HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

NOVEMBER 2018
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Havant Borough Council (HBC) is in the process of completing its Local Plan and other supporting documents for the period up to 2036. In support of the policies and strategies contained in the Local Plan, this assessment has undertaken a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the existing and future needs of the community for the following types of open space that exist within Havant Borough:

- Public Parks and Gardens
- Amenity Greenspace
- Provision for Children and Young People
- Allotments and Community Gardens
- Cemeteries
- Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces.

1.2. A methodology was adopted which is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Previous planning policy guidance was used to guide the study as the NPPF does not contain detailed guidelines relating to open space assessment in relation to quality, quantity and accessibility.

1.3. Some very small spaces (less than 0.2 ha and of limited amenity value) were excluded.


1.5. Some conclusions are drawn in relation to open space provision, and a number of actions have been formulated.
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2. KEY OUTCOMES

2.1. The Key Outcomes for the study are as follows:

1. Informing and supporting the Local Plan for Havant Borough to provide a concise and comprehensive evidence base that will enable the Borough Council to develop robust planning policies.

2. Achieving a joined-up assessment with localised priorities to develop sustainable facilities that support increased participation.

3. Addressing qualitative issues in relation to the Borough’s open spaces.

4. Analysing quantitative supply in the Borough, and in key communities.

5. Addressing accessibility by type of open space across the Borough.
3. **Methodology**

3.1 The methodology for the study is outlined in Table 3.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 1: Identifying Local Needs</strong></td>
<td>• Review existing strategies and policies, and their effectiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 2: Audit of Local Provision</strong></td>
<td>• Carry out quality audit of open space in accordance with typologies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Step 3: Set Provision Standards** | • Determine quality standards  
• Determine Quantity Standards  
• Determine accessibility standards  
• Determine constraints (minimum size standards, etc.) |
| **Step 4: Apply the Provision Standards** | • Identify population levels  
• Identify qualitative issues  
• Identify relative surpluses and deficits in relation to quantity and accessibility  
• Identify local opportunities for improvement. |
| **Step 5: Recommendations** | • Protecting existing provision  
• Meeting deficiencies  
• Findings by settlement area |

**Step 1: Identifying Local Needs**
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3.2 Relevant national and local policies and strategies were reviewed to establish the context for the study.

STEP 2: AUDIT OF PROVISION

3.4 A physical audit of all open spaces accessible to the public was conducted. This included accessible open spaces managed by other land managers.

3.5 The audit covers all forms of open space.

3.6 All significant and accessible open spaces were included in the study, with the exception of very small sites below a threshold size of 0.2 ha.

3.7 All forms of open space were audited using the typology described in Section 5.

STEPS 3 AND 4: SETTING AND APPLYING PROVISION STANDARDS

3.8 Local provision standards were set using the following parameters:

- Quality
- Quantity
- Accessibility.

3.9 Quality standards have been devised based on national “Green Flag” criteria.

3.10 Quantity standards were devised using Fields in Trust guidelines,¹ and in the case of Allotments, by the Thorpe Report 1969. These standards are expressed in terms of hectares per 1,000 people. Population levels are those provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the year 2016 and until the end of the Local Plan period in 2036. Full details of standards used are shown in Section 4.

¹ “Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard,” Fields in Trust, October 2015
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3.11 Accessibility standards are also detailed in Section 3 and are expressed as walking distance from dwellings. The results using the open space categories contained in the typology were mapped across the Borough.

STEP 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

3.12 This section highlights high level findings in relation to the following areas:

- Existing provision to be protected and enhanced
- Findings related to quality
- Findings related to quantity and accessibility
- Recommendations covering new and appropriate forms of provision for the current and future open space needs for residents and visitors to open space in Havant Borough.
4. **Strategic Overview**

**National Planning Policy Framework**

4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to define policies which will enable communities to access high quality open spaces.

4.2 Paragraph 96 is particularly relevant because it states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessment of the need for open space facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

4.3 This study therefore consists of five steps:

- **Identifying local needs**
- **Auditing local provision**
- **Setting provision standards**
- **Applying provision standards**
- **Drafting policies**.

4.4 A typology of open spaces has been adopted as the approach for this study and is detailed in Section 5.

**Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard**

4.5 In the early 1990’s Natural England set out guidance standards to improve access to natural greenspace for people living in towns and cities. This Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommended that there should be an accessible natural greenspace in four minimum size bands available within set distances of their home. It also recommended that there should be a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

4.6 This guidance was used extensively by local authorities but has since been superseded by a new standard produced by Fields in Trust (FIT) and shown in Table 4.2. It has therefore not been used in this study.
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FIELDS IN TRUST REVIEW OF STANDARDS FOR OPEN SPACE

4.7 Local authorities have traditionally used the National Playing Field Association’s “6 Acre Standard.” Recommendations on Outdoor Playing Space were first formulated in 1925, soon after the Association’s formation. This helped ensure that every man, woman and child in Great Britain should have the opportunity of participating in outdoor recreational activity within a reasonable distance of home during leisure hours.

4.8 The National Playing Field Association has since been superseded by Fields in Trust (FIT). FIT has conducted research which has indicated that 81% of local planning authorities express quantity standards for open space as “hectares per 1,000 population.” This has enabled comparison across England and Wales and is the most widely used metric for open space standards.

4.9 New guidance was produced in 2015\(^2\) following extensive research, and recommended quantity and accessibility standards for a number of open space types.

4.10 These standards have been used as a basis for assessing open spaces in this study.

LOCAL PLAN: KEY STRATEGIC POLICIES

4.11 Havant Borough Council (HBC) is currently preparing its new Local Plan to cover the period up to 2036. The Local Plan will set out a vision and framework for the Borough, outlining the spatial strategy for addressing housing need, site allocations and new policies on housing, economy, infrastructure, transport and sustainability. This study will make up part of the Council’s evidence base on open space to support the new Local Plan.

HAVANT OPEN SPACES PLAN 2006 AND OPEN SPACES PLAN REVIEW 2012

4.17. This study will supersede the findings of the previous Open Space Assessments\(^3\) which needed updating in the light of changing circumstances and the introduction of new FIT guidance relating to open space quality, quantity and accessibility standards.

4.18. Quality standards used a set of criteria based on the internationally recognised “Green Flag” standard of excellence for open spaces. This is still applicable and has been used in this study.

4.19. The Adopted typology can be related directly to national Fields in Trust quantity and accessibility standards.

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\(^2\) “Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard,” Fields in Trust, October 2015

\(^3\) “Havant Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 Assessment 2006,” and “Havant Borough Council Local Plan (Allocations) Open Spaces Plan Review 2012”
**HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

4.20. The Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 Assessment 2006 covered both open space and playing pitch provision. However, this 2018 Assessment is confined to open space as a separate Havant Borough Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 has been produced. The Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 Assessment 2006 did not have access to the definitive guidelines provided by FIT in November 2015. The guidelines set were as follows:

- Multi-functional Greenspaces, which included Amenity Greenspaces, Parks and Gardens, and Natural Greenspaces: 2.6 ha/1,000 population. This compares with a combined total of 3.2 ha/1,000 population recommended guideline set by Fields in Trust, and is thus below currently accepted standards

- Provision for Young People and Children: 0.05 ha/1,000 population – FIT guideline is 0.25 ha/1,000 population

- Allotments: 0.1 ha/1,000 population – lower than Thorpe Report guideline of 0.2 ha/1,000 population

- Cemeteries and Churchyards: no guideline.

4.21. The new FIT standards have superseded earlier quantity and accessibility standards and have been used for this study.

4.22. The Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 Assessment 2006 made a number of recommendations designed to protect, enhance quality, enhance value, and review the need for facilities.

4.23. The Open Spaces Plan Review 2012 carried out an updated, desk-based quality audit and identified that there has been no quantitative increase in open space since 2006.

4.24. This 2018 Assessment has included a full on-the-ground audit of all open space sites identified by the Council.

4.25. A number of open spaces reviewed the Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 Assessment 2006 were put forward as potential housing sites in the Council’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). A justification was given for these proposals in the Open Spaces Plan Review 2012. A justification was made for the standards contained in the 2006 Assessment. This Open Space Assessment 2018 re-considers those standards and recommends revised standards for quantity and accessibility based on the FIT evidence base published in November 2015.

**THORPE REPORT INTO ALLOTMENTS**

4.26. There is no FIT or other nationally recognised guideline for quantity and accessibility standards in relation to allotments.

4.27. However, the Thorpe Report arising from the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Allotments (1969) made 44 major recommendations. One was a recommendation that the standard level of provision should be **0.2 ha per 1,000 population**.
QUALITY STANDARDS

4.28. Quality standards are those based on the Green Flag Award. This is the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and greenspaces in the United Kingdom. The following criteria were used for evaluation:

➢ **Cleanliness and maintenance.** This includes a number of factors including vandalism and graffiti, litter, dog fouling, noise, equipment and maintenance. Because of its importance it carries a 15% weighting

➢ **Welcome.** Including entrances, heritage and history, landscaping, interpretation and lighting. It is weighted by 15%

➢ **Security and safety.** Includes boundaries, equipment, surfaces, roads/footpaths, buildings and trees. Also weighted by 15%

➢ **Landscape.** Planting, tree cover, habitats, and grass areas. Weighted by 10%

➢ **Climate change adaptation.** Biodiversity, natural drainage, green corridors and shade. Weighted by 5%

➢ **Ancillary facilities.** Footpaths, toilets, seating, catering, parking, and litter bins. Weighted 10%

➢ **Site access scoring assessment – general.** Entrance to site, roads, paths and cycleway access, and disabled access. Weighted 15%

➢ **Site access scoring assessment – transport.** Cycleway access, walking access, and public transport access. Weighted 10%

➢ **Site access scoring assessment - information and signage.** Clear, appropriate, and adequate. Weighted 5%

4.29. Each of the individual factors was marked out of 5, where 5 represents “very good,” and 1 represents “very poor.” An average was taken over each of the criteria, and the weighted score expressed as a percentage. The percentage bands are:

➢ **Very poor:** 0% - 20%

➢ **Poor:** 21% - 40%

➢ **Average:** 41% - 60%

➢ **Good:** 61% - 80%

➢ **Very good:** 81% - 100%.
4.30. Tables containing details of individual sites in all typologies are shown at Appendix 2. Results are shown for each of the criteria, and an overall percentage score is indicated.

4.31. FIT standards have been formulated for formal open space. These are shown as a useful benchmark in Table 4.2.

**QUALITY, QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS DEFINED FOR CURRENT OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT**

4.32. It is important to view the results of the quantitative and accessibility results in context.

4.33. In particular, the quantitative results, giving values in ha/1,000 population against the FIT guidelines, are not absolute standards. Neither are they applied in relation to the many and varied local factors which affect accessibility to open space within individual local government boundaries (e.g. within a district or metropolitan borough).

4.34. In practice, results vary markedly. It is highly unusual for local authorities to meet provision guidelines in every category. It is more usual for there to be over or under-provision in a number of the categories. It is therefore important to see the results in context. Nevertheless, it is useful to identify areas in which the Borough can aspire to seek improvement.

4.35. Whilst it is essential to balance the need for additional development against the conservation of open space and countryside, residents of the Borough and visitors to its open spaces are fortunate to live in a beautiful area which includes many types of outdoor recreational provision as well as ready access to London and major transport routes.

4.36. Quantity and accessibility standards used in this study have drawn on the evidence base provided in this section. A description of, and justification for these standards is contained in Table 4.2.

4.37. At the time of the 2011 Census, the Borough had a population of 120,700 residents; however, the ONS 2014-based subnational population projections estimate that the population, as of 2017, is 123,600 in Havant Borough. The PUSH Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing across Havant Borough, to be completed between 2011 and 2036, is 11,250 new dwellings. A total of 2,342 dwellings were completed between 2011/12 and 2016/17, leaving 8,908 new dwellings to be built between 2017/18 and 2035/2036.

4.38. To project the future population profile and reflect the housing allocations across the Borough, the 8,908-proposed allocation of new homes is multiplied by the average persons per dwelling (2.27 persons)\(^4\) giving a projected population increase of 20,221 residents by 2036. This projected

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\(^4\) Department for Communities and Local Government 2014-based Household Projections: England, 2014-2039 – Household average size projected 2029 of 2.27 persons per household
growth is higher than the ONS 2014-based subnational population projection increase between 2017 and 2036 which projects an increase of 10,700 people. For this study, the higher population increase of 20,221 people has been used in future provision calculations.

Table 4.2: Quantity and Accessibility Standards Defined for Open Space Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Space Type</th>
<th>Quantity Guideline (hectares per 1,000 population)</th>
<th>Walking Guideline (walking distance: metres from dwellings)</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Greenspace</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>480m</td>
<td>Fields in Trust standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Gardens</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>710m</td>
<td>Fields in Trust standard. No other national standard available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural/Semi Natural Greenspaces</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>720m</td>
<td>Fields in Trust standard which supersedes ANGSt standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Children and Young People</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>LAPs – 100m, LEAPs – 400m, NEAPs – 1,000m</td>
<td>Quantity and accessibility guidelines are latest Fields in Trust standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allotments and Community Gardens</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>400m</td>
<td>Thorpe report quantity standard more realistic than Open Space Assessment 2012. GLA standard used for accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries and Graveyards</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>400m</td>
<td>No accepted national standards for quantity. GLA standard used for accessibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.39. Quality standards have also been produced for formal open space by FIT and are shown in Table 4.3.
### Table 4.3: FIT Quality Guidelines for Formal Open Space

- Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards.
- Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.
- Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community.
- Appropriately landscaped.
- Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance.
- Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary.
- Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment.
- Provision of footpaths.
- Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.
- Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for playing pitches, taking into account the level of play, topography, necessary safety margins and optimal orientation
- Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for play areas using the Children’s Play Council’s Quality Assessment Tool.
Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy

5. Constraints

5.1. There were a number of constraints to this study. These were as follows:

- This part of the assessment was confined to open spaces. Sport and recreation facilities are covered by a different set of guidelines set by Sport England.

- Sites of less than 0.2 ha and of little amenity value were generally excluded. Some which were smaller have been included because they are of particular significance (e.g. a small village green in a community which has little, or no, other open space provision).

- A number of the responses to the consultation exercise were anecdotal in nature (i.e. they requested respondents to give their views in the form of comments rather than by asking them to respond using a rating system).

- Areas in hectares for Facilities for Children and Young People and Allotments are based on the use of measurements calculated by using a visual assessment of boundaries visible on aerial images. Areas of other open space types are those provided by the client.

- Quantitative national guidelines have not been produced for allotments. However, the Thorpe Report of 1969 recommended a standard of 0.2 ha per thousand population, which has been chosen as the most definitive guideline.

- There are no quantitative guidelines relating to the amenity use of cemeteries and churchyards, therefore assessments have been limited to qualitative criteria for this category.
6. **Definition of Open Space Typologies**

6.1. Open space categories used in this study are as follows:

- **Public Parks and Gardens** - including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens. Usually include a wide range of activities, and may include other typologies (e.g. Provision for Children and Young People and Natural and Semi Natural Greenspaces). Very often includes formal elements of provision such as ornamental lawn, herbaceous border or rose garden.

- **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace** - including woodland, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, open access land wetlands and derelict open land. Maintenance is usually informal, but may include elements of intervention such as coppicing for the long-term health and natural balance of woodland, flail cutting of meadow to increase biodiversity, and clearance of water habitats.

- **Amenity Greenspace** (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) - including informal recreation spaces (private or open to the public), roadside verges, greenspaces in and around housing and other premises e.g. hospitals, schools and colleges, industrial and business premises and village greens. May include other typologies, most frequently Provision for Children and Young People.

- **Provision for Children and Young People** - including play areas, areas for wheeled play, including skateboarding, outdoor kick about areas, and other less formal areas (e.g. ‘hanging out’ areas, teenage shelters). May include different aspects of play such as natural or “green” play, or “iplay” to incorporate information technology elements to stimulate greater usage.

- **Allotments and Community Gardens** - a statutory allotment site is defined as having an area not exceeding 1,000sq meters. Allotment sites are generally for the growing of food crops. Community Gardens are primarily for the growing of food crops; however, they are generally more informal and may include “garden” landscapes for outdoor relaxation.

- **Cemeteries and Churchyards** – quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Can take the form of formal cemeteries or graveyards around churches.

6.2. Some open spaces, due to their features, may be categorised as more than one typology.
7. **PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS**

7.1. Public Parks and Gardens are analysed in this section in relation to each of the following parameters:

- Quality
- Quantity
- Accessibility.

7.2. Detailed results for the qualitative assessment are shown in Appendix 1. For ease of reference, the numbers used in the appendix are included in brackets in this and further sections of the report relating to quality and quantity.

7.3. Conclusions are drawn relating to key quality issues, and any shortfall or deficit against guideline standards in relation to quantity and accessibility.

7.4. The same format is used for other types of open space (see descriptions in Section 6) in Sections 8 to 13.

**QUALITY**

7.5. There are nine open spaces which fall within the category of “Public Parks and Gardens” in the Borough of Havant.

7.6. Seven were “good” in terms of maintenance. The Gazebo Garden (31) and Staunton Country Park (807) sites were “very good.” All other sites were “good.”

7.7. Most of the Parks and Gardens had no signage, either at entrances or to interpret heritage or natural features. Better signage would increase visitors’ “sense of place,” and would probably increase frequency of visits.

7.8. Vandalism and graffiti were low, although some sites did show signs of graffiti (e.g. Hayling Park (54)).

7.9. Some careful increased use of more natural landscape types, including additional tree planting and the provision of controlled areas of floral meadow would increase biodiversity value. Thus, scores in the “climate change adaptation” section were only average. This includes biodiversity, shade, ability to provide natural drainage, and usefulness as potential green corridors.

7.10. Some of these open spaces contained equipped play areas. These have been audited separately and are part of the Provision for Young People and Children typology. A number also contained outdoor gym equipment.
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QUANTITY

7.11. The total area of Public Parks and Gardens, which includes nine sites, is 433 ha.

7.12. An analysis is shown in Table 7.1.

7.13. The level of provision is well above that recommended by the FIT guideline of 0.8 ha/1,000 population. This is largely because of the inclusion of Staunton Country Park, which, although not directly managed by Havant BC, is within the catchment of its population.

7.14. Even though the degree of surplus reduces owing to increased population estimates by 2036, the Borough has more than that prescribed in the FIT guideline.

Table 7.1. Quantitative Analysis of Public Parks and Gardens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL NO OF SITES.</th>
<th>HA</th>
<th>POPULATION 2017</th>
<th>CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT CURRENT</th>
<th>CURRENT DEFICIT/ Oversupply</th>
<th>POPULATION 2036</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT BY 2036</th>
<th>DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2036</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>433.3</td>
<td>123,600</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>98.88 ha</td>
<td>334.42 ha</td>
<td>143,821</td>
<td>115.06 ha</td>
<td>318.24 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adequate supply
Shortfall against guideline

ACCESSIBILITY

7.15. A map indicating the location of sites and including surrounding catchment areas utilising the FIT standard of 710m (10-minute walking distance from surrounding dwellings) is shown in Figure 7.1.

7.16. Distribution is adequate to the south of Hayling Island on the coast. Waterlooville and the surrounding area to the north east are served by both Waterlooville Recreation Ground (105) and Purbrook Heath Recreation Ground (106). The Brockhampton and Warblington areas are served by Havant Park (66), with the Gazebo Garden (31) just to the south. Emsworth Recreation Ground (467) serves the east of the Borough.

7.17. There are gaps in provision of this important type of multi-functional open space in North Hayling.
Figure 7.1: Accessibility of Public Parks and Gardens using Fields in Trust walking standards

Public Parks and Gardens accessibility catchments in Havant

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8. Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

Quality

8.1. Full details of the qualitative assessment for this type of green space, which includes woodland, heathland, meadow, and other, similar, natural or semi-natural landscapes are shown in Appendix 1.

8.2. There are 60 green spaces within this category. 53% of these spaces were audited as “average,” and 43% were “good” at the time of audit. Lakeside Footpath (531) was “poor,” and West Hayling Nature Reserve (45) was “very good.” The large Beachlands (537, 561) sites were only average. There was some littering, particularly where people congregated, such as around the main car park. Entrance and interpretative signage was lacking, which reduced the “welcome” to visitors, and the amount of information available about this interesting stretch of coast. There was a limited amount of landscaping. Whilst this is a coastal area subject to salt winds, many resistant species can still be used to make open spaces such as this more attractive. More seating and litter bins would be advantageous.

8.3. There are some areas where quality could be improved:

- In some of these areas there was little to advertise their presence. This creates an unwelcoming environment.
- Levels of vandalism and graffiti were generally low.
- Some had limited access to ancillary facilities. In this sort of green space litter bins are often confined to car park areas and entrances to encourage visitors to remove their own litter. However, there was a general shortage of seating, which is a significant attraction to visitors, and, in particular, the less able-bodied.
- Access could be improved by better all-weather footpaths.

Quantity

8.4. The total area of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces is 501.68 ha.

8.5. An analysis is shown in Table 8.1.

8.6. The level of provision is well beyond that recommended by the FIT guideline of 1.8 ha/1,000 population. The current level of provision is 4.06 ha/1,000 population. Even after projected population increases by 2036, the supply is very adequate against the FIT guideline, with an oversupply of 242.80 ha. This excess can be partially explained by the large areas of beach and shoreline which are accessible to the public.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL NO OF SITES.</th>
<th>HA</th>
<th>POPULATION 2017</th>
<th>CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT CURRENT</th>
<th>CURRENT DEFICIT/OVERSUPPLY</th>
<th>POPULATION 2036</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT BY 2036</th>
<th>DEFICIT/OVERSUPPLY 2036</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>501.68</td>
<td>123,600</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>222.48 ha</td>
<td>279.20 ha</td>
<td>143,821</td>
<td>258.88 ha</td>
<td>242.80 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACCESSIBILITY**

8.7. A map indicating the location of sites and including surrounding catchment areas utilising the FIT standard of 720m (approximately 10-minute walking distance from surrounding dwellings) is shown in Figure 8.1.

8.8. The quantitative analysis indicates that there is excellent provision of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in comparison with FIT standards (1.8 ha/1,000 population). As might be expected from this analysis, there is good distribution of this type of open space across the Borough. There is only one significant area which exhibits a shortfall. This is in Hayling from Tye in the north, through Fleet, and south as far as Gable Head.
Figure 8.1: Accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace Using Fields in Trust Walking Standards

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Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace accessibility catchments in Havant
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

9. AMENITY GREENSPACE

QUALITY

9.1. Details of the qualitative audit are shown in Appendix 1.

9.2. There are 63 listed Amenity Greenspaces in the Borough. 51% were in “average” condition. 49% were in “good” condition.

9.3. Many of these sites are relatively large (e.g. Barton’s Green (93), Fathom’s Reach (24) and St Clare’s Open Space (265)) and provide attractive landscaped areas on the street scene which can also be used for informal recreation. These are, however, a number of quality issues:

- Overall standards of maintenance were generally quite high. This included grass cutting standards and cleanliness
- They are usually limited in offering welcoming signage. In a number of cases there was obvious local interest which would contribute to creating a “sense of place” for those living in the area. In such spaces a welcome sign, or in some cases, interpretative signage is needed
- Access was generally adequate for pedestrians, cyclists, and the less able-bodied. It should, however, be noted that some footpaths and other surfaces are average or poor
- Ancillary facilities are limited. Many lack litter bins, which appears to encourage an increase in littering, and are also deficient in the provision of appropriate seating. Examples include Chatsworth Manor (9) and Kings Road (52). Some benches lack arms, making them difficult to use by the less able-bodied
- Some softening in terms of additional tree and meadow planting would improve amenity value, enhance biodiversity, and increase the availability of shade.

QUANTITY

9.4. The total area of Amenity Greenspace throughout the Borough is 119.59 ha.

9.5. Sites of 0.2 ha or above in size are not included for the purposes of calculation.

9.6. A quantitative analysis is shown in Table 9.1.

9.7. This currently equates to a surplus against the FIT national guideline of 0.6 ha/1,000 population. Because of the anticipated increase in population by 2036, this gap reduces, but still shows a healthy quantity for residents of, and visitors to, the Borough.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Table 9.1. Quantitative Analysis of Amenity Greenspace

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL NO OF SITES.</th>
<th>HA</th>
<th>POPULATION 2017</th>
<th>CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT CURRENT</th>
<th>CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY</th>
<th>POPULATION 2036</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT BY 2036</th>
<th>DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2036</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>119.59</td>
<td>123,600</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>74.16 ha</td>
<td>45.43 ha</td>
<td>143,821</td>
<td>86.29 ha</td>
<td>33.30 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACCESSIBILITY

9.8. A map indicating the location of sites and including surrounding catchment areas utilising the FIT standard of 480m walking distance from surrounding dwellings (6-minute walk time) is shown in Figure 9.1.

9.9. There is fairly even coverage with overlapping catchments across most settlements. However, there are some shortages. The south and west of Cowplain have no provision of Amenity Greenspace. In the centre of the Borough there is a swathe without open space of this sort running from west to east between Brockhampton and Warblington. North Hayling only has Northney Road Recreation Ground (46) in Northney.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Figure 9.1: Accessibility of Amenity Greenspace using Fields in Trust walking standards
10. **PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**QUALITY**

10.1. Details of the quality audit are shown in Appendix 1.

10.2. There are 51 equipped play areas in the Borough. 55% received a rating of “average,” whilst 45% were rated as “good” at the time of audit.

10.3. In terms of quality:

- All were at least adequately maintained, some high standards of grass cutting and litter collection.
- Levels of graffiti and vandalism were quite low.
- Some sites had good standards of signage, others were relatively poor and unwelcoming.
- Many would benefit from landscaping to make them more attractive, and to provide shade for children and young people, parents and guardians.
- A significant number had equipment, but nowhere to carry out less formal activities (e.g. kickabout areas, picnic sites, etc.).
- Facilities for young people such as “pump tracks” and “iplay” could be introduced.
- Greater use of “green play” facilities would be an advantage, particularly in more rural locations.

**QUANTITY**

10.4. The total area of Provision for Children and Young People is 5.09 ha.

10.5. An analysis is shown in Table 10.1.

10.6. The level of provision demonstrates a significant shortfall in relation to the FIT guideline of 0.25 ha/1,000 population of equipped play facilities. This shortfall widens as the population increases by 2036 to 30.87 ha.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Table 10.1. Quantitative Analysis of Facilities for Children and Young People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL NO OF SITES</th>
<th>HA</th>
<th>POPULATION 2017</th>
<th>CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT CURRENT</th>
<th>CURRENT DEFICIT/ Oversupply</th>
<th>POPULATION 2036</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT BY 2036</th>
<th>DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2036</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>123,600</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>30.90 ha</td>
<td>25.81 ha</td>
<td>143,821</td>
<td>35.96 ha</td>
<td>30.87 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACCESSIBILITY

10.7. Maps indicating accessibility to, and locations of, Provision for Children and Young People are shown in Figures 10.1, 10.2, and 10.3. These indicate catchments as defined by FIT in relation to the following:

- Local Areas for Play (LAPs) aimed at very young children: 100m;
- Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently: 400m; and
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children: 1,000m.

10.8. The map shown in Figure 10.4 indicates all playgrounds, whether LAPs, LEAPs or NEAPs. There are a number of areas of deficiency. This is particularly marked across all three types of facility and, in particular, in North Hayling, Langstone and to the east of Waterlooville.
Figure 10.1: Accessibility of LAPs using Fields in Trust Walking Standards

Facilities for Children and Young People (LAP) accessibility catchments in Havant
Figure 10.2: Accessibility of LEAPs using Fields in Trust Walking Standards
Figure 10.3.: Accessibility of NEAPs using Fields in Trust Walking Standards

Facilities for Children and Young People (NEAP) accessibility catchments in Havant
Figure 10.4.: Accessibility of all LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs using Fields in Trust Walking Standards
Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy

11. Allotments and Community Gardens

Quality

11.1. Details of the qualitative audit for Allotment sites are in Appendix 1.

11.2. Allotment sites were rated “good” with the exception of Victoria Road (114), Hooks Lane (808) and Elizabeth Road (810) which were “average.”

11.3. Qualitative issues include:

- Standards of maintenance were quite high
- Site access in the form of car parking provision and footpaths was poor in some cases
- Signage was poor on some sites, and lacked a welcome, location name, contact details, or information about the site
- Ancillary facilities (seating, etc.) were limited
- Allotment sites score well, as did those in the Borough, in terms of environmental considerations. They have a wide diversity of often heritage species unavailable on the market, and thus are important in increasing the gene pool. They are free-draining, and reduce the risk of flash flooding in vulnerable areas
- The sites generally lacked landscaping at entrances, which would have made them more attractive, particularly in residential areas.

Quantity

11.4. There are 12 functional allotment sites which have a total area of 12.47 ha. These 12 allotment sites are owned by the Council and managed by Norse South East. This section refers to the HBC-owned allotment sites only. However, it is acknowledged that additional allotment sites, which are privately owned and/or managed, do exist in the Borough, for example the allotment sites at the Stride Community Centre and near Bidbury Mead. As such, it is acknowledged that the deficit outlined in Figure 11.1 may be slightly smaller.

11.5. An analysis is shown in Table 11.1.

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5 The Council will map and quantify the allotment sites and community gardens in the Borough which are privately owned and/or managed in 2019. Following this, an addendum will be published which identifies the Borough’s deficit/oversupply in terms of both HBC-owned and privately-owned allotment sites and community gardens.
**HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

11.6. There is no Fields in Trust (FIT) guideline for allotments and community gardens. However, the Thorpe Report arising from the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Allotments (1969) made 44 major recommendations. One was a recommendation that the standard level of provision should be 0.2 ha per 1,000 population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL NO OF SITES.</th>
<th>HA</th>
<th>POPULATION 2017</th>
<th>CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT CURRENT</th>
<th>CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY</th>
<th>POPULATION 2036</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT BY 2036</th>
<th>DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2036</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12.47</td>
<td>123,600</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>24.72 ha</td>
<td>12.25 ha</td>
<td>143,821</td>
<td>28.76 ha</td>
<td>16.29 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.7. When compared with this standard, the supply of Allotments in the Borough exhibits a shortfall of 12.25 ha. This increases to 16.29 ha by 2036, in line with the projected increase in population in the Borough.

Table 11.1. Quantitative Analysis of Allotment sites

| Adequate supply | Shortfall against guideline |

**ACCESSIBILITY**

11.8. There is no Fields in Trust or other definitive national standard for accessibility in relation to Allotments and community gardens.

11.9. A map indicating the location of sites is shown in Figure 11.1.

11.10. Accessibility is good in the centre of the Borough around Waterlooville and Bedhampton. There is little provision apart from Gable End in Hayling Island and North Hayling. There are no facilities in the Cowplain and Wecock area.
Figure 11.1: Location of Allotment Sites
12. CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

QUALITY

12.1. This consists of parish or town cemetery sites, or prominent churchyard burial sites. All are suitable for outdoor recreational purposes, and usually have fine heritage and local interest value. All sites were “good” in terms of quality.

12.2. Details of the qualitative audit are shown in Appendix 1.

12.3. In relation to qualitative issues:

- Levels of litter and vandalism were usually low, or there was no evidence at all.
- All were well-maintained, with good standards of grounds maintenance.
- Security and safety were generally very high, with low levels of risk in relation to uneven surfaces or leaning monuments.
- Information and signage was better in the cemetery sites than in churchyards.
- Ancillary facilities, including in particular seating, was variable. Some sites would benefit from increased levels of seating with armrests to assist the less able-bodied.

QUANTITY

12.4. There are no defined guidelines in terms of quantitative standards for Cemeteries and Churchyards. Any standard would be hindered by the different types of cemeteries and churchyards encountered, including:

- Churchyards which are still accepting burials.
- Cemeteries which are still open for burial.
- Churchyards which are redundant.
- Cemeteries which are full.
- Woodland burial.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

12.5. Any standard would also need to differentiate between the primary purpose of a cemetery or churchyard (i.e. for burial), and its purpose for informal recreation.

ACCESSIBILITY

12.6. A map indicating the location of sites is shown in Figure 12.1.

12.7. It should be noted that the standard is for the purposes access to outdoor recreation, and does not relate to available burial space, for which there is no recognised national guideline.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Figure 12.1: Location of Cemeteries and Churchyards

Cemeteries and Churchyards in Havant

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13. Meeting Current and Future Needs

13.1. There are a number of key areas in which further action needs to be taken in relation to the current and future qualitative, quantitative and accessibility aspects of open space provision in the Borough.

13.2. This study outlines the current and projected situation relating to open space in the Borough, and in accordance with an acceptable typology endorsed by the NPPF. It also analyses the gap between current national guidelines and provision.

13.3. Suggestions as to how these needs can be met is analysed in this section. The following issues are considered:

- How more challenging and exciting provision for children can be made
- Play solutions for young people
- “Green play” provision
- Creating a “sense of place” by the inclusion of welcoming entrances and interpretative signage
- Inclusion of more natural landscapes, and how they would enhance biodiversity
- Development of green corridors to link open spaces and communities
- Using developer contributions to improve the provision and quality of open spaces.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

CREATION OF EXCITING AND CHALLENGING PLAY AREAS

13.4. The quality audit and the consultation findings highlight the need for play areas which are going to challenge children, to develop their social skills, and to provide opportunities for physical development.

13.5. In addition to obvious improvements such as the provision of exciting pieces of play equipment (e.g. zip wires, “low ropes” courses), a concept which is gaining in popularity is intelligent play or “iplay” (see Image 14.1). This has been devised by a recreation company affiliated to Loughborough University which has worked in conjunction with a leading play manufacturer to produce a range of suitable equipment. This includes a number of physical challenges similar to those provided by conventional play equipment but using a list of commands.

13.6. The use of such equipment is in response to changing sociological leisure patterns which mean that children are spending more time watching television and using computer games. Facts and figures relating to the fact that a quarter of UK children are now clinically obese are as follows:

- Half of all children in the UK will be obese by 2020 (Lobstein 2005)
- An obese child is twice as likely to become an obese adult
- Obesity is set to become the leading health problem in the UK
- It is linked to the onset of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease
- The House of Commons Select Committee 2004 has stated that it is linked to the onset of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease
- It also stated that the economic cost of obesity is £7.5 billion p.a.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

14.7. Iplay is triggered with a start button and can be played as part of a team or individually. The iplay unit issues commands relating to how to play. This consists of a number of challenges, and a core is displayed on the iplay screen. This score can be saved and compared to a league table of other competitors.

13.7. The big advantage of iplay is that it introduces new technology and uses the concept of "stealth play." This means that the level of activity can be stepped up without the participant being aware of it, and thus can encourage greater levels of fitness.

13.8. It is suggested that the introduction of an iplay playground in Havant Borough would create an exciting new concept. It could be used to gauge usage and popularity to guide future provision.
13.9. This report highlights the need to provide exciting and innovative play solutions for older as well as younger children. Play solutions which could help to meet the shortfall in equipped play.

13.10. Good BMX/Pump Track design should include the following elements:

- **Adequate drainage**
- **Durable construction which will withstand heavy usage and will be safe to use. Materials which reduce friction noise should be considered if this is likely to constitute a nuisance (i.e. if the track is near to residential development or in an otherwise quiet area of a green space)**
- **Signage. This needs to be informative, and to include contact numbers in case of emergency**
- **Landscaping. The track should be attractively landscaped to help it to blend in to its surrounding environment, and to be attractive to users.**

13.11. Pumptracks are one of the newest and most exciting outdoor recreational activities. Although many BMX tracks have been constructed throughout the UK, pumptracks have a wider potential appeal. They are attractive in particular to teenagers and youths, but are suitable not just for bikes of all sizes, but also skateboards, rollerblades and scooters. As such they can bridge the generation gap between older people, teenagers, and smaller children. The pumptrack utilises an up and down pumping motion to generate forward momentum. A big advantage is that pumptracks can be as little as 10m. x 3m. in extent, and so can be fitted into a very limited area. Provision of this type is generally under-provided.
**Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy**

**Green Play**

13.12. Havant Borough contains many diverse communities, characters and areas. Green play is usually popular in all areas but would fit in especially well to the less developed areas of North Hayling, as well as the semi-urban and rural fringe areas throughout the Borough.

13.13. Green play has developed in response to the decline in outdoor recreation amongst children. Home entertainment in the form of computer games, television and other media have resulted in a decline in natural play. Green play provides play opportunities in a play area using natural materials, and, in particular, timber (see Image 14.2). Green play areas often include “soft” elements such as the use of willow tunnels, soft landscaping using wild species, and tree planting (see Image 14.2). Thus, green play has a number of advantages:

- **It is sustainable, using natural and renewable materials**
- **It is in keeping with natural landscapes in small settlements, or in the countryside**
- **It provides exciting play opportunities in a controlled, low-risk environment**
- **Biodiversity can be enhanced with careful landscaping**
- **Children have the opportunity to engage with the natural environment.**

13.14. This study has demonstrated the need to provide new and challenging opportunities for play. In addition, many existing play areas are deficient in terms of their quality and their ability to encourage exciting and innovative play and will in any case need to be replaced or upgraded over the coming years. It is therefore suggested that a green play area is provided in the Borough to assess its popularity and value.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

INTERPRETATION OF HERITAGE AND HISTORY/ WELCOMING ENTRANCES

13.15. The need to provide welcoming entrances has already been referred to as one of the eight key criteria in the national Green Flag standard. This is paramount in providing enticing green space which visitors will feel to be well managed and will be encouraged to use.

13.16. Havant Borough has a rich heritage and history. This needs to be interpreted to encourage a “sense of place,” and open spaces are one of the best places to impart this message because:

- Annual visitor numbers will be very high
- A large percentage of the population visit their local open spaces on a fairly regular basis
- Spaces are open and accessible to all
- Greater usage will lead to higher levels of participation in outdoor recreation, and thus mental and physical health
- Well interpreted open spaces encourage tourism.

13.17. The concept of generating a “sense of place” is well recognized in the UK. The following quote is from Special Delivery Outcome 1 of the Peak District Management Plan 2012-2017:

“What gives a community its sense of identity? How do places identify and retain what makes them distinctive, while adapting to new challenges? It is important that communities can recognise what makes their cultural heritage so special, and that this identity mobilises, motivates and binds them together.”
13.18. The South Downs National Park has developed a “Sense of Place Toolkit” from which the following quote is taken:

“We believe that the more visitors know about the area – before they come, and while they’re here – the more they should enjoy their visit. They’ll be more likely to try out new experiences in the Park, to repeat-visit, and to recommend the Park to others. And the more that visitors understand about the special nature of the Park, the more they should want to help sustain it, including supporting local businesses and services.”

13.19. This heritage and history need not just relate to the open spaces themselves, but also to the surrounding towns, villages and countryside.

13.20. Attractive interpretation boards including the use of visual images such as photographs, visual representations and maps and diagrams, are a popular means of learning about the surrounding area. The use of interpretation boards can be used at entrances, or at specific points of interest. It would be worth considering the use of interactive Quick Response (QR) codes, which will allow a smart phone user to access appropriate additional information on websites or specific web pages. This would also make information accessible in particular to people interested in the use of new technology.
**Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy**

**Enhancement of Biodiversity**

13.21. The biodiversity value of open space sites can be considerably enhanced in most types of open space, even those where maintenance is relatively formal.

13.22. This value of the open spaces can be seen to help improve the mental health and sense of place of urban communities.

13.23. This value of biodiversity in open spaces is expressed in the UK Biodiversity Strategy 2002.

‘Biodiversity has an essential role to play in liveability improvements: ‘designing with nature’ especially in buildings and public spaces, can improve people’s quality of life directly and show how nature can itself work to maintain the qualities of land air and water for people’s benefit.’

(Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Biodiversity Strategy*; 2002: 54)

13.24. This value of biodiversity in urban open spaces is re-iterated in the CABE Space Report – The Value of Public Open Space notes 6 which states that aside from the intrinsic value of having nature in our cities, urban wildlife habitats also provide a focus for local communities, who often become very attached to them. Even the simple knowledge that a natural area exists is, for many, a source of satisfaction. Open space managed for biodiversity provides an opportunity for people to be close to ‘nature’, with the associated positive impact that this can bring in terms of mental health and the pleasure of experiencing wildlife in the urban situation.

13.25. It is vital that the management of biodiversity in parks and open spaces is in keeping with the overall Wildlife Management Strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or Biodiversity Strategy for the area as a whole.

13.26. In considering all applications for future development, it is suggested that a *Biodiversity Toolkit* is drafted with colleagues responsible for green space management in order to guide the enhancement of biodiversity both in relation to building suitable landscapes in to new developments and altering the management of open spaces managed directly by the Borough Council.

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HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN CORRIDORS

13.27. Green corridors are linear strips of open space which combine habitats and species which will complement regional and local biodiversity action plans.

13.28. The identification, effective protection and enhancement of green corridors can help connect greenspaces within Havant Borough. It can also help create green fingers from the surrounding countryside to the very heart of its communities.

13.29. There are a number of ways in which the green infrastructure can be used to deliver meaningful opportunities for multiple functions. These functions can be used to drive planning and management of the green environment. Each is considered in this section in relation to what they can afford in relation both to outline proposals for existing open spaces within Havant Borough; and to green and blue corridor open space areas in other parts to which these principles can be applied in future. Each is illustrated to indicate the style of approach which can be adopted.

13.30. Planting to create a microclimate and to reduce temperature – it has been proved that tree and shrub planting in sufficient quantities can reduce peak urban summer temperatures, a major cause of mortality for instance in Paris in 2003 and can create a cool and more humid microclimate in urban areas. Tree planting and amenity woodland can be extremely successful in this context.
13.31. When planning green infrastructure, it is important to consider the scale and connection of the corridor when green and blue ribbon strategies for habitat and recreational corridors are proposed. It should be noted that a network, for coherence and resilience, is represented by more than just a physical link between two or more ecological areas and must involve working links.

13.32. Improving links through linear habitats such as green corridors can provide opportunities to incorporate footpaths and cycleways to promote sustainable travel patterns. Green corridors can serve both people and wildlife by carrying footpaths, cycleways, and even tram and light rail routes alongside linear grassland habitats, wooded belts, streams, rivers and ponds.

13.33. However, there can be a conflict between providing areas for recreation and transport and simultaneously maintaining biodiversity. This is addressed in the TCPA Guide102 which suggests pedestrian and transport routes need to be well designed so that they do not interfere with habitat creation and provide natural surveillance so that they do not become havens for crime.

13.34. In a successful network, an understanding of the existing corridors and their functional requirements is essential so that a hierarchy of linked spaces can be created.

13.35. It is suggested that existing open spaces should be re-designed to increase their suitability as green corridors, and that new linkages are explored to identify other green corridors which could link communities across Havant Borough. This approach is explored in the following five sections.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

1) Housing and Commercial

13.36. Use of landscape features in housing and commercial areas – this can include the use of green roofs and green walls to reduce runoff and to improve air quality.

13.37. Parking on permeable surfaces will contribute to the reduction of surface run off.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

2) Transport

13.38. Linear corridors as access routes for sustainable transportation – the creation of routeways of green open space which allow for sustainable transport. The principal objective in this case is to reduce the need for transportation in motor vehicles, and to open up greenspace for walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable transport. The objective is to use the line of a watercourse or natural linking feature, to create footpaths and cycle routes between urban areas to incorporate appropriate waymarking and landscaping.
**Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy**

3) **Recreation**

13.39. Recreational open spaces – these create attractive areas for the execution of a range of outdoor recreational pursuits. These may include sports and games; picnics; events and activities; and children's play. Open space designated for this use needs to be managed to avoid conflict between active uses and natural habitats.
4) Wildlife

13.40. Wildlife corridors – these are linear strips of open space which combine habitats and species, which will complement regional and local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) and/or Biodiversity Strategies.

13.41. Achieving multiple benefits from green infrastructure underlines its importance and generally boosts the environmental capacity of the area. Many sites will naturally fulfil many functions. If planned and managed appropriately the potential of a site and the ecosystem services that the land can provide can be enhanced. This should be done appropriately and not to the detriment of an overriding management priority, such as the need to protect a sensitive habitat.
**Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy**

5) Amenity

13.42. Amenity open spaces – these can frequently be used to improve biodiversity. Woodland which is created by planting native species, and which favour a wider diversity of wildlife, create local oases. This has helped to mitigate the effects of peak urban summer temperatures and to provide shade. In addition, the use of floral meadow and wetland meadow in areas likely to become saturated, and the use of “prairie” plantings to mimic nature in the use of natural species in bold groupings, can increase biodiversity.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

USING DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVE OPEN SPACE

13.43. Developer contributions have been used in the past and will continue to be used. These contributions should be used to meet shortfalls identified in this study in relation to quantity and accessibility. This can be done by creating new provision, but can offset such shortfalls by increasing the quality, and thus the accessibility, of existing green space where necessary.

13.44. Shortfalls should be used to assist in the development of specific types of outdoor leisure provision in Havant Borough. Targeting should include the provision of exciting play areas by the use of innovative concepts such as iplay, green play, as well as facilities for youth and teenagers.

13.45. To ensure that open space contributions are appropriately sought they must comply with the statutory requirements set out in Circular 05/2005. These tests require the contribution to be:

- Necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms;
- Directly related to the proposed development; and
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development.

13.46. Developer contributions will be used for establishing and improving open spaces appropriate to the locality in which the development takes place. The requirements are expressed in terms of square metres ($m^2$).

13.47. There are two mechanisms that will be used by the Local Planning Authority to deliver open space. These are:

- Inclusion of open space as part of the development by the developer; and
- Financial contributions towards the provision of open space off site.
14. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

EVIDENCE BASE

14.1 This 2018 Assessment provides a robust evidence base on which to base decisions and inform the Borough’s Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and Local Plan 2036. Quality standards used a set of criteria based on the internationally recognised “Green Flag” standard of excellence for open spaces. This is still applicable and has been used in this study. The Assessment used a typology which has been endorsed by the 2018 NPPF guidelines. Emphasis is placed in this Assessment on a typology which can be related directly to national Fields in Trust (FIT) quantity and accessibility standards.

14.2 The strategic background is based on the updated version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [July 2018], which is referenced in this study.

14.3 The Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 Assessment 2006 did not have access to the definitive guidelines provided by FIT in November 2015. The new FIT standards have superseded earlier quantity and accessibility standards and have been used for this study.

14.4 The current assessment includes changes to the typology to better meet those covering the latest quantity and standards.

14.5 This 2018 Assessment has included a full on-the-ground audit of all open space sites identified by the Council to supersede the desk-based audit conducted in the Open Spaces Review 2012.

14.6 Open spaces outside of the Borough have also been included which are fully accessible to Borough residents.

14.7 It should be noted that North Hayling is considered as one of the few non-urban areas in Havant Borough. As such, it is recommended that the existing play areas at Avenue Road (NEAP (4)), Northney Road Recreation Ground (Amenity Green Space and LEAP (46)) and Northney Coastal (Natural/Semi-Natural (504)) are protected and enhanced to provide multi-functionality.


HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

QUALITY, QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY BY TYPE

PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

14.8 Public Parks and Gardens covers 9 sites in the Borough. Standards were uniformly high, with good horticultural maintenance and high levels of provision. More could be done to increase interpretative signage in some of the Parks and Gardens to make them more welcoming, and to engender a “sense of place.” The use of more natural landscape types as part of the design fabric of the Park would enhance biodiversity and increase their interest and value. Seven were “good” at the time of audit, and two were “very good.”

RECOMMENDATIONS – PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

Recommendation 1: Protect existing open space in line with Local Plan policies in order to meet current and projected needs.

Recommendation 2: Improve the quality of existing open spaces where required.

Recommendation 3: Improve signage and interpretation to increase the welcome offered in Public Parks and Gardens, and to enhance interpretation and create a better “sense of place.”

Recommendation 4: Devise and implement a programme of improvements to the two important Parks at West and East Beachlands.
**Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy**

**Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace**

14.9 **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace** is particularly well-supplied. This is in the main due in part to the inclusion of significant and sizeable greenspace at Queen’s Inclosure (2), Northney Common (47), Hollybank Wood and Emsworth Common (79), and Southleigh Forest (362). In the light of a shortage of sites within the Borough, the creation of green corridors to increase habitats, provide outdoor exercise, and to connect communities and open spaces is particularly important. There are 60 greenspaces within this category.

14.10 53% of sites were “average” in quality at the time of audit, and 43% were “good.” In terms of qualitative issues, there was little to advertise the presence of many of the Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces in the Borough, reducing their attractiveness to potential visitors. Better all-weather footpaths are needed in some sites, particularly those drawing extensive visitors throughout the year. There is also a shortage of seating, particularly of the sort which would assist the less able-bodied.

14.11 The condition of the Beachlands sites (537, 561, 508) was only “average.” Entrances were generally unwelcoming. There was little interpretative signage, which would add much to the understanding and “sense of place” of visitors to these interesting sites. The provision of more litter bins would encourage people to dispose of litter and reduce the volumes of litter accumulating in car parks and other heavily used areas. Landscaping was rather limited. Notwithstanding the relatively harsh environment caused by salt winds, more landscaping would add to the attraction of these sites, and increase biodiversity.

14.12 The value of these sites would be considerably enhanced using green corridors to connect them together, and to provide additional habitats for wildlife. They would also provide a useful amenity for sustainable transport, reducing reliance on motorised vehicles and increasing opportunities for improved physical and mental health.

**Recommendations – Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace**

- **Recommendation 5:** Improve access by making signage and waymarking more prominent.
- **Recommendation 6:** Create a series of green corridors to connect open spaces and local settlements.
- **Recommendation 7:** Improve the quality of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces within the Borough by providing additional facilities including better seating and litter bins around entrances.
- **Recommendation 8:** Introduce more natural landscapes within other types of open space to increase biodiversity and create a more diverse environment.
- **Recommendation 9:** Northney Coastal (504) should be protected and enhanced to provide multi-functionality.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

AMENITY GREENSPACE

14.13 In terms of Amenity Greenspace, there is adequate quantitative provision. There are 63 Amenity Greenspaces in the Borough.

14.14 Standards of cleanliness and maintenance were quite high. Most lack welcoming and informative interpretation. Few have areas of informal landscape such as meadow planting or clumps of trees which would enhance biodiversity. Ancillary facilities could be improved, particularly in relation to more and better seating, and in some cases the introduction of litter bins. Some footpath areas are in relatively poor condition, and require repair to avoid potential trip hazards, and to increase accessibility. Littering is relatively problematic in open spaces which lack litter bins.

RECOMMENDATIONS – AMENITY GREENSPACE

Recommendation 10: Create more natural landscape types within Amenity Greenspace to enhance biodiversity.

Recommendation 11: Improve seating where required.

Recommendation 12: Install signage to welcome visitors and provide interpretation at sites and in areas of historical or landscape interest.

Recommendation 13: Seek to ensure that there is suitable provision of Amenity Greenspace in all settlements to meet local needs.

Recommendation 14: Consider greater provision of Amenity Greenspace to the south and west of Cowplain.

Recommendation 15: Consider greater provision of Amenity Greenspace between Brockhampton and Warblington.

Recommendation 16: Enhance provision of Amenity Greenspace in Northney.
Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy

Provision for Children and Young People

14.15 Provision for Children and Young People is served by 51 sites around the Borough.

14.16 More varied provision is necessary to meet growing need around the Borough. This could include “kickabout” provision and areas for quieter play within open spaces surrounding equipped areas as well as new provision using FIT guidelines for new development. Upgrading is necessary where deficient in terms of quality, including better signage, repair or replacement of rubber or bark safety surfacing, better landscaping, and items which are exciting and stimulating (e.g. “zip wire equipment), and encourage greater play value. Most were well maintained.

Recommendations – Provision for Children and Young People

Recommendation 17: Opportunity should be taken to increase the range of informal activities including kickabout and picnic areas in existing play sites.

Recommendation 18: Play areas should be made more welcoming where required, with informative signage and landscaping, including more tree planting to increase their attraction, enhance biodiversity, and provide shade.

Recommendation 19: The opportunity should be taken to upgrade play areas where necessary with more exciting and stimulating play equipment (zip wires, iplay, green play, etc.).

Recommendation 20: Improved and informative signage should be included at entrances to all equipped play areas.

Recommendation 21: A programme of landscaping should be considered to make play areas more attractive, to enhance biodiversity, and to provide shade.

Recommendation 22: The existing play areas at Avenue Road (NEAP (4)) and Northney Road Recreation Ground (LEAP (46)) should be protected and enhanced to provide multi-functionality.
**Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy**

**Allotments and Community Gardens**

14.17 There are 12 Allotment sites in the Borough that are owned by HBC and managed by Norse South East.

14.18 Nearly all were “good” in terms of quality. Some issues included inadequate signage to advertise the site and welcome visitors, and limited access. Entrances were unwelcoming in some cases and would benefit from landscaping. Ancillary facilities (such as seating) were limited.

**Recommendations – Allotments and Community Gardens**

Recommendation 23: Quality improvements should be made where necessary. These include the need for better advertising, landscaping and signage at entrances.

Recommendation 24: More ancillary facilities, and in particular seating, should be provided where required.

Recommendation 25: Existing sites should be protected in accordance with Local Plan policy.

Recommendation 26: Increase access to Allotment sites in the centre of the Borough around Waterlooville and Havant.

Recommendation 27: Increase access to Allotment sites on Hayling Island.

Recommendation 28: Increase access to Allotment sites in Cowplain and Wecock.
Cemeteries and Churchyards in the Borough would greatly benefit from interpretation because of their heritage and historical value. There is an opportunity to create spaces which enhance visitors’ “sense of place,” and provide areas for informal outdoor recreation as well as burial. Whilst there is limited evidence of potential future risk, continuing attention needs to be given to the condition of monuments. Opportunities need to be taken to increase nature conservation value by introducing softer landscapes and tree planting.

Recommendations – Cemeteries and Churchyards

Recommendation 29: Improve interpretation to encourage greater usage for informal outdoor recreation at Cemetery sites.

Recommendation 30: Continue to monitor leaning memorials to mitigate any potential future safety risk.

Recommendation 31: Increase the planting and establishment of natural landscapes to enhance biodiversity, and to create more interesting and diverse environments.
APPENDIX 1: QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS BY TYPOLOGY

Abbreviations

CYP = Facilities for Children and Young People
PPG = Public Park and Garden
AGS = Amenity Green Space
NSN = Natural or Semi-Natural Greenspace
C = Cemetery
A = Allotment

Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0% - 20%
Poor = 21% - 40%
Average = 41% - 60%
Good = 61% - 80%
Very good = 81% - 100%
## Public Parks and Gardens

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<th>Number</th>
<th>Name of site</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cleanliness and maintenance</th>
<th>Security and safety</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Climate change adaptation</th>
<th>Ancillary facilities</th>
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The quality and quantity of Public Parks and Gardens are detailed in Section 7. Accessibility and location are shown in Figure 7.1.
## Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy

### Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

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<th>Number</th>
<th>Name of site</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<th>Security and safety</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
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<th>Artificial facilities</th>
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65
### Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy

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<th>Landscape</th>
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The quality and quantity of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces are detailed in Section 8. Accessibility and location are shown in Figure 8.1.
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<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Climate change adaptation</th>
<th>Ancillary facilities</th>
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<th>Site access transport</th>
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## Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy

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<th>Landscape</th>
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The quality and quantity of Amenity Greenspace are detailed in Section 9. Accessibility and location are shown in Figure 9.1.
## Provision for Children and Young People

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<th>Wastewater</th>
<th>Security and Safety</th>
<th>Link Space</th>
<th>Constructed play</th>
<th>Activity facilities</th>
<th>Site access permi</th>
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## Havant Borough Council Open Space Strategy

The quality and quantity of Provision for Children and Young People are detailed in Section 10. Accessibility and location are shown in Figures 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3.

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The quality and quantity of Allotment sites are detailed in Section 11. Accessibility and location are shown in Figure 11.1.
HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

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<th>Security and safety</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Climate change adaptation</th>
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<th>Site access general</th>
<th>Site access transport</th>
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The quality and quantity of Cemeteries and Churchyards are detailed in Section 12. Accessibility and location are shown in Figure 12.1.