



# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE REPORT

### APRIL 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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### Glossary

MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OSNA	Open Space Needs Assessment
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SFS	Sports Facilities Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
WDC	Wealden District Council

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1. Wealden District Council (WDC) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an Open Space Assessment. This document is part of a wider series of inter-related strategies for sport and recreation that also includes a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use open space areas for informal use. Similarly, there may be forms of open space which feature a playing pitch or sporting facility.
2. This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study. It provides detail regarding what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality.
3. It will help inform the direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable open spaces in Wealden. It can help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth.
4. The purpose of an Open Space Study is to recognise the role of open space provision as a resource. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.
5. In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the [Planning Policy Guidance 17 \(PPG17\) Companion Guidance; Assessing Needs and Opportunities](#) published in September 2002.
6. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17 as it still remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.
7. Under paragraph 98 of the NPPF, it is set out 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. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

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8. The table below details the open space typologies included within the study:

*Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions*

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Urban parks, country parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Woodlands, scrubland, orchards, grasslands (e.g. meadows and non-amenity grassland), wetlands and river corridors, nature reserves and brownfield land. Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
Allotments	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

## 1.1 Report structure

### ***Open spaces***

9. This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across Wealden. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report covers all open spaces defined as:
- ◀ Part 5: Parks and gardens
  - ◀ Part 6: Natural and semi-natural greenspace
  - ◀ Part 7: Amenity greenspace
  - ◀ Part 8: Provision for children and young people
  - ◀ Part 9: Allotments
  - ◀ Part 10: Cemeteries and churchyards

### ***Playing Pitches***

10. The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated Playing Pitches Strategy (PPS). The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space as a different methodology in line with national guidance is prescribed.
11. Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. where it is also available for wider community use as open space) is included in this study as a type of open space. Provision purely for sporting use are included within the PPS. On dual use sites, the pitch playing surfaces are counted as part of the overall site size as they are considered to contribute to the total open space site and reflect its multifunctionality. Pitches on dual use sites are identified in the PPS too but only by number and pitch type (as prescribed in Sport England Guidance).

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### 1.2 National context

#### ***National Planning Policy Framework (2021), (MHCLG)***

12. The National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.
13. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.
14. Paragraph 98 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states 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. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.
15. As a prerequisite paragraph 99 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
  - ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
  - ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
  - ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

#### ***National Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG)***

16. National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). It is intended that the two documents should be read together.
17. The guidance determines that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

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## ***Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England***

18. Sets out how the planning system can help provide opportunities for everyone to be physically active. It highlights the vital role planning systems play in shaping environments (including open spaces) which offer opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity. To help with this, the guidance sets out 12 planning-for-sport principles to be embraced.

*Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles*

<b>Overarching</b>	Recognise and give weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity
<b>Overarching</b>	Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessment of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them
<b>Overarching</b>	Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles
<b>Protect</b>	Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use
<b>Protect</b>	Ensure long-term viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision
<b>Enhance</b>	Support improvements to existing sport and physical activity provision where they are needed
<b>Enhance</b>	Encourage and secure wider community use of existing and new sport and physical activity provision
<b>Provide</b>	Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified needs
<b>Provide</b>	Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision
<b>Provide</b>	Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed
<b>Provide</b>	Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the green belt
<b>Provide</b>	Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments

## ***Everybody Active, Every Day (2014), Public Health England***

19. In October 2014 Public Health England (PHE) produced a plan to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, the plan identifies four areas where measures need to be taken at a national and local level:
- ◀ Active society: creating a social movement. Shifting social norms so that physical activity becomes a routine part of daily life.
  - ◀ Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise. Making every contact with the health sector count to push the 'active' message and to deliver the message through other sectors including education, sports and leisure, transport and planning.
  - ◀ Active environments: creating the right spaces. Making available and accessible appropriate environments that encourage people to be active every day.
  - ◀ Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active. Maximising existing assets that enable communities to be active.
20. Open space provision has an important role in working towards these measures. There is a need to ensure accessible facilities that can help meet the physical activity needs of everyone including the physically and mentally disabled and those with learning difficulties and debilitating diseases.



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### ***Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015), Fields in Trust***

21. As part of its protection work, Fields in Trust (FIT) offers guidance on open space provision and design. This is to ensure that the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.
22. Beyond the Six Acre Standard sets out a range of benchmark guidelines on quantity, quality and accessibility for open space and equipped play. It also offers some recommendations to minimum site sizes.

### **1.3 Local context**

23. Wealden District Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will set out a vision and framework for the future development of the area over a 15-20 year period. This will make decisions on the location, amount and type of development needed in the district.
24. The Council undertook a Regulation 18 Direction of Travel Consultation from November 2020 to January 2021. This provided an opportunity to hear the views of communities and stakeholders on a range of topics on how the district can address the issues and challenges being faced, accommodate growth and to help define a vision for the district.
25. This included dedicated chapters on natural environment and health and well-being, of which open space provision is a key consideration. A series of policy options were set out focusing on:
  - ◀ Continuing to resist inappropriate loss of green infrastructure (including open spaces) and support proposals to enhance access to, as well as quality and quantity of, provision.
  - ◀ Ensure future open space needs are planned for in areas with potential for substantial change and support the creation of new publicly accessible provision in areas of deficiency.
  - ◀ Enhance open spaces to provide a wider range of benefits for residents.
  - ◀ Ensure housing development is made healthy through the provision of good quality open spaces within their design and layout.
26. An up-to-date open space study will therefore form a key element of the Council's evidence base to support its emerging policies and the Local Plan as a whole.

### ***Wealden Open Space Study (2017)***

27. The previous open space study provided an assessment to the needs and deficiencies in open space in order to establish local provision standards. The study has helped to inform the baseline evidence for this report with known updates and changes in sites, populations and best practice being incorporated.

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### ***Outdoor Playing Space SPD (2003)***

28. The SPD sets out guidance in how to implement the Council's current open space policies. It explains how it is reasonable to expect new developments to meet the outdoor playing space needs generated by their development (with space being provided or paid for by the developer rather than the local community).
29. A review of the existing approach and policy has been undertaken (later in this report) to assist in the updating of the approach for developer contributions.

### ***Summary of the national and local context***

30. National and local policies state that local plans should both reflect needs and priorities within a local community and be based on robust and current assessments of open space, sport and recreational facilities. Engaging residents to take up and retain a minimum or better level of physical literacy and activity is a high priority for national government. For many people, sport and recreational activities have a key role to play in facilitating physical activity. Therefore, ensuring that open space creates an active environment with opportunities and good accessibility is important. In line with national and local policy recommendations, this report makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy will be formulated.

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## PART 2: METHODOLOGY

31. This section details the methodology and key stages undertaken as part of the study.

### 2.1 Analysis area

32. The study area comprises the whole of Wealden District except for those areas within the South Downs National Park (SDNP). Areas of the SDNP are outside of the planning function of WDC with planning decisions being governed by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). Consequently, the relevant sites and populations of these areas are also omitted when setting standards. However, sites in the SDNP have been assessed for quality and value and have also been mapped to provide an assessment of accessibility.
33. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas (aligned to parish areas) are utilised.

Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

Map ID	Parish	Population	Map ID	Parish	Population
1	<i>Alciston*</i>	411	22	Herstmonceux	2,546
2	<i>Alfriston*</i>	815	23	Hooe	465
3	Arlington	1,233	24	Horam	2,847
4	Berwick	411	25	Isfield	686
5	Buxted	4,150	26	Laughton	641
6	Chalvington with Ripe	1,008	27	Little Horsted	230
7	Chiddingly	1,057	28	<i>Long Man*</i>	453
8	Crowborough	22,212	29	Maresfield	3,785
9	<i>Cuckmere Valley*</i>	190	30	Mayfield and Five Ashes	4,058
10	Danehill	1,985	31	Ninfield	1,589
11	<i>East Dean and Friston*</i>	1,637	32	Pevensey	3,311
12	East Hoathly with Halland	1,690	33	Polegate	9,371
13	Fletching	1,022	34	Rotherfield	3,349
14	Forest Row	5,291	35	Selmeston	175
15	Framfield	2,106	36	Uckfield	15,108
16	Frant	1,658	37	Wadhurst	4,891
17	Hadlow Down	807	38	Warbleton	1,411
18	Hailsham	22,617	39	Wartling	479
19	Hartfield	2,239	40	Westham	7,667
20	Heathfield and Waldron	12,344	41	Willingdon & Jevington	7,532
21	Hellingly	3,526	42	Withyham	2,883
				<b>Total</b>	<b>161,886</b>
				<b>Total (omitting SDNP)</b>	<b>158,380</b>

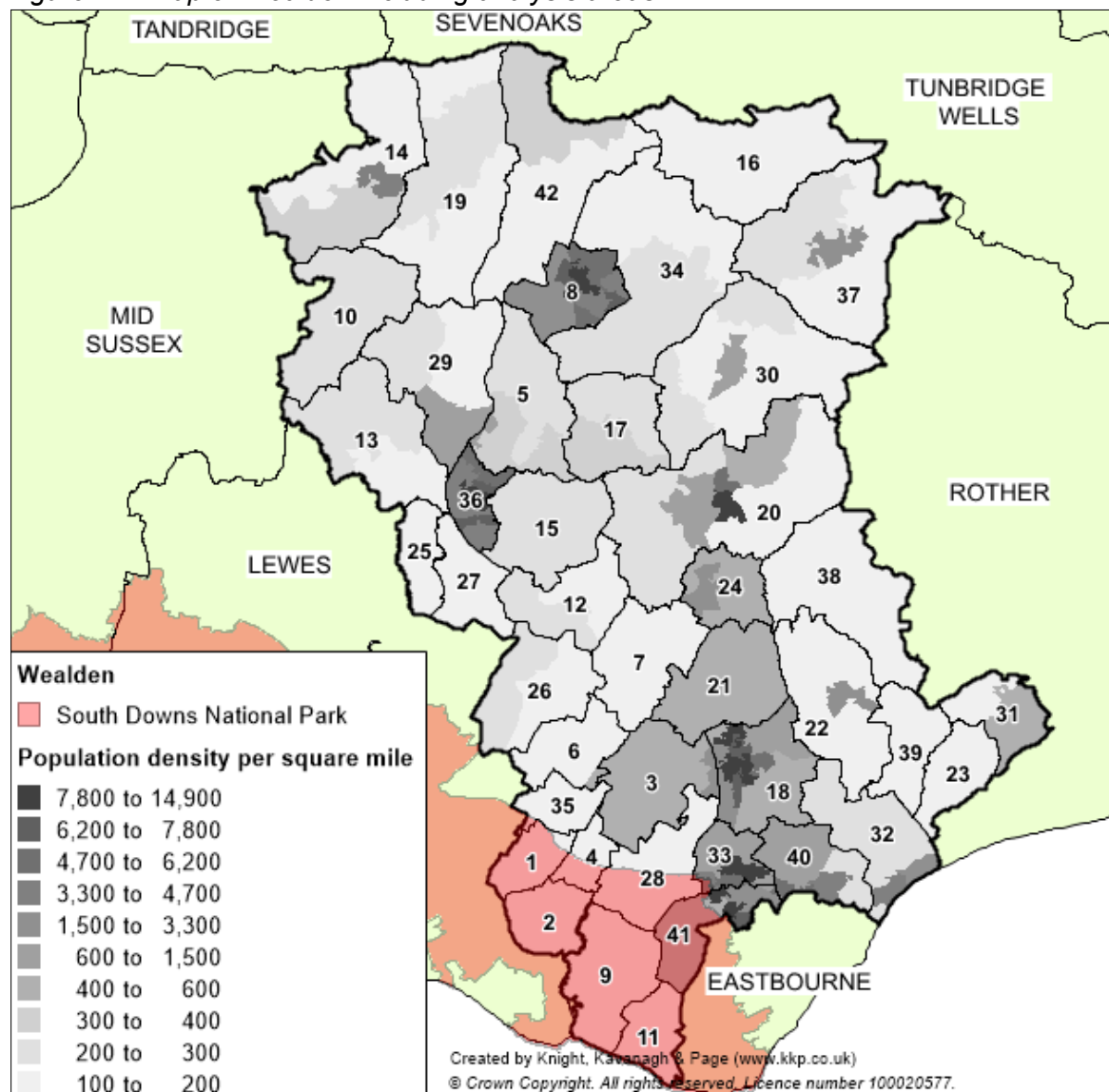
Source: ONS Mid 2019 parish estimates based on 2011 parish boundaries

\* Within the South Downs National Park

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34. The parishes of Berwick, Long Man and Willingdon and Jevington are partly within the SDNP. In Table 2.1 only Long Man is counted as being within the SDNP as the population centre of the parish is located within the SDNP. Consequently, the population figure for the parish is attributed to the SDNP area and not to Wealden. For Berwick and Willingdon and Jevington, the population centre for the parishes are located outside of the SDNP. Therefore the population figure is attributed to Wealden.
35. Figure 2.1 shows the study area broken down into these analysis areas in tandem with population density.

Figure 2.1: Map of Wealden including analysis areas



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## 2.2 Auditing local provision

36. The KKP Field Research Team undertook the site audit for this study in Autumn 2021. Open space sites are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality.
37. The focus is on sites publicly accessible (i.e. private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once.
38. The audit, and the report, analyse the following typologies in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17.
  1. Parks and gardens
  2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
  3. Amenity greenspace
  4. Provision for children and young people
  5. Allotments
  6. Cemeteries and churchyards

### **Site size threshold**

39. In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. It is recognised that spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife. However, they are often too small to provide any meaningful leisure and recreational opportunities to warrant a full site assessment.
40. They should therefore be assessed on a site-by-site basis (to assess potential community, biodiversity and visual value) should a request for development be made upon such a site in the future.
41. It should be noted that some sites below the threshold i.e. those that are identified as having particular significance and considered to provide an important function, are included in the audit process. An example is Hempstead Rise (Elizabeth Gardens), an amenity greenspace equating to 0.13 hectares. This site features trees, a path and bench and is perceived to be a well-used site.

### **Database development**

42. All information relating to open spaces is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded within the database. The database details for each site are as follows:

#### **Data held on open spaces database (summary)**

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◀ Site name
- ◀ Ownership (if known)
- ◀ Management (if known)
- ◀ Typology
- ◀ Size (hectares)
- ◀ Site visit data

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43. Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

### 2.3 Open space standards

44. To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are set and applied later in the document.

*Table 2.2: Summary of provision standards*

<b>Quality</b>	Ability to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities. Aimed at identifying high quality provision for benchmarking and low quality provision. The Quality Standard is based on the audit assessment scores.
<b>Quantity</b>	Are there enough spaces in the right places? Aimed at helping to establish areas of surplus and deficiency and, where appropriate, to understand the potential for alternative uses and/or key forms of provision.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Distance thresholds aimed at improving accessibility factors (e.g. so people can find and get to open spaces without undue reliance on using a car) and helping to identify potential areas with gaps in provision. Shown via maps.

### 2.4 Quality and value

45. The quality of open space has been assessed through site visits and desk-based assessments. The Quality Standards are founded on this information.
46. Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a site of high quality may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) site may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.
47. This allows for the application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

#### ***Analysis of quality***

48. Data collated from site visits is initially based upon criteria derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures.
49. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

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Table 2.3: Quality criteria for open space site visits

- ◀ Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
- ◀ Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- ◀ Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
- ◀ Parking, e.g. availability, disabled parking
- ◀ Information signage, e.g. presence of site information, notice boards
- ◀ Equipment and facilities, e.g. seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ◀ Location value, e.g. proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ◀ Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ◀ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- ◀ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- ◀ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people
- ◀ Site potential

### Analysis of value

50. Each site identified is also provided with a value score. Value is defined in Companion Guidance to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:
- ◀ Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
  - ◀ Level and type of use.
  - ◀ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.
51. In addition, the NPPF refers to attributes to value such as beauty and attractiveness of a site, recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquillity and richness of wildlife.
52. The value criteria for audit assessment is set out in the following table.

Table 2.4: Value criteria for site visits

- ◀ Level of use (assumed only), e.g., different user types, location near community facilities
- ◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces
- ◀ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
- ◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- ◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- ◀ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being
- ◀ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area
- ◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- ◀ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

### 2.5 Quality and value thresholds

53. To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by Companion Guidance to PPG17); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).



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54. A site rating low for quality should not automatically be viewed as being fit for development. It is also necessary to understand its value, access and role within the community it serves. It may for example be the only site serving an area and should therefore be considered a priority for enhancement.
55. The most recognised national benchmark for measuring the quality of parks and open spaces is the 66% pass rate for the Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and open spaces. Although this open space study uses similar assessment criteria to that of the Green Flag Award scheme it is inappropriate to use the Green Flag benchmark pass for every open space as they are not all designed or expected to perform to the same exceptionally high standard.
56. For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater variety of ancillary facilities (seating, bins, play equipment) and manicured landscaping and planting, etc. in contrast to an amenity greenspace serving a smaller catchment and fewer people.
57. Furthermore, a different scoring mechanism is used in this study to that of the Green Flag scheme (albeit the criteria for this study is derived from the Green Flag scheme). For each open space typology, a different set and / or weighting for each criterion of quality is used. This is to better reflect the different roles, uses and functions of each open space type. Consequently, a different quality threshold level is set for each open space typology.
58. Quality thresholds in this study are individual to each open space typology. They are based on the average quality score arising from the site assessments and set using KKP's professional judgment and experience from delivering similar studies. The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites, it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal. This works as an effective method to reflect the variability in quality at a local level for different types of provision. It allows the Council more flexibility in directing funds towards sites for enhancements which is useful if funds are geographically constrained with respect to individual developments.
59. Reason and flexibility are needed when evaluating sites close to the average score / threshold. The review of a quality threshold is just one step for this process, a site should also be evaluated against the value assessment and local knowledge.

*Table 2.5: Quality and value thresholds by typology*

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	45%	20%
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%
Provision for children and young people	45%	20%
Allotments	60%	20%

60. For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold is derived from KKP's experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites.



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61. A high value site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and mental health benefits. Value is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, a conservative threshold of 20% is set across all typologies. Whilst 20% may initially seem low - it is a relative score. One designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). If a site meets more than one criterion for value it will score greater than 20%. Consequently, it is deemed to be of higher value.

## 2.6 Accessibility catchments

62. Accessibility catchments can be used as a tool to identify deficiencies of open space in a local area. This is achieved by applying them to create a distance catchment. The report displays the results of the catchment to highlight any potential deficiencies in access to provision.
63. There is an element of subjectivity resulting in time / distance variations. This is to be expected given that people walk at different speeds depending on a number of factors including height, age, levels of fitness and physical barriers on route. Therefore, there will be an element of 'best fit' for Wealden.
64. FIT provides suggested accessibility catchments for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace, and amenity greenspace.

*Table 2.6: FIT accessibility guidelines*

Open space type	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens	710m	9 minutes
Amenity Greenspace	480m	6 minutes
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	720m	9 minutes
Play areas & informal sports facilities LAP	100m	1 minute
Play areas & informal sports facilities LEAP	400m	5 minutes
Play areas & informal sports facilities NEAP	1,000m	12 ½ minutes
Play areas & informal sports facilities Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	700m	9 minutes

65. FIT do not set accessibility catchments/standards for allotments. Allotments provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce. They encourage physical activity, improve mental health and provide a sense of well-being thereby contributing to the quality of life. Making way for the delivery of a new allotment is not without its challenges given the land take and preferred ground conditions involved. However, it can be planned for where there is justification.
66. Whilst FIT offers suggestions to the accessibility catchments, previous Wealden studies have set out locally informed catchments to better reflect local views. For this study, we propose the same approach to ensure that accessibility is locally specific and relevant. Therefore, the community survey has been used to inform the accessibility catchments used for different types of open space. These are detailed in the following section and within each typology chapter.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 3: COMMUNITY SURVEY

- 67. A community questionnaire was developed in collaboration between KKP and WDC. The use of a questionnaire was considered a good approach to providing a widespread opportunity for people to provide their thoughts towards open space provision.
- 68. The questionnaire consisted of a series of multiple choice and open-ended questions asking respondents their thoughts on topics such as types of open space visited, frequency, quality etc. The online survey was promoted by the Council via social media and other outlets. The following provides a summary and breakdown of the views towards provision.
- 69. In addition, consultation was also undertaken with parish and town councils. The results of which is set out in a separate parish summary document.

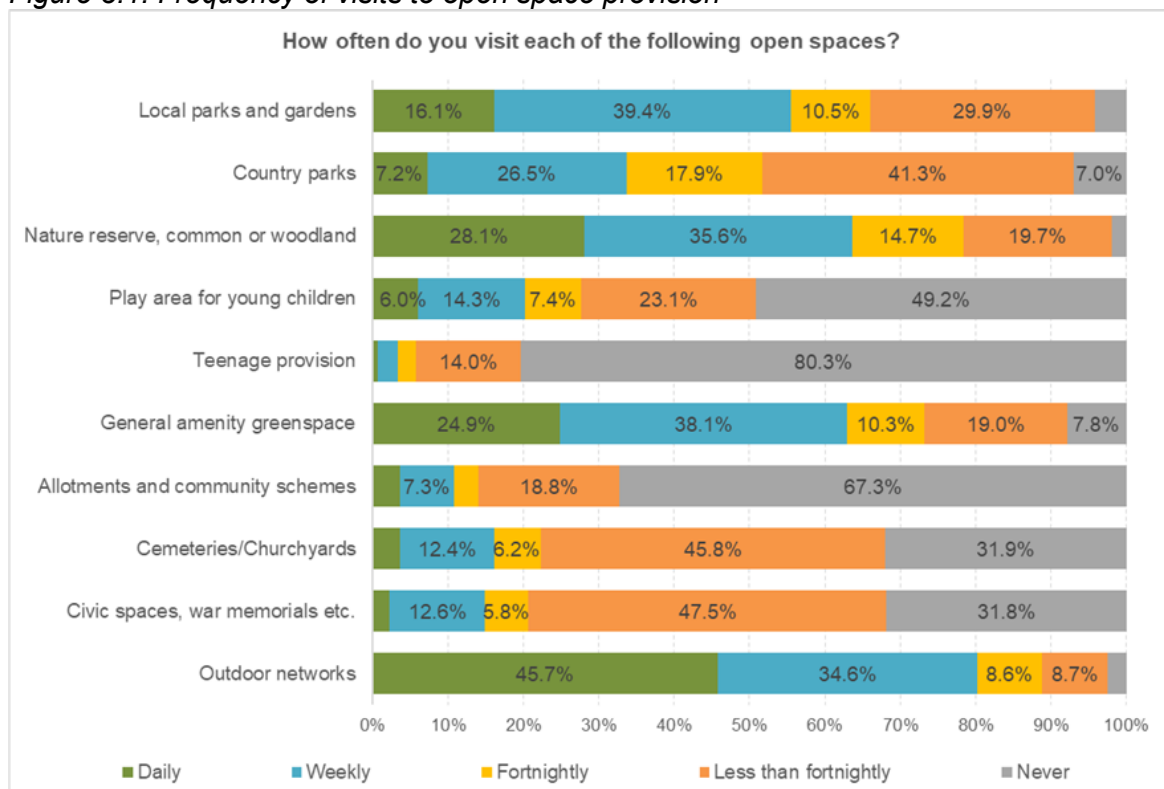
### 3.1 Survey analysis

- 70. An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media. A total of 576 responses were received. The findings of the consultations have been used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the report. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

#### Usage

- 71. Popular forms of open space provision to visit on a daily and/or weekly basis are outdoor networks (80.3%), nature reserves, commons or woodlands (63.7%), amenity greenspace (62.9%) and parks (55.5%).

Figure 3.1: Frequency of visits to open space provision



# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

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72. Nearly all respondents (98%) report that they visit open space provision. Some of the most popular sites and areas for visiting within the district are:

- ◀ Cuckoo trail (10 %)
- ◀ Footpaths around countryside (10%)
- ◀ Ashdown Forest (9%)

73. Other noticeable sites to be cited include:

- ◀ South Downs (3%)
- ◀ Hailsham Park (3%)
- ◀ Bewl Water (3%)
- ◀ Snape Wood (3%)
- ◀ Abbots Wood (2%)

### **Reasons for visiting open space**

74. The most common reasons for visiting open space are for fresh air (87%), to experience/see nature (82%), for peace and quiet/relax (79%), to exercise/sport (77%), to enjoy beauty (73%) and to go for a walk or stroll (73%).

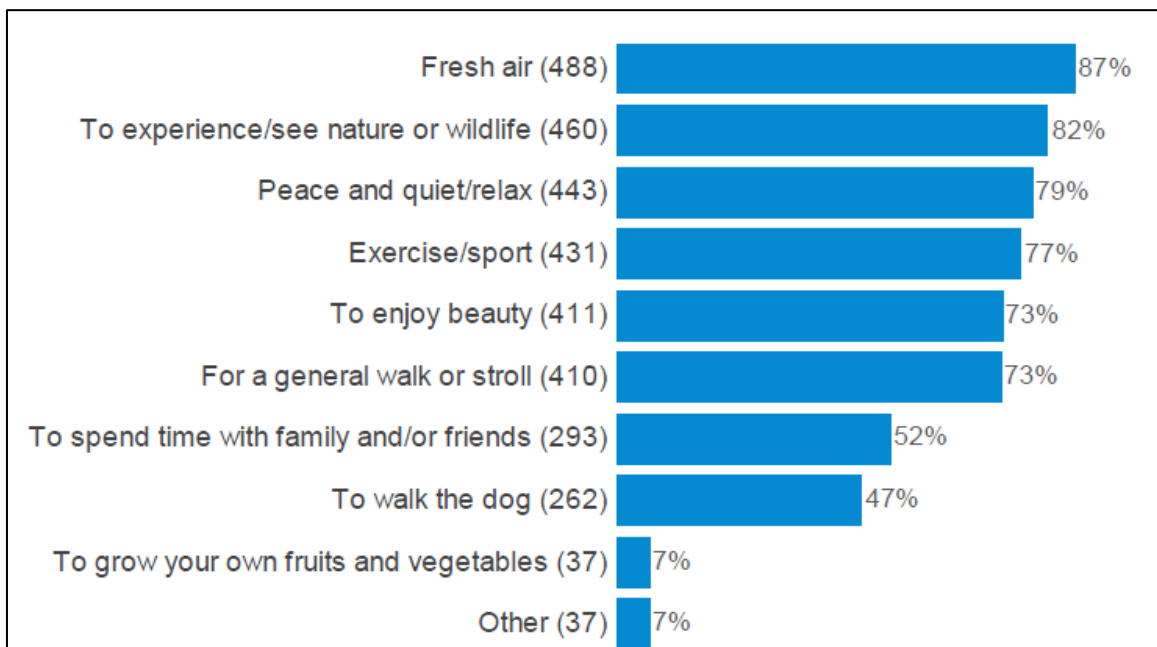


Figure 3.2: Reasons for visiting open space provision

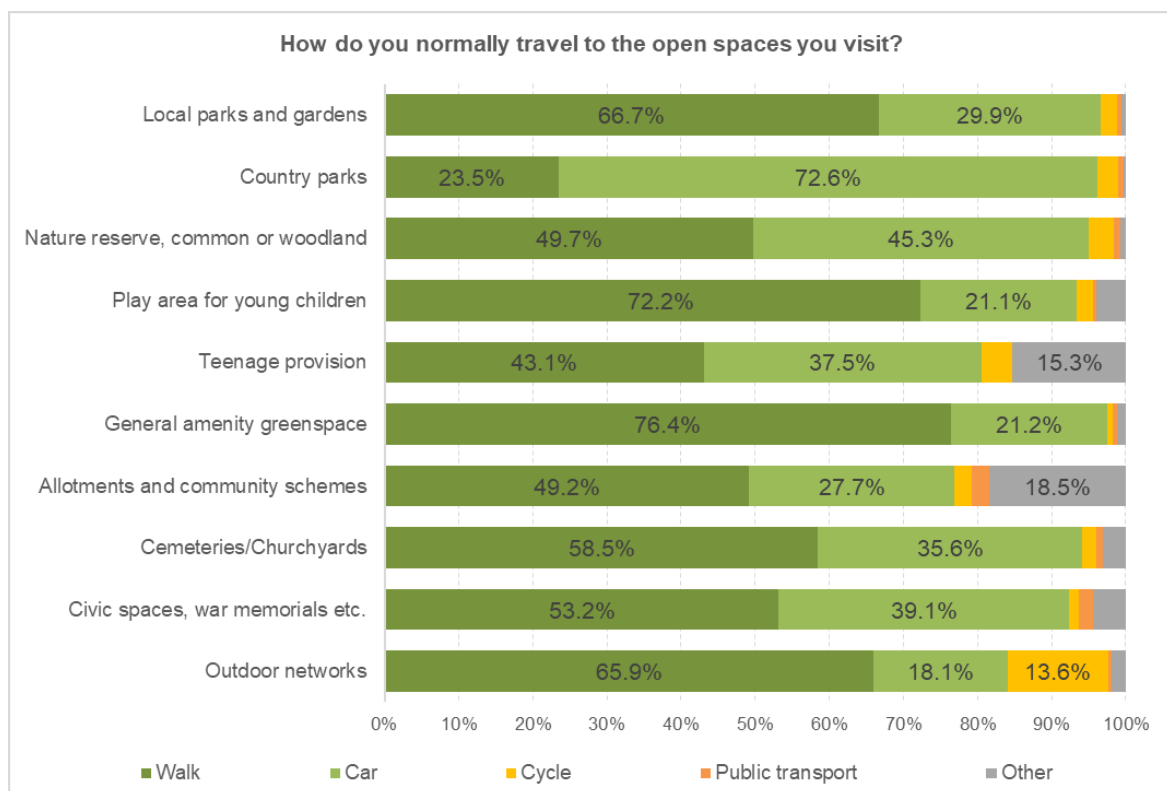
75. Of the handful of respondents to state they do not visit open space provision, most reasons tend to reflect limited mobility/poor health and/or easy access to wider countryside.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Accessibility

76. Results from the survey shows that individuals are generally willing to walk to access provision of amenity greenspace (76.4%), play areas for young children (72.2%), parks (66.7%), and outdoor networks (65.9%). They also seem more inclined to walk to cemeteries/churchyards (58.5%) and civic space (53.2%)
77. The exception to this is for country parks (72.6%) which most individuals normally travel by car to access. This is likely a reflection that country parks are not typically on the 'doorstep' of residential areas. Nature reserves and teenage provision have more mixed responses.

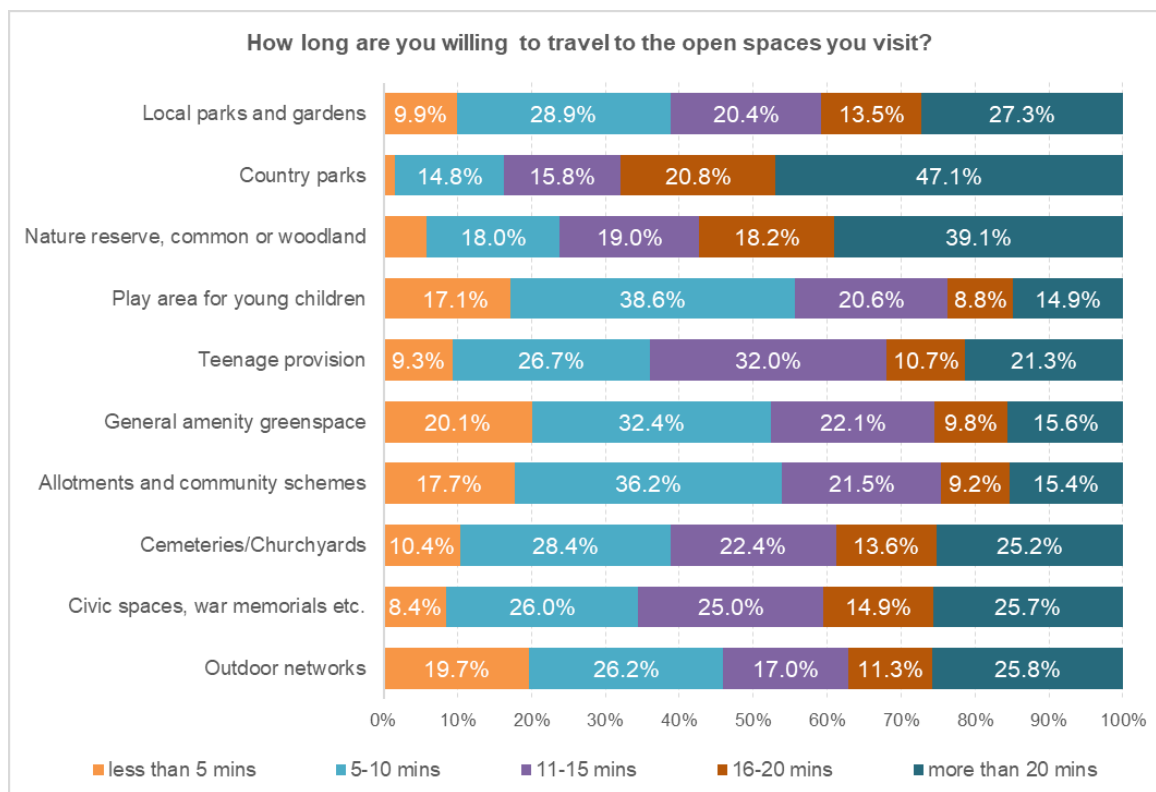
Figure 3.3: Mode of travel to open space provision



78. For some provision such as country parks (41.7%) and nature reserves (39.1%), there is a willingness to travel further; with a greater proportion of respondents stating they would travel more than 20 minutes to such provision.
79. For other forms of provision, respondents show a willingness to travel a shorter amount of time (i.e., 5 to 10 minutes). This is particularly noticeable for parks, play provision, amenity greenspace, allotments, cemeteries and outdoor networks.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 3.4: Time willing to travel to open space provision

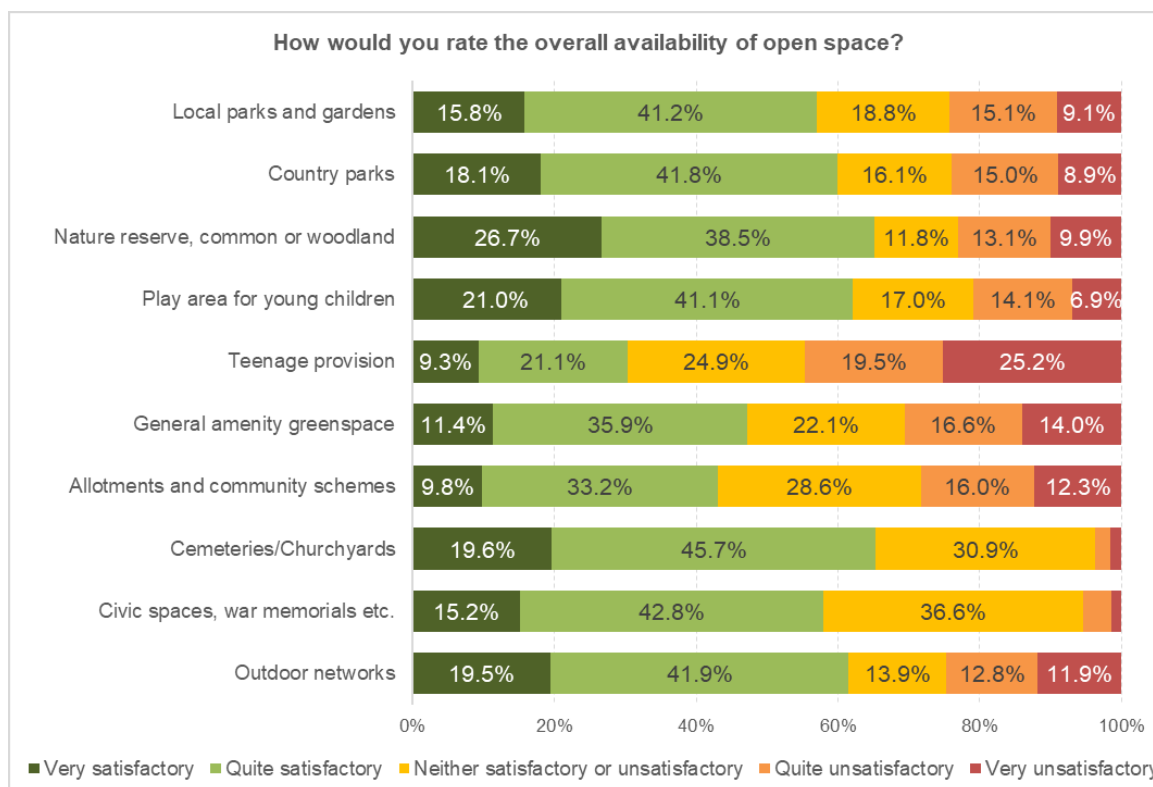


## Availability

- 80. In general, respondents consider the availability of provision to be quite satisfactory for most typologies.
- 81. Cemeteries/churchyards (65.4%), nature reserves (65.2%), play areas for children (62.1%) and outdoor networks (61.4%) are open space types viewed as being generally very or quite satisfactory in terms of availability. This is followed by responses for country parks (59.9%), local parks (57.0%) and civic space (58.0%).
- 82. For cemeteries/churchyards (45.7%), civic space (42.8%), outdoor networks (41.9%), country parks (41.8%), local parks (41.2%) and play areas for children (41.1%) most respondents view availability as quite satisfactory.
- 83. For teenage provision, a greater proportion of respondents' rate availability as either quite unsatisfactory (19.5%) or very unsatisfactory (25.2%). This could suggest a perceived lack of provision or a lack of interest in visiting such provision.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 3.5: Satisfaction with availability of open space provision

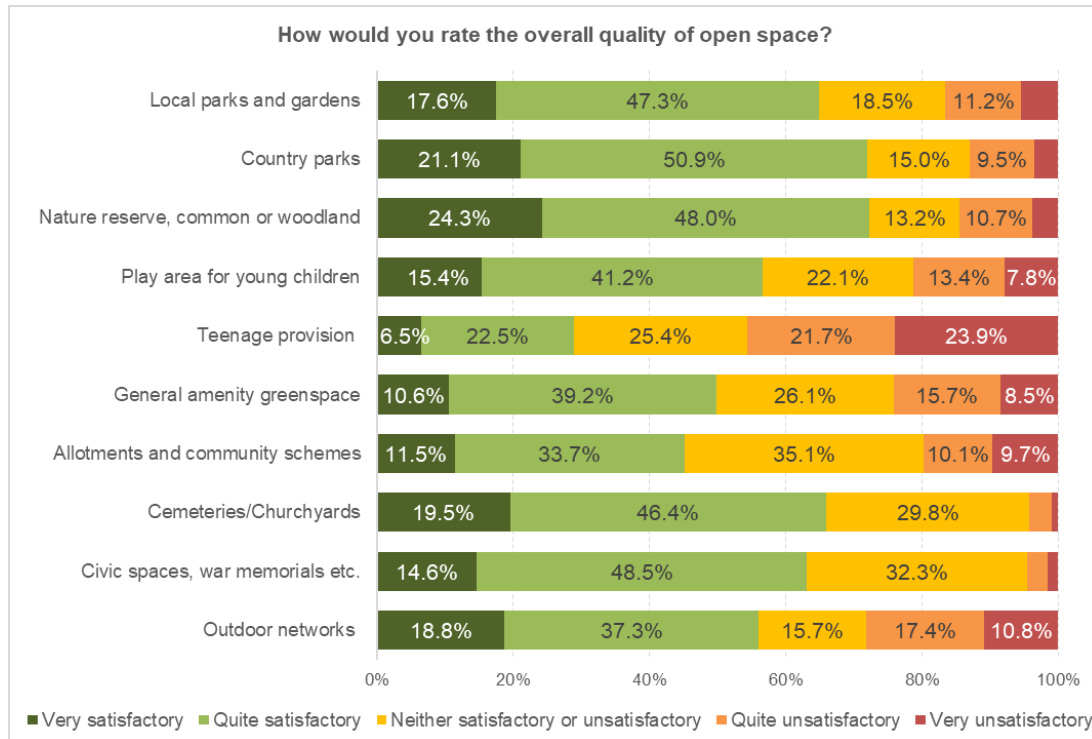


## Quality

- 84. Respondents consider the quality of provision to be generally quite satisfactory for most types of open space.
- 85. Country parks (50.9%), civic space (48.5%), nature reserves (48.0%), local parks (47.3%) and cemeteries/churchyards (46.4%) are viewed by respondents as mostly being quite satisfactory for quality.
- 86. For the typologies of nature reserves (24.3%) and country parks (21.1%) a noticeable proportion of respondents also rate the quality as very satisfactory.
- 87. Similar to the trend for availability, there are a greater proportion of respondents who rate the quality of teenage provision as quite unsatisfactory (21.7%) and very unsatisfactory (23.9%). This may reflect a perceived lack of quality or a lack of interest in visiting such provision.

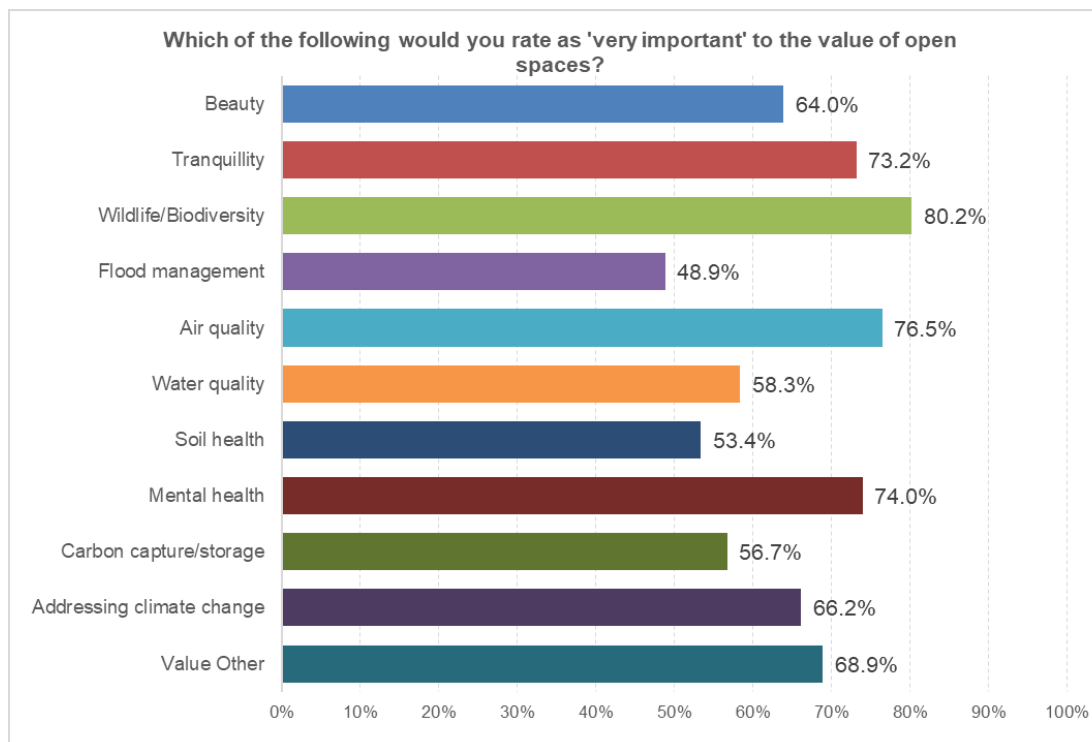
# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 3.6: Satisfaction with quality of open space provision



88. Respondents to the survey were asked to rate the importance of different aspects of open space. The elements identified as very important include wildlife/biodiversity (80.2%), air quality (76.5%), mental health (74.0%) and tranquillity (73.2%).

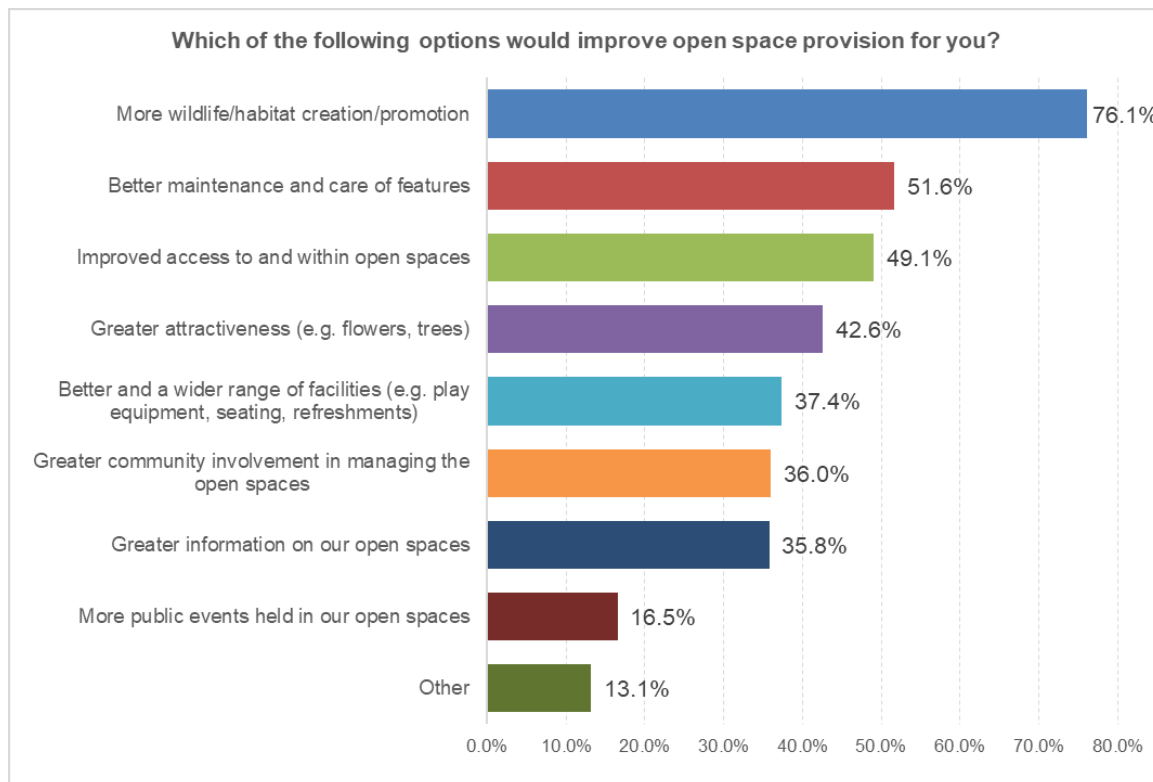
Figure 3.7: Open space elements viewed as very important



# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

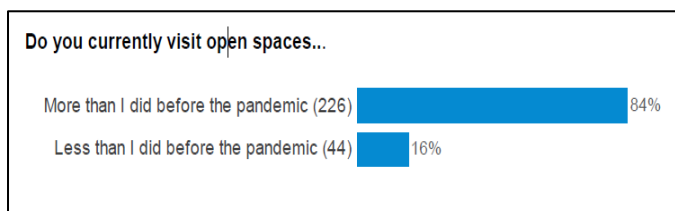
89. Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve open space provision. The most common answers include more wildlife/habitat promotion (76.1%), better maintenance/care of features (51.6%) and improved access to and within open spaces (49.1%).

*Table 3.8: Improvements to open space*

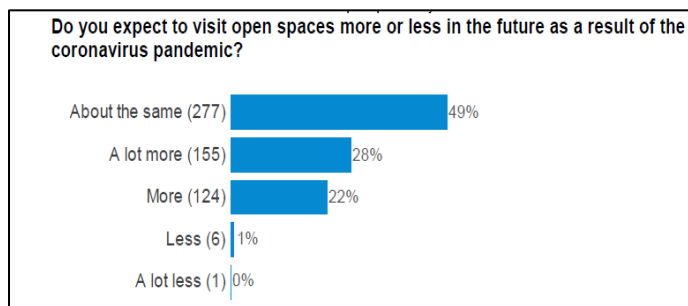


90. Respondents were also asked about their recent behaviours because of the coronavirus pandemic.

91. The majority of respondents (84%) state they currently visit open spaces more than they did before the pandemic. Only 16% state they visit less than they did before the pandemic.



92. Most respondents (49%) state they expect to visit open spaces in the future about the same as a result of the pandemic



93. However, 28% of respondents expect to visit a lot more with a further 22% expecting to visit more.



# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 4: SITE AUDIT OVERVIEW

94. Within Wealden\* there are a total of 372 sites equating to approximately 1,965 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural/semi-natural greenspace (1,728 hectares); accounting for 88% of provision.

Table 4.1: Overview of open space provision in Wealden †

Open space typology	Wealden (excluding SDNP) Number of sites	Wealden (excluding SDNP) Total amount (hectares)	Wealden (including SDNP) Number of sites	Wealden (including SDNP) Total amount (hectares)
Allotments	17	15	18	16
Amenity greenspace	89	89	93	93
Cemeteries	70	40	79	43
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	47	1,728	55	3,099
Park and gardens	23	85	24	87
Provision for children and young people	126	8	129	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>1,965</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>3,346</b>

## Quality

95. The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces for sites in Wealden (excluding SDNP). Cemeteries have not been assessed for quality due to the specific role and characteristics such types of open space provide in comparison to other forms of provision.

Table 4.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies in Wealden (excluding SDNP) ‡

Typology	Threshold	Scores Lowest score	Scores Average score	Scores Highest score	No. of sites	
					Low	High
Allotments	45%	31%	48%	71%	7	10
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%	52%	76%	43	46
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	45%	15%	45%	85%	28	19
Park and gardens	60%	42%	58%	81%	15	8
Provision for children and young people	60%	28%	59%	79%	47	78
					<b>140</b>	<b>161</b>

† Rounded to the nearest whole number

‡ If sites in the SDNP are included a minimal change (1-2%) in average scores is noted for allotments and natural/semi-natural greenspace

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

96. There is generally a mixed quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in just over half of sites (53%) scoring above their set threshold for quality. The exception is for natural and semi-natural greenspace where more sites rate below the quality threshold.
97. This is explored further under each typology section later in the report.

### Value

98. The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces.

*Table 4.3: Value scores for all open space typologies (excluding SDNP)\**

Typology	Threshold	Scores Lowest score	Scores Average score	Scores Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
Allotments	20%	29%	35%	43%	0	17
Amenity greenspace	20%	11%	33%	70%	10	79
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	13%	42%	77%	1	46
Park and gardens	20%	36%	58%	72%	0	23
Provision for children and young people	20%	13%	44%	82%	2	123
					<b>13</b>	<b>288</b>

99. Nearly all sites (96%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.
100. A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest, for example, good quality seating, play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and viewed as unattractive.

\* If sites in the SDNP are included a minimal change (1%) in average scores is noted for allotments

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 5: PARKS AND GARDENS

### 5.1 Introduction

101. This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. For Wealden, park sites are generally considered to be above two hectares in size and contain a range of facilities and features (e.g. play provision, sports facilities, pathways, seating).

### 5.2 Current provision

102. There are 23 sites classified as parks and gardens across Wealden (excluding the SDNP), the equivalent of almost 85 hectares (see Table 5.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. Many analysis areas do not have parks provision with 17 analysis areas identified as containing provision.

*Table 5.1: Current parks and gardens provision in Wealden*

Analysis area	Parks and gardens Number of sites	Parks and gardens Total hectares (ha)	Parks and gardens Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	1	2.18	2.67
Arlington	-	-	-
Berwick	-	-	-
Buxted	1	2.81	0.68
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-
Crowborough	4	14.58	0.66
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	-	-	-
Danehill	1	3.26	1.64
East Dean and Friston	-	-	-
East Hoathly with Halland	1	4.09	2.42
Fletching	-	-	-
Forest Row	-	-	-
Framfield	1	2.53	1.20
Frant	-	-	-
Hadlow Down	-	-	-
Hailsham	3	10.08	0.45
Hartfield	-	-	-
Heathfield and Waldron	1	4.37	0.35
Hellingly	-	-	-
Herstmonceux	1	2.26	0.89
Hooe	-	-	-

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area	Parks and gardens Number of sites	Parks and gardens Total hectares (ha)	Parks and gardens Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Horam	1	5.65	1.98
Isfield	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-
Little Horsted	-	-	-
Long Man	-	-	-
Maresfield	-	-	-
Mayfield and Five Ashes	1	9.30	2.29
Ninfield	1	2.03	1.28
Pevensey	-	-	-
Polegate	1	3.22	0.34
Rotherfield	1	2.83	0.85
Selmeston	-	-	-
Uckfield	3	11.10	0.73
Wadhurst	1	2.78	0.57
Warbleton	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-
Westham	1	3.90	0.51
Willingdon and Jevington	-	-	-
Withyham	-	-	-
<b>Wealden (exc. SNDP)</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>84.78</b>	<b>0.53</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>86.96</b>	<b>0.54</b>

103. For parks and gardens, the district has a current provision level of 0.53 hectares per 1,000 head of population.
104. If provision and populations in areas of the district covered by the South Downs National Park are included, then a total of 24 sites (86.96 hectares) exist; an equivalent to a current provision level of 0.54 hectares per 1,000 head of population.
105. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to this provision is Mayfield King George's Field (nine ha) located in the Mayfield and Five Ashes Analysis Area.
106. It is important to note that several open space sites across Wealden will help to serve a similar function to parks provision but are primarily classified as a natural/semi-natural greenspace or amenity greenspace. For example, Crowborough Country Park, Walshes Park and Horsted Park have similar features and functions to a park however they are given a primary classification as a natural/semi-natural greenspace.
107. Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, the district is below this. However, given the rural nature of the district, this is not unexpected.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

## 5.3 Accessibility

108. The Community Survey found the most common mode of travel to access a park is by walking (67%). This is followed by 30% of respondents that identify travelling to park provision via car. The most common times willing to be travelled is up to 10 minutes (29%) and up to 15 minutes (20%).
109. The variation in modes and travel times is likely to reflect the differences in parks provision; some parks serve the whole Wealden District whilst others are more local forms of provision. On this basis, a 15-minute walk has been applied to all parks. In addition, a 15-minute drive time catchment has also been applied to larger park sites (over 5 hectares in size). Figure 4.1 shows the catchment areas applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

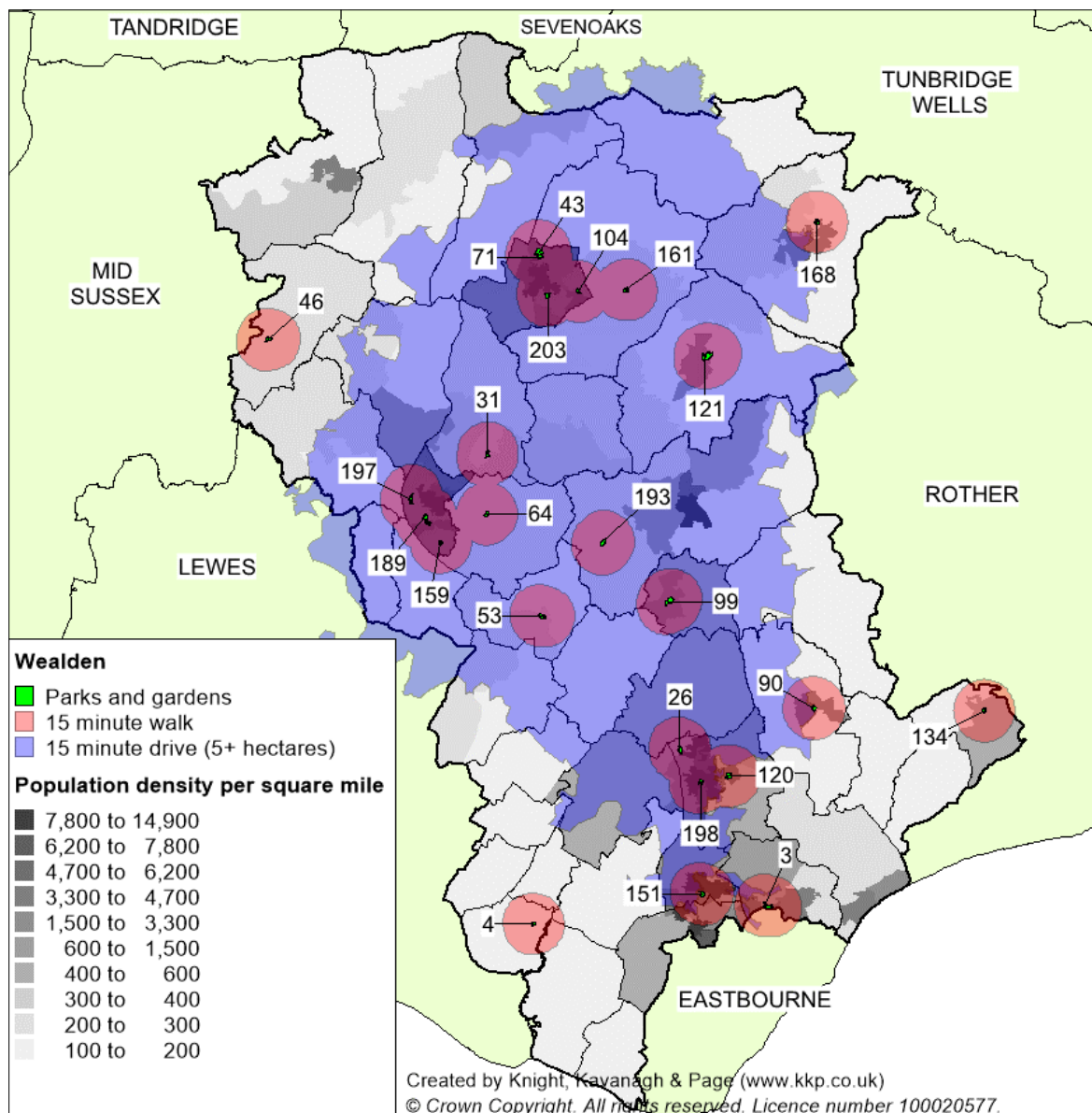


Figure 5.1: Parks and gardens mapped with catchments

Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
3	Adur Park	Westham	3.90	56.8%	55.6%
4	<i>Alfriston Recreation Ground</i>	<i>Alfriston</i>	2.18	55.1%	51.1%
26	Brunel Drive	Hailsham	3.41	46.5%	55.6%
31	Buxted Recreation Ground	Buxted	2.81	63.3%	44.4%
43	Crowborough Leisure Centre	Crowborough	8.96	59.7%	66.7%
46	Danehill Recreation Ground	Danehill	3.26	50.9%	55.6%
53	East Hoathly Recreation Ground	East Hoathly with Halland	4.09	63.3%	55.6%
64	Framfield Recreation Ground	Framfield	2.53	58.1%	58.9%
71	Goldmiths boating pond and railway	Crowborough	0.30	42.1%	45.6%
90	Herstmonceaux Recreation Ground	Herstmonceaux	2.26	46.3%	55.6%
99	Horam Recreation Ground	Horam	5.65	81.1%	61.1%
104	Jarvis Brook Playing Fields	Crowborough	2.07	55.3%	61.1%
120	Maurice Thornton Playing Fields	Hailsham	4.34	49.7%	55.6%
121	Mayfield King George's Field	Mayfield and Five Ashes	9.30	56.6%	55.6%
134	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Ninfield	2.03	50.1%	55.6%
151	Pleasure Ground	Polegate	3.22	62.9%	56.7%
159	Ridgewood Village Hall	Uckfield	1.99	65.4%	61.1%
161	Rotherfield Recreation Ground	Rotherfield	2.83	54.3%	61.1%
168	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Wadhurst	2.78	55.6%	55.6%
189	Victoria Pleasure Ground	Uckfield	5.54	77.6%	72.2%
193	Waldron Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Waldron	4.38	62.4%	64.4%
197	West Park Recreation Ground	Uckfield	3.57	71.2%	66.7%
198	Western Road Recreation Ground	Hailsham	2.33	53.5%	50.0%
203	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough	3.24	55.3%	55.6%

110. Figure 5.1 highlights potential gaps to areas of greater population density across the analysis areas particularly to the settlements of Polegate, Heathfield, and Forest Row. Other types of open space provision are identified (Table 5.3) within these gaps. Such sites may help to serve as an alternative within the catchment gaps for parks. It should be noted that cross boundary provision has not been considered and could potentially help meet identified gaps.

\* Sites in italic are located in the SDNP

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Polegate	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground (ID 101)	Amenity
Heathfield	Heathfield Recreation Ground (ID 82)	Amenity
Forest Row	North Green (ID 136) Ashdown Road AGS (ID 11)	Amenity Amenity

## 5.4 Quality

111. To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied to segregate high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.4: Quality ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <60%	No. of sites >60%
Alciston	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	55%	55%	55%	1	0
Arlington	-	-	-	-	-
Berwick	-	-	-	-	-
Buxted	61%	61%	61%	0	1
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-	-	-
Crowborough	42%	53%	60%	4	0
Cuckmere Valley	-	-	-	-	-
Danehill	51%	51%	51%	1	0
East Dean and Friston	-	-	-	-	-
East Hoathly with Halland	61%	61%	61%	0	1
Fletching	-	-	-	-	-
Forest Row	-	-	-	-	-
Framfield	56%	56%	56%	1	0
Frant	-	-	-	-	-
Hadlow Down	-	-	-	-	-
Hailsham	47%	50%	53%	3	0
Hartfield	-	-	-	-	-
Heathfield and Waldron	60%	60%	60%	0	1
Hellingly	-	-	-	-	-
Herstmonceux	46%	46%	46%	1	0

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <60%	No. of sites >60%
Hooe	-	-	-	-	-
Horam	81%	81%	81%	0	1
Isfield	-	-	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-	-	-
Little Horsted	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield	-	-	-	-	-
Mayfield and Five Ashes	57%	57%	57%	1	0
Ninfield	50%	50%	50%	1	0
Pevensey	-	-	-	-	-
Polegate	61%	61%	61%	0	1
Rotherfield	54%	54%	54%	1	0
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	64%	69%	76%	0	3
Wadhurst	56%	56%	56%	1	0
Warbleton	-	-	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	57%	57%	57%	1	0
Willingdon and Jevington	-	-	-	-	-
Withyham	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wealden (exc SDNP)</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>

112. A third of parks score above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites for quality are:
- ◀ Horam Recreation Ground (81%)
  - ◀ Victoria Pleasure Ground (New Barn Farm), Uckfield (78%)
  - ◀ West Park Recreation Ground, Uckfield (71%)
  - ◀ Ridgewood Village Hall (65%)
113. These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage, seating and bins. All benefit from containing play equipment and ancillary features. The sites are also observed as having access for all, being well-maintained and having good levels of personal security. All have toilet facilities and car parking although the car park at Ridgewood Village Hall is noted as quite small, sloping and contains loose gravel.
114. Horam Recreation Ground (81%), the highest scoring park site, is observed as an attractive, well located, high quality site. The site also benefits from picnic tables, bins, benches, plenty of car parking, toilets in the village hall and good signage adding to its quality. In addition, the site features a play area, skate park, table tennis (x2) and eight pieces of outdoor gym equipment. However, at the time of assessment, the play area was under construction due to issues with flooding.



## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

115. Victoria Pleasure Ground (New Barn Farm) (78%) is a large site with a range of equipment likely to cater to a wide range of users. The site contains a play area, skate park, MUGA and tennis courts. The site also benefits from car parking, including disabled car parking.
116. Similarly, West Park Recreation Ground (71%) and Ridgewood Village Hall (65%) are observed as being attractive and high-quality sites with a range of ancillary features (including play and sport provision, parking, signage, and bins). The latter is noted as also outdoor gym equipment.
117. There are 16 park and garden sites which rate below the quality threshold. The lowest scoring sites for quality are:
- ◀ Goldsmiths boating pond and min railway (42%)
  - ◀ Hertsmoncreaux Recreation Ground (46%)
  - ◀ Brunel Drive (46%)
  - ◀ Maurice Thornton Playing Fields (50%)
118. The sites generally score lower for features such as seating, bins, signage and pathways in comparison to other sites of the same type. Maurice Thornton Playing Fields could benefit from provision of bins. Goldsmiths boating pond and mini railway and Brunel Drive could benefit from improved signage.

### 5.5 Value

119. To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.5: Value ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
Alciston	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	51%	51%	51%	0	1
Arlington	-	-	-	-	-
Berwick	-	-	-	-	-
Buxted	44%	44%	44%	0	1
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-	-	-
Crowborough	46%	57%	67%	0	4
Cuckmere Valley	-	-	-	-	-
Danehill	56%	56%	56%	0	1
East Dean and Friston	-	-	-	-	-

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
East Hoathly with Halland	56%	56%	56%	0	1
Fletching	-	-	-	-	-
Forest Row	-	-	-	-	-
Framfield	59%	59%	59%	0	1
Frant	-	-	-	-	-
Hadlow Down	-	-	-	-	-
Hailsham	50%	54%	56%	0	3
Hartfield	-	-	-	-	-
Heathfield and Waldron	64%	64%	64%	0	1
Hellingly	-	-	-	-	-
Herstmonceux	56%	56%	56%	0	1
Hooe	-	-	-	-	-
Horam	61%	61%	61%	0	1
Isfield	-	-	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-	-	-
Little Horsted	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield	-	-	-	-	-
Mayfield and Five Ashes	56%	56%	56%	0	1
Ninfield	56%	56%	56%	0	1
Pevensey	-	-	-	-	-
Polegate	57%	57%	57%	0	1
Rotherfield	61%	61%	61%	0	1
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	61%	67%	72%	0	3
Wadhurst	56%	56%	56%	0	1
Warbleton	-	-	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	56%	56%	56%	0	1
Willingdon and Jevington	-	-	-	-	-
Withyham	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wealden (exc. SNDP)</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

120. All park and garden sites rate above the threshold for value. Park and garden sites provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

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121. Some of the highest scoring sites for value are:
- ◀ Victoria Pleasure Ground (72%)
  - ◀ Crowborough Leisure Centre (67%)
  - ◀ West Park Recreation Ground (67%)
122. All three sites are observed as having high social, health and amenity benefits as they offer a range of opportunities for people to meet, interact and exercise. West Park and Victoria Pleasure Ground also provide high ecological and landscape value with habitat opportunities and attractive features.
123. One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their ability to function as a multipurpose form of open space provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area.

### 5.6 Summary

#### **Parks and gardens**

- ◀ There are 23 sites classified as parks and gardens, the equivalent of over 84 hectares.
- ◀ In addition, if SDNP sites are included, then a total of 24 sites (87 hectares) is noted.
- ◀ Fields In Trust suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall Wealden, with 0.53, is below this. However, given the rural nature of the area this is not unexpected but should be viewed along with accessibility.
- ◀ The largest contributor to provision is Mayfield King Georges Field (9 hectares).
- ◀ Potential catchment gaps in parks provision are noted to the settlements of Polegate, Heathfield, and Forest Row. However, these may be partly served by other types of provision including amenity and natural and semi natural greenspace.
- ◀ A third of parks score above the quality threshold. Two thirds of sites rate below the threshold. This is often due to sites lacking supporting ancillary facilities (such as seating, bins, signage)
- ◀ All parks score above the threshold for value reflecting the high social, health and ecological benefits such sites provide.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 6: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

### 6.1 Introduction

124. The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. quarries) and commons.

### 6.2 Current provision

125. In total, there are 47 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites across Wealden (excluding SNDP), equating to almost 1,728 hectares. Four sites initially identified in the audit have been excluded from the study for the reasons detailed:
- ◀ ID 24: Broadstone Warren Scout Camp (Scout camp, not open space)
  - ◀ ID 65: Framfield Road ANG (private land, inaccessible)
  - ◀ ID 180: The Kiln Wood (inaccessible)
  - ◀ ID 191: Village Pond, Vines Cross (<0.2ha)

Table 6.1: Current accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace in Wealden

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace Number of sites	Natural and semi-natural greenspace Total hectares (ha)	Natural and semi-natural greenspace Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Alciston	-	-	-
Alfriston	-	-	-
Arlington	1	96.66	78.39
Berwick	-	-	-
Buxted	2	178.28	42.96
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-
Crowborough	2	42.63	1.92
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	4	1296.54	6823.89
Danehill	1	6.08	3.06
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	2	66.66	40.72
East Hoathly with Halland	1	25.29	14.96
Fletching	-	-	-
Forest Row	1	14.15	2.67
Framfield	-	-	-
Frant	-	-	-
Hadlow Down	1	25.17	31.19
Hailsham	3	8.31	0.37
Hartfield	2	528.93	236.23
Heathfield and Waldron	5	27.10	2.20
Hellingly	1	15.77	4.47

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace Number of sites	Natural and semi-natural greenspace Total hectares (ha)	Natural and semi-natural greenspace Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Herstmonceux	-	-	-
Hooe	1	9.21	19.81
Horam	2	1.38	0.48
Isfield	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-
Little Horsted	1	29.37	127.70
Long Man	2	432.39	n/a*
Maresfield	1	57.99	15.32
Mayfield and Five Ashes	-	-	-
Ninfield	-	-	-
Pevensey	1	8.30	2.51
<i>Polegate</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4.77</i>	<i>0.51</i>
Rotherfield	1	28.04	8.37
Selmeston	-	-	-
Uckfield	10	52.72	3.49
Wadhurst	1	77.46	15.84
Warbleton	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-
Westham	6	4.48	0.58
<i>Willingdon and Jevington</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3.38</i>	<i>0.45</i>
Withyham	1	58.18	20.18
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,727.90</b>	<b>10.91</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>3,099.25</b>	<b>19.14</b>

126. These totals do not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold has been applied. Any sites below 0.2 hectares are not included. Sites smaller than 0.2 hectares are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. Analysis areas that contain sites within the SDNP are in Italics.
127. Hartfield has the most accessible natural and semi-natural provision with a total of 528 hectares. This is due to the large site of Ashdown Forest (528 ha). The site makes up almost a third of the accessible natural/semi-natural greenspace provision across Wealden.
128. If provision and populations in areas of the district covered by the South Downs National Park are included then a total of 55 sites (3,099 hectares) exist; an equivalent to a current provision level of 19.14 hectares per 1,000 head of population.
129. Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Across Wealden, there is an overall provision level of 10.91 hectares per 1,000 head of population, well above the FIT guideline.

\* No population is attributed to the parish as population centre is within SDNP

### 6.3 Accessibility

130. The Community Survey found the most common mode of travel to access a nature reserve or woodland is by walking (50%). However, this is closely followed by 45% of respondents that access natural provision via car. The most common time willing to be travelled is more than 20 minutes (47%).
131. For country parks, most respondents will travel via car (73%) compared to walking (23%). Similarly, most respondents are willing to travel over 20 minutes (47%).
132. Furthermore, Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. They recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:
- ◀ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (five minute walk) from home.
  - ◀ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home.
  - ◀ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home.
  - ◀ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.
  - ◀ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.
133. The variation in modes and travel times from the survey results is likely to reflect the differences in the role and size of natural provision; some sites serve the whole Wealden District whilst others are more local forms of provision.
134. On this basis, a 20-minute walk time has been applied to all natural and semi-natural greenspace. In addition, a 20-minute drive time catchment has also been applied to larger natural sites (over 20 hectares in size to also reflect the ANGSt approach). Figure 6.1 shows the catchments based on the survey results to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located. Figures 6.2 to 6.5 display the ANGSt catchments.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

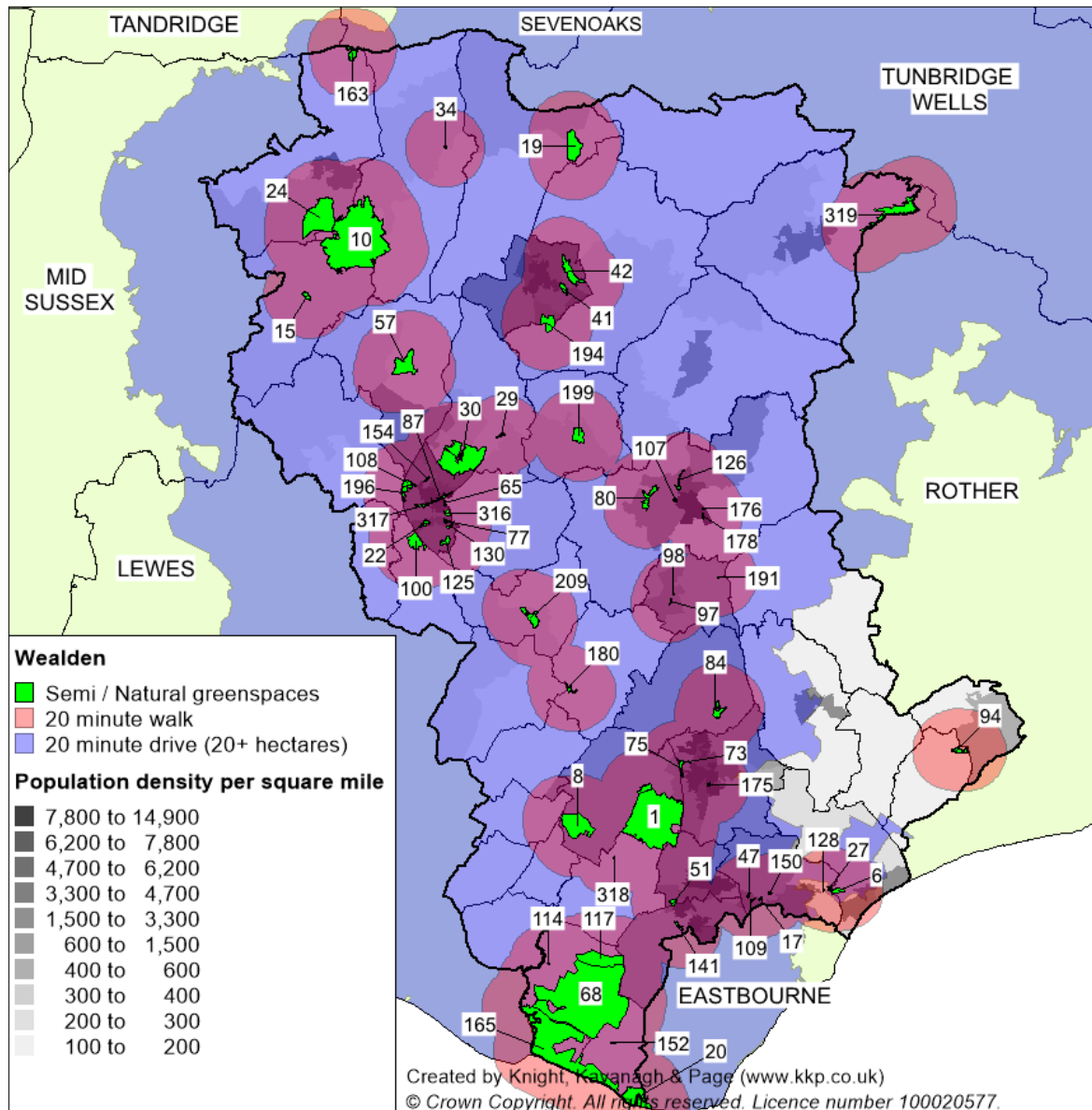


Figure 6.1: Natural greenspace mapped with catchments

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

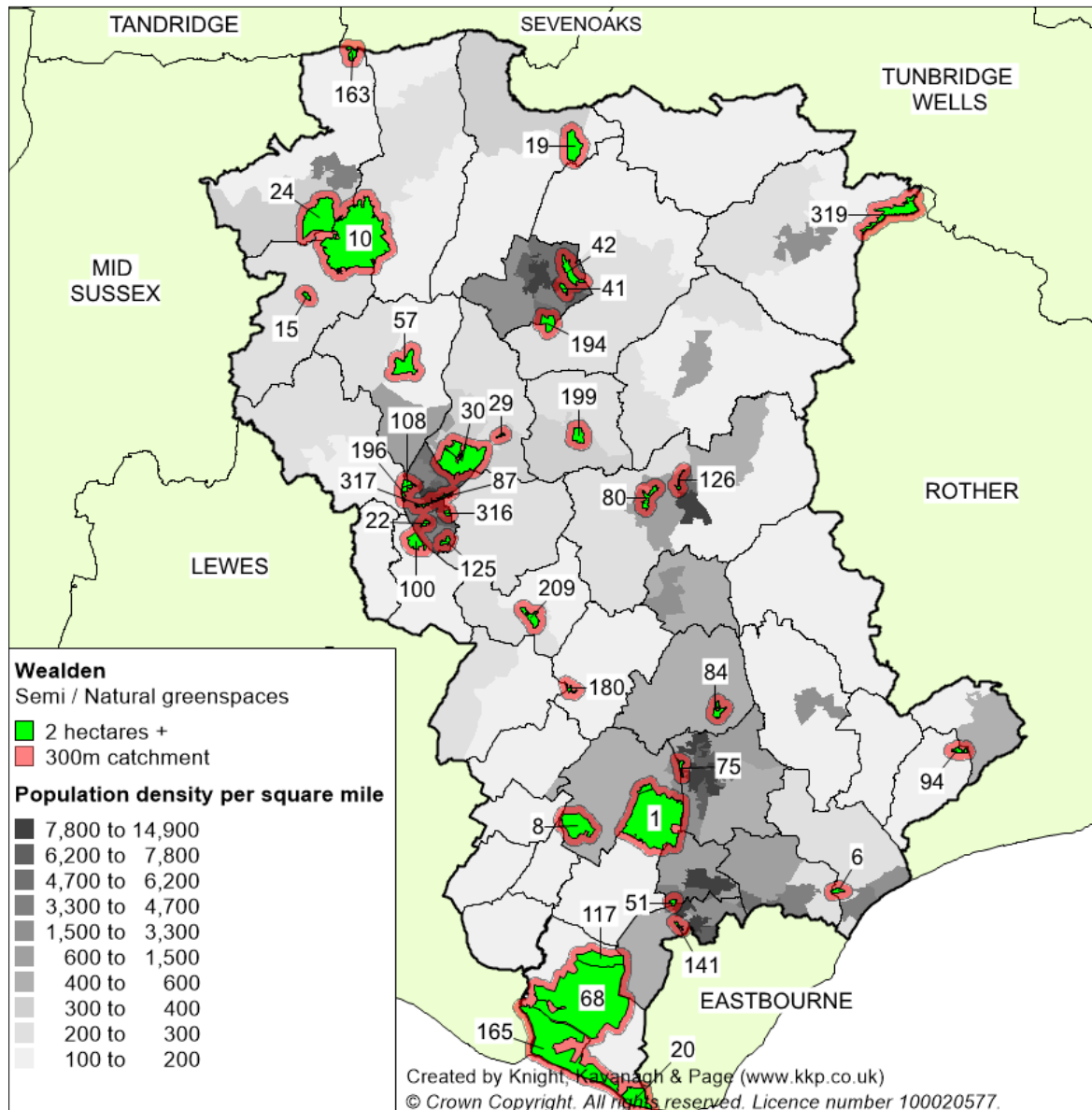


Figure 6.2: Natural greenspace (over 2 hectares) mapped with 300m catchment



# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

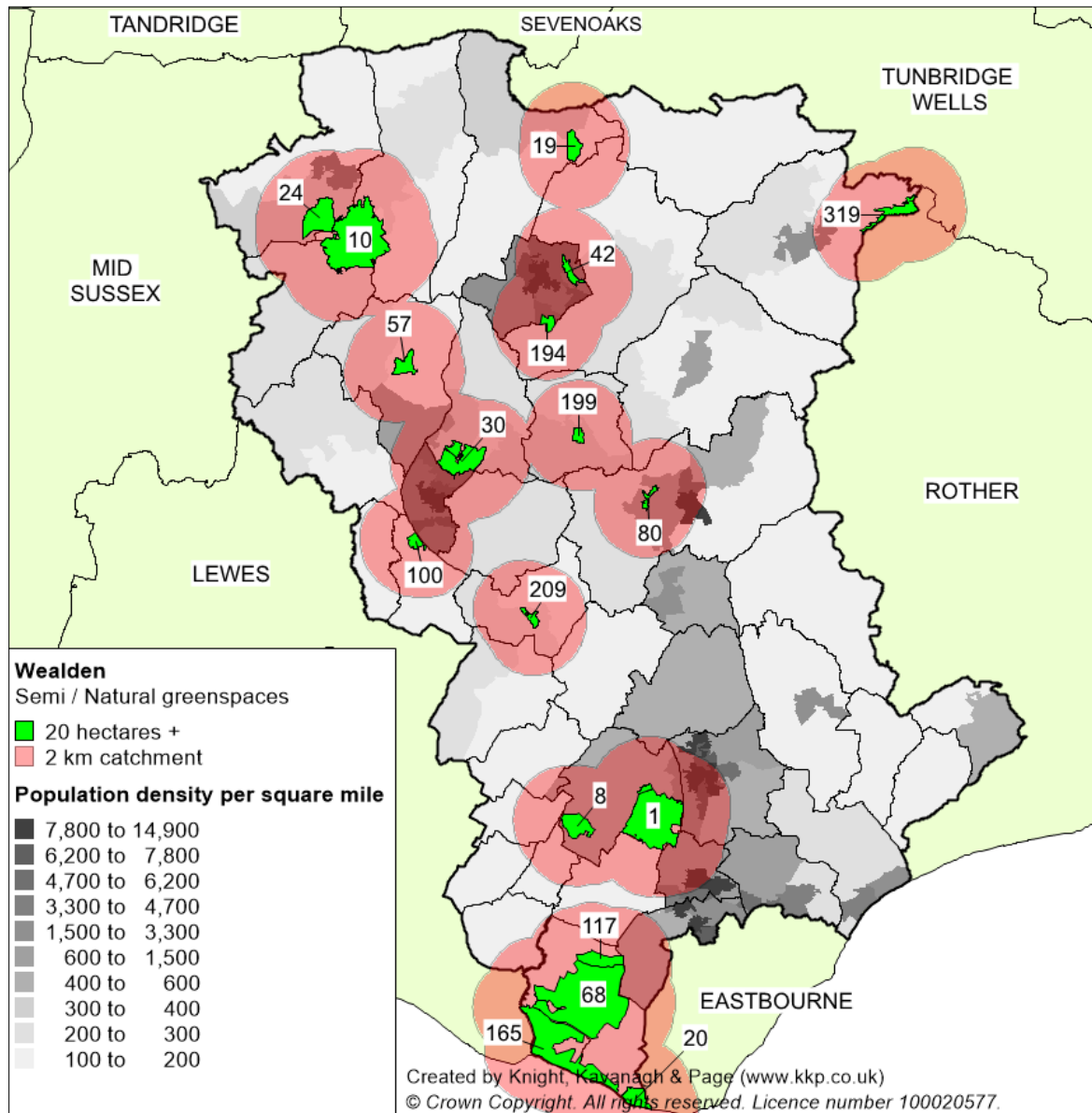


Figure 6.3: Natural greenspace (over 20 hectares) mapped with 2-kilometre catchments

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

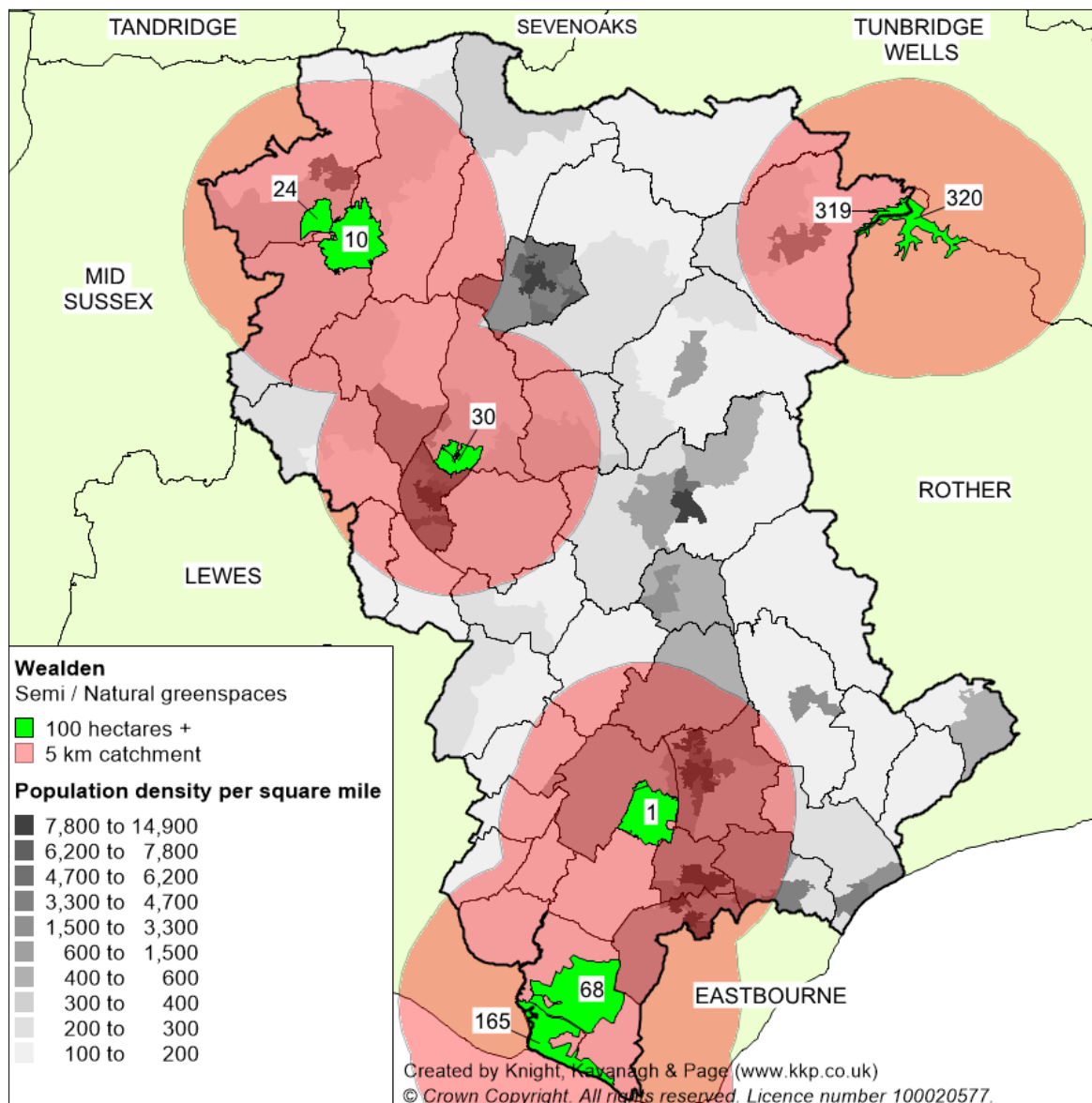


Figure 6.4: Natural greenspace (over 100 hectares) mapped with 5-kilometre catchments

135. Note that Bewl Water (combined sites of 319 and 320) is 334.79 hectares in total. Part of the site is within Wealden District (77.46 hectares) but most of the site is within Rother District.

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

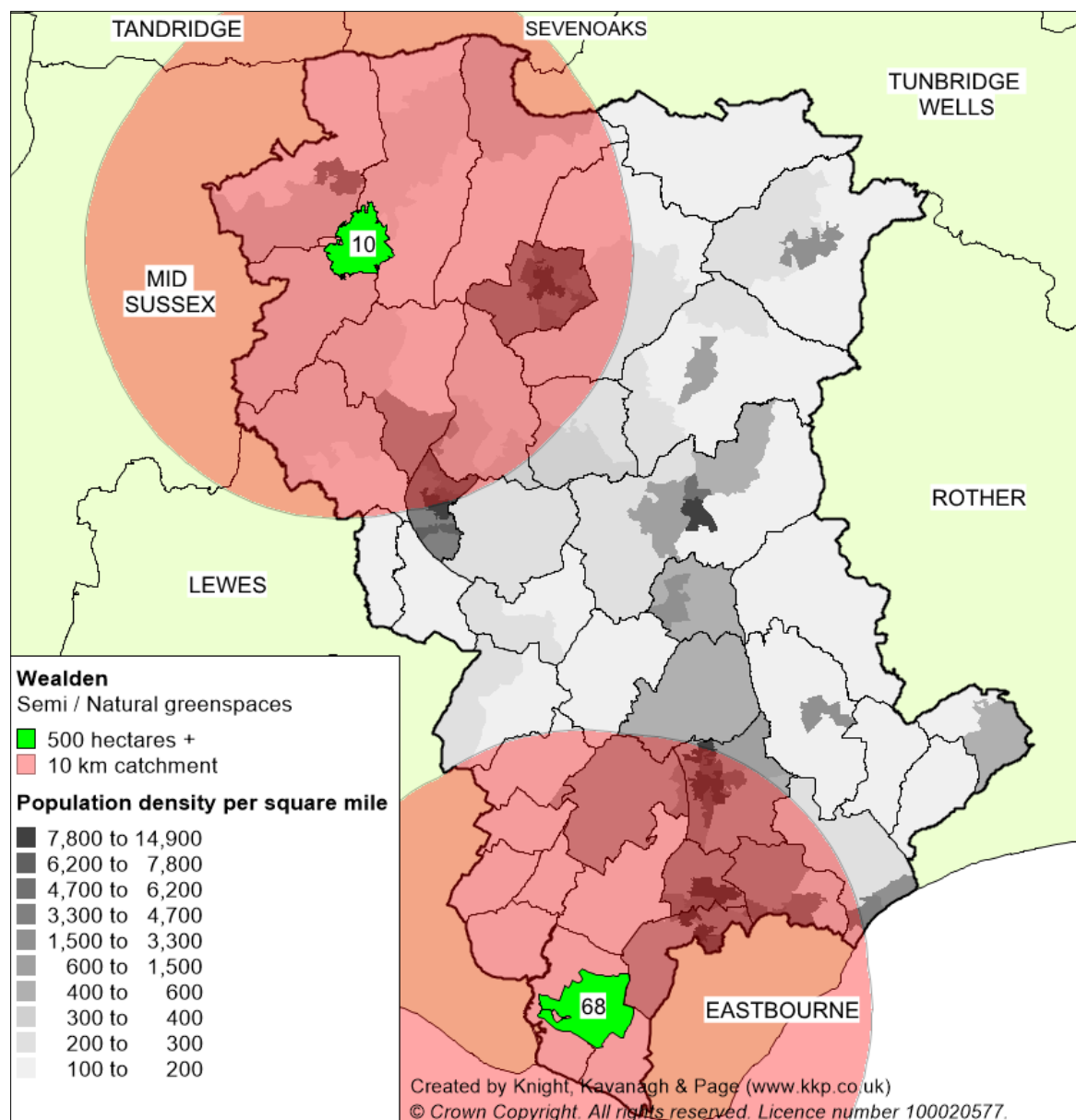


Figure 6.5: Natural greenspace (over 500 hectares) mapped with 10-kilometre catchments

Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Abbot's Wood	Long Man	431.94	72.6%	52.9%
6	Anderita Park	Pevensey	8.30	22.3%	34.1%
8	Arlington Reservoir	Arlington	96.65	84.8%	70.6%
10	Ashdown Forest and Visitor Centre	Hartfield	527.95	77.4%	76.5%
15	Beaconsfield Road Woodland	Danehill	6.08	29.5%	28.2%
17	Beaulieu Drive	Westham	0.42	39.3%	31.8%

\* Sites in italic are located in the SDNP

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
19	Birchden Wood and Harrisons Rocks	Withyham	58.18	54.2%	47.1%
20	<i>Birling Gap/Seven Sisters CP</i>	<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	66.30	60.1%	70.6%
22	Boothland Wood	Uckfield	5.00	53.6%	27.1%
27	Butcher's Field	Westham	1.41	44.9%	49.4%
29	Buxted Millennium Little Wood	Buxted	2.63	36.6%	27.1%
30	Buxted Park	Buxted	175.65	41.1%	64.7%
34	Castlefields AGS	Hartfield	0.98	30.4%	34.1%
41	Crowborough Country Park	Crowborough	7.53	58.3%	58.8%
42	Crowborough Ghyll	Crowborough	35.10	40.8%	47.1%
47	Darent Close	Westham	1.11	36.6%	27.1%
51	<i>Diplocks Wood</i>	<i>Polegate</i>	4.77	47.6%	47.1%
57	Fairwarp Woods	Maresfield	57.99	32.1%	45.9%
68	<i>Friston Forest</i>	<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	797.18	62.5%	52.9%
73	Grovelands Road Nature Area	Hailsham	0.09	32.1%	32.9%
75	Hailsham Country Park	Hailsham	6.47	37.2%	52.9%
77	Harlands Farm Park	Uckfield	1.84	56.0%	38.8%
80	Heatherden Wood (Darch's Wood)	Heathfield and Waldron	20.46	48.2%	38.8%
84	Hellingly Country Park	Hellingly	15.77	71.7%	76.5%
87	Hempstead Meadows LNR	Uckfield	6.06	62.8%	41.2%
94	Hooe Common	Hooe	9.21	33.9%	40.0%
97	Horam Natural Green Space 1	Horam	1.06	26.8%	21.2%
98	Horam Natural Green Space 2	Horam	0.32	22.3%	12.9%
100	Horsted Green Park	Little Horsted	29.37	59.8%	64.7%
107	Jubilee Park	Heathfield and Waldron	1.24	49.1%	45.9%
108	Lake Wood	Uckfield	8.34	32.1%	27.1%
109	Lambourn Avenue	Westham	0.25	37.5%	31.8%
114	<i>Litlington Village Hall</i>	<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	0.45	47.3%	31.8%
117	<i>Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve</i>	<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	88.12	48.2%	34.1%
125	Millennium Green, Ridgewood	Uckfield	8.40	58.9%	56.5%
126	Millennium Green, Heathfield	Heathfield and Waldron	3.92	59.8%	41.2%
128	Mortain Road Pond	Westham	0.28	63.4%	52.9%
130	Nightingale Woods	Uckfield	1.96	27.7%	20.0%
141	<i>Paragon Field</i>	<i>Willingdon and Jevington</i>	3.38	42.3%	28.2%
150	Pickens Wood	Westham	1.01	25.9%	21.2%
152	<i>Pond and village green</i>	<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	0.35	59.5%	37.6%

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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
154	POS The Drive	Uckfield	0.90	33.0%	25.9%
163	Scarlett's Lake	Forest Row	14.15	15.2%	32.9%
165	Seven Sisters Country Park	Cuckmere Valley	410.79	66.1%	58.8%
175	The Common Pond	Hailsham	1.58	45.5%	51.8%
176	The Coppice	Heathfield and Waldron	0.73	34.2%	40.0%
178	The Ghyll (Mulberry Way River Corridor)	Heathfield and Waldron	0.76	36.9%	28.2%
194	Walshes Park	Rotherfield	28.04	62.8%	64.7%
196	West Park Nature Reserve	Uckfield	11.59	26.8%	27.1%
199	Wilderness Wood	Hadlow Down	25.17	47.3%	51.8%
209	Moat Wood	East Hoathly with Halland	25.29	22.3%	27.1%
316	Selby Meadow	Uckfield	4.35	43.8%	38.8%
317	Bridge Farm Wood	Uckfield	4.28	26.8%	32.9%
318	Wilmington and Monken Pyn	Long Man	0.45	35.7%	25.9%
319	Bewl Water (Wealden)	Wadhurst	77.46	70.5%	64.7%

136. Figure 6.1 highlights only one noticeable gap in catchment mapping to the settlement of Wadhurst. Other types of open space provision are identified within this gap (Table 5.3) which may help to serve as an alternative within the accessibility gap for natural greenspace. It should be noted that cross boundary provision has not been considered and could potentially help meet identified gaps.

Table 6.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Wadhurst	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground (ID 168)	Park

## 6.4 Quality

137. To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 45% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <45%	No. of sites >45%
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Arlington	85%	85%	85%	0	1
Berwick	-	-	-	-	-
Buxted	37%	39%	41%	2	0
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-	-	-
Crowborough	41%	50%	58%	1	1
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	47%	56%	66%	0	4
Danehill	29%	29%	29%	1	0
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	59%	60%	60%	0	2
East Hoathly with Halland	22%	22%	22%	1	0
Fletching	-	-	-	-	-
Forest Row	15%	15%	15%	1	0
Framfield	-	-	-	-	-
Frant	-	-	-	-	-
Hadlow Down	47%	47%	47%	0	1
Hailsham	32%	38%	46%	2	1
Hartfield	30%	54%	77%	1	1
Heathfield and Waldron	34%	46%	60%	2	3
Hellingly	72%	72%	72%	0	1
Herstmonceux	-	-	-	-	-
Hooe	34%	34%	34%	1	0
Horam	22%	25%	27%	2	0
Isfield	-	-	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-	-	-
Little Horsted	60%	60%	60%	0	1
Long Man	36%	54%	73%	1	1
Maresfield	32%	32%	32%	1	0
Mayfield and Five Ashes	-	-	-	-	-
Ninfield	-	-	-	-	-
Pevensey	22%	22%	22%	1	0
<i>Polegate†</i>	48%	48%	48%	0	1
Rotherfield	63%	63%	63%	0	1
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

† Natural greenspace site within area is in part of parish covered by the SDNP

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <45%	No. of sites >45%
Uckfield	27%	42%	63%	6	4
Wadhurst	71%	71%	71%	0	1
Warbleton	-	-	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	26%	41%	63%	5	1
<i>Willingdon and Jevington</i>	42%	42%	42%	1	0
Withyham	54%	54%	54%	0	1
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>

138. Of the assessed natural and semi-natural sites, a total of 19 sites (40%) rate above the threshold set for quality, indicating a mixed quality of provision.
139. Over half of assessed sites (60%) rate below the quality threshold. Low rating sites include:
- ◀ Scarletts Lake, Forest Row (15%)
  - ◀ Moat Wood, East Hoathly with Halland (22%)
  - ◀ Horam Natural Green Space 2, Horam (22%)
  - ◀ Anderita Park, Pevensey (22%)
  - ◀ Pickens Wood, Westham (26%)
140. Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as benches and bins. In some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation. All five of these sites score low for entrances and user security. Scarletts Lake (15%) is noted as being a large site with poor access and parking, lowering the quality of the site. Moat Wood (22%) also lacks ancillary features however is observed as a well-used wood. Horam Natural Green Space 2 (22%) is a small area lacking any noticeable features other than a very worn pathway. Anderita Park (22%) is a large area acting as a buffer to the railway. Signage and paths could be better on site. Pickens Wood (26%) is noted as a sloping area of woodland with no seating, bins or signage. Furthermore the path through the site could be better.
141. Other low scoring sites include West Park Nature Reserve, Uckfield (27%), Lake Wood, Uckfield (32%), POS the Drive, Uckfield (33%) and Buxted Millennium Little Wood, Buxted (37%). The former site has no signage or facilities other than its site name. It is also observed as quite dense and featuring brambles and marsh areas. Greater information could help to improve the site by encouraging more visitors.
142. Similarly, Buxted Millennium Little Wood has no bins or signage other than woodland trust on the gate. It is identified as a small area tucked behind housing which is poorly maintained. It does, however, feature a sculpted bench and a good circular dog walk for local residents. Lake Wood (32%) scores low for quality due to difficulties with access from the road.



## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

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143. POS the Drive, Uckfield (33%) is observed as a narrow strip of woodland with large sloping areas (although an improved path runs along the top of the site). It is noted as untidy with overgrown paths and little evidence of management.
144. The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites are:
- ◀ Arlington Reservoir (85%)
  - ◀ Ashdown Forest and Visitor Centre (77%)
  - ◀ Abbot's Wood (73%)
  - ◀ Hellingly Country Park (72%)
145. These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as, informative signage, seating and bins. The sites are also observed as having good access for all, with well-maintained pathways and levels of personal security. Furthermore, these sites, excluding Hellingly Country Park, all have car parking and toilets. It is noted that the car park and toilet facilities at Arlington Reservoir can be insufficient during busy periods due to their small size. Nevertheless, the site, which also features a café, is overall of good quality. It is also a SSSI further enhancing its quality and value.
146. Ashdown Forest and Visitor Centre (77%) is observed as a large access space with a visitor centre and car parks. The site is within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has national and international protection due to its wildlife. Most of the site is heathland and it is one of the largest, free, publicly accessible spaces in the Southeast. It is observed as a great place for walking due to the trails and wildlife.
147. The District Council and other partners are seeking ways to reduce visitor pressure at Ashdown Forest to reduce the disturbance of protected ground nesting birds. This is being achieved by the delivery of suitable alternative natural green spaces (SANGs) such as Walshes Park (63%) and Horsted Green Park (60%) that seek to reduce the impact of recreational pressure from new residential development on Ashdown Forest.
148. In addition, sites within the SDNP such as Friston Forest and Seven Sisters Country Park help serve the area. Both are significantly large, well used and popular sites, which are great for walkers, dog walkers and families. The sites have the additional benefits of car parking, toilets and signage. Friston Forest has cycling, mountain biking and horse-riding trails further adding to its quality. Seven Sisters Country Park also has a café and offers opportunities for kayaking and paddle boarding.

### 6.5 Value

149. To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).



# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 6.5: Value scores for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Arlington	71%	71%	71%	0	1
Berwick	-	-	-	-	-
Buxted	27%	46%	65%	0	2
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-	-	-
Crowborough	47%	53%	59%	0	2
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	32%	44%	59%	0	4
Danehill	28%	28%	28%	0	1
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	38%	54%	71%	0	2
East Hoathly with Halland	27%	27%	27%	0	1
Fletching	-	-	-	-	-
Forest Row	33%	33%	33%	0	1
Framfield	-	-	-	-	-
Frant	-	-	-	-	-
Hadlow Down	52%	52%	52%	0	1
Hailsham	33%	46%	53%	0	3
Hartfield	34%	55%	77%	0	2
Heathfield and Waldron	28%	39%	46%	0	5
Hellingly	77%	77%	77%	0	1
Herstmonceux	-	-	-	-	-
Hooe	40%	40%	40%	0	1
Horam	13%	17%	21%	1	1
Isfield	-	-	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-	-	-
Little Horsted	65%	65%	65%	0	1
Long Man	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield	46%	46%	46%	0	1
Mayfield and Five Ashes	-	-	-	-	-
Ninfield	-	-	-	-	-
Pevensey	34%	34%	34%	0	1
<i>Polegate†</i>	47%	47%	47%	0	1
Rotherfield	65%	65%	65%	0	1
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

† Natural greenspace site within area is in part of parish covered by the SDNP

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Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
Uckfield	20%	34%	56%	0	10
Wadhurst	65%	65%	65%	0	1
Warbleton	-	-	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	21%	36%	53%	0	6
<i>Willingdon and Jevington</i>	28%	28%	28%	0	1
Withyham	47%	47%	47%	0	1
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>

150. Most natural and semi-natural sites across the district rate above the threshold for value. The majority of sites are recognised as having a high ecological value, contributing to flora and fauna, as well as providing habitats for local wildlife.
151. As well as ecological value, these sites provide benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and those visiting from further afield. This is a result of the exercise opportunities they provide, for example, through walking and biking trails. Furthermore, they give people peaceful spaces to relax and reflect. The high levels of natural features also support with improving air quality.
152. The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for value within the district are:
- ◀ Ashdown Forest and Visitor Centre (77%)
  - ◀ Hellingly Country Park (77%)
  - ◀ Arlington Reservoir (71%)
  - ◀ Horsted Green Park (65%)
  - ◀ Walshes Park (65%)
  - ◀ Buxted Park (65%)
153. These sites offer education value through interpretation boards as well as high amenity and social value due to good paths and recreation and exercise opportunities. All are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes, and enhancing structural and landscape benefits. In addition, each provide high ecological value due to high biodiversity providing habitats for flora and fauna.
154. Arlington Reservoir (71%) and Buxted Park (65%) are also noted as SSSIs adding further value and importance.
155. Hellingly Country Park (77%) has additional amenity value as it features a play area, MUGA and cricket pitch. Most of these sites also have cultural and heritage value particularly Buxted Park which is a historic site and an old deer park.
156. Horsted Green Park (65%) and Walshes Park (65%) are observed as attractive sites that are well used and maintained, therefore, score highly for visual and landscape benefits. Both are recognised as suitable alternative natural green spaces (SANGs) that seek to reduce the impact of recreational pressure from new residential development on Ashdown Forest. Furthermore, each score high for ecological value due to their wildlife and presence

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of trees and bushes. The District Council highlight Horsted Green Park as a newly created site which is well used by dog walkers.

157. The following two sites score the lowest for value:

- ◀ Horam Natural Green Space 2, Horam (13%)
- ◀ Nightingale Woods, Westham (20%)

158. Sites scoring below the threshold for value do not appear to be particularly well used as access is often uncertain and/or limiting. Both lower value sites also rate below the threshold for quality. Horam Natural Green Space 2 has worn and very uneven paths. Improvements to the paths and adding signage could help to enhance the site's use and therefore improve value. Similarly, Nightingale Woods has uneven paths. It also scores very low for personal security, with a narrow entrance and limited security controls impacting on its use, social inclusion and amenity benefits. Signage and improvements to the path could enable a wider range of people to use the site and encourage greater use of the site, enhancing amenity and social benefits. Despite some sites scoring below the threshold, the ecological benefits the sites provide are still recognised.

## 6.6 Summary

### Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- ◀ There are 47 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering over 1,727 hectares.
- ◀ A further eight sites are within the SDNP (providing a combined total of 3,099 hectares)
- ◀ FIT suggests a standard of 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population. Using the 47 sites in Wealden (omitting SDNP sites) there is 10.91 hectares per 1,000 population. Whilst quantity appears sufficient it is also important to consider accessibility.
- ◀ There is a good distribution of natural and semi-natural sites across the area. However, a potential gap is highlighted to the settlement of Wadhurst. Other forms of provision in the area may help to serve the catchment gap.
- ◀ Of the natural and semi-natural sites assessed, a total of 47% rate above the threshold set for quality. There are 29 sites that rate below the quality threshold. Often this is due to sites lacking ancillary features.
- ◀ Nearly all sites rate above the threshold for value demonstrating the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna. Often entrances, paths and ancillary features are elements which can be improved to help enhance a sites quality and value.

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## PART 7: AMENITY GREENSPACE

### 7.1 Introduction

159. Amenity greenspace is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential and other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, wooded areas and other incidental space.

### 7.2 Current provision

160. There are 89 amenity greenspace sites in Wealden equating to over 89 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

*Table 7.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites in Wealden*

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace Number	Amenity greenspace Total hectares (ha)	Amenity greenspace Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	1	0.51	0.63
Arlington	3	3.21	2.60
Berwick	1	1.11	2.70
Buxted	1	1.33	0.32
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-
Chiddingly	2	2.06	1.95
Crowborough	8	8.86	0.40
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	-	-	-
Danehill	1	0.37	0.19
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	3	3.41	2.08
East Hoathly with Halland	2	0.12	2.49
Fletching	1	1.76	1.72
Forest Row	5	5.00	0.95
Framfield	2	1.83	0.87
Frant	2	2.28	1.38
Hadlow Down	1	1.80	2.23
Hailsham	13	8.53	0.38
Hartfield	1	1.91	0.85
Heathfield and Waldron	5	6.52	0.53
Hellingly	3	3.43	0.97
Herstmonceux	1	0.35	0.14
Hooe	1	2.25	4.84
Horam	2	0.40	0.14

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Analysis area	Amenity greenspace Number	Amenity greenspace Total hectares (ha)	Amenity greenspace Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Isfield	1	2.12	3.09
Laughton	1	0.14	0.22
Little Horsted	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-
Maresfield	5	5.91	1.56
Mayfield and Five Ashes	1	1.56	0.38
Ninfield	-	-	-
Pevensey	3	2.83	0.85
Polegate	3	3.61	0.39
Rotherfield	1	3.41	0.56
Selmeston	-	-	-
Uckfield	8	6.30	0.42
Wadhurst	2	2.73	0.56
Warbleton	1	0.79	0.56
Wartling	-	-	-
Westham	3	0.90	0.62
Willingdon and Jevington	3	2.90	0.39
Withyham	2	3.07	1.06
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89.36</b>	<b>0.56</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93.28</b>	<b>0.58</b>

161. Most analysis areas have amenity greenspace provision. The typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, Chapel Green at 0.22 hectares acts as an important visual/communal amenity. In contrast, Rotherfield Millennium at 3.41 hectares, is a large area offering a range of informal recreational opportunities.
162. If provision and populations in areas of the district covered by the South Downs National Park are included then a total of 93 sites (93.28 hectares) exist; an equivalent to a current provision level of 0.58 hectares per 1,000 head of population.
163. Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall, the district is slightly insufficient on this basis.
164. It is important to highlight that it is not always clear to distinguish a site's primary typology. Some sites can bridge the definition of typologies such as natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural greenspace.

## 7.3 Accessibility

165. The Community Survey found the most common mode of travel to access an amenity greenspace is by walking (76%). The most common times willing to be travelled is 5-10 minutes (32%), 11-15 minutes (22%) and less than 5 minutes (20%).

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166. On this basis, a 10-minute walk has been applied to all amenity greenspaces. Figure 7.1 shows the catchment areas applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

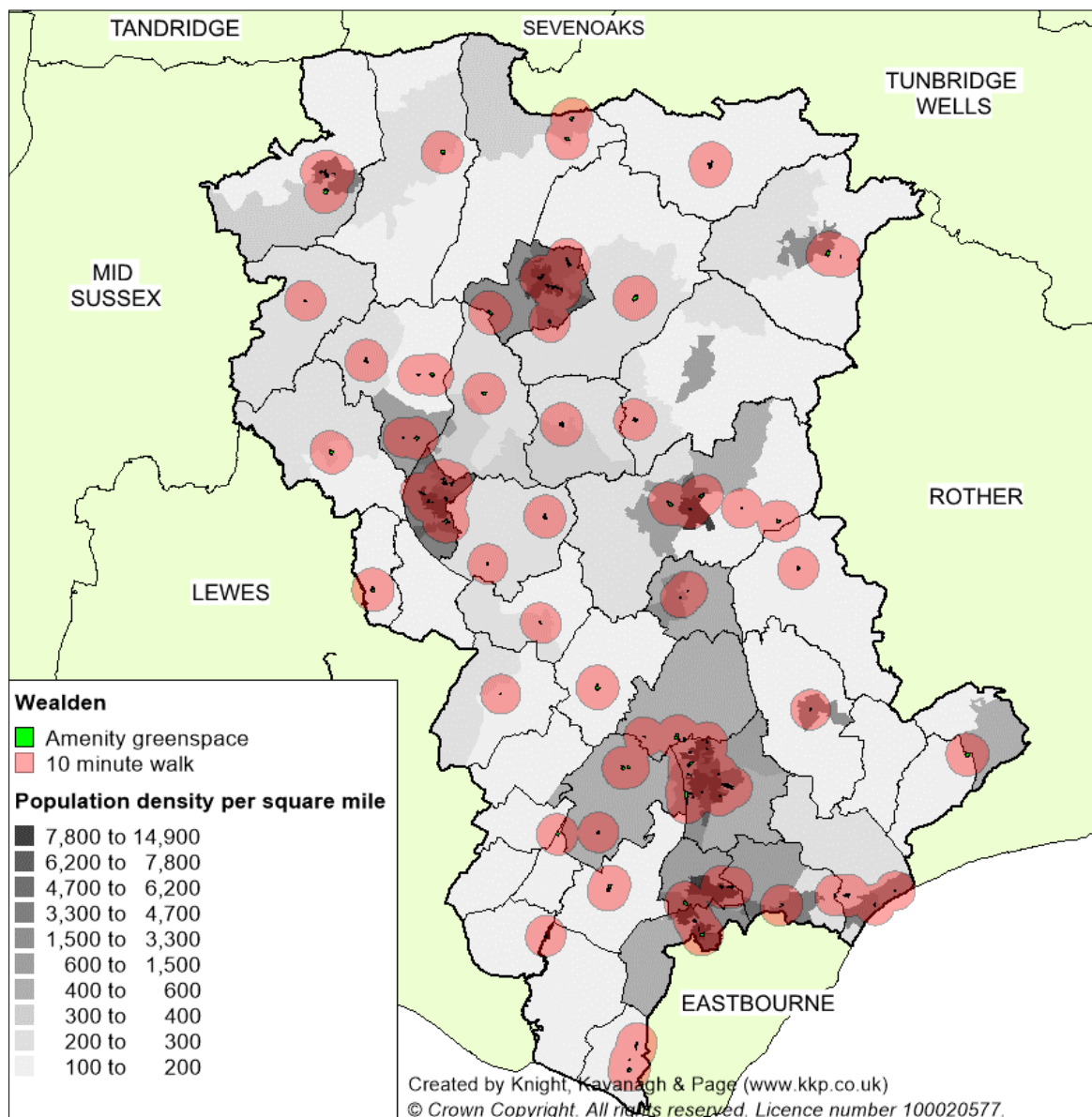


Figure 7.1: Amenity greenspaces with catchment

Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
2	Adam Close	Crowborough	0.89	59.0%	50.0%
5	<i>Alfriston Village Green</i>	<i>Alfriston</i>	0.51	61.6%	60.0%

\* Sites in italic are located in the SDNP

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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
9	Arlington Village Hall Playing Field	Arlington	0.56	49.7%	48.0%
11	Ashdown Road AGS	Forest Row	0.50	64.1%	38.0%
13	Batts Bridge Road AGS	Maresfield	0.13	42.0%	28.0%
14	Beaconsfield Road Green	Danehill	0.37	65.0%	49.0%
16	Beaufort Road AGS	Horam	0.22	49.2%	28.0%
18	Berwick Field	Berwick	1.11	45.5%	33.0%
21	Blackboys Recreation Ground	Framfield	1.46	62.7%	28.0%
32	Cade Street Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Waldron	0.36	71.2%	54.0%
35	Chapel Green AGS	Crowborough	0.22	50.8%	38.0%
36	Church Marks Lane AGS	East Hoathly with Halland	0.05	43.2%	17.0%
38	Coopers Way AGS	Hailsham	2.96	34.7%	17.0%
40	Corseley Road Playing Fields	Withyham	1.99	32.2%	23.0%
44	Crowborough Silver Jubilee Ground	Crowborough	2.35	63.3%	40.0%
45	Cuckmere Close AGS	Hellingly	0.63	39.1%	18.0%
48	<i>Deneside AGS</i>	<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	1.68	51.4%	34.0%
49	Dicker Recreation Ground	Arlington	1.60	59.0%	39.0%
50	Dicker Village Hall and Playing Fields	Arlington	1.06	44.9%	22.0%
54	Ersham Road AGS	Hailsham	0.20	50.6%	18.0%
55	Fairwarp Queen Elizabeth II Field	Maresfield	1.73	32.2%	28.0%
56	Fairwarp Green	Maresfield	0.38	54.5%	54.0%
58	Five Ash Park and Rec	Mayfield and Five Ashes	1.56	64.7%	50.0%
59	Fletching Cricket Club	Fletching	1.76	63.8%	45.0%
61	Ford Green Recreation Ground	Maresfield	1.93	66.9%	45.0%
62	Forest Row Cricket Club	Forest Row	2.74	47.5%	23.0%
63	Forester's Green	Forest Row	0.73	64.0%	34.0%
66	Frant Green and cricket pitch	Frant	1.97	56.8%	44.0%
67	Frant North Green	Frant	0.31	42.0%	23.0%
69	<i>Friston Village Green</i>	<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	0.18	58.2%	60.0%
70	<i>Gilberts Drive Recreation Ground</i>	<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	1.55	55.4%	44.0%
72	Groombridge Recreation Ground	Withyham	1.08	47.5%	40.0%
74	Hadlow Down Playing Fields	Hadlow Down	1.80	64.1%	39.0%
76	Halley Park AGS	Hailsham	0.51	57.2%	35.0%
78	Harlands Farm Recreation Ground	Uckfield	2.10	64.7%	23.0%
82	Heathfield Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Waldron	1.84	59.6%	35.0%



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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
85	Hellingly Rugby Club	Hellingly	2.60	69.1%	34.0%
86	Hempstead Lane Recreation Ground	Uckfield	0.77	58.5%	33.0%
88	Hempstead Rise (Elizabeth Gardens)	Uckfield	0.13	56.8%	39.0%
91	High Hurstwood Recreation Ground	Buxted	1.33	66.9%	45.0%
92	Hilders Farm Close AGS	Crowborough	0.92	48.9%	35.0%
95	Hooe Playing Fields	Hooe	2.25	33.5%	23.0%
101	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Willingdon and Jevington	1.85	59.0%	34.0%
103	Isfield Recreation Ground	Isfield	2.12	49.2%	35.0%
105	Jubilee Drive	Polegate	0.54	42.4%	33.0%
106	Jubilee Field	Chiddingly	1.61	50.0%	27.0%
110	Land adjacent to Grovelands Primary School	Hailsham	2.08	33.9%	23.0%
111	Laughton Village Green	Laughton	0.14	47.9%	33.0%
112	Leeves Way	Heathfield and Waldron	0.16	50.7%	29.0%
115	Lower Dicker Rec	Hellingly	0.21	45.8%	29.0%
116	Lower High Street	Wadhurst	0.24	52.0%	39.0%
118	Luxford Field	Uckfield	0.90	68.1%	35.0%
119	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Maresfield	1.74	75.7%	50.0%
123	Meadow Road AGS	Hailsham	0.18	41.5%	28.0%
124	Medway Drive AGS	Forest Row	0.29	46.6%	33.0%
127	Montargis Way AGS	Crowborough	1.36	59.9%	35.0%
129	Mountain Ash Close AGS	Hailsham	0.22	36.4%	22.0%
131	Nightingales AGS	East Hoathly with Halland	0.07	36.4%	16.0%
136	North Green	Forest Row	0.74	73.2%	45.0%
138	Observatory View AGS	Hailsham	0.25	58.5%	38.0%
139	Orchard Lane	Hailsham	0.78	54.2%	34.0%
140	Palehouse Common Recreation Ground	Framfield	0.37	31.4%	31.0%
143	Patcham Mill Road	Westham	0.16	53.1%	22.0%
144	Paynesbridge Way AGS	Horam	0.18	39.1%	18.0%
145	Pelham Crescent AGS	Hailsham	0.27	28.0%	11.0%
146	Pevensey AGS	Westham	0.38	50.8%	43.0%
147	Pevensey Bay Recreation Ground	Pevensey	0.39	74.2%	27.0%
148	Pevensey Recreation Ground	Pevensey	2.32	63.6%	40.0%
153	POS north of Rocks Road	Uckfield	0.58	55.8%	38.0%



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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
155	Punnet's Town Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Waldron	1.68	54.8%	40.0%
156	Queens Road AGS, Crowborough	Crowborough	0.84	58.5%	33.0%
157	Queens Road AGS, Herstmonceux	Herstmonceux	0.35	47.3%	23.0%
158	Quinnell Drive Park	Hailsham	0.09	44.5%	28.0%
160	Rotherfield Millennium Green	Rotherfield	3.41	74.7%	45.0%
162	Rushlake Green	Warbleton	0.79	35.2%	22.0%
164	Senlac Green	Uckfield	0.27	39.8%	17.0%
166	Sheepsetting Lane Playing Fields	Heathfield and Waldron	2.47	41.2%	23.0%
167	Solway AGS	Hailsham	0.33	38.1%	23.0%
172	Sunflower Lane	Polegate	1.20	42.8%	32.0%
174	The Gages AGS	Hailsham	0.53	49.7%	35.0%
177	The Dene	Uckfield	1.22	34.5%	37.0%
179	The Glebelands AGS	Crowborough	0.33	55.2%	39.0%
181	The Parade	Pevensey	0.11	60.2%	30.0%
182	The Square by Tower Ride	Uckfield	0.32	31.4%	12.0%
183	The Triangle	Willingdon and Jevington	0.34	66.1%	38.0%
184	The Warren Playing Field	Crowborough	1.94	43.5%	44.0%
185	Tott Yew Recreation Ground	Willingdon and Jevington	0.71	61.9%	28.0%
186	Town Croft Recreation Ground	Hartfield	1.91	66.5%	40.0%
192	Wadhurst Playing Fields	Wadhurst	2.48	36.2%	29.0%
195	Weavers Lane Rec	Hailsham	0.13	48.3%	28.0%
200	Willetts Field	Chiddingly	0.45	49.2%	39.0%
201	Willingdon Recreation Ground	Polegate	1.87	64.7%	55.0%
202	Windmill Green	Westham	0.35	20.3%	16.0%

167. Figure 7.1 highlights a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision, with nearly all areas of greater population density being served by a form of amenity greenspace provision. A minor gap is observed in Heathfield. Other types of open space provision are identified within this gap (Table 7.3), which may help to serve as an alternative within the catchment gap for amenity greenspace. It should be noted that cross boundary provision has not been considered and could potentially help meet identified gaps.

*Table 7.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in amenity greenspace catchments*

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Heathfield	The Coppice (ID 176) The Ghyll (ID 178)	Natural Natural

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## 7.4 Quality

168. To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 50% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <50%	No. of sites >50%
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	62%	62%	62%	0	1
Arlington	45%	51%	59%	2	1
Berwick	45%	45%	45%	1	0
Buxted	67%	67%	67%	0	1
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	49%	50%	50%	2	0
Crowborough	44%	55%	63%	2	6
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Danehill	65%	65%	65%	0	1
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	51%	55%	58%	0	3
East Hoathly with Halland	36%	40%	43%	2	0
Fletching	64%	64%	64%	0	1
Forest Row	47%	59%	73%	2	3
Framfield	31%	47%	63%	1	1
Frant	42%	49%	57%	1	1
Hadlow Down	64%	64%	64%	0	1
Hailsham	28%	44%	58%	9	4
Hartfield	67%	67%	67%	0	1
Heathfield and Waldron	33%	54%	71%	1	4
Hellingly	39%	51%	69%	2	1
Herstmonceux	47%	47%	47%	1	0
Hooe	33%	33%	33%	1	0
Horam	39%	44%	49%	2	0
Isfield	49%	49%	49%	1	0
Laughton	48%	48%	48%	1	0
Little Horsted	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-	-	-

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

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Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <50%	No. of sites >50%
Maresfield	32%	54%	76%	2	3
Mayfield and Five Ashes	65%	65%	65%	0	1
Ninfield	-	-	-	-	-
Pevensey	60%	66%	74%	0	3
Polegate	42%	50%	65%	2	1
Rotherfield	75%	75%	75%	0	1
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	31%	51%	68%	3	5
Wadhurst	36%	44%	52%	1	1
Warbleton	35%	35%	35%	1	0
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	20%	41%	53%	1	2
Willingdon and Jevington	59%	62%	66%	0	3
Withyham	32%	40%	47%	2	0
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>

169. Of assessed amenity sites, over half (54%) rate above the quality threshold suggesting a mixed standard of quality.
170. The lowest scoring sites for quality are:
- ◀ Windmill Green, Westham (20%)
  - ◀ Pelham Crescent AGS, Hailsham (28%)
  - ◀ The Square by Tower Ride, Uckfield (31%)
  - ◀ Palehouse Common Recreation Ground, Framfield (31%)
171. These sites all score low due to a lack of ancillary features with none having signage or litter bins. The sites all have limited disabled access and score low for paths. In addition, all are perceived as unlikely to be used much. Pelham Crescent AGS is a basic, slightly sloping greenspace with no facilities or paths. It therefore scores low for entrances, access as well as usage. This site serves more as a visual amenity.
172. Windmill Green (20%), the lowest scoring amenity greenspace for quality, is observed as a small strip of scrub with some small hawthorn trees on a steep bank. It is noted as not being possible to access or use. Palehouse Common Recreation Ground (31%) is a sloping grassed field featuring a small football goal and play equipment however, there is little sign of use.
173. The Square by Tower Ride is located in a rural area down a narrow road thus, scores low for entrances and user security. This site scores slightly higher due to having dog bins, a picnic table and play equipment.

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174. Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as seating and bins. General appearance can also often be lacking in comparison to other sites that are the same typology.
175. The highest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:
- ◀ Maresfield Recreation Ground, Maresfield (78%)
  - ◀ Rotherfield Millennium Green, Rotherfield (75%)
  - ◀ Pevensey Bay Recreation Ground, Pevensey (74%)
176. These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage, seating and bins. Maresfield Recreation Ground and Pevensey Bay Recreation Ground benefit from containing play equipment. All three sites are also observed as having access for all, being well-maintained and having good levels of personal security. Maresfield Recreation Ground (78%) has the additional benefit of toilet facilities and car parking, further adding to the quality of the site.

### 7.5 Value

177. To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 7.5: Value ratings for amenity greenspace

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	60%	60%	60%	0	1
Arlington	22%	36%	48%	0	3
Berwick	33%	33%	33%	0	1
Buxted	45%	45%	45%	0	1
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	27%	33%	39%	0	2
Crowborough	33%	39%	50%	0	8
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Danehill	49%	49%	49%	0	1
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	34%	46%	60%	0	3
East Hoathly with Halland	16%	17%	17%	2	0
Fletching	45%	45%	45%	0	1
Forest Row	20%	34%	45%	0	5
Framfield	28%	30%	31%	0	2
Frant	23%	34%	44%	0	2
Hadlow Down	39%	39%	39%	0	1

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

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Analysis area*	Scores (%)Lowest score	Scores (%)Average score	Scores (%)Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
Hailsham	11%	26%	38%	3	10
Hartfield	40%	40%	40%	0	1
Heathfield and Waldron	23%	36%	54%	0	5
Hellingly	18%	27%	34%	1	2
Herstmonceux	23%	23%	23%	0	1
Hooe	23%	23%	23%	0	1
Horam	18%	23%	28%	1	1
Isfield	35%	35%	35%	0	1
Laughton	33%	33%	33%	0	1
Little Horsted	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield	28%	45%	70%	0	5
Mayfield and Five Ashes	50%	50%	50%	0	1
Ninfield	-	-	-	-	-
Pevensey	28%	33%	40%	0	3
Polegate	32%	40%	55%	0	3
Rotherfield	45%	45%	45%	0	1
Selmeston	0%	0%	0%	0	0
Uckfield	12%	29%	39%	2	6
Wadhurst	29%	34%	39%	0	2
Warbleton	22%	22%	22%	0	1
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	16%	27%	43%	1	2
Willingdon and Jevington	28%	33%	38%	0	3
Withyham	23%	32%	40%	0	2
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>83</b>

178. Nearly all amenity greenspace sites (89%) rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Maresfield Recreation Ground (70%),
- ◀ Friston Village Green (60%)
- ◀ Alfriston Village Green (60%)
- ◀ Willingdon Recreation Ground (55%)

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179. These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational opportunities they offer (such as sports and play provision) to a wide range of users, particularly the recreation grounds. Maresfield Recreation Ground (70%) is the highest scoring site for quality as well as value. The site features a cricket club and play area providing high amenity and social value. Similarly to the village greens, it has enhanced cultural and heritage.
180. The 10 sites scoring below the value threshold are predominantly small basic greenspace with no or few ancillary features. Consequently, usage and related benefits such as social and amenity value is rated lower. Nightingales AGS (10%) is observed as a small greenspace with a low fence and contains notices displaying 'Keep off on the grass'. The site is tidy and serves more as a visual amenity but little else, hence its lower score.
181. Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Furthermore, these sites are often vital for sustaining the physical health and mental wellbeing of local residents. Many sites are likely to offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing.

### 7.6 Summary

#### Amenity greenspace

- ◀ There are 89 amenity greenspace sites in Wealden: over 89 hectares of provision.
- ◀ In addition, if SDNP sites are included, then a total of 93 sites (93 hectares) is noted.
- ◀ Fields In Trust suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall, Wealden with 0.56 hectares per 1,000 population is slightly below this. However, given the rural nature of the area this is not unexpected but should be viewed along with accessibility.
- ◀ There is a good distribution of amenity sites across the area. However, a potential gap is highlighted to the settlement of Heathfield. Other forms of provision may help serve this catchment gap.
- ◀ Over half (54%) of amenity greenspace sites in Wealden rate above the threshold for quality. Sites scoring below the threshold are observed as being fairly basic, small pockets of green space.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence most sites (89%) rate above the value threshold.

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## PART 8: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### 8.1 Introduction

182. Provision for children and young people includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
183. Provision for children is deemed to be sites consisting of formal equipped play facilities typically associated with play areas. This is usually perceived to be for children under 12 years of age. Provision for young people can include equipped sites that provide more robust equipment catering to older age ranges incorporating facilities such as skate parks, BMX tracks, basketball courts, youth shelters and MUGAs.

### 8.2 Current provision

184. A total of 129 sites are identified in Wealden as play provision for children and young people. When all sites are combined, this equates to approximately eight hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of play provision in Wealden

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people Number	Provision for children and young people Total hectares (ha)	Provision for children and young people Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	1	0.09	0.11
Arlington	2	0.09	0.07
Berwick	1	0.008	0.02
Buxted	4	0.08	0.02
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-
Chiddingly	1	0.03	0.03
Crowborough	16	0.85	0.04
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	-	-	-
Danehill	2	0.21	0.11
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	2	0.14	0.09
East Hoathly with Halland	3	0.11	0.07
Fletching	1	0.14	0.14
Forest Row	2	0.05	0.001
Framfield	3	0.20	0.09
Frant	1	0.16	0.10
Hadlow Down	2	0.07	0.09
Hailsham	16	1.36	0.06
Hartfield	1	0.04	0.02
Heathfield and Waldron	9	0.52	0.04

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Analysis area	Provision for children and young people Number	Provision for children and young people Total hectares (ha)	Provision for children and young people Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Hellingly	4	0.30	0.09
Herstmonceux	3	0.14	0.05
Hooe	-	-	-
Horam	2	0.14	0.05
Isfield	1	0.04	0.06
Laughton	-	-	-
Little Horsted	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-
Maresfield	6	0.37	0.10
Mayfield and Five Ashes	4	0.17	0.04
Ninfield	3	0.25	0.16
Pevensey	3	0.31	0.09
Polegate	6	0.43	0.05
Rotherfield	1	0.12	0.04
Selmeston	-	-	-
Uckfield	13	0.90	0.06
Wadhurst	7	0.37	0.08
Warbleton	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-
Westham	4	0.25	0.04
Willingdon and Jevington	4	0.15	0.02
Withyham	1	0.05	0.02
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>7.90</b>	<b>0.05</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>8.14</b>	<b>0.05</b>

185. If provision and populations in areas of the district covered by the South Downs National Park are included, then a total of 129 sites (8.14 hectares) exist; an equivalent to a current provision level of 0.05 hectares per 1,000 head of population.
186. FIT suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard\*. Overall, Wealden has a current provision level of 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population. There are 12 analysis areas highlighted as being below this (and a further seven areas with no provision identified), suggesting a potential lack or undersupply of provision in terms of quantity in some places. This includes the areas of Heathfield and Crowborough.
187. Conversely, there are 17 areas highlighted as being level or above the Wealden current provision level, suggesting a potential sufficiency in terms of quantity. This includes areas such as Ninfield and Maresfield, and areas of greater population density such as Hailsham and Polegate.
188. FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

\* For designated play areas which may also comprise surrounding environments as well as equipped areas



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- ◀ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually small landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users; often containing a wider range of equipment types.
- ◀ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large park sites.

## 8.3 Accessibility

189. Guidance on appropriate accessibility distances for children’s play provision is published by FIT in its document *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). These vary depending on the type of play provision. This suggests from a 100m (or 1-minute walk time) catchment and up to a 1,000m (or 12.5-minute walk time).

*Table 8.2: Accessibility guidelines from Fields in Trust (FIT) for play provision*

Form of play provision for children and young people	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
LAP	100m	1 minutes
LEAP	400m	5 minutes
NEAP	1,000m	12 ½ minutes
Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	700m	9 minutes

190. The Community Survey found the most common mode of travel to access a play area for young children is by walking (72%). The most common times willing to be travelled is up to 5-10 minutes (39%), 11-15 minutes (21%) and less than 5 minutes (17%).
191. For provision catering to teenagers, respondents are willing to walk (43%) and travel by car (37%). They are also willing to travel further with most common times being to travel 11-15 minutes (32%), 5-10 minutes (27%) and over 20 minutes (21%)
192. The spread in responses demonstrates a variety of travel times are willing to be undertaken. This is likely to reflect the size and range of play equipment on offer at different sites.
193. On this basis, the FIT catchments have been applied to all sites as these are generally in keeping with the results of the community survey. In addition to Figure 8.1, a 15-minute walk time catchment has also been applied to sites catering for teenagers (such as sites featuring skate parks, MUGAs). Furthermore, a 12-minute drive time catchment to skate park facilities has also been applied to Figure 8.2 to reflect the findings of the community survey.

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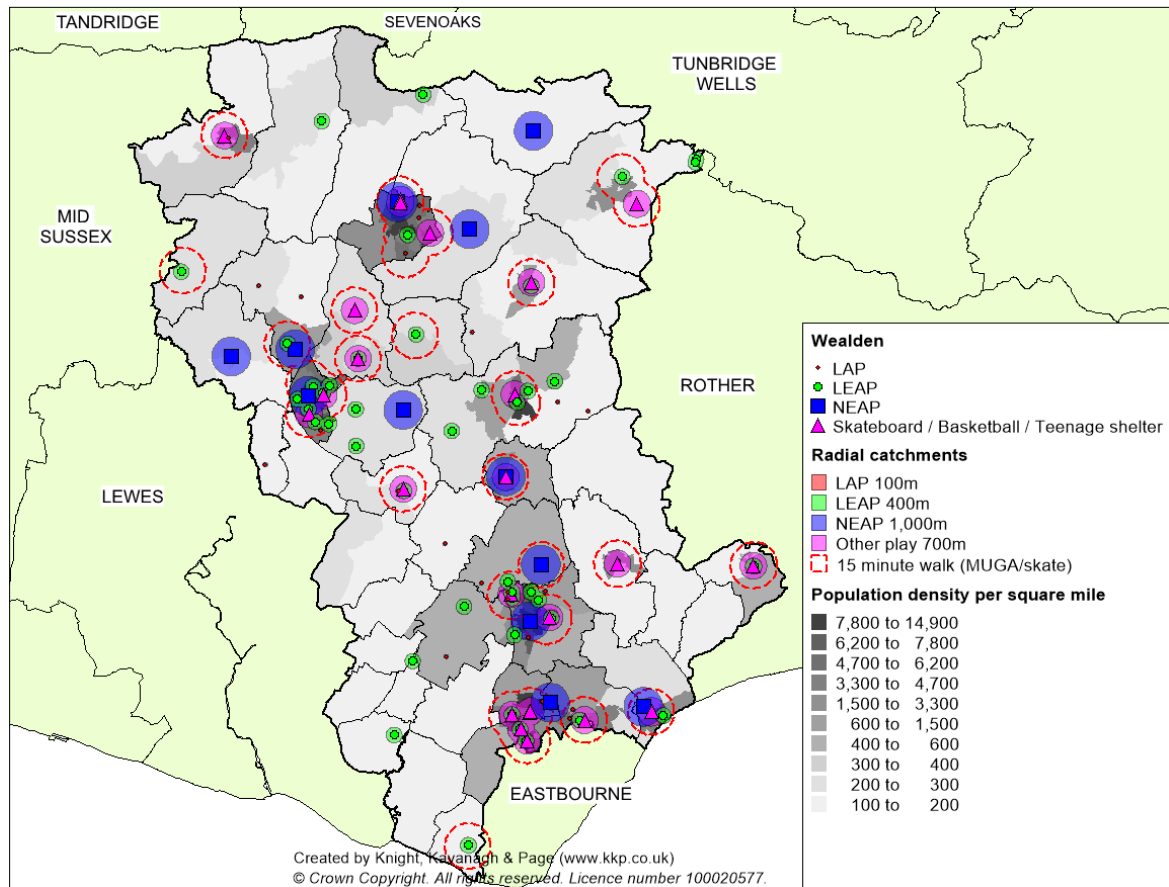
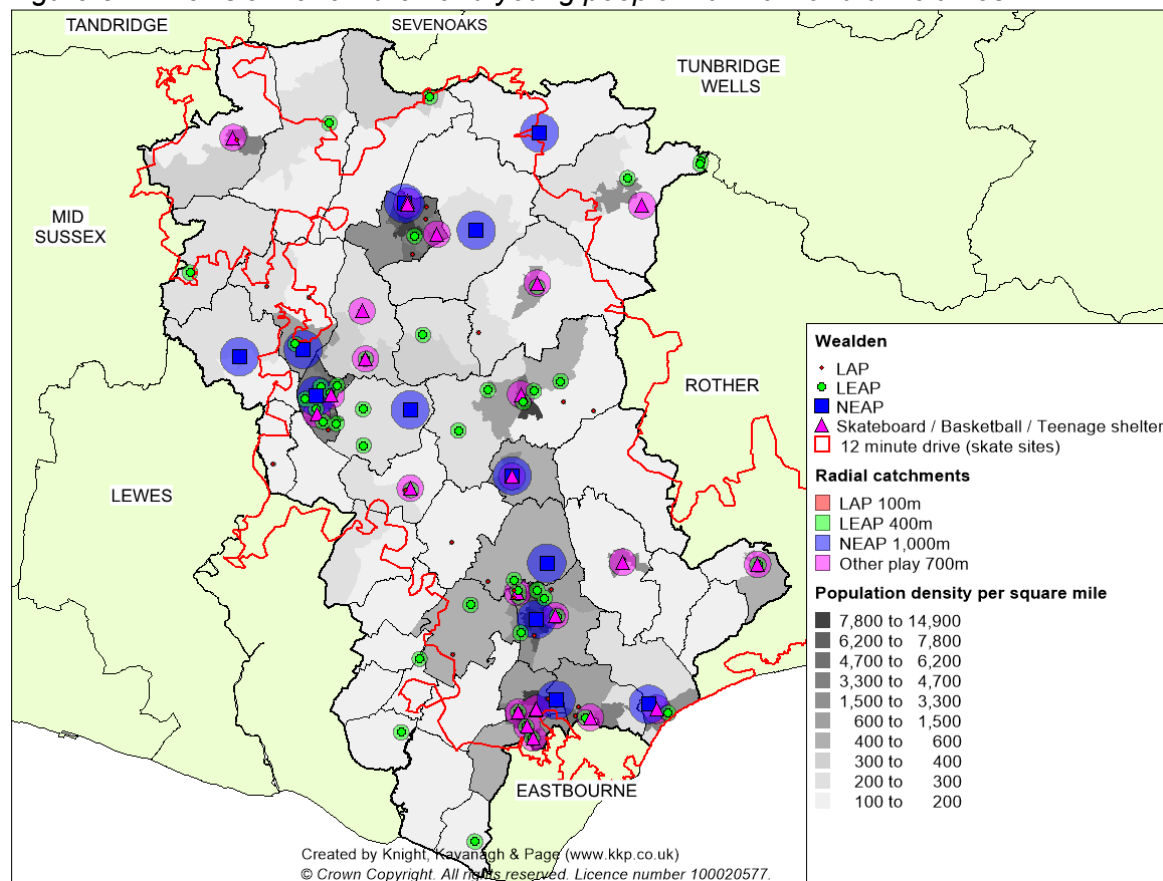


Figure 8.1: Provision for children and young people with walk times mapped

# WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 8.2: Provision for children and young people with walk and drive times



194. Site 33 (Carpenters Way Play Area) has not been assessed due to being fenced off and not accessible. Site 99.1 (Horam Play Area) was closed for drainage work improvements at the time of assessment (two separate visits were attempted). However, the skate park area of the site was open and noted as being excellent.
195. Note that several sites have been completed under one assessment where there are multiple forms of provision in proximity on a site (and quality is viewed as being similar across the different types of provision). Sites without a quality/value score could not be accessed at the time of visit.

Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
2.1	Adam Close Play Area 1	Crowborough	0.03	70.1%	54.5%
2.2	Adam Close Play Area 2	Crowborough	0.09	70.1%	54.5%
2.3	Adam Close Half MUGA	Crowborough	0.008	70.1%	54.5%
2.4	Adam Close MUGA	Crowborough	0.04	70.1%	54.5%
3.1	Adur Park Play Area	Westham	0.05	41.2%	41.8%
3.2	Adur Park Basketball		0.12		

\* Sites in italic are located in the SDNP

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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
4.1	Alfriston Play Space	Alfriston	0.09	49.5%	20.0%
7	Arlington Play Area	Arlington	0.02	43.3%	38.2%
12	Battle Road Play Area	Hailsham	0.07	75.3%	38.2%
18.1	Berwick Field play area	Berwick	0.008	47.4%	38.2%
21.1	Blackboys Recreation Ground Children's Play Space	Framfield	0.11	71.1%	41.8%
23	Broad Oak Village Hall Play Area	Heathfield and Waldron	0.09	56.7%	45.5%
25	Bronte Drive play area	Westham	0.05	46.4%	25.5%
26.1	Brunel Drive play area	Hailsham	0.09	70.1%	45.5%
26.2	Brunel Drive MUGA	Hailsham	0.03	70.1%	45.5%
26.3	Brunel Drive skate park	Hailsham	0.02	70.1%	45.5%
31.1	Buxted Recreation Ground, Play space	Buxted	0.04	54.6%	45.5%
31.2	Buxted Recreation Ground, Basketball Hoop	Buxted	0.003	54.6%	45.5%
32.1	Cade Street Recreation Ground Play Space	Heathfield and Waldron	0.03	61.2%	50.9%
33	Carpenter's Way Play Area	Hailsham	0.03		
37	Coach Barn Lane play area	Hailsham	0.08	57.7%	56.4%
43.1	Crowborough Leisure Centre Play Area	Crowborough	0.30	71.5%	54.5%
43.2	Crowborough Leisure Centre MUGA	Crowborough	0.06	71.5%	54.5%
43.3	Crowborough Leisure Centre Basketball	Crowborough	0.05	71.5%	54.5%
43.4	Crowborough Leisure Centre Skate Ramps	Crowborough	0.05	71.5%	54.5%
44.1	Crowborough Play Area	Crowborough	0.03	64.3%	50.9%
46.1	Danehill Recreation Ground Play Space	Danehill	0.09	72.9%	50.9%
46.2	Danehill Recreation Ground MUGA	Danehill	0.12	72.9%	50.9%
49.1	Dicker Play Area	Arlington	0.07	36.1%	41.8%
53.1	East Hoathly Play Area	East Hoathly with Halland	0.08	68.0%	41.8%
53.2	East Hoathly Basketball	East Hoathly with Halland	0.009	68.0%	41.8%
56.1	Fairwarp Green, Play Space	Maresfield	0.03	51.2%	50.9%
58.1	Five Ash Park and Rec, Children's Play Space	Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.02	62.5%	41.8%
59.1	Fletching Cricket Club, Play Space	Fletching	0.14	49.5%	45.5%
61.1	Ford Green Recreation Ground Play Space	Maresfield	0.04	42.3%	41.8%
63.1	Forester's Green Skatepark	Forest Row	0.01	59.8%	54.5%
64.1	Framfield Recreation Ground Children's Play Space	Framfield	0.04	77.7%	32.7%
66.1	Frant Green Children's Play Space	Frant	0.16	45.7%	50.9%

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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
70.1	Gilberts Drive Play Area	East Dean and Friston	0.09	63.9%	29.1%
70.2	Gilberts Drive MUGA	East Dean and Friston	0.05	63.9%	29.1%
72.1	Groombridge Play Area	Withyham	0.05	52.2%	54.5%
74.1	Hadlow Down Playing Fields, Children's Play space	Hadlow Down	0.05	51.2%	41.8%
74.2	Hadlow Down Playing Fields, MUGA	Hadlow Down	0.02	51.2%	41.8%
81	Heathfield and Waldron RFC Play Space	Heathfield and Waldron	0.04	46.7%	41.8%
82.1	Heathfield Recreation Ground Play Area	Heathfield and Waldron	0.05	60.5%	54.5%
83	Heathfield Skate Park	Heathfield and Waldron	0.13	37.8%	41.8%
84.1	Hellingly Country Park play area	Hellingly	0.16	63.2%	54.5%
84.2	Hellingly Country Park MUGA	Hellingly	0.04	63.2%	54.5%
85.1	Hellingly Play Area	Hellingly	0.06	70.4%	50.9%
86.1	Hempstead Lane Recreation Ground Play Space	Uckfield	0.08	75.3%	54.5%
86.2	Hempstead Lane Recreation Ground Basketball	Uckfield	0.01	75.3%	54.5%
90.1	Herstmonceux Recreation Play Space	Herstmonceux	0.03	69.1%	45.5%
90.2	Herstmonceux Recreation MUGA	Herstmonceux	0.06	69.1%	45.5%
90.3	Herstmonceux Recreation Skate Ramps	Herstmonceux	0.05	69.1%	45.5%
91.1	High Hurstwood Recreation Ground Childrens Play Space	Buxted	0.02	72.5%	41.8%
91.2	High Hurstwood Recreation Basketball	Buxted	0.007	72.5%	41.8%
99.1	Horam Play Area	Horam	0.09		
99.2	Horam Skate Area and Teen Shelter	Horam	0.05	71.5%	50.9%
101.1	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground Play Space	Willingdon and Jevington	0.04	68.0%	38.2%
101.2	Huggets Lane Recreation Basketball	Willingdon and Jevington	0.01	68.0%	38.2%
102	Hughes Way play area	Uckfield	0.08	79.4%	41.8%
103.1	Isfield Recreation Ground Play Space	Isfield	0.04	69.4%	50.9%
104.1	Jarvis Brook Play Area	Crowborough	0.03	74.6%	54.5%
104.2	Jarvis Brook MUGA	Crowborough	0.03	74.6%	54.5%
104.3	Jarvis Brook Skate Ramps	Crowborough	0.03	74.6%	54.5%
105.1	Jubilee Drive play area	Polegate	0.15	37.1%	38.2%
106.1	Jubilee Field Play Space	Chiddingly	0.03	46.0%	32.7%
109.1	Lambourn Ave Play Space	Westham	0.03	40.2%	16.4%

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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
112.1	Leeves Way Play Area	Heathfield and Waldron	0.08	49.5%	50.9%
112.2	Leeves Way MUGA	Heathfield and Waldron	0.02	49.5%	50.9%
113	Limestone Way Play Area	Maresfield	0.12	40.5%	38.2%
115.1	Lower Dicker Play Area	Hellingly	0.03	32.0%	38.2%
116.1	Lower High Street play area	Wadhurst	0.12	56.0%	38.2%
118.1	Luxford Field Play Space	Uckfield	0.13	72.5%	32.7%
119.1	Maresfield Recreation Ground Play Space	Maresfield	0.03	64.3%	41.8%
120.1	Maurice Thornton Play Area	Hailsham	0.05	73.9%	54.5%
120.2	Maurice Thornton Skate Park	Hailsham	0.05	73.9%	54.5%
121.1	Mayfield King George's Field Play Space	Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.05	75.6%	54.5%
121.2	Mayfield King George's Field MUGA	Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.06	75.6%	54.5%
121.3	Mayfield King George's Field Skate Park	Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.04	75.6%	54.5%
132	Nightingales Play Area	East Hoathly with Halland	0.02	71.1%	16.4%
134.1	Ninfield Recreation Ground Play Area	Ninfield	0.21	49.1%	38.2%
134.2	Ninfield Recreation Ground MUGA	Ninfield	0.02	49.1%	38.2%
134.3	Ninfield Recreation Ground Skate Ramps	Ninfield	0.01	49.1%	38.2%
136.1	North Green Play Space	Forest Row	0.04	67.4%	54.5%
137	Oakwood Drive play area	Uckfield	0.09	71.1%	29.1%
138.1	Observatory View MUGA	Hailsham	0.04	45.0%	38.2%
139.1	Orchard Lane play area	Hailsham	0.07	58.4%	38.2%
140.1	Palehouse Common Recreation Ground Play Space	Framfield	0.04	57.7%	47.3%
142.1	Parklands MUGA	Maresfield	0.08	68.4%	50.9%
142.2	Parklands Play Area	Maresfield	0.08	68.4%	50.9%
147.1	Pevensey Bay Recreation Ground play area	Pevensey	0.06	56.7%	38.2%
148.1	Pevensey Recreation Ground Play Area	Pevensey	0.12	48.8%	34.5%
149	Pevensey Skatepark	Pevensey	0.12	65.6%	25.5%
151.1	Pleasure Ground Basketball	Polegate	0.03	55.3%	38.2%
151.2	Pleasure Ground Skate Park	Polegate	0.06	55.3%	38.2%
154.1	Downlands Copse play area	Uckfield	0.02	39.2%	12.7%
155.1	Punnet's Town Recreation Ground Play Area	Heathfield and Waldron	0.03	69.4%	54.5%
158.1	Quinnell Drive Play Area	Hailsham	0.28	70.8%	41.8%

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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
159.1	Ridgewood Village Play Space	Uckfield	0.03	74.6%	45.5%
161.1	Rotherfield Recreation Ground Play Area	Rotherfield	0.12	72.5%	45.5%
168.1	Sparrow Green Play Area	Wadhurst	0.07	77.0%	54.5%
168.2	Sparrow Green Obstacle Course	Wadhurst	0.01	77.0%	54.5%
168.3	Sparrow Green MUGA	Wadhurst	0.06	77.0%	54.5%
168.4	Sparrow Green Half MUGA	Wadhurst	0.006	77.0%	54.5%
169	Stanier Street play area	Hailsham	0.14	40.9%	38.2%
171	Stroma Gardens Play Area	Hailsham	0.23	63.9%	38.2%
172.1	Sunflower Lane play area	Polegate	0.11	29.9%	38.2%
173	Telford Lane play area	Hailsham	0.03	41.9%	38.2%
185.1	Tott Yew Recreation Ground Play Area	Willingdon and Jevington	0.08	63.6%	45.5%
185.2	Tott Yew Recreation Ground Basketball	Willingdon and Jevington	0.003	63.6%	45.5%
186.1	Town Croft Recreation Ground Play Space	Hartfield	0.04	64.9%	41.8%
189.1	Victoria Pleasure Ground Play Space	Uckfield	0.09	79.4%	41.8%
189.2	Victoria Pleasure Grounds MUGA (New Barn Farm)	Uckfield	0.06	79.4%	41.8%
189.3	Victoria Pleasure Ground Skate Park (New Barn Farm)	Uckfield	0.06	59.8%	50.9%
193.1	Waldron Recreation Ground Play Space	Heathfield and Waldron	0.05	64.6%	41.8%
197.1	West Park and Recreation Grounds Childrens Play Space	Uckfield	0.08	72.2%	38.2%
198.1	Western Road Play Area	Hailsham	0.11	68.0%	50.9%
201.1	Willingdon Recreation Ground Play Space	Polegate	0.06	72.2%	54.5%
201.2	Willingdon Recreation Ground MUGA	Polegate	0.01	72.2%	54.5%
203.1	Wolfe Play Area	Crowborough	0.08	68.4%	45.5%
203.2	Wolfe Half MUGA	Crowborough	0.01	68.4%	45.5%
219	Bethany Close Play Area, Green Lane, Crowborough	Crowborough	0.009	43.3%	38.2%
220	Nassau Drive Play Area	Crowborough	0.009	60.5%	43.6%
222	Sand Ridge Play Area	Uckfield	0.10	54.3%	38.2%
223	Arrow Drive Play Area	Hailsham	0.07	27.8%	25.5%
229	Baxendale Way Play Area	Hailsham	0.09	67.4%	78.2%
233	Part of land at Woodholme Farm*	Hailsham	-	32.6%	47.3%
319.1	Bewl Water play area 1	Wadhurst	0.05	67.0%	54.5%
319.2	Bewl Water play area 2	Wadhurst	0.06	70.8%	81.8%

\* Background map not updated so boundary cannot be drawn yet



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196. Mapping initially highlights a good distribution of play sites. However, potential catchment gaps in provision catering for younger children are noted in areas of greater population density in Crowborough and southern areas of the district.
197. In some instances, such gaps could be addressed by exploring options to provide new forms of play provision on existing open space sites. In other instances, an option may be to explore expanding the range and number of play provision at an already existing play site in order for it to cater for a wider age range.

*Table 8.4: Play sites with potential to help meet gaps in provision*

Area	Nearest play/open space site
Crowborough	Wolfe Play Area (ID 203.1/.2/.3) Adam Close Play Area (ID 2.1/.2/.3/.4)
Heathfield	The Coppice (ID 176) The Ghyll (ID 178)
Forest Row	Forester's Green Skatepark (ID 63.1)
Polegate	Adur Park (ID 3.1/.2)

## 8.4 Quality

198. In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guide), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people. A threshold of 60% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).
199. The quality assessment of play sites does not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment.

*Table 8.5: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people*

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <60%	No. of sites >60%
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	49%	49%	49%	1	0
Arlington	36%	40%	43%	2	0
Berwick	47%	47%	47%	1	0
Buxted	55%	64%	73%	2	2
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	46%	46%	46%	1	0
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Crowborough	43%	65%	75%	1	15
Danehill	73%	73%	73%	0	2
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	64%	64%	64%	0	2

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP



## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <60%	No. of sites >60%
East Hoathly with Halland	68%	70%	71%	0	3
Fletching	49%	49%	49%	1	0
Forest Row	60%	64%	67%	1	1
Framfield	58%	69%	78%	1	2
Frant	46%	46%	46%	1	0
Hadlow Down	51%	51%	51%	2	0
Hailsham	28%	56%	75%	7	9
Hartfield	65%	65%	65%	0	1
Heathfield and Waldron	38%	56%	69%	5	4
Hellingly	32%	55%	70%	1	3
Herstmonceux	69%	69%	69%	0	3
Hooe	-	-	-	-	-
Horam	77%	77%	77%	0	1
Isfield	69%	69%	69%	0	1
Laughton	-	-	-	-	-
Little Horsted	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield	41%	53%	68%	3	3
Mayfield and Five Ashes	63%	69%	76%	0	4
Ninfield	49%	49%	49%	3	0
Pevensey	49%	57%	66%	2	1
Polegate	30%	49%	72%	4	2
Rotherfield	73%	73%	73%	0	1
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	39%	68%	79%	3	10
Wadhurst	56%	68%	77%	1	6
Warbleton	-	-	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	40%	43%	46%	4	0
Willingdon and Jevington	64%	66%	68%	0	4
Withyham	52%	52%	52%	1	0
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>80</b>

200. Over half (63%) of assessed play sites rate above the quality threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites in Wealden are:

- ◀ Victoria Pleasure Ground Play Space, Uckfield (79%)
- ◀ Hughes Way play area, Uckfield (79%)
- ◀ Framfield Recreation Ground Children's Play Space (78%)
- ◀ Sparrow Green Play Area (77%)

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201. These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the sites cleanliness), seating, signage and good quality play equipment. Furthermore, all but Hughes Way play area have the additional benefit of car parking. The sites generally offer a variety of equipment to a good condition/quality.
202. None of the sites have any issues noted except for Victoria Pleasure Ground Play Space (79%) which was identified as having faded play equipment. There is a MUGA and skate park located towards the south of this site which may cater towards older age ranges.
203. Hughes Way play area (79%) is a stand-alone play area. It is identified as being in an attractive setting with great play kit. It benefits from fencing, good entrances and user security as well as benches and litter bins. It also scores well for overall site quality, equipment, and surfaces.
204. Sparrow Green Play Area (77%) contains a good variety of play provision including a half MUGA, play area, agility area and zip wire. The site has good signage, seating, litter bins and car park, further adding to its quality.
205. Other high scoring sites include Mayfield King George's Field Play Space (76%), Jarvis Brook Play Area, Crowborough (75%) and Maurice Thornton Play Area, Hailsham (74%). The former two sites have a fantastic variety of play provision for different age ranges such as a play area, MUGA and skate park. Jarvis Brook Play Area also features gym equipment. Maurice Thornton Play Area has a skate park however, it is noted as having graffiti on it. These sites are all noted as well used and of a good quality.
206. Noticeably there are a number of sites which contain provision catering for older age ranges such as skateparks, MUGAs and/or pump tracks. A total of 41 sites feature a skatepark, MUGA, basketball area and/or skate park facility.
207. There are 48 sites rating below the threshold. Sites rating lower for quality is often due to maintenance/appearance observations and/or the range/quality of equipment on site.
208. Some of the lower scoring sites are:
- ◀ Arrow Drive Play Area (28%)
  - ◀ Sunflower Lane play area, Polegate (30%)
  - ◀ Lower Dicker Play Area (36%)
  - ◀ Dicker Play Area (36%)
209. The sites are all noted as having a limited range of equipment with few ancillary features such as signage or litter bins. Sunflower Lane play area (30%) is highlighted as containing some tired play equipment and requiring a bin. It does benefit from numerous benches and reasonably good user security.
210. Arrow Drive Play Area (28% is the lowest scoring play area for quality due to having no bins or signage. Litter was present at the time of assessment. Equipment quality and drainage also score low. The site is observed as having improvement opportunities.
211. Lower Dicker Play Area is a basic site with no benches, bins or signage. There is also limited equipment. Despite Dicker Play Area (36%) scoring below the quality threshold, it scores well for overall maintenance, surface and equipment quality and is perceived to be

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quite well used. It also has benches adding to the quality of the site however it lacks signage and controls to prevent illegal use (e.g. fencing/adequate boundaries).

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## 8.5 Value

212. To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessment scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table summarises the results of the value assessment. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.6: Value ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area*	Scores (%)Lowest	Scores (%)Average	Scores (%)Highest	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	20%	20%	20%	0	1
Arlington	38%	40%	42%	0	2
Berwick	38%	38%	38%	0	1
Buxted	42%	44%	45%	0	4
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	33%	33%	33%	0	1
Crowborough	38%	49%	55%	0	16
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Danehill	51%	51%	51%	0	2
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	29%	29%	29%	0	2
East Hoathly with Halland	35%	38%	42%	0	3
Fletching	45%	45%	45%	0	1
Forest Row	55%	55%	55%	0	2
Framfield	33%	41%	47%	0	3
Frant	51%	51%	51%	0	1
Hadlow Down	42%	42%	42%	0	2
Hailsham	25%	42%	56%	0	16
Hartfield	42%	42%	42%	0	1
Heathfield and Waldron	42%	48%	55%	0	9
Hellingly	38%	48%	55%	0	4
Herstmonceux	45%	45%	45%	0	3
Hooe	-	-	-	-	-
Horam	51%	51%	51%	0	1
Isfield	51%	51%	51%	0	1
Laughton	-	-	-	-	-
Little Horsted	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield	38%	45%	51%	0	6
Mayfield and Five Ashes	42%	48%	55%	0	4

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

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Analysis area*	Scores (%)Lowest	Scores (%)Average	Scores (%)Highest	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
Ninfield	38%	38%	38%	0	3
Pevensey	25%	33%	38%	0	3
Polegate	38%	42%	55%	0	6
Rotherfield	45%	45%	45%	0	1
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	13%	42%	78%	1	12
Wadhurst	38%	57%	82%	0	7
Warbleton	-	-	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	16%	28%	42%	1	3
Willingdon and Jevington	38%	42%	45%	0	4
Withyham	55%	55%	55%	0	1
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>126</b>

213. The two sites below the value threshold are Lambourn Avenue Play Space, Westham (16%) and Downlands Copse play area, Uckfield (13%). The former site is observed as a small and rather dark space located behind a hedge and fencing. Due to its hidden location and size, it is perceived as not being well used. Similarly, Downlands Copse play area, Uckfield is on a narrow section of natural greenspace and in the shade of large trees. It is highlighted as needing a refresh.
214. All other play sites in Wealden are above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the role play provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites make in terms of giving children and young people safe places to learn, to participate in physical and mental activity, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.
215. Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect a good range of quality equipment available at sites. Some of the highest scoring sites for value are:
- ✦ Baxendale Way Play Area (78%)
  - ✦ Bewl Water play area 2 (82%)
  - ✦ Mayfield King George's Field Play Space, Mayfield (55%)
  - ✦ Maurice Thornton Play Area, Hailsham (55%)
  - ✦ North Green Play Space, Forest Row (55%)
  - ✦ Punnet's Town Recreation Ground Play Area, Heathfield and Waldron (55%)
  - ✦ Sparrow Green Play Area, Wadhurst (55%)
  - ✦ Willingdon Recreation Ground Play Space, Polegate (55%)

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216. These sites are observed as being well maintained with a good to reasonable variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used given their range and quality of equipment. Maurice Thornton Play Area and North Green Play Space have additional social inclusion due to both containing an accessible roundabout. Bewl Water Play Area features timber structures and is within an attractive landscape therefore provides high structural and landscape benefits as well as ecological value.
217. Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play.
218. For example, Mayfield King George's Field Play Space caters for a wide age range of children as it contains play equipment, a MUGA and skate park whilst Willingdon Recreation Ground Play Space contains a play area, basketball hoop and outdoor gym equipment.

### 8.6 Summary

#### Provision for children and young people

- ◀ There are 126 play sites in Wealden: a total of nearly eight hectares (7.90 hectares).
- ◀ In addition, if SDNP sites are included, then a total of 129 sites (8.14 hectares) is noted.
- ◀ Fields In Trust suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall Wealden, with 0.05, is below this. However, given the rural nature of the area this is not unexpected. More important is access and quality of provision.
- ◀ Potential catchment gaps in play provision for young ages are noted to the settlements of Polegate, Forest Row, Heathfield and Crowborough. In some instances gaps can be addressed by exploring an option to provide new play provision. In other instances, gaps could look to be addressed by expanding the range/amount of provision at existing play site.
- ◀ Most play sites (63%) rate above the threshold for quality. Lower quality scoring sites tends to reflect a lack in range of equipment and/or its general condition.
- ◀ Nearly all play provision rates above the threshold for value; reflecting the social, healthy and developmental benefits provision can provide.

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## PART 9: ALLOTMENTS

### 9.1 Introduction

219. The allotments typology provides opportunities for people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, access to healthy local food, physical activity and social interaction.

### 9.2 Current provision

220. There are 17 sites classified as allotments in Wealden, equating to over 15 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit. Most analysis areas do not contain allotments provision.

*Table 9.1: Distribution of allotment sites in Wealden*

Analysis area	Allotments Number of sites	Allotments Total hectares (ha)	Allotments Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	1	0.41	
Arlington	1	0.39	0.32
Berwick	-	-	-
Buxted	-	-	-
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-
Crowborough	1	0.83	0.04
<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	-	-	-
Danehill	-	-	-
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	-	-	-
East Hoathly with Halland	1	1.29	0.76
Fletching	-	-	-
Forest Row	1	1.17	0.22
Framfield	-	-	
Frant	-	-	
Hadlow Down	-	-	
Hailsham	2	1.12	0.05
Hartfield	-	-	
Heathfield and Waldron	-	-	
Hellingly	1	1.43	0.41
Herstmonceux	-	-	
Hooe	1	0.75	1.61
Horam	1	0.59	0.21
Isfield	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-

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Analysis area	Allotments Number of sites	Allotments Total hectares (ha)	Allotments Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Little Horsted	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-
Maresfield	-	-	-
Mayfield and Five Ashes	1	0.16	0.04
Ninfield	1	0.28	0.18
Pevensey	1	1.04	0.31
Polegate	1	1.16	0.12
Rotherfield	-	-	-
Selmeston	-	-	-
Uckfield	3	4.25	0.28
Wadhurst	1	0.81	0.17
Warbleton	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-
Westham	-	-	-
Willingdon and Jevington	-	-	-
Withyham	-	-	-
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15.26</b>	<b>0.10</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15.67</b>	<b>0.10</b>

221. The largest site in Wealden is Framfield Road allotments, Uckfield (2.38 hectares).
222. If provision and populations in areas of the district covered by the South Downs National Park are included then a total of 18 sites (15.67 hectares) exist; an equivalent to a current provision level of 0.10 hectares per 1,000 head of population.
223. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 100 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 populations based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).
224. Wealden based on its current population (158,380) is short of the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Wealden is 39.59 hectares. Existing provision of 15.26 hectares is below this guideline. On this basis, as population increases, the deficit is also likely to increase. In addition, several parish and town councils highlight waiting lists across sites; suggesting demand is outweighing supply.

## 9.3 Accessibility

225. The Community Survey found the most common mode of travel to access an allotment is by walking (49%) followed by car (28%). The most common times willing to travel is 5-10 minutes (36%) and up to 11-15 minutes (21%). To reflect the desire for allotments to be locally accessible, a walk time of 15 minutes is applied (Figure 9.1).



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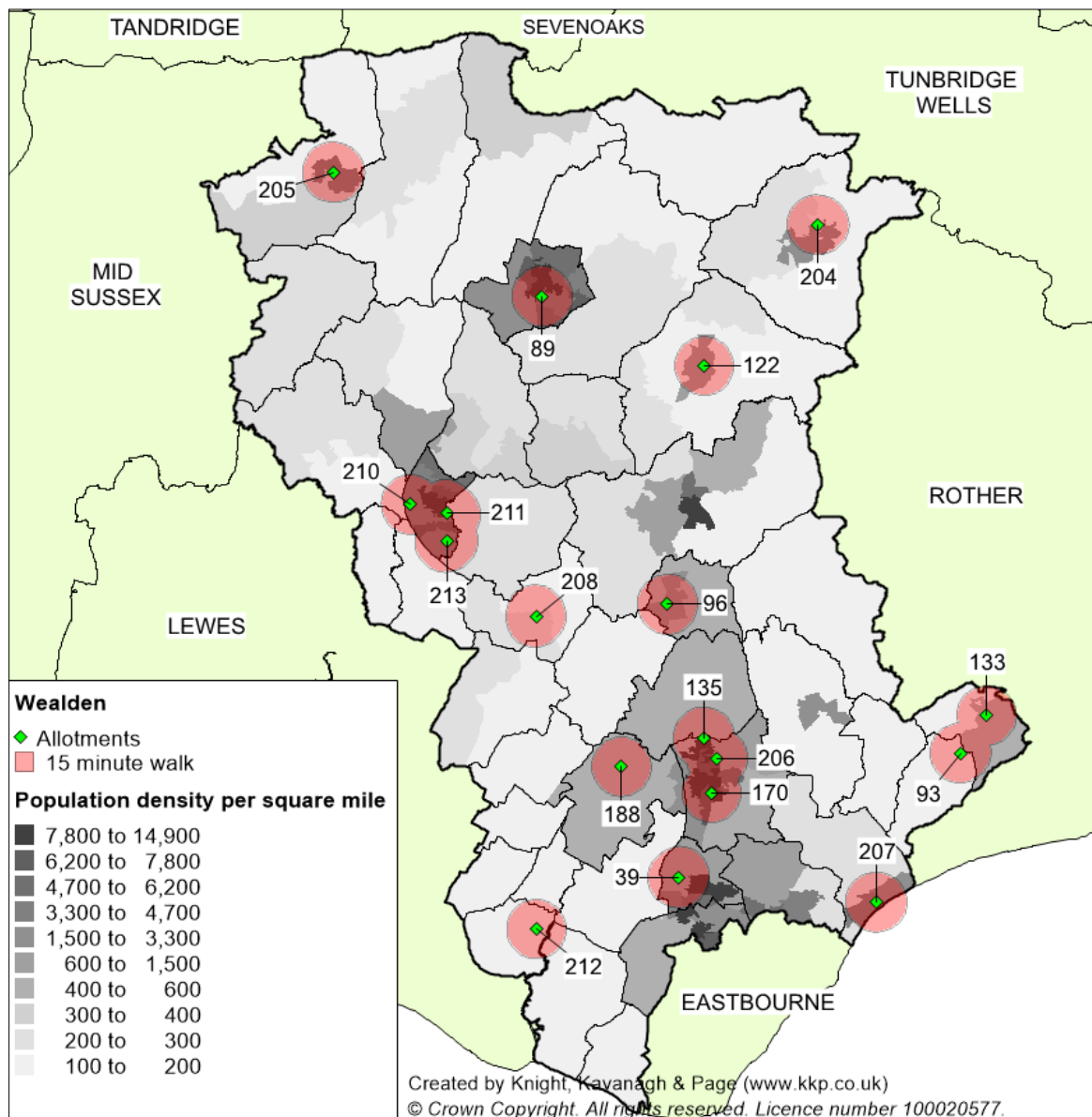


Figure 9.1: Allotments mapped against catchment

Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
39	Cophall Allotments	Polegate	1.16	42.6%	43.1%
89	Herne Road Allotments	Crowborough	0.83	49.1%	46.2%
93	Hooe Allotments	Hooe	0.75	32.4%	43.1%
96	Horam Allotments	Horam	0.59	60.2%	44.6%
122	Mayfield South Street Allotments	Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.16	30.6%	35.4%

\* Sites in italic are located in the SDNP

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Site ID	Site name*	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
133	Ninfield Allotments	Ninfield	0.28	38.9%	35.4%
135	Norm Corner Allotments	Hellingly	1.43	53.7%	38.5%
170	Station Road Allotments	Hailsham	0.21	44.4%	36.9%
188	Upper Dicker allotments	Arlington	0.39	46.3%	46.2%
204	Sparrow Green allotments	Wadhurst	0.81	30.6%	35.4%
205	Medway Drive allotments	Forest Row	1.17	41.7%	43.1%
206	Battle Road allotments	Hailsham	0.91	56.5%	36.9%
207	Coast Road allotments	Pevensey	1.04	68.5%	52.3%
208	East Hoathly and Halland Community Garden	East Hoathly with Halland	1.29	67.6%	50.8%
210	West Park allotments	Uckfield	0.34	54.6%	50.8%
211	Framfield Road allotments	Uckfield	2.38	51.9%	50.8%
212	<i>The Furlongs allotments</i>	<i>Alfriston</i>	<i>0.41</i>	<i>47.2%</i>	<i>52.3%</i>
213	New Road allotments	Uckfield	1.53	71.3%	35.4%

226. Figure 9.1 highlights potential gaps to areas of greater population density across the analysis areas particularly to the settlements of Crowborough, Polegate, and Heathfield. It should be noted that cross boundary provision has not been considered and could potentially help meet identified gaps.

## 9.4 Quality

227. To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) the site assessment scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table summarises the results of the quality assessment. A threshold of 45% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.3: Quality ratings for allotments

Analysis area*	Scores (%)Lowest score	Scores (%)Average score	Scores (%)Highest score	No. of sites <45%	No. of sites >45%
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alfriston</i>	47%	47%	47%	0	1
Arlington	46%	46%	46%	0	1
Berwick	-	-	-	-	-
Buxted	-	-	-	-	-
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-	-	-
Crowborough	49%	49%	49%	0	1

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

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Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <45%	No. of sites >45%
Danehill	-	-	-	-	-
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
East Hoathly with Halland	68%	68%	68%	0	1
Fletching	-	-	-	-	-
Forest Row	42%	42%	42%	1	0
Framfield	-	-	-	-	-
Frant	-	-	-	-	-
Hadlow Down	-	-	-	-	-
Hailsham	44%	50%	56%	1	1
Hartfield	-	-	-	-	-
Heathfield and Waldron	-	-	-	-	-
Hellingly	54%	54%	54%	0	1
Herstmonceux	-	-	-	-	-
Hooe	32%	32%	32%	1	0
Horam	60%	60%	60%	0	1
Isfield	-	-	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-	-	-
Little Horsted	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield	-	-	-	-	-
Mayfield and Five Ashes	31%	31%	31%	1	0
Ninfield	39%	39%	39%	1	0
Pevensey	69%	69%	69%	0	1
Polegate	43%	43%	43%	1	0
Rotherfield	-	-	-	-	-
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	52%	59%	71%	0	3
Wadhurst	31%	31%	31%	1	0
Warbleton	-	-	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	-	-	-	-	-
Willingdon and Jevington	-	-	-	-	-
Withyham	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Wealden (Inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

228. Most allotment sites (61%) rate above the threshold for quality. Site assessments highlight that such sites are generally well kept.

229. The highest scoring sites are:

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- ◀ New Road Allotments (71%)
  - ◀ Coast Road allotments (69%)
  - ◀ East Hoathly and Halland Community Garden (68%)
230. These sites are generally observed as having good fencing, signage, pathways and are well maintained. East Hoathly and Halland Community Garden (68%) has the additional benefit of car parking and benches.
231. There are seven sites which rate below the threshold:
- ◀ Sparrow Green allotments (31%)
  - ◀ Mayfield South Street Allotments (31%)
  - ◀ Hooe Allotments (32%)
  - ◀ Ninfield Allotments (39%)
  - ◀ Medway Drive allotments (42%)
  - ◀ Cophall Allotments (43%)
  - ◀ Station Road Allotments (44%)
232. Sites tend to rate below the quality threshold due to being hidden and/or having access restrictions (narrow entrances). For example, Station Road Allotments has a narrow entrance and is difficult to assess due to the high overgrown hedge. Sparrow Green Allotments (31%) scores low due to a narrow path entrance to the site and lacks ancillary features. Note that Station Road Allotments and Cophall Allotments score just below the threshold and unlike the other low scoring sites, have signage/a noticeboard.

### 9.5 Value

233. In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 9.4: Value ratings for allotments*

Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
<i>Alciston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Alfriston	52%	52%	52%	0	1
Arlington	46%	46%	46%	0	1
Berwick	-	-	-	-	-
Buxted	-	-	-	-	-
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-	-	-	-
Chiddingly	-	-	-	-	-
Crowborough	46%	46%	46%	0	1
Danehill	-	-	-	-	-
<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	-	-	-	-	-
East Hoathly with Halland	51%	51%	51%	0	1

\* Areas in italic are in the SDNP

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Analysis area*	Scores (%) Lowest score	Scores (%) Average score	Scores (%) Highest score	No. of sites <20%	No. of sites >20%
Fletching	-	-	-	-	-
Forest Row	43%	43%	43%	0	1
Framfield	-	-	-	-	-
Frant	-	-	-	-	-
Hadlow Down	-	-	-	-	-
Hailsham	37%	37%	37%	0	2
Hartfield	-	-	-	-	-
Heathfield and Waldron	-	-	-	-	-
Hellingly	38%	38%	38%	0	1
Herstmonceux	-	-	-	-	-
Hooe	43%	43%	43%	0	1
Horam	45%	45%	45%	0	1
Isfield	-	-	-	-	-
Laughton	-	-	-	-	-
Little Horsted	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Long Man</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Maresfield	-	-	-	-	-
Mayfield and Five Ashes	35%	35%	35%	0	1
Ninfield	35%	35%	35%	0	1
Pevensey	52%	52%	52%	0	1
Polegate	43%	43%	43%	0	1
Rotherfield	-	-	-	-	-
Selmeston	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	35%	46%	51%	0	3
Wadhurst	35%	35%	35%	0	1
Warbleton	-	-	-	-	-
Wartling	-	-	-	-	-
Westham	-	-	-	-	-
Willingdon and Jevington	-	-	-	-	-
Withyham	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Wealden (Inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>

234. All allotments rate above the threshold for value. This reflects the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
235. Coast Road Allotments is the highest scoring site for value (52%). The site is recognised for its well-presented appearance and its social and amenity benefits. It is quite a small site but evidently well used.

### 9.6 Summary

#### Allotments

- ◀ There are 17 allotments sites in Wealden: equating to more than 15 hectares.
- ◀ In addition, if SDNP sites are included, then a total of 18 sites (15 hectares) is noted.
- ◀ National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 8.1 shows that Wealden, with 0.10, is below this.
- ◀ Potential gaps in allotments provision are noted to settlements of Crowborough, Polegate and Heathfield.
- ◀ Most allotments (61%) rate above the threshold for quality. Lower quality scoring sites tends to reflect hidden or restricted entrances and approaches.
- ◀ All allotments are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.

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## PART 10: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

### 10.1 Introduction

236. Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

### 10.2 Current provision

237. There are 70 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 40 hectares of provision in Wealden. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

*Table 10.1: Distribution of cemeteries in Wealden*

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards Number of sites	Cemeteries/churchyards Total hectares (ha)
Arlington	2	0.70
Berwick	-	-
Buxted	5	2.19
Chalvington with Ripe	2	0.77
Chiddingly	1	0.59
Crowborough	3	3.31
Danehill	1	0.19
East Hoathly with Halland	2	0.53
Fletching	1	1.10
Forest Row	5	1.86
Framfield	1	1.07
Frant	3	1.28
Hadlow Down	1	0.42
Hailsham	3	4.48
Hartfield	2	1.19
Heathfield and Waldron	5	2.51
Hellingly	2	2.28
Herstmonceux	1	0.72
Hooe	-	-
Horam	2	0.41
Isfield	-	-
Laughton	1	0.55
Little Horsted	1	0.28
Maresfield	4	1.37
Mayfield and Five Ashes	4	2.54
Ninfield	1	0.66
Pevensey	1	0.42
Polegate	2	0.68

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Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards Number of sites	Cemeteries/churchyards Total hectares (ha)
Rotherfield	2	0.65
Selmeston	1	0.29
Uckfield	1	1.51
Wadhurst	1	0.79
Warbleton	-	-
Wartling	-	-
Westham	2	1.04
Willingdon and Jevington	4	2.41
Withyham	3	1.41
<b>Wealden (exc. SDNP)</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>40.17</b>
<b>Wealden (inc. SDNP)</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>43.35</b>

238. The largest contributor to burial provision is Hailsham Cemetery (3.70 hectares).
239. If provision in areas of the district covered by the South Downs National Park are included than a total of 79 sites exist: an equivalent to 43.35 hectares.

### 10.3 Accessibility

240. No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand.



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Figure 10.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis areas

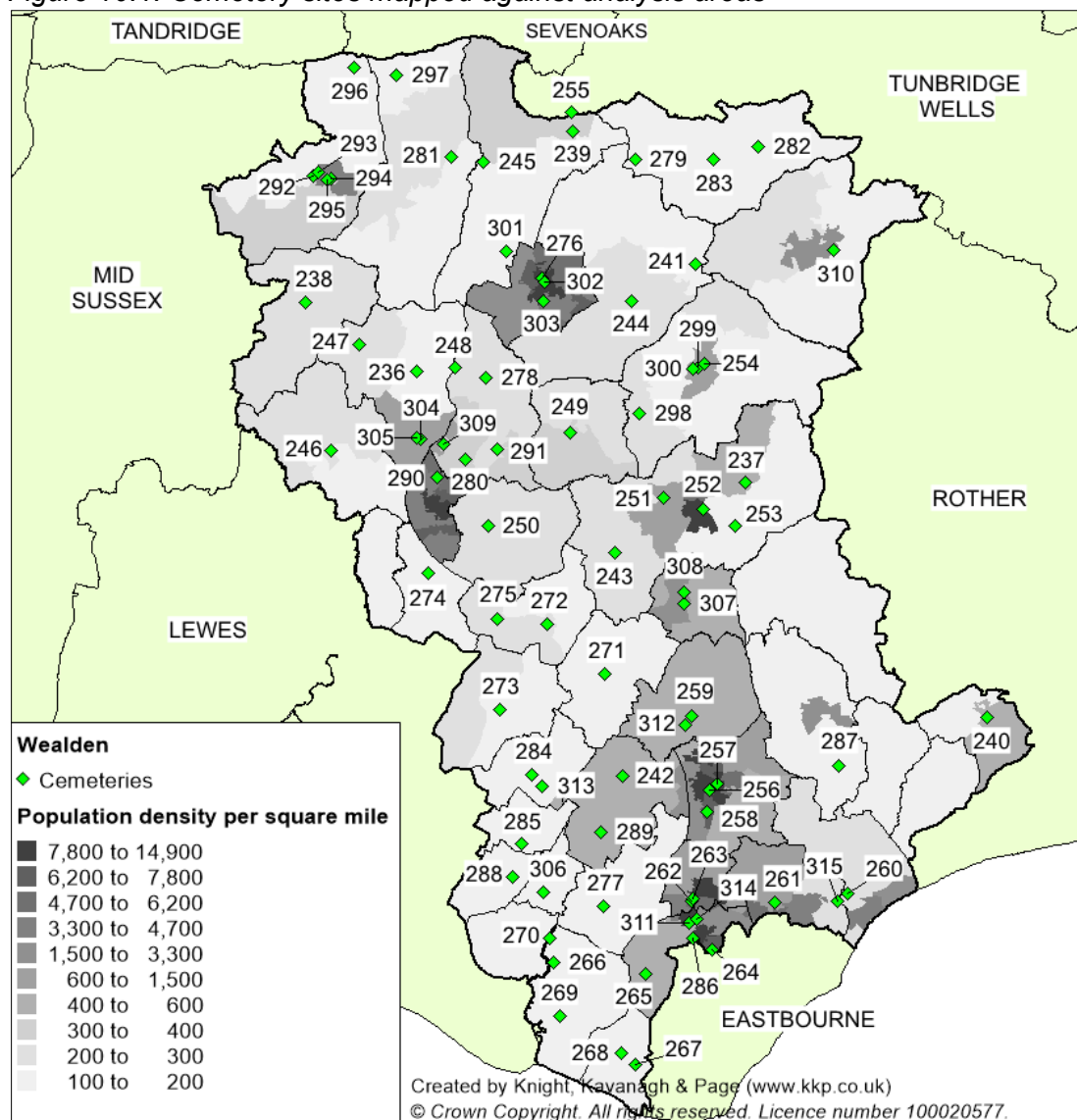


Table 10.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
236	Christ Church, Fairwarp	Maresfield	0.40
237	Broad Oak St Georges Church	Heathfield and Waldron	0.23
238	Chelwood Gate Church	Danehill	0.19
239	St Thomas' Church, Groombridge	Withyham	0.13
240	St Mary the Virgin, Ninfield	Ninfield	0.66
241	St Marks Church, Mark Cross	Rotherfield	0.09
242	Upper Dicker Church	Arlington	0.21
243	Waldron All Saints Church	Heathfield and Waldron	0.64
244	St Denys' Church	Rotherfield	0.56

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
245	Withyham St Michael and All Angels Church	Withyham	0.94
246	St Andrews and St Marys Church	Fletching	1.10
247	St James Church	Maresfield	0.46
248	Heron's Ghyll Catholic Church	Buxted	0.32
249	St Marks Church, Hadlow Down	Hadlow Down	0.42
250	St Thomas A Becket Church	Framfield	1.07
251	St Bartholomews Church	Heathfield and Waldron	0.40
252	St Richard Church	Heathfield and Waldron	0.13
253	Heathfield Church	Heathfield and Waldron	1.12
254	St Dunstans Church	Mayfield and Five Ashes	1.62
256	St Wilfrid's, Hailsham	Hailsham	0.26
257	St Mary's, Hailsham	Hailsham	0.52
258	Hailsham Cemetery	Hailsham	3.70
259	Hellingly Church	Hellingly	0.50
260	St Nicholas Church	Pevensey	0.42
261	St Luke's Church	Westham	0.31
262	St Georges RC Church and Hall	Polegate	0.38
263	St Johns Church and hall, Polegate	Polegate	0.30
264	St Mary and Church on the Trees	Willingdon and Jevington	0.74
265	<i>St Andrews Church, Jevington</i>	<i>Willingdon and Jevington</i>	<i>0.37</i>
266	<i>St Michaels Church</i>	<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	<i>0.12</i>
267	<i>St Simon and St Jude</i>	<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	<i>0.34</i>
268	<i>St Marys Church, Friston</i>	<i>East Dean and Friston</i>	<i>0.27</i>
269	<i>All Saints Church, Westdean</i>	<i>Cuckmere Valley</i>	<i>0.47</i>
270	<i>St Andrews Alfriston Church</i>	<i>Alfriston</i>	<i>0.64</i>
271	Chiddingly Church	Chiddingly	0.59
272	East Hoathly Parish Church	East Hoathly with Halland	0.34
273	All Saints Church, Laughton	Laughton	0.55
274	St Michael and All Angels Church	Little Horsted	0.28
275	Hall and Chapel, Halland	East Hoathly with Halland	0.18
276	All Saints Church, Chapel Green	Crowborough	0.72
277	<i>St Mary's and St Peter's Church</i>	<i>Long Man</i>	<i>0.37</i>
278	Holy Trinity Church, High Hurstwood	Buxted	0.52
279	Holy Trinity Church, Eridge Green	Frant	0.42
280	Buxted Parish Church St Margarets	Buxted	0.78
281	Hartfield St Marys Church	Hartfield	0.99
282	Bells Yew Green Church	Frant	0.06
283	St Albans Church	Frant	0.80
284	Ripe Church	Chalvington with Ripe	0.40

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
285	Selmeston Church	Selmeston	0.29
286	Willingdon Cemetery	Willingdon and Jevington	1.48
287	Herstmonceux Church	Herstmonceux	0.72
288	<i>Alciston Church</i>	<i>Alciston</i>	<i>0.25</i>
289	St Pancras Church	Arlington	0.49
290	Snatt Road Cemetery	Uckfield	1.51
291	St Marys Church, Buxted	Buxted	0.40
292	Forest Row Parish Cemetery	Forest Row	1.04
293	Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row	Forest Row	0.18
294	Forest Row Baptist Church	Forest Row	0.07
295	Christian Community Church	Forest Row	0.30
296	St Stephens Church	Forest Row	0.28
297	St Peter's Church	Hartfield	0.20
298	Church (and hall) of the Good Shephard	Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.47
299	Colkinsmill Church	Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.27
300	St Thomas Church	Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.17
301	St John's Church	Withyham	0.35
302	St Marys Church, Chapel Green	Crowborough	0.40
303	Herne Road cemetery	Crowborough	2.19
304	Maresfield Graveyard	Maresfield	0.21
305	Maresfield Church	Maresfield	0.30
306	<i>Berwick Church</i>	<i>Berwick</i>	<i>0.34</i>
307	Christ Church and Hall, Horam	Horam	0.30
308	Horam Chapel	Horam	0.11
309	Five Ash Down Chapel and Hall	Buxted	0.15
310	Wadhurst Church	Wadhurst	0.79
311	St Wilfreds Church, Wannock	Willingdon and Jevington	0.12
312	Hellingly Cemetery	Hellingly	1.78
313	Chalvington Church	Chalvington with Ripe	0.37
314	Downs Valley Apostolic Church	Willingdon and Jevington	0.06
315	St Mary the Virgin, Westham	Westham	0.73

241. Mapping demonstrates an even distribution across the area. As noted, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by burial demand and capacity.

### 10.4 Summary

#### Cemeteries/churchyards

- ◀ There are 70 sites classified as a cemetery/churchyard: equating to over 40 hectares.
- ◀ In addition, if SDNP sites are included, then a total of 79 sites (43 hectares) is noted.
- ◀ The largest contributor to provision is Hailsham Cemetery (3.70 hectares).

## PART 11: PROVISION STANDARDS

242. The provision standards used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space are set in terms of quality, accessibility and quantity.

### 11.1 Quality and value

243. Each type of open space receives a separate quality and value score. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus as a particular open space type.

#### *Quality and value matrix*

244. Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is used to identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which require enhancement and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose.
245. When analysing the quality/value of a site it should be done in conjunction with regard to the other forms of provision in the area (i.e. whether there may be a quantity and/or accessibility deficiency).
246. The high/low classification gives the following possible combinations of quality and value:

*Table 11.1: Quality and value classifications*

		Quality	Quality
		High	Low
Value	High	All sites should have an aspiration to come into this category. Many sites of this category are likely to be viewed as key forms of open space provision.	The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality to the applied standard. The priority will be those sites providing a key role in terms of access.
Value	Low	The preferred approach to a site in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary function. If this is not possible, consideration to a change of primary function should be given (i.e. a change to another open space type).	The approach to these sites in areas of identified shortfall should be to enhance their quality provided it is also possible to enhance value.  In areas of sufficiency a change of primary typology should be considered first. If no shortfall of other open space typologies is noted than the site may be 'surplus to requirements'.

247. There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low-quality sites. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance sites where it is not appropriate or cost effective to do so. However, in some instances, a site (regardless of quality/value) may be the only form of provision serving that area. Please refer to the individual typology sections as well as the supporting excel database for a breakdown of the matrix.

### 11.2 Accessibility

248. Accessibility catchments are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors underpinning catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process the concept of 'effective catchments' are used, defined as the distance that would be travelled by most users. The accessibility catchments do not consider if a distance is on an incline or decline. They are intended to act as an initial form of analysis to help identify potential gaps.
249. Guidance on walking distance and times is offered by Fields In Trust (FIT) in its document *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). This includes accessibility distances for children's play provision which vary depending on the age range of the equipment.
250. Whilst the FIT accessibility catchments are recognised benchmarks, they are not considered to be locally specific. Previous studies have utilised accessibility catchments derived from local perceptions. Therefore the results of the community survey have been used in this study to set the accessibility catchments to better reflect local circumstances.
251. No catchments are suggested for cemeteries. It is more appropriate to determine need for provision based on factors such as burial capacity.
252. For some open space types a walk and drive time catchment are set to reflect the variation in modes and travel times. This is intended to recognise the role of different types and sizes of open space as well as the expectation in access to provision between larger more urban settlements and smaller more rural settlements. For instance, not every village would expect to be within walking distance of a formal park. However, being within a reasonable drive time of a larger park could be expected.
253. On this basis, the following accessibility catchments are recommended.

*Table 11.2: Recommended accessibility catchments*

Open space type	Mode	Distance guideline
Parks & Gardens	Walk	15 minutes (1,500m)
Parks & Gardens	Drive	15 minutes for sites over 5 hectares
Amenity Greenspace	Walk	10 minutes (1,000m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	Walk	20 minutes (2,000m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	Drive	20 minutes for sites over 20 hectares
Provision for children and young people LAP	Walk	1 minute (100m)
Provision for children and young people LEAP	Walk	5 minutes (400m)
Provision for children and young people NEAP	Walk	12 ½ minutes (1,000m)
Provision for children and young people Other provision (e.g., MUGA, Skate park)	Walk	9 minutes (720m)
	Walk	15 minutes (1,500m)

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Provision for children and young people Skate parks	Drive	12 minutes
Allotment	Walk	15 minutes (1,500m)

254. If an area does not have access to provision, it is deemed deficient. The report identifies instances where new sites may be needed, or potential opportunities could be explored in order to provide comprehensive access (i.e. a gap in one form of provision may exist but the area in question may be served by another form of open space that could potentially be improved). Please refer to the individual typology sections and associated mapping to view the identified deficiencies.
255. The following principles should be considered in any subsequent actions for identified gaps:
- ◀ Assess whether improvements are required to increase capacity/usage to meet increases in demand, or
  - ◀ Enhance quality in order to meet increases in demand, or
  - ◀ Commuted sum for ongoing maintenance/repairs to mitigate impact of new demand
256. These principles are intended to mitigate for the impact of increases in demand on existing provision. An increase in population will reduce the lifespan of certain sites and/or features (e.g. play equipment, maintenance regimes etc.). This will lead to the increased requirement to refurbish and/or replace provision.
257. Identified gaps in play catchments could be addressed by exploring options to provide new forms of play provision on existing open space sites. In other instances, an option may be to explore expanding the range and number of play provision at an already existing play site in order for it to cater for a wider age range or to increase its existing capacity.

### 11.3 Quantity

258. The setting and application of quantity standards is necessary to determine shortfalls in provision and to ensure new developments contribute to open space provision needs.

#### ***Setting quantity standards***

259. Shortfalls in quality and accessibility standards are identified across the area for different types of open space (as per Parts 11.1 and 11.2). Consequently, the Council should seek to ensure new developments contribute to the overall provision of open space.
260. The recommendation for open space is, generally, for the current provision levels to be used as a basis to inform and determine the future quantity requirements for Wealden.
261. For natural and semi-natural greenspace, the initial current provision level is noticeably large (10.42 hectares per 1,000 population). This figure is based on all forms of accessible provision, regardless of size, being used to calculate an initial current provision level. However, there are several sites identified as being significantly large.
262. Such large forms of provision skew the current provision level which makes it potentially impractical to base the recommended quantity standard on the current levels of provision; as seeking such large amounts of provision through developer contributions is likely in most cases to not be viable. If these significantly large sites are omitted (as well as sites located

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- within the SDNP) from the current provision level calculation\*, then a total of 1.91 hectares per 1,000 population is observed. This is considered a more realistic provision level to use and achieve in the calculating of requirements from new developments.
263. However, for consistency in approach within this study, the current provision level for natural and semi-natural greenspace is initially utilised to identify potential quantity shortfalls.
264. For play provision, it should be noted that WDC use an existing quantity standard of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population to calculate future contributions from developments. This is based on the FIT suggested standard. The current provision level of 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population is considerably less than the figure presently used. Furthermore, the satisfaction of availability of play provision is generally high from survey respondents (62.1%). On this basis, it is recommended that the existing quantity standard (0.25 hectares per 1,000 population) continues to be used for determining future provision requirements regarding play. This is to reflect the important role, benefits and the Council's aspirations for play provision and to encourage healthy communities. For consistency in the approach within this study, the current provision level for play is utilised to identify potential shortfalls.
265. For allotments, the current provision level (0.10 hectares per 1,000 population) is noticeably lower compared to the 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) and neighbouring local authorities (Table 11.4). Furthermore, consultation with parish and town councils' highlights waiting lists at sites across the district; suggesting supply is not meeting demand. On this basis, adopting the NSALG standard of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population is recommended.
266. The provision per 1,000 population for parks and gardens is notably less than the previous audit study. This is predominately due to the previous study including provision such as outdoor sports within the quantity figure for parks and gardens. However, provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space as a different methodology in line with national guidance is prescribed.
267. Multifunctional Greenspace (MFGS) is the typologies of parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace combined. This will provide WDC with an easy-to-use initial starting point in calculating future open space provision requirements (see Part 13). It should also enable some flexibility in determining what provision is to be provided onsite, as each settlement in the district is unique and what may be a priority in one settlement may not be a priority in another.

*Table 11.3: Recommended quantity standards*

Typology	Quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.53
Amenity greenspace	0.56
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.91 (10.91 for analysis)
<b>Multifunctional Greenspace</b>	<b>3.00</b>

\* Any accessible site over 50 hectares



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<b>Provision for children &amp; young people</b>	<b>0.25</b> (0.05 for analysis)
<b>Allotment</b>	<b>0.25</b> (0.10 for analysis)

268. This means new developments would need to provide a combined 3.50 hectares per 1,000 population. An equivalent to 35.0 square metres per person.
269. It is also useful to benchmark against the open space requirements of neighbouring Local Authorities. A summary of all neighbouring local authorities open space requirements is provided in Table 11.4.

*Table 11.4: Other Local Authority open space requirements*

Typology	Standard per m <sup>2</sup> Tunbridge Wells	Standard per m <sup>2</sup> Mid Sussex	Standard per m <sup>2</sup> Lewes	Standard per m <sup>2</sup> Sevenoaks	Standard per m <sup>2</sup> Rother	Standard per m <sup>2</sup> Hastings
Allotments	3	16	2	n/a	4.5	1.25
Parks	11	16	8	8	4.3	7.8
Amenity	8	16	6	6	17.3	2.1
Natural	8	16	20	18	20	57.7
Children's	0.4	5.5	2.5	2	2	1.55
Young people	0.4	5.5	2.5	2	2	1.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>70.4</b>

270. The existing WDC requirement of 24 square metres of all open space (SPG 2003) is generally less than what neighbouring local authorities are seeking. The recommended figure of 35.0 square metres (Table 11.3) would bring the amounts being sought more in line with neighbouring authorities as well as Fields In Trust guidance (which local authorities such as Lewes and Sevenoaks are predominantly using).
271. The current provision levels can be used to help identify where areas may have a shortfall and what the priority for provision maybe in each area. Table 11.5 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space.



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Table 11.5: Current analysis area open space provision by area

Parish area	Parks and gardens	Parks and gardens	Natural & Semi-natural	Natural & Semi-natural	Amenity greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotments	Allotments
Parish area	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.53	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.53	(Hectares per 1000 population) 10.91	(Hectares per 1000 population) 10.91	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.56	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.56	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.10	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.10
Parish area	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Arlington	-	-0.53	78.39	+67.48	2.60	+2.04	0.32	+0.22
Berwick	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	2.70	+2.14	-	-0.10
Buxted	0.68	+0.14	42.96	+32.05	0.32	-0.24	-	-0.10
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	-	-0.56	-	-0.10
Chiddingly	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	1.95	+1.39	-	-0.10
Crowborough	0.66	+0.12	1.92	-8.99	0.40	-0.16	0.04	-0.06
Danehill	1.64	+1.10	3.06	-7.85	0.19	-0.37	-	-0.10
East Hoathly with Halland	2.42	+1.88	14.96	+4.05	2.49	+1.93	0.76	+0.66
Fletching	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	1.72	+1.16	-	-0.10
Forest Row	-	-0.53	2.67	-8.24	0.95	+0.39	0.22	+0.12
Framfield	1.20	+0.66	-	-10.91	0.87	+0.31	-	-0.10
Frant	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	1.38	+0.82	-	-0.10
Hadlow Down	-	-0.53	31.19	+20.28	2.23	+1.67	-	-0.10
Hailsham	0.45	-0.09	0.37	-10.54	0.38	-0.18	0.05	-0.05

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Parish area	Parks and gardens	Parks and gardens	Natural & Semi-natural	Natural & Semi-natural	Amenity greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotments	Allotments
Parish area	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.53	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.53	(Hectares per 1000 population) 10.91	(Hectares per 1000 population) 10.91	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.56	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.56	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.10	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.10
Parish area	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Hartfield	-	-0.53	236.23	+225.32	0.85	+0.29	-	-0.10
Heathfield and Waldron	0.35	-0.19	2.20	-8.71	0.53	-0.03	-	-0.10
Hellingly	-	-0.53	4.47	-56.44	0.97	+0.41	0.41	+0.31
Herstmonceux	0.89	+0.35	-	-10.91	0.14	-0.42	-	-0.10
Hooe	-	-0.53	19.81	+8.90	4.84	+4.28	1.61	+1.51
Horam	1.98	+1.44	0.48	-10.43	0.14	-0.42	0.21	+0.11
Isfield	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	3.09	+2.53	-	-0.10
Laughton	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	0.22	-0.34	-	-0.10
Little Horsted	-	-0.53	127.70	+116.79	-	-0.56	-	-0.10
Maresfield	-	-0.53	15.32	+4.41	1.56	+1.00	-	-0.10
Mayfield and Five Ashes	2.29	+1.75	-	-10.91	0.38	-0.18	0.04	-0.06
Ninfield	1.28	+0.74	-	-10.91	-	-0.56	0.18	+0.08
Pevensey	-	-0.53	2.51	-8.40	0.85	-0.29	0.31	+0.21
Polegate	0.34	-0.20	0.51	-10.40	0.39	-0.17	0.12	+0.02
Rotherfield	0.85	+8.02	8.37	-2.54	0.56	level	-	-0.10
Selmeston	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	-	-0.56	-	-0.10

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Parish area	Parks and gardens	Parks and gardens	Natural & Semi-natural	Natural & Semi-natural	Amenity greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotments	Allotments
Parish area	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.53	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.53	(Hectares per 1000 population) 10.91	(Hectares per 1000 population) 10.91	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.56	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.56	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.10	(Hectares per 1000 population) 0.10
Parish area	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Uckfield	0.73	+0.31	3.49	-7.42	0.42	-0.14	0.28	+0.18
Wadhurst	0.57	+0.03	15.84	+4.93	0.56	level	0.17	+0.07
Warbleton	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	0.56	level	-	-0.10
Wartling	-	-0.53	-	-10.91	-	-0.56	-	-0.10
Westham	0.51	-0.53	0.58	-10.33	0.62	+0.06	-	-0.10
Willingdon and Jevington	-	-0.53	0.45	-10.46	0.39	-0.17	-	-0.10
Withyham	-	-0.53	20.18	+9.27	1.06	+0.50	-	-0.10

272. Nearly all analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in at least one form of open space. There are seven areas identified as having shortfalls across all provision types. This includes the areas of greater population for Hailsham and Heathfield.

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

### *Provision for children and young people*

273. Table 11.6 shows the position for each area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a quantity shortfall in terms of provision for children and young people assessed against existing provision levels.

*Table 11.6: Current analysis area play provision levels*

Analysis area	Hectares per 1000 population Current provision	Hectares per 1000 population Sufficiency/deficiency against 0.05 current provision
Arlington	0.07	+0.02
Berwick	0.02	-0.03
Buxted	0.02	-0.03
Chalvington with Ripe	-	-0.05
Chiddingly	0.03	-0.02
Crowborough	0.04	-0.01
Danehill	0.11	+0.06
East Hoathly with Halland	0.07	+0.01
Fletching	0.14	+0.09
Forest Row	0.001	-0.049
Framfield	0.09	+0.04
Frant	0.10	+0.05
Hadlow Down	0.09	+0.04
Hailsham	0.06	+0.01
Hartfield	0.02	-0.03
Heathfield and Waldron	0.04	-0.01
Hellingly	0.09	+0.04
Herstmonceux	0.05	Level
Hooe	-	-0.05
Horam	0.05	Level
Isfield	0.06	+0.01
Laughton	-	-0.05
Little Horsted	-	-0.05
Maresfield	0.10	+0.05
Mayfield and Five Ashes	0.04	-0.01
Ninfield	0.16	+0.11
Pevensy	0.09	+0.04
Polegate	0.05	Level
Rotherfield	0.04	-0.01
Selmeston	-	-0.05

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Analysis area	Hectares per 1000 population Current provision	Hectares per 1000 population Sufficiency/deficiency against 0.05 current provision
Uckfield	0.06	+0.01
Wadhurst	0.08	+0.03
Warbleton	-	-0.05
Wartling	-	-0.05
Westham	0.04	-0.01
Willingdon and Jevington	0.02	-0.03
Withyham	0.02	-0.03

274. There is a mixture of analysis areas identified as having a shortfall or sufficiency. Of parish areas with a greater population density, Crowborough and Heathfield and Waldron are noted as having a potential shortfall.

### ***Identifying priorities***

275. Shortfalls in open space provision are highlighted across the areas. Furthermore, new developments will also bring additional demand for open space provision.
276. Quantity levels should still be utilised to indicate the potential lack of provision in any given area. However, this should be done in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of provision in the area also.
277. Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should be endorsed. Further insight to the shortfalls is provided within each provision standard summary (Parts 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3).
278. The recommended quantity standards should also generally be used to determine the open space requirements as part of new housing developments. In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments and accessibility considered accordingly.
279. If this is not considered viable, the column signalling whether an area is sufficient or has a shortfall against the recommended quantity standards may be used to help inform the priorities for each type of open space within each area (i.e. the priorities may be where a shortfall has been identified).

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## OPEN SPACE REPORT

### 11.4 Future growth

280. Future need for open space will arise from population increases from housing growth. The Council currently has two scenarios for estimating the possible future requirements relating to open space provision.
- ◀ Scenario One: Using ONS future population projections
  - ◀ Scenario Two: Using the Council's housing need figures (as per that using the Government's 'standard methodology' to understand future housing need.

#### Scenario One

281. ONS population projections estimate Wealden in 2039 (period of the Local Plan) will have a future population of 177,461. A current population of 158,380 is utilised in this report. Therefore an increase in population of 19,081 is estimated.
282. The recommended quantity standards for Wealden (Table 11.3) are applied to determine the requirements for open space provision as part of the scenario.

Table 11.7: Scenario one future requirements – ONS projections

Open Space Requirement (ha)	Open Space Requirement (ha)	Open Space Requirement (ha)	Open Space Requirement (ha)	Open Space Requirement (ha)
Parks	NSN	AGS	Allotment	Play
10.11	36.44	10.68	4.77	4.77

#### Scenario Two

283. When applying the Government's 'standard methodology' to determine future housing need Wealden District is identified to deliver 24,500 dwellings up to 2039 (based on 1,225 dwelling per year). Of this, 9,436 dwellings are already committed or completed as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Therefore a total of 15,064 dwellings are still to be provided.
284. Using an average household size of 2.3 persons per household, a population of 34,647 is estimated.
285. Please note that the scenario can be updated as required over the Local Plan period to reflect changes in housing requirements and / or growth set out in the Council's emerging local plan. Average household sizes can also be adjusted as relevant.
286. The recommended quantity provision standards for Wealden are applied to determine the need for open space provision as part of the scenario.

Table 11.8: Scenario two future requirements – Housing need

Open Space Requirement (ha)	Open Space Requirement (ha)	Open Space Requirement (ha)	Open Space Requirement (ha)	Open Space Requirement (ha)
Parks	NSN	AGS	Allotment	Play
18.36	66.17	19.40	8.66	8.66

## PART 12: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

### 12.1 Recommendations

287. The following section provides a summary on the key findings through the application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve to help address the issues highlighted as well as the priorities for meeting demand from future growth.

#### **Recommendation 1**

- ◀ *Sites helping or with the potential to help serve areas identified as having gaps in accessibility (catchment mapping) should be prioritised as opportunities for enhancement*

288. Several sites are highlighted as potentially helping or serving identified gaps in accessibility catchments of provision. A summary of the sites potentially helping to serve accessibility / catchment gaps is also set out in Table 12.1.

*Table 12.1: Summary of sites potentially helping to serve accessibility / catchment gaps*

Ref	Site name	Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
2.1-2.4	Adam Close Play Area/MUGA	Crowborough	Play	Play
3.1-3.2	Adur Park Play Area	Polegate	Play	Play
11	Ashdown Road AGS	Forest Row	Amenity	Parks
63.1	Forester's Green Skatepark	Forest Row	Play	Play
82	Heathfield Recreation Ground	Heathfield	Amenity	Parks
101	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Polegate	Amenity	Parks
136	North Green	Heathfield	Amenity	Parks
168	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Wadhurst	Park	Natural
176	The Coppice	Heathfield	Natural	Amenity, Play
178	The Ghyll	Heathfield	Natural	Amenity, Play
203.1-203.3	Wolfe Recreation Ground Play Area/MUGA	Crowborough	Play	Play

289. These sites potentially help to meet the identified accessibility / catchment gaps for other open space types. Where opportunities are possible, the Council could seek to adapt/enhance these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to help further strengthen their role in meeting the identified gaps.
290. These sites could therefore be viewed as open space provision that could potentially provide multiple social and value benefits. It is also important that the quality and value of some of these sites is secured and enhanced (Recommendation 2).

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### **Recommendation 2**

- ◀ *Ensure low quality/value sites including those helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement*

291. The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards. The quality and value matrix of the supporting database identifies the sites that could be given priority. A list of low quality and/or value sites with the potential to help serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 12.2 below.

*Table 12.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps*

Ref	Site name	Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
3.1-3.2	Adur Park Play Area	Polegate	Play	Play
63.1	Forester's Green Skatepark	Forest Row	Play	Play
168	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Wadhurst	Park	Natural
176	The Coppice	Heathfield	Natural	Amenity, Play
178	The Ghyll	Heathfield	Natural	Amenity, Play

### **Recommendation 3**

- ◀ *Recognise low quality and value sites and how they may be able to meet other needs*

292. Where sites of low quality or value appear to fall within an area of sufficiency, a change of primary typology could be considered. For instance, if a shortfall in another open space type is noted, the site could look to be 'converted' to a type of open space where a sufficiency exists.
293. There are 139 sites identified as currently having either lower quality and/or value. Of these 139 sites, five are identified as helping to serve catchment gaps in other types of open space. These sites should first be enhanced in terms of quality.
294. Consequently, there are 134 sites of low quality and/or value, which do not currently appear to serve any highlighted gaps in catchment mapping. The sites are set out in the supporting Excel database. Further exploration into these sites should be undertaken to establish whether there are any particular potential priorities for improvement.
295. Factors such as shortfalls in quantity for that provision type, the potential removal of a site creating a different catchment gap and/or the potential to help serve deficiencies in other types of provision should be considered. The Council may also be aware of other issues, such as the importance of a site for heritage, biodiversity or as a visual amenity, that may also indicate its role as a priority for improvement.



### PART 13: APPROACH TO CONTRIBUTIONS

#### 13.1 Implications

296. The following section sets out the policy implications in terms of the processes. This is intended to help steer the Council in seeking contributions to the improvement and/or provision of any new forms of open space. The basic principle is that a development should provide for the recreational needs that they generate. All new developments should therefore contribute to adequate open space provision to be provided alongside other requirements such as playing pitches for example.

#### *How is provision to be made?*

297. The requirements for on-site or off-site provision and / or contributions will vary according to the type of open space to be provided. Collecting contributions from developers can be undertaken through the following two processes.
298. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Planning Obligations are the two main mechanisms available to the Council to ensure future development addresses any adverse impacts it creates. The main mechanism for contributions to open space is often through planning obligations.

#### *Planning obligations*

299. Planning Conditions and Obligations (often known as Section 106 Agreements) require individual developments to provide or pay for the provision of development specific infrastructure requirements. They are flexible and deliver a wide range of site and community infrastructure benefits.
300. A development should make appropriate provision of services, facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs arising from that development.

#### *Seeking developer contributions*

301. This document can inform policies and emerging planning documents by assisting in the Council's approach to securing open spaces through new housing development. The evidence should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for the provision of appropriate facilities and their long term maintenance.
302. The wider benefits of open space and associated features regardless of size should be recognised as a key design principle for any new development. These features and elements can help to contribute to the perception of open space provision in an area, at the same time as also ensuring an aesthetically pleasing landscape providing wider social, environmental, climate and health benefits. [Sport England's Active Design](#) looks at the opportunities to encourage sport and physical activity through the built environment in order to support healthier and more active lifestyles. It is therefore important for planning to consider the principles of Active Design.
303. Where open space provision within the accessibility catchments is identified as being sufficient in terms of access and can accommodate additional demand, provision of new open space is not always necessary (subject to local plan policy requirements). It may be more suitable to seek contributions for quality improvements and/or new off-site provision in order to address any additional demand arising from the development. Smaller infill

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

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development areas may not be expected to meet its own needs. This should be made clear through local plan policies, supported by the minimum area thresholds for on-site provision (set out later).

### *Off-site contributions*

304. If new provision cannot be sufficiently provided on-site it may be possible to seek to enhance the quality of existing provision and/or improve access and linkages to existing sites. In some instances, a development may be located within proximity to an existing site. In such cases, it may be more beneficial for an off-site contribution to be made to improve or enhance this open space and to avoid the creation of small incremental spaces so close to existing sites. This will be a matter for the Council to consider as relevant and on a 'case by case' basis.
305. Costs required for the enhancement of existing open space and provision of new open spaces should be clearly identified and revised on a regular basis.

### *Maintenance contributions*

306. There will be a requirement on developers to demonstrate that where on-site provision is to be provided it will be managed and maintained accordingly. The procedure for the adoption of new sites may include:
- ◀ The developer being responsible for maintenance of the site for an initial agreed establishment period.
  - ◀ Sums to cover the maintenance costs of a site (once transferred to the relevant body) intended to cover an agreed set period.

### ***Approach to developer contributions***

307. KKP advocates the requirement for open space should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme. We also promote the use of quantity provision standards (in hectares per 1,000 population) in calculating the open space requirements of new housing development.

### *Flexible approach*

308. A focus of this study has been to recognise the role quality and accessibility has in terms of open space provision. Future need should not just focus on quantity requirements of new residential developments. In some instances a new residential development may not warrant on-site provision but instead could contribute towards developing and/or enhancing the amenities of an existing site in close proximity.

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309. The following steps sets out the process that should be considered when determining contributions in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility of open space provision. The provision standards should be used to help determine the requirements for open space provision as part of a development.

**Step 1.** Calculate population generated by housing development

**Step 2.** Calculate open space requirement generated by housing development

**Step 3.** Determine if provision should be on-site or off-site

**Step 4.** Calculate the financial off-site contribution

**Step 5.** Identify which sites could benefit from an off-site contribution

**Step 1.** Calculate population generated by housing development

310. To determine the requirements for open space provision, the starting point is to calculate the level of demand (additional population) generated by that development.

311. Wealden currently utilises the following occupancy rates for different dwelling sizes.

*Table 13.1: Occupancy rates*

Size of home (bedrooms)	Average occupancy (people)*
1 bedroom	1.3
2 bedrooms	1.8
3 bedrooms	2.5
4 bedrooms	2.8
5 bedrooms	3.1

312. For instances where the size of occupancy is unknown, the additional population can look to be calculated from the number of dwellings expected being multiplied by an average household occupancy rate of 2.4†.

**Step 2.** Calculate open space requirement generated by housing development

313. To then determine the open space requirement for each form of open space the associated population is multiplied by the recommended quantity standards for each relevant typology. The following calculation should be used:

***New/additional population from development x quantity standard / 1000***

314. For example, a hypothetical development of 50 dwellings would require the following amount of amenity greenspace:

***New/additional population from development (50 x 2.4 = 120) x amenity greenspace quantity standard (0.56) / 1000 = 0.07 hectares***

\* Based on [2011 Census Data](#). Figures will be amended when 2021 census data is available.

† Source: ONS Families and Households Release (2020)

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### Step 3. Determine if provision should be on-site or off-site

315. Whether provision should be made on-site or via an off-site contribution is dependent on the size of the development. In the case of larger-scale residential developments, it is expected that provision will be provided on-site. Larger residential developments will have a critical mass of population and should provide all types of open space on-site in order to serve the additional population as a result of the development.
316. Best practice guidance from organisations like FIT, recommends that provision below certain sizes should not be provided as on-site provision and instead provided as off-site contributions. This is to avoid the creation of numerous small sites often of less recreational value (and quality over time). The following minimum area sizes are suggested to help inform when new provision should be provided on-site:

Table 13.2: Suggested minimum site areas

Typology	Minimum area (hectares)	Warrant on-site provision New population	Warrant on-site provision Average number of dwellings
Multi-Functional Greenspace Amenity/Natural	0.05	16	6
Multi-Functional Greenspace <i>Small parks</i>	0.30	100	41
Multi-Functional Greenspace <i>Medium parks</i>	1.50	500	208
Multi-Functional Greenspace <i>Large parks</i>	3.00	1,000	416
Equipped play provision	0.01	40	16
Allotments / community gardens	0.05	200	83

317. For MFGS, where generated demand is sufficient one centrally located large park (c.3 hectares or above) may be preferable in place of several smaller parks. Up to developments of this size (i.e. 416 dwellings), MFGS should generally consist of amenity and natural greenspace. This is to avoid potentially providing lots of small parks and garden sites. However, for some developments there may still be instances where on-site provision of a small (0.30 ha) or medium (1.50 ha) size park and garden is warranted. This will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.
318. Play provision requirements for any development which does not trigger the on-site contribution will generally be sought as off-site contributions. However, if the development is not within reach of an existing play site than on-site provision may be warranted regardless of the small size of the development.
319. Flexibility around the provision of allotments is also needed. Allotments provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce. Rather than providing new formal plots, land could be designated for example as a community orchard or garden. This would still meet the criteria of allowing people to 'grow produce' but would also provide opportunities for greater social interaction. The extent to which land is designated as allotments, orchards or community gardens will depend on the local demand and intended management of the

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

provision. Consideration to ground conditions and flood zones is also required. This will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

320. It is also important that developments consider the needs of all ages to help deliver mixed, healthy and sustainable communities. Therefore accessible / inclusive child friendly spaces should be considered within schemes.

### Step 4. Calculate the financial off-site contribution

321. If an off-site contribution is required in lieu of on-site provision, a financial contribution should be calculated.
322. WDC has an existing charge for different off-site requirements (£ per Square Metre). The typologies of youth/adult and casual/informal play can in effect be considered as the equivalent to what is now being referred to as multi-functional greenspace.
323. The following tables set this out alongside a comparison to neighbouring Local Authorities (where it has been possible to identify). The tables also demonstrate the total costs required for an example of a development with a new population of 50 people.

Table 13.3: Wealden (SPG 2003)

Typology	Standard per m2	Cost per m2*	Example Cost Total
Youth/Adult (i.e. sports, amenity)	17	£25	21,250
Equipped Children's Play	2.5	£233	29,125
Casual/Informal Children's Play	4.5	£135	30,375
Total			<b>80,750</b>

Table 13.4: Wealden (Open Space Study 2017)

Typology	Standard per m2	Cost per m2	Example Cost Total
Allotments	1.5	30.00	2,250
Parks and rec	14	72.00	50,400
Amenity/Natural	10	15.00	7,500
Children's	0.3	170.00	2,250
Young people	0.2	170.00	1,700
Total			<b>64,100</b>

Table 13.5: Tunbridge Wells (Open Space Study, June 2018)

Typology	Standard per m2	Cost per m2	Example Cost Total
Allotments	3	22.34	3,351
Parks and rec	11	92.34	50,787
Amenity	4 for analysis 8 for contributions	20.24	8,096
Natural	ANGSt for analysis 8 for contributions	20.24	8,096
Children's	0.4	168.76	3,375

\* Updated to 2020 prices and subject to annual increases

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Young people	0.4	168.76	3,375
<b>Total</b>			<b>77,080</b>

Table 13.6: Mid Sussex (Development and Infrastructure & Contributions SPD 2018)

Typology	Standard per m2	Cost per m2	Example Cost Total
Playing field	16	34	27,200
LEAP	2.5	190	23,750
NEAP	3	133	19,950
<b>Total</b>			<b>70,900</b>

324. Despite the categorisation of open space being slightly different across local authority areas, the cost charges currently being used by WDC seem to generally be in keeping with what other neighbouring local authorities are seeking. Retaining current charges (continuing to be linked to inflation) is recommended. There is also a need to establish a charge for off-site contributions for allotments. For the purposes of this report the fee charged by neighbouring Tunbridge Wells is cited. On this basis, the following values should look to be used to determine off-site contributions.

Table 13.7: Suggested off-site contribution costs

Typology	Cost per m2*
Multi-Functional Greenspace	£25
Equipped play provision	£233
Allotments / community gardens	£22

325. The off-site charges for some neighbouring Local Authorities has not been able to be identified. However, what the local authorities would look to seek for open space requirements has been identified. A summary of all neighbouring local authorities open space requirements is provided in Table 13.8.

Table 13.8: Other Local Authority open space requirements

Typology	Standard per m2 Tunbridge Wells	Standard per m2 Mid Sussex	Standard per m2 Lewes	Standard per m2 Sevenoaks	Standard per m2 Rother	Standard per m2 Hastings
Allotments	3	16	2	n/a	4.5	1.25
Parks	11	16	8	8	4.3	7.8
Amenity	8	16	6	6	17.3	2.1
Natural	8	16	20	18	20	57.7
Children's	0.4	5.5	2.5	2	2	1.55
Young people	0.4	5.5	2.5	2	2	1.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>70.4</b>

\* Using 2020 costings. Subject to annual increases

## WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

326. The existing WDC requirement of 24 square metres of all open space is generally much less than what neighbouring local authorities are seeking. The recommended figure of 35.0 square metres (Table 11.3) would bring the amounts being sought more in line with neighbouring authorities as well as Fields In Trust guidance (which local authorities such as Lewes and Sevenoaks are predominantly using).

### **Maintenance contributions**

327. A development needs to make appropriate provision of services, facilities and infrastructure to meet its own needs. New forms of equipment/provision will add to the existing management and maintenance pressures of sites.
328. Consequently, there continues to be a requirement on developers to demonstrate that where new provision is to be provided it will be managed and maintained accordingly. Developers are therefore required to submit a sum of money in order to pay for the costs of the site's future maintenance.
329. WDC has an existing charge for different maintenance contributions (£ per Square Metre). The following table set this out alongside a comparison to neighbouring Local Authorities (where it has been possible to identify) and other Local Authorities which KKP have recently worked on behalf.

*Table 13.9: WDC maintenance comparison*

Typology	Cost per m2 (per year) WDC*	Cost per m2 (per year) Tunbridge Wells	Cost per m2 (per year) Kettering	Arun
Allotments	n/a	£0.13	£1.18	n/a
Parks	£14.07	£4.59	£5.08	Average of £17.21
Amenity	£14.07	£0.62	£1.87	Average of £17.21
Natural	£14.07	£0.62	£2.12	Average of £17.21
Children's	£6.50	£4.59	£15.98	Set fee of £1,500

330. The existing WDC maintenance contribution for open space (£14) is greater in comparison to combined costs for Kettering (£10) and especially Tunbridge Wells (£6) but less than that sought by Arun (£17). The existing maintenance contribution of £14 matches the combined average of the three comparisons. On the basis that no significant differences are identified the existing maintenance contribution should still be sought.
331. For play provision, the existing WDC maintenance contribution is comparable to the maintenance contributions sought by Tunbridge Wells and Kettering. On the basis that no significant differences are identified the existing maintenance contribution for play provision should still be sought

\* Updated to 2020 prices and subject to annual increases



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## OPEN SPACE REPORT

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### ***Hypothetical testing***

332. Using the above standards/threshold and charges, the following calculations are observed based on a hypothetical new population of 50 people.

#### *Multifunctional greenspace requirement:*

*New population (50) x quantity standard (3) / 1000 = 0.15 hectares (1,500 sqm)*

- ◀ Could be provided as on-site provision of 0.15 ha of amenity/natural or
- ◀ Offsite Contribution of £37,500 (1,500 x 25)
- ◀ Maintenance contribution of £21,000 (1,500 x 14)

#### *Play provision requirement:*

*New population (50) x quantity standard (0.25) / 1000 = 0.0125 hectares (125 sqm)*

- ◀ Could be provided as on-site provision of 0.0125 ha of play provision or
- ◀ Offsite Contribution of £29,125 (125 x 233)
- ◀ Maintenance contribution of £812.50 (125 x 6.5) per year

#### *Allotment/community garden requirement:*

*New population (50) x quantity standard (0.25) / 1000 = 0.0125 hectares (125 sqm)*

- ◀ Could be provided as on-site provision of 0.0125 ha of provision or
- ◀ Offsite Contribution of £2,750 (125 x 22)

<b>Step 5. Identify which sites could benefit from an off-site contribution</b>
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333. The new population arising from a development will result in increased demand to existing forms of provision; subsequently off-site contributions may need to be used to enhance the quality of and/or access to existing provision within an acceptable distance to the development.
334. Sites identified as being low quality and value are identified in the Open Space Assessment. Consequently, these sites may benefit most from some form of enhancement.
335. There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low quality and/or value sites within proximity to a new housing development. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on facilities further away which offer more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance a site that is not appropriate or cost effective to do so closer by. However, in some instances, a site (regardless of quality/value) may be the only form of provision serving that area.
336. Also consider those sites identified as helping to serve 'gaps' in provision. Such sites play an important role in ensuring access to open space provision. Consequently, such sites may be better suited for off-site contributions if there are agreed ways to improve them. This will help to ensure efficient use of contributions and maximise enhancements.