of the site under criteria 1-e.				
1-b	Secondary entrances (if applicable) Easy to find with clear paths leading into the site. Tidy and welcoming. At least one secondary entrance helps to define the site and enhance the visitor experience. May include (but not necessary) signage directing visitors through the site and/or interpretation or other entrance features.	Easy to locate and clear of obstructions but functional in nature. Tidy and welcoming.	Easy to locate but appears a bit 'tired'. It is still reasonably functional, generally tidy (minimal rubbish) and generally clear of major obstructions.	Not easy to located and not well maintained. Rubbish, major dog fouling issues and/or major obstructions present. May have health and safety issues.
1-c	Accessing the site from the surrounding area There are accessible pathways to the site including a range of travel options: pedestrian and <u>cycle routes and/or bus stops</u> . Pedestrian and cycle routes lead up to the site. There are safe road crossing opposite or nearly opposite all entrances.	There are accessible pedestrian routes leading directly up to the site. Access to the area by bus is adequate (this may not be applicable for smaller residential areas). Generally roads nearby are quiet residential or traffic calmed. It feels safe to cross the street <u>OR where roads are busier</u> , pedestrian routes lead up to the site with safe road crossings opposite or nearly opposite all entrances.	Generally roads nearby are quiet residential or traffic calmed. Pedestrian access is only located access from (opposite the road) the site with no clear pedestrian crossings or safe access is questionable. <u>OR</u> where roads are busier, pedestrian routes may be on both sides of the road and pedestrian crossings are observed further away from any entrances. This presents a deterrent but not a physical barrier to accessing the site.	Routes to the site appear unsafe for pedestrians and children. For example, site is adjacent to a busy road without direct pedestrian crossings <u>OR</u> the routes within the area appear confusing and awkward to navigate for most surrounding residents.
1-d	Movement through and around the site There are appropriate routes through and around the site which are safe and consistently provide appropriate surfacing with smooth surfacing (e.g. no potholes, bumps) without too many difficult slopes. Routes through the site make sense (lack of additional desire lines present) and are clear of debris / access barriers.	There are appropriate routes through and around the site which are safe and generally provide appropriate surfacing. Paths are clear of debris / access barriers. Occasional additional desire lines present but not classed as main travel routes through the site.	Routes through the site have suitable surfacing but may offer limited use for all abilities/users. These are generally clear of debris / access barriers. Additional desire lines are present which indicate that additional travel routes through the site are needed <u>OR</u> the site would benefit from different surfacing to key areas within the site.	Route(s) are in need of repair because they create a barrier to access through or around the site. This may be due to inappropriate surfacing, poorly managed surfacing or significant barriers are present of which would deter access within the site or pose a safety risk.
1-d Notes: 'Appropriate surfacing' refers to surfacing that fits the feel of the site as a whole and access to its individual spaces. Path surfacing might contain informally grassed surfaces created				
1-e	Inclusive Access The site generally provides inclusive access for <u>ALL</u> of the main areas: 1) main entrance; 2) secondary entrances; 3) grade and terrain of routes to main areas within the site (e.g. seating and sheltered areas, etc.); 4) surfacing and width of paths; 5) key areas such picnic areas and view points/observation areas and 6) spacing of seating or rest areas. Main signage is also located in appropriate areas and/or formats. Areas that appear difficult to access may include signs or suggest alternative routes.	Similar to 'Very Good' <u>BUT</u> minor issues are present with regards to any of the following 2) secondary entrances; 3) grade and terrain of routes to main areas within the site and 6) seating or rest areas. Signs may need to be provided in better locations/formats, although any warning signs are provided in appropriate locations and/or formats. No issues with 1) main entrance and any 4) surfacing and width of paths.	Medium access issues where minor issues are also present for 1) main entrances; 2); 3); 4); 5) and/or 6). Main signs may need to be provided in better locations/formats, although any warning signs are provided in appropriate locations and formats.	Major issues are present for any of 1-6 areas. Any warning signs are not provided in appropriate locations and/or formats.
1-e Notes: This is not based on a formal disability access audit but helps to identify key areas likely to limit access within and to a site. More detailed audits are likely to be needed. Things to keep in mind are: locked gates; access through gates; appropriate surfacing (level, smooth and gradual); steps; 'lipped' entrances; are hand rails present; etc. Minor issues are those that are easily resolved through a change in maintenance or present minor disruptions for users accessing the site (e.g. through detours or limited use of all areas). Access for all is inclusive of a variety of mobility, sensory, and learning difficulty needs. It also takes into account mental health needs and people with pushchairs.				
1-f	Signage (if applicable if any present) Good signage and/or interpretation present that is easy to read, gives clear messages and is located in appropriate places. The signage present greatly improves the visitor's experience of the site.	Signage is present but it is more functional than enhancing of a visitor's experience. It should be easy to read. Some additional signage may be required to improve one's experience / use of the site (e.g. to find ones way around).	Signage easy to read but worn and needs replacing. Additional signage required to improve one's experience / use of the site (e.g. to find ones way around).	Signage not easy to read or understand. May be vandalised or broken.
1-g	Parking (only applicable where designated parking areas are provided) Provided parking is integral to the site and there are appropriate number of spaces. Area is well maintained, welcoming, and safe with appropriate surfacing and well signed. Disabled parking spaces provided.	Provided parking is integral to the site and there are appropriate number of spaces. Area is reasonably maintained and safe with appropriate surfacing and well signed. Disabled parking spaces provided.	Provided parking is integral to the site but there are limited number of spaces for all users. Improvements needed with regards to safety, surfacing or cleanliness.	Parking is limited and not integral to the site. Improvements needed with regards to safety, access, surfacing and cleanliness.
2	Safe and Secure			



2-a	Boundaries (including fencing, boundary planting, etc.)	Overall, boundaries help provide a positive image and are of an appropriate design for the site. They are safe and secure and are in good condition / well maintained. Controls are in place (if needed) to prevent illegal vehicle use. They help provide a safe space for children to play buffering hazards from road traffic.	Overall, boundaries are more functional than aesthetic. They are in good condition and well maintained. Controls are in place (if applicable) to prevent illegal vehicle use. They help provide a safe space for children to play buffering hazards from road traffic.	Most of the boundary treatment is appropriate to the site and is in reasonable condition but may need further maintenance or enhancement. For example, there may be gaps in fence or hedgerow or maintenance require with regards to painting, trimming or new type of boundary/materials needed. OR The boundary treatment may need altering in some areas to provide additional entrances required to meet access requirements and/or improve safety from road hazards.	Boundary features are in poor state, not well maintained, not appropriate to the site and/or don't exist but should exist. Controls may be required to prevent illegal vehicle use.
2	Safe and Secure				
		Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)
2-b	Personal safety	Site with good natural surveillance. Adequate lighting provided along paths (if applicable). Landscaping does not present security issues.	Site with good natural surveillance. Adequate lighting provided along paths (if applicable). Landscaping does not generally present security issues. (Receives same score as 'Very Good')	Site with limited natural surveillance (e.g. part of site). Limited lighting. Landscaping could present security issues. Controls are in place (if applicable) to prevent illegal vehicle use but these are damaged or ineffective.	No natural surveillance. No lighting. Does not feel safe for the lone visitor.
2-c	Condition of all present furniture/features (e.g. benches, sculptures, monuments, etc.) This criterion assesses all facilities and park furniture and features taken as a collective whole.	Overall, most furniture/features provided across the site are safe, clean and new-like condition.	Most furniture/features provided across the site are safe, clean and new-like condition. Some equipment, etc. are tired (not new) requiring minimal (aesthetic) maintenance but all equipment, etc. is safe to use.	Most furniture/features provided across the site are in a fair, safe and clean condition. Although equipment may be tired and worn, it is generally safe. There may be some issues that if not dealt with soon could present safety issues.	Most furniture/features provided across the site are generally in poor condition and need of repair. OR there are important safety issues that need urgently addressing.
3	Cleanliness and Maintenance				
3-a	Dog fouling	None to minimal dog fouling observed throughout site. Main paths, entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Some dog fouling observed throughout site. Main paths, entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Dog fouling is noticeably present, but mainly found side of paths and/or peripheral areas such as wooded or corner areas. Entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Dog fouling noticeably present, especially within entrances, main paths, play areas, and pitches.
3-b	Litter	None to nominal rubbish throughout site across the whole of the site.	Some rubbish throughout the site but doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects) BUT well-used areas such as main paths and pitch and play areas clear of rubbish.	The amount of rubbish is noticeably present throughout the site, especially in well-used areas. But doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects).	Substantial amount of litter throughout the site OR any fly-tipping present OR any litter that poses a health and safety risk.
	3-b Notes: More rubbish may result from windier conditions. Please take this into account as adjust scores accordingly as this should bias scores.				
3-c	Graffiti	No graffiti present.	No graffiti present (score as 'very good' = 4).	Graffiti present but not located in highly visible areas.	Graffiti present on play area, entrances and other highly visible areas.
3-d	Bins (if applicable)	Appropriate number of bins provided and they are not overflowing.	Appears to be an appropriate number of bins provided as they are not overflowing. New locations may help improve use.	Some bins overflowing.	More bins need to be provided as they are all overflowing.
3-e	Grass	Good grass cover and colour (in accordance with recent weather conditions). Grass is well maintained and consistently cut throughout the site as appropriate to the area it covers.	Good grass cover and colour (in accordance with recent weather conditions). Grass is generally well maintained and generally consistently cut throughout the site as appropriate to the area it covers.	Generally good grass cover with some patchy areas and/or grass inconsistently cut within sports pitch (where relevant) and other general use areas (e.g. paths, picnic areas, etc.).	Grass cover is poor due to wear and tear in main use areas OR poor maintenance throughout the site.
	3-e Notes: Scores should take the following into account so that they are not biased by the following: Grass should generally be cut to a length appropriate to an area's use. For example, short grass is required for playing pitches and bowls greens. Longer grass is acceptable around trees, orchards and wildflower meadow areas, corners, etc. Reasonable wear and tear is expected in high use areas such as formal and informal playing pitches. Be mindful of recent weather conditions as this shouldn't influence scores. Grass that hasn't been cut recently does not pose a general problem as this is easily addressed and probably not indicative of major problems. It is important to pay attention to how and where the grass has been cut or if it appears weedy through neglect.				
3-f	Landscaping including trees, shrubs, floral areas, etc.	Formal and/or informal landscaping areas are maintained to a high standard as they appear inviting and well planned as part of the whole site. No to minimal maintenance required.	Formal and/or informal landscaping are maintained to a reasonable standard and appear well planned as part of the whole site. Some maintenance may be required but areas are still functional.	Formal and/or informal landscaping is in obvious need of maintenance and/or additional improvements are required to integrate these areas into the overall site layout.	Formal and/or informal landscaping is in obvious need of maintenance AND additional improvements are required to integrate these areas into the overall site layout.
	3-f Notes: This includes both hard and soft landscaping but not paths as this is covered above.				
4	Overall use, image and setting				
4-a	Place shaping	The site contributes positively to the image of the surrounding area. It creates a pleasant visual experience based upon first impressions. It may have distinct individual features or areas.	The site contributes positively to the image of the surrounding area. It creates a pleasant visual experience based upon first impressions. It may have distinct individual features or areas. Same score as Very Good	Neither adds or detracts from the neighbourhood/ surrounding area. The site is more or less non-descript without any clearly distinctive qualities. 'It could be anywhere in the district.'	Site visually detracts from the neighbourhood/surrounding area. It creates a negative image and adds to the negative image of the area.
	4-a Notes: This may take into account the topography of the site, views in and out of the site, and/or special features (e.g. heritage, art, natural, formally landscaped, boundary or gate features).				

4-b	Space contributes positively to biodiversity	The site has a wide variety of small natural areas and/or features for supporting wildlife. These may be formal landscaped areas or more informal wild areas. OR over half of the site's area is covered by a larger habitat such as woodland, grassland, heathland or scrub or a mixture of these.	The site has a moderate variety of small natural areas and/or features for supporting wildlife. These may be formal landscaped areas or more informal wild areas. OR less than half of the site's area is covered by woodland, grassland, heathland or scrub or a mixture of these.	The site includes minimal features that could support wildlife, such as a few individual groups of trees or boundary hedge.	The area is generally devoid of wildlife-friendly features or habitats. One or two trees may be present but this is mainly an open area with short mown grass.
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4-b Notes: Small natural areas are defined as wildflower meadows, large areas of woodland or small pockets of trees (i.e. 8), river, orchards, sensory gardens, mixed shrub/flower planted areas, ponds. Other features include bird and bat boxes, bug hotels, hedges, wormeries, etc. It is important to tell the difference between landscaping with trees and woodland. Woodland will contain larger clusters of trees of different types.

4-c	Ability to support social interaction	Overall, the site feels welcoming and pleasant to sit or socialise (informal recreation). The site provides a variety of spaces for social activities and interaction. The range/variety of opportunities should be in proportion to the site's size.	Overall, the site feels welcoming and pleasant to sit or socialise (informal recreation). Areas supporting social interaction are good but don't exceed expectations. This area is appropriately located and feels safe and inviting.	Overall, the site is functional in its present form: e.g. the site may have benches in appropriate locations but they are more functionally located rather than set within a cohesive or planned setting. OR the site may have potential to support social interaction due to its layout or location.	Non-descript area without a cohesive or welcoming feel. There is no incentive to stop and socialise. Benches not normally present but if they are, they are out of the way locations more susceptible to vandalism. OR the layout of the site doesn't support the potential for social interaction due to its location or layout.
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4-c Notes: This will be reflective of the facilities and spaces provided but may also be based on local knowledge of activities held on the site. Social interaction includes, but is not limited to: e.g. Friends Group events, general socialising, educational activities, etc.



Natural & Semi-natural Green Spaces - Quality Assessment Criteria

	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)
1 Welcoming & Accessible Place				
1-a Main Entrance	Easy to locate with a clear and welcoming/inviting entrance (e.g. clear singe, interpretation, sculpture, ornate gate, etc.) that is clear of obstructions, well maintained (e.g. tidy, gate, etc. in good order). This is an entrance that helps define the site (has a 'wow' factor), rather than it is functional and looks nice.	Easy to locate and is well maintained (e.g. tidy, gate, etc. in good order), clear of obstructions. It is functional rather than place shaping.	Easy to locate but appears a bit 'tired'. It is still reasonably functional, generally tidy (minimal rubbish) and clear of major obstructions. <u>OR</u> it is difficult to determine where the main entrance as there is no clear difference between entrances but these are still functional, tidy and clear of obstructions.	Entrance does not appear inviting as it is not well maintained (e.g. graffiti, dangerous, etc.) and/or it is difficult to access due to major obstructions/barriers. May have health and safety issues.
1-a Notes: The main entrance to the site must be firstly established, even if it may be difficult to determine at first. This will usually be associated with a car park, community venue, main road or gated entrance. 'Not Applicable' (N/A) is not an option for this category. Disabled access is addressed separately for the whole of the site under criteria 1-e.				
1-b Secondary entrances (if applicable)	Easy to find with clear paths leading into the site. Tidy and welcoming. At least one secondary entrance helps to define the site and enhance the visitor experience. May include (but not necessary) signage directing visitors through the site and/or interpretation or other entrance features.	Easy to locate and clear of obstructions but functional in nature. Tidy and welcoming.	Easy to locate but appears a bit 'tired'. It is still reasonably functional, generally tidy (minimal rubbish) and generally clear of major obstructions.	Not easy to located and not well maintained. Rubbish, major dog fouling issues and/or major obstructions present. May have health and safety issues.
1-c Accessing the site from the surrounding area	There are accessible pathways to the site including a range of travel options: pedestrian and <u>cycle routes and/or bus stops</u> . Pedestrian and cycle routes lead up to the site. There are safe road crossing opposite or nearly opposite all entrances.	There are accessible pedestrian routes leading directly up to the site. Access to the area by bus is adequate (this may not be applicable for smaller residential areas). Generally roads nearby are quiet residential or traffic calmed. It feels safe to cross the street <u>OR where roads are busier</u> , pedestrian routes lead up to the site with safe road crossings opposite or nearly opposite all entrances.	Generally roads nearby are quiet residential or traffic calmed. Pedestrian access is only located access from (opposite the road) the site with no clear pedestrian crossings or safe access is questionable <u>OR where roads are busier</u> , pedestrian routes may be on both sides of the road and pedestrian crossings are observed further away from any entrances. This presents a deterrent but not a physical barrier to accessing the site.	Routes to the site appear unsafe for pedestrians and children. For example, site is adjacent to a busy road without direct pedestrian crossings <u>OR</u> the routes within the area appear confusing and awkward to navigate for most surrounding residents.
1-d Routes through and around the site	There are appropriate routes through and around the site which are safe and consistently provide appropriate surfacing with smooth surfacing (e.g. no potholes, bumps) without too many difficult slopes. Routes through the site make sense (lack of additional desire lines present) and are clear of debris / access barriers.	There are appropriate routes through and around the site which are safe and generally provide appropriate surfacing. Paths are clear of debris / access barriers. Occasional additional desire lines present but not classed as main travel routes through the site.	Routes through the site have suitable surfacing but may offer limited use for all abilities/users. These are generally clear of debris / access barriers. Additional desire lines are present which indicate that additional travel routes through the site are needed <u>OR</u> the site would benefit from different surfacing to key areas within the site.	Route(s) are in need of repair because they create a barrier to access through or around the site. This may be due to inappropriate surfacing, poorly managed surfacing or significant barriers are present of which would deter access within the site or pose a safety risk.
1-d Notes: 'Appropriate surfacing' refers to surfacing that fits the feel of the site as a whole and access to its individual spaces. Path surfacing might contain informally grassed surfaces created				
1-e Inclusive Access	The site generally provides inclusive access for <u>ALL</u> of the main areas: 1) main entrance; 2) secondary entrances; 3) grade and terrain of routes to main areas within the site (e.g. seating and sheltered areas, etc.); 4) surfacing and width of paths; 5) key areas such picnic areas and view points/observation areas and 6) spacing of seating or rest areas. Main signage is also located in appropriate areas and/or formats. Areas that appear difficult to access may include signs or suggest alternative routes	Similar to 'Very Good' <u>BUT</u> minor issues are present with regards to any of the following 2) secondary entrances; 3) grade and terrain of routes to main areas within the site and 6) seating or rest areas. Signs may need to be provided in better locations/formats, although any warning signs are provided in appropriate locations and/or formats. No issues with 1) main entrance and any 4) surfacing and width of paths.	Medium access issues where minor issues are also present for 1) main entrances; 2); 3); 4); 5) and/or 6). Main signs may need to be provided in better locations/formats, although any warning signs are provided in appropriate locations and formats.	Major issues are present for any of 1-6 areas. Any warning signs are not provided in appropriate locations and/or formats.
1-e Notes: This is not based on a formal DBA access audit but helps to identify key areas likely to limit access within and to a site. More detailed audits are likely to be needed. Things to keep in mind are: locked gates; access through gates; appropriate surfacing (level, smooth and gradual); steps or gradual ramp or alternative paths available; 'lipped' or drop kerb entrances; are hand rails present; etc. Minor issues are those that are easily resolved through a change in maintenance or present minor disruptions for users accessing the site (e.g. through detours or limited use of all areas).				
1-f Signage (if applicable if any present)	Good signage and/or interpretation present that is easy to read, gives clear messages and is located in appropriate places. The signage present greatly improves the visitor's experience of the site.	Signage is present but it is more functional than enhancing of a visitor's experience. It should be easy to read. Some additional signage may be required to improve one's experience / use of the site (e.g. to find ones way around).	Signage easy to read but worn and needs replacing. Additional signage required to improve one's experience / use of the site (e.g. to find ones way around).	Signage not easy to read or understand. May be vandalised or broken.
1-g Parking (only applicable where designated parking areas are provided)	Provided parking is integral to the site and there are appropriate number of spaces. Area is well maintained, welcoming, and safe with appropriate surfacing and well signed. Disabled parking spaces provided.	Provided parking is integral to the site and there are appropriate number of spaces. Area is reasonably maintained and safe with appropriate surfacing and well signed. Disabled parking spaces provided.	Provided parking is integral to the site but there are limited number of spaces for all users. Improvements needed with regards to safety, surfacing or cleanliness.	Parking is limited and not integral to the site. Improvements needed with regards to safety, access, surfacing and cleanliness.

2	Safe and Secure				
2-a	Boundaries (including fencing, boundary planting, etc.)	Boundaries help provide a positive image and are of an appropriate design for the site. They are safe and secure and are in good condition / well maintained. Controls are in place (if needed) to prevent illegal vehicle use. They help provide a safe space for children to play buffering hazards from road traffic.	Boundaries are more functional than aesthetic. They are in good condition and well maintained. Controls are in place (if applicable) to prevent illegal vehicle use. They help provide a safe space for children to play buffering hazards from road traffic.	Most of the boundary treatment is appropriate to the site and is in reasonable condition but may need further maintenance or enhancement. For example, there may be gaps in fence or hedgerow or maintenance require with regards to painting, trimming or new type of boundary/materials needed. OR The boundary treatment may need altering in some areas to provide additional entrances required to meet access requirements and/or improve safety from road hazards.	Boundary features are in poor state, not well maintained, not appropriate to the site and/or don't exist but should exist. Controls may be required to prevent illegal vehicle use.
2-b	Personal safety	Site with good natural surveillance of site OR if not an open site, at entrances. Adequate lighting provided along paths (if applicable). Vegetation cut back from paths. It is generally easy to see clearly through the site in most places.	Site with good natural surveillance of site OR if not an open site, at entrances. Adequate lighting provided along paths (if applicable). Vegetation cut back from paths. It is generally easy to see clearly through the site in most places. (Same score as 'Very Good')	Site with limited natural surveillance of site OR if not an open site, at entrances. Vegetation hangs over paths where it presents a security issue for major sections of the site.	Site with no natural surveillance of site OR if not an open site, at entrances. Vegetation hangs over paths where it presents a security issue most of the site.
2-b Notes: Natural surveillance will only be possible for more open sites or desirable for natural areas. This mainly applies to the entrances.					
2	Safe and Secure				
2-c	Condition of all present furniture/features (e.g. benches,sculptures, monumnets, etc.) This criterion assesses all facilities and park furniture and features taken as a collective whole.	Very Good (4) Overall, most furniture/features provided across the site are safe, clean and new-like condition.	Good (3) Most furniture/features provided across the site are safe, clean and new-like condition. Some equipment, etc. are tired (not new) requiring minimal (aesthetic) maintenance but all equipment, etc. is safe to use.	Average (2) Most furniture/features provided across the site are in a fair, safe and clean condition. Although equipment may be tired and worn, it is generally safe. There may be some issues that if not dealt with soon could present safety issues.	Poor (1) Most furniture/features provided across the site are generally in poor condition and need of repair. OR there are important safety issues that need urgently addressing.
3	Cleanliness and Maintenance				
3-a	Dog fouling	None to minimal dog fouling observed throughout site. Main paths, entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Some dog fouling observed throughout site. Main paths, entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Dog fouling is noticeably present, but mainly found side of paths and/or peripheral areas such as wooded or corner areas. Entrances and pitch and play areas generally clear of dog poo.	Dog fouling noticeably present, especially within entrances, main paths, play areas, and pitches.
3-b	Litter	None to nominal rubbish throughout site across the whole of the site.	Some rubbish throughout the site but doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects) BUT well-used areas such as main paths and pitch and play areas clear of rubbish.	The amount of rubbish is noticeably present throughout the site, especially in well-used areas. But doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects).	Substantial amount of litter throughout the site OR any fly-tipping present OR any litter that poses a health and safety risk.
3-b Notes: More rubbish may result from windier conditions. Please take this into account as adjust scores accordingly as this should bias scores.					
3-c	Graffiti	No graffiti present.	No graffiti present (score as 'very good = 4).	Graffiti present but not located in highly visible areas.	Graffiti present on play area, entrances and other highly visible areas.
3-d	Bins (if applicable)	Appropriate number of bins provided and they are not overflowing.	Appears to be an appropriate number of bins provided as they are not overflowing. New locations may help improve use.	Some bins overflowing.	More bins need to be provided as they are all overflowing.
4	Overall use, image and setting				
4-a	Place shaping	The site contributes positively to the image of the surrounding area. It creates a pleasant visual experience based upon first impressions. It may have distinct individual features or areas.	The site contributes positively to the image of the surrounding area. It creates a pleasant visual experience based upon first impressions. It may have distinct individual features or areas. Same score as 'Very Good'	Neither adds or detracts from the neighbourhood/ surrounding area. The site is more or less non-descript without any clearly distinctive qualities. 'It could be anywhere in the district.'	Site visually detracts from the neighbourhood/surrounding area. It creates a negative image and adds to the negative image of the area.
4-a Notes: This may take into account the topography of the site, views in and out of the site, and/or special features (e.g. heritage, art, natural, formally landscaped, boundary or gate features. This criteria is more subjective than objective. For areas outside the urban boundary, consideration includes quality of landscape, key natural or cultural features, habitat richness, etc.					
4-b	Ability to support social interaction (this may need assessing through alternative sources; see notes below)	Overall, the site feels welcoming and pleasant to sit or socialise (informal recreation). The site provides a variety of opportunities for social activities and interaction. The range/variety of opportunities should be in proportion to the site's size and location.	Overall, the site feels welcoming and pleasant to sit or socialise (informal recreation). Contains only limited sitting area/focal point or opportunities for limited oportunities (e.g. planned activities). Planned areas are appropriately located and feel safe.	Overall, the site is functional in its present form: e.g. the site may have benches in appropriate locations but they are more functionally located rather than set within a cohesive or planned setting. No planned activities for the site can be identified. OR the site may have potential to support social interaction due to its layout or location.	Non-descript area without a cohesive or welcoming feel. There is no incentive to stop and socialise. Benches not normally present but if they are, they are out of the way locations more susceptible to vandalism. No planned activities for the site can be identified. OR the layout of the site doesn't support the potential for social interaction due to its location or
4-b Notes: This will be reflective of the facilities and spaces provided but may also be based on local knowledge of activities held on the site. Social interaction includes, but is not limited to: e.g. Friends Group events, general socialising, educational activities, etc. For sites outside the urban boundary, spaces supporting social interaction may be limited. Additional information should be sought to assess this criteria e.g. (led walks or nature programmes, etc) through the internet or signage present at site.					



Incidental Open Space (small amenity space less than 0.4 ha) - Quality Assessment Criteria			
	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)
1 Welcoming & Accessible Place			
1-a Access to the site	Easy and safe access to the site from the surrounding area. Access points which are clear of obstructions. Dropped kerbs are near the entrances or within a short distance (approx 400m).	Generally safe access to the site from the surrounding area, although it may be difficult to access areas due to minor issues or obstructions.	Overall, the site is unsafe OR difficult for local residents or other users to access the site e.g. road layout, steep slopes, management issues or other access obstructions upon entering the site.
1-a Notes: Access considers entrances/access points and pedestrian paths surrounding the site or to the site. Please also see access notes below. The location of these small amenity areas should generally be appropriately located in safe areas away from main roads and/or designed in ways that make it easy and safe to access.			
1-b Movement through and/or around the site	Access throughout the site is safe, well managed and clear of obstructions (e.g. parked cars, holes, etc.) and generally easy to navigate for people with different abilities. If paths present, these are well maintained and appropriately located (i.e. lack of desire lines and generally good surfacing).	Access through the site is safe and generally clear of obstructions but may have some minor to medium access issues deterring users from certain areas (this doesn't affect overall use of the site). Desire lines may be present where a path is needed. If present, paths are in need of repair.	There are major obstructions present such as parked cars (or evidence of), large holes, unmanaged areas, etc. These affect the overall use of the site.
1-a & 1-b Notes: Access should address people with a range of access needs including, for example: pushchair users, those with assisted walking aids and wheelchair users, mobility scooters, those with sensory impairments and mental health needs. Consider surfacing, terrain, slopes, dropped kerbs			
2 Safe and Secure			
2-a Boundaries	Boundary treatment (fences, hedges, landscaping, etc.) is safe and appropriate to the site. They are in good condition and well maintained. Measures are in place to deter vehicles driving over the site, where needed.	Boundary treatment is safe and appropriate to the site and is in a reasonable condition but may need further maintenance or enhancement (i.e. gaps present, overgrown shrubs, painting needed, etc.). Measures are generally in place to deter vehicles driving over the site, where needed.	Boundary features are in a poor state, not well maintained or not appropriate to the site OR they don't exist but should exist where there is clear evidence of need where it presents a safety issue (e.g. parked cars, children playing).
2-a Notes: When considering if a boundary treatment is appropriate to the site, please take into account the following: 1) is it the right height and design for the size of the site; 2) does it help ensure that children can't run directly into the road; AND 3) does it provide visitors with a sense of security when on the site from nearby road traffic? If no fence, hedge, etc. exists for the site, consider if this is necessary and would benefit the site.			
2-b Personal safety	Site with good natural surveillance. No other security issues present.	Site with limited natural surveillance (e.g. only for part of site). Site may present some minimal security issues.	No natural surveillance. Does not feel safe for the lone adult visitor or children playing.
Street furniture or equipment (benches, bins, etc.) if applicable	If present, street furniture and other equipment is generally safe and clean and in a good condition.	If present, street furniture or other equipment is functional and safe but it is a bit tired in places.	If present, street furniture or other equipment is in a very poor condition OR unsafe and poses serious safety issues
3 Cleanliness and Maintenance			
3-a Dog fouling	Very little dog fouling observed throughout site. If found, mainly limited to peripheral areas e.g. side of path, site corners.	Dog fouling present in some areas on paths, etc.	Dog fouling noticeably present throughout the site OR is present around entrances which presents a noticeable deterrent from accessing the site.
3-b Litter	None to some rubbish throughout the site but doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects).	The amount of rubbish is noticeably present, especially in well-used areas. But doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects).	Substantial amount of litter OR and litter that poses a risk to health and safety OR any fly-tipping present.
3-c Graffiti	No graffiti present.	Graffiti present but not is highly visible areas.	Graffiti present and highly visible.
3-d Grass	Good grass cover and colour (in accordance with recent weather conditions). Grass is generally well maintained and generally consistently cut throughout the site.	Generally good grass cover with some patchy areas and/or grass inconsistently cut.	Grass cover is poor due to wear and tear and/or poor maintenance throughout the site or major patches within the site.
3-d Notes: Scores should take the following into account so that they are not biased by the following: Grass should generally be cut to a length appropriate to an area's use. For example, short grass is required for general use areas. Longer grass is acceptable around trees, orchards and wildflower meadow areas, corners, etc. Reasonable wear and tear is expected. Be mindful of recent weather conditions as this shouldn't influence scores. Grass that hasn't been cut recently does not pose a general problem as this is easily addressed and probably not indicative of major problems. It is important to pay attention to how and where the grass has been cut or if it appears weedy through neglect.			
4 Overall use, image and setting			
4-a Place shaping	The site contributes positively to the image of the surrounding area. It creates a pleasant visual experience based upon first impressions. It may have distinct individual features or areas.	The site neither adds or detracts from the surrounding area. OR it has some positive features or design which has potential to help with place shaping if it were maintained to a better standard.	The site visually detracts from the surrounding area. The general location is good but improvements are needed in relation to the whole of the site.
4-a Notes: This may take into account the topography of the site, views in and out of the site, and/or special features (e.g. heritage, art, natural, formally landscaped, boundary or gate features).			
4-b Ability to support social interaction	Overall, the site feels welcoming and pleasant to sit or socialise (informal recreation). Contains benches and/or a focal point e.g. landscaping. The layout and features are inclusive for all users.	Overall, the site is functional in its present form: e.g. the site may have benches in appropriate locations but they are more functionally located rather than set within a cohesive or planned setting. OR the site may have potential to support social interaction due to its layout, location or other features present. The layout and	Non-descript area without a cohesive or welcoming feel. There is no incentive to stop and socialise. Benches not normally present but if they are, they are out of the way locations more susceptible to vandalism. OR the layout of the site doesn't support the potential for social interaction. The layout and features presents major
4-c Ability to support informal play	Although there is no formal play equipment present, the site supports a safe informal play space as it has all of the following qualities: good fencing to keep out dogs AND natural play features or sensory landscaping AND sitting area.	Site includes informal play space/sensory landscaping BUT lacks fencing to keep out dogs and provide a safe space for play. OR doesn't currently have an informal play space but has the potential to do so as it does contain a safe fenced area and it is in an appropriate and safe location.	Discourages play e.g. 'No Ball Games' signs present OR it is an unsafe or inappropriate location such as near a busy road. OR there aren't any features present that could support informal play.
4-c Notes: Informal play spaces include, for example: hard and soft landscaping, sand pit, sensory garden, slopes/hills, interactive sculptures, low-key field games. Deciding if the space has potential to support play will also depend on the size, as such that additional provision (even if informal) won't necessarily compromise or dominate the existing uses.			
4-d Space contributes positively to biodiversity	The site includes a combination of features (or significant single feature) for supporting wildlife. These may be formal landscaped areas, hedges, groups of trees, bird boxes, wildflower areas, pond, fruit trees, etc.	Site is generally open with an occasional tree or feature for supporting wildlife (e.g. bird boxes or feeders, planted area, etc.).	The area is an open mown grassed area and devoid of wildlife-friendly features or habitats.
4-d Notes: The scoring of this criterion needs to be in proportion to the site's size and shape. For example, if a single landscaping feature makes up a reasonable proportion of the site, it should be scored 'Good'.			

Play Areas - Quality Assessment Criteria

Assessments of play areas refer generally to the equipped area and its immediate surroundings (e.g. landscaping, grassed areas). If it is felt that this area is different, please note this on the assessment form. Access to the site (e.g. access paths, park entrances, surrounding roads) need to take into account a wider area. The times the surveys are carried out should be prioritised after school, lunchtime, weekends or in the school holidays.

	Good (3)	Average (2)	Poor (1)
1 Location			
1-a Informal oversight by passers-by or nearby properties such as houses or community centres.	Site has a good level of informal oversight by adults, for example views are unobstructed, site is in an area with people frequently passing by or through it or in view of local housing or community buildings.	Site has some informal oversight by adults but passers-by are few, or only at certain times.	Site has obstructed lines of sight, few passers-by at any time.
1-b Well used by children	Site is well used by children. For example: there is evidence of wear and tear such as well-worn grass and/or evidence through observations of children using the space or speaking with people using the park at the time. AND there is no evidence of this play area and its equipment being used inappropriately by older age groups.	Upon observation, the site has a reasonable level of use by those children at whom it is aimed. AND there is no evidence of this play area and its equipment being used inappropriately by older age groups.	Site is used by few or no children at whom it is aimed (e.g. there is no evidence of wear and tear such as well-worn grass). OR there is evidence of this play area and its equipment being used inappropriately by older age groups.
1-b Notes: For new play areas or other play areas in which it is difficult to determine level of use, please note this as ('Cannot Determine'). It will be important to tell the difference between well-used and neglected or vandalised play equipment. Equipment should be use as it is intended to be used for its intended audience. Where there is evidence of damage by older children may indicate a further need for older provision (if this is currently absent).			
1-c Getting there	If not in a purely residential area, the site has good access by bus (within 400m) or cycle route. There are accessible pathways to the site (that contains the play area). It feels safe to cross the street, in that residential roads are traffic calmed and for busier roads, there are safe road crossing opposite or nearly opposite all site entrances.	Generally, the site has limited access by bus or cycle route (mostly applies to play areas outside residential areas). There are accessible pathways to the site (that contains the play area). Pedestrian access is only located access from (opposite the road) the site with no clear pedestrian crossings or safe access is questionable. OR where roads are busier, pedestrian routes may be on both sides of the road and pedestrian crossings are observed further away from any entrances.	Generally, if not in a purely residential area, the site has no access by bus or cycle route. Routes to the site appear unsafe for children. For example, site is adjacent to a busy road without direct pedestrian crossings OR the routes within the area appear confusing and awkward to navigate for most surrounding residents.
1-c Notes: This criteria takes into consideration access to the wider site that the play area sits within. Safe crossings should cater for older children so that they can get to the site easily, safely and independently without facing significant crossing hazards or do they need to take an awkward route to arrive at the play area from the surrounding area.			
1-d Personal safety	The entryway(s) to the site feel safe with overall good visibility in/out of the site. All of the site is located away from busy roads or if part of the site is positioned within a close distance to a road, fences, landscaping, and/or layout is such to create a safe, quiet play space.	The entryway to the site feels safe at all times with overall good visibility in/out of the site. If located next to a road, a fence or other boundary treatment is mostly in place to provide a safe play space but it may be in need some minor improvements (e.g. better suited design or type, gaps need filling, layout altering, etc.).	Overall, the layout and access routes feel unsafe (e.g. limited visibility). The site is located near a road but doesn't have safe and secure boundaries in place OR there is a boundary in place which requires major safety improvements.
1-e Getting there and around for those with impairments or with buggies and pushchairs	Overall, the space is accessible for children and their carers with disability / sensory impairments or other requirements. Site is also accessible to buggies and pushchairs. Please see below. If parking available, it is also accessible and nearby to play space. If there are limitations, these are minor and could be easily addressed through low cost improvements/alternatives OR there are already reasonable alternative provisions	Accessibility is limited (in any of the areas below) for children and their carers with disability / sensory impairments or other requirements. Site access is also limited for buggies and pushchairs. Where there are limitations, adjustment may require more involved improvements/alternatives OR where there are alternative provisions, these are awkward to navigate.	Access to and/or around the site is a major issue for children and their carers with disability / sensory impairments or other requirements. There are no alternatives provided.
1-e Notes: for this please consider, e.g. path/approach to the site, gates, navigation around the site, path surface, play surface, path width, gradients, terrain, steps, dropped kerb or other obstacles. Changes to surfacing easily identified (e.g. signage or colouring). Access pathways should be at least 1.2 metres wide.			
1-f Meeting other children	Site located where there is a very high likelihood of other children passing by and joining in play e.g. on the way to and from school or local shops.	Site located where there may some opportunity for other children to pass by e.g. a quieter road.	Site located where no other children likely to pass by e.g. away from homes, hidden away.
1-g A welcoming place (designed for the site)	The play space and its surroundings is an attractive place in its own right, with a distinctive and welcoming character, and located with regard to its setting. It exceeds expectations. The design is inclusive of different ages and abilities.	The play area appears more functional than distinctive and welcoming. It neither adds nor detracts from the surrounding area, although it may have potential through improvements.	The play space falls below expectations in that it does not look attractive. It visually detracts from the surrounding area.
1-g Notes: This is about place shaping and takes into account creating spaces that are unique and welcoming. E.g. Is the space colourful? does it have signage aimed at children and families welcoming them to the area? Does it have key features such as sculptures, ornate gates, etc.? Is the area landscaped in a way that creates a sense of identity?			
2 Play Value			
2-a Enticing to children to play	Overall, the layout of the play provision is inspiring and stimulating. Children and adults feel relaxed (if observed) and at ease. Site open at times when children may wish to play. There may have visible signs welcoming children to play using signage and other playful messages. All the play equipment is useable and appropriate to the site	The layout is functional or non-descript. It lacks overall imagination as a play space which limits what children can do either through design or areas within the play space that don't integrate into the overall design of the play area. Most play equipment is useable and appropriate for the site.	Play provision is unappealing, tired and unattractive. Site may be locked when children wish to play (e.g. after school). Children may be restricted from playing. Site may have or lack functional or appropriate play equipment.



2-a Notes: This is different to 1-g in that the focus is on <u>play value</u> not place setting. Consider signage, design of entrance, etc.			
2-b	Play areas for disabled children	Play features are designed for a range of abilities and impairments, including sensory and physical impairments and behaviours. Disabled and non-disabled children are able to play together.	Limited play offer to children with physical or sensory impairments. Disabled children and non-disabled children are unlikely to be able to play together.
2-b Notes: This criteria includes equipment and play area environment. Does the area have ramps and equipment (e.g. roundabouts, cradle swings, equipment to lie on, mirrors, chimes, wood orbs, etc.) aimed at children with different mobility needs? Are these at appropriate heights? The aim should be to engage multiple senses, including landscaped areas for informal play.			
2-c	Meets play needs of different ages	Play features meet the play needs of all age groups including teenagers (within the same or adjacent play space).	Play features suitable for two different age groups; for example, young children and those of junior school age.
2-c Notes: the general age groups include: 6 years and under, up to 8 years, up to 12 years and teenager provision.			
2-d	Movement	Children can run, roll, run, tumble, wheeled activity, rock, swing, balance, climb or move around freely using their whole bodies or on wheels.	Site offers some features that enable running, tumbling, wheeled activity, rolling, rocking, swinging, balance, climbing or moving around.
2-e	Ball games	Sufficient space for team ball games, football etc.; ball games area marked out and equipped for a range of ball games, for more than one group of children at one time, not too close to other play equipment or features.	Ball games area but no markings, limited equipment, or too small a space for more than one group of children to play ball games.
2-f	Opportunities to change the environment/space	The site encourages children to alter the play space in different ways to enhance their play e.g. den building, obstacle courses, bridges over streams and creating shade using the natural environment.	The site offers some opportunities to change the environment e.g. through some natural features that might encourage to change the way they use the space.
2	Play Value		
		Good (3)	Average (2)
2-g	Access to natural environment	There is opportunity to use the natural environment in play of which is integral to the play area. The site provides a wide range of natural features such as trees, bushes, plants, shrubs, wild flowers and long grass, sand, water, rocks, and a variety of levels; and a range of visual and sensory stimuli.	Landscaping and planting offers limited provision for encounters with the natural environment (e.g. slopes, clusters of trees). This may or may not be entirely integrated into the play area itself
2-h	Places for children to sit (including picnic tables and shelters)	Children can sit and play and talk together, places for children to sit are incorporated into the play space, and near to tables or other seated play surfaces. This is inclusive for all abilities.	Limited places for children to sit, not suitable for playing or talking together. Limited seating or seating is not well sited for observing play AND/OR limited for all abilities.
2-i	Added play value: the site offers more than just a basic experience of sensation. It offers possibilities for children to take risks without hazards or broaden their experience.	Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are advanced in nature and add significantly to play value e.g. loose parts, places to hide/for reverie, good integration and use of natural environment, a range of textures, planting, use of contours, challenge, opportunities to take risks, areas where cooperation is needed, and attention paid to all the senses.	Features (including equipment, natural features and landscaping) are more than basic and add to play value, but does not do so significantly. Less than 3 of the senses can be experienced.
2-i Notes: Can at least 3 of the senses be engaged from seating and standing positions?			
3	Care and Maintenance		
3-a	Well maintained	No evidence of litter or hazardous items, well drained where appropriate, planting is regularly maintained with play value in mind, no unacceptable graffiti. Most equipment and features are in excellent to new-like condition.	Play equipment may be tired in areas but is generally safe and functional. There may be some maintenance issues (e.g. landscaped areas, painting, surfaces, etc.) If graffiti present, this is in obscure places and/or it's content not obscene.
3-b	Health and safety	Leave BLANK. This should be based on annual assessment results. But please note any hazards observed.	
3-c	Seating for adults (including picnic tables)	Adults can sit and observe children playing. This is inclusive for all abilities.	Limited seating or seating is not well sited for observing play AND/OR limited for all abilities.
3-d	Litter	None to nominal rubbish throughout site and bins are not overflowing.	Some rubbish throughout the site but doesn't pose a health and safety risk (e.g. no sharp objects). Some bins may be overflowing. No fly tipping observed.
3-e	Dog free zone	Fence and gates in place to exclude dogs. Management of dog fouling in place through bins, clarification of dog free areas, signs discouraging owners from bringing dogs to the site, no evidence of fouling.	Measures taken to exclude dogs but evidence that dogs are entering site.

Appendix C Design guide

Design and early engagement

C.1 This section provides an informal design checklist to help meet Part C of the *Mansfield Green Space Standard*.

C.2 Key design principles are based on the quality survey categories (Appendix B) and the need for public open space to be sustainable in relation to supporting healthy, cohesive communities and to reduce management cost and the need for replacements.

C.3 Open space should be, wherever feasible, located centrally within the development and/or along green corridors and commuting routes, such that majority of residents benefit from its nearby proximity and opportunities for safe access to open space are maximised. Ideally, these spaces should be integrated with walking and cycling pathways forming local green infrastructure linkages with other green and civic spaces. The design and location of open space should enhance and help to shape the identity of new estates and, where possible, existing areas. This could include integrating and enhancing a nearby local heritage asset or natural area within the design of the open space, whilst at the same time being sensitive any impacts.

C.4 Open space should be designed and located in areas such they are safe to access, incorporate natural surveillance, are accessible for all, and are enjoyable places to relax and play. This includes design considerations that address any enhancements for providing safe access points and road crossings, traffic calmed road layouts, and appropriate boundary treatments.

C.5 Within larger developments, smaller play or amenity spaces may be needed in addition to a centrally located community open space in order to ensure that access requirements are met. The design and location of new on-site provision should be considered early on in the planning process alongside other green infrastructure and environmental enhancements, such that these can be integrated appropriately within site layouts and design and access plans.

C.6 Land within the development site forming highway verges, visibility splays, landscaped strips adjacent to roads, awkwardly shaped left over areas of land, private gardens and open space in other private ownership will not contribute to the provision of on-site public open space.

C.7 Early engagement with the council's planning and parks teams is key to ensuring district and local needs are met and sustained into the future. An open space delivery plan is recommended to help demonstrate that open space is appropriately planned for.



Table C.1 Design checklist

Key design criteria	
The size and amount of provision	Is the open space(s) of sufficient size based on the type, its overall recreational use, overall function, and locally identified need? This needs to account for any other specific needs, for example: biodiversity, natural areas, flood mitigation.
	Is the open space(s) of an appropriate size such that it can function safely?
	Is there the right type and amount to meet the needs of the local area?
Location, topography and ground conditions	Has the open space standard been applied?
	Are the open space(s) integral to the overall layout and design of the proposed development? Has this been considered early on in the design process?
	Are open spaces located in appropriate areas, having regard to soils, drainage, topography and type of open space? Is this adequately demonstrated?
Safe and accessible	Does the location and design of the open space incorporate natural surveillance design principles? Is it also enjoyable to relax and play?
	Is access to the open space(s) safe and user-friendly for those with accessibility needs? This includes access points, nearby road crossings, and road and path layout considerations.
	Where feasible, have access points or routes to the open space(s) for nearby existing residents been considered and integrated into the design and layout of the new development?
	Where applicable, is lighting appropriate to the open space and does it minimise impacts on wildlife (e.g. bats) and safety?
	Are the boundary features of the open spaces designed to facilitate safe play, discourage/control unauthorised vehicle access and minimise other anti-social behavior?
Ability to shape neighbourhoods	Does the location and design of the proposed open space(s) help to enhance and shape the identity of the proposed development and, where possible, the surrounding area?
Long term management and maintenance	Are the open space(s) and their features designed such that future management, anti-social behaviour (e.g. anti-graffiti), maintenance and replacement costs are minimised? This includes boundary features, paths, street furniture, hard and soft landscaping, signage, maintenance access needs, etc.
Welcoming and accessible for all	Is the open space(s), its features and facilities designed to be inclusive for all users of varied accessibility needs? For example, paths to and around, benches, play areas, signage, slopes, etc.
	Is the space a stimulating and well design area such that it is easy to navigate and find your way around? Are way markings, layout and features dementia friendly?
Incorporating and linking with green infrastructure	Are open spaces linked to other open spaces, adjacent countryside and/or amenity and civic spaces through appropriate walking and/or cycling provision, forming local green infrastructure?
	Have considerations given to the location and design of open space(s) such that they consider multiple recreational and environmental benefits?
Responding to climate change and managing flooding	Does the design of open space(s) take into consideration urban shading through appropriate landscaping? This should, where appropriate, prioritise and incorporate tree or woodland planting.
	Where fluvial, ground, surface water flooding and/or water quality issues have been identified for the development area, does the design of open space(s) help to minimise impacts?

Key design criteria	
Enhancing biodiversity and landscaping	Where there are nearby sensitive sites, habitats and/or landscape features, does the location and the design of new open space incorporate appropriate management (e.g. landscape buffering, site interpretation, signage and access barriers) to deter access to sensitive areas?
	Does the design of the open space create a positive balance between enhancing biodiversity (i.e. net gains) and its enjoyment?
	Does the design of the open space enhance the landscape character and/or townscape of the surrounding area?
	Does planned landscaping include, where feasible, native species and place trees and planting areas in sustainable locations?
Facilitating play	Where applicable, are play areas designed to cater for a range of ages, abilities and special needs?
	Are play areas designed in accordance with relevant RoSPA standards?
	Are natural play features included as part of the overall design of the play area(s)? This may be addressed within a wider open space design plan.
	Does the provision facilitate a range of movement and sensory activities?



Appendix D Priorities by ward

Ward name	Improve access to green space	Reduce barriers to accessing nearby green space	Barrier Notes	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to nature	Improve access to district park	Accessing play provision	Prioritise quality improvements to play provision	Quality improvements to open space	Quality notes	Access notes
				Yes* = residents; additionally, lack access to a district park within a 15-min walk	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* = 50% or greater without access within 10-min walk (see Table 4.10 for detailed comments)	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* = 50% or greater without access within 10-min walk	* Indicates where 50% or greater without access within 5-min walk (childrens) and 15-min walk (teenager)		Comments are provided where improvements to 'overall quality' is concerned (see Tables 4.13 and 4.20 for more detailed comments)		
Abbott	Create new green space	Yes - Medium	Abbott Rd (A6075) & Chesterfield Rd - limit access to district park and play provision	Yes* - access limited to small amenity spaces (less than 0.4 ha) Yes - access limited to natural green space (southern and western sections)	Yes - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements	Yes*	Children* and Teenager* 100% residents without access to play provision.	Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise quality improvements to Bull Farm district park and small amenity spaces- place shaping qualities.	
Berry Hill	Create new green space	Minor issues	Although busy during rush hour, Litchfield Lane (B-road) is not considered a major barrier overall.				Children* and Teenager - southern half of ward lacks access to play provision.		Moderate to locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise quality improvements to natural green space(s).	Planned new development at south of ward (Lindhurst development) may help fill gaps in provision within southern area of ward.
Brick Kiln		Yes - Medium	Busy B-Road (Brick Kiln Lane limits access to play)	Yes* - access limited to amenity green space		Yes*	Children* and Teenager	Over half of ward residents have no access to childrens play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to average quality with minimal access to good quality. Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to local parks and natural green space.	
Broomhill	Create new green space	Minor issues	Westfield Lane is traffic calmed	Yes	Yes* - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements		Children* and Teenager*	Over half of ward residents have no access to play provision. Those who do have access only have limited access to good quality childrens play provision.	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise quality improvements to Chersterfield Road district park and small amenity spaces- place shaping qualities.	80% residents or greater without access to childrens play provision within 5-minute walk
Bull Farm and Pleasley Hill		Yes - Major	Busy A-Road (A617/Chesterfield Road North)	Yes* - access limited to amenity green space (Pleasley Hill only) Yes - access limited to natural green space (Ravensdale area)	Yes - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements	Yes*	Children* and Teenager	Within Pleasley Hill, less than half of households have access to average quality childrens provision. Within Bull Farm just under half of households have access to average quality provision. Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise quality improvements to Bull Farm district park - place shaping qualities. Prioritise improvements to local parks and natural green space(s).	
Carr Bank		Yes - Major	Woodhouse Rd major barrier and Sherwood Hall Rd, Bath Lane / Ravensdale barriers Southwell Rd West is A-road but adequate access to green space on either side.		Access and GI improvements		Children* only - eastern half of ward	Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.	Moderate to significant quality improvements to open space are required. (eastern half of ward)	Prioritise quality improvements to natural green space(s).	
Eakring		Minor issues									

Ward name	Improve access to green space	Reduce barriers to accessing nearby green space	Barrier Notes	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to nature	Improve access to district park	Accessing play provision	Prioritise quality improvements to play provision	Quality improvements to open space	Quality notes	Access notes
				Yes* - residents, additionally, lack access to a district park within a 15-min walk	Yes - 25% to 49% without access; Yes* -50% or greater without access within 10-min walk (see Table 4.10 for detailed comments)	Yes - 25% to 49% without access; Yes* -50% or greater without access within 10-min walk	* indicates where 50% or greater without access within 5-min walk (childrens) and 15-min walk (teenager)	Comments are provided where improvements to 'overall quality' is concerned (see Tables 4.13 and 4.20 for more detailed comments)			
Grange Farm		Yes - Medium	A-roads, road layout and B-roads limit access to formal green space (A38 connecting Mansfield with Sutton Rd, Sheepbridge Lane and Hermitage Lane)	Yes* - access limited to natural green space	Access and GI improvements	Yes*	Children and Teenager	Generally access to good quality with some access to average. Prioritise improvements to childrens and teenager provision.	Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.		
Holly		Yes - Medium	A and B-roads and road layout limit access to district park and play provision (Clipstone Rd West through Forest Town and New Mill Lane. No through travel on south and east areas.)		Access and GI improvements	Yes	Childrens only - over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision.				80% residents or greater without access to childrens play provision within 5-minute walk
Hornby		Yes - Medium	A-roads limit access to district park (Leeming Lane North and Peafield Lane)			Yes* (by improving access barrier)	Teenager* only				
Kings Walk		Minor issues									
Kingsway		Yes - Major	50% residents in ward affected by A-roads and road layout (Pump Hollow Rd and Clipstone Rd West.		Yes* - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements		Children only		Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.		
Ladybrook		Minor issues		Yes* - access limited to small amenity spaces (less than 0.4 ha)		Yes*	Children* and Teenager - over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision.	Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise quality improvements to Chersterfield Road and Bull Farm district parks and small amenity spaces - place shaping qualities.	80% residents or greater without access to childrens play provision within 5-minute walk
Lindhurst		Yes - Medium	A-road limits access to district park and b-road to overall access (Southwell Road West-A6191 major and Lindhurst Lane.			Yes	Teenager only	Access is to play provision is both good (around King George V) and average (local park adjacent to Ryedale Avenue / Briar Lane).	Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.		
Ling Forest	Create new green space	Yes - Major	A-road limits access (Violet Hill /Oak Tree Lane -A6117 and Earkring Rd)	Yes	Yes - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements		Children* and Teenager	Generally access to average quality with limited access to good, but access via busy road (Oak tree Lane).	Moderate to significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise quality improvements to natural green space(s).	80% residents or greater without access to childrens play provision within 5-minute walk
Manor		Minor issues		Yes - primarily amenity space (west and south parts of ward)	Yes - improve existing.		Children and Teenager*				75% residents or greater without access to teenager provision within 15-minute walk



Ward name	Improve access to green space	Reduce barriers to accessing nearby green space	Barrier Notes	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to nature	Improve access to district park	Accessing play provision	Prioritise quality improvements to play provision	Quality improvements to open space	Quality notes	Access notes
				Yes* = residents, additionally, lack access to a district park within a 15-min walk	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* = 50% or greater without access within 10-min walk (see Table 4.10 for detailed comments)	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* = 50% or greater without access within 10-min walk	* Indicates where 50% or greater without access within 5-min walk (childrens) and 15-min walk (teenager)		Comments are provided where improvements to 'overall quality' is concerned (see Tables 4.13 and 4.20 for more detailed comments)		
Market Warsop	Create new green space	Yes- Major (Spion Kop) and other minor issues (Market Warsop)	A-road (A60 at Spion Kop). Church Street & Sherwood Street at Market Warsop	Yes* (Spion Kop & southwestern Market Warsop)	Yes* - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements	Yes (Spion Kop and south eastern Market Warsop)	Children* and Teenager	Majority of residents don't have access to play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to average quality childrens play provision (Appleton Street Play Area).	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to local parks and natural green space(s).	80% residents or greater without access to childrens play provision within 5-minute walk
Maun Valley		Yes - Medium	Busy A-road and B-roads and general layout limit access to natural green space (Clipstone Rd West, New Mill Lane, Old Mill Lane)	Yes* - access limited to natural green space	Access and GI improvements	Yes*	Children* only - majority of residents don't have access to play provision. Access barriers to Queensway Park (Clipstone Road West).	Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.			
Meden	Create new green space	Minor issues	River, A-roads and b-roads don't affect overall access (A60/Church Rd and Neitherfield Ln; Sherwood Street and River Meden)	Yes* - access limited to amenity green space (Spion Kop and south eastern Market Warsop)	Yes - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements	Yes*	Children* and Teenager* - over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision.	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to children's play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to average quality with limited access to good.	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to local parks.	75% residents or greater without access to teenager provision within 15-minute walk
Netherfield		Yes - Medium	A-road restricts Market Warsop residents access to The Carrs district park (A60/Church Rd and Neitherfield Ln)	Yes* - access limited to amenity green space		Yes*	Children* and Teenager*				100% residents without access to teenager provision within 15-minute walk
Newgate		Minor issues	A-roads and B-roads don't affect overall access (Newgate Lane/Skerry Hill; Rock Hill - A6191)		Yes - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements		Children only				
Newlands	Create new green space	Yes -Medium	B-roads limit access to district park (Clipstone Rd East and road layout at Lime Grove and Poplar Grove)	Yes* - access limited to natural green space	Yes - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements	Yes*	Childrens* and Teenager*	Over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to childrens play provision. Those who do have access, generally have access to mostly average quality (Newlands Estate area) and limited access to good quality provision (near to Queensway Park).	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to local parks and natural green space(s).	75% residents or greater without access to teenager provision within 15-minute walk
Oak Tree		Minor issues	A-roads and B-roads don't affect overall access (Oak Tree Lane is busy but this doesn't effect 5-min walk access)	Yes* - access limited to amenity green space and natural green space	Yes - improve existing. Access and GI improvements	Yes*	Childrens* and Teenager*				75% residents or greater without access to teenager provision within 15-minute walk

Ward name	Improve access to green space	Reduce barriers to accessing nearby green space	Barrier Notes	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to nature	Improve access to district park	Accessing play provision	Prioritise quality improvements to play provision	Quality improvements to open space	Quality notes	Access notes
				Yes* = residents, additionally, lack access to a district park within a 15-min walk	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* =50% or greater without access within 10-min walk (see Table 4.10 for detailed comments)	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* =50% or greater without access within 10-min walk	* Indicates where 50% or greater without access within 5-min walk (childrens) and 15-min walk (teenager)		Comments are provided where improvements to 'overall quality' is concerned (see Tables 4.13 and 4.20 for more detailed comments)		
Oakham	Create new green space	Yes - Major	Railway line and A-roads (Railway line; A60; Sheepbridge Lane/Atkin Lane; Quarry Lane)	Yes* - access limited to natural green space	Access and GI improvements	Yes*	Children* and Teenager - majority of residents don't have access to play provision. Access further restricted by lack of access points and busy road (Nottingham Road - A60).		Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to natural green space(s).	80% residents or greater without access to childrens play provision within 5-minute walk
Park Hall	Create new green space	Minor issues	B-road doesn't affect overall access (Welbeck Rd in Mansfield Woodhouse)	Yes - access limited to small amenity spaces (less than 0.4 ha within northern section)	Yes - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements		Children* and Teenager - majority of residents don't have access to play provision.	Majority of residents don't have access to childrens play provision. Those who have access, generally have access to childrens play provision mostly average with limited access to good quality. Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.	Moderate to significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise quality improvements to Bull Farm district park and small amenity spaces- place shaping qualities.	80% residents or greater without access to childrens play provision within 5-minute walk
Peafields		Yes - Major	A-roads limit access (New Mill Lane; Warsop Rd/Leeming Ln North)		Access and GI improvements.		Children and Teenager				
Penniment		Minor issues	A-road and local roads don't affect overall access (Abbott Rd and Rosebrook School)	Yes* - access limited to small amenity spaces (less than 0.4 ha)	Yes - improve existing and create new. Access and GI improvements.	Yes*	Children* and Teenager* - over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to childrens play provision.	Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to local parks and natural green space(s). Prioritise quality improvements to small amenity spaces- place shaping qualities.	
Portland	Create new green space	Yes - Major	Railway line, industrial development/road layout and A and B-roads (A60/A38 Stockwell Gate, industrial development and Quarry Lane)		Access and GI improvements.		Children* only		Moderate to significant quality improvements to open space are required.		
Racecourse		Yes - Medium	B-Road limits access (Skerry Hill limits access to northern half of ward to Racecourse Park by approx 50%)	Yes - access limited to natural green space (north of Skerry Hill have limited access to formal parks)	Access and GI improvements.	Yes* (northern half has limited access due to major access barrier)	Children only		Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to natural green space(s).	



Ward name	Improve access to green space	Reduce barriers to accessing nearby green space	Barrier Notes	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to nature	Improve access to district park	Accessing play provision	Prioritise quality improvements to play provision	Quality improvements to open space	Quality notes	Access notes
				Yes* = residents, additionally, lack access to a district park within a 15-min walk	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* = 50% or greater without access within 10-min walk (see Table 4.10 for detailed comments)	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* = 50% or greater without access within 10-min walk	* Indicates where 50% or greater without access within 5-min walk (childrens) and 15-min walk (teenager)		Comments are provided where improvements to 'overall quality' is concerned (see Tables 4.13 and 4.20 for more detailed comments)		
Ransom Wood		Yes - Medium	Busy A roads limit access to King George V district park (Adams Way - A617)	Yes* - access limited to small amenity spaces (less than 0.4 ha within Bellamy Estate) & Yes - access limited to natural green space (Rainworth)	Yes - improve existing. Access and GI improvements.	Yes*	Children and teenager*	Within Bellamy Estate, most households have access to average quality childrens provision. Within Rainworth Village a limited number of households have access to good quality provision but there are major gaps in access to play provision.	Significant quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to local parks and natural green space(s). Prioritise quality improvements to small amenity spaces-place shaping qualities.	
Sandhurst		Yes - Medium	Lack of access points to natural green space and to Spider park local park and Berry Hill district park				Children only		Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.		
Sherwood		Yes - Major	Increased limited access to any green space for those living north of Chesterfield Rd and Debdale Rd (increases those without access to approx 30%). Also, limited access to play space and access to distict park due to A-roads (Debdale Lane; Chesterfield Road). Also Queen E. School layout limits access to new green space.		Yes - improve existing. Access and GI improvements.	Yes	Children and teenager* - major access barriers (Chesterfield Road and Debdale Lane) and awkward road layouts further limit access to provision.		Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise quality improvements to Chersterfield Road and Bull Farm district parks - place shaping qualities. Prioritise improvements to local parks and natural green space(s).	
Warsop Carrs		Yes - Medium (Church Warsop)	For Chruch Warsop residents Bishop's Walk/Wood Lane) limits access formal park/play space and natural green space.	Yes* - access limited to natural green space (Church Warsop)	Access and GI improvements.	Yes (Western Church Warsop and Warsop Vale*)			Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.	Prioritise improvements to local parks and natural green space(s).	
Woodhouse		Minor issues	Priory Road (A6075) limiting safe access to Yeoman Hill Park.		Access and GI improvements.	Yes*	Children* only - over two-thirds of ward residents have no access to play provision.	Prioritise improvements to teenager provision.	Moderate to significant quality improvements to open space are required.		

Ward name	Improve access to green space	Reduce barriers to accessing nearby green space	Barrier Notes	Improve access to formal provision	Improve access to nature	Improve access to district park	Accessing play provision	Prioritise quality improvements to play provision	Quality improvements to open space	Quality notes	Access notes
				Yes* = residents, additionally, lack access to a district park within a 15-min walk	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* =50% or greater without access within 10-min walk (see Table 4.10 for detailed comments)	Yes = 25% to 49% without access; Yes* =50% or greater without access within 10-min walk	* Indicates where 50% or greater without access within 5-min walk (childrens) and 15-min walk (teenager)		Comments are provided where improvements to 'overall quality' is concerned (see Tables 4.13 and 4.20 for more detailed comments)		
Woodlands		Yes - Major	A-road limits access to overall green space and A-road limits access to Carr Bank district park (Chesterfield Rd and Rosemary St and A60 respectively)	Yes - access limited to small amenity spaces (less than 0.4 ha south of Westfield Lane bordering Ladybrook Ward)			Children* and Teenager*	Those who have access to children's play provision generally have access to average quality and some with with limited access to good quality.		Prioritise quality improvements to Chersterfield Road district park - place shaping qualities.	
Yeoman Hill		Yes - Medium	Combination of A and B roads and layout limit access to district park and play provision. Railway line and awkward road layout limit access to Yeoman Hill district park within Sherwood estate and Chesterfield Road & Bull Farm district parks, respectively)				Children only		Locally specific quality improvements to open space are required.		



Appendix E Saved 1998 Local Plan Policies - Open Space

E.1 The following are saved (2007) Mansfield District Council 1998 local plan policies related to open space in the district.

E.2 The Mansfield District Council Local Plan (2013-2033) will subsequently replace these when formally adopted.

Saved 1998 Local Plan policies - open space

LT1 - planning permission will not be granted for developments which would lead to the loss of major public open space areas and local parks, as defined on the proposals map, unless they would enhance the facility for recreational use.

LT2 - planning permission will not be granted for developments which would lead to the loss of public open spaces, as defined on the proposals map, unless they would meet one or more of the following criteria:-

- 1. be ancillary to the recreational use;**
- 2. clearly demonstrate that there is sufficient public open space in the immediate area to meet both the current and long term recreational needs of the local population;**
- 3. provide an acceptable replacement facility in the immediate locality.**

LT3 - planning permission will not be granted for developments which would lead to the loss of amenity open spaces, of less than 0.3 hectares in area, unless they would meet one or more of the following criteria:-

- 1. be ancillary to the existing recreational use;**
- 2. clearly demonstrate that there is sufficient public open space in the immediate area to both meet the current and long term needs of the local population;**
- 3. provide an acceptable replacement facility in the immediate locality.**

LT4 - planning permission will not be granted for developments which would lead to the loss of private/coal industry social and welfare organisation recreational facilities, as defined on the proposals map, unless they would meet one or more of the following criteria:-

- 1. be ancillary to the existing recreational use;**
- 2. assist in the retention and enhancement of the recreational use of the site;**
- 3. provide an acceptable replacement facility in the immediate locality.**
- 4. clearly demonstrate that there is an excess of such facilities in the immediate locality.**



LT9 - planning permission will be granted for the development of public open space at the following locations:-

- **LT9(a) Woburn Road, Pleasley Hill**
- **LT9(b) Bellamy Road**
- **LT9(c) Balmoral Drive**
- **LT9(d) Sherwood Rise**
- **LT9(e) Litton Road, Mansfield Woodhouse**
- **LT9(f) Stone Cross Lane**
- **LT9(g) Larkhills**
- **LT9(h) Rushpool Farm/Stinting Lane**
- **LT9(i) Portland Street, Mansfield and**
- **LT9(j) Berry Hill Lane/King George V Avenue.**

LT10 - planning permission will not be granted for developments which would lead to the loss of public open spaces or sports pitches provided during the plan period, unless they would meet one or more of the following criteria:-

- 1. be ancillary to the recreational use;**
- 2. clearly demonstrate that there is an excess of public open space or sports pitches in the immediate locality to meet both current and future recreational needs of the local community.**
- 3. provide an acceptable replacement facility in the immediate locality.**

LT11 - planning permission will be granted for the development of a country park on land at manor park/park hall including the provision of ancillary leisure/tourist facilities where these would enhance the public enjoyment of the area.

LT12 - planning permission will be granted for the development of recreational uses at former tipping areas at the following locations:-

- It12(a) former mansfield colliery**
- It12(b) former sherwood colliery**
- It12(c) former warsop colliery and**
- It12(d) former shirebrook colliery tip.**