

PPG17 Open Space Assessment





Part I

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2006, Basildon District Council embarked upon a District-wide PPG17 Open Space Assessment. The purpose of the Assessment has been to produce a quantitative and qualitative audit and analysis of the supply and demand for, open spaces in the District.
- 1.2 The study has been influenced by policy and guidance emphasising the value of assessing open space requirements. Planning Policy Guidance 17: Sport, Open Space and Recreation, (PPG17, ODPM, 2002), suggests that local authorities should adopt a methodology which assesses the wider recreational needs of the local community and make appropriate provision in light of those assessments.
- 1.3 The study draws from the national, regional and sub-regional policy framework and aims to inform the following local initiatives:
 - Future spatial planning through the Local Development Framework;
 - Planning Obligations, based on needs and demands of local communities;
 - The development of an Open Spaces Strategy for future open space provision, investment, management and promotion;
- 1.4 This Assessment aims to provide a clear picture of the existing and future needs of open space provision in Basildon District and assesses the current ability to meet those needs in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.
- 1.5 It will set local standards for the provision of open spaces within the District. These standards will cover:
 - The quantity of open space provision, by typology.
 - The quality of open space and priority enhancements.
 - The intrinsic benefits of certain open spaces
 - The accessibility of the open space estate in terms of cost and distance.

Benefits of open space

- 1.6 According to the national government guidance document for open space strategies, PPG17, the well-planned provision of open spaces will support sustainable urban renaissance, rural renewal, community cohesion, and health and wellbeing. It is therefore central to the Council's objectives for the District's future.
- 1.7 It is essential that Basildon District is able to capture these benefits, so that the whole community can profit from improvements in the local environment, brought about by present and future regeneration projects.

Scope of PPG17 Open Space Assessment

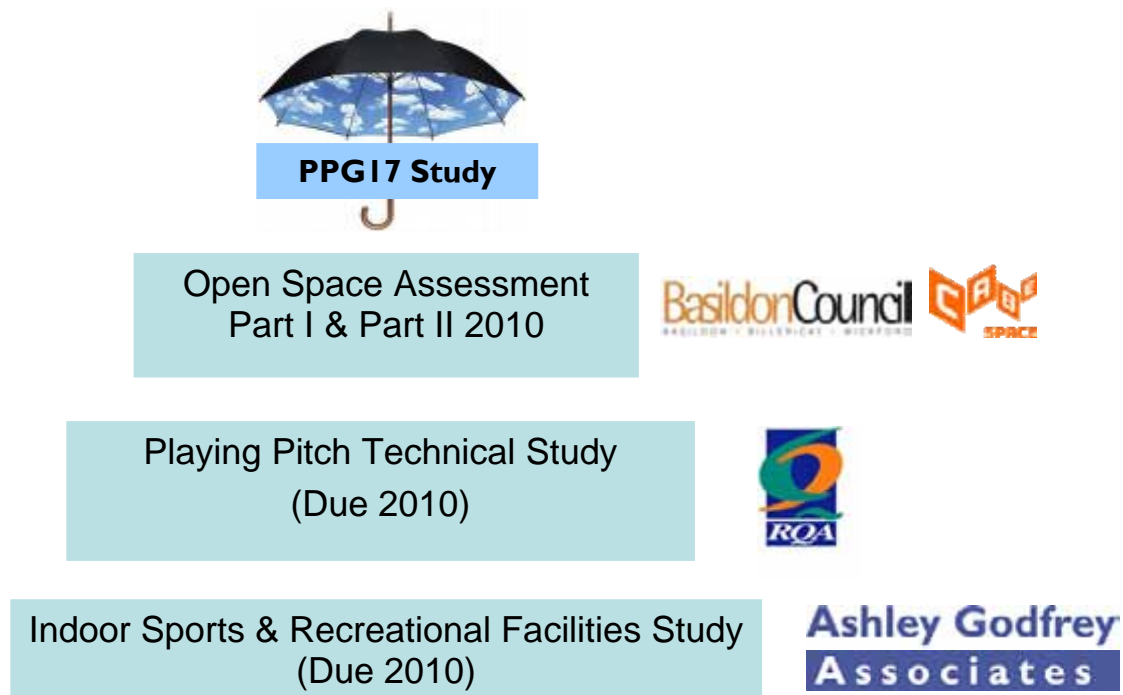
- 1.8 The aim of the Assessment is to assess and analyse the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing open spaces, their varied functions and the needs of the local community. The objectives of the study are:
 - a) To audit existing open spaces in terms of their quantity, quality and accessibility;
 - b) To provide evidence to support the new planning policy framework set in the Basildon District Local Development Framework, including a needs assessment as required by PPG17

- c) To derive local quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards for open spaces in the District;
 - d) To evidence where there is a need for enhancing existing provision and where new provision is most needed;
 - e) To establish an effective strategy for the delivery and management of accessible, high quality green spaces, sport and recreation facilities to meet the needs of local residents, as well as visitors to the District
- 1.9 To enable the Council to identify priorities for future investment and provide a rationale to secure external funding for the improvement and additional provision of facilities particularly via developer contributions

Relationship to other PPG17 Assessments

- 1.10 Three studies make up the PPG17 study suite that collectively examine open space, playing pitches, and indoor sport & recreation facilities. Whilst they have been commissioned separately, they do inter-relate and are outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1 PPG17 Suite of Studies



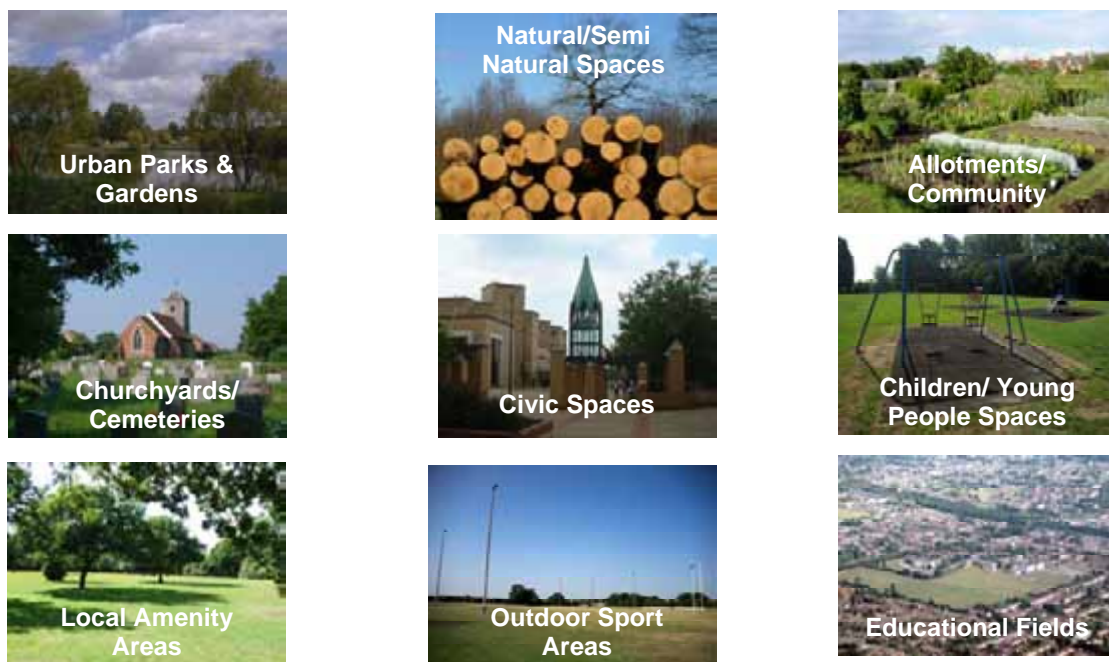
Open Space Typologies

- 1.11 PPG17 defines Open Space as *“all land designed for pedestrian use, both publicly and privately owned, that provides amenity value to the community, through accessibility or visual benefits.”*
- 1.12 In order to audit, analyse and interpret open space covered by this broad definition a typology has been devised by PPG17 and the CAGE Space Best Practice Guidance 2009, separating the open space into nine¹ different types:

¹ PPG17 also recognises Green Corridors as an Open Space Typology, but these have not been captured in their own right in this Assessment.

1. Urban Parks and Gardens, including Country Parks
2. Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space – e.g. marshes or woodland
3. Outdoor Sports Facilities – e.g. football pitches
4. Amenity Green Space – e.g. village greens and ponds
5. Provision for Children and Young People – e.g. teen shelters and play areas
6. Education Fields
7. Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms
8. Churchyards and Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds
9. Civic spaces – Civic and market squares and other hard-surfaced areas designed for pedestrians

Figure 2 Open Space Typologies



1.13 These typologies are all appropriate to apply in Basildon District from auditing to application. Many spaces clearly fit a particular typology. Where there is some overlap, the primary use is applied to categorise a space, which has been verified following on-site assessments. Their use in the Assessment helps to categorise the variety of open space available in the District and determine whether there is enough, whether it is of an appropriate quality and whether it is accessible.

Chapter 2 - Strategic Context – Where do Open Spaces fit in?

National Policy Context

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 - Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002 and its Companion Guide (September 2002)

- 2.0 This study has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance provided in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).
- 2.1 PPG17 states that the Government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and sports and recreational facilities' It explains that well-designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental in delivering broader Government objectives , which include:
- supporting an urban renaissance
 - supporting a rural renewal
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
 - health and well-being
 - promoting more sustainable development
- 2.2 The major shift in policy in this area has been the discouragement of adopting national standards, such as the National Playing Fields Association. Instead, local authority decisions are to be informed by local needs assessments and an audit of existing provision. These audits are expected to include qualitative, quantitative and accessibility considerations, as well as the value of the land to the local community, including its level of use for different activities.

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, ODPM, 2005

- 2.3 States that development should ensure an appropriate mix of uses, including the incorporation of green space.

Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS1, DCLG, 2007

- 2.4 States that spatial strategies and any development should help deliver amongst other things, green infrastructure and biodiversity as part of a strategy to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation, ODPM, 2005

- 2.5 LPAs should aim to maintain, enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests through policy and decision-making. LDFs are expected to indicate the location of all designated sites and identify areas for habitat restoration or creation. Specifically reference is given of the ability of Open Space Strategies to maintain and protect networks of natural habitats that link together sites of biodiversity importance, providing routes or stepping stones for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species in the wider environment.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Spatial Planning, DCLG, 2008

2.6 Requires LPAs to assess green infrastructure requirements. LDF Core Strategies should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. PPS12 expects that green infrastructure planning identifies as far as possible, infrastructure needs and costs, phasing, funding sources and responsibilities for delivery.

England Biodiversity Strategy, DEFRA, 2002

2.7 The Strategy seeks to ensure biodiversity considerations become embedded in all main sectors of public policy and sets out a programme for the future to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

2.8 Section 40 places a statutory duty on all public authorities to conserve biodiversity when carrying out their functions.

Green Spaces, Better Places - The Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, DTLR (2002)

2.9 The report recognises that parks and green spaces are a popular and precious resource that can make a valuable contribution to the attractiveness of a neighbourhood, to the health and well being of people and expand educational opportunities for children and adults alike.

2.10 The main messages to emerge from Green Spaces, Better Places that are:

- urban parks and open spaces remain popular, despite a decline in quality as well as quantity
- open spaces make an important contribution to the quality of life in many areas and help to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits
- planners and planning mechanisms need to take better account of the need for parks and open spaces including related management and maintenance issues
- parks and open spaces should be central to any vision of sustainable modern towns and cities
- strong civic, local pride and responsibility are necessary to achieve the vision reinforced by a successful green spaces strategy
- there is a need for a more co-ordinated approach at the national level to guide local strategies.

Improving Urban Parks, Play Areas and Green Space, DTLR (May 2002)

2.11 In May 2002, the DTLR produced a linked research report to Green Spaces, Better Places that looked at patterns of use, barriers to open space and the wider role of open space in urban regeneration.

2.12 There were clear links demonstrated as to how parks and other green spaces meet wider policy objectives linked to other local authority agendas, such as education, diversity, health, regeneration and the environment. They can help raise the political profile and commitment of an authority to green space issues, in particular they:

- contribute significantly to social inclusion because many are free and accessible to all;
- can become a focus for community spirit and pride;
- contribute to child development through outdoor, energetic and imaginative play;
- offer numerous educational opportunities;
- provide a range of health, environmental and economic benefits;

Open Space Strategies – Best Practice Guidance, CABE Space/ Mayor of London, 2009

2.13 Great parks, squares and streets make for a better quality of life. A network of well-designed and cared-for open spaces adds to the character of places where people want to live, work and visit. This guidance draws on the principles of PPG17 and aims to contribute to national objectives for a better network of high quality open spaces, through the preparation of Open Space Strategies that can:

- reinforce local identity and civic pride;
- enhance the physical character of an area, shaping existing and future development;
- improve physical and social inclusion, including accessibility;
- provide connected routes between places for wildlife, recreation, walking and cycling, and safer routes to school;
- protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological habitats.
- provide green infrastructure & ecosystem services;
- provide for children and young people's play and recreation;
- raise property values and aid regeneration;
- boost the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities;
- provide cultural, social, recreational, sporting and communities facilities;
- protect and promote understanding of the historical, cultural and archaeological value of places;
- contribute to the creation of healthy places, including quiet areas;
- provide popular outdoor educational facilities;
- promote the opportunities for local food production;
- help mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- improve opportunities to enjoy contact with the natural world;

The Value of Public Space, CABE Space (March 2004)

2.14 This report examines how high quality parks and public spaces can create economic, social and environmental value, as well as being beneficial to physical and mental health, children and young people and a variety of other external issues.

2.15 Specific examples are used to illustrate the benefits and highlight the issues arising on the value of public space:

1. **The economic value of public spaces** - A high quality public environment is an essential part of any regeneration strategy and can impact positively on the local economy. For example increases in property prices.
2. **The impact on physical and mental health** - Research has shown that well maintained public spaces can help to improve physical and mental health encouraging more people to become active
3. **Benefits to children and young people** - Good quality public spaces encourage children to play freely outdoors and experience the natural environment, providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning

4. **Reducing crime and fear of crime** - Better management of public spaces can help to reduce crime rates and help to allay fears of crime, especially in open spaces
5. **Social dimension of public space** - Well-designed and maintained open spaces can help bring communities together, providing meeting places in the right context and fostering social ties
6. **Movement in and between spaces** - One of the fundamental functions of public space is to allow people to move around with the challenge of reconciling the needs of different modes of transport
7. **Value from biodiversity and nature** - Public spaces and gardens helps to bring important environmental benefits to urban areas, as well as providing an opportunity for people to be close to nature.

Urban Green Spaces Task Force Report, 2002

2.16 It states that “*strategic planning for parks and green spaces must take place alongside strategies for housing, community development and safety and economic regeneration*” (p10). Local authorities should recognise that most open space, with good planning and management, can perform multiple functions. Amongst the most important are:

Recreation

- Parks and open spaces provide the setting and facilities for formal and informal recreation. From walking the dog to playing football or bowls, it is important that people have a wide range of activities to choose from.

Culture, Education and Tourism

- Many spaces also provide locations for the appreciation of and participation in cultural heritage, or education and tourist events. These activities can include community events e.g. Bas Fest, carnivals and firework displays. The educational value of parks is also important. Schools make use of open spaces for ecology and sporting purposes.

Economic Development and Regeneration

- Relevant council programmes should be including green space as an essential aspect of neighbourhood regeneration. Such space can significantly enhance the quality of life, promote community spirit and attract business and residents to an area.

Visual Amenity

- Neglect can turn green spaces into eyesores. However, well maintained green spaces can provide variety in the urban scene and provide an outlook for those living nearby. They also contribute to a general appreciation of a local environment.

Community Identity

- Parks and other open green spaces can contribute to a sense of community ownership, pride and belonging.

Health

- Parks can be promoted to encourage exercise and as places for quiet and relaxation, they also provide a ‘lung’ of fresh air away from the traffic and pollution of the roads.

Environment and Biodiversity

- Any part of the District has the potential to help conserve or further biodiversity, even the more built up areas. Some sites may have potential to act as corridors

for flora and fauna. Green space also plays a role in collecting surface-water run-off from developed land and helping to mitigate against local flooding

Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities (ANGSt), Natural England, 2008

- 2.17 Natural England believes that accessible natural green spaces have an important contribution to make to the quality of the environment and to quality of life in urban areas. Such sites are valued by the community, provide important refuges for wildlife in otherwise impoverished areas, and are beneficial to public health and wellbeing. There are established mechanisms for the recognition and designation of sites with special value for biodiversity, and this model does not seek in any way to replace them. Instead, this model provides a broader, more inclusive approach to ensuring that people in urban areas have the opportunity to experience nature.
- 2.18 Natural England believes that local authorities should consider the provision of natural areas as part of a balanced policy to ensure that local communities have access to an appropriate mix of green spaces providing for a range of recreational needs. English Nature recommends that provision should be made of at least 2ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1000 population according to a system of tiers into which sites of different sizes fit:
- no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace;
 - there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home;
 - there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km;
 - there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km.

Green Infrastructure Guidance, Natural England, 2009

- 2.19 The provision of Green Infrastructure in and around urban areas is now widely recognised as contributing towards creating places where people want to live and work.
- 2.20 'Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities'.
- Goes beyond the site specific Open Space Strategy, considers the big picture landscape, hinterland and setting; strategic links to the sub-region & beyond;
 - Considers public and private assets;
 - Provides multi functional, connected network, delivering ecosystem services;
- 2.21 It explores the opportunities to retrofit green infrastructure in urban environments and how the spatial planning and development management process can promote and deliver green infrastructure through Local Development Frameworks and planning applications.

Green Flag Award

- 2.22 The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme began in 1996 as a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country. It was also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve the same high environmental standards, creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas.

2.23 Parks and green spaces are assessed on relevant key criteria:

1. A Welcoming Place
2. Health, safe and Secure
3. Clean and Well-Maintained
4. Sustainability
5. Conservation and Heritage
6. Community Involvement
7. Marketing
8. Management

Green Heritage Sites and Green Pennant Awards

2.24 The status of Green Heritage Site is awarded to those parks and gardens which promote the value of, and establish best practice in, the care and upkeep of parks and green spaces that are of a local or national historic interest. Sites do not have to be on the English Heritage of Historic Parks and Gardens, but they must be at least 30 years old, and meet additional criteria on top of a Green Flag Award.

2.25 Green Pennant Awards are awarded to sites that are freely accessible but managed solely by a community group. The Award brings publicity and increased funding opportunities and visitor numbers and the knowledge that these sites are helping to contribute to a renewed sense of pride in the local area.

Planning for Open Space, Sport England (Sept 2002)

2.26 Sport England draws together the large body of research and good practice on the subject of open space and focuses on the revised PPG17 and its companion guide.

2.27 The main messages from Sport England within this document are:

- Sport England's policy on planning applications for development of playing fields (A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England) provides five exceptions to its normal stance of opposing any loss of all or part of such facilities and are reflected in PPG17 (paragraphs 10-15).
- Sport England must be consulted on development proposals affecting playing fields at any time in the previous 5 years or is identified as a playing field in a development plan.
- it is highly likely that planning inspectors will no longer accept a Six Acre Standard approach in emerging development plans and therefore increasing the importance of setting local standards.
- in undertaking a playing pitch assessment as part of an overall open space assessment, local authorities will need to consider the revised advice and methodology '*Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the production of Playing Pitch Strategies*'.

Greening the Gateway, ODPM, 2003

2.28 This non-statutory document reflects government policy and is intended to provide guidance to inform the more detailed strategies being prepared to deliver *Greening the Gateway*. The Thames Gateway Partnership supports the Green Grid, and provides support for conservation, enhancement and education within areas developing

networks of green corridors and open spaces. The two overriding objectives of *Greening the Gateway* are:

- That a network of varied and well-managed green space should be the setting for new and existing residential and commercial areas;
- That the landscape should be regarded as functional green infrastructure, recognising wide range of potential benefits from healthy recreation, to wildlife protection and enhancement and flood risk management

Active Design: Promoting opportunities for sport and physical activity through good design, Sport England, 2008

2.29 The promotion of high quality inclusive design in the layout of new developments is a key principle of the planning system. Recent trends indicate rising levels of obesity across the UK. The key recommendations for active living come from the Chief Medical Officer:

- Children and young people should achieve a total of at least 60 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity each day. At least twice a week this should include activities to improve bone health, muscle strength and flexibility.
- For general health benefit, adults should achieve a total of at least 30 minutes a day of at least moderate intensity physical activity on five or more days of the week.
- The recommended levels of activity can be achieved either by doing all the daily activity in one session, or through several shorter bouts of activity of 10 minutes or more. The activity can be lifestyle activity (such as climbing stairs, cycling or brisk walking) or structured exercise or sport, or a combination of these.
- The recommendations for adults are also appropriate for older adults. Older people should take particular care to keep moving and retain their mobility through daily activity.

2.30 Based on these recommendations, Sport England promotes the following targets for activity:

- An activity target of 30 minutes per day of moderate intensity physical activity for adults and 60 minutes a day for children;
- Participation in sport or active recreation three times a week in meeting the Chief Medical Officers requirements for moderate intensity physical activity;
- The targeting of participation in sport by woman and girls, ethnic minorities, people with a disability and people in the lowest socio-economic groups.

2.31 The location of informal recreation facilities will influence usage and accessibility. As part of the master planning and design process consideration must be given to integrating open space and recreation opportunities within a wider network of Active Travel and leisure routes to make it easy for people to integrate spontaneous activity into their everyday routine. The facilities and routes between them should be fronted and overlooked by development to make them safe and useable.

2.32 Well-designed accessible open space should provide a setting for development, be that buildings associated with Everyday Activity Destinations, more formal sports provision, or new homes. It is critical that open space is designed to have a function and that its design is fit for purpose. Development should overlook spaces and create natural surveillance.

2.33 If the location of a facility is, by necessity, remote from the nearest main street or access point it will be important that an appropriate signage or advertising strategy is in place to ensure that the local community is aware of the facilities on offer.

Healthy weight, healthy lives – a cross government Strategy for England, Department for Health, 2008

2.34 Highlights the importance of open space in encouraging people to adopt healthier and more active lifestyles.

National Play Strategy for England, Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2008

2.35 Puts forward a vision for play, which includes making parks and open spaces attractive and welcoming for children and young people.

Natural Fit: Can Green Space and Biodiversity Increase Levels of Physical Activity, RSPB/ Faculty of Public Health, 2004

2.36 This report, commissioned by the RSPB, looked at the evidence to support the theory that the availability of safe, accessible natural green space encourages the uptake and continuation of physical activity. It also looks at the role of biodiversity in enhancing this relationship.

2.37 Physical inactivity is a major preventable health risk, which affects about 60% of the population, and correcting this is a public health priority. There are clear Government guidelines on the amount of physical activity required for optimum health. The recommendation for adults of 30 minutes of moderate activity at least 5 days a week is still not as well understood as diet or smoking recommendations. The maximum benefits of physical activity are in the elderly who are currently the least active.

2.38 The benefits of physical activity can be achieved through moderate exercise, which includes brisk walking, cycling, swimming and nature conservation or gardening activities. Exercise through sport, gyms or aerobics appears not to add any further health benefits.

2.39 It is now recognised that physical inactivity is adding a catastrophic burden to society, leading directly to chronic disease and lack of independence in the elderly. For children, inactivity is helping to create a future generation who are more likely to become inactive and obese adults. Moderate regular activity appears to maintain the vitality of the body and prevents heart disease, diabetes, strokes, cancers, disability, osteoporosis, depression, anxiety and sleep problems. Without regular exercise, there is a decline of function in virtually every system of the body, which will eventually require support from the NHS and social care.

2.40 Physical activity promotion should be close to where the patient lives and with an emphasis on walking. As recreational walking is one of the few activities that is increasing, this is a suitable activity to use to increase physical activity levels. It is also cheap to put into practice and is supported by substantial evidence. People who need more specific exercise treatment may have to start with an exercise referral scheme but move on to self-sustained physical activity. For most people attendance at a gym does not provide the best way of increasing and sustaining physical activity. Physical activity specialists in the NHS need to be aware of the potential of green space.

2.41 It recommended:

1. Both the short and long-term benefits of moderate exercise, and in particular walking, should be promoted to the public as many people still believe that health improving exercise means the gym or vigorous exercise.
2. For the NHS physical activity promotion specialists should work with local authorities to identify local green space and rights of way as a major resource to increase levels of physical activity.
3. In principle, biodiversity should be brought to people by developing areas of green space within villages, towns and cities. Large reserves and wildlife sites outside towns should continue to become more inclusive and less restrictive. It is recommended that access to these areas is both equitable and sustainable, including walking, cycling and public transport.
4. All green space, including nature reserves, should aim to fulfil people's physical activity needs. This should become a success criterion alongside environmental and educational objectives.
5. Each local authority needs to understand the current use of local green space for exercise and in particular the reasons why local people do not currently use open green space. The public should be consulted as to how local green space could be improved to become more inclusive particularly for those wanting informal exercise.
6. Conservationists, landscape designers, architects and NHS physical activity promotion specialists should work together to design diverse green space benefiting the health of both the environment and local population. This may include the use of buildings whose exercise facilities merge seamlessly into the natural environment.
7. New recommendations should be set up for a minimum quantity of green space that will provide enough opportunities for physical activity for a given population. Even small public gardens may act as destinations for a walk in cities with a high density population.
8. Schools and local communities should open up areas of safe, but wild green space rich in wildlife for children to explore learn and play freely. Children should be offered the chance to do conservation work or gardening instead of, or as well as, formal sport.
9. Green circular walks should be created within walking distance of every household (above a minimum population density) in the UK. This route will be of high quality and accessible to the disabled allowing regular short walks and where appropriate being part of a network linking several destinations.
10. Minimum levels of accessible green space and circular walks for every new housing development should be set. The circular walks and green space will be safe, accessible and designed to maximise levels of physical activity among the new residents.
11. All local authorities should adhere to the Green Flag and Green Pennant concept for all their public green space. Both these awards should be reviewed to ensure that the needs for physical activity are adequately addressed.
12. NHS Estates should encourage a more wildlife-rich environment on the land it owns in order to benefit patients, relatives and staff. The evidence that green space offers a restorative function for patients is strong, so even small wildlife rich gardens

can act as a destination for patients and encourage them to be active. Improving grounds and rights of way within or near to NHS administration buildings would set an example and encourage physical activity for staff.

13. This report would like to endorse the recommendations made by the Urban Task Force, chaired by Lord Rogers, to create green networks which encourage safe walking or cycling between two city destinations, but maintaining a natural backdrop.

14. New ways of managing public green space are needed to attract more local participation and ownership. This may include not for profit companies or charities that could gather income from the public, local business (for use by employees), local government, social services and the NHS.

15. The NHS should contribute to the upkeep of Green Space and circular walks, based on local authorities meeting certain success criteria, including a measurable increase in levels of physical activity.

16. The role of Local Access Forums should include recommending high quality rights of way that can help increase levels of physical activity through walking, cycling and horse riding. Each forum should include a representative from the local primary care trust or strategic health authority to advise on using the network to increase levels of physical activity.

17. Agencies and funding bodies that can target health and/or the environment should consider the recommendations of this report and review their funding policies and criteria to give support to the further development and expansion of natural green space for the benefit of public health.

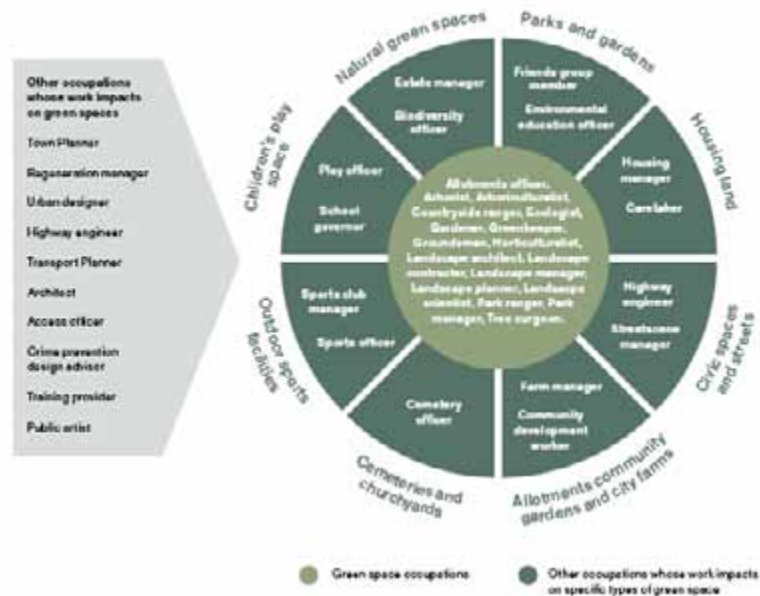
18. The Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food in England supported the idea that public money should be used to pay for public goods. Given the major public benefit from increasing physical activity, there would be benefit in developing agricultural policies to assist access to green space. Allocating adequate resources to the new environmental stewardship schemes to support wildlife-rich and accessible farmland would help fulfil this objective.

Skills to grow: Seven priorities to improve green space skills, CABE, 2009

2.42 The successful planning, design and management of parks and the wider network of green spaces draws upon the skills of people working in a broad range of specialist occupations, from landscape architects to horticulturalists. The green space sector also requires management expertise, including skills such as advocacy and community engagement, in order to instil the public with the motivation and confidence to use and enjoy parks and green spaces and influence local authority decision-making.

Figure 3 Green Space Sector Occupations

Figure 3: Green space sector occupations



2.43 The effective planning, design and management of such a diverse range of spaces relies on the skills of people employed in a similarly wide range of occupations, working in a variety of settings and fulfilling a mixture of functions, as illustrated in Figure 3. Local Authorities and their contractors are the main employers of green space workers, therefore finding ways of building capacity at local government level will be key to turning around the skills deficit. A significant number of green spaces are also managed by voluntary or community sector organisations, registered social landlords (housing associations) and an increasing number are managed by the private sector.

2.44 The following problems have been identified from research:

- Problems with recruitment and retention of staff
- Lack of workforce diversity
- The existing range of skills are too narrow
- The shortage of green space management and leadership skills
- Lack of coordinated working across the sector

2.45 This strategy has identified seven priorities to address these challenges. These are:

1. Increase the awareness of the sector and the opportunities it offers
2. Improve entry routes and career paths in sector occupations
3. Improve the availability and quality of training, including continuing professional development
4. Improve management leadership & skills
5. Increase the sector's investment in skills
6. Build capacity for coordinated working
7. Develop and maintain a strong evidence base

Public space lessons: Improving Park Performance, CABE, 2008

2.46 Numerous research reports over the past year have shown how investment in green space will deliver better public health, both physical and mental. It can help to bring disparate communities together. It provides critical green infrastructure in a changing

climate for cooling, shading, floodwater storage and biodiversity. And it is critical to regeneration.

- 2.47 While this multifunctional role adds to the status of green spaces, it also adds to what is expected of those who own and operate them. A drive led by the Audit Commission sees the new comprehensive area assessment (CAA) regime starting in 2009. Alongside this, local government must respond to the demands set by the Gershon efficiency review.
- 2.48 It is within this context that CABE Space is recommending a new tool to help local authorities manage the performance of their parks services. TAES — ‘towards an excellent service for parks and open spaces — has been developed with the Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA), the Institute for Sport, Parks & Leisure, the Institute of Parks & Green Space and industry practitioners. Unveiled in 2005, TAES is a free diagnostic tool that allows an organisation to define for itself how it is performing against a model of best management practice. At the heart of TAES is a framework that will enable parks and open spaces services to give themselves a regular, ongoing health check and to take the crucial next steps forward.

Regional Policy Context

Regional Spatial Strategy for East of England, GO- EAST, 2008

- 2.49 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 strengthened the role and importance of regional planning, introducing Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and making them the top tier of the statutory Development Plan in all regions of England except London. The Act sets an objective for RSSs to contribute to sustainable development.

Overall Vision: *“By 2021 the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people, including by meeting their housing needs in sustainable inclusive communities. At the same time it will reduce its impact on climate change and the environment, including through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets.”*

- 2.50 Its policies on Green Infrastructure (ENV1), Biodiversity & Earth Heritage (ENV3) and Carbon Dioxide Emissions & Energy Performance (ENG1), The Urban Fringe (SS8), Provision and Location of Strategic Cultural Facilities (C2) and Walking, Cycling and Non-Motorised Transport (TG) are most relevant.
- 2.51 Multi-functional green infrastructure contributes to livability, whilst delivering biodiversity and other benefits including, potentially, flood relief. Green infrastructure applies to all scales of development, and is particularly important in settlements and surrounding areas proposed for regionally significant development, notably the Key Centres for Development and Change, like Basildon town.
- 2.52 Local Development Frameworks should set policies which respond to locally identified need, including increased demand for recreational open space associated with planned development, and identify the scale and location of green infrastructure required to ensure that existing, extended, and new communities are attractive places to live and work.
- 2.53 Provision should aim to extend and enhance existing infrastructure to create linked networks of green space, addressing tension between the multiple demands. It will also be important to ensure that areas of green infrastructure are managed and maintained appropriately. Green infrastructure has the potential to contribute to capturing carbon

emissions and, as part of a package of measures, to achieve developments that are carbon neutral.

Sub-Regional Initiatives

Thames Gateway South Essex Green Grid, TGSEP, 2007

2.54 The Greengrid is a long-term project to develop a network of open spaces and green links throughout Thames Gateway South Essex. So the Greengrid Strategy, set within The Thames Gateway regeneration area, provides an exciting opportunity to guide this desire for change.

2.55 The purpose of the Strategy is to:

- Provide a holistic and long-term vision for the sustainable future development and management of the Strategy Area
- Define an environmental infrastructure that promotes the establishment and management of appropriate character settings; and
- Provides the context for development over the longterm.

2.56 The key objectives of the Greengrid are to:

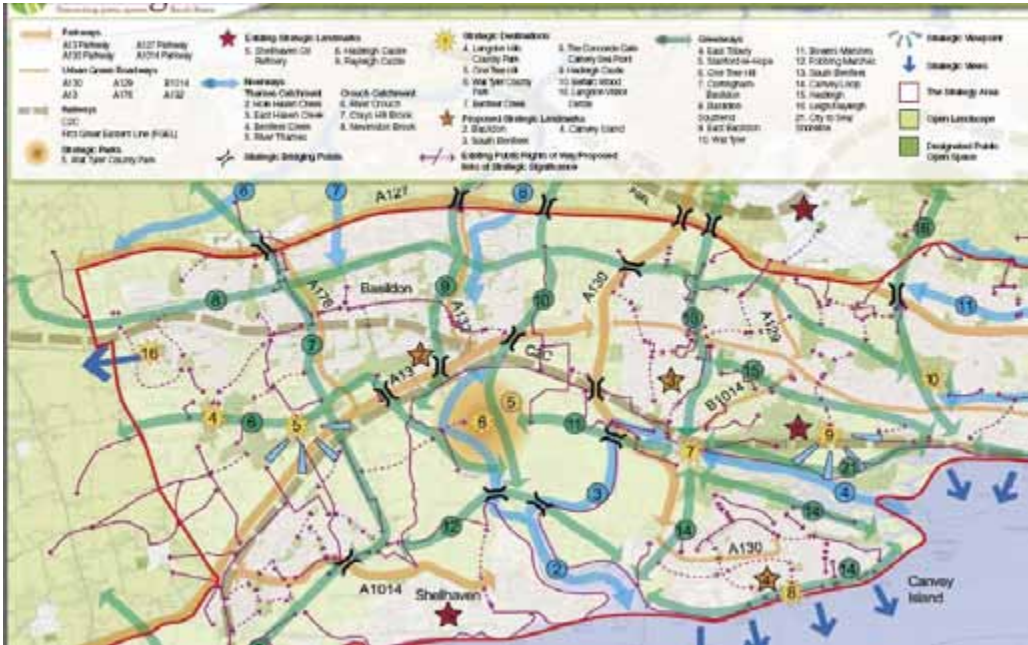
- embrace different habitats and land uses across rural and urban boundaries
- connect new communities with existing neighbourhoods and the regenerated riverside across spatial and conceptual boundaries, providing improved 'access for all'
- conserve and enhance existing sites and links
- conserve and enhance biodiversity
- create well-designed and high quality new elements in identified areas of opportunity and need
- contribute to improved environmental sustainability and enhancement through flood-risk management, improved air and water quality and noise abatement
- create a distinctive 'sense of place' through enhancement and celebration of landscape character and heritage
- enhance the image and confidence in South Essex as a high quality place to live, work and invest
- engage all communities with an interest in the planning, management and celebration of the network
- plan and promote the network as part of a broader sustainable environmental agenda including the transport system
- promote use of the network for recreation and tourism, education and healthy living; and
- promote employment creation, and learning and skills development through environmental activity.

The Green Grid Vision: *"A living system threading through the urban and rural landscape, connecting places that are attractive to people, wildlife and business, and providing clean air, food, water, energy, minerals and materials".*

2.57 Greengrid is not just about green spaces. It is about connecting people from their front door, via a safe, clean and attractive street, often with domestic gardens, to their local park within walking distance, and then into the wider network of larger parks, town and village centres, and onto country parks, the marshes and estuaries via the strategic network.

2.58 It comprises a wide variety of existing and new space, places and links. The typology taken from PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation illustrates the broad range of open spaces that could and should contribute to the Greengrid.

Figure 4 Basildon and Castle Point Strategic Area Framework



Relevant Strategic Area Framework Guidance

- Embed this Strategy in Basildon and Castle Point Community Strategies, Local Development Frameworks and Documents, and in Basildon Renaissance Partnership’s Regeneration Framework to ensure that its full potential is realised
- Utilise the geological legacy of Basildon and Castle Point:
 - Re-use waste disposal site (former mineral site) to expand existing country park facilities close to Wat Tyler Country Park, (Greenway 10)
 - Create One Tree Hill and Hadleigh (Greenways 6 and 15 respectively) which follow escarpment
- Promote industrial heritage:
 - Identify and enhance brown field sites with high biodiversity value, e.g. Northwick Road site
- Promote agricultural heritage:
 - maintain and interpret the history and workings of the marshlands, e.g. Fobbing and Bowers Marshes etc. and agricultural land in urban fringe and Green Belt
 - Enlarge and enhance the open space and educational value of Wat Tyler Country Park, an enlarged Country Park which has the potential to become a Regional Park
- Create distinctive bridging structures across C2C Railway Corridor, A127, A130 and A13 Parkways to reconnect Basildon urban areas to the marshlands of the Thames Estuary and the South Essex countryside

- Incorporate flood risk and water management schemes, based on Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, in green spaces associated with the Thames (Riverway 5), the waterways associated with the Crouch (Riverways 6, 7 and 8)
- Improve landscape quality of urban fringe area and increase inter-urban connectivity between South Benfleet and Basildon (Greenway 8), and between the marshlands and countryside north of the A127 (Greenway 10)
- Recognise and enhance land use history of area; and maintain and enhance the ecological value of C2C Railway Corridor, improve visual and environmental qualities of, and connectivity to stations at Stanford-le Hope, Pitsea, Basildon, Laindon and South Benfleet.

Living Landscapes, Essex Wildlife Trust, 2009

2.59 Living Landscapes are large areas of the countryside like river valleys, forested ridges, whole estuaries or diverse mosaics of grasslands, hedgerows and heaths. The vision of Living Landscapes is to bring these fragmented landscapes back to life; to work with a wide range of owners and partners so that these important areas can function as a whole so they benefit both wildlife and the people who live there.

2.60 There are many pieces of research which demonstrate that a larger connected landscape is better for wildlife than smaller fragmented areas. Overall it is about creating large, well connected, wildlife rich areas which are highly valued by the local communities which live and work in them and by visitors which come to enjoy them. It is about ensuring the landscape and its ecosystem services are functioning well so that they are robust enough to deal with climate change and land use change so they can provide long term benefits for both wildlife and people. Its vision involves:

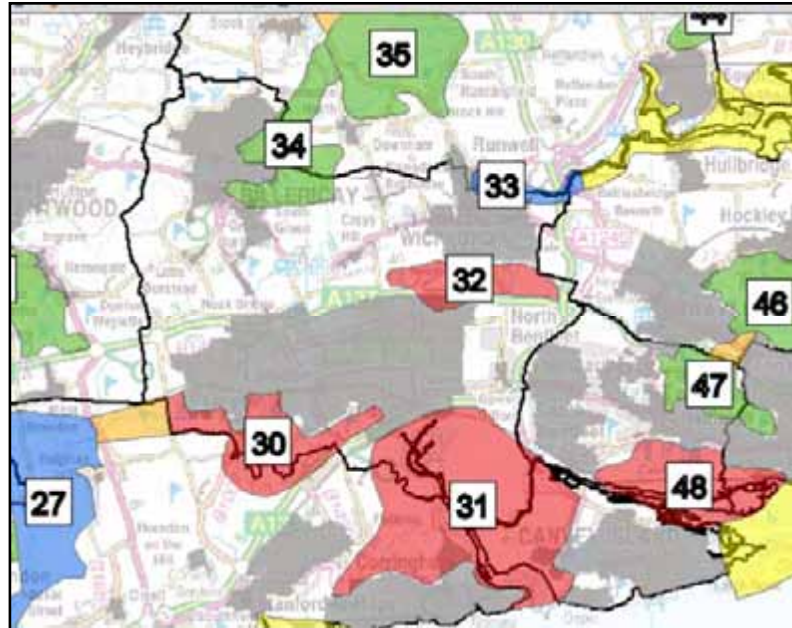
- A multi-disciplinary approach
- Enhancing connections and reconnecting fragmented landscapes
- Delivering environmental benefits for local people
- Enabling permeability across the landscape so that wildlife can move...and survive pressures such as climate change
- Delivering added value such as health benefits for local people as they gain improved opportunities for recreation and relaxation
- Establishing long-term commitments rather than short-term gains

2.61 There are five Living Landscape areas in Basildon District. These are:

- 30. Langdon Hills² (Mosaic & Grassland)
- 31. Wat Tyler Complex (Mosaic & Grassland)
- 32. Nevendon Mosaic (Mosaic & Grassland)
- 33. Upper Crouch (Wetland)
- 34. Ramsden Heath & Woods (Woodland)

² This includes the Land Restoration Trust's Langdon Lake & Meadow (Dunton Pond)

Figure 5 Living Landscape areas in Basildon District



(Source: Essex Wildlife Trust, 2009)

Health in South West Essex – Strategic Plan 2009-2014, NHS South West Essex PCT, 2009

2.62 The local NHS Strategic Plan identifies seven key actions in its Prevention & Screening Strategic Programme. The most relevant of which are to ‘Reduce adult and child obesity’ and ‘Increase self esteem and life aspirations of deprived communities’. One of its key focuses will be the health of children and young people, as they are particularly vulnerable to social and environmental conditions within the household and wider community. With clear evidence that patterns of lifestyle and health are established early on and those adopted at adolescent are likely to be continued forward into adulthood, it is embarking on a radical shift from treatment to prevention, to reduce demand of an increasingly burdened system of health care, as well as improving quality of life and life expectancy itself. It has established actions to address these including:

- Develop and implement an adult obesity strategy in conjunction with LSP partners;
- Commission market research to ascertain the most appropriate services to commission using social marketing techniques to help people lose weight, eat more healthily and increase physical activity;
- Work with LSP partners to tackle wider determinants of obesity including ensuring high quality leisure facilities are available through support of the Basildon Sporting Village programme;
- Investing over £3m in a population-wide health improvement intervention aimed at increasing physical activity levels of children and young people, including school grounds surveys and re-designing the use of outdoor playgrounds to encourage physical activity through active play;

Local Policy Context

Basildon District Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2033, Basildon LSP, 2008

2.63 This Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the vision and key improvement priorities for the District of Basildon from 2008 to 2033. The priorities will be addressed through effective partnership working between public and private sector organisations, voluntary and community sector groups, local businesses and the residents of the District.

Overall Vision

“To make Basildon District a fair and inclusive place, where the community have a healthy, safe place to live and work and to improve the quality of life now and for future generations”

Figure 6 Place Making Diagram



2.64 This will be achieved by...

1. Developing a Prosperous Economy;
2. Promoting Community Safety;
3. Providing Homes for the Future;
4. Maintaining a Clean & Sustainable Environment;
5. Improving Health & Well-being;
6. Raising Educational Achievement;
7. Promoting Inclusive Communities;
8. Develop an effective transport system

Basildon in the Future...

- Basildon will be a dynamic and lively district, there will be global recognition of its growing and diverse economy, which provides excellent employment opportunities for local people. We will have nationally and internationally renowned facilities attracting major events linked to health, learning, leisure, culture and business investment.
- The revitalised Basildon town centre will be alive and bustling, with lots for people to do. It will be a major retail destination in the region where people choose to shop because of its excellent range and quality of shops and accessible location.
- High quality schools and colleges will enable children and adults to obtain the education and skills needed to take advantage of the opportunities on offer and to play a role in the District's prosperity. Schools, colleges and other community buildings will become the hub of each community, enabling education and other social interactions to be available to all.
- Basildon's network of parks, natural green spaces and water bodies will provide a vital visual, educational and cultural resource and will benefit the health and well-being of our citizens, as well as providing a sustainable environment for our wildlife.
- High quality public transport will be the main way of getting around the District, reducing congestion and giving people easy access to schools, jobs, shops, health facilities and other key services.

- Public services will support children, vulnerable adults and families with high quality services. Everyone's potential for a healthy life will be nurtured. Everyone will have the chance to live in a warm and decent home.
- We will have transformed the deprived neighbourhoods in Basildon, improving the quality of life for all our citizens in particular our children and young people, older people and those who suffer the effects of poverty.
- All members of the community will have equal access to services and opportunities. People will feel safer in their homes, on the streets of their neighbourhoods and in the town centres, at any time of day or night.

Culture Counts – A Cultural Strategy for Basildon District, BDC, 2006

2.65 The Cultural Strategy for Basildon District was prepared in response to local issues and to ensure the implementation of Government guidance on producing Cultural Strategies for Local areas. The Government believes that Local Strategies are important because:

- they create an awareness of the cultural identity of the area and the importance of culture to communities;
- they draw to public attention, the importance of cultural provision for their intrinsic value, as well as their contribution to social, environmental and economic well being;
- they enable local cultural provision to be set in the context of regional and national policies and provision;
- they allow Local Authorities to take decisions within a known framework when allocating resources and priorities;
- they contribute to wider Community Strategies, other policies and the process of continuous improvement;
- they allow local communities to make their views known on cultural issues;
- they help to encourage equity and access to culture for all; and
- they act as a lever for external funding.

2.66 The themes and relevant Strategic Objectives of the Strategy are:

1. Culture should contribute to healthier living
 - a. To develop schemes to promote the benefits of outdoor exercise and activity
2. Culture should engender a sense of community identity and well-being
 - To ensure all cultural buildings and places are designed and operated in such a way as to minimise opportunities for crime, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour, and that those at risk of offending are offered constructive alternatives in the cultural sector
3. Culture should enable the creation of proactive partnerships
 - To work in partnership with the Voluntary, Commercial and Education sectors to ensure that cultural facilities are developed to meet the needs of the community and are not in competition
 - To seek to co-operate with other Council and statutory service providers to improve cultural and community life in Basildon through the provision of integrated facilities
 - To link the Cultural Strategy to other key strategies of the Council, including the Local Plan or Local Development Framework
4. Culture should be sustainable and sensitive to the environment

- To seek to extend the provision of art and culture into countryside and urban areas to enhance the visitor experience and encourage “wildlife highways” within and through the urban area
 - To encourage the participation of volunteers and those performing services to the community in maintaining and developing its open spaces and enhancing the ecology of the area, through monitoring, maintenance and conservation work
 - To endorse the creation of sustainable facilities and transport networks, not only for business but also for leisure, and will promote healthy forms of transport, such as walking or cycling, as ways of accessing cultural resources
 - To recognise that there is a need to protect the heritage of the District whilst acknowledging the need for development and regeneration
5. Culture should be accessible to all
- To seek to increase awareness of the diversity of leisure and cultural services available.
6. Culture should benefit current and future residents

Basildon District Interim Planning Obligations Strategy, BDC, 2008

2.67 The main purpose of this Strategy is to provide a framework for securing the provision of:

- (i) Improvements to existing infrastructure generated by the demands of new developments;
- (ii) Measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of developments and;
- (iii) Addressing the needs identified to accommodate the projected growth of Basildon District.

2.68 Section 3 of the Interim Strategy refers to Open Space and Recreation. It acknowledges the Open Space Audit and Assessment being undertaken as part of the Open Space Strategy and its relationship in assessing future needs and opportunities in the District, as well as identifying existing areas of surplus or deficient open space provision.

2.69 It also however highlights the difficulties the Council experiences in justifying and securing s.106 contributions in relation to open spaces given the absence of any form of open space audit.

2.70 Following completion of the audit, the Planning Obligations DPD/SPD will seek to establish a standard charge system, which will be calculated in relation to open space and recreation needs of the District identified in the Open Space Audit.

Basildon District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-2009, BDC, 2005

2.71 Biodiversity is vital for quality of life. It describes is the variety of life. It has no boundaries and is not just found in protected areas, but everywhere; in peoples’ gardens, local parks and along roadsides. This five-year action plan containing a range of targets aimed at conserving and enhancing biodiversity across the District. It reflects the priorities and targets, developed in partnership and cascading down to relevant local issues from the Essex and National Biodiversity Action Plans. It identifies what can be done to conserve these habitats into the future.

Basildon District Play Strategy, BDC, 2008

2.72 Play is an important tool to help improve the quality of life for the young people in the District. To achieve this, the following aims have been developed for Basildon District:

1. Quality of Play – to ensure that future design of play space is of high quality, which is innovative and meets the needs of local communities
2. Safety – create play space that will provide safe environments where children and young people enjoy, learn and take measured risks
3. Social Inclusion – create neighbourhood hubs around the District that are community destinations and seek to include all members of that community through a range of local, formal and informal play opportunities
4. Health – promote play as a way of maintaining mental and physical health and to contribute to tackling obesity
5. Enjoyment & Learning – Ensure play is fun, accessible to all and provides opportunities to learn and develop life skills through social interaction
6. Building Partnerships – to include children and young people, local and national agencies and the voluntary sector in the development of sustainable play in the District

Basildon District Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-2008, Basildon LSP, 2005

2.73 The Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership is made up of various groups including the Police, the Fire Service and Basildon District Council. Working together, they make our community safer by setting up schemes and projects that reduce crime in the area and target trouble makers. The responsible authorities, as set out in The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 are:

- The Council
- The Police
- The Police Authority
- The Fire Service
- The County Council
- The Primary Care Trust

2.74 These responsible authorities have a duty to ensure that all members work in partnership. An audit of local crime, disorder and misuse of drugs is carried out every three years and from this information and from consultation with local communities, Basildon CDRP develops a three year strategy and action plan to achieve its aims. It is framed around three key priorities identified by a consultation programme and the 2004 Crime & Drugs Audit. These are:

1. To tackle anti-social behaviour and improve local peoples' views of public safety
 - a. To reduce crime and fear of crime rates
 - b. To reduce crime in localised high crime areas (Community Safety Action Zones)
 - c. To reduce the level of youth disorder in the District
2. To support victims of crime and families of persistent offenders
 - a. To respond and effectively support victims of crime
 - b. To catch and convict persistent and priority offenders
 - c. To deal with drug and alcohol related offending and offenders
3. To give people at risk of offending opportunities to get involved in positive activities
 - a. To effectively correct and rehabilitate prolific and priority offenders (PPO's)
 - b. To prevent and deter the involvement of young people in criminal activities

Basildon District Council 3-Year Strategic Improvement Plans, BDC

2.75 All Basildon District Council strategies and initiatives feed into the objectives of the Strategic Improvement Plan.

Basildon District Regeneration Framework 2008-2021, Basildon Renaissance Partnership, 2008

2.76 Through a Partnership approach, the Council, Basildon Renaissance, and partners will ensure that Basildon moves with the times and benefits from future economic opportunities that are being created within the Thames Gateway. To achieve this, large parts of the Basildon District will undergo a transformation over the next 15 to 20 years through a comprehensive regeneration programme that will improve the quality of life for the community and create major investment opportunities.

2.77 The Regeneration Framework is themed around the following priorities:

- Regeneration of Town Centres
- Quality of Housing
- The Basildon Economy
- Culture & the Environment
- Health & Education

Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies, BDC 2007

2.78 In August 2006, the Department for Communities and Local Government published a Protocol for Councils to follow should they wish to extend the life of existing local plan policies beyond 27 September 2007.

2.79 The Protocol explained how requests to save policies in old style plans would be handled and set out how decisions would be made on whether or not to save policies. Only policies that reflected the principles of Local Development Frameworks (LDF) and were consistent with current national policy would qualify for saving.

2.80 In accordance with the Protocol, Basildon District Council applied to the Government to save a number of policies of the Adopted Basildon District Local Plan and its Alterations in March 2007. The Secretary of State accordingly issued a Direction to the Council dated 20 September 2007 extending the life of policies it prescribed. Only the policies listed in the Direction have the status of adopted local plan policies.

Saved Policy BAS R1: Open Space

Within urban areas, planning permission will not be granted for development of open space which would cause significant harm to the recreational or amenity value of the open space, or to the contribution which the open space makes to the character of the area within which it is located

This policy continues to be applied when considering planning applications submitted on land used as open space to determine the appropriateness of development.

Saved Policy BAS R4: Proposed Open Space

2.02 hectares (5 acres) of additional public open space will be provided in Billericay by the extension southwards of the Hannikins Farm Public Open Space.

This policy has yet to be implemented. The site is privately owned and has open, but permissive access.

Saved Policy BAS R11: Sports Facilities

This policy has yet to be implemented. The site is owned by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and is laid out as an informal natural open space with permissive access. It is also designated a Local Wildlife Site (LoWS) recognising the special benefit it provides to local biodiversity.

2.81 Therefore, from 28 September 2007, the following documents represent the planning policy framework for the District:

- National Planning Policy (Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements)
- Regional Spatial Strategy (East of England Plan) adopted 12th May 2008
- Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan Saved Policies (except where superseded by the RSS)
- Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan 2001
- The Essex Minerals Plan 1997
- Second Essex Local Transport Plan (LTP2) 2006 – 2011
- Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies (until replaced by LDF Development Plan documents). This includes the Development Control Guidelines as approved April 1993, with later alterations approved March 1997.

Conclusions

2.82 This review is based on the national, regional and local open space planning and management framework and takes into account the principles of sustainable development and the role that parks play in contributing to the quality of life of residents.

2.83 It recognises that most open space has the potential to perform multiple functions and provide a variety of benefits, which cut across the Council's Strategic Priorities.

Cross Cutting Policy Context Themes

2.84 The Urban Green Spaces Task Force Report states that "strategic planning for parks and green spaces must take place alongside strategies for housing, community development and safety and economic regeneration". Local authorities need to recognise that with good planning and management most open space can perform multiple functions. The most important envelope the National, Regional and Local policy context. They are:

Recreation

- Parks and open spaces provide the setting and facilities for formal and informal recreation. From walking the dog to playing cricket or netball, it is important people have a wide range of activities to choose from.

Culture, Education & Tourism

- Many spaces form an important part of London's cultural heritage and are places where cultural activities take place. These activities can include community events, festivals and firework displays. The educational value of parks is also important. Many schools make use of nearby open spaces for ecology and sporting purposes.

Economic Development & Regeneration

- Relevant council programmes should be including green spaces as an essential aspect of neighbourhood regeneration. Such space can significantly enhance the quality of life, promote community spirit and attract businesses and residents to an area.

Visual Amenity

- Neglect can turn green spaces into eyesores. However, well maintained green spaces can provide variety in the urban areas and provide an outlook for those

living nearby. They also contribute to a general appreciation of a local environment.

Community Identity

- Parks and other green spaces can contribute to a sense of community ownership, pride and belonging.

Health

- Parks can be promoted to encourage exercise and as places for quiet and relaxation.

Environment and Biodiversity

- There are possibilities for biodiversity even in the most built up areas of the District. Some sites may have potential to be corridors for flora and fauna. Green spaces also help to naturally drain land and manage flooding.
- In addition, open spaces provide established areas to help in the District's efforts to mitigate and adapt to the affects of Climate Change at a local level.

2.85 The Local Development Framework, the wider planning and regeneration processes and the Open Spaces Strategy are vital in bringing all those who are responsible and have an interest together with a common purpose and a shared understanding of what can be done to enhance and maintain the District's open spaces for the future.

Chapter 3 - Explaining Terminology

Provision

- 3.1 Open space standards provide a simple, transparent and robust view of the needs of the District in regards to the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces. The standards will apply through Basildon District.
- 3.2 Each of the standards work together to form the **provision** of open space. Provision is the cumulative result of accessibility, quantity and quality, plus any intrinsic benefits. Overall, the provision of a sufficient amount of high quality, accessible open space is our aim.
- 3.3 Where any one aspect of provision cannot be enhanced, consideration of the other aspects should be made to improve the overall provision. This is not easy to determine and this assessment does not make any specific suggestions on how to balance the standards. Where such issues arise the merits of the situation in comparison to each standard should be considered.

Accessibility

- 3.4 Accessibility is a measure of the maximum distance that households should be from an accessible open space. This standard incorporates impassable physical barriers to access such as railway lines and major highways as well as the ownership, which can also put restrictions on accessibility (for example, the need to be a member of a club to use a particular space).
- 3.5 Accessibility standards are used to ensure that new development is within an appropriate distance of open space and to determine locations where households do not currently have access to an appropriate open space within a reasonable distance. Where opportunities arise for new open space, the accessibility standards can identify the most appropriate locations in terms of accessibility.
- 3.6 The standards are set for a minimum distance to accessible open spaces and for a minimum distance to specific typologies that are important to stakeholders.

Quality

- 3.7 Quality is central to ensuring that open spaces serve the needs of the District and that they are enjoyable, functional and desirable locations for the people that use them.
- 3.8 Open spaces are not all the same. It is therefore inappropriate to judge each against exactly the same criteria. For example, the District's urban parks are large, flexible spaces that provide for a variety of users and cannot be judged on the same criteria as allotments, which have a particular niche. Each typology can be of high quality in what it provides, regardless of how wide or narrow the role of the space is.
- 3.9 The quality of a space is intrinsically related to the needs of the District. The factors used to determine quality have been obtained through extensive engagement with the public and other stakeholders coupled with a formal audit of the majority of the District's open space.

3.10 The standards are used as an aim to provide quality open space in all parts of the District. This assessment establishes where open spaces are not currently of a suitable quality to meet the desires of the District's communities and where exemplar spaces are available.

Intrinsic Benefit

3.11 Many locations across Basildon have specific identified benefits above their use as a space for people. This includes being legally protected wildlife areas, having an environmental designation, a flood defence benefit or a use which in perpetuity (such as cemeteries). Each of these spaces have been identified to ensure these benefits are not overlooked or undervalued.

3.12 A combination of the quality and intrinsic benefit aspects are used to establish a general policy approach to each of the District's open spaces in terms of improvement.

Quantity

3.13 Quantity is the amount of open space within the District. This is calculated for each typology, per 1000 head of population.

3.14 The quantity standard will be used to determine where there are any deficiencies or surpluses compared to the District average, shown by ward. Where opportunities arise it is suggested that the standard is used to ensure an appropriate amount of each open space typology is available in a location.

3.15 A quantity standard is used to identify additional need or where a change of typology may provide a better mix of open space.

PPG17 Critical Challenge

3.16 On 30th October 2009, the draft PPG17 Assessment results were subject to scrutiny through an interactive process called 'Critical Challenge'. The Challenge was attended by Council Officers representing:

- Senior Management Team
- Leisure Services
- Community Services
- Planning Services
- Parks Service
- Countryside Service
- Corporate Property Services

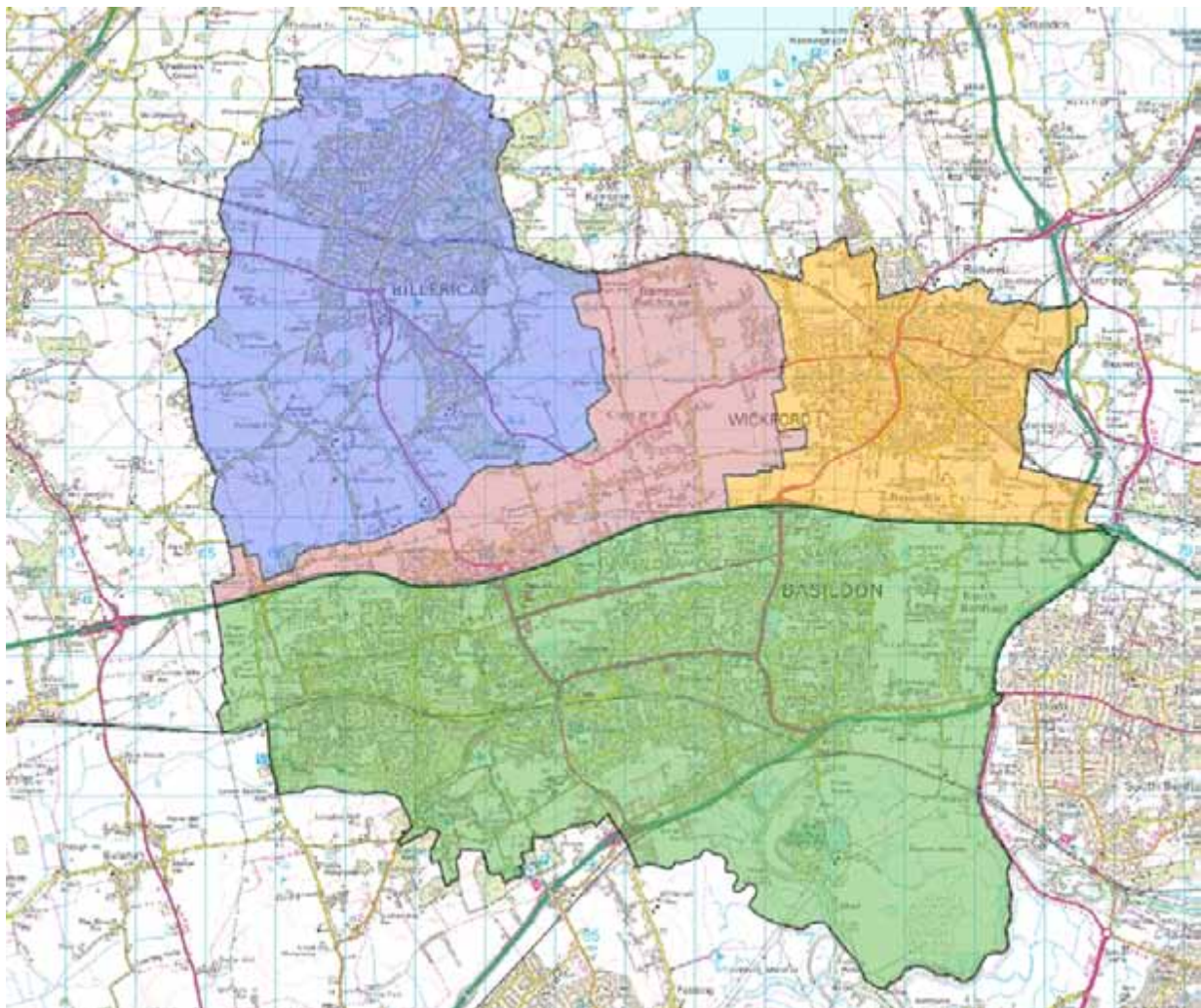
3.17 It represented the first opportunity to reveal the results that had emerged from the PPG17 Assessment and explore the dynamics of them at greater depth. It considered in turn the provision of open space in terms of quantity, quality/ benefit, and accessibility.

3.18 The Council was fortunate that the Challenge was also attended by Mr Andy McNabb, its CABE Space Enabling Advisor. Mr McNabb had experience of the advantages and disadvantages of the approaches that authorities took in their assessments and an valuable opinions of the merit of certain solutions to problems encountered during the analysis stage.

Settlement Areas

3.19 Quantity of open space could be assessed at ward level, identifying needs and allocating priorities within them. However, although wards are useful because they have similar population levels and information is often collected by ward, people are not constrained by these administrative boundaries. A more realistic and useful measure of quantity is to combine sets of wards to create Settlement Areas. The principle of this approach was accepted in the PPG17 Assessment Critical Challenge³ stage, as being a more pragmatic and realistic approach.

Figure 7 The Four Settlement Areas in Basildon District



3.20 The outer boundaries follow the boundaries of their constituent wards. The four Settlement Areas are:

- Billericay & Burstead (Blue)
- Noak Bridge & Ramsden (Pink)
- Basildon (Green)
- Wickford (Yellow)

³ PPG17 Open Space Assessment Critical Challenge, October 2009

Chapter 4 - Assessment Methodology

- 4.1 The PPG17 Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the broad provisions set out in PPG17 and its Companion Guide. The latter emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment, as opposed to merely adopting national standards and guidelines, such as the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) 6 Acre Standard.
- 4.2 The following four guiding principles have been observed whilst undertaking and analysing Basildon District's Assessment:
- Local needs will vary even within a Local Authority area, according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
 - The provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning, but also creative design, landscape management and maintenance
 - Delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision
 - The value of open space depends primarily of meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment
- 4.3 Whilst these principles apply to both urban and rural areas it must be recognised that rural areas cannot expect to have the same access and range of services, including open spaces, as urban areas, although rural villages should expect to have *some* provision. Also, some spaces may be found exclusively in rural areas and some exclusively in urban areas and therefore separate rural and urban standards may be required, rather than just one standard for the District.
- 4.4 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches to each Local Authority need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. In this way, the resulting conclusions and recommendations of this Assessment can be representative of the particular local needs of Basildon District.

Basildon District PPG17 Open Space Assessment Approach

- 4.5 The method that has been followed has had regard to the 'Five Step Process' set out in PPG17's Companion Guide. To summarise, this consists:
- Step 1: Identifying Local Needs – Achieved through Public Engagement
 - Step 2: Auditing Local Provision – Achieved through Audits
 - Step 3: Setting Provision Standards – Analysing Audits
 - Step 4: Applying Provision Standards
 - Step 5: Drafting Policies
- 4.6 The methodologies for Steps 1 and 2 follow. Steps 3 and 4 are explained further in Chapters 5, 6 and 7 respectively. Step 5 will largely be undertaken in the LDF policies and in the Open Spaces Strategy.

Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs

- 4.7 The PPG17 Companion Guidance stipulates that it is impossible to identify local needs properly without the involvement of local communities.
- 4.8 In order to fully explore local attitudes, perceptions and needs a varied community and stakeholder engagement programme was undertaken to assist in the identification of local needs, issues and priorities. The main parts of this were:

- Citizens' Panel Open Space Survey - Autumn 2007
- Disabled Access Forum Focus Group – July 2008
- Basildon District Elderly Person Forum Focus Group – August 2008
- Council Officer Workshop to explore corporate fit/synergies, explore and understand current issues, needs and demands² – August 2008
- External Stakeholder Workshop (facilitated by CABA Space) to explore any strategic fit/synergies, current issues, needs and demands – September 2008
- Parks & Countryside Area Officers Workshop – Jan 2009
- Open Spaces Survey – February – April 2009
- Play in the Park Events (for Young People) – April 2009
- Basildon District Youth Council Conference – April 2009

4.9 In addition, it has also been possible to draw from other surveys on related matters including:

- Sensory Navigation at Pioneer Special School, Basildon – Bright Sparks Programme & Essex County Council – 2007/2008
- Essex Residents' Survey – 2007
- Parks Users Survey – 2007
- Countryside Services Survey – 2006
- Play for Play Engagement Results – 2006⁴

4.10 The full analysis of the engagement programme can be found in Topic Paper 3: What the People Told Us.

Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision

Assessing Quantity - Quantitative Audit 2006

4.11 A quantitative audit of all public, private and educational open space in the District was undertaken between June and August 2006. All open spaces of 0.2ha and over⁵, were digitised onto GIS. As a result of the multi-functionality of open spaces, PPG17 recommends that open spaces are classified by their primary purpose, so the risk of double counting in the audit is minimised. The typologies for the assessment are:

- Urban parks and Gardens (includes Country Parks)
- Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Amenity Green Spaces
- Allotments and Community Gardens
- Churchyards and Cemeteries
- Civic Space

Land Excluded from the Assessment

4.12 There are a number of types of land use that have not been included in this assessment as open spaces and recreation in accordance with PPG17. These are:

- Grass Verges on the sides of roads⁶

⁴ Carried out with young children aged 5-13 by Essex County Council and Children's' Fund Essex for the Basildon District Play Strategy.

⁵ With the exception of Churchyards, Cemeteries and Registered Village Greens & Common Land

⁶ Verges Assessment Criteria were developed to assist in determining whether a verge should be included within an assessment. See Appendix E.

- SLOAP (Space Left Over After Planning)
- Farmland and Farm Tracks
- Private Roads and Domestic Gardens

Quantitative Audit Methodology

4.13 The mapping and categorising of all open spaces in the District was a desk-based task. It relied upon seven different sources: Ordnance Survey Landline, CRWorld Aerial Photographs 2006, Basildon District Council's Property Terrier, Basildon District Local Plan 1998/Replacement Local Plan Proposals Maps 2005, ECC Register of Common Land and Village Greens and ECC Property Register.

- **OS Landline and CRWorld® Aerial Photographs (2006)**
These datasets were examined through GIS to search for and identify areas of open space and judge whether public access was possible. This was a visual desk-based task and determined whether land with open space characteristics could be defined and assessed for indications of public use from the photographs.
- **Basildon District Council Property Terrier**
Interpretation of the Property Terrier helped clarify land ownership and acted as a further aid to defining open space managed, or at least within the Council's ownership.
- **Basildon District Local Plan 1998/Replacement Local Plan 2005 – Proposals Map**
The Proposals Map helped to define sites allocated for educational use within the District and land designated as Open Space. The Replacement Local Plan Proposals Map identified those areas of the District of high flood risk identified by the Environment Agency.
- **Essex Register of Common Land and Village Greens**
Land registered as Common Land or Village Greens is protected by specific primary legislation. Information was obtained from ECC, as custodians of the Register to confirm the location of these types of open space in the District, regardless of size.
- **Essex Property Ownership Register**
ECC, as a public authority, also owns open space across the District. Clarification on a few sites was sought to confirm its assets in the District.

Digitising Open Space

4.14 Using these sources, open space polygons were digitised on GIS according to its primary use PPG17 typology. The extent of each open space as it appeared was captured and where spaces were made up of a number of areas, in sequence, they were captured as one larger open space.

4.15 Open Spaces were surveyed systematically by each electoral ward thus avoiding boundary and classification discrepancies and to ensure all open spaces were captured.

4.16 As digitising progressed, the following additional exceptions were felt necessary and appropriate in the interests of completeness:

Table 1 Open Space Digitising Exceptions

Exception	Reason
Outdoor Sports Educational Facilities (within Outdoor Sports Facilities) were included regardless of size, but only the extent, which offered an educational sporting value. ⁷	Not all education establishments had outdoor sports facilities on land greater than 0.2ha.
Churchyards and Cemeteries were included regardless of size. ⁸	Given their historic nature they have not all been planned on a large scale. A size of 0.2ha did not take into account certain churchyards or burial grounds from historic sites which nevertheless provided an open space function.
Registered Village Greens and Common Land were included regardless of size and digitised based on which ever PPG17 typology they could most appropriately be classified under.	These areas of open space are protected by primary legislation and many are less than 0.2ha.

MS Access Associated Database

4.17 A MSAccess database was prepared to store associated information on each open space; such as size, primary use, physical constraints (such as Gas Pipelines) and designations (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)).⁹

Quality Control

4.18 On the completion of the mapping and database audit, an internal Quality Control assessment of a 10% sample was undertaken by another Officer. This raised some issues, mostly concerning polygon boundaries that defined the open spaces, which in turn, led to some polygon boundary amendments.

Limitations

4.19 It is recognised that there are limitations to a purely desk-based approach, most notably of which is the inability to capture seasonal use variations.

⁷ It did not include curtilage of educational buildings or the extent of playgrounds that do not have sports pitch/court markings.

⁸ Any buildings such as houses of worship or crematoria were not included in the open space area

⁹ The MS Access database's role in the broader study has changed since the initial audit was carried out and now includes greater details about the results of the qualitative audits too.

Quantitative Audit Outputs – Summary

4.20 The audit resulted in 349 areas of public and private open space, of a size of 0.2ha and over¹⁰, being classified according to their Primary Use¹¹ and the PPG17 based Open Space Typologies¹² of:

- Urban Parks and Gardens (includes Country Parks)
- Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Educational Fields
- Amenity Green Spaces.
- Allotments and Community Gardens
- Churchyards and Cemeteries
- Civic Space.

4.21 The total areas of which are set out in Table 2¹³, categorised by PPG17 Typology:

Table 2 PPG17 Quantitative Audit Outputs

PPG17 Typology	Area
Urban Parks and Gardens [includes Country Parks]	319.2ha
Allotments and Community Gardens	9.0ha
Amenity Green Spaces	253.3ha
Churchyards and Cemeteries	20.4ha
Civic Spaces	3.5ha
Outdoor Sport Facilities (excl. Education)	224.3ha
Educational Fields	125.8ha
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	433.7ha
Total¹⁴	1389.2ha

Assessing Quality - Qualitative Audit 2007- 2008

4.22 All open spaces captured in the quantitative audit, have in turn been inspected to assess their current and potential qualitative contribution, which they provide to the District.

4.23 The data gives a comparative assessment of Basildon District's open spaces. It can be used to identify the best and worst spaces, general management problems and specific problems at particular sites. The overall goal has been to provide data which can allow a rational programme of interventions and expenditure, as well as provide a baseline for future monitoring.

¹⁰ Exceptions were made to include Registered Village Greens, Churchyards and Cemeteries smaller than 0.2ha

¹¹ Seasonal variations in primary or secondary uses could not be determined using this methodology. A qualitative assessment to determine value or condition was also not possible

¹² Provision for Children and Young People have been audited separately.

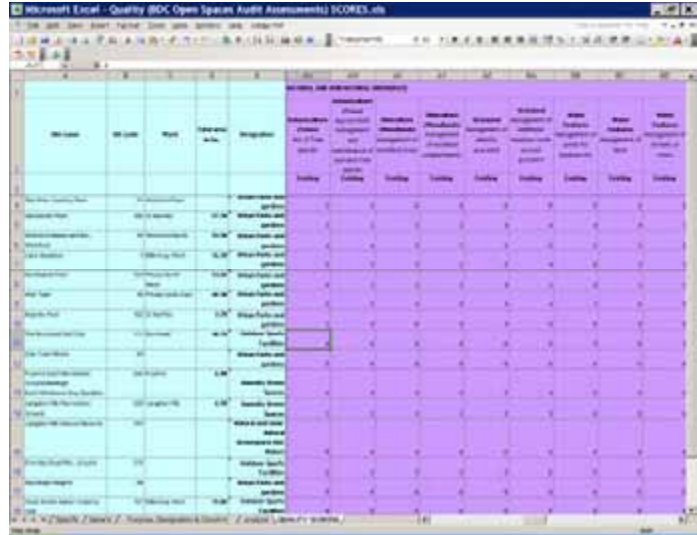
¹³ Table 2 should not be interpreted as the definitive conclusion to the amount of open space in the District. It is just the results of the initial audit undertaken in 2006 and is subject to change following site surveys carried out in 2007/2008.

¹⁴ Rounding has been applied to all area totals, so cumulative totals may differ slightly from the database or when viewed at ward level.

Undertaking the Site Assessments

4.24 The qualitative assessments of all public and private open spaces (with the exception of Educational Fields) were carried out internally, by a multi-departmental team of Council Officers between August 2007 and March 2008.

Figure 8 Extract of Excel Spreadsheet Database

The image shows a screenshot of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled 'Quality (BDC Open Spaces Audit Assessments) SCORES.xls'. The spreadsheet is divided into two main sections. The left section, with a light blue background, contains columns for 'Site Name', 'Site No.', 'Site Type', 'Location', and 'Responsible'. The right section, with a purple background, contains a grid of columns for various assessment criteria, each with a 'Score' column. The criteria include 'Accessibility', 'Amenity', 'Appearance', 'Biodiversity', 'Cultural Heritage', 'Ecology', 'Education', 'Health and Well-being', 'Historic Interest', 'Landscape', 'Management', 'Recreation', 'Safety', 'Social Interaction', 'Wildlife', and 'Woodland'. The rows represent individual sites, with data entered in the 'Score' columns for each criterion.

4.25 An assessment questionnaire was developed from Green Flag Award Criteria¹⁵ (Appendix D), jointly by Council Officers and the Council's CABA Space Adviser, building on the experience of other local authorities, which was in turn developed into a scoring system.

4.26 This scoring system rated the current and potential quality of open spaces and can therefore be used as a starting point in determining the quality of open spaces in the District and where resources and works need to be prioritised to enhance the quality of space.

4.27 Fourteen Parks and Countryside officers received a day's training from the Council's CABA Space Advisor to ensure they could carry out robustly, the qualitative assessments of open spaces. This involved a walking the officers through the questionnaire and the scoring possibilities in a meeting environment, before a series of pilot audits were carried out onsite by the CABA Space Advisor and Officers. Following the pilots, the questionnaires were changed to reflect matters which came up during the training and pilot audits and a best-practice based spreadsheet database (Figure 7 – Extract of Excel Spreadsheet Database) was then compiled to record and analyse the outputs from the qualitative audits.

4.28 The audits were undertaken between September 2007 & March 2008 for all private and public open spaces in the District, with the exception of Educational Fields.

Treatment of Private Sites

4.29 Private sites were not excluded from the Qualitative Audit, despite problems with accessing the sites in some cases. For any private sites with permissive or conditional access, the Council used its survey powers conveyed to it in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to enable the Officers to access the sites for auditing purposes.

¹⁵ The Green Flag Award Scheme is a national recognised benchmark that rewards the management of park landscapes in ways that give full reign to their aesthetic and environmental assets, whilst at the same time finding subtle ways of being inclusive in offering opportunities for quiet enjoyment as well as active recreation. It makes sure that open spaces fulfil the mixed demands of the localities they serve.

Treatment of Verges

- 4.30 As the surveys progressed it was necessary to issue Officers with additional advice regarding the assessment of spaces which had to date been regarded as highway verges.
- 4.31 As a rule of thumb, verges that were merely strips of grassland bordering the highway were not included in the assessments. Whilst, in many cases, they have a landscaping function, their ability to be used by the public as open or recreation space are limited and may in many cases be actively discouraged on highway or public safety grounds.
- 4.32 There are however a number of 'verges' in the District, which function, albeit informally, as a type of recreation space for the public and in most cases, they include the route of a footpath or bridleway. There is an argument therefore that some local people may regard them as green areas where they can relax, exercise, walk their dog, etc and that dismissing this potential completely could undermine the availability of useable space by local people. Some of the larger areas also function as noise buffers between businesses, roads and areas of housing and therefore have an important amenity function.
- 4.33 Officers were therefore asked to apply the following filter criteria when determining what to assess and what not to:
- (A) Verge assessed if:
1. The land included a footpath, cycle-path, bridleway route; and/or
 2. Apart from grass, there was any other landscape features/facilities present, which added variety to the space (e.g. ponds, scrub, trees, benches, etc); and/or
 3. Evidence was present to suggest members of the public were using it for casual recreation;
- (B) Not assessed if the verge:
1. Was predominantly sloped, which makes public access/ability to use it difficult; and/or
 2. Did not incorporate a footpath, cycle-path, or bridleway route; and/or
 3. Performed purely a highway safety function (e.g. visibility splay lines);
- 4.34 Those areas which fell into (B) were accounted for and removed from the Phase 1 Audit. All changes to the Phase 1 Audit, including where after quality assessments changes were necessary to the Primary Use Typology are set out in Appendix F.

Independent Quality Control - March 2008

- 4.35 Having completed the survey, the Council requested that CABE Space carry out an independent quality control audit reviewing a sample of the sites to ensure objectivity and consistency. Fourteen sites were visited between 20th and 27th March 2008. An independent survey of each site was carried out and the results were compared against the findings of the Council auditor. The comparison was conducted on-site in order to allow any significant discrepancies to be reviewed immediately. A difference of one in the score was noted but not deemed significant. A difference of two or more in the score was deemed significant. To make the most effective use of time, emphasis was placed on assessing quality rather than potential which is, in any event, more subjective.

4.36 The CABA Space Advisor's Report of April 2008 states:

"The findings need to be interpreted in the context of the use of the data. The data are intended to give a comparative assessment of Basildon District's open spaces. The data will be used to identify the best and worst spaces, general management problems and specific problems at particular sites. The overall goal is provide data which can allow a rational programme of interventions and expenditure. It is also a baseline for future monitoring.

In most cases, the data will also be used in an aggregate form, that is the aggregate score for design will more often be used than individual scores for individual aspects of design. This, again, reduces the significance of slight variations in individual scores. In determining interventions at particular sites, the preparation of proposals will inevitably also include a review of the issues identified in the overall assessment.

In general, the variation in scores was not sufficiently great to require any systematic re-survey. Rather it is recommended that the Council move forward, as quickly as possible, to analyse the data and determine the key issues that should be addressed in the Open Spaces Strategy."

4.37 As an additional contribution to the qualitative review process, the CABA Space Advisor noted that there were the following key issues from the sites he surveyed, have been drawn to the Council's attention:

- More information should be provided on sites in relation to facilities, management objectives and contacts. It is appreciated that maintaining signs is difficult and sometimes costly but they have a role to play in promoting local "ownership," interpreting the environment and explaining management interventions.
- There is a need fundamentally to consider the role of certain incidental open spaces
- Litter bins seem widely to be old and in a poor state of repair
- Vandalised play equipment is an occasionally repetitive problem
- There was little evidence, in the open spaces surveyed (with the exception of St Martin's Square) of horticultural features of excellence

4.38 These are useful points for the Council to consider when reviewing its priorities in light of the PPG17 Assessment and in developing its Open Spaces Strategy.

Qualitative Audit's Impact on Final Quantity Audit

4.39 Following the qualitative audit site visits, some sites were discounted from the assessment if they had been identified as open space, but physically did not provide any open space facility upon inspection, other than visual amenity (e.g. large highway verges). In addition, some open spaces had their boundaries amended to better reflect what was available on the ground. All sites affected and the action which took place is recorded in Appendix F. The final number of sites in the PPG17 Assessment was reduced to 346 and the total area of provision is set out in Table 3 below.

Revised Quantitative Supply

Table 3 Revised Quantitative Supply of Open Space

Typology	Area (ha)	Area (ha / 1000 population (2001 Census))
Urban Parks and Gardens	301.4ha	1.82ha
Natural and semi-natural open space	434.45ha	2.62ha
Amenity Green Space	220.93ha	1.33ha
Provision for children and young people	151 play areas	0.98 spaces
Outdoor Sports Facilities	262.43ha (Inc. Barleylands Farm)	1.58ha
Allotments and community gardens	8.9ha	0.054ha
Cemeteries and churchyards	19.9ha	0.12ha
Education Fields	129.5ha	0.78ha
Civic Space	4.03ha	0.024ha
Total	1381.54ha	~8.3ha

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Chapter 5 - Accessibility (Step 3)

Why Consider Accessibility?

- 5.1 To create a sustainable future and provide pleasant neighbourhoods that address the desire for nearby open space, people need to be able to access the spaces that are available.
- 5.2 Accessibility in terms of planning policy is a measure of the proximity of open space and therefore the distance people must travel, taking into account any physical barriers¹. Accessibility is not about accounting for any disability, which is covered in the quality assessments of each open space.
- 5.3 It is important to ensure that open space is provided in locations that can be accessed easily. Engagement in the District has found that many people do not have time to use open space, an element of which is the perceived journey time to reach a desired space.
- 5.4 The Accessibility Standard is a measure of the District's desired proximity of each typology by different modes of travel. Walking and travel by car were the most significant modes established through engagement and these are used to quantify accessibility for each typology in the District.
- 5.5 The cost of access is also important as not all open space is free to use or visit. Areas have therefore been distinguished as to whether they are *open* or *conditional* in nature.

Setting Accessibility Standards

- 5.6 PPG17 requires and best practice guidance recommends ways of establishing, a standard distance for evaluating how accessible open space in an area is to the local population. This needs to be informed by engagement with the public and other stakeholders who can confirm the physical distances people are willing to travel to reach different types of space. The engagement undertaken is summarised in *Open Space Strategy Engagement Results Summary Topic Paper 3- What the People Told Us*.
- 5.7 The Citizens' Panel 2007 and Open Space Survey 2009 asked people about distances travelled to reach open spaces. The results of engagement have therefore determined both how far people are *willing* to travel and how far people *do* travel. These have been collated to form a range of distances. Guidance from CABA Space and PPG17² recommend using a 75% - 80% figure of all distances people are willing to travel in order to set a realistic, reasonable local standard for the maximum distance people should live and work from open spaces.

Citizens' Panel 2007 Results

- 5.8 The distance that at least 80% of people are willing to travel is between 8 minutes & 10 minutes³. **This equates to between 530m and 660m** at an average walking speed⁴. Clearly, the majority of people are willing to travel further than this distance, but this would be an acceptable distance for approximately 80% of individuals.

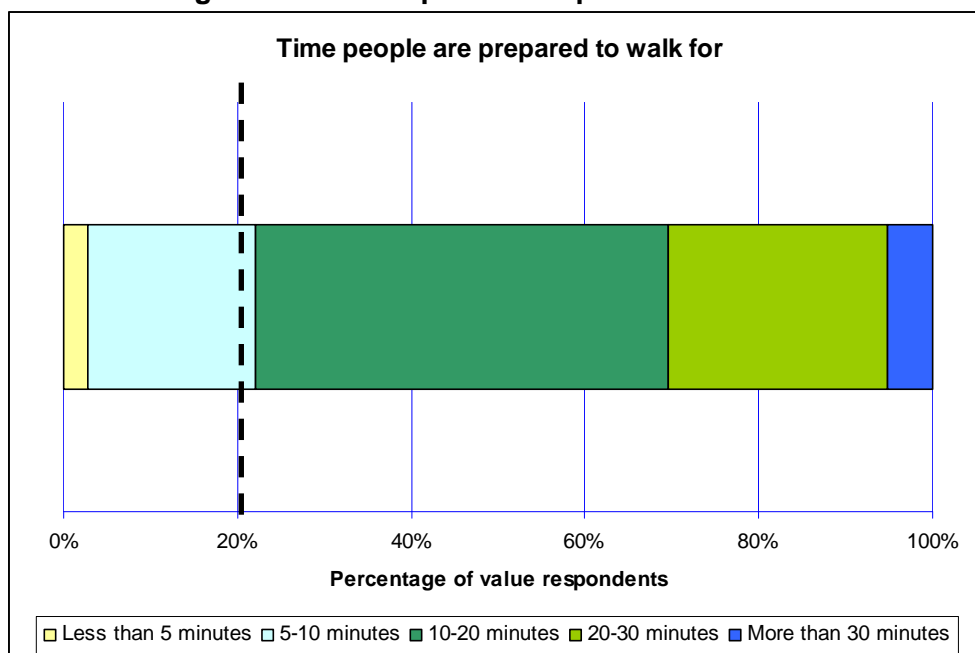
¹ CABA Space Open Space Strategy Best Practice Guidance 2009 p.31

² CABA Space (2009) Open Space Strategy Guidance and; CLG (2006) PPG17 Companion Guide

³ This necessarily makes a judgement on the range of values within the 5–10 minutes option to enable an 8 minute value to be reached.

⁴ For this assessment an average walking speed has been determined to be 2.5 miles per hour, which is equal to 1.1ms⁻¹. This equates to about 66 metres per minute.

Figure 9 Time People Are Prepared To Walk For



5.9 This calculation has discounted those that did not respond to the question and those that identified that they are unable to walk to open spaces. In order to capture an accurate figure of acceptable walking distances travelled by those that expressed they would walk to open space.

5.10 While walking is the most prevalent method, a significant proportion of people also remarked that they travel to open spaces by car. The Citizens' Panel results cannot establish a preferred distance for this mode, but it does confirm that, in general, people in Wickford, Pitsea and Laindon are *most likely* to use a car, rather than walk to get to an open space.

5.11 Related to this, parking was a problem for some respondents, either due to its price, a lack of spaces in some locations, or too few disabled parking spaces.

Open Space Survey 2009 Results

Walking

5.12 Using the postcodes to identify where most respondents lived and cross-referencing with the open space they preferred to visit, as expressed in the Survey, the average distance that people travel from their home to their preferred open space has been established. These results were combined with the expressed method of travel, which has enabled the results to accurately reflect the different modes and distances of travel for the sample of respondents.

5.13 The average walking distances to open space in Basildon District are⁵:

- Median Average = 413m
 - Middle value in the sample
- Mean Average = 729m
 - Sum of all values divided by the number of values

⁵ The mean average from the Open Space Survey is easily skewed by a few very high or very low results. The mode average is essentially meaningless in this sample due to the range of values studied. The median average balances the most diminutive and excessive values from the sample range, but could be skewed by many low or high values.

- Mode Average = 113m
 - Most frequent individual value
- The 80% catchment of respondents = 159m
 - The smallest distance that at least 80% of people travel, in order to reach their preferred open space

Travel by Car

- 5.1 Travelling to an open space can be viewed as an indirect way in which the presence of open space in the first place can benefit peoples' health. Likewise, the shift to more sustainable forms of travel are encouraged, through the provision of cycleways, bridlepaths and public footpaths, to provide alternative options of getting to an open space that reduce the need to use a private car. However, there will always be individual reasons, occasions and even open space locations where the use of a car is appropriate. Although walking is the most prevalent method in the District, a significant number of people use a car to reach open spaces.
- 5.2 Using the Open Space Survey 2009, a sample of car users and the distances travelled by them to their preferred open spaces has been analysed. These ranged from 0.2km to 8km. The averages are:
- Median = 1.87 km
 - Mean = 2.59 km
 - Mode = Non-modal values
 - 80% catchment of respondents = 1.04 km

Combining Results for Walking Distance

- 5.3 The results found through engagement and analysis have been combined to establish an appropriate distance that reflects local demand. Points 1 to 5 below outline the main results.

(1) The Citizens' Panel 2007 has informed us how far people state they are *willing* to travel to reach an open space:

- **520m to 660m (8 to 10 minutes travel)**

(2) The results of the Open Space Survey 2009 tell us how far people *currently* travel to reach their preferred open space:

- **160m (80%) to 730m (mean average)**

(3) 'Not enough time' was stated as a frequent reason for people not using open space. When an accessibility distance is being set, it should not therefore be a prohibitive distance in regards to the time taken to reach the open space destination.

(4) The travel time offered by the Citizens' Panel 2007 does not accurately relate to the straight-line distance between homes and open spaces. However, a straight-line value is the only reasonable way the Council can analyse where accessibility gaps exist in the District. To address this issue, the lower distance value from the Citizens' Panel has been used (which relates to an 8 minute walk), to minimise the differences. Conversely, the distances calculated from the Open Space Survey 2009 have had to be straight-line distances between homes and open spaces and do not precisely relate to journey or the time taken to reach an open space and therefore a higher value has been used.

(5) In addition to the average walking distances referred to in (1) above, there are groups of individuals that have greater difficulty in reaching open spaces and could be excluded or discriminated against, if the Council set too high an Accessibility Standard. The Standard should therefore reflect and accommodate for groups that expressed concerns over the distance to reach open spaces:

- Young people prefer parks and wild, natural open spaces. However, young people cannot drive and large parks can often be too far away to stay there for long, so they tend to use more local spaces (*Open Space Strategy Engagement Results Summary Topic Paper 3- What the People Told Us p.5 & p.9*)
- Play spaces for young children should be close to residential properties as small children will not be allowed or able to walk very far to access play spaces, unlike older children. (*Open Space Strategy Engagement Results Summary Topic Paper 3- What the People Told Us p.5*)

Establishing the Standards – Justification

- 5.4 There is a clear difference between the '80%' value from the Citizens' Panel 2007 and the '80%' from the Open Space Survey 2009, being between 159m and 660m. Both are accurate, but judge quite different factors. The lower value is related to the current provision of open space in the District, while the higher is approximately how far local people say they are willing to walk to reach an open space they want to use. Both have error margins as described previously. Only the Citizens' Panel and the Basildon & District Forum for the Elderly Focus Group asked specifically how long people are willing to travel for and this has been weighted accordingly.
- 5.5 The lower value of the Citizens' Panel (530m) is to be reduced to better reflect the Open Space Survey results. This adds local distinction to the Accessibility Standards by reflecting the existing situation in Basildon District. The figure is adjusted again, however, in order not to discriminate against those resident groups that are less able to reach an open space, or who need open space closer to them.
- 5.6 Having tested several values, a distance of 400m is considered to best reflect all of the engagement results with residents and stakeholders. This would capture 50% of the Open Space Survey 2009 sample (being below the median average) and be within the 5-10 minute range that the Citizens' Panel results indicate as being acceptable to over 80% of people. A 400m distance will reduce the standard determined by the Citizens' Panel by 1/5th of the lowest value, to reflect those less able to reach open space.
- 5.7 While there are many people willing to travel much further than 400m and many people currently do not need to travel more than 400m to reach their preferred open space, this distance reflects a reasonable and justifiable maximum threshold based on the engagement undertaken with stakeholders.

A standard of 400m reflects the current supply and demand for accessibility to open space. Where possible the Council should aim to improve accessibility when opportunities arise.

Travel by Car and Distances to Specific Typologies

5.8 Figures for driving distances have been established through the Open Space Survey 2009.

5.9 The results show that, for all car users and all typologies, 80% of people are able to reach the open space they want to use within little more than 1km of their home. This is a positive indication that open spaces which people value are within easy reach when travelling by car. Figure 10 expresses the 80% catchment distance⁶ for several specific typologies.

5.10 These relatively low distances are subject to the straight-line calculation described previously, but are notably low, being around the value of the recommended walking standard.

5.11 It is reasonable to consider that distance travelled by car is essentially immaterial to a driver on the scale of Basildon District. Parking capacity at the destination is nevertheless a concern to individuals (see *Open Space Strategy Engagement Results Summary Topic Paper 3 - What the People Told Us* p.5). However, as some stakeholders do travel by car, particularly to those typologies shown above, a driving standard is recommended to be adopted to acknowledge this. This will better reflect the reality of travel choice and the trend of driving to particular typologies in the District. There is evidence that individuals in some parts of the District are more inclined to use a car to reach open space than others, namely in Wickford, Pitsea and Laindon, although the causal reasons for this cannot be determined.

5.12 Outdoor Sports Facilities and Allotments have a high proportion of people driving to them (between 25% - 40% of all users), albeit over relatively short distances. This is likely to be linked to the need to carry equipment and kit and, particularly for allotments, due to the scarcity of sites within some parts of the District. Overall, more people walk to these locations than drive, but driving forms a significant proportion of the travel choice and therefore a standard distance that is more reflective of the driving distance is recommended, as opposed to the standard walking distance.

5.13 Equally, people tend to use Urban Parks and Gardens over other typologies and wish to have access to more Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space. Therefore in addition to the general accessibility standard of 400m, a standard maximum distance for these typologies should also be set.

Prominent Locations

5.14 It is clear from the engagement that people will travel further to reach some of the District's more popular open spaces (see *Open Space Strategy Engagement Results Summary Topic Paper 3- What the People Told Us & Figure 11*). This is predominantly because certain spaces are more flexible, accommodating more users and a variety of activities, or have particular features and facilities that people want to use, such as fishing lakes or cafés. It is unrealistic and unsustainable for the Council to provide these types of open space within

Figure 10 Driving Distances to Open Space

Allotments and Community Gardens	
Just car users	381m
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces	
Just car users	413m
Outdoor Sports Facilities	
Just car users	303m
Urban Parks and Gardens (including Country Parks)	
Just car users	432m

⁶ The distance that at least 80% of people travel to reach these open spaces.

400m of every household. A further study of the spatial catchment of these typologies has therefore been undertaken.

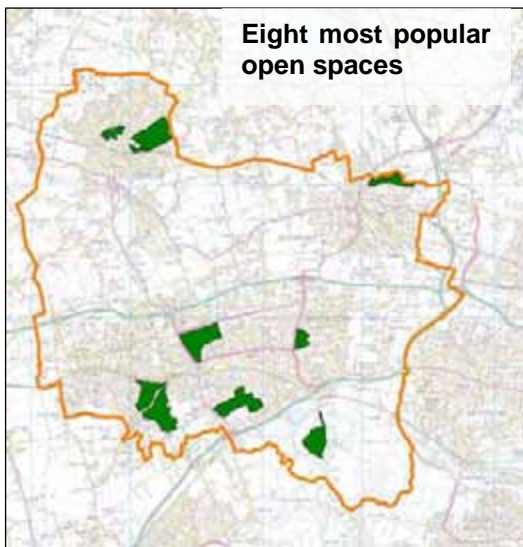


Figure 11 The Eight Most Popular Open Spaces in Basildon District

Example

5.17 A good indication of how this approach shows the different distances people travel to reach an open space is possible by comparing users of the Wickford Memorial Park and Lake Meadows, in Billericay. For Wickford Memorial Park, the centre of the catchment area is not within the park itself, but within the urban environment of Wickford, in the vicinity of Wick Lane/ St David's Way. This is understandable as the Park is on the northern boarder of the settlement and users do not converge equally from all directions.



Figure 12 Wickford Memorial Park Catchment Area

5.18 The radius of the catchment area in this case is 890m, centred on a position approximately 850m south of Memorial Park (pink circle in Figure 12). This shows that the park generally attracts people close to it, within approximately 2km, predominantly to the south.

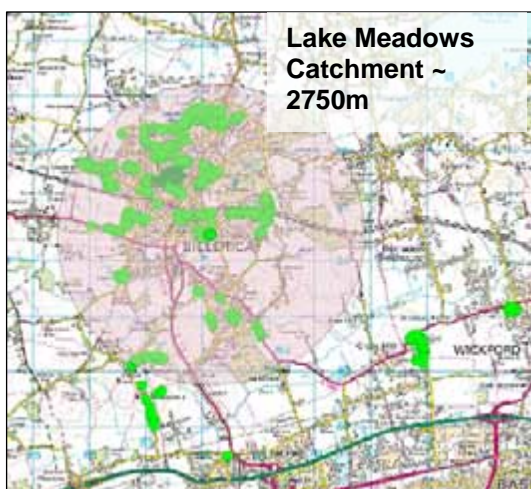


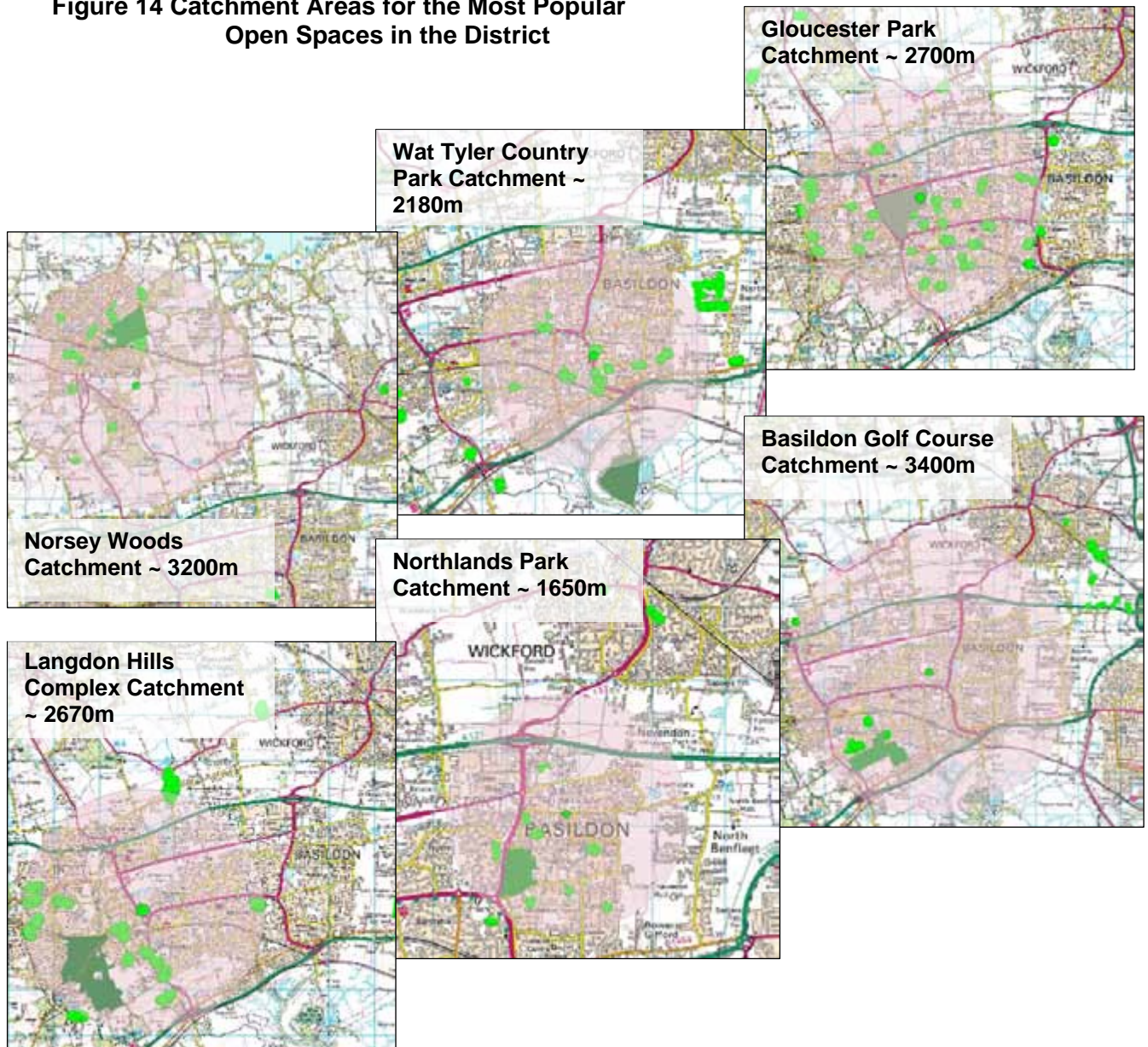
Figure 13 Lake Meadows Catchment Area

5.19 For Lake Meadows in Billericay a similar situation arises (pink circle Figure 13) but with a larger catchment area of 2.75km, centred approximately 1300m south east of Lake Meadows, giving an acceptable travelling distance of a little under 3km, again predominantly to its south.

Determining Suitable Distances

- 5.20 Using the values for all eight of the most frequented open spaces (Figure 11), is it clear that these locations have catchment areas significantly greater than the walking distance calculated above (400m).
- 5.21 These distances are mode-blind and calculated from straight-line distances. They are therefore shown as indicative of the average travel in Basildon District for certain popular typologies.

Figure 14 Catchment Areas for the Most Popular Open Spaces in the District



- 5.22 There is a clear increase in the catchment area for these locations, above the 80% standard. This evidence is therefore used to inform a second standard for specific typologies, rather than to increase the general accessibility standard overall.
- 5.23 There are therefore, two Accessibility Standards to be used. One is the maximum distance anyone should be from an accessible green space, while the other is the maximum distance anyone should be from certain typologies.
- 5.24 The gap analysis of the second standard will also be used to determine the most appropriate typology in a location, if an opportunity arises to provide new open space in the future.

Justification

- 5.25 The appropriate driving standard distance to each specific typology is determined to be a maximum of 2km. This distance is between the median and mean averages for all car journeys to open spaces (1.8km and 2.5km respectively), but higher than the 80% of the stated distances, which are particularly low. From the standard deviation analysis of the most popular open spaces, which concerned all modes of travel to urban parks, country parks and natural green spaces, 2km is a smaller catchment than found for six of the eight study locations, which accounts for the straight-line route calculation and a judgement in favour of shorter journey distances.
- 5.26 For an average urban speed of 20mph, 2km is approximately 4 minutes drive time, which is below the six minute walking time recommended for access to general green space. Walking the same distance would take around 30 minutes.

Conclusion

- 5.27 Each typology provides different experiences and each should be available to people in the District. However, as shown through the engagement process, not all typologies offer the same level of general recreational value or desirability of use. It is felt that everyone in the District should have reasonable access to an appropriate range of typologies, but that certain typologies offer more of what is desired.
- 5.28 The following spaces do offer a general green space provision that people in the District wish to have easy access to:
- Urban Parks & Gardens (Including Country Parks)
 - Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space
 - Amenity Green Space
- 5.29 It is recommended that accessibility to these typologies should be combined to determine general access to open space in the District. A 400m buffer around each of these spaces, plotted on a GIS, will determine general accessibility gaps in the District and highlight priority areas for further action. The accessibility buffers have been refined by accounting for physical barriers to access, such as railway lines, highways without sufficient crossing points and watercourses, which truncate the buffers, so as not to exaggerate the areas that are accessible.
- 5.30 In addition to general accessibility, people in the District desire reasonable access to most typologies and the analysis of current usage indicates a justifiable distance of around 2km to reach each typology. It is therefore also recommended that the following specific typologies should be available within a maximum distance of 2km of properties:
- Urban Parks & Gardens (Including Country Parks)

- Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Allotments & Community Gardens
- Outdoor Sports Facilities

5.31 These distances are mode-blind but will identify barriers to access as before.

5.32 Access to spaces that provide for children and young people should be available within the distances recommended by the Fields in Trust⁷ guidance: Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play, which relates distances to specific grades of play space. The recommendations and standards for these spaces will be set out in *PPG17 Open Space Assessment Part II*.

Accessibility Standard

People living and working in Basildon District should not have to travel more than 400m to reach at least one of the following accessible typologies:

- Urban Park & Gardens (including Country Parks)
- Natural or Semi-Natural Green Space
- Amenity Green Space

This is approximately a 6 minute walk.

In addition, people living and working in Basildon District should not have to travel more than 2km to reach all of the following typologies:

- Urban Parks & Gardens (including Country Parks)
- Natural or Semi-Natural Green Space
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Allotments and Community Gardens

Each of these standards cannot be read in isolation and must be balanced with the other standards given in this document to establish an appropriate level of provision based on the prevailing needs of a location.

⁷ Formerly the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA)

Applying the Standards

- 5.33 To determine priority areas for basic accessibility improvements in the District, the three general open space typologies of Urban Parks & Gardens, Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space and Amenity Green Space have been amalgamated and the 400m buffer applied geographically, with the adjustments for physical barriers, as described previously. Access to each *specific* typology is assessed separately in this document.
- 5.34 There are almost 5000 properties (out of 80,700) in the District, which do not have access to one of these typologies within 400m, including sites outside the District.
- 5.35 The gap analysis indicates a few areas of significant under-supply but generally there is very good coverage in the District, with the majority of under-served locations being more rural or on the periphery of urban areas, closest to the countryside. This includes most of the Plotland developments; Ramsden Crays; North Benfleet; properties along Noak Hill Road and; the southern part of Great Burstead / South Green.
- 5.36 The *Wickford Settlement Area* has a number of significant gaps most notably in the centre and within the Castledon area, south of London Road and along London Road itself and crossing into the *Noak Bridge & Ramsden Settlement Area*. Wickford is generally an urban residential environment although there are a number of light industrial units to the south east of the town centre. Open space is almost entirely provided at the urban boundaries following an organic expansion of the town from its centre.
- 5.37 Open spaces close to the town centre are partly isolated from residential properties by the railway line and the A132 (a major trunk road), which cut through the town and have few crossing points, reducing the ease of accessibility from some directions. However, in general it is a low number of open spaces that define the gap locations.
- 5.38 Interrogating responses to the Open Space Survey 2009 indicated that some individuals in these *gap areas* do feel there are barriers to access; that there isn't sufficient open space and that spaces could be too far away to reach. Conversely, more people felt there was a green space within easy walking distance and that they can reach facilities they need⁸.
- 5.39 Solutions to resolve accessibility in these locations should be considered when opportunities arise. Comments from residents included that it lacks civic space and that access to Memorial Park should be extended along the River Crouch. Increasing accessibility in terms of this PPG17 Assessment would require either the elimination of barriers to access by appropriate means or additional open spaces being provided in the areas identified. It is recognised that additional provision in these locations may not be possible, which puts additional demand on existing spaces, for which any loss should be resisted.
- 5.40 In *Noak Bridge & Ramsden Settlement Area* the deficiencies are concentrated in Ramsden Crays, Ramsden Bellhouse and the Castledon Road areas. These properties are generally surrounded by, or within, the green belt and are partly Plotland and ribbon developments. They are therefore generally situated within the countryside, although not exclusively, and are not supported by green infrastructure to the same extent as the more typical urban environments, where populations are more concentrated.
- 5.41 Solutions in these locations could include providing low intensity open space, such as amenity green spaces and accessible natural green space at strategic points to close the gaps and provide easily accessible open space to these residents. In the north east of the Settlement Area an urban park would benefit both Wickford and Ramsden, although accessibility in Ramsden Crays would be unlikely to be directly improved in terms of the

⁸ While this adds detail to the assessment it is noted that few responses were available from people living in the gap areas in Wickford.

400m Standard and the sustainability of such a park for the population would need to be investigated.

- 5.42 Within the *Billericay & Burstead* Settlement Area, accessibility gaps are seen most notably at the southern end of Great Burstead; along Coxes Farm Road; along Noak Hill Road and in the Dunton area. Each of these locations are close to open countryside, on the periphery of the urban area. Similarly, properties at the very north of Billericay, particularly those in The Vale, do not have an accessible open space within 400m (including spaces identified outside of the District). These areas are very close to the Stock Brook Country Club and Golf Course but this does not provide freely accessible open space due to membership requirements.
- 5.43 Exceptions to the general principle that deficient areas are on the edge of the town are a few properties within the town centre and two pockets of dwellings in west Billericay, north and south of the railway line near Mountnessing Road. Each of these are a little more than 400m from several open spaces and would therefore not be a priority concern at this time.
- 5.44 In the Basildon Settlement Area open spaces are generally very accessible, with considerable overlap throughout the urban areas and few accessibility gaps despite a number of barriers caused by major carriageways and a railway line. This supports the quantity assessments, where the New Town legacy has generally provided accessible open space throughout the area, being planned with a vision to provide a pleasant, more natural, living environment for residents.

Notable gaps in the Basildon Settlement Area:

- 5.45 **North Laindon:** This partly industrial, partly residential area is surrounding the Bourne Avenue playing fields, but these do not add to *generally accessible open space* in the location due to their primary function for sport. There would therefore appear to be a need to provide informal open space within the area to improve general accessibility to local residents. Alternatives could include ensuring that links to Victoria Park are improved to mitigate the relative lack of accessibility as well as diversifying the use of the Bourne Playing Fields.
- 5.46 **Central Basildon (Long Acre / Methersgate / Whitmore Way):** Broadmayne acts as a barrier to open space accessibility, so whilst a number of spaces are nearby, they are south of Broadmayne and are not easily accessible to residents living north of it. The gap is a little more than 400m from Gloucester Park and an open space at The Hatherley. Increased accessibility across Broadmayne or additional provision in the area, suitable for the population within the gap, would be appropriate options, should resources become available.
- 5.47 In addition, two small open spaces exist within the area but were not large enough to feature in the assessment. Nevertheless, these spaces provide a degree of recreational space, albeit to a lesser extent than is provided in other locations.
- 5.48 **North Benfleet:** The area is largely a Plotland development, mostly within the green belt and containing larger dwelling plots and a lower density than other parts of the Settlement Area. The area is not supported by significant green infrastructure. Viable solutions are to provide accessible natural green spaces or amenity green spaces as necessary when opportunities arise. An Urban Park or Country Park is unlikely to be suitable for the population density at this time.
- 5.49 **Five Bells Junction and Bells Hill Road area:** While there is not an easily accessible open space provided within the District here, the Langdon Hills Country Park, a large part of which is within Thurrock, extends up to Bells Hill Road and provides access to a significant natural green space. The nearby Basildon Golf Course is not included in this part of the assessment as it has conditional access and is classified as an Outdoor Sports Facility. Properties to the

south of the A13 are within a Plotland development with insufficient open space provision nearby.

Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space

5.50 Specific access to natural & semi-natural green space at a local level is determined to be appropriate at a maximum distance of 2km.

5.51 The majority of natural green space is concentrated in the west of the District, in Langdon Hills and Billericay, reflecting the natural geography of these areas. It should be noted again that this assessment does not consider the open countryside or areas such as the Pitsea Marshes as irrespective of their visual and biodiversity benefits, they do not provide a form of recreational space for people, which this assessment is concerned with identifying. In addition, this typology does not include Country Parks, two of which are in Wickford and Pitsea, areas that appear deficient. However, while these spaces provide some elements of a natural environment, guidance classifies them closer to urban parks due to the array of facilities, features, accessibility and general upkeep required to manage such areas for use by a wide range of people. This is very different to natural open spaces that are, if at all, managed to maintain their natural setting.

5.52 In terms of access to a form of natural green space, the District is generally well covered. Gaps are apparent in the less populated parts of the District, namely Ramsden, Nevendon / North Benfleet and the Pitsea Marsh area.

5.53 In August 2009 the Essex Wildlife Trust and Natural England produced a study of how the County of Essex fares in relation to Natural England's *Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards* (ANGSt)⁹. These standards provide a method of assessing access to specific sized areas of greenspace (including urban parks and country parks), within certain distances.

- A minimum 2ha site within 300m (orange)
- A minimum 20ha site within 2km (Purple)
- A minimum 100ha site within 5km (Green)
- A minimum 500ha site within 10km (Pink (none shown))
- Areas with no accessible greenspace provision (Yellow)

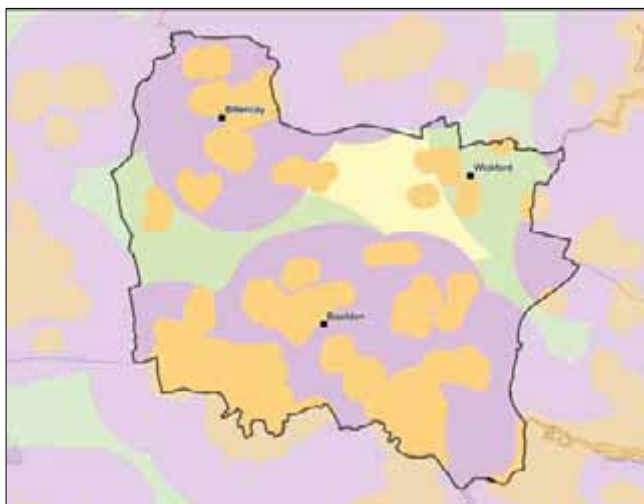


Figure 15 ANGSt Size Classes Applied to Basildon District: EWT & Natural England (2009) p.16.

5.54 Planning guidance requires a local standard to be established and therefore, in Basildon, the ANGSt criteria were not considered to entirely reflect local circumstances and stakeholder demands. However, the standards are worth considering as they are being promoted by Natural England, a public body whose purpose is to improve England's natural environment.

5.55 In describing the results the document states that "none of the households in [the] southern Essex LPA areas have access to a 500 hectare accessible natural greenspace". However, it

⁹ Essex Wildlife Trust (August 2009) *Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision for Essex, including Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Unitary Authorities*

is unlikely that Basildon could provide such a scale of natural greenspace within the District (for comparison, Gloucester Park is a little more than 80ha in size).

- 5.56 For Basildon, the assessment concluded that ***“Basildon households are afforded above Essex-average provision of 2, 20 and 100 hectare site access.”*** This compliments the local results which identify access to be generally good, although the size of each site is not considered in the local accessibility assessment.
- 5.57 It is noted that ANGSt suggests a closer maximum distance than the local results. However, ANGSt standards were designed for dense urban environments (cities and large towns) and are not entirely applicable to the pattern of development in the District, which has a greater abundance of amenity green space and green belt land, which provides a degree of visual nature, unlike dense cityscapes, even when such areas are often inaccessible.

Urban Parks and Gardens

- 5.58 Urban parks are the most popular typology in the District and are used by the majority of visitors to open spaces. They provide the most flexible open spaces and accommodate the greatest range of uses, due to their scale and management, including events such as Bas Fest in Gloucester Park, concerts in Lake Meadows and open air theatre performances in the Wick Country Park.
- 5.59 These parks are available within the urban areas, providing large open spaces for recreation and an environment separated from the built form of the urban realm. Each park is specific to its area, whether landscaped or following natural features. Basildon District has thirteen identified urban parks and gardens which are dispersed relatively evenly across the Settlement Areas.
- 5.60 Specific access to urban parks and gardens at a local level is determined to be appropriate at a maximum distance of 2km.
- 5.61 Accessibility to Urban Parks and Gardens in the District is generally good, with the vast majority of properties being within the standard distance of these spaces. There is a good dispersal of these parks throughout the urban realm. However, Little Burstead, Great Burstead and Ramsden are identified as being deficient in access to these types of open space.
- 5.62 New urban parks could be considered in order to fill accessibility gaps, particularly as these spaces are generally the most popular recreational areas and provide a variety of benefits. Access improvements in some locations would reduce the effect of physical barriers and increase the catchment area for those walking, but, where opportunities arise, new provision would be most beneficial to increase accessibility in Burstead and Noak Bridge & Ramsden. This would be the only way to provide access to this typology within 2km of every household.

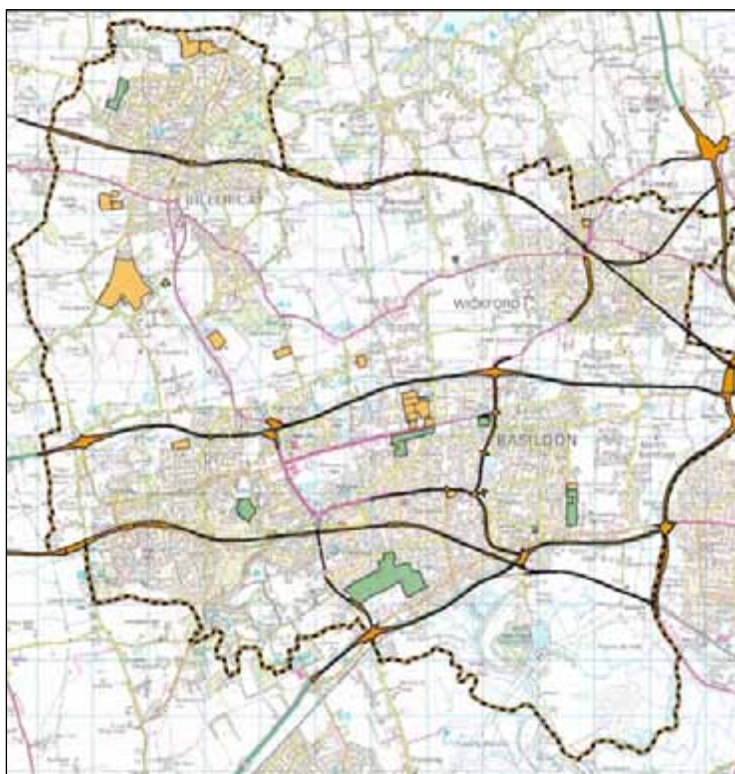
Outdoor Sports Facilities

- 5.63 This section of the assessment considered access to outdoor sports facilities but will be informed by a separate PPG17 Playing Pitch Technical Assessment by RQA Ltd and due for completion in 2010.
- 5.64 Outdoor sports areas are important to health and well being by providing and promoting formal sport and team games. To do so, these spaces are formally marked for certain sports and are generally kept free of other activities that may reduce their ability to be used effectively for sport. Many facilities in the District are private, such as the golf courses, tennis clubs and the various sports clubs located at Gardiners Lane South.

5.65 Accessibility to a sports facility is generally good throughout the District for a 2km accessibility standard. Several areas are supplied by sports facilities outside of the District, over which the Council has no authority. In addition, pitch sites at Barleylands Farm are currently available to teams but do not have formal consent or protection from cessation by the owner and are therefore highlighted in red.

5.66 Figure 16 shows sports facilities that have conditional access, such as membership or other criteria, identifies that the majority of these sites have conditional access. This is largely due to the nature of their function and because the greatest land area for outdoor sports are private golf facilities.

5.67 Overall, outdoor sports areas are provided at accessible distances throughout the District, although the majority of the land area and the majority of sites have a conditional access criterion that restricts casual use of the facilities.



**Figure 16 District Outdoor Sports Facilities
Access Type
(Open = Green & Conditional = Orange)**

Allotments & Community Gardens

5.68 Allotments are provided both by the authority and through private sites. At the recommended 2km distance, the east of the district has reasonable access to a few allotment sites within and outside of the District but access is non-existent in the western part of the District.

5.69 A 2009 survey of allotment waiting lists in England¹⁰, which covered authority-run sites, showed that Basildon had 113 occupied plots over two sites, with a waiting list for 130 plots.

5.70 Access to allotments can only realistically be improved by providing additional plots in the deficient locations. This could be achieved through diversification of other open spaces or by new provision, subject to resource availability. However, allotments have a specific user group and any additional plots should these become available, would need to account for the location of potential users and interest by local residents.

¹⁰ Transition Town West Kirby & the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (June 2009) *A survey of allotment waiting lists in England*.

Benchmarking

5.71 Benchmarking is a way to establish the suitability of chosen Standards in comparison to similar and neighbouring authorities. It is done for comparison purposes only and not used to 'normalise' the District with other authorities. Appropriate Standards have been established entirely through a local assessment.

5.72 Table 4 states the Standards set by a selection of other authorities compared to those recommended for Basildon District. These figures are the adopted standards for these authorities and are not necessarily the same as the actual provision of open space in these authorities.

Table 4 Comparison and Benchmarking with other PPG17 Assessments and Natural England

Typology	Basildon	Stevenage (NN5)	Chelmsford	Brentwood	Dacorum (NN1)	Thurrock	Castle Point	Northampton (NN2)	Natural England ANGSt
Urban Parks and Gardens	400m (6mins) walk & 2km (4min) drive	5min walk 15min drive	10min drive / 4km	10min drive / 4km (Country Parks) 15min walk / 720m (Urban Parks)	400m (local park) 1.2km (Borough park) 3.2km (Regional park)	0.4km (Satellite park) 0.7km (local park) 1km (Community park)	15 min walk / 720m (Urban Parks) 10min drive / 2400m (Country Parks)	10 Minute Walk (480m)	300m (2ha site) 2km (20ha site) 5km (100ha site) 10km (500ha site)
Natural and semi-natural open space	400m (6mins) walk & 2km (4min) drive	5 min walk	20min walk / 1.6km	15min walk / 720m	Same as Angst	Same as Angst: 300m (natural site) 2km (20ha site) 5km (100ha site) 10km (500ha site)	15min walk / 720m	15 Minute Walk (720m)	
Amenity Green Space	400m (6min) walk for amenity green space or an Urban Park	5 min walk	10min walk / 800m	5min walk / 240m	400m (local park)	100m (no road to cross)	10min walk / 480m	5 Minute Walk (240m)	
Provision for children and young people	400m (6min) walk (Play England)	5 min walk	5-10min walk / 400-800m	10min walk / 480m	100m (LAP, urban) 400m (LEAP, urban) 800m (rural)	1min walk (toddler play space) 5min walk (small play space) 15min walk (large play space)	10min walk / 480m	Children's Facilities: 5 Minute Walk (240m) Young People's Facilities: 10 Minute Walk (480m)	

Typology	Basildon	Stevenage (NN5)	Chelmsford	Brentwood	Dacorum (NN1)	Thurrock	Castle Point	Northampton (NN2)	Natural England ANGSt
Outdoor Sports Facilities	2km drive	10 min walk (Tennis) 10 min drive	10-15min drive / 4-6km	15min drive / 6km	1200m	No standard, follow Sport England and governing bodies	10min drive / 2400m	15 Minute Walk (720m)	
Allotments and community gardens	2km drive	15 min walk	10min drive / 2-4km	15min walk / 1.2km	1km (urban)	1200m (100 plots) 900m (50-100 plots) 600m (10-49 plots) 300m (1-9 plots)	10min drive / 2400m	15 Minute Walk (720m)	
Cemeteries and churchyards	No standard	No standard	N/A	No standard	N/A	No standard	N/A	No standard	
Green corridors	No standard	No standard	20min walk	No standard	N/A	No standard but meet Greengrid	N/A	No standard	
Education Fields	No standard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Civic Space	No standard	N/A	N/A	No standard	N/A	N/A	N/A	No standard	

5.73 Benchmarking has identified that the maximum distances recommended for Basildon District differ from the distances set for these other authorities. In particular, the established maximum distance that anyone should live from an accessible green space (400m, which is considered to be a 6 minute walk), differs marginally from the majority of authorities that set a value between 5 and 10 minutes (although the actual distance that this represents is not clear). The exceptions are Dacorum (which is Basildon's 'nearest neighbour') where a 400m distance is set for a local park, and Thurrock, where 100m is given for amenity green space and 400m for satellite parks.

5.74 The distances set for access to specific typologies are more varied. Distances of between 700m - 6km, and travel times of 10 – 20 minutes, are consistently set, compared to the recommended standard of 2km for Basildon District.

5.75 Comparison with the standards suggested by Natural England for access to natural green space is problematic due to the inclusion of the *size* of an open space with the distance in these criteria (for example, a 2ha site within 300m). The conformity with ANGSt guidelines has been considered in some detail on pages 55-56. It is noted that the maximum distance to any open space (400m) is greater than that in the ANGSt guidelines (300m). However, the recommended approach is not to rely on national guidelines, in preference to locally determined standards, through engagement.

5.76 The distances determined for Basildon District are comparable with those set by some *nearest neighbour* authorities and a number of South Essex authorities. The benchmarking therefore indicates that a reasonable set of standards have been determined.

Summary of Recommendations

5.77 The assessment has identified the maximum distances that stakeholders in Basildon District consider to be appropriate in order to reach open spaces (the demand) and applied these to the current open space estate, taking account of physical barriers (the supply). This process has identified that the District generally has a good level of accessibility and also identified gaps where any enhancements should be prioritised.

5.78 The recommended standards are as follows:

Accessibility Standard

People living and working in Basildon District should not have to travel more than 400m to reach at least one of the following accessible typologies:

- Urban Park & Gardens (including Country Parks)
- Natural or Semi-Natural Green Space
- Amenity Green Space

This is approximately a 6 minute walk.

In addition, people living and working in Basildon District should not have to travel more than 2km to reach all of the following typologies:

- Urban Park or Garden (including Country Parks)
- Natural or Semi-Natural Green Space
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Allotments and Community Gardens

Implementation

5.79 To achieve the above standards throughout the District, attention for enhancements should be prioritised, subject to resource availability, to:

1. Improvement to the accessibility of Amenity Green Space, Natural Green Space or Urban Parks & Gardens should be made in the following locations to address the accessibility gaps identified in this assessment:
 - Wickford;
 - Ramsden;
 - North Benfleet;
 - Great Burstead;
 - North Laindon,
2. Accessibility to Urban Parks and Gardens could be improved in the Noak Bridge & Ramsden Settlement Area.
3. Accessibility should be improved to Outdoor Sports Facilities across the District, dependent on the outcome of the Playing Pitch Assessment Technical Assessment 2010.

4. There is an identified deficiency for accessibility to allotments in the western areas of the District, although the specific location of demand remains uncertain.

Each of these standards and recommendations cannot be read in isolation and must be balanced with the other standards given in this document to establish an appropriate level of provision based on the prevailing needs of a location.

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Chapter 6 - Setting Quality Standards (Step 3)

Why consider quality?

- 6.1 The Council is required to determine a quality standard for all open space in the District. High quality open spaces are a benefit to the health and well being of people living and working in the district, forming a better living environment, improving the quality of life and having economic and social benefits. Conversely, poor quality open spaces often attract anti-social behaviour and are detrimental to the quality and reputation of neighbourhoods.
- 6.2 Basildon Council have adopted an approach to determining the quality of open spaces that broadly follows PPG17, its Companion Guidance and CABE Space Guidance 2009. This is one of the more complex parts of the assessment and involves several stages.
- 6.3 The process of determining supply and demand of quality is founded on two particular aspects:
 1. A quality audit that covered multiple aspects of open space was undertaken. It used an accredited national audit process based on the Green Flag scheme. Each aspect is scored from 0-5. The assessments undertaken were independently verified by a CABE Space advisor.
 2. An assessment of local need and demand as identified through engagement with residents and other stakeholders in Basildon District through a compilation of multiple questionnaires, forums and surveys to draw out consistent views.
- 6.4 The quality audit is cross-referenced with the local demand assessment to determine which factors in the audit are important to residents and stakeholders in Basildon District. The scores given to these factors are used to calculate an overall quality score (and a quality rating) for each open space. This ensures that the rating is locally distinctive, based on demand identified by residents and stakeholders, while the actual scores (and ratings) are based on a professional judgement through a nationally accredited audit scheme that minimises local bias.
- 6.5 The details of these processes are described in more detail below, including refinement of the scores to reflect specific typologies and expectations. The final scores are converted into percentages so that dissimilar typologies can be compared and areas in need of priority enhancement determined.
- 6.6 Many open spaces have *Intrinsic Benefits* that go beyond their use for recreation by people, such as designated wildlife sites, flood defences and noise barriers between homes and highways. There is no reasonable way to grade or calculate these additional benefits in the way that quality can be graded. The approach adopted by this assessment is to identify where an *Intrinsic Benefit* exists and set a policy approach that recognises and accounts for it, whatever it might be.
- 6.7 A policy matrix has been determined that combines the quality score with the identification of Intrinsic Benefit to establish an appropriate management policy for each open space.
- 6.8 Guidance advises that a vision for open spaces, sports, and recreation facilities helps to give a clear indication of what high quality spaces look like and what they would contain. The statement is formed through engagement with the public and other stakeholders and essentially indicates the demand for quality in Basildon District.

Quality Vision

Engagement shows that people desire clean, secure, litter and dog-foul free open spaces that are well maintained and provide a variety of functions. Spaces should feel safe and address vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Landscaped features and well-designed facilities, particularly toilets, catering establishments and seating, are encouraged. More natural areas, lakes and woodlands are desired along with well-maintained open areas of grass. Clear information within and about the District's open space estate is desired.

6.9 The result of all engagement is included in *Open Space Strategy Engagement Results Summary: Topic Paper 3 – What People Told Us*, which highlights the factors that residents and stakeholders consider are most important for improving the District's open spaces.

Table 5 Factors that Residents & Stakeholders Consider are the Most Important for Improving Open Space

Most Common Uses of Green Spaces:	Most Frequent Desires / Attractions for Open Spaces	Views of Specific Groups of People	Most Prevalent Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To walk, exercise or get fresh air • To look at wildlife • To visit the play spaces • To relax or read • To walk dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More natural and semi-natural open spaces • Living close to open space • Security • Appropriate lighting • Staff presence • Toilets • Café's • Woodland or wild areas • Seating • Lakes • Cleanliness • Clear information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children want football pitches and play equipment • Young people want play equipment suitable for their age, adventurous areas, activities, bookable sports areas and picnic benches • Elderly residents appreciate civic spaces, fishing lakes, churchyards, parks with well maintained facilities and accessible semi-natural space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter • Dog fouling • Anti-social behaviour • Vandalism • Maintenance

6.10 Each comment has been aligned to appropriate factors that were scored in the quality audit to ensure that the overall quality scores relates to local demand. Appendix A provides a comprehensive list of how the matters in Table 5 correlate to the factors that are scored in the audit. The audit considered a diverse range of quality aspects for open space so the engagement results narrow down the factors to those that are important in Basildon District. Combining the engagement results with the quality audit is an integral part of determining a locally distinctive quality standard, differentiating between the interests of the District's stakeholders and those of other districts.

- 6.11 The scores are used to form an overall quality score for each open space, which is a useful tool in ranking spaces to determine those which best meet local demand and those which do not.
- 6.12 A comparative percentage score has been formed for all open space in order to determine which sites or locations are in greatest need of quality enhancement. The factors used are only those that are relevant to both the typology (see Appendix C) and each particular open space (from the quality audit, any item that was 'not applicable' received a zero score). A percentage allows spaces to be compared to each other, in spite of the different expectations and facilities available in each. A list of overall scores would not be comparable in this way.

Setting a Standard

- 6.13 A standard is set according to the vision for open space. However, a method of categorising open space is needed in order to set an appropriate quality level that will be sought while providing a consistent policy approach for dealing with similar spaces. The open space audit provides a robust scoring system for each open space has been verified by an independent advisor. At a strategic level, a sum of all appropriate scores for a particular open space is a good indication of its ability to provide for the needs of the District. Individual scores will be used when the Council is looking at *how* to improve quality in a specific location
- 6.14 The scoring system categorises each element as either: 'not applicable', 'very poor', 'poor', 'reasonable', 'good' or 'excellent', reflected in a score between 0 and 5 respectively.
- 6.15 At the strategic level, these same categories can be retained. This enables the Council to determine a policy approach to each category (or combination of categories) and establish any patterns across the District.
- 6.16 The audit methodology for individual scores compels the total quality scores to also be divided into five equal parts to determine the overall rating of a site:

0% - 20%	=	Very poor
20.01% - 40%	=	Poor
40.01% - 60%	=	Reasonable
60.01% - 80%	=	Good
80.01% - 100%	=	Excellent

- 6.17 This method retains the original scoring categories and directly reflects the extensive and comprehensive work undertaken by the auditing process.
- 6.18 Features or facilities that are relevant to a typology (whether they are present or not), and the factors that are relevant to each open space, are included in the overall score. All open space is therefore measured for the quality of what it actually offers, compared to what it could offer, reflecting the nature and use of each space rather than judging each in terms of an idealised open space. A more visual description of the scoring process and a full check list of factors used to score each typology is included in Appendix C.
- 6.19 Every open space is therefore capable of achieving a high quality rating regardless of its size, typology, features or facilities, provided those features or facilities meet the expectations of stakeholders.
- 6.20 The current situation for quality, based on this assessment, is shown on the next page.

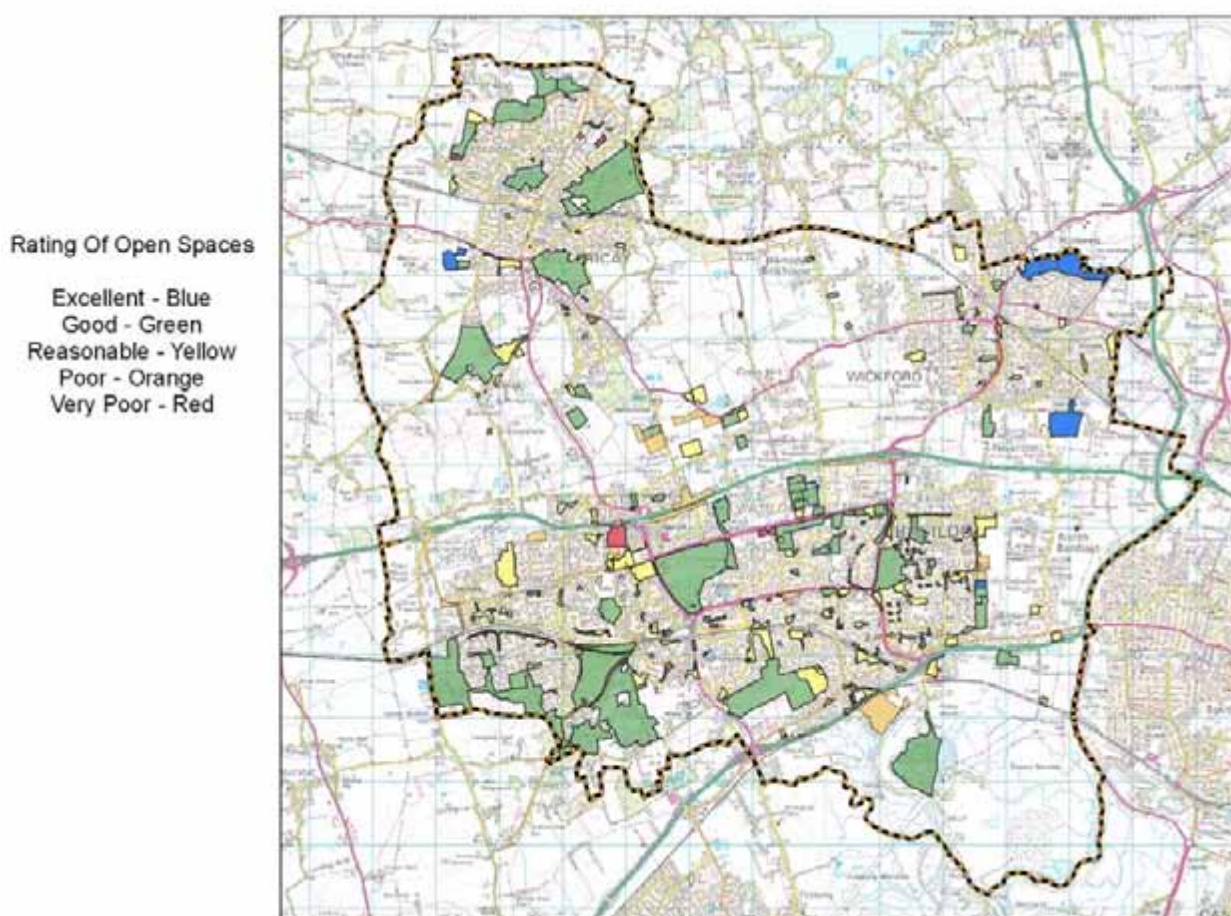
6.21 The quality rating of all audited open spaces have been determined. The numbers of open spaces falling into each rating is as follows and is illustrated on Figure 17:

Excellent:	5
Good:	64
Reasonable:	150
Poor:	40
Very Poor:	8

6.22 Every individual location may not be visible on the above plan so all open spaces, their quality scores and ratings, are included in Appendix B.

6.23 In the next section, the above assessment of supply and demand is used to determine a policy approach to the planning and management of the District's open spaces, in accordance with PPG 17.

Figure 17 Quality Ratings of All Open Spaces in Basildon District



High Quality, Low Quality

- 6.24 Planning guidance recommends that a suitable policy approach is to determine a threshold which separates high quality spaces from low quality spaces¹.
- 6.25 Based on the methodology of the audit, a quality rating of 'reasonable' would be appropriate for most open space typologies, reflecting generally good practice and meeting demand. Furthermore, the 'reasonable' rating will be split to encourage higher standards of management across each site, as desired by stakeholders. To reflect this, the 'reasonable' category has been split into *high* and *low* reasonable, as shown in Figure 18 & 19. This forms two quality levels, high and low. A high quality open space will be meeting demand in the main, while low quality spaces will not be. A separate policy approach will apply to the planning and management of each level.

Figure 18 Quality Rating Table for All Open Spaces (except Urban Parks & Gardens and Civic Spaces)



- 6.26 As Urban Parks and Gardens (including Country Parks) and Civic Spaces are frequented by more people than any other typology and have greater community expectation than some other typologies, the threshold between high and low quality is recommended to be raised to 60%. This is represented in Figure 19.

Figure 19 Quality Rating Table for Urban Parks & Gardens and Civic Spaces



¹ CLG (2002) Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17: TSO, para. 10.27-10.28.

Quality Audit Results

6.27 The result of the approach described above is shown geographically in Figure 20, which identifies the spread of sites that achieve high (green) and low quality (red).

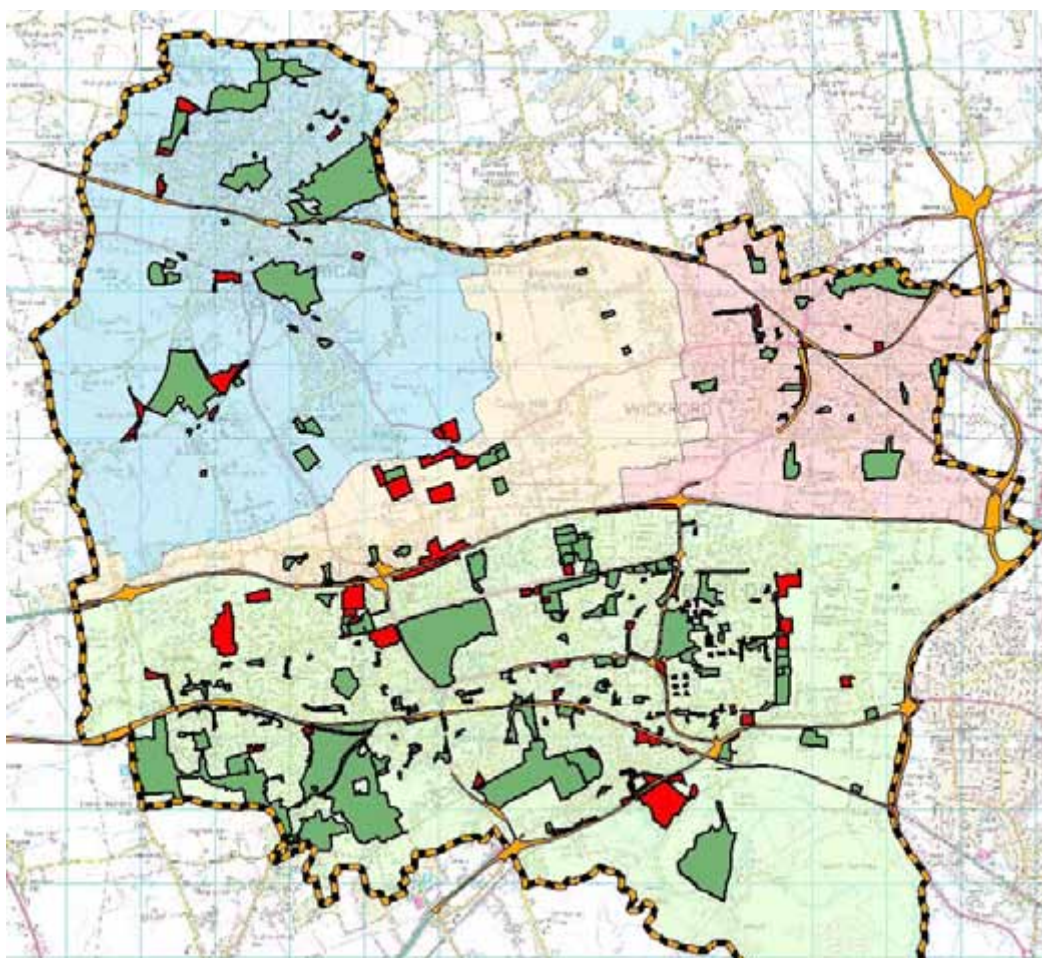


Figure 20 Quality Scoring of Open Spaces within Basildon District

6.28 A majority of spaces are categorised as being high-reasonable or above. More importantly, the larger, more prominent spaces such as the Urban Parks & Gardens (including Country Parks) and the significant areas of Natural and Semi Natural Green Space are generally of a higher quality than smaller, less conspicuous, open spaces.

6.29 Overall there is a greater number of high quality spaces than low quality, and those of high quality account for a much greater land area. In this respect, the current management of the District's open space is generally effective at meeting the demands of stakeholders and maintaining the high standards they expect.

6.30 Geographically, there is a spread of high and low quality spaces in all parts of the District. However, there is a concentration of low quality outdoor sports facilities at the privately owned Barleylands Farm and a higher concentration of low quality open spaces in the following areas:

- Along the A127
- North Laindon
- Little Burstead
- The Vange / Pitsea / Felmores area

- 6.31 Where possible, these locations should be prioritised for identifying various means to improve the quality of open spaces within and around them.

Quality Standard

- 6.32 The recommendation is to achieve the Quality Vision for all new and existing open spaces via their design and ongoing management. The proposal below should be adopted as the method for determining priority enhancements, ongoing management and the quality of new open spaces.

Quality Standard

Open spaces should be improved and enhanced to meet the Quality Vision where possible.

With the exception of Urban Parks and Gardens and Civic Spaces, each open space should achieve a minimum quality score of 50% (a higher-reasonable rating), or at least maintain the rating as determined in this document, whichever is the higher.

Urban Parks and Gardens and Civic Spaces, due to their more extensive use and range of functions, should achieve a minimum quality score of 60% (a 'good' rating), or at least maintain the rating as determined in this document, whichever is the higher.

New open spaces, defined as those not included in the 2007 audit, will be expected to achieve a 'good' quality rating as determined in this document and shall be maintained to this standard for a minimum of 20 years. Good urban design principles should be used to inform the layout of new open space.

Spaces scoring less than 50%, as determined in this document, should be considered for improvement and enhancement as identified through the Council's quality audit to meet the demands of stakeholders.

Use of the Standard

- 6.33 Applying this standard has created a hierarchy of the most and least effective open spaces in the District for meeting quality demand. This hierarchy is used to recognise successful practices and indicate where improvements are most urgently needed.
- 6.34 At a deeper level, the individual scores of each open space should be used to highlight where particular enhancements can be made to improve the overall quality of the open space. This will ensure that each site has its specific needs addressed in accordance with the desires of stakeholders and builds on the results of the 2007 audit, using it as a benchmark.

Quality Standard Use Case Study

The Denys Drive Amenity Green Space has a quality score of 48.3%, which is a 'low reasonable' rating and in accordance with the Standard, should be considered for improvement.

Individual factors for this space show that it generally scores either 'reasonable' or 'good' for many aspects. However, for *Health, Safety and Security* it is rated 'poor' for the *flow of people through the park* and for the *availability of alternative routes and exits from all parts of the space*. In addition, the space does not contain desirable features such as dog bins; a footpath; litter bins or signage.

If just a few of these elements were addressed, Denys Drive Amenity Green Space would achieve a higher rating and be upgraded to a 'high quality' open space, better meeting the needs of the residents in its locality.

- 6.35 If an opportunity arises for a new open space within the District, for example as part of a new housing scheme, the quality standards will be used to ensure an appropriate quality of open space is designed according to local demand and capable of being maintained for a reasonable length of time. The quality should be assessed at an appropriate stage using the same criteria as used in this assessment to ensure the new space meets the expectations of the District's stakeholders.
- 6.36 Imaginative concepts for open space cannot be predicted but regardless of the above statement this assessment should not stifle good ideas or unique proposals. The principles used to design any new formal open space should be justified and appropriate to the typology, the location and the development it serves. While the Council's quality audit is one way to meet the quality criteria, unique, imaginative solutions that will encourage people to participate and activity use open space constructively should be considered positively by the Council.
- 6.37 In the next section, the quality standard is combined with an assessment of *Intrinsic Benefit* to determine the appropriate policy approach to the planning and ongoing management of open spaces.

Examining Value of Open Spaces

- 6.38 PPG17 guidance recommends that when reviewing the quality of open space provision, it should also be evaluated for the added value it offers to the locality. If this is not done, it is regarded as impossible to objectively identify those spaces which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system; those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed for their present open space purpose.
- 6.39 It provides a simple means of determining the most appropriate policy approach to each open space, as well as providing a basis for linking the on-going tasks of planning, design, management and maintenance.

Figure 21 PPG17 Quality / Value Matrix

<p style="text-align: center;">High Quality/Low Value</p> <p>Wherever possible, the preferred policy approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary purpose. If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose. Only if this is also impossible will it be acceptable to consider a change of use.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">High Quality/High Value</p> <p>Ideally all spaces should come into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Low Quality/ Low Value</p> <p>Wherever possible, the policy approach to these spaces should be to enhance their quality <i>provided</i> it is possible also to enhance their value. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present primary purpose.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Low Quality/ High Value</p> <p>The policy approach to these spaces or facilities should always be to enhance their quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.</p>

(Source: PPG17, DETR, 2002)

- 6.40 PPG17 Assessments for other authorities have generally followed PPG17's Companion Guide's advice to determine and categorise whether spaces were of high or low value in addition to high or low quality. In classifying 'value', a highly subjective and emotive concept, guidance suggests drawing from the interpretation of context, level & type of use and wider benefits following intensive user engagement and empirical assessment. Applying this to the Basildon District would not necessarily be an effective activity, as it would also be hard to arrive at a fair way of ranking value appropriately per open space in the District without 'double counting' information that had already been accounted for in our quality assessments.
- 6.41 CABE Space's latest best practice guidance, issued jointly with the Greater London Authority in 2009 places greater emphasis on the more straightforward concepts of quality, quantity and access, over 'value'. Whilst this is contrary to the PPG17 Companion Guide, it shows that approaches to PPG17 Assessments have needed to change in response to the extensive experience of authorities that have completed and applied their PPG17 Assessments since the Companion Guide was issued in 2002.
- 6.42 For the Basildon District PPG17 Assessment, an alternative approach has been developed by the Council, which places greater emphasis on recognising the '*Intrinsic Benefits*' offered by open spaces to the community and/ or environment, alongside their primary open space use.
- 6.43 A dual-axis matrix is regarded as an acceptable way of comparing both the quality of open spaces and their Intrinsic Benefits (IB). It results in a series of spaces either ranked as High/High, High/Low, Low/High, Low/Low. Keeping the application of the PPG17 assessment in mind, this is a useful way to inform open space management, investment and asset management and has therefore been applied to all audited open spaces.

Identifying and Applying Intrinsic Benefits

6.44 An open space with Intrinsic Benefit can be defined as:

Being a Legally Protected or Recognised Land Designation and/or

- Local Nature Reserves²
- Town Greens and Village Greens³
- Common Land⁴
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)⁵
- BAP Priority Habitat⁶
- Scheduled Monuments⁷

Being a Locally Protected and Enforced Environmental Designation and/ or

- Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS)⁸
- Ancient Woodland⁹
- Within or adjacent to a Conservation Area¹⁰

Having a Flood Defence or Drainage Role and/ or

- Flood Retention Ponds (also known as Washlands)
- Surface Water Balancing Areas
- Drainage Ditch & Throttle Spaces
- Land within Tidal/ Fluvial Flood Zone 3 (and when defined by SFRA Review, more specifically Flood Zone 3b – Functional Floodplain)¹¹

Have a Pollution Mitigation Role and/ or

- Provide a Noise or Air Pollution Buffer to Major Highways¹²

Being an In-Perpetuity Use

- Public Cemeteries¹³
- Churchyards
- Detached Burial Grounds

² Declared under s. 21. of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

³ Protected by s.12 of the Enclosure Act 1857 & s. 29 of the Commons Act 1876. from 2006, these are designated under s.15 of the Commons Act 2006

⁴ Registered as such under the Commons Registration Act 1965

⁵ Protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

⁶ Those priority habitats listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994 that was published in response to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity signed in 1992

⁷ Protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

⁸ Designated locally by the Essex Local Wildlife Sites Partnership, lead by Essex Wildlife Trust. They have a non-statutory status, but provide substantive nature conservation value. National Indicator 197 measures performance of local authorities for biodiversity by assessing the implementation of positive conservation management for Local Sites.

⁹ Land continually wooded since at least 1600AD.

¹⁰ Designated locally using the he Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

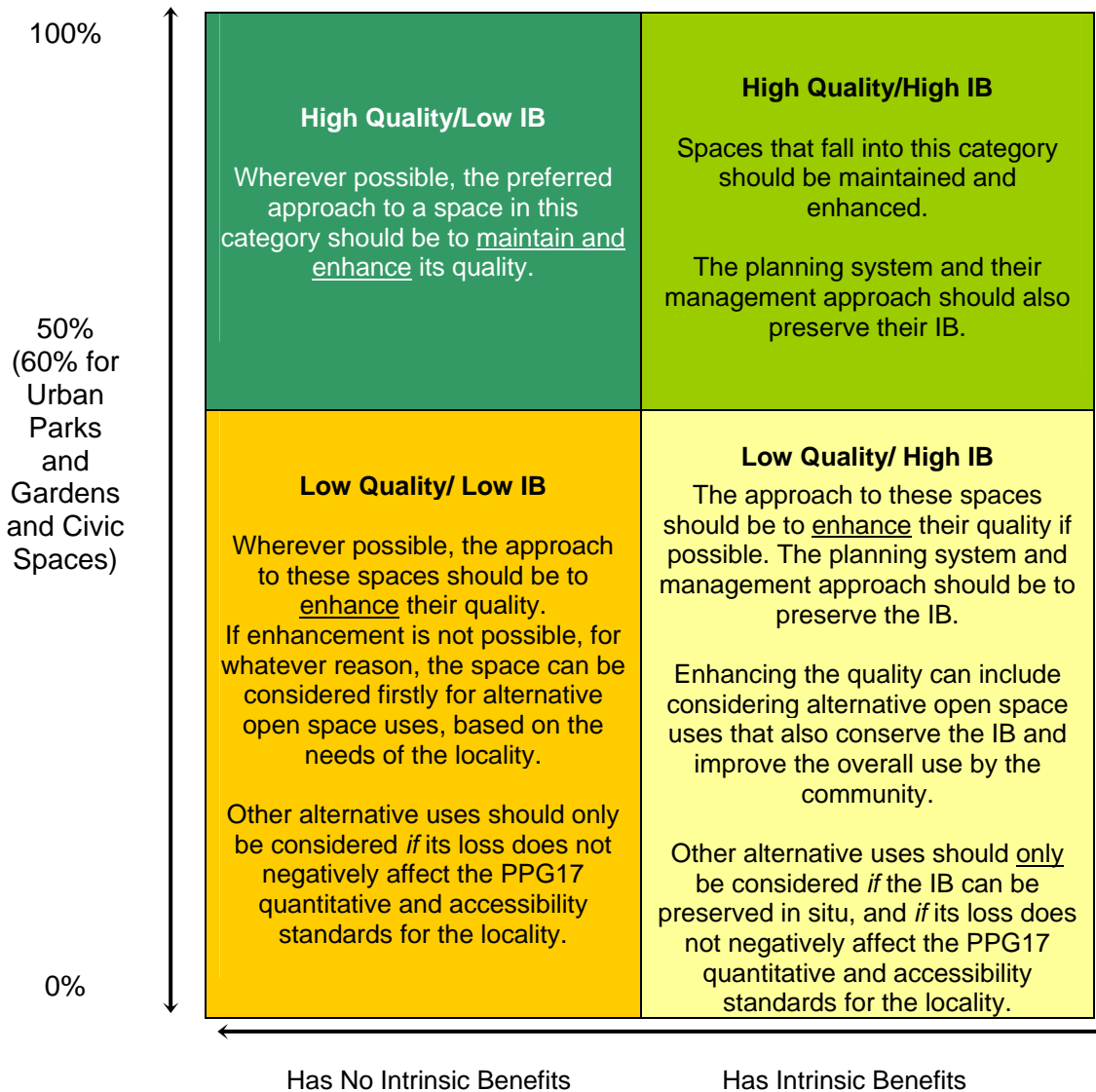
¹¹ Flood Zones are defined by Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk, DCLG, 2006

¹² The EU Environmental Noise Directive, the Noise Act 1996 and the Part IV Environment Act 1995

¹³ Acquired or maintained under s.2-4, 6 and 9-11 of the Open Spaces Act 1906

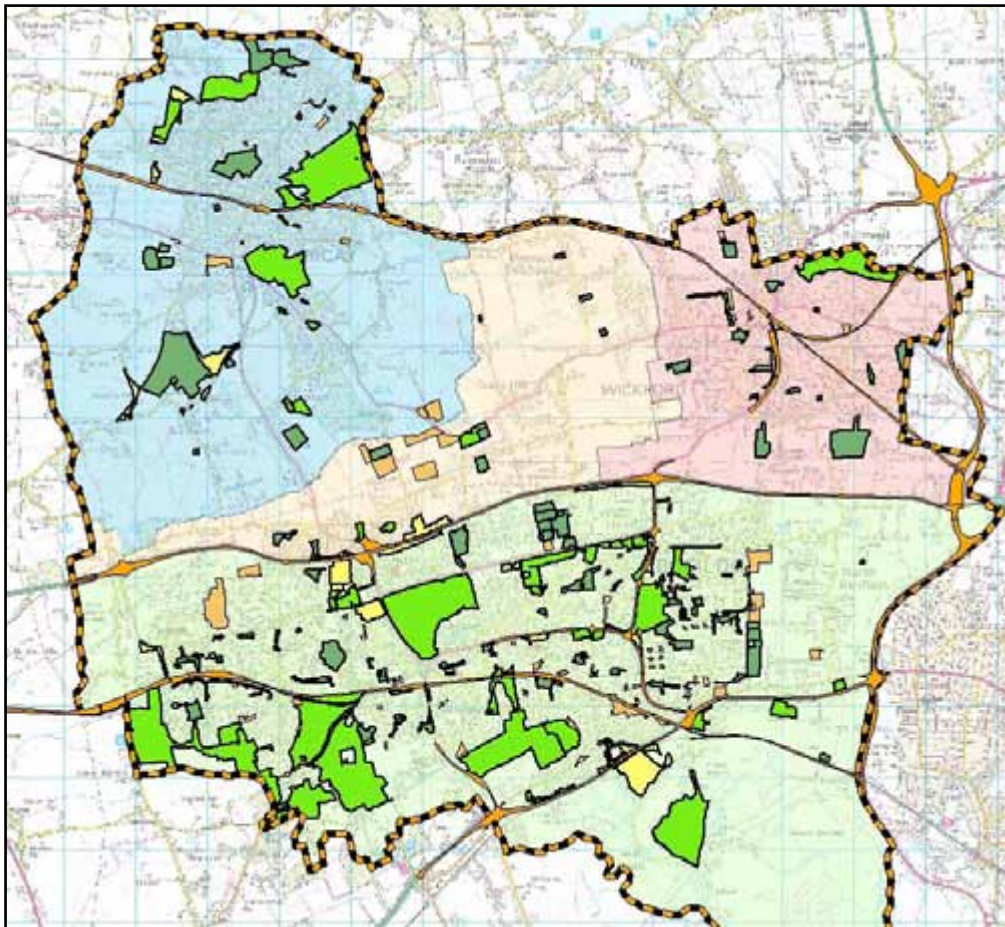
6.45 The result of combining the Quality Standards with the presence of Intrinsic Benefit is expressed in the simple matrix, shown in Figure 22.

Figure 22 Quality / Intrinsic Benefit Matrix



6.46 The open spaces that fall into each quadrant of the matrix are illustrated on Figure 23, on the following page.

Figure 23 The Policy Approach due to Combined Quality Score & Intrinsic Benefit Grading for Open Spaces in Basildon District



6.47 Every individual location may not be clearly visible on the above plan so all open spaces and the policy approach for them, is included in Appendix B.

6.48 The number of sites in each category in March 2010 is:

High Quality / High Benefit:	53
High Quality / Low Benefit:	94
Low Quality / High benefit:	46
Low Quality / Low Benefit:	74

6.49 With a number of notable exceptions, the largest open spaces in the District are often those with Intrinsic Benefit. The benefit will differ between locations and a benefit may not affect the entire site (such as a water balancing pond) although the entire site will be highlighted as having an Intrinsic Benefit for clarity. The benefit in each open space is stated in Appendix B.

Conclusion

6.50 This assessment has identified the types of facilities, features and aspects of quality that are of particular demanded in Basildon District. It has proposed a vision for high quality open space that would meet this demand. The vision could be met by following specific suggested standards for the management of existing open space and the design of new open space.

6.51 The current quality of open spaces in relation to demand has been established and areas that have higher concentrations of low quality open space identified. It is suggested these areas are prioritised for quality enhancement.

- 6.52 Open spaces that have Intrinsic Benefits, which serve a purpose above their recreational use by people, have been identified. These benefits require preservation and consideration in the planning and ongoing management of these spaces.
- 6.53 A combination of the quality assessment and Intrinsic Benefit has provided a policy approach to each site that can promote continuing improvement in the overall quality of the District's open space estate.
- 6.54 It is recommended that this assessment is adopted by the authority and the management of open space given full consideration through an Open Space Strategy.

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Chapter 7 – Quantity (Step 3)

Why Consider Quantity?

- 7.1 Basildon District Council is charged as Local Planning Authority (LPA) with setting a quantity standard for each appropriate open space typology within the District. These standards will be used to identify where the Council needs to target its attention on securing open space in the future, including as part of the planning application process.
- 7.2 The aim of a standard is to ensure that an appropriate amount of open space is available in an area to provide for the population, maintaining a decent living environment in line with the aspirations set out in the Basildon District Sustainable Community Strategy, Cultural Strategy and the expectations of the District's residents.
- 7.3 Quantity Standards are expressed as an area of land available for open space purposes per 1000 population. This is stated for the District's administrative area as a whole and for Settlement Areas of the District. In this way, it is possible to compare the quantity currently provided (the supply) with the results of engagement (the demand), as recommended in national guidance¹.
- 7.4 In the adoption of a Quantity Standard, provision can then be achieved through using the Standard to:
- Retain existing open space where it is needed
 - Designate a certain amount of land as new open space as part of developments
 - Calculate the amount of s.106 contributions that will be necessary from developments to invest in existing open space

Methodology

- 7.5 The recommended method to establish the demand for open space in the District is to undertake a survey of the land available and compare the results with responses from stakeholders on the suitability of the existing quantity and whether this is considered sufficient or not. The method for determining a local quantity standard is therefore based on three parts:
- Engagement with stakeholders in the District to determine opinion on the quantity of open space currently provided²
 - An audit of open space provision in the District
 - Appreciating local circumstances
- 7.6 By combining these elements a decision on the desired amount of open space (the demand) and the existing amount (the supply) can be made. This leads to the identification of areas in need of attention and the level of provision that should be available in new developments.

Local Engagement

- 7.7 Demand has been determined through an extensive programme of engagement with the public and stakeholders between 2007 and 2009. This compared the existing provision of open spaces, to how people feel about it, whether it is sufficient and of the desired

¹ CABE Space (2009) Open Space Strategies Best Practice guidance p.32

² CLG (2002) PPG17 paragraph 7; CLG (2002) PPG17 Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17 paragraph 6.5 and; Mayor of London & CABE Space (2009) Open Space Strategies Best Practice Guidance p.32

typologies. The results from engagement are explained in further detail in Open Space Strategy Topic Paper 3: What People Told Us.

What People Told Us: key findings:

- Almost 50% of respondents in 2009 believed there is the right amount of open space in the District.
- 42.5% believed there is not enough.
- The provision of additional green space and landscaping within new developments was overwhelmingly supported in the Sustainable Community Strategy Citizen's Panel 2007 (86.6%).
- The Youth Council Forum highlighted that young people want more open spaces, not less.
- Although proximity was sighted as a top reason for using a particular space, the scale (and reputation) of a place appeared to be a more significant factor than many respondents realised.
- Generally, Basildon residents appreciate and enjoy the Districts' green spaces, even above nationally significant open spaces, and wish to see them preserved and enhanced.

Source: Topic Paper 3 – What People Told Us, 2009

7.8 Stakeholders generally consider that the District has a sufficient quantity of land available as open space at present, although additional green space is strongly desired within new developments. People generally consider it beneficial to live near to open space.

7.9 There is a desire from the public for a focus on providing natural/semi-natural green space over other types of open space. Currently, however, people tend to use the District's urban parks and country parks over other typologies and these spaces are considered to be particularly important to the majority of people.

Appreciating the Changing Circumstances

7.10 Guidance recommends that "a suitable quantity standard can be set, based on the analysis but it will also require a political and professional judgement based on the local conditions alongside the evidence." (CABE Space 2009, p.32).

7.11 To avoid being a theoretical exercise, establishing standards for the quantity of open space needs to be undertaken, having regard to the following local circumstances:

- The New Town Legacy
- An Ageing Population
- Changing Lifestyles and Future Well-Being
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change Adaptation and Management
- Upkeep and On-Going Management

The New Town Legacy

7.12 Basildon District's main settlement, Basildon, is a New Town and has a heritage consistent with the New Town movement's philosophy of providing small amenity areas for informal recreation; formal sports provision; housing separated from major carriageways by large grass verges or open spaces and a small number of large urban parks as the base for various pursuits. These open spaces were part of the attraction to draw people away from

dense, overpopulated cities, particularly London, into a healthier, greener environment that was more spacious and beautified.

7.13 The original New Town Master Plans (1951, 1965 and 1977) sought to preserve the areas of existing natural amenity and recreational potential. The 1977 plan is represented in Figure 24.

“Although close to the marshes of the Thames Estuary, Basildon enjoys wide variations in topography, and several areas of considerable landscape value. The flats of Pitsea Marshes, to the south-east of the town, contrast with the well-wooded contours of the Langdon Hills to the south-west; and further to the west, Dunton, possesses stretches of excellent and typical rolling Essex countryside...[offering] valuable opportunities for the creation of informal recreational outlets contrasting with the more sophisticated and organised facilities which will be provided within the Town.” (Basildon Masterplan, 1965, Basildon Development Corporation)

Figure 24 Basildon New Town Master Plan



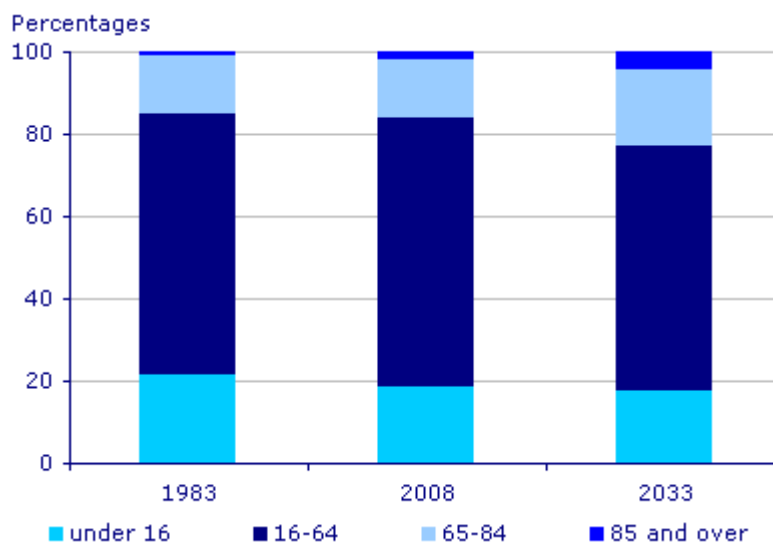
7.14 The ethos of providing a network of open spaces was guided by the New Town Master Plans. The changing recreational needs in the communities were recognised and assessed to provide a comprehensive and readily accessible town-wide system of recreational space. This was to be made up of a combination of regional, town organised, casual and neighbourhood spaces for a variety of purposes and functions, including incidental landscaping. Many of the smaller amenity areas in neighbourhoods were also provided as locations for play areas to provide for the families moving to the area at a time when birth rates were particularly high.

- 7.15 With the passage of time however, the New Town's design, whilst successful in many ways, does not necessarily meet the current needs or principles of sustainable management.
- 7.16 In the north of the District, the pattern of development is different as Wickford and Billericay have built up more organically, spreading out from their traditional High Streets, while reflecting the location of natural features such as the route of the River Crouch at Wickford Memorial Park and Norsey Woods in Billericay.

An Ageing Population

7.17 Whilst the New Town's evolution and early planning was to provide for young families, times are changing and so too are the demands from the local population. It is widely documented that the population of the UK is ageing. Over the last 25 years, the percentage of the population aged 65 and over increased from 15% in 1983 to 16% in 2008, an increase of 1.5 million people in this age group. Over the same period, the percentage of the population aged 16 and under decreased from 21% to 19%. National trends predict that these patterns will continue into the future and that by 2033 23% of the population will be aged 65 and over, compared with 18% aged 16 or younger.

Figure 25 1983 – 2033 UK Population by Age



Population by age, UK, 1983, 2008 and 2033
Office for National Statistics, 2009, <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?ID=949>

- 7.18 The Basildon District has an ageing population and recent local research³ anticipates that the largest local increase in population will be amongst the 65-84 year age group. Conversely, the population of school age children in the District is decreasing, which, if it follows the pattern established nationally, will see the under 16 age group becoming a smaller proportion of the overall population than it has in previous years, although not as dramatically as national trends.
- 7.19 The research also established where there were potential gaps in local service provision, which includes need for more activities for older and younger people, encouraging them to be more active and live healthier lives.

³ Basildon District Council - Population Survey, June 2009, Priority Research Ltd

Changing Lifestyles & Future Well-Being

7.20 Lifestyles are constantly changing and adapting in response to the pressures of modern life and the opportunities it presents. Technological advances have changed how people travel, work, live and play. Disposable income has increased and lives have become more sedentary. Studies of youth fitness show a decline compared to earlier decades⁴ and a significant proportion of children in Basildon (for example, 31% of year 6 pupils) are overweight or obese⁵.

7.21 The usage of open spaces is therefore now competing with other personal pursuits, including indoor leisure and entertainment. This said, there are intrinsic links between peoples' health and well-being and having accessible, high quality open spaces available near to where people live and work⁶.

7.22 Physical activity has been associated with reduced anxiety and depression, improved mood and self-esteem and better cognitive functioning. Participation in exercise therapy and 'green exercise' has also been shown to have psychological, as well as physical benefits.⁷

7.23 In 2008, Ipsos MORI conducted a Lifestyle Survey of residents in the East of England. Key findings for the South West Essex Primary Care Trust area included:

- There is a lower than average proportion of retired people. However there is a significantly higher proportion of retired people in the less deprived parts of the PCT than in the most deprived parts;
- ¾ of adults describe their general health as good;
- The prevalence of obesity in males and females is significantly higher than the regional average;
- Fewer than 2 in 5 adults eat 5 portions of fruit and vegetables on at least 5 days per week, a proportion significantly lower than the regional average;
- 1 in 10 people undertake four healthy behaviours, significantly fewer than the regional average;

7.24 Of these, obesity increases the risk of a range of other chronic diseases, particularly type 2 diabetes, strokes, coronary heart disease, cancer and arthritis.

*"Although personal responsibility plays a crucial part in weight gain, human biology is being overwhelmed by the effects of today's 'obesogenic' environment, with its abundance of energy dense food, motorised transport and sedentary lifestyles."*⁸

7.25 Trends show that by 2050, 60% of adult men, 50% of adult women and about 25% of all children under 16 in Britain could be obese. Without action, obesity related diseases will cost an extra £45.5 billion per year⁹ and will mean more people suffer from long-term and fatal illnesses.

⁴ Dr. G. Sandercock (2009) East of England Healthy Hearts Study: Essex Biomedical Sciences Institute; University of Essex

⁵ Basildon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2007 (Published March 2008)

⁶ CJC Consulting (2005) Economic Benefits of Accessible Green Spaces for Physical and Mental Health: Scoping Study – report for Forestry Commission

⁷ Biddle S, Fox K, Boutcher S (2000) Physical Activity and Psychological Well-Being. London: Routledge; BTCV (2008) BTCV Green Gym National Evaluation Report: Summary of findings

⁸ Foresight, Tackling Obesity: Future Choices, Government Office for Science, 2007

⁹ Foresight, Tackling Obesity: Future Choices, Government Office for Science, 2007

Biodiversity

- 7.26 Biodiversity is a collective term to describe the variety of life on earth, and includes all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them. Conservation of biodiversity is vital in our response to a changing climate and in the delivery of key ecosystem services, such as food, flood management, pollination and provision of clean air and water.
- 7.27 Local Authorities have a key role to play in conserving biodiversity by developing and influencing local policies and strategies. From 1st October 2006, all LAs have a Duty¹⁰ to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising their functions.
- 7.28 An environment rich in biodiversity indicates the wider health of the environment. Nature helps to enhance physical and mental health by encouraging outdoor recreation, exercise and relaxation. It plays an important role in enhancing and encouraging outdoor recreation by increasing the variety, attractiveness and interest of the landscape, as well as educating us about the wider world. It is also an important part of our cultural heritage and identity and provides opportunities and locations for community engagement and volunteering.
- 7.29 In the Basildon District there are a number of national (e.g. Norseley Wood SSSI, Billericay, Wat Tyler SSSI, Pitsea) and local sites (e.g. Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites) designated for their important biodiversity role. As habitats and passages for the movements of wildlife, open spaces play an integral role in local biodiversity services.

Climate Change Adaptation & Management

- 7.30 The UKCIP (UK Climate Impact Programme) was set up in 1997 by the Government. It coordinates research into climate change and considers its impact at regional and national levels. Studies through UKCIP have included best and worst case scenarios of how the UK climate could change until 2080. This scientific modelling suggests that there will be change in the UK climate even if the best-case scenario is attained. More significantly however, it is clear that if levels of greenhouse gas emissions continue, the worst case scenario could also be a reality.
- 7.31 The UK is likely to experience:
- Rising temperatures
 - Changing precipitation patterns
 - Sea level rises
 - More extreme weather events
- 7.32 Whilst certain ways of mitigating against climate change are much broader than the remit of the PPG17 Open Space Assessment (e.g. reducing carbon emissions), the presence of open spaces, how they are laid out and managed in the future will help us in making adjustments to the way we live and use the environment.
- 7.33 These changes will mean that some open spaces will need to continue to provide or, in other cases be changed to provide a variety of functions into the future, such as flood alleviation, drainage mitigation, CO₂ sinks, energy capture and biodiversity reserves. Some of the pertinent challenges facing our open spaces will be decreasing soil moisture, increase of weather damage, new pests and diseases, longer growing seasons and flooding.

¹⁰ Duty was introduced in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act and came into force on 1st October 2006.

7.34 Through the New Town legacy, open spaces already combine ways of managing drainage and biodiversity. They could however be created, extended or managed more effectively to improve water management, energy use, avoid weather damage through design, control ground temperatures, maintain biodiversity through existing habitats and degraded/lost habitats, whilst creating an attracting environment and encouraging visitors.

Upkeep and Ongoing Investment

7.35 The provision of parks and open spaces is a discretionary service. However for those that are provided by the Council, there is a duty of care to maintain them.

7.36 There are two statutory elements within the provision of parks and open spaces:

- Cemeteries (under the Local Authorities Cemetery Order 1977)
- Allotments (under the Allotment Acts 1908/1950).

7.37 The Council manages and maintains over 600 hectares of formal parks in the District, together with over 250 hectares of Country Parks and informal open space, including four SSSIs. This involves various activities from grass cutting, shrub pruning, weed control, biodiversity management, street furniture, sports pitch preparation, facilities and infrastructure management, special events, enhancements, cleansing, provision of play equipment, drainage & water body management and tree surgery.

7.38 All public space has a financial cost and whilst different management practices can be adopted that reduce this, or contributions sought elsewhere towards capital projects (e.g. the National Lottery) a sustainable approach must ensure that a variety of open space continues to be provided in the District, in the locations where it is needed and to high standards.

Outcomes of the Quantity Audit

7.39 The amount of open space (with the exception of Provision for Children & Young People) currently provided for each type of open space was established through a mapping exercise undertaken in 2006. The survey was limited to all spaces over 0.2ha in size (with some smaller exceptions), regardless of ownership and therefore reflects the vast majority of open space in the District but is not exhaustive. The audit determined the amount of open space available to be approximately 1381Ha¹¹, as show in Table 6.

7.40 Together, these spaces provide an average of 8.3ha per 1000 people (excluding Provision for Children and Young People, which is measured as the number of play areas per 1000 people).

7.41 The distribution of open space is not evenly spread across the District but this is taken into account through the Accessibility Standard.

¹¹ These figures are different to the calculations made in the Council's Quantity Audit in 2006 due to: refinement of the typologies for some open spaces; the deletion of several spaces that, upon inspection, did not contribute to usable open space provision and; rounded area calculations following a GIS analysis and conversion to a spreadsheet.

Table 6 Basildon District Open Space Quantity Audit Results

Typology	Area (ha)	Area (ha / 1000 population) (2001 Census)
Urban Parks and Gardens	301.4ha	1.82ha
Natural and semi-natural open space	434.45ha	2.62ha
Amenity Green Space	220.93ha	1.33ha
Provision for children and young people	151 play areas	0.98 spaces
Outdoor Sports Facilities	262.43ha (Inc. Barleylands)	1.58
Allotments and community gardens	8.9ha	0.054ha
Cemeteries and churchyards	19.9ha	0.12ha
Education Fields	129.5ha	0.78ha
Civic Space	4.03ha	0.024ha
Total	1381.54ha	~8.3ha

Settlement Areas

7.42 The quantity of open space could be assessed at ward level, identifying needs and allocating priorities within them. However, although wards are useful because they have similar population levels and information is often collected by ward, people are not constrained by these administrative boundaries. A more realistic and useful measure of quantity is to combine sets of wards to create Settlement Areas.

7.43 For this aspect of the study, four areas have been devised that reflect the District's basic Settlement Areas. This is used primarily for the purpose of interpreting the amount of provision in the quantity assessment and it was accepted as part of the PPG17 Assessment Critical Challenge¹² stage that this would reflect a more pragmatic approach to quantity provision than can otherwise be achieved through either a ward or a district-level assessment.

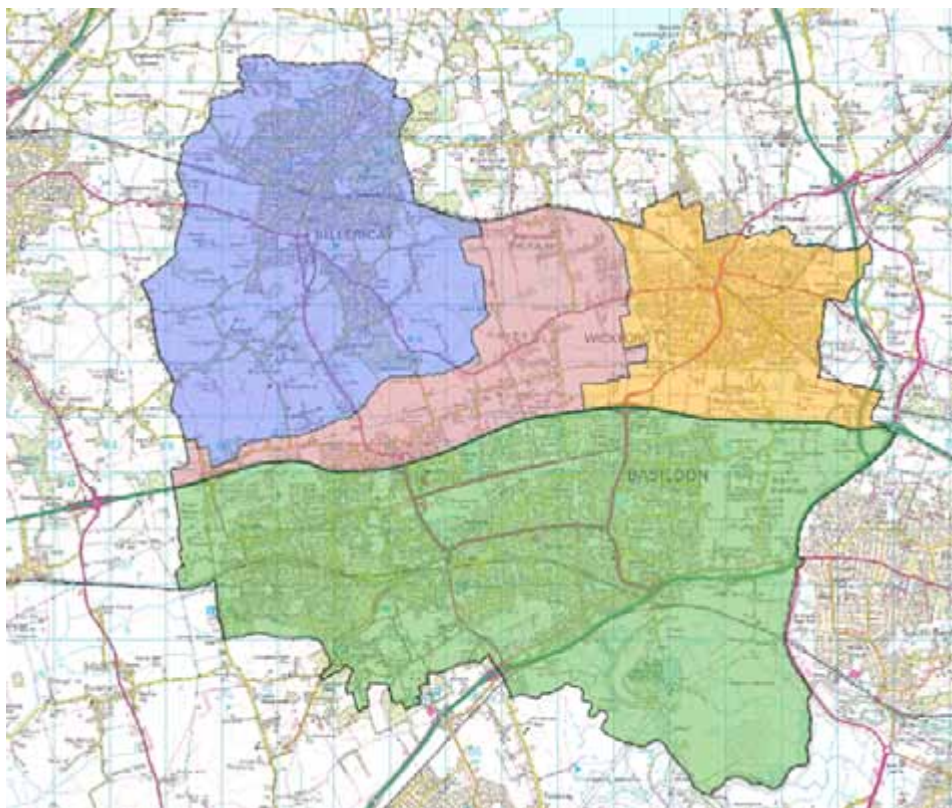
7.44 Four Settlement Areas have been determined, as shown in Figure 26. These settlements follow the boundaries of their constituent wards. The four settlements are:

- Billericay & Burstead (Blue)
- Noak Bridge & Ramsden (Pink)
- Basildon (Green)
- Wickford (Orange)

¹² PPG17 Open Space Assessment Critical Challenge, October 2009

Basildon District: Settlement Areas

Figure 26 Basildon District Settlement Areas



Quantity Provision by Settlement Area

- 7.45 **Billericay & Burstead** has a concentration of urban development in the north of the area with significant tracts of green belt land in the south, where the topography is slightly declined towards Dunton and Basildon.
- 7.46 The urban form in **Wickford** is concentrated in the middle of the area around Wickford Town Centre. It extends to meet the boundary in the north, where part of Wickford meets Runwell, within Chelmsford District.
- 7.47 **Basildon** is the largest Settlement Area in the assessment, containing more than half the population of the District and representing an elongated urban area extending from Laindon to North Benfleet. Care should therefore be taken when applying quantity throughout this area due to its relative size. However, travel east-west through the New Town area is relatively easy by road, bus, train, on foot and by bike and the settlement pattern is generally consistent and of a flat topography throughout. With Basildon Town Centre as a central retail, service, employment and transport hub for the area with connections to the wider town radiating from this point, segregation of the area into smaller Settlement Areas was not felt to reflect the interconnectivity of the existing urban environment.
- 7.48 The **Noak Bridge & Ramsden** Settlement Area has a more rural setting and geographic differences compared to the more urbanised neighbouring areas.
- 7.49 Table 7 sets out the administrative wards within each Settlement Area, the quantity of each typologies in each Settlement Area and the population. It also states the amount of land per typology, per 1000 people.

Table 7 Quantity of Typologies of Open Space per Settlement Area

Settlement Area	Settlement Wards	Settlement Population		Allotments	Amenity	Churchyards	Civic	Natural	Outdoor Sports	Urban Parks
Billericay & Burstead	Billericay East	33,823								
	Billericay West Burstead		Ha	0	14.8	5.8	0	128.1	98.08	40.1
			Ha/pop	0.00	0.44	0.17	0.00	3.79	2.90	1.19
Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Crouch	7,491	Ha	2	12.7	1	0	12.12	34.45	0
			Ha/pop	0.27	1.70	0.13	0.00	1.62	4.60	0.00
Basildon	Fryerns Laindon Park Langdon Hills Lee Chapel North Nethermayne Pitsea North West Pitsea South East St Martins Vange	96,991								
	Ha		4.5	162.23	10.8	3.53	292.93	126.8	209.1	
			Ha/pop	0.05	1.67	0.11	0.04	3.02	1.31	2.16
Wickford	Wickford Castledon	27,363								
	Wickford North Wickford Park		Ha	2.4	31.2	2.3	0.5	1.3	3.1	52.2
			Ha/pop	0.09	1.14	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.11	1.91
TOTAL POPULATION		165668								

Combining the Results to form Standards

7.50 Based on the engagement results, it is recommended that stakeholders generally wish to see the current quantity preserved, with a possible rebalancing of the typologies to reflect the desires of stakeholders for more natural open space.

7.51 There is a clear preference for the public to use the District's more significant open spaces and these should be prioritised for future maintenance and management. The Council's view is that the current level of provision, particularly in the Basildon Settlement Area is unsustainable financially and no longer meets current demographics, so a reduction in the overall number of spaces would be beneficial to the overall quality of provision throughout the District into the future.

7.52 The results also show a desire for additional open space from or as part of new development, therefore a site multiplier for use in the planning application process will need to be determined to form a basis for negotiating the quantity of open space appropriate for new development in the District.

7.53 It would be inappropriate for the Council to provide a specific quantity for every typology. Some typologies are essentially fixed by criteria outside of their public amenity function and should not be subject to arbitrary quantity requirements that have no link back to their purpose or needs. The spaces that the Council will therefore not be setting standards for are:

- Civic Spaces

- Education Fields

7.54 In addition, the provision of space for Outdoor Sports Facilities will be informed by the separate PPG17 Playing Pitch Study being prepared by RQA Ltd. It will be used in a complementary fashion, working out what pitches are required to meet changing sporting trends, preferences and population growth, before setting a quantity standard that will enable this to be achieved alongside the remaining open space needs.

7.55 The following open space typologies will have minimum standards for provision in the District:

- Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space
- Urban Parks and Gardens (inc/ Country Parks)
- Amenity Green Space
- Allotments and Community Gardens
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Churchyards and Cemeteries
- Provision for children & young people

Table 8 The Proposed Open Space Standards, as determined through Engagement

Typology	Area (ha / 1,000 population) (2001 Census)	Recommended Standard (per 1,000 population)
Urban Parks and Gardens	1.82 ha	1.82 ha
Natural and semi-natural open space	2.62 ha	2.62 ha
Amenity Green Space	1.33 ha	1.33 ha
Provision for children and young people	151 spaces	To be set in PPG17 Open Space Assessment Part II
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.58 ha	
Allotments and community gardens	0.054 ha	
Cemeteries and churchyards	0.12 ha	
Education Fields	0.78 ha	No minimum Standard
Civic Space	0.024 ha	No minimum Standard

Applying these standards would provide a total of 7.52ha of open space per 1000 residents (approx. 75m² per resident), (excluding education fields and civic space). Removing Outdoor Sports Facilities, Allotments and Cemeteries & Churchyards removed from the calculation (as these are function-specific open spaces that will be provided based on demand for pitches, allotment plots and burial space rather than by area), the quantity standard for open space in Basildon District becomes 5.77ha per 1000 population (~58m² per resident).

Benchmarking

- 7.56 Benchmarking is a common method in PPG17 Assessments to determine how appropriate the assessment results appear to be when compared to those of similar authority areas. It should *not* be used to establish a similar standard or 'normalise' the District with other authorities. The local assessment is entirely based on a local approach to provision.
- 7.57 The chart on the next page benchmarks Basildon against some other authorities. The coloured sections indicate where the existing Standards for Basildon District are higher than in the titled authority (green background) or lower (pink background). Blank sections are unfortunately incomparable.
- 7.58 When compared to similar¹³ and nearby authorities, Basildon District has a greater amount of amenity green space than average, with only Northampton, a more recent New Town, having more than Basildon District. The District also has a relatively large quantity of natural and semi-natural open space when compared to some authorities, although this is not distributed evenly as the majority is provided in Billericay and Langdon Hills.
- 7.59 However, the District generally has a lower quantity of allotments and outdoor sports provision than the standards set by comparison authorities. This does not necessarily mean there is a deficit or a surplus of this type of open space, or that the District should be 'normalised' with its neighbouring authorities. A benchmarking exercise is carried out for comparison only. It is important for the assessment to determine *local* supply and demand and set standards accordingly.
- 7.60 It must be noted that Table 9 indicates comparability with the chosen *Standards* in each authority, not necessarily the amount of open space actually available at present, which may differ. As this comparison relies on the publication of standards, only authorities that have adopted a set of standards could be compared.
- 7.61 The benchmarking has not taken into account Natural England's [urban greenspace standards](#) summarised in this Chapter. The urban greenspace standards concern access to particular scales of natural open space within certain distances and are covered in the Chapter 5 – Accessibility.

¹³ A list of 'nearest neighbour' or 'family' authorities is produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and is used nationally to inform similarity between authorities.

Table 9 Quantity Standards Comparison Table

Typology	Basildon (Existing)	Basildon (Standards)	Stevenage (NN5)	Chelmsford (ADJ)	Brentwood (ADJ)	Dacorum (NN1)	Thurrock (ADJ)	Castle Point (ADJ)	Northampton (NN2)
Urban Parks and Gardens	1.82 ha	1.82	0.73 ha	2 ha	0.74 ha (Urban Parks) 6.88 ha (Country Parks)	Part of 2.8 ha leisure space.	0.7 ha	0.103 ha (Urban Parks) 2.94 ha (Country Parks)	1.64 ha
Natural and semi-natural open space	2.62 ha	2.62	1.78 ha	2 ha	5.61 ha	1 ha per 1000 population of local nature reserve	2 ha	2.38 ha	2.86 ha
Amenity Green Space	1.33 ha	1.33	1.1 ha	0.81 ha	0.48 ha	No standard set, merit based	0.8 ha	0.584 ha	1.42 ha
Provision for Children and Young People	0.98 spaces	To be set in PPG17 Assessment Part II	0.8 play areas	0.81 ha	0.13 ha	0.2 ha under 5s, 0.6 ha over 5s	1 piece per 33 children	0.25 ha	0.12 ha
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.58		2.2 ha (excluding golf courses)	1.25 ha	3.18 ha	1.6 ha	1 ha (Grays & Tilbury) 1.3 ha (Averley & SLH) 2.3 ha (Rural)	3.217 ha	1.88 ha
Allotments and community gardens	0.054 ha		0.09 ha	0.3 ha	0.18 ha	0.35 ha	15 plots per 1000 households	0.58 ha	0.2 ha
Cemeteries and churchyards	0.12 ha		No standard	N/A	No standard	N/A	Meet demand for 150 – 175 graves per annum	N/A	No Standard
Green corridors			No minimum standard	No standard	0.2 ha	N/A	N/A	No standard but meets Greengrid	N/A
Education Fields	0.78 ha	No minimum standard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No Standard
Civic Space	0.021 ha	No minimum standard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No Standard

Green = lower than Basildon; Pink = higher than Basildon; No colour = not comparable

NN = Nearest Neighbour – local authorities that are most similar to Basildon District. ADJ = adjacent local authority

Applying Proposed Provision Standards in Settlement Areas

7.62 Applying this Standard to Settlement Areas will establish how each Settlement Area compares within the District. This is essential in determining priorities and highlighting where there is greater or lower provision of desired typologies.

Table 10 Quantities of Open Space in Each of the Settlement Areas

Settlement	Pop.		Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Churchyards & Cemeteries	Civic Space	Natural Green Space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Urban Parks & Gardens
Standards			Part II	1.33	Part II	N/A	2.62	Part II	1.82
Billericay & Burstead	33,823	Ha	0	14.8	5.8	0	128.1	98.08	40.1
		Ha/ pop	0.00	0.44	0.17	0.00	3.79	2.90	1.19
Noak Bridge & Ramsden	7,491	Ha	2	12.7	1	0	12.12	34.45	0
		Ha/ pop	0.27	1.70	0.13	0.00	1.62	4.60	0.00
Basildon	96,991	Ha	4.5	162.23	10.8	3.53	292.93	126.8	209.1
		Ha/ pop	0.05	1.67	0.11	0.04	3.02	1.31	2.16
Wickford	27,363	Ha	2.4	31.2	2.3	0.5	1.3	3.1	52.2
		Ha/ pop	0.09	1.14	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.11	1.91

7.63 Table 10 shows the numerical quantities of open space for each typology in each Settlement Area by hectares and hectares per 1000 people. The standards are shown at the top of the table and the coloured backgrounds identify where a quantity is above the stated standard (in green) or below (in pink).

7.64 When considering new and existing provision, particular attention should therefore be given to maintaining or increasing the supply of the following typologies in each settlement area:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Billericay & Burstead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Green Spaces • Urban Parks and Gardens |
| Noak Bridge & Ramsden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Green Space • Urban Parks and Gardens |
| Basildon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Sports Provision |
| Wickford | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Green Space • Natural Green Space • Outdoor Sports Facilities |

7.65 A useful way of highlighting the different quantities available in each Settlement Area is to show the amount of open space that contributes to generally accessible open space, as determined in Chapter 5 – Accessibility. This considers Amenity Green Space, Natural Open Space and Urban Parks & Gardens and identifies areas with the greatest general need for quantity enhancements.

Table 11 Amount of Accessible Open Space in Basildon District

Settlement Area	Hectare / 1,000 population
Standard	5.77
Billericay & Burstead	5.42
Noak Bridge & Ramsden	3.52
Basildon	6.94
Wickford	3.1

Analysis

- 7.66 It is clear that the Basildon Settlement Area benefits from a greater total quantity of open space than other parts of the District. Similarly, the Basildon Settlement Area distorts the District average to such an extent that all other Settlement Areas appear in overall deficit of generally accessible open space.
- 7.67 Irrespective, PPG17 aims to provide an appropriate level of provision for everyone, based on local demands and local characteristics, for which the dominant features are those from the New Town legacy.
- 7.68 With regard to improving the supply of open space, a clear deficit can be demonstrated in the **Wickford** Settlement Area, where three of the four measured typologies are lower than the district average and the lowest provision per head of population is found. The **Basildon** Settlement Area has the greatest supply per head of population, although there is a relative deficit of Outdoor Sports Provision.
- 7.69 **Noak Bridge & Ramsden** Settlement Area contains a high proportion of the District's sports pitch provision, compared to its population. This is largely due to the Barleyland's Farm sport pitches. These pitches are used by teams from across the District (and further afield). However they are in private ownership and therefore not necessarily a secure long term provision. Alternative strategies for the on-going provision to meet District demand needs to be explored as part of the Local Development Framework process.
- 7.70 This settlement area also lacks an urban park, which is understandable due to the dispersed nature of the settlements within it and therefore the lack of a suitably concentrated population to sustain such a park. However, if the population increased, an urban park could be appropriate and even necessary, depending upon the catchment area of any urban parks & country parks neighbouring the Settlement Area.
- 7.71 **Billericay and Burstead** has a substantial quantity of natural green space and outdoor sports facilities but for large urban parks and particularly for small informal open spaces it falls behind the recommended standard. Amenity Green Spaces are provided at 0.44ha per 1000 population which is lower than any other settlement area and represents an undersupply of small, informal open space.

Buffering

- 7.72 An outcome of the PPG17 Assessment Critical Challenge process was to explore whether there could be a more flexible way of applying the Quantity Standards, to reflect the fact that provision cannot be evenly spread across the District. To avoid a rigid and inert quantity approach, a 'buffer' around the standard has been considered. This could present an acceptable 'tolerance band' represented by an Upper and Lower Quantity Standard limit, given that an exact quantity is unrealistic and marginal deficiency or surplus does not necessarily indicate poor provision. Two percentage levels of buffering have been tested, applying a 10% and 20% tolerance either side of the Proposed Standards.
- 7.73 With a 10% buffer, the band of acceptable quantities remains close to the original figures set out in Table 12.
- 7.74 The pattern of provision does not change and the areas in need of attention remain the same, with only the over-provision of Urban Parks & Gardens in Wickford falling within the tolerance banding.

Table 12 10% Buffer Results

Settlement	Pop.		Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Churchyards & Cemeteries	Civic Space	Natural Green Space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Urban Parks & Gardens
Standards	Standard		Meet Demand	1.33	Meet Demand	N/A	2.62	1.58	1.82
	Lower Limit		Meet Demand	1.20	Meet Demand	N/A	2.36	1.42	1.64
	Upper Limit		Meet Demand	1.46	Meet Demand	N/A	2.90	1.74	2.00
Billericay & Burstead	33,823	Ha	0	14.8	5.8	0	128.1	98.08	40.1
		Ha/pop	0.00	0.44	0.17	0.00	3.79	2.90	1.19
Noak Bridge & Ramsden	7,491	Ha	2	12.7	1	0	12.12	34.45	0
		Ha/pop	0.27	1.70	0.13	0.00	1.62	4.60	0.00
Basildon	96,991	Ha	4.5	162.23	10.8	3.53	292.93	126.8	209.1
		Ha/pop	0.05	1.67	0.11	0.04	3.02	1.31	2.16
Wickford	27,363	Ha	2.4	31.2	2.3	0.5	1.3	3.1	52.2
		Ha/pop	0.09	1.14	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.11	1.91

Green = Above standard
 Pink = Below standard
 Bold = Target Typology deficiencies
 Light Green = Within 20% of standard

7.75 A 20% buffer highlights the dominance of the New Town area in setting the quantity standard, with three of the four typologies now falling within the standard tolerance band.

7.76 The impact of a 20% banding is to bring two areas with less than average provision and three areas with greater than average provision into the Standard's tolerance band. The higher and lower provisions of typologies in the *Billericay & Burstead* and *Noak Bridge & Ramsden* areas remain unchanged.

Table 13 20% Buffer Results

Settlement	Pop.		Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Churchyards & Cemeteries	Civic Space	Natural Green Space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Urban Parks & Gardens
Standards	Standard		Meet Demand	1.33	Meet Demand	N/A	2.62	1.58	1.82
	Lower Limit		Meet Demand	1.06	Meet Demand	N/A	2.10	1.26	1.46
	Upper Limit		Meet Demand	1.60	Meet Demand	N/A	3.14	1.90	2.18
Billericay & Burstead	33,823	Ha	0	14.8	5.8	0	128.1	98.08	40.1
		Ha/pop	0.00	0.44	0.17	0.00	3.79	2.90	1.19
Noak Bridge & Ramsden	7,491	Ha	2	12.7	1	0	12.12	34.45	0
		Ha/pop	0.27	1.70	0.13	0.00	1.62	4.60	0.00
Basildon	96,991	Ha	4.5	162.23	10.8	3.53	292.93	126.8	209.1
		Ha/pop	0.05	1.67	0.11	0.04	3.02	1.31	2.16
Wickford	27,363	Ha	2.4	31.2	2.3	0.5	1.3	3.1	52.2
		Ha/pop	0.09	1.14	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.11	1.91

Green = Above standard
 Pink = Below standard
 Bold = Target Typology deficiencies
 Light Green = Within 20% of standard

7.77 On the whole, applying these tolerance bands does not significantly alter the pattern of priority needs in the District, although it does acknowledge the differences between settlements by allowing for realistic variation. Banding will have the affect of reducing the number of typologies per Settlement Area that are identified for attention, which is useful for managing priority enhancements.

- 7.78 One aspect of concern for an approach that uses a band of acceptability is the possibility that the lower limit will be considered acceptable and the upper limit essentially irrelevant. However, this approach is undertaken to identify priority areas for increase in provision and possible excesses of provision in Settlement Areas, *not* to reduce the identified quantity standard. This can also highlight the most suitable typologies in each location for consideration of change to alternative, more desired, typologies (for example, amenity green spaces in Noak Bridge and Ramsden could be converted to natural green space to provide more of that typology).
- 7.79 When considering the impact of development, the original standard will be used, not the upper or lower limit. For management purposes, the upper and lower limits allow for a more realistic identification of need between Settlement Areas.

New Open Space Provision - Combined Typologies

- 7.80 With regard to the function of certain open spaces, the District's urban parks, country parks and amenity green spaces often offer a similar 'park style' environment to a locality. Urban and country parks are the most prestigious spaces with a variety of features, while amenity green spaces are local parks and areas of green space, often containing play equipment and other minor park facilities. New urban parks would be appropriate within large development areas but are likely to be unsustainable in smaller developments. The two typologies of Urban Parks & Gardens and Amenity Green Space are therefore combined when calculating future quantity provision to mitigate the impact of new development in a Settlement Area. This allows the authority to be flexible with the type of parks required, while providing an appropriate amount of space for the population it will serve.
- 7.81 Natural & Semi Natural Green Space is considered separately as engagement shows this typology is highly desirable for stakeholders and offers a very different environment to a park. Natural & Semi Natural Green Space is as much about the variety of biodiversity as recreational use.
- 7.82 Outdoor sports provision should be provided in addition to the above typologies as formally laid out sports pitches are not generally compatible with other uses.
- 7.83 The results of the PPG17 Assessment suggests that the Council should seek to ensure provision of **3.15ha of accessible Amenity Green Space or Urban Parks & Gardens, per 1000 population** in each Settlement Area (equal to 31.5m² per person).
- 7.84 Natural / Semi-Natural Green Space is desired by stakeholders more than other typologies. The PPG17 Assessment also suggests that the Council should seek to provide **2.6ha per 1000 population of Natural / Semi-Natural Green Space** in each Settlement Area (equal to 26m² per person).
- 7.85 Outdoor Sport Facilities should be provided at a quantity that reflects the standards derived from the PPG17 Playing Pitch Strategy Technical Addendum 2010¹⁴.

Accounting for Local Circumstances in New Provision

- 7.86 Paragraphs 7.72-7.79, discussed the application of a 20% tolerance buffer around each standard as an alternative way in which to assess the level of provision in each Settlement Area. These also allow the local circumstances referred to in paragraphs 7.10-7.38 to be taken into account.

¹⁴ RQA, 2010

- 7.87 This approach can be used to set appropriate local quantity standards for the provision of new open space in association with new residential development in the District.
- 7.88 Further benchmarking analysis, set out in Table 14, shows that if the Council adopted the pure PPG17 Assessment standards, it would be requesting the 4th highest level of provision out of this group of comparable and neighbouring authorities. With a 20% reduction applied to PPG17 Assessment Quantity Standard, Basildon District's level of new provision would be just under Chelmsford, Dacorum, whilst greater than Stevenage & Thurrock.

Table 14 Benchmarking Results: m2 of Open Space Per Person

Basildon	Stevenage (NN5)	Chelmsford (ADJ)	Brentwood (ADJ)	Dacorum ¹⁵ (NN1)	Thurrock (ADJ)	Castle Point (ADJ)	Northampton (NN2)
57m ² pp	36m ² pp	48m ² pp	137m ² pp	48m ² pp	35m ² pp	60m ² pp	59m ² pp

Green = lower than Basildon; Pink = higher than Basildon;

NN = Nearest Neighbour – local authorities that are most similar to Basildon District.

ADJ = adjacent local authority

- 7.89 A 20% reduction will also assist in ensuring that developments do not become unviable by well intended but onerous open space provision requirements. Court cases and appeal decisions have made it clear that Local Authorities must take into account existing market conditions and not anticipate better market conditions unless there is evidence to support this when devising and implementing policies. Whilst in February 2010, the global economy, including the UK, was showing signs of recovery; it was also considered to be “fragile”¹⁶. A balance therefore needs to be achieved to ensure provision is achieved through new developments, whilst not making them unviable.
- 7.90 In addition to the amount of provision, it is also critical to consider the units which the open space provision will be applied against. As Table 14 indicates, this is currently expressed as m²/pp. In light of paragraph 7.89 and the results of Standard testing, it is recommended that whilst the m²/pp features in the provision calculation, that it is subject further to the consideration of the projected average occupancy of the development, as well as the number of net new residential units.
- 7.91 For new developments, a standard contribution of 24.8m² (31m² – 6.2m²) of *accessible open space* should therefore be provided per person and 20.8 m² (26m² – 5.2m²) of natural and semi natural open space per person.
- (m² of open space x projected average occupancy of development) x net number of units
- 7.92 In addition, an appropriate amount of land for Outdoor Sport provision per person may also be required, as informed in the future by the Playing Pitch Review, due for publication in 2010.

¹⁵ Dacorum's provision of m² of Amenity Green Space has been assumed as 10 m², given that the authority does not set a standard for this typology; as it favours a merit based approach.

¹⁶ Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, House of Commons Treasury Committee, 22nd Feb 2010

- 7.93 None of the Settlement Areas currently require contributions to achieve *all* of the above standards and the actual provision sought should reflect the additional demand for each typology in each Settlement Area. This is determined in Chapter 8.
- 7.94 For new development, contributions which secure provision elsewhere within the Settlement Area could be appropriate, if a development site is inappropriate or incapable of accommodating the required quantities.
- 7.95 The above recommended provision would maintain the 2010 levels of these typologies available in the District and secure contributions to assist with their ongoing investment to help meet the pressures open spaces face from an increasing population.

Table 15 Basildon District Proposed Open Space Quantity Standards

Typology	Recommended Standard (per 1,000 population)	Area (ha / 1,000 population) (2001 Census)
Urban Parks and Gardens	1.82ha	1.82ha
Natural and semi-natural open space	2.62ha	2.62ha
Amenity Green Space	1.33ha	1.33ha
Provision for children and young people	151 Spaces	To be set in PP17 Assessment Part II
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1.58ha	
Allotments and community gardens	Meet Demand	
Cemeteries and churchyards	Meet Demand	
Education Fields	No minimum Standard	0.78ha
Civic Space	No minimum Standard	0.024ha

- 7.96 These standards would be used to ensure that the current average quantity of open space available within Basildon District is largely maintained into the future, albeit permitting a redistribution of its location, where appropriate.
- 7.97 From an analysis of current supply, attention should be given to providing additional quantities of the following typologies to people in the identified Settlement Areas:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Billericay & Burstead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Green Spaces • Urban Parks and Gardens |
| Noak Bridge & Ramsden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Green Space • Urban Parks and Gardens |
| Basildon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Sports Provision • Amenity Green Space |
| Wickford | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Green Space • Outdoor Sports Facilities |

(Green text = Not a priority as within 20% buffer)

7.98 The quantity of open space that contributes to generic accessible provision (as described in the Accessibility section and which should be within 400m of all properties (*amenity green space, natural & semi-natural open space and urban parks and gardens*) in each Settlement Area is as follows.

Table 16 The Quantity of Open Space that Contributes to Generic Accessible Provision

Settlement	Quantity available (Ha) (Supply)	Difference from the Standard (Ha) (Demand)
Standard	5.7	
Billericay & Burstead	5.42	-0.35
Noak Bridge & Ramsden	3.32	-2.45
Basildon	6.85	+1.08
Wickford	3.1	-2.67

7.99 To address the imbalance would require significant new provision in Wickford and Noak Bridge & Ramsden (amounting to approximately 92ha overall) and a further 12 hectares in Billericay to meet the standard. It would also imply that a reduction of 104 hectares in Basildon would be acceptable.

7.100 However, it is unrealistic to expect a totally even distribution of open space across the District. The way that the different parts of the District have developed means that it would be difficult to create significant areas of new open space given the lack of available suitable land.

7.101 Realistically the distribution of open space typologies around the District is not even, and will never be so. Where there is an identified deficiency of open space provision, or an opportunity to create an open space, the quantity standards should be used to inform the amount sought and the preferred typology.

7.102 Strict control over the quantity of each typology may not always be appropriate, due to the local context, but the Council should endeavour to apply the standards and redress deficiency in each Settlement Area.

7.103 The Council should seek the retention of open space typologies that fall within the tolerance band stated in this assessment.

Recommended Quantity Standards

A minimum of 5.7ha of accessible open space should be available per 1,000 population of each Settlement Area in the following proportions:

- 2.6ha of Natural Green Space
- 3.1ha of Urban Park & Garden (including Country Parks) or Amenity Green Space
- An appropriate level of outdoor sports provision should be available per 1,000 population of each Settlement Area (to be further informed by the PPG17 Playing Pitch Assessment)

FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN URBAN AREAS

New development in urban areas should contribute a minimum of 46m² of accessible open space in the following proportions, calculated by projected occupancy and the number of new net residential units, having considered the specific requirements of the Settlement Area and subject to the following criteria:

- 21m² of Natural and Semi Natural Green Space
 - 25m² of Urban Park & Garden (including Country Parks) or Amenity Green Space, and
- (a) For developments that would achieve the applicable Accessibility Standard to open space, without the need for new onsite provision, contributions will be required to enhance the quality standard of open spaces in the vicinity and/ or making improvements to the links between them and the development site.
- (b) For development sites of 1ha or greater, that do not meet the Accessibility Standard, new open space provision will need to be made onsite and integrated into the development's layout and design, so long as its size can be equal to or greater than 0.1Ha.
- (c) Where new onsite open space provision would otherwise be smaller than 0.1Ha (and therefore discouraged) equivalent contributions for the enhancement of open spaces in the vicinity will be required.

FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE URBAN AREAS

New development outside the urban boundary will contribute to the provision of open space in line with the expected standards, having taken account of the specific needs and Priorities of the Settlement Area. This will be based on the following criteria:

- 26m² of Natural and Semi Natural Green Space
- 31m² of Urban Park & Garden (including Country Parks) or Amenity Green Space

Each of these standards cannot be read in isolation and must be balanced with the other provision standards given in this document to establish an appropriate level of provision based on the prevailing needs of a location.

The identified needs in each Settlement Area are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Billericay & Burstead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Green Spaces • Urban Parks and Gardens |
| Noak Bridge & Ramsden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Green Space • Urban Parks and Gardens |
| Basildon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Sports Provision |
| Wickford | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Green Space • Natural Green Space • Outdoor Sports Facilities |

(Green text = Not a priority as within 20% buffer)

Demand in Each Settlement Area

7.104 Applying the standards to each Settlement Area has identified the typologies where improvement is needed. The specific differences between supply and demand in each Settlement Area follows:

Table 17 Open space - Differences between Supply & Demand

Settlement Area	Pop.		Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Churchyards & Cemeteries	Civic Space	Natural Green Space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Urban Parks & Gardens
Standards			Meet Demand	1.33	Meet Demand	N/A	2.62	1.58	1.82
Billericay & Burstead	33,823	Ha Ha/pop		-30.10 -0.89			+39.57 +1.17	+44.65 +1.32	-21.31 -0.63
Noak Bridge & Ramsden	7,491	Ha Ha/pop		+2.77 +0.37			-7.49 -1.00	+22.62 +3.02	-13.63 -1.82
Basildon	96,991	Ha Ha/pop		+32.98 +0.34			+38.80 +0.4	-26.19 -0.27	+32.98 +0.34
Wickford	27,363	Ha Ha/pop		-5.20 -0.19			-70.32 -2.57	-40.22 -1.47	+2.46 +0.09

Green = Above standard
 Pink = Below standard
 Bold = Target Typology deficiencies

Table 18 Open Space - Differences between Supply & Demand – with 20% Buffer

Settlement Area	Pop.		Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Churchyards & Cemeteries	Civic Space	Natural Green Space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Urban Parks & Gardens
Standards	Standard		Meet Demand	1.33	Meet Demand	N/A	2.62	1.58	1.82
	Lower Limit		Meet Demand	-0.26	Meet Demand	N/A	-0.52	-0.32	-0.36
	Upper Limit		Meet Demand	+0.26	Meet Demand	N/A	+0.52	+0.32	+0.36
Billericay & Burstead	33,823	Ha Ha/pop		-21.05 -0.62			+21.98 +0.65	+33.82 +1.0	-9.13 -0.27
Noak Bridge & Ramsden	7,491	Ha Ha/pop		+0.75 +0.1			-3.6 -0.48	+20.23 +2.7	-10.94 -1.46
Basildon	96,991	Ha Ha/pop		+6.79 +0.07			0 0	0 0	0 0

Settlement Area	Pop.		Allotments	Amenity Green Space	Churchyards & Cemeteries	Civic Space	Natural Green Space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Urban Parks & Gardens
Standards	Standard		Meet Demand	1.33	Meet Demand	N/A	2.62	1.58	1.82
	Lower Limit		Meet Demand	-0.26	Meet Demand	N/A	-0.52	-0.32	-0.36
	Upper Limit		Meet Demand	+0.26	Meet Demand	N/A	+0.52	+0.32	+0.36
Wickford	27,363	Ha Ha/pop		0 0			-56.1 -2.05	-31.47 -1.15	0 0

Green = Above standard
Pink = Below standard
Bold = Target Typology deficiencies
Light Green = Within 20% of standard

7.105 The quantities shown in Tables 17 & 18 would align the Settlement Areas to the standard. Table 17 displays the result using the specific standard (which results in an almost exact redistribution) while Table 18 displays the result with a 20% buffer.

7.106 The buffered results calculate the change necessary to meet the upper or lower limit, depending on the current provision. This means that quantities which are within the 20% buffer zone require zero-change to meet the standard, as shown above. The overall result using this method is a demand for approx. 48ha of additional open space.

7.107 These results suggest the quantities that would benefit each Settlement Area to achieve the recommended quantities of open space, and the respective typologies. It is recommended that an open space strategy should investigate the possibilities of providing the amounts given below in each Settlement Area.

Recommended Enhancements to Each Settlement Area

Billericay & Burstead:

An increase in the provision of Amenity Green Space at 6.2m² per occupier and Urban Parks & Gardens at 2.7m² per occupier, or any combination of the two, would achieve the minimum recommended concentration of these typologies jointly at 2.53ha/1,000 population.

Noak Bridge & Ramsden:

- An increase in the provision of Natural & Semi-natural Green Space of 4.8m² per occupier would achieve the minimum recommended concentration of this typology at 2.1ha/1,000 population.

and

- An increase in the provision of Urban Parks & Gardens of 14.6m² per occupier would achieve the minimum recommended concentration of this typology at 1.46ha/1,000 population. Where the catchment population cannot sustain an Urban Park & Garden site, an increase in the provision of Amenity Green Space at 8.2m² per occupier would achieve the recommended minimum concentration of these two typologies jointly at 2.53ha/1,000 population.

Basildon:

- There are no recommended minimum increases in the concentration of typologies for this Settlement Area

Wickford:

- An increase in the provision of Natural and Semi Natural Green Space at 20.5m² per occupier would achieve the minimum recommended concentration of this typology at 2.1ha/1,000 population.

and

- An increase in the provision of Outdoor Sports Facilities at 11.5m² per occupier would achieve the minimum recommended availability of land for this typology at 1.26ha/1,000 population (to be further informed by the Playing Pitch Strategy due 2010).

Each of these standards cannot be read in isolation and must be balanced with the other standards given in this document to establish an appropriate level of provision based on the prevailing needs of a location.

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Chapter 8 - Civic Space

8.1 The purpose of civic spaces, which are often found in town centre locations, is to provide a setting for civic buildings and an open environment particularly around commercial, built-up areas. They can accommodate open air markets, community demonstrations and civic events. They are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design-led basis.

8.2 In Basildon District, five civic spaces have been identified through this assessment. These are:

- Town Square, Basildon
- Market Square, Basildon
- St. Martin's Square, Basildon
- Northlands Pavement, Pitsea
- Wickford Market, Market Road, Wickford

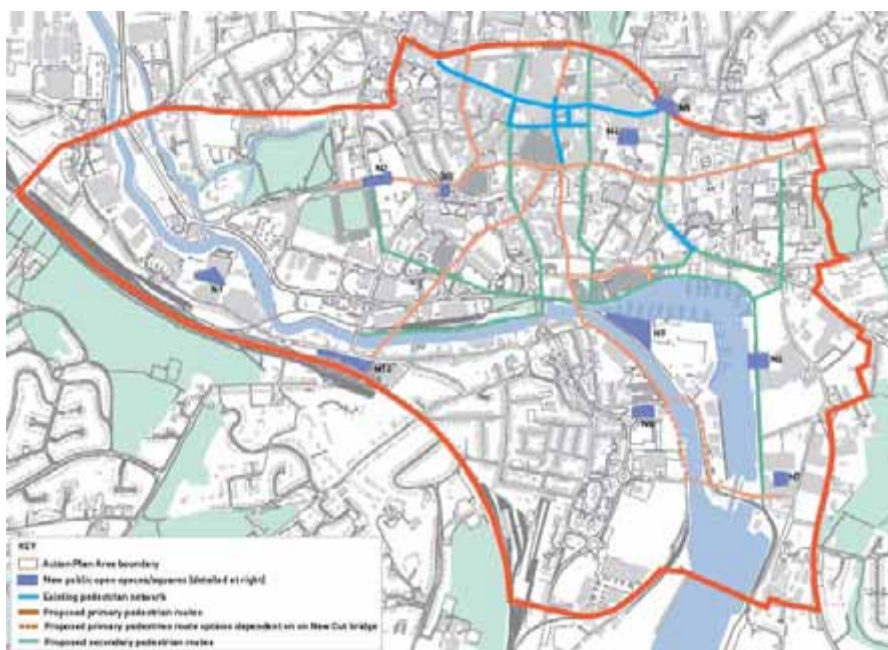


8.3 These spaces are generally well used and provide accessible pedestrian-friendly locations which give a setting to the buildings and uses around them. The surrounding uses are predominantly retailing (including cafes and bars), offices and civic facilities or functions.

8.4 Civic spaces impact on the areas they serve and need to provide a comfortable, effective setting for the uses around them. They differ from green open spaces in the way they are traditionally planned, provided and managed but each is an important location with high footfall and public demand for a high quality environment. They are often the only locations where markets can be set up without monopolising a car park and provide reasonably controlled, safe, vehicle-free, urban recreational space.

Importance of Civic Space to Town Centres

8.5 While civic space is more functional in nature, every civic space provides an opportunity to enhance the area it serves by providing an effective, attractive location with features and facilities that are expected of 21st Century town centres.



(Urban Initiatives/ GVA Grimley, Ipswich Area Action Plan, 2003)

8.6 In other major towns like Ipswich, civic spaces represent popular recreational areas in an otherwise urban environment, offering identifiable destinations for people to pass through, socialise or relax.

8.7 They act as nodes, joining together key routes as well as creating a focus for new development to be set around.

- 8.8 The demand for decent civic space in Basildon Town Centre is supported by the regeneration aspirations of the Council. The *Basildon Town Centre Development Framework 2006* specifically highlights the need for better open space and a better environment in the town centre. It identifies that there is still public demand for well designed spaces to improve the town centre's urban environment and whilst accepting the original New Town Master Plans as expressing visionary ideals for decent civic spaces, it is recognised that these now need to be reinvented for the modern era.
- 8.9 Similarly, the *Wickford Town Centre Masterplan 2006* states that pedestrian movement is impeded through Wickford because of a combination of street clutter and a harsh urban environment which exacerbates the current lack of green spaces and street trees. It is the ambition of the Masterplan to address this through the creation of a new market square in the centre of Wickford, providing a setting for the High Street, The Willows and community facilities; as well as a new Station Plaza, outside the railway station, integrating a new transport interchange.
- 8.10 The Pitsea Town Centre Master Plan 2008 found the quality of the public realm in the town centre to be weak and that spaces are generally incidental and lack clear focus, use and connections to other places. These issues are compounded by street furniture and lighting being in a poor condition and there is not really any identifiable place for people to sit, meet and relax to encourage remaining in the centre, other than to shop or use its limited commercial services. The Masterplan envisages a new market square becoming the new heart and central gateway of the town centre. It would be created through quality environmental and landscaping improvements, remodelling the road system and introducing new high quality developments to revitalise Pitsea Market and bring activity and vibrancy to the area.
- 8.11 There is therefore a long established desire to value and utilise the streetscape better in the District and, where possible, create civic spaces that are appropriate for the areas they serve and the people that will use them.

Local Feedback

- 8.12 In Basildon District, people feel that all open space has physical, social and mental health benefits and all typologies are important to perceptions of the environment. There is general satisfaction with the District's civic spaces. In particular, elderly residents identified these areas as places, they wish to spend time in, preferring them to most other types of open space.
- 8.13 However, there are a number of concerns. There is a high desire for more greenery within them and there is a concern over the levels of litter. More pressingly, 53% of respondents to the Open Space Survey 2009 stated that they did not feel safe using civic spaces in the evenings. This was the most significant issue raised for civic spaces in the survey. There are also demands for improved signage and availability of information, which is a consistent issue for all of the District's open spaces.
- 8.14 The following sections bring together the accessibility, quantity, quality and intrinsic benefit assessments for civic spaces, in order to clarify the supply and demand for civic space. The processes within each assessment are explained in the relevant section of this document.

Accessibility

- 8.15 A maximum distance that people should expect to travel to reach a civic space has not been set.
- 8.16 Civic spaces are provided, as appropriate, to the areas they serve and are not desired throughout the District in the same way that green space is. There is, therefore, no maximum accessibility standard for civic space. This is supported by the PPG17 Companion guide, which states that “...For example, it is not realistic for authorities to set quantity standard for hard surfaced civic space or distance thresholds to inland water ways”.

Civic Space Accessibility Standard

It is not appropriate to set a maximum distance for accessibility to civic space.

Quantity

- 8.17 The quantity of civic space in the District has been identified as 4.03ha, which is equivalent to 0.024ha per 1000 population. The major civic spaces are located in Basildon, Pitsea and Wickford Town Centres and the quantity at each location is defined by the dominant urban design principles at their time of origin and the desire for a pleasant town centre environment.
- 8.18 The quantity analysis undertaken essentially relies on the characteristics of existing development and the demand for each typology as identified through public and stakeholder engagement. For civic space, the demand is for a quality environment, not an arbitrary amount of provision based on existing civic spaces in the District. Good urban design principles incorporate an appropriate scale for new civic space and accordingly, it is desirable for Local Planning Authorities to instead consider the urban design frameworks for town centres.
- 8.19 It would not necessarily be appropriate for the Council to provide a specific quantity for each typology. Some typologies are essentially fixed by criteria outside of their public amenity function and should not be subject to arbitrary quantity requirements that have no link back to their purpose or need. Civic spaces are one of the typologies for which Basildon Council should not be setting minimum quantity standards.
- 8.20 This is supported by benchmarking with similar and neighbouring authorities (see Chapter 4 – Quantity) which shows that none of the authorities compared against have set a quantity standard for civic space either.

Civic Space Quantity Standard

It is not appropriate to set quantity standards for civic space.

Quality

- 8.21 The clearest indicator for the ability of civic spaces in the District to meet local demand is through their quality, as described in Chapter 5 - Quality.
- 8.22 Quality scores indicate things such as how well each space functions, attractiveness, the level and means of security, the level of occurrence and the impact of any anti-social behaviour, how well it is landscaped and how adequately street furniture is maintained, its access for disabled individuals, the appropriateness of facilities, its management and other factors that influence the capability of the space to meet the demands placed on it.
- 8.23 Each civic space has been scored for its ability to meet the demands of stakeholders and given a *quality rating* to assist in the determination of priorities. The features and facilities that make up the quality score and rating are identified in Appendix C.
- 8.24 The ratings and % scores for civic space in the District are:
- **Town Square, Basildon** – Good (73%)
 - **Market Square, Basildon** – Good (61.5%)
 - **St. Martin's Square, Basildon** – Good (71.7%)
 - **Northlands Pavement, Pitsea** – High reasonable (55.8%)
 - **Wickford Market, Market Road, Wickford** – High reasonable (58.1%)
- 8.25 The ratings are based on the ability for each civic space to meet the demands of stakeholders, which are summarised by the Quality Vision

Quality Vision

Engagement shows that people desire clean, secure, litter and dog-foul free open spaces that are well maintained and provide a variety of functions. Spaces should feel safe and address vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Landscaped features and well-designed facilities, particularly toilets, catering establishments and seating, are encouraged. More natural areas, lakes and woodlands are desired along with well-maintained open areas of grass. Clear information within and about the District's opens space estate is desired.

- 8.26 This statement does not apply solely to civic spaces and reference to woodlands and areas of open grass are not necessarily appropriate to this specific typology, although this largely depends on individual designs and purposes.
- 8.27 However, the expectations for civic areas in Basildon are not greatly different to those for green spaces, being for appropriate safety, seating, visual interest, various forms of greenery, landscaping, toilets and litter bins.

“There was general satisfaction with the District’s civic spaces [and] most respondents use civic spaces to shop, as a route to somewhere else or ... to get fresh air. There is strong support for more trees, seating and seasonal fairs to be provided [and] people largely find the District’s civic space easy to get around

Crime and the fear of crime appear to be significant issues in the District’s civic spaces. Of concern is that 53% of respondents stated they did not feel safe using the District’s civic spaces in the evening. This compares poorly to the daytime result, which is overwhelmingly positive. Coupled with this, people would like to have bright streetlights (51.8%) and CCTV (46.8%) in civic spaces, further evidencing that the fear of crime, particularly in the evenings, is a serious concern.

With the exception of safety, the questions received positive feedback, albeit with high levels of dissatisfaction with the maintenance and condition of civic spaces.”

Open Space Survey 2009 p.26

- 8.28 Beyond the usual demands, the best civic spaces provide a safe, well maintained and visually interesting public realm. This is achieved through a combination of having effective security measures that discourage anti-social behaviour; having a ‘cared for’ appearance and hard and soft landscaping features such as trees, water fountains, public art and decorative/textured paving surfaces. These give the space, or elements of it character and identity.
- 8.29 To capture these less tangible aspects of public space, a vision for civic space is formed. This includes the general aspirations set out in the quality vision but also captures the specific role of civic space in Basildon District.
- 8.30 The proposed vision for civic space is:

Vision for Civic Space

Engagement shows that people desire clean, secure, litter and dog-foul free civic spaces that are well maintained and visually stimulating. Civic spaces should feel safe at all times and discourage vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Natural landscaped features and well-designed facilities, particularly toilets, catering establishments and seating, are encouraged. Clear information within and about the District’s civic spaces is desired.

- 8.31 Civic spaces should have their own character and be welcoming. The quality audit has been undertaken in line with the assessment criteria adopted by the Council (see Appendix D). Each space has a quality score and a quality rating. The management of civic space and the provision of new civic spaces should be carried out to meet the standards set out in this document and achieve the vision.

Results

8.32 As with all open space, the policy approach to each civic space is based on the quality rating it achieved following a qualitative audit in 2007 and whether there are any Intrinsic Benefits present.

8.33 The ratings for Basildon's civic spaces have been determined as follows:

- **Town Square, Basildon** – Good (73%)
- **Market Square, Basildon** – Good (61.5%)
- **St. Martin's Square, Basildon** – Good (71.7%)
- **Northlands Pavement, Pitsea** – High reasonable (55.8%)
- **Wickford Market, Market Road, Wickford** – High reasonable (58.1%)

8.34 As civic spaces, like Urban Parks and Gardens (including Country Parks), are frequented by more people than most other typologies and are expected to be of a high quality, the threshold between high and low quality is raised to 60%.

8.35 Three of the District's civic spaces are therefore defined as High Quality, relating to a score of over 60%.

Figure 27 Quality Ratings for Civic Spaces



8.36 The management approach for civic spaces that are currently of high quality is given by the following policy:

Management of Civic Open Space

All open spaces should be improved and enhanced where possible.

With the exception of Urban Parks and Gardens and Civic Spaces, each space should achieve a minimum quality score of 50% (a high-reasonable rating), or at least maintain the rating as determined in this document, whichever is the higher.

All Urban Parks and Gardens and Civic Spaces, due to their more extensive use and range of functions, should achieve a minimum quality score of 60% (a 'good' rating), or at least maintain the rating as determined in this document, whichever is the higher.

New open spaces, defined as those not included in the 2007 audit, will be expected to achieve a 'good' quality rating, as determined in this document and shall be maintained to this standard for a minimum of 20 years.

Spaces that achieve a low quality rating, as determined in this document, should be considered for appropriate improvements, where possible.

- 8.37 Civic spaces should be enhanced where possible and at least maintain the quality rating as determined in this document. For Basildon Town Square, Market Square and St. Martin's Square this is a rating of 'Good'. For Northlands Pavement and Wickford Market, this is a 'High Reasonable' rating.
- 8.38 Maintaining these ratings is the least that should be achieved through the management approaches to these spaces; with a view for each location to be improved and enhanced where opportunities arise (the specific improvements for each space are listed under *Implementation* below). Evidently, it should be possible for both Northlands Pavement and Wickford Market to be enhanced through relatively minor improvements to their current situation, although this needs to be viewed in the context of the immediate and wider town centre environment and whether a more radical change should be considered to assist in the commercial enhancement of the centres as part of the regeneration of the town centres. A reassessment following any improvements should show whether these spaces can be raised into a higher category.
- 8.39 The three Basildon Town Centre civic spaces are rated as Good, which indicates that most quality factors are already being successfully provided and managed. Enhancement would therefore likely require a more considered approach, possibly including improvements in the design of the public realm, such as creating informal surveillance, more welcoming entrances into the space (including by creating more active frontages around the perimeter and discouraging what could become a dead frontage) and improved seasonal marketing. Both St. Martin's Square and Basildon Town Square are close to being classified as Excellent Civic Spaces and it is considered that it is an achievable aspiration, subject to relatively minor enhancements to the existing environment.
- 8.40 New civic spaces will be relatively rare opportunities and the Council should ensure that through its development management, regeneration and town centre management responsibilities that any spaces proposed, as part of development, become attractive areas that add value to the vicinity. The quality assessment, given in this document, should be

used to extract the expectations local people have of civic spaces; however, a considered, urban design approach is preferred against a regimented list of features, materials and styles. This is to ensure that any new civic space is individually distinctive and well-designed, fitting with the vision for open space given in this document.

Intrinsic Benefit

- 8.41 For the Basildon District PPG17 Assessment, a greater emphasis is placed on recognising the 'Intrinsic Benefits' (IB) offered by open spaces to the community and/ or environment, alongside their primary open space use. As defined in Section 6 – Quality, IB are defined as:
- Being a Legally Protected or Recognised Land Designation
 - Being a Locally Protected or Enforced Environmental Designation
 - Having a Flood Defence or Drainage Role
 - Have a Pollution Mitigation Role
 - Being an In-Perpetuity Use
- 8.42 None of the identified civic spaces have an IB. There is therefore currently no policy requirement to preserve any Intrinsic Benefits¹.
- 8.43 A dual-axis matrix is regarded as an acceptable way of comparing both the quality of open spaces and their Intrinsic Benefits (IB). It results in a series of spaces either ranked as High/High, High/Low, Low/High, Low/Low. Keeping the application of the PPG17 assessment in mind, this is a useful way to inform open space management, investment and asset management and has therefore been applied to all audited open spaces.
- 8.44 The quality rating and intrinsic benefits together identify the appropriate policy approach that should be taken for an open space as shown below. Currently, three civic spaces fall within High Quality / Low IB and two within Low Quality/ Low Benefit.

Figure 28 Quality and Intrinsic Benefit Matrix

<p>High Quality/Low IB</p> <p>Wherever possible, the preferred approach to a space in this category should be to <u>maintain and enhance its quality</u>.</p>	<p>High Quality/High IB</p> <p>Spaces that fall into this category should be maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>The planning system and their management approach should also preserve their IB.</p>
<p>Low Quality/ Low IB</p> <p>Wherever possible, the approach to these spaces should be to <u>enhance</u> their quality.</p> <p>If enhancement is not possible, for whatever reason, the space can be considered firstly for alternative open space uses, based on the needs of the locality.</p>	<p>Low Quality/ High IB</p> <p>The approach to these spaces should be to <u>enhance</u> their quality if possible. The planning system and management approach should be to preserve the IB, in situ.</p> <p>Enhancing the quality can include considering alternative open space uses that also conserve the IB and improve the overall use by the community.</p>

¹ This may change over time and full consideration of whether any Intrinsic Benefits are present needs to be considered should any proposals occur after this study is published.

- 8.45 The ongoing management of civic space should improve and enhance their quality where possible. As identified previously, each civic space of High Quality should at least maintain its quality rating as determined in this document.
- 8.46 The way that individual spaces can be enhanced is primarily identified in the quality audit undertaken in 2007. This is the starting point for identifying improvements based on the audit criteria and is not exhaustive. The following section states the improvements that can be made to enhance each civic space.

Implementation

8.47 The improvements that could be made to enhance each civic space depend on the individual characteristics of the space. There is no single solution as each area is unique. This assessment of supply and demand identified the individual factors that each civic space scored less-well on during the audit. These are approximately as follows:

- **Town Square, Basildon – Good (73%)**
 - Dog bins; litter bins and seating
 - Mix of trees species and management of them
 - Signage
 - Ease of access between external housing and internal paths
 - Informal surveillance from neighbouring properties
- **Market Square, Basildon – Good (61.5%)**
 - CCTV; reasonable access for disabled people; signage; site based staff and water features
 - Welcoming entrances and signage
 - The condition of lighting, seating and vandalism
 - Evidence of vandalism, flow of people and informal surveillance
 - Marketing
- **St. Martin's Square, Basildon – Good (71.7%)**
 - Dog bins; litter bins; seating
 - Signage
 - Marketing
 - Mix of tree species and management of them
- **Northlands Pavement, Pitsea – High reasonable (55.8%)**
 - CCTV; Dog bins
 - Mix of tree species and management of them
 - Management of grass areas
 - Condition of horticulture
 - Signage
 - Design
 - Improvements to the management and maintenance
 - Management of plants and shrubs
 - Evidence of community involvement
- **Wickford Market, Market Road, Wickford – High reasonable (58.1%)**
 - CCTV; dog bins; site based staff; water features
 - Access for disabled people
 - Signage
 - Improvements to the management and maintenance
 - Improvements to health, safety and security
 - Evidence of community involvement

- 8.48 Each of the District's civic spaces scored well on most factors and generally the identified improvement areas given above still achieved a 'reasonable' rating.
- 8.49 However, to enhance a space, these factors should be addressed. A consistent low score is identified in *appropriate signage*, which therefore represents an opportunity for general improvement. This can cover information within the space (direction signs, name plaques, clearly marked or distinguishable routes, event information, etc) and the availability of information about how to contact the manager/owner. Engagement identified that poor signage, and a lack of publicity on how to find out about open space, was a consistent issue.
- 8.50 Other improvements may require funding or a change in management procedures, which would be addressed most successfully through an Open Space Strategy and / or town centre master plans.

Recommended Policies

1. Existing civic spaces shall be managed in a way that will enhance their quality. Each space should achieve at least a good quality rating or maintain the rating as determined in the 2007 quality audit, which ever is the greater.
2. Opportunities to enhance civic spaces should endeavour to achieve the vision established in this assessment. This is:

Vision for Civic Space

Engagement shows that people desire clean, secure, litter and dog-foul free civic spaces that are well maintained and visually stimulating. Civic spaces should feel safe at all times and discourage vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Natural landscaped features and well-designed facilities, particularly toilets, catering establishments and seating, are encouraged. Clear information within and about the District's civic spaces is desired.

3. Enhancements to civic space can be achieved through imaginative solutions, but should include the opportunities for improvement to each site as identified through the PPG17 Quality Audit.
4. New civic space should be provided such that it complies with and complements the vision for civic space in the District. New civic spaces should be:
 - Appropriate in scale and form to the uses and location they serve
 - High-quality spaces that incorporate established principles of good urban design
 - Maintained to a high quality standard for a minimum of 20 years

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Chapter 9 Approach to Unaudited Open Spaces

9.1 A number of open spaces in the District have not been considered under the various sections of this assessment due to their small size. Spaces smaller than 0.2ha, with a few minor exceptions, have not been audited. This was to ensure that a manageable number of detailed provision assessments were undertaken, as a full audit of every piece of land with an open space use would have been prohibitively expensive, time consuming and added little value to the final assessment. A mechanism is needed therefore to accommodate any open space of this nature in future.

Character

9.2 The PPG17 Assessment must acknowledge that these smaller spaces can still provide access to open space for people living and working nearby, albeit of a generally limited nature, and they should not be ignored when considering open space provision. These areas are often open areas of grass or semi-natural space, usually maintained by the Council or an estate management company, but unlikely to contain any facilities. This does not include the areas deliberately excluded from assessment, as identified in the introduction, or any new open space which has been adopted after publication of this assessment, as these will ordinarily be covered by the adopted standards.

9.3 For example, the Figure 29 opposite shows an area between Gloucester Park and Falkenham Rise in Fryerns, Basildon. Within this area there are a number of small open spaces, none of which are individually 0.2ha or greater and therefore have not been audited. However, these spaces still provide a small amount of recreational open space to the local residents and are generally maintained through grass cutting and pruning.



Figure 29 Area with Small Areas of Open Space

PPG17 Issues

9.4 The issues that are likely to arise with these spaces regard the recommended approach to their management and how to deal with development proposals that may come forward for them. Both aspects raise specific issues when compared to the recommended approach in the previous sections of this Assessment, as they have not been assessed in a comprehensive manner as other larger open spaces. In particular, as these areas have not been audited, they:

- are not recognised as contributing specifically towards accessible open space as established in the assessment
- do not have a quality rating in order to determine the proper management approach
- are not accounted for in the quantity assessment for each Settlement Area

9.5 These sites will nevertheless need a robust recommendation for their management approach and how to determine possible proposals for alternative uses. This section will describe the recommended approach to handling areas that have not been audited, but which for all intents and purposes exist as informal open space.

Use of the Recommended Standards

- 9.6 The recommended standards set out in previous sections have been determined through extensive public engagement and reflect local demand. The primary approach should be to establish whether any of these standards can be applied to unaudited open space, irrespective of the lack of direct empirical assessment. This section considers the applicability of each of the recommended standards in turn, together with a method of determining proposals for alternative uses.

Quality

- 9.7 The management approach to all open space in Basildon District is to improve their condition and function and to protect and enhance those aspects that are deficient in a particular location. The management of spaces that are not included in the assessment should remain substantially similar to the approach adopted for audited open space.
- 9.8 In Chapter 6 – Quality, a quality vision was determined for all open space in the District. This does not rely on a space being audited or catalogued and therefore remains useful and appropriate for all open space, regardless of size, in the District.

Quality Vision

Engagement shows that people desire clean, secure, litter and dog-foul free open spaces that are well maintained and provide a variety of functions. Spaces should feel safe and address vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Landscaped features and well-designed facilities, particularly toilets, catering establishments and seating, are encouraged. More natural areas, lakes and woodlands are desired along with well-maintained open areas of grass. Clear information within and about the District's opens space estate is desired.

- 9.9 The vision describes what a good open space in the District would be like and what it would contain. In tandem to the Vision, the recommended Standard states that: “*All open spaces should be improved and enhanced to meet the Quality Vision where possible* “. This should remain the case for un-audited open space, as it does not rely directly upon an audit of any specific open space, but is based on local engagement and clearly identified desires for the District.
- 9.10 Pursuant to the Council's adoption of the Vision, the space's landowner or manager would be expected to consider whether the approach being taken meets the quality vision and determine whether any enhancements could be made to improve the open space to meet local demand. When opportunities arise, improvements should be made to better reflect the vision, as much as the size or character of the open space will allow.

Intrinsic Benefits

- 9.11 An open space that has not been audited can still have *Intrinsic Benefit*. Each of the benefits are based on factors of statutory origin and can therefore cover a wider area than any particular open space. The principle of protecting an Intrinsic Benefit does not, therefore, present a problem to the management of these open spaces. However, the presence or otherwise of an Intrinsic Benefit should be checked prior to any alternative management arrangements being considered, to ensure any benefit is not impeded, damaged or unacceptably reduced. The approach to any open space with an Intrinsic Benefit is foremost to protect the benefit.

9.12 It is therefore possible to manage unaudited open space in a way that is compatible with the principles set out in the assessment, by considering the quality vision and the Intrinsic Benefits. It is recommended that this complimentary approach be adopted by the Council.

Accessibility

9.13 Accessibility concerns the maximum distance that people should need to travel to reach particular open spaces. This will only be applicable to unaudited open spaces if, for whatever reason, it is added to the assessment or if a proposal is made for consideration as to whether an alternative use is suitable. The accessibility analysis relies on each space being identified and plotted. Therefore the areas that this section deals with will only be identified in these specific circumstances.

9.14 The accessibility assessment concluded that the following Standard should be applied to the District and, therefore, that open space which provides the only accessible form of a particular typology should generally be protected.

Accessibility Standard

People living and working in Basildon District should not have to travel more than 400m to reach at least one of the following accessible typologies:

- **Urban Park & Gardens (including Country Park)**
- **Natural or Semi-Natural Green Space**
- **Amenity Green Space**

This is approximately a 6 minute walk.

In addition, people living and working in Basildon District should not have to travel more than 2km to reach the following typologies:

- **Urban Parks & Gardens (including Country Parks)**
- **Natural or Semi-Natural Green Space**
- **Outdoor Sports Facilities**
- **Allotments and Community Gardens**

9.15 The assessment goes on to determine locations that are deficient in terms of this level of accessibility, the detail of which is available in Chapter 5 - Accessibility.

9.16 Open space that has not been audited presents two particular issues:

- Unaudited spaces do not have a primary typology
- Spaces that have not been included in the original assessment will not have been accounted for when analysing the accessibility results

9.17 It is considered that open spaces of less than 0.1ha (1000m²) should not be considered as complimenting the amount of accessible open space available, as anything of this scale or smaller is unlikely to be an attractive destination for people, beyond any immediate residents or workers. Such areas are essentially landscaping which has been provided to compliment the setting of the immediate built environment.

Open space of 0.1ha or less should not be considered to provide accessible open space

- 9.18 However, it is unreasonable to conclude that all unaudited spaces are always going to be unable to provide open space for a wider catchment. It is therefore recommended that an open space greater than 0.1ha in size should be considered as providing an accessible form of open space and be assessed accordingly.
- 9.19 These areas of land are only likely to be brought into the assessment in the circumstances mentioned above, that is, if they are added to the assessment for any reason or if a proposal for a change of use to the land is made. In both circumstances the approach should be the same as for all audited open space and the open space database should be updated as necessary.

Open space greater than 0.1ha shall be considered to provide accessible open space and be assessed accordingly

- 9.20 To make an assessment of the accessibility of an unaudited space, the primary typology must be determined and considered against the results of the assessment.
- 9.21 Deciding the typology of a parcel of land should be straightforward. The descriptions for each typology given in the introduction to this document should be used if there is any dispute or uncertainty. In difficult cases, the Council's Parks and Countryside Service will be able to assist in arriving at a suitable designation. In most instances the spaces being considered will be either Amenity Green Space or Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space as other typologies have a conspicuous use or visibility that will have been accurately accounted for during the initial assessment.
- 9.22 For all spaces greater than 0.1ha the recommendation is to apply the existing standard, as appropriate to the defined typology, to establish its contribution towards accessibility within its location. This means identifying whether the site provides sole access to its typology in the area or whether other spaces already provide an appropriate level of access. This shall incorporate any physical barriers, as described in the main document.
- 9.23 A judgement of the level of contribution that the space makes towards accessibility will need to be determined. This can be easily established using a GIS system and by cataloguing the other open spaces nearby which also provide accessibility to the catchment area of the space being considered. If the space provides sole access to this typology for a reasonable number of properties in a given location, its loss should be resisted. If the space does not provide sole access to a particular typology, consideration should firstly be given to any of the deficient typologies in the location and whether it has a role in rectifying these, before any alternative use is considered.
- 9.24 Any change to the typology or use of a site that will result in reduced accessibility within the area, should include appropriate measures to mitigate against such a reduction.

Quantity

- 9.25 The recommended standards for quantity are given in Chapter 7 - Quantity. Spaces that have not been audited have not contributed towards these figures and are therefore, in some sense, additional to the provision accounted for in the PPG17 Assessment.
- 9.26 This situation means that any changes of use to open spaces that were not included in the original assessment may otherwise be acceptable in terms of the quantity standard because the loss would not impact on the Settlement Area's provision figures. The situation for these spaces therefore needs to be different to how open spaces are ordinarily handled for their contribution towards quantity.

9.27 The two instances when this is likely to arise can be handled separately, and are:

- When spaces are considered for inclusion in the assessment, for whatever reason
- When open spaces are being considered for a change of use

Inclusion in the Assessment

9.28 There are several situations where new open space could be added to the amount available in the District. In most instances this is encouraged in order to increase the amount and variety of recreational space available for people to use. The reasons that land could become appropriate for inclusion are, for example:

- Identification of land that provides open space which was not previously included, for whatever reason
- New open space that has been provided through new development
- The realisation of opportunities to provide a particular typology in a location (for example, by dedicating land to charitable or environmental organisation that secures public access, or through altered management of land that is not currently appropriate for inclusion)

9.29 Open spaces that are identified for incorporation in the PPG17 Assessment, for whatever reason, should be added to the quantities calculated for the appropriate Settlement Area as soon as they are available for use by the public. A new quantity for the SA would in turn be established, measured in hectares and hectares per 1000 people. This will ensure that new open space will be accounted for in the audit and that a continuous update to the amount of open space of each typology is made for each Settlement Area. This will also assist with monitoring progress towards the recommended standards on an annual basis.

Alternative Use

9.30 If an open space that has not been previously audited is proposed for an alternative open space use, or another use, an assessment of its contribution to the location in its current form should be undertaken.

9.31 This assessment has already identified the quantity enhancements for each typology that are necessary in the Settlement Areas, in order to achieve the desired level of provision, which are repeated below. Where an open space is proposed for alternative uses, the current demand for that typology should be considered.

9.32 The identified needs in each Settlement Area are as follows:

- Billericay & Burstead: **Amenity Green Spaces;
Urban Parks and Gardens**
- Noak Bridge & Ramsden: **Natural Green Space;
Urban Parks and Gardens**
- Basildon: **Outdoor Sports Provision**
- Wickford: **Amenity Green Space;
Natural Green Space;
Outdoor Sports Facilities**
(Green text = Not essential if 20% buffer agreed)

9.33 Any open space that provides towards one of the above Settlement Area deficient typologies should be considered for retention for reasons of quantity provision.

9.34 If a proposed site does not currently provide towards one of the deficient typologies in that Settlement Area, then the feasibility of it providing any of the desired typologies should first

be considered. A site that is currently used as open space should therefore only be considered for an alternative use if it cannot address deficiencies in a location.

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation OS9a: Management of Unaudited Open Space

The quality vision should guide the management of all open spaces, as per the recommended standard which states that “*all open spaces should be improved and enhanced to meet the Quality Vision where possible*”. Any Intrinsic Benefits of a site should be confirmed and evaluated prior to any alternative management arrangements being considered, to ensure any benefit is not impeded, damaged or unacceptably reduced. The approach to any open space is foremost to protect the benefit and enhance the space where possible.

Recommendation OS9b: Changing the Typology of an Unaudited Open Space

Any unaudited site considered for an alternative open space use should be considered against the quantity and accessibility demands in the location.

- The contribution of the site towards quantity should be compared to the priority needs for its Settlement Area.
- Any Intrinsic Benefit(s) shall be protected, or appropriate mitigation identified.
- The level of sole accessibility it provides to its typology should be compared against the accessibility level for the proposed typology. Where the site does not provide any accessibility, the quantity and Intrinsic Benefit will be paramount.
- A balanced judgement should then be reached as to the most effective typology for the location, given these comparisons.

Recommendation OS9c: Change of Use of an Unaudited Open Space

Any unaudited open space that is proposed for an alternative use should be considered under the following processes:

Open space of 0.1ha or less

These sites should not be considered to provide accessible open space therefore the main considerations are quantity and intrinsic benefit.

- If the site has an Intrinsic Benefit(s) then the benefit should be protected or appropriately mitigated against its loss.
- The typology of the site should be established and its contribution towards any demand for that typology stated. If the type of open space is in demand, loss should be resisted unless appropriately mitigated.

Open space greater than 0.1ha

These sites shall be considered to provide accessible open space and the main considerations will therefore be accessibility, quantity and Intrinsic Benefit.

- If the site has an Intrinsic Benefit then the benefit should be protected or appropriately mitigated against loss.
- The typology of the site should be established and an assessment of whether it provides sole accessibility to its typology for any properties stated. If it provides sole accessibility to a reasonable number of properties, loss should be resisted unless appropriate mitigation is made.
- With the typology established, its contribution towards any demand for that typology should be stated. If the type of open space is in demand, loss should be resisted unless appropriate mitigation is made.

- From the preceding steps, determine whether the Intrinsic Benefit, provision towards demand, or the level of accessibility either individually or jointly resists a change of use.
- If determined that loss should be resisted, confirm whether any proposed measures to mitigate against the loss are sufficient to outweigh the harm caused.
- If no detrimental impact is confirmed in terms of Intrinsic Benefit, quantity demand or accessibility, then a change of use can be considered favourably, with a contribution towards improving nearby open space if necessary for the location.

9.35 These processes would enable open space that has not been directly considered in the assessment to be supported by the recommended Standards. It confirms a recommended management approach and methods for determining proposed changes to the typology or to another land use.

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Chapter 10 Provision Priorities for Settlement Areas

Introduction

- 10.1 The previous chapters set standards for open space provision in the District and assessed the existing level of provision in each settlement area in relation to those standards. However it is also a requirement of the PPG 17 guidance that recommendations be made as to how any shortfalls in the level of provision might be addressed in the future.
- 10.2 The recommendations of the PPG 17 Open Space Assessment together with those from the Playing Pitch Technical Study and Indoor Pitch and Recreational Facilities Study will be used as evidence to inform the preparation of the Council's Open Space Strategy. It is the function of the Open Space Strategy to determine the future provision and management of Open Space in the District based on the recommendations in the PPG 17 Assessments
- 10.3 This chapter therefore gives a brief summary of the main findings from the assessment for each Settlement Areas and makes some recommendations for improvements in each settlement area. Finally, some wider comparisons between the settlement areas will be described, together with some issues that affect the entire District.

Billericay & Burstead Settlement Area

Settlement Area Context

- 10.4 The Billericay & Burstead SA has a concentration of urban development to its north with significant tracts of open countryside in the south, where the topography slightly declines towards Dunton and Basildon.

Existing Provision

- 10.5 **Quantity:** Billericay and Burstead SA has an above District average provision of natural green space and outdoor sports facilities, but in terms of urban parks & gardens and smaller amenity green space it is below the standard recommended by this PPG17 Assessment. Amenity Green Spaces are provided at 0.44ha per 1000 population which is lower than any other settlement area and represents an undersupply of informal open spaces.

Priority Spaces for Future Quantity: **Amenity Green Space and Urban Parks & Gardens**

- 10.6 **Quality / Intrinsic Benefit:** The SA must be recognised for its high quality open spaces which are managing to meet local demands, whilst also providing areas for biodiversity, public access, heritage conservation and flood & surface water management.
- 10.7 There are however some significant spaces (e.g. Sun Corner Recreation Ground, Mountnessing Road Open Space & Outwood Common Open Space) that are not of a comparable standard. In the more rural south of the SA, the village of Little Burstead is flanked to its north and west by two areas of statutorily protected Common Land, which are of a lower quality. However, it is acknowledged that improvements to Little Burstead Common have already started. In 2009, Essex Ecology Services Ltd carried out a habitat survey for the Council that specifically mentioned the improvements that have been made following a scrub clearance programme between 2008 & 2009. These were regarded as

positive steps forward in its management, both as an open space and as a biodiversity reserve.

10.8 **Accessibility:** Within the Billericay & Burstead Settlement area, accessibility gaps are most notable in four locations: at the southern end of Great Burstead; along Coxes Farm Road; along Noak Hill Road and in the Dunton area. These areas are on the periphery of the conurbation and surrounded by open countryside. Similarly, properties at the very north of Billericay, particularly those in The Vale, do not have an accessible open space within 400m as recommended by this Assessment, which includes an allowance for spaces provided outside the District. This area is very close to the Stock Brook Country Club and Golf Course, and the Billericay Rugby Club but these do not provide freely accessible open space due to membership requirements. However the deficit is partly offset in areas such as Noak Hill Road where the properties have large gardens and back onto agricultural land or a river.



Figure 30 Quality Rankings of Open Spaces in Billericay & Burstead SA

10.9 There are a couple of exceptions to the general principle that provision gaps exist in the edge of the town. A few properties within the town centre and two clusters in west Billericay, both north and south of the railway line near Mountnessing Road, show up as not having open space within the standard distance. Each of these is just over 400m from several open spaces and would therefore not be a significant priority for the PPG17 Assessment to address.

Recommendations to Address Existing Shortfalls & Accommodate Growth

10.10 An increase in the additional provision of Amenity Green Space at 6.2m² per current resident and Urban Parks & Gardens at 2.7m² per current resident, or any combination of the two, would achieve the minimum recommended concentration of these typologies jointly at 2.53ha/1000 population, which would make up existing shortfalls.

10.11 The lower quality open spaces in the Settlement Area are not concentrated in one location. There are however clusters of poorer quality open space in the broad locations of:

- Little Burstead
- Eastern Mountnessing Fringe
- Barleylands Farm (North of Southend Road)

10.12 Two other sizeable spaces that serve a densely populated area are Sun Corner Recreation Ground and Outwood Common Road, both of which fall outside the control of Basildon District Council, but which nevertheless provide a community amenity.

10.13 Only two of the lower quality open spaces are within Basildon District Council ownership and management (Mountnessing Road & Queens Park Meadow). The remainder are owned by Essex County Council, the London Borough of Waltham Forest or privately.

10.14 The importance that these lower quality spaces bring to the Settlement Area must not be overlooked and these areas should be identified for improvements that find a balance between the demands of local people and any Intrinsic Benefit they have. An example is the two areas of Common Land in Little Burstead, which although privately owned, are publically accessible natural and semi-natural open spaces that are protected and have locally significant biodiversity value, recognised by their entry onto the Essex Wildlife Trust's Local Wildlife Sites Register.

Recommendation BILL 1

The quantity of Amenity Green Space or Urban Parks & Gardens (or a combination of the two) should not be reduced in the SA and provision should be increased where opportunities arise.

Recommendation BILL 2

Quality Standards of open spaces should be raised in the SA. The Open Space Strategy should examine ways of improving the quality of the low quality open spaces.

Noak Bridge & Ramsden Settlement Area

Settlement Area Context

10.15 The Noak Bridge & Ramsden Settlement Area has a more rural and dispersed character than other areas. It has larger distances between the villages and properties when compared to the other three, predominantly urban, Settlement Areas and the properties generally have longer gardens that extend into the countryside. The exception is Noak Bridge village, which although has a character that appears to be more rural, based on design principles set out in the Essex Design Guide, it is of a higher development density with smaller gardens, than is prevalent in traditional villages.

Existing Provision

10.16 **Quantity:** Noak Bridge & Ramsden Settlement Area contains a high proportion of the District's sports pitch provision, compared to its population. This is largely due to the Barleyland's Farm sport pitch complex. While these pitches are used by teams from across the District (and further afield), the appropriateness of the location for these facilities has not been entirely established through the planning process, nor are they a secure form of provision comparable to a designated open space. Alternative strategies for the on-going provision to meet District demand needs to be explored as part of the Local Development Framework process.

10.17 This settlement area also lacks an urban park, which is understandable due to the dispersed nature of the settlements within it and therefore the lack of a suitably concentrated population to sustain such a park. However, if the population increased, an urban park could be appropriate and even necessary, depending upon the catchment area of any urban parks & country parks neighbouring the Settlement Area.

Priority Spaces for Future Quantity: Natural Green Space & Urban Parks and Gardens

10.18 **Quality / Intrinsic Benefit:** The majority of open spaces in the SA are of a high quality, however the SA does also have six open spaces which are considered to be low quality, all achieving a 'poor' quality rating. These spaces are generally grouped around Barleylands Farm and are laid out by the land owner as sports pitches.

10.19 The other most significant space is Noak Bridge Nature Reserve that provides immediate access to open space for people living in Noak Bridge, as well as biodiversity habitats that warrant its entry onto the Essex Local Wildlife Sites Register 2009. With a score of 28% it is one of the lowest scoring open spaces in the District. All other spaces in this SA that have Intrinsic Benefit



Figure 31 Quality Rankings of Open Spaces in Noak Bridge & Ramsden SA

are of high quality, providing public access, burial space and flood & surface water management roles alongside their use for people. Noak Bridge Nature Reserve should be a priority enhancement in this SA when the opportunity arises.

10.20 **Accessibility:** In the Noak Bridge & Ramsden SA, the deficiencies are concentrated in the lower density settlements around Crays Hill, Ramsden Bellhouse and Southend Road, Wickford. These areas are generally surrounded by open countryside, interspersed with plotland settlements and ribbon development, which give them a semi-rural character. The quantum of open spaces provided in these locations is therefore associated to a greater extent with making at least some formal space available in an otherwise rural location. It is unreasonable to expect provision comparable to an urban Settlement Area, given its lower density population and dispersed pattern of development.

Recommendations to Address Existing Shortfalls & Accommodate Growth

10.21 An increase in the provision of Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space of 4.8m² per occupier would achieve the minimum recommended concentration of this typology at 2.1ha/1000 population; and an increase in the provision of Urban Parks & Gardens at 14.6m² per occupier would achieve the minimum recommended concentration of this typology at 1.46ha/1000 population.

10.22 Where the catchment population cannot sustain an Urban Park & Garden site, an increase in the provision of Amenity Green Space at 8.2m² per occupier would achieve the recommended minimum concentration of these two typologies jointly at 2.53ha/1000 population.

10.23 What needs to be considered, however, is the prospects of achieving this. Solutions in these locations could include providing low intensity open space, such as amenity green spaces and accessible natural green space at strategic points to close the gaps and provide easily accessible open space to these residents. In the north east of the

settlement area an urban park would benefit both Wickford and Ramsden Crays areas, although accessibility in Ramsden Crays would be unlikely to be directly improved in terms of the 400m Standard (due to the dispersed pattern) and the sustainability of such a park for the population level would need to be investigated.

Recommendation NOAK1

The Council must accept that the level of provision in the SA needs to account for balancing local demands in a sustainable manner that can benefit local residents. The presence of open countryside and generally larger gardens, particularly in Ramsden Bellhouse, means that applying the PPG17 Standards to this SA does not have the same urgency as deficits in the urban areas, unless benefits to either the Billericay & Burstead SA or Wickford SA are possible through such a solution.

Recommendation NOAK2

The Council investigates, in partnership with the Parish Council, the feasibility of creating a new open space in the vicinity of the summit of Crays Hill to supplement the Crays Hill Recreation Ground & Allotments at the foot of the hill. The feasibility of this should be investigated in the forthcoming Open Space Strategy.

Recommendation NOAK3

The Council should, when resources are available, seek an enhancement to the Noak Bridge Nature Reserve. The nature of these enhancements should be explored further through the Open Spaces Strategy and incorporated into the Management Plan for the site, in consultation with the Noak Bridge Parish Council, the Friends of Noak Bridge Nature Reserve and the wider public.

Wickford Settlement Area

Settlement Area Context

10.24 Wickford is predominantly urban, with a traditional pattern of development concentrated around the high street at the centre of the Settlement Area. It extends to meet the District boundary in the north, where the built environment of Wickford meets Runwell, which is within Chelmsford Borough.

Existing Provision

10.25 **Quantity:** Wickford has a provision of Urban Parks & Gardens that is very slightly greater than the recommended Standard and therefore best reflects the quantity to population ratio that the Standard promotes. However, a clear deficit can be demonstrated in other provision, where three of the four measured typologies are lower than the district average and the lowest overall provision of open space per head of population is found. In particular, there is currently an under provision of 20.5m² of Natural & Semi-Natural Open Space and 11.5m² of Outdoor Sport Space per Wickford resident. In addition, there is an undersupply of amenity green space, although this falls within the recommended tolerance.

Priority Spaces for Future Quantity: Natural Green Space, Outdoor Sports Facilities

10.26 **Quality / Intrinsic Benefit:** The Intrinsic Benefits of this SA's open spaces have a greater role to play in flood and surface water management than they do for providing areas for biodiversity or heritage conservation.

10.27 Wickford contains two of the District's five 'excellent' open spaces, Wickford Memorial Park and The Wick Country Park. These two parks are the only 'excellent' rated spaces that are not outdoor sports facilities and therefore provide successful, substantial accessible open space of high quality that meets the expectations of the District's residents. These two spaces are of great benefit to Wickford and their quality should be maintained and enhanced.



Figure 32: Quality Ranking for Open Spaces in Wickford SA

10.28 In addition to the Memorial Park and the Wick Country Park, Wickford has a number of 'good', 'reasonable' and 'poor' rated open spaces. There are no 'very poor' rated sites in Wickford.

10.29 The greatest improvements can be made to open spaces close to the A132 and at the Radwinter Avenue roundabout. These spaces are of reasonable or poor quality, but are close to the town centre and therefore capable of providing open space close to a central destination for its growing population.

10.30 **Accessibility:** The built-up areas of the Wickford SA are predominantly residential environments, apart from the commercial areas in the town centre and at Hurricane Way/ Russell Gardens. Open space is almost entirely provided on the urban boundaries (e.g. Wickford Memorial Park, The Wick Country Park, Cranfield Park Road, etc). This is particularly evident in the accessibility gap analysis, which reflects both the position of open space and the relatively low quantity when compared to other parts of the District¹.

10.31 The Wickford SA has some sizeable gaps in open space provision, most notably in the vicinity of the town centre, Swan Lane, Castledon Road, Southend Road, The Wick (North), Beauchamps and Bromfords. It shares a provision gap in and around London Road, with the *Noak Bridge & Ramsden SA* to the west.

10.32 Advanced analysis of the responses to the Open Space Survey 2009 indicated that there are individuals who live in the *gap areas* who felt that there are barriers to access, that there isn't sufficient open space and that spaces can be too far away to get to. Whilst a greater number of people from Wickford responded that they felt there was a green space within easy walking distance that had the facilities they need, it should be noted that there are too few responses from people living in the gap areas to conclude that their concerns are universal.

10.33 Another concern, which is also reflected in the quantity provision, is access to Outdoor Sports Facilities and Natural Green Space. There is an undersupply of both natural areas and formal sports provision within The Wick estate and southeast Wickford. This is partly due to the physical barriers, particularly the railway line, which restricts easy access to these spaces, but provision of these typologies is notably poor in these parts of Wickford.

¹ See Chapter 7 - Quantity within this document

10.34 When considering all the evidence, it is the low number and dispersal of open spaces that generally defines the accessibility gaps in this SA. However, open spaces close to the town centre are, in the majority of cases, isolated from the optimal amount of residential properties they could support because of physical barriers. In particular, the railway line and the A132 cut through the town in different directions, essentially segregating accessibility into three sectors. Whilst large open spaces may, as the crow flies, be in close proximity to some parts of the town, due to too few crossing points the recommended walking distances become difficult to otherwise achieve.

Recommendations to Address Existing Shortfalls & Accommodate Growth

10.35 An increase in the provision of Natural & Semi Natural Green Space at 20.5m² per person would achieve the minimum recommended concentration of this typology at 2.1ha/1000 population and an increase in the provision of Outdoor Sports Facilities at 11.75m² per person would achieve the minimum recommended availability of land for this typology at 1.26ha/1000 population (to be informed by the Playing Pitch Strategy Technical Addendum 2010).

10.36 Good ideas from residents were that more civic space should be created to address shortfalls and that access to Memorial Park should be extended into the town centre along the River Crouch.

10.37 Increasing accessibility would require either the elimination of barriers to access by appropriate and viable means or providing additional open space in the areas where gaps are present.

10.38 It is recognised that additional provision in these dense owner-occupied areas is unlikely to be possible, unless a major site comes forward for redevelopment where land could be secured in part, as new open space. The unlikelihood of additional provision means that greater demand will continue to be put onto existing open spaces, whose catchment areas will be greater than desired. Any loss of open space in Wickford should therefore be resisted through the local planning process, using the justifications set out in this PPG17 Assessment.

Recommendation WICK1: Retain and Enhance

- a. Retain the quantity of land currently dedicated to open space provision and improve low quality sites when opportunities arise.
- b. Provide new and improved high-quality civic spaces in Wickford Town Centre;
- c. Where opportunities for new formal recreation and amenity space are limited or non-existent, greater weight should be given to safeguarding other forms of outdoor recreation areas.

Recommendation WICK2: North West Wickford Strategic Open Space

Broad Principles:

- a. Secure a new strategic open space in north-west Wickford that would incorporate the existing Riverside Walk and Market Road Allotments;
- b. The space must provide a greater proportion of natural/ semi-natural open space, making the best use of any existing natural features such as hedgerows, ponds, floodplain and habitats, to maximise the potential of addressing shortfalls in provision;
- c. The space must also incorporate the provision of other typologies, including land which can be used for general amenity, ideally positioned close to residential areas and allotments.
- d. Designated space should include an entrance from the town centre, perhaps making better use of existing designated footpaths in Market Road & Station Road. In addition access from the north, west and east would need to be best located to ensure that access from the areas in the vicinity of Berne Hall, Castledon Road and Alderney Gardens could be achieved subject to resources.

Initial testing has shown that this broad location, over another location at Nevendon, represents a better all-round opportunity for a new open space that would improve accessibility, quality and the types available to people living and working in a greater area of Wickford. It would also help address existing open space shortfalls in both the Wickford SA and Noak Bridge & Ramsden SA and the additional green infrastructure needs arising from residential intensification in the neighbouring town centre.

Basildon Settlement Area

Settlement Area Context

10.39 Basildon is the largest Settlement Area in the assessment, containing more than half the population of the District and representing an elongated urban area extending from Laindon to North Benfleet. Care should therefore be taken when applying quantity throughout this area due to its relative size. However, travel east-west through the New Town area is relatively easy by road, bus, train, on foot and by bike and the settlement pattern is generally consistent and there is a relatively flat topography throughout.

10.40 Basildon Town Centre is the central retail, service, employment and transport hub for the area with connections to the wider town radiating from this point. Segregation of the area into smaller Settlement Areas was not felt to reflect the interconnectivity of the existing urban environment

Existing Provision

10.41 **Quantity:** The Basildon SA has the greatest supply of open space per head of population, which distorts the District average to the extent that all other Settlement Areas appear in overall deficit of generally accessible open space. However, a relative deficit exists for dedicated Outdoor Sports Provision equating to 0.27ha per 1000 people (an under-provision of 26ha). To an extent this is currently being provided in the neighbouring Noak Bridge and Ramsden Settlement Area, although the limitations, quality and security of that provision is significant (as explained in the **Noak Bridge and Ramsden SA** section), and those sites are not easily accessible without a car for the majority of people living in the Basildon SA.

Priority Spaces for Future Quantity: **Outdoor Sports**

- 10.42 **Quality/ Intrinsic Benefit:** The majority of open spaces in the Basildon SA are high quality, however there are clusters of lower quality spaces throughout the SA as explained below:
- 10.43 **Eastern Pitsea:** Open Spaces that form the linear mosaic of open space from Rushley Park to Eversely Open Space are not high quality. The land for these spaces was secured through land allocations in the Basildon District Local Plan 1998 and therefore they are a relatively new part of the District's open space provision and should be enhanced when resources are available to improve public access and recreational opportunities in East Pitsea.
- 10.44 **South of A127:** Open spaces in the vicinity of the A127 tend to be of a poorer quality than open spaces elsewhere. As a major barrier to north-south pedestrian movement, the retention of the spaces in these locations is important at meeting accessibility needs, however there are quality issues which need to be addressed in the future.
- 10.45 **Laindon Park/ Lee Chapel North:** Victoria Park in Laindon is the only Urban Park in the District that is rated as being of Low Quality. There are also a series of natural and semi-natural green spaces and amenity green spaces which serve the north-eastern extremes of both wards, which, whilst of high benefit, need improvements made to raise their quality.
- 10.46 **Vange:** A significant proportion of the total Amenity Green Space in Vange Ward is of a lower quality, depriving people living in the area of high quality open spaces.

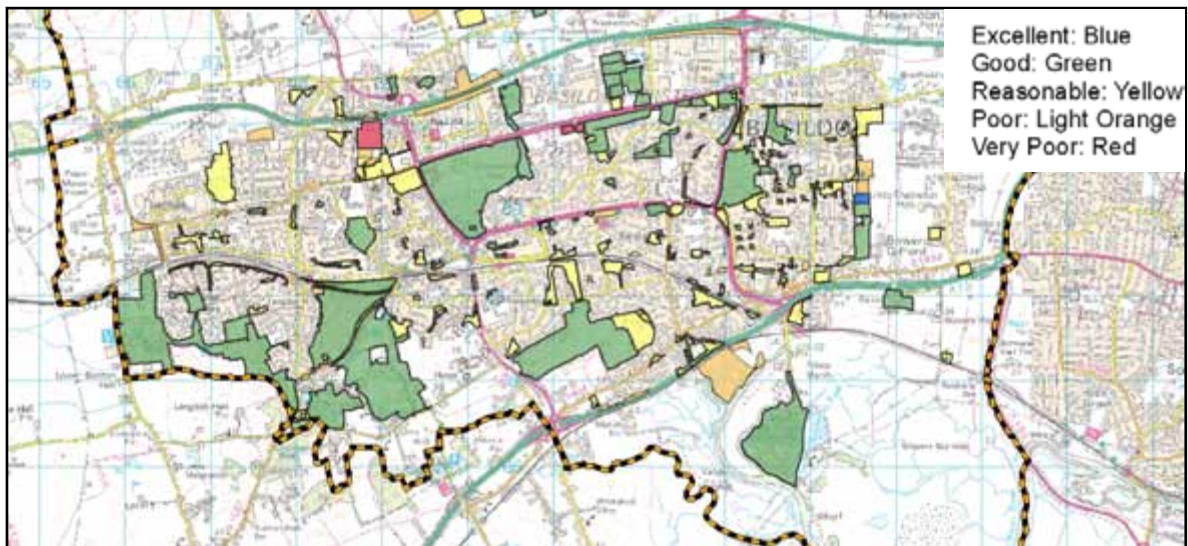


Figure 33 Quality Ranking for Open Spaces in Basildon

- 10.47 **Accessibility:** In the Basildon SA, open spaces are generally very accessible, with considerable overlap throughout the urban areas and few accessibility gaps despite a number of barriers caused by major carriageways and a railway line. This supports the findings of the quantity assessment, where the New Town legacy has generally provided accessible open space throughout the area, being planned with a vision to provide a pleasant, more natural, living environment for residents. However, a few gaps do need explanation.

10.48 North Laindon: This partly industrial, partly residential area surrounds Archer Fields (the former Laindon School Playing Field, off Bourne Avenue). The field is recognised by Sport England as no longer being in use. Whilst this might be the case, the land presents some opportunities to improve the accessibility to informal amenity green space in North Laindon to local residents. In July 2009, the Council received a planning application for the development of 123 new homes on the site. The development included a proposal to set aside 0.44ha of land for open space purposes in the centre of the development. In addition, the links out of and into Victoria Park need to be improved, along with the Park itself, to mitigate the relative lack of space otherwise available to people living in the area.

10.49 Central Basildon (Long Acre / Methersgate / Whitmore Way): The area is a little more than 400m from Gloucester Park and an open space at The Hatherley. In addition, Broadmayne acts as a barrier to accessibility up to the Town Centre, so a number of sites nearby, but south of Broadmayne, are essentially inaccessible to residents living north of Broadmayne. Increased accessibility across Broadmayne or additional provision in the area, suitable for the population within the gap, would be appropriate options to address this demand. Further analysis of this area identifies two small open spaces which were not large enough to feature in the audits. These spaces do provide a degree of recreational space in an area that would otherwise be identified as an accessibility gap and would be considered under the *Approach to Unaudited Open Spaces* in this assessment.

10.50 North Benfleet: The area is largely a semi-rural plotland development, mostly within the Green Belt and containing larger dwelling plots and a lower density than other parts of the Settlement Area. The area is not supported by significant green infrastructure. Viable solutions are to provide accessible natural green spaces or amenity green spaces as necessary when opportunities arise. An Urban Park or Country Park is unlikely to be suitable for the population density at this time, but provision would have to be considered in the future should this increase.

10.51 Five Bells Junction and Bells Hill Road area: While there is not an easily accessible open space provided within the District here, the Langdon Hills Country Park, a large part of which is within the neighbouring borough of Thurrock, extends up to Bells Hill Road and provides access to a significant natural green space. The nearby Basildon Golf Course is not included in this part of the assessment as it has conditional access and is classified as an Outdoor Sports Facility. Properties to the south of the A13 in Fobbing are within a small semi-rural plotland development with insufficient open space provision nearby.

Recommendations to Address Existing Shortfalls & Accommodate Growth

10.52 There are no recommended minimum increases in the concentration of typologies for this Settlement Area. The main demand is for improved quality throughout the area and for some improvements to accessibility (which may require new open space but not necessarily an increase in the overall quantity of open space), where these are viable.

10.53 The Basildon SA has some capacity to accommodate growth before requiring additional open space, provided new development is within the catchment area of an existing open space.

Recommendation BAS1 – Rejuvenate Victoria Park, Laindon

Victoria Park in Laindon is the only Urban Park or Garden in the District that is rated as being of Low Quality. It has potential to be accessible to most of Laindon and improvements to its design, management, facilities and layout, could provide a much improved space to local residents.

Broad Principles:

1. Improve access to and movement around the park, enhancing entrances, creating focal points and providing a circular route;
2. Improve safety and security, including improving natural surveillance from neighbouring areas, marking boundaries, lit entrances and managing vegetation;
3. Diversify the park's activities, its physical layout and horticultural design to provide areas for various recreational activities, play, surface water management and biodiversity;
4. Introduce new facilities (such as a MUSA and allotments, etc) to provide new attractions for users of all ages and abilities;
5. Use sympathetically designed, but durable materials for pathways, furniture and signage;
6. Use a community focussed approach that helps build trust and ownership with the local community;

Recommendation BAS2 – Enhance Open Spaces of Low Quality

A proactive approach should be established to enhance the following open spaces, concentrating on the areas which scored the lowest in the PPG17 quality assessment:

a. East Pitsea (Rushley Park & two spaces off Trenham Avenue)

- As a linear group of low quality open spaces there is the potential to enhance them by implementing relatively straightforward changes. The spaces should be managed as a series of inter-connected spaces and each should have a different recreational purpose.

Subject to resources any improvements should be focussed on:

- Positive habitat management
- Footpaths into, within and between the spaces
- Litter & dog bins
- Signage
- Improving entrances from residential areas and the ability of them to overlook the space by thinning some of the perimeter planting and replacing with railings opening the space up, rather than maintaining its enclosure, thus enhancing safety and security
- Considering whether a new play area (or one relocated from elsewhere) can be accommodated in this improved space in line with the Play Strategy 2008

b. Open space between the A127, Miles Gray Road & Christopher Martin Road

The role of these spaces needs to be refocused so that they provide a landscaped setting for high profile companies based along the A127. The management approaches to these spaces have recently been less intensive, which whilst having the potential to offer some biodiversity benefits, do little to enhance the setting or image of the area. In the context of the future aspirations for the wider A127 Corridor, these spaces should, with the support of the business community, be remodelled and managed to provide a multi-functional, contemporary landscaped setting, visible from the A127.

Recommendation BAS2 – Enhance Open Spaces of Low Quality (Cont.)

c. Laindon

Recommendation BAS1 seeks improvements to Victoria Park which would enhance the quality of provision to Laindon residents; however there are a cluster of Low Quality, yet High Intrinsic Benefit open spaces in the vicinity of the Grade I listed St Nicholas Church, Laindon, which should be considered as priorities for enhancement by their owners in the future.

They are currently supported by open spaces which currently meet the recommended quality standard score of 50% or above. Notably this includes St Nicholas Church Churchyard, Paddock's Recreation Ground and two natural semi-natural open spaces on the southern facing aspect of the hillside, fronting St Nicholas Lane.

The space which would require the most work to get it to a standard local communities demand would be Land North of St Nicholas Church. This site has high biodiversity value, demonstrated by its entry on the Essex Local Wildlife Sites Register. A challenge is presented however as to how to achieve an improved quality open space, on an area of land with permissive access, whilst not detracting from its biodiversity value.

Similar small scale improvements could also be made to Land at Church Hill, between the cemetery and the land to the north; to improve the quality of this connecting space which also provides a setting to Grade I listed building.

The feasibility of a proactive solution should be investigated in the forthcoming Open Space Strategy.

d. Vange

A number of the total Amenity Green Spaces in Vange Ward are of a lower quality. There are however a few exceptions most notably Vange Hill Nature Reserve, Swanmead Recreation Ground and Mopsies Park East.

The Council needs to find a solution that will enable improvements to key open spaces in the area so that they can better serve the needs of local communities and improve the quality of the urban realm. With a degree of severance caused by the railway line, attention needs to be given to spaces both north and south of this east-west barrier. Enhancements will need to be secured, where possible, to the quality of the areas spaces focussed on improvements on:

- upgraded play area (NEAP or LEAP standard needed in area)
- habitats & biodiversity
- natural surveillance
- footpaths, park furniture and signage
- links to other spaces or focal points

Recommendations to Address District Wide Issues

10.54 There are a number of issues which affect the ability of the District's open spaces to meet the needs and demands of local communities, which need action taken at a District scale. These can be summarised as:

- Open Space Information & Promotion
- Improving Spaces for Disabled People
- Bringing Natural Open Spaces Closer to Communities
- Evaluate the Need for Very Poor or Poor Quality Open Spaces

Open Space Information & Promotion

10.55 Across the District people feel that there is a general lack of information both about and within open space. It is strongly felt that increasing awareness of where open spaces are located, which are accessible and what facilities are on offer, would greatly encourage use of the sites.

10.56 There are some clear exceptions to this, particularly the Council's promotion of its Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves and promotion by local charitable organisations such as Essex Wildlife Trust.

10.57 However, in general, information about the activities, facilities and features within the less prestigious open spaces could be greatly improved. Specifically, this includes the quality of signage throughout the spaces, information regarding the management and ownership of a site and effective promotion by a variety of means.



Example of available information about a specific Park (www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)

10.58 Residents felt that it was not very easy to find out about local green spaces and what they offer, and that information in parks that explain things such as local wildlife and history, opening times and the facilities available, would encourage greater use of them (Open Space Survey 2009). The extent of this is backed up by the Council's quality audits, with signage and information about the owner / manager regularly being scored as 'reasonable' or lower. While there are notable exceptions for Churchyards and Cemeteries and the most prominent Sports Facilities, Urban Parks & Gardens and Natural Green Spaces, this is generally a poorly performing category in Basildon District.

10.59 In addition, marketing and promotion of open space as a community resource could be improved. A majority of spaces do not score anything for this factor and many score poorly. All of the significant open spaces in the District could be promoted in the future, although it is understandable that many small parks are not currently marketed. However, for the marketing and promotion of Urban Parks & Gardens, only the Wat Tyler Country Park scored a 'good' rating, with all other sites scoring 'reasonable' or lower. For these sites an overall 'good' rating is recommended to be achieved.

10.60 Generally, Outdoor Sports Facilities score relatively well for marketing but more can be done for other open spaces. Suggestions from residents include a school magazine, a list of open spaces on a leaflet, or poster campaigns and local advertising. Certainly each open space does not need individual promotion and a single leaflet to promote a collection of open spaces in a location could do much to improve this situation and inform a wide audience of the location of open space and the facilities available throughout the District, or even on their doorstep. The most popular methods expressed for informing



Example of proactive marketing - extract from www.wat Tylercountrypark.org.uk

people was through the internet or a local paper, although many considered that simultaneously using several methods would be most effective.

Improving Open Spaces for the Elderly & Disabled People

10.61 The built environment, of which open spaces are a key ingredient, can contribute to a more equal and inclusive society if the places where we live, the facilities we use and our neighbourhoods are designed in ways which are accessible and inclusive. Whilst it is important that the District's open spaces are well connected and easy to get to from where people live, it is also important that they are places that people of all abilities can use to maintain health & well-being and explore their social or cultural side. This means open spaces should not only be easy to reach but also be useable by elderly and disabled people. The Council has a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to show a co-ordinated approach to how it will make improvements for people with physical impairments to reach and use open spaces. The Council's Building Control are doing work on this which will be further developed through the Open Spaces Strategy.

Bringing Natural Open Spaces Closer to Communities

10.62 There has been a strong message from local people of all ages that they wish to be closer to natural open spaces. Whilst there is appreciation for the open spaces which are available further afield, on the edges of the towns like the Country Parks or woodlands, there is a strong desire that spaces within the urban areas could be managed in ways which make them more natural. This would also help achieve objectives set out in the Thames Gateway Green Grid Strategy and help in the District's adaptation to a changing climate.

Evaluate the Need for Very Poor or Poor Quality Open Spaces

10.63 Throughout the District, in all Settlement Areas, there are 40 spaces rated as being of a Poor condition and 7 spaces rated as being of a Very Poor condition. 53% of these are classified as being Amenity Green Spaces. A number of others are privately owned or

managed. It is critical that these are subject to further appraisal to determine whether they are still required to meet open space provision.

Recommendation BD1 – Develop a District Wide Open Space Information, Branding & Marketing Plan

Greater information and marketing of open space should be considered as a way to improve activity within them and their overall quality. It is recommended that an Open Space Strategy should be produced that would be capable of leading a strategic marketing plan to improve this factor.

Responses to the Open Space Survey 2009 showed very strong agreement to certain commercial activity in appropriate open spaces, including cafes, concerts, markets and festivals. Promoting open space this way could form part of a new marketing and branding strategy. Stakeholders considered these features likely to encourage more people to visit open spaces, increasing activity within them.

It is recommended that the Open Space Strategy should investigate the possibility of allowing specific commercial activity within or adjoining the District's open spaces. In turn, these facilities could help to fund or provide other facilities or improvements that might otherwise be unviable without capital investment.

Recommendation BD2: Improving Spaces for the Elderly and Disabled

The Open Spaces Strategy will consider ways of making open spaces more accessible and useable for the elderly and disabled.

Recommendation BD3: Bringing Natural Open Spaces closer to Communities

The Council should, through its Open Spaces Strategy, establish an approach to diversifying open spaces in the urban areas, through step changes in management and maintenance, to create new habitats, areas of interest and bring people in closer contact with the benefits of wildlife on their doorsteps.

Recommendation BD4: Evaluate the Need of all Very Poor & Poor Quality Rated Open Space

The Council should, through its Open Spaces Strategy and by using the findings of the PPG17 Assessment, review the ongoing need for all open spaces that achieved a quality rating of Very Poor or Poor and create an action plan to tackle these spaces.

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

Specific qualities, benefits, concerns and issues raised by stakeholders	Quality Audit Assessment Criteria
<p>To walk, exercise or get fresh air</p>	<p>Footpaths present</p> <p>Reasonable access to park area for disabled persons</p> <p>Woodland walk</p> <p>Design</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Design of paths in terms of linkages and desire lines in the site</p> <p>Condition – general</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">General 'cared for' appearance</p> <p>Condition</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Design, location and repair of lighting</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Condition re dog fouling and availability of dog bins</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Maintenance of footpath surfaces</p>
<p>To look at wildlife</p>	<p>Woodland walk</p> <p>Water features</p> <p>Landscape character (tree coverage)</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Evidence of active management to encourage biodiversity</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">On or off site interpretation relating to biodiversity or heritage interest</p> <p>Management of wildflower meadows / unimproved grassland</p>

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

<p>To visit the play spaces</p>	<p>Play and Recreation Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s Play ground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting Accessibility Supervision (appropriate provision is made for parents/guardians to supervise play) Condition Maintenance Young people’s provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate provision Management and maintenance Condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism & graffiti Signs for and within the play space are well situated and designed Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities appropriate to the size and location of the open space
<p>To relax or read</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seating Landscape character (formal, informal or mixed open space)

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Condition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Appearance re litter</p> <p>Condition re dog fouling and availability of dog bins</p> <p>Location and repair of litter bins</p>
<p>To walk dogs</p>	<p>Footpath</p> <p>Design</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Design of paths in terms of linkages and desire lines in the site</p> <p>Dog bins</p> <p>Management & maintenance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Condition re dog fouling and availability of dog bins</p>
<p>The main findings of things people appreciate, enjoy or expect from quality open spaces are:</p>	
<p>People desire natural and semi-natural open spaces in the District.</p>	<p>Water features</p> <p>Woodland walk</p> <p>Landscape character (tree coverage)</p> <p>Arboriculture (Trees)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mix of tree species Management and maintenance</p> <p>Silviculture (Woodlands)</p>

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Management of woodland edges</p> <p>Management of woodland compartment</p> <p>Grassland</p> <p>Management of amenity grassland</p> <p>Management of wildflower meadows / unimproved grassland</p> <p>Water Features</p> <p>Management of ponds for biodiversity</p> <p>Management of lakes</p> <p>Management of streams or rivers</p> <p>Management of wetland areas</p> <p>Horticulture</p> <p>Condition</p> <p>Conservation & Heritage</p> <p>Arboriculture (Trees) Appropriate management and maintenance of parkland tree species</p> <p>Silviculture (Woodlands) Appropriate management and maintenance of woodland areas</p> <p>Horticulture Appropriate management and maintenance of plants and shrubs</p> <p>Biodiversity Evidence of active management to encourage biodiversity</p>
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Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>On or off site interpretation relating to biodiversity or heritage interest</p> <p>Appropriate conservation of landscape structure</p>
<p>People like living close to open space and want them within walking distance of their homes.</p>	<p>(Accessibility Standards)</p> <p>Reasonable access to park areas for disabled persons</p> <p>Welcoming</p> <p>Entrances appropriately located, visible and accessible for all</p> <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Meeting the needs of a wide range of visitors</p> <p>Evidence of community activities taking place</p> <p>Importance of space within the neighbourhood</p>
<p>Facilities such as toilets and seating are valued by almost all groups.</p>	<p>Toilets</p> <p>Seating</p> <p>Welcoming</p> <p>Signs within the open space are well situated and designed</p> <p>Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager</p> <p>Design</p> <p>Facilities appropriate to the size and location of the open space</p>
<p>People value security and appropriate lighting</p>	<p>CCTV / Other Security</p> <p>Site based staff</p>

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Fixed sport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and maintenance of fixed sports areas Vandalism and graffiti Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager <p>Play and Recreation Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s Play ground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision (appropriate provision is made for parents/guardians to supervise play) Condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism & graffiti Signs for and within the play space are well situated and designed <p>Welcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrances appropriately located, visible and accessible for all Signs within the open space are well situated and designed Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views of the open space from the housing / street scene <p>Condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism and graffiti
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Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Healthy, Safe & Secure</p> <p>Flow of people through the park (i.e. To achieve self surveillance)</p> <p>Availability of alternative routes and exits in all parts of the open space to avoid entrapment</p> <p>Evidence of persistent vandalism and other anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Level of informal surveillance from neighboring properties</p>
<p>People appreciate a staff presence for many reasons, particularly for safety and a perceived control of the space.</p>	<p>CCTV / Other Security</p> <p>Site based staff</p> <p>Welcoming</p> <p>Signs within the open space are well situated and designed</p> <p>Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager</p>
<p>Clear information both outside and within open space is important (see 'Information' section in Topic Paper 3)</p>	<p>Signage</p> <p>Fixed Sport</p> <p>Signs for the sports facility are well situated and designed</p> <p>Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager</p> <p>Play and recreation space</p> <p>Signs for and within the play space are well situated and designed</p>

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Welcoming</p> <p>Signs within the open space are well situated and designed</p> <p>Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager</p>
<p>The specialist open spaces of allotments and outdoor sports areas have a core user group and people are generally satisfied with the Council's sport and leisure facilities and events.</p>	<p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Meeting the needs of a wide range of visitors</p> <p>Evidence of community activities taking place</p> <p>Importance of space within the neighbourhood</p> <p>Outdoor Sports Facilities</p> <p>Fixed sport:</p> <p>Quality of provision of fixed sports areas (e.g. astroturf, five a side kick about areas)</p> <p>Management and maintenance of fixed sports areas</p> <p>Vandalism and graffiti</p> <p>Signs for the sports facility are well situated and designed</p> <p>Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager</p> <p>Car Parking</p> <p>Car park within or near to the open space</p> <p>Changing Facilities / pavilion (Outdoor Sports only)</p>
<p>Children enjoy football pitches and play equipment in parks.</p>	<p>Play and Recreation Space</p> <p>Children's Play ground</p> <p>Setting</p>

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Accessibility</p> <p>Supervision (appropriate provision is made for parents/guardians to supervise play)</p> <p>Condition</p> <p>Maintenance</p> <p>Condition</p> <p>Vandalism & graffiti</p> <p>Signs for and within the play space are well situated and designed</p> <p>Design</p> <p>Facilities appropriate to the size and location of the open space</p> <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Importance of space within the neighbourhood</p>
<p>Young people appreciate open space, play equipment suitable for their age group, adventurous areas, activities, bookable sports areas and picnic benches.</p>	<p>Young people's provision</p> <p>Appropriate provision</p> <p>Management and maintenance</p> <p>Condition</p> <p>Vandalism & graffiti</p> <p>Signs for and within the play space are well situated and</p>

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>designed</p> <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilities appropriate to the size and location of the open space <p>Fixed sport condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quality of provision of fixed sports areas (e.g. astroturf, five a side kick about areas)Management and maintenance of fixed sports areasVandalism and graffitiSigns for the sports facility are well situated and designedAvailability of information on how to contact owner / manager <p>Arboriculture (Trees)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mix of tree speciesManagement and maintenance <p>Silviculture (Woodlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Management of woodland edgesManagement of woodland compartment <p>Grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Management of amenity grasslandManagement of wildflower meadows / unimproved grassland
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Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Water Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of ponds for biodiversity Management of lakes Management of streams or rivers Management of wetland areas <p>Seating</p>
<p>Elderly residents appreciate the civic spaces, fishing lakes, churchyards, parks with well maintained facilities and semi-natural space (where it is accessible).</p>	<p>Seating</p> <p>Footpath</p> <p>Car parking</p> <p>Woodland walks</p> <p>Water features</p> <p>Reasonable access to park areas for disabled persons</p> <p>Car park within or near to the open space</p> <p>Landscape Character (tree coverage)</p> <p>Arboriculture (Trees)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mix of tree species Management and maintenance <p>Silviculture (Woodlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of woodland edges

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of amenity grassland <p>Water Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of ponds for biodiversity Management of lakes Management of streams or rivers Management of wetland areas <p>Horticulture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition <p>Welcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrances appropriately located, visible and accessible for all Signs within the open space are well situated and designed Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager <p>Design of paths in terms of linkages and desire lines in the site</p> <p>Management & Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition – general <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General 'cared for' appearance Condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, location and repair of lighting
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Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Appearance re litter</p> <p>Condition re dog fouling and availability of dog bins</p> <p>Location and repair of litter bins</p> <p>Maintenance of footpath surfaces</p> <p>Location and repair of seating</p> <p>Vandalism & graffiti</p> <p>Conservation & Heritage</p> <p>Arboriculture (Trees) Appropriate management and maintenance of parkland tree species</p> <p>Silviculture (Woodlands) Appropriate management and maintenance of woodland areas</p> <p>Horticulture Appropriate management and maintenance of plants and shrubs</p>
<p>There is a high desire for trees or plants in civic spaces, together with fairs, seating and security features.</p>	<p>CCTV / Other security</p> <p>Site based staff</p> <p>Seating</p> <p>Healthy, Safe & Secure</p> <p>Flow of people through the park (i.e. To achieve self surveillance)</p> <p>Availability of alternative routes and exits in all parts of the open space to avoid entrapment</p>

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Evidence of persistent vandalism and other anti-social behaviour Level of informal surveillance from neighboring properties</p> <p>Arboriculture (Trees)</p> <p>Mix of tree species Management and maintenance</p> <p>Management & Maintenance</p> <p>Condition – general</p> <p>General 'cared for' appearance</p> <p>Condition</p> <p>Design, location and repair of lighting</p> <p>Appearance re litter</p> <p>Location and repair of litter bins</p> <p>Maintenance of footpath surfaces</p> <p>Location and repair of seating</p> <p>Vandalism & graffiti</p>
<p>Significant attractions that would improve attendance, experience and use of open spaces are:</p>	
<p>Toilets</p>	<p>Toilets</p>

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

Tea shops (Café's)	Design Facilities appropriate to the size and location of the open space
Woodland areas or 'more-wild' areas	Woodland walk
Improved security and/or staff presence	CCTV / Other security
Seating	Seating
Lakes	Water features
Improved cleanliness	Condition (Generally)
The most frequent concerns are:	
Litter	Litter bins
Dog fouling	Dog bins Condition re dog fouling and availability of dog bins
Anti-social behaviour & vandalism	Vandalism and graffiti CCTV / Other security Site based staff Design, location and repair of lighting Flow of people through the park (i.e. To achieve self surveillance) Evidence of persistent vandalism and other anti-social behaviour Level of informal surveillance from neighboring properties

Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

<p>Maintenance</p>	<p>Site based staff</p> <p>Management & Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition – general <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General 'cared for' appearance Maintenance – grass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of grass Condition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, location and repair of lighting Appearance re litter Condition re dog fouling and availability of dog bins Location and repair of litter bins Maintenance of footpath surfaces Location and repair of seating Vandalism & graffiti Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is a site management plan in place Play and Recreation Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Play ground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition
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Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>Young people's provision</p> <p>Management and maintenance</p> <p>Condition</p> <p>Vandalism & graffiti</p> <p>Fixed sport:</p> <p>Vandalism and graffiti</p> <p>Arboriculture (Trees)</p> <p>Management and maintenance</p> <p>Silviculture (Woodlands)</p> <p>Management of woodland edges</p> <p>Management of woodland compartment</p> <p>Grassland</p> <p>Management of amenity grassland</p> <p>Management of wildflower meadows / unimproved grassland</p> <p>Water Features</p> <p>Management of ponds for biodiversity</p> <p>Management of lakes</p> <p>Management of streams or rivers</p>
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Appendix A – Quality Assessment Table

	<p>Management of wetland areas</p> <p>Horticulture</p> <p> Condition</p> <p>Conservation & Heritage</p> <p> Arboriculture (Trees) Appropriate management and maintenance of parkland tree species</p> <p> Silviculture (Woodlands) Appropriate management and maintenance of woodland areas</p> <p> Horticulture Appropriate management and maintenance of plants and shrubs</p> <p> Heritage Appropriate management and maintenance of heritage structures or original features</p> <p> Conservation of landscape Appropriate conservation of landscape structure</p>
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Appendix B - Open Space List

ID	Location Name	Location Address	Settlement Area	Location Ownership	Primary Purpose of Land	Primary Purpose Land in Ha	Planning Constraints				Constraint Notes	Quality Score	Quality Rating	Intrinsic Benefit	Intrinsic Benefit Description	Access Rating	Policy Approach Feb 2010	
1	Lake Meadows	Radford Crescent	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	UP&G	16.2	TPO					TPO 06/49	76.4%	GOOD			HQLB	
2	Mountnessing Road Open Space	Pleasant Drive	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	N&SNGS	2.0							46.0%	REASONABLE	Y	Part FZ 2 & FZ 3	LQHB	
3	Hannakins Farm	Rosebay Avenue	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	OSF	8.9	Gas Pipeline	EA Flood Zone				6" + 12" pipeline	64.3%	GOOD	Y	FZ 2 & FZ3	HQHB	
5	Queens Park Country Park	Rosebay Avenue	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	UP&G	23.9							65.1%	GOOD	Y	LoWS	HQHB	
6	Land Adjacent to Rosebay Avenue	Rosebay Avenue	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	0.6	Gas Pipeline	EA Flood Zone				150mm pipeline	35.0%	POOR	Y	FZ 2 & FZ 3	LQHB	
7	Crays Hill Allotment Gardens	Southend Road, Crays Hill	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Public BDC	Allot. & Comm. Gdns	2.0							52.3%	REASONABLE			Conditional	HQLB
8	St Mary's Church	Church Lane, Ramsden Crays	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.3							47.0%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use	LQHB	
9	Wickford Market	Market Road/Woodlands Road	Wickford	Public BDC	Civic Space	0.5							58.1%	REASONABLE			LQLB	
64	St. Martin's Square	St. Martin's Square	Basildon	Public BDC	Civic Space	0.7	TPO					TPO 09/92	71.7%	GOOD			HQLB	
65	Town Square	Town Square	Basildon	Public BDC	Civic Space	0.9							73.0%	GOOD			HQLB	
66	Market Square	Market Square	Basildon	Public BDC	Civic Space	0.4	TPO					TPO 43/97	61.5%	GOOD			HQLB	
67	Northlands Pavement	Northlands Pavement	Basildon	Public BDC	Civic Space	1.0							55.8%	REASONABLE			LQLB	
68	St. Mary's Church	Rectory Road, Little Burstead	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.4							52.6%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use	HQHB	
69	St. Mary Magdalene Church	Church Street, Great Burstead	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	1.5	TPO					TPO 13/04	58.8%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use / Conservation Area	HQHB	
70	Great Burstead Cemetery	Church Street, Great Burstead	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	C&C	3.8							73.8%	GOOD	Y	Perpetuity Use	HQHB	
71	Chapel Street Burial Ground	Chapel Street	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.1							62.5%	GOOD	Y	Perpetuity Use	HQHB	
72	St. Mary's Church	Church Road, Ramsden Bellhouse	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.7							57.9%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use	HQHB	

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73	Wickford Cemetery	Park Drive	Wickford	Public BDC	C&C	1.9						71.6%	GOOD	Y	Perpetuity Use		HQHB
74	Runwell Road Burial Ground	Runwell Road	Wickford	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.1	EA Flood Zone					23.8%	POOR	Y	Perpetuity Use / FZ		LQHB
75	St. Catherine's Church	Southend Road	Wickford	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.3						55.0%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use		HQHB
76	St. Nicholas' Church	Church Hill	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	1.3						51.6%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use		HQHB
77	Church of the Holy Cross	Church Road	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.8						41.0%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use		LQHB
78	All Saint's Church	London Road, Vange	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	1.0						50.9%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use / UK BAP Habitat / LoWS		HQHB
79	St. Michael's Church	Brackendale Avenue	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.6							#N/A				
80	St. Margaret's Church	Church Road, Bowers Gifford	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	1.3						54.0%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use		HQHB
81	Pitsea Cemetery	Church Road, Bowers Gifford	Basildon	Public BDC	C&C	5.9						77.7%	GOOD	Y	Perpetuity Use		HQHB
82	Market Road Allotments	Market Road	Wickford	Public BDC	Allot. & Comm. Gdns	1.6						49.3%	REASONABLE			Conditional	LQLB
83	Barn Hall Allotments	Haslemere Road	Wickford	Public BDC	Allot. & Comm. Gdns	0.8						30.0%	POOR			Conditional	LQLB
84	Pendle Drive Allotments	Pendle Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	Allot. & Comm. Gdns	0.4						63.6%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
85	Holden Gardens Allotments	Holden Gardens	Basildon	Public BDC	Allot. & Comm. Gdns	1.6						62.2%	GOOD	Y	Noise Pollution	Conditional	HQHB
86	St. James' Road Allotments	St. James' Road	Basildon	Public BDC	Allot. & Comm. Gdns	0.5						51.0%	REASONABLE			Conditional	HQLB
87	Bowers Gifford Allotments	London Road, Bowers Gifford	Basildon	Public BDC	Allot. & Comm. Gdns	2.0						55.9%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution	Conditional	HQHB

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ID	Location Name	Location Address	Settlement Area	Location Ownership	Primary Purpose of Land	Primary Purpose Land in Ha	Planning Constraints				Constraint Notes	Quality Score	Quality Rating	Intrinsic Benefit	Intrinsic Benefit Description	Access Rating	Policy Approach Feb 2010
88	Langdon Hills Country Park	High Road, Langdon Hills	Basildon	Public Essex CC	UP&G	24.0						77.4%	GOOD	Y	LoWS / UK BAP Habitat/ Ancient Woodland		HQHB
89	One Tree Hill Country Park	One Tree Hill, Basildon	Basildon	Public Essex CC	UP&G	0.5						77.8%	GOOD				HQLB
90	Wat Tyler Country Park	Pitsea Hall Lane	Basildon	Public BDC	UP&G	49.3	EA Flood Zone					70.5%	GOOD	Y	SSSI / FZ/ UK BAP Habitat		HQHB
91	The Wick Country Park	Tresco Way	Wickford	Public BDC	UP&G	18.7	EA Flood Zone					82.3%	EXCELLENT	Y	FZ/LoWS		HQHB
92	Sun Corner	Land SW of Laindon Road/London Road	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	4.4						49.6%	REASONABLE				LQLB
93	South Green	Grange Road/Southern Road	Billericay & Burstead	Unknown	AGS	1.3						63.0%	GOOD	Y	Village Green		HQHB
94	Great Burstead Common	Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead	Billericay & Burstead	Unknown	AGS	1.1	TPO				TPO 11/75	42.7%	REASONABLE	Y	Common Land / Conservation Area		LQHB
95	Little Burstead Common and War Memorial	Rectory Road/Laindon Common Road	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Unknown	AGS	0.3						43.7%	REASONABLE	Y	LoWS / Conservation Area / Common Land		LQHB
96	Steepleview Open Space	High Road North	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.3	EA Flood Zone					54.4%	REASONABLE				HQLB
97	Crays Hill Recreation Ground	Southend Road, Crays Hill	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Public BDC	AGS	5.7	Oil Pipeline	EA Flood Zone				66.5%	GOOD	Y	FZ 2 & FZ 3		HQHB
98	Elder Avenue Recreation Ground	Elder Avenue	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	3.5						52.2%	REASONABLE				HQLB
99	Wickford Memorial Park	Whist Avenue	Wickford	Public BDC	UP&G	33.5	EA Flood Zone					81.9%	EXCELLENT	Y	FZ 2 & FZ 3		HQHB
100	Gloucester Park	Cranes Farm Road/Upper Mayne	Basildon	Public BDC	UP&G	81.0	TPO	Oil Pipeline	Gas Pipeline	EA Flood Zone	TPO 01/52, 18" Gas Pipeline and Buffer Zone	78.6%	GOOD	Y	FZ 1 & FZ 2 / LoWS / UK BAP Habitat/ Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		HQHB
101	Victoria Park	Fenton Way	Basildon	Public BDC	UP&G	15.6	TPO				TPO 02/71	52.8%	REASONABLE				HQLB

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102	Whitmore Park	Whitmore Way	Basildon	Public BDC	UP&G	4.6						60.6%	GOOD	Y	Noise Pollution		HQHB
103	Mopsies Park	Hockley Green	Basildon	Public BDC	UP&G	2.7						71.8%	GOOD	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		HQHB
104	Northlands Park	Felmores	Basildon	Public BDC	UP&G	24.6	Washland					74.1%	GOOD	Y	Washlands / FZ 2		HQHB
105	Rushley Park	Burnt Mills Road/Rushley	Basildon	Public BDC	UP&G	7.8						48.5%	REASONABLE				LQLB
106	Howard Park	Howard Crescent	Basildon	Public BDC	UP&G	2.7						45.8%	REASONABLE				LQLB
107	Stock Brook Manor Country Club	Queens Park Avenue	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	19.0	Gas Pipeline				6" & 12" Gas Pipeline	74.2%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
108	Billericay Cricket Club	Blunts Wall Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	5.7	Gas Pipeline				18" Gas Pipeline	80.4%	EXCELLENT			Conditional	HQLB
109	Billericay Tennis Club	Blunts Wall Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	1.4						85.3%	EXCELLENT			Conditional	HQLB
110	Billericay Town Football Club	Blunts Wall Road	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	OSF	2.3						70.8%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
111	The Burstead Golf Club	Tye Common Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	48.7	TPO	Gas Pipeline			TPO 14/83 & 02/83, 18" Gas Pipeline	78.9%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
112	Sports Ground adj. To Burstead Village Inn	Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	1.2						50.5%	REASONABLE				HQLB
113	Noak Hill Golf Course	Noak Hill Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	6.0						68.1%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
114	Forest Glade Football Club	Barleylands Road	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	4.0						67.4%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
115	The Belvedere Driving Range	Hardings Elms Road	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	2.8						68.5%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
116	Woolshots Road Playing Field	Woolshots Road, Crays Hill	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Public BDC	OSF	0.7	TPO				TPO 12/74	56.9%	REASONABLE				HQLB
117	Nevendon Road Recreation	Nevendon Road	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	2.4						63.0%	GOOD				HQLB

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ID	Location Name	Location Address	Settlement Area	Location Ownership	Primary Purpose of Land	Primary Purpose Land in Ha	Planning Constraints				Constraint Notes	Quality Score	Quality Rating	Intrinsic Benefit	Intrinsic Benefit Description	Access Rating	Policy Approach Feb 2010
118	Wickford Cricket Ground	Swan Lane/Runwell Road	Wickford	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	1.8						72.9%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
119	Eversley Football Ground	Crown Avenue, Eversley	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	1.4						87.2%	EXCELLENT			Conditional	HQLB
120	St Gabriels Church Recreation Ground	Rectory Road	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	0.7	TPO				TPO 09/84	28.0%	POOR				LQLB
121	Basildon Golf Course	R/O Sparrows Herne	Basildon	Public BDC	OSF	59.5	Oil Pipeline	Gas Pipeline	TPO		TPO 07/91, 18" Gas Pipeline	63.0%	GOOD	Y	LoWS / Noise Pollution		HQHB
122	Mopsies Park East (Basildon Cricket Club)	Timberlog Close	Basildon	Public BDC	OSF	1.8						52.2%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution	Conditional	HQHB
123	Archers Field, Former Laindon School Playing Field	Bourne Avenue	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	3.9	TPO				TPO 01/01	27.9%	POOR			Conditional	LQLB
124	Fryerns Boys Club Recreation	Pendle Close	Basildon	Public BDC	OSF	3.1						61.8%	GOOD	Y	Noise Pollution		HQHB
125	Holy Cross Recreation Ground	Church Road	Basildon	Public BDC	OSF	14.0	TPO				TPO 01/52	63.4%	GOOD	Y	Noise Pollution		HQHB
126	Basildon Rifle Club	Off Gardiners Lane South	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	1.6						45.3%	REASONABLE			Conditional	LQLB
127	Basildon Football Club	Off Gardiners Lane South	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	2.1						63.2%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
128	Basildon Rugby Club	Off Gardiners Lane South	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	3.2	TPO				TPO 12/92	67.2%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
129	Ford Sports Club (North)	Off Gardiners Lane South	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	6.0	TPO				TPO 12/92 & 13/92	70.9%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
130	Ford Sports Club (South)	Off Gardiners Lane South	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	2.4	Washland					76.6%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
131	BAE Systems Club, Gardiners Lane South	Off Gardiners Lane South	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	4.0						65.9%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB

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132	Royal Mail Sports and Social Club	Off Gardiners Lane South	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	2.8						73.5%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
134	Land North of Hannakins Farm Recreation Ground	Rosebay Avenue	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	N&SNGS	3.8	Gas Pipeline	EA Flood Zone			6" & 12" Gas Pipeline	45.8%	REASONABLE	Y	FZ 2 & FZ 3 / LoWS / Washland / UK BAP Habitat		LQHB
135	Land at Regents Drive/Rosebay Avenue	Regents Drive/Rosebay Avenue	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.3	TPO	Gas Pipeline			TPO 28/99, 180mm Gas Pipeline	36.4%	POOR				LQLB
136	Land South of Hannakins Farm Recreation Ground	Linda Gardens	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	N&SNGS	1.3						8.6%	VERY POOR	Y	Part FZ 2 & FZ 3		LQHB
138	Norsey Wood	Outwood Common Road/Break Egg Hill	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	N&SNGS	72.5	TPO				TPO 06/49	73.7%	GOOD	Y	SSSI / Local Nature Reserve / Ancient Woodland / Scheduled Monument / UK BAP Habitat / LoWS		HQHB
139	Mill Meadows	Southend Road/Greens Farm Lane	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	N&SNGS	37.1	TPO				TPO (19/89), (13/74)	67.9%	GOOD	Y	SSSI / Local Nature Reserve / UK BAP Habitat / LoWS		HQHB
140	Laindon Common	Laindon Common Road	Billericay & Burstead	Unknown	N&SNGS	10.4	Gas Pipeline				18" Gas Pipeline	48.8%	REASONABLE	Y	Common Land / LoWS / UK BAP Habitat / Noise Pollution		LQHB
142	Noak Bridge Coppice	Coppice Lane/Bridge Street, Noak Bridge	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	1.7						61.0%	GOOD	Y	Conservation Area		HQHB
143	Noak Bridge Nature Reserve	Eastfield Road, Noak Bridge	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Public BDC	N&SNGS	8.8						27.7%	POOR	Y	LoWS / Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB

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144	Land at junction of Harding Elms Road/Wash Road/Wash	Harding Elms Road/Wash Road	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.3						8.6%	VERY POOR				LQLB
145	Giddings Copse Nature	Royal Oak Drive	Wickford	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.8	EA Flood Zone					69.1%	GOOD	Y	FZ 2 & FZ 3		HQHB
147	Nevendon Bushes	Burnt Mills Road	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	6.7	TPO	EA Flood Zone			TPO (06/49)	68.0%	GOOD	Y	SSSI/ Ancient Woodland		HQHB
148	Land North of Trenham Avenue	Trenham Avenue	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	N&SNGS	3.1						35.0%	POOR		Conditional	LQLB	
149	Land South of Trenham Avenue	Trenham Avenue	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	2.4						37.5%	POOR			LQLB	
150	Vange Marshes	South of A13	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	25.1	Gas Pipeline	EA Flood Zone	Washland		24" Gas Pipeline	34.6%	POOR	Y	FZ 2 & FZ 3		LQHB
151	Vange Hill Local Nature Reserve	Vange Hill Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	12.8						50.4%	REASONABLE	Y	LoWS / UK BAP Habitat / Local Nature Reserve		HQHB
152	Land at Brickfield Road/Victoria Road	Brickfield Road/Victoria Road	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.9	Gas Pipeline				18" Gas Pipeline	25.0%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
153	Land at Nethermayne, adj. To Bells Hill Road	Nethermayne	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.4						13.8%	VERY POOR	Y	LoWS / UK BAP Habitat		LQHB
154	Land at Nethermayne and Cherrydown	Nethermayne	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.6	TPO				TPO 01/52	44.5%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
155	Langdon Hills Complex	Staneway	Basildon	Public/ Private	N&SNGS	119.1	TPO	Washland			TPO (06/49)	69.1%	GOOD	Y	LoWS / UK BAP Habitat/ Ancient Woodland		HQHB
156	Westley Heights Mast Site and Environs	Dry Street/B1007	Basildon	Public/ Private	N&SNGS	1.3	TPO				TPO (01/85)	53.0%	REASONABLE				HQLB
157	Langdon Hills Nature Reserve	B1007/Forest Glade/Lower Dunton Road	Basildon	Public/ Private	N&SNGS	81.6	TPO				TPO (01/52)	78.1%	GOOD	Y	LoWS / UK BAP Habitat		HQHB

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162	Land North of St. Nicholas Church	Church Hill	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	N&SNGS	8.8						10.0%	VERY POOR	Y	LoWS / UK BAP Habitat / Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
163	Land at Church Hill	Church Hill	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	2.4						36.3%	POOR	Y	Part LoWS / UK BAP Habitat		LQHB
164	Church Hill Open Space	Church Hill	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	1.4						57.3%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution		HQHB
165	St. Nicholas Open Space	Church Hill/St. Nicholas Lane	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	6.3	Gas Pipeline				18" Gas Pipeline	50.8%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		HQHB
166	Festival Lake Waterfront Walk	Waterfront Walk	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	N&SNGS	8.5	Washland					60.4%	GOOD			Conditional	HQLB
167	Botelers	Off Whitmore Way	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	1.5	TPO				TPO 01/52	54.4%	REASONABLE	Y	Scheduled Monument	Conditional	HQHB
168	Land north of Whitmore County Primary School	Off Cranes Farm Road	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	N&SNGS	0.4						10.9%	VERY POOR	Y	Noise Pollution		LQHB
169	Land at Lampern Crescent	Lampern Crescent/Queens Park Avenue	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	N&SNGS	0.2	TPO				TPO 02/91	52.7%	REASONABLE				HQLB
170	Land adj. Billericay Baptist Church	The Copse/Perry Street	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	0.2	TPO				TPO 06/49	46.1%	REASONABLE				LQLB
171	Land at Hollyford	Hollyford/Stock Road/Mercer Road	Billericay & Burstead	Public/Private	AGS	0.7	TPO				TPO 06/73	46.1%	REASONABLE				LQLB
172	Land at front of Mayflower School	Stock Road	Billericay & Burstead	Public Essex CC	AGS	0.4	TPO				TPO 10/05	50.6%	REASONABLE				HQLB
173	Land behind Mayflower School playing fields	Behind Mayflower School, Stock Road	Billericay & Burstead	Public Essex CC	AGS	1.4	TPO				TPO 06/73	8.6%	VERY POOR				LQLB
174	Land at Mercer Road	Mercer Road/Meade Road	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						56.0%	REASONABLE				HQLB
175	Land at Felsted Road	Felsted Road/Dedham Close	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						43.0%	REASONABLE				LQLB

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176	Outwood Common	Greenway/Morris Avenue	Billericay & Burstead	Unknown	AGS	0.9						48.8%	REASONABLE				LQLB
177	Land at David's Walk	David's Walk/Greens Farm Lane	Billericay & Burstead	Public/Private	AGS	0.2						53.8%	REASONABLE				HQLB
178	Land at Daines Road	Daines Road/Jacksons Lane	Billericay & Burstead	Unknown	AGS	0.5						33.8%	POOR	Y	Drainage Throttle Space		LQHB
180	Land at Home Meadows	Home Meadows	Billericay & Burstead	Public/Private	AGS	0.4	TPO				TPO 01/62	55.8%	REASONABLE				HQLB
181	Land at London Road	London Road/Mountnessing Road	Billericay & Burstead	Unknown	AGS	0.4						46.7%	REASONABLE				LQLB
184	Land at Langham Crescent Estate	Langham Crescent	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	0.5						65.2%	GOOD				HQLB
185	Land at Langham Crescent Estate	Langham Crescent	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						59.4%	REASONABLE				HQLB
186	Land at Stonechat Road	Stonechat Road/Beams Way	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	0.2	TPO				TPO 13/74	50.0%	REASONABLE				HQLB
187	Passingham Close Open Space	Passingham Close/Froden Brook	Billericay & Burstead	Public BDC	AGS	0.4	TPO				TPO 11/95	55.6%	REASONABLE				HQLB
188	Land at St. Mary Magdalene Church Hall	Church Street, Great Burstead	Billericay & Burstead	Unknown	AGS	0.8							#N/A				
189	Steepleview Community Centre	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.6	Gas Pipeline				18" Gas Pipeline	56.7%	REASONABLE				HQLB
190	Land South of Hornbeam Way	Hornbeam Way	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Public BDC	N&SNGS	1.3	Gas Pipeline				18" Gas Pipeline	36.9%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
191	South Wash Road Open Space	South Wash Road/Wash Road	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Public BDC	AGS	2.0						62.9%	GOOD	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		HQHB
193	Church Road Open Space	Church Road, Ramsden Bellhouse	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Public BDC	AGS	1.1						63.9%	GOOD				HQLB

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194	Land adj. To River Crouch	London Road	Wickford	Unknown	N&SNGS	3.7	EA Flood Zone					55.7%	REASONABLE	Y	LoWS / FZ 2 & FZ 3		HQHB
195	Land Rear of Spencers Court	Irvon Hill Road	Wickford	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.5						27.4%	POOR				LQLB
196	Land at Albany Road	Albany Road	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						28.6%	POOR	Y	Washland/ Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
197	Land adj. To A132 (West side)	A132	Wickford	Unknown	AGS	2.4	TPO	Washland			TPO 47/96	30.0%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
198	Land at Salcott Crescent	Salcott Crescent	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	1.1						46.1%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution		LQHB
200	Land at Cranfield Park Road	Cranfield Park Road/Upper Park Road	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	6.2						61.1%	GOOD				HQLB
201	Land at Scott Drive	Maitland Road/Scott Drive/The Broadway	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	1.0						54.3%	REASONABLE				HQLB
203	Land at Speyside Walk	Speyside Walk	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						55.1%	REASONABLE				HQLB
204	Barn Hall Playing Fields	Haslemere Road	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	3.9						57.8%	REASONABLE				HQLB
205	Southend Road Recreation Ground	Southend Road	Wickford	Unknown	OSF	1.3						40.6%	REASONABLE			Conditional	LQLB
206	Fanton Chase Recreation Ground	Fanton Chase/Hodgs on Way	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	3.8						56.4%	REASONABLE				HQLB
208	Land at Hodgson Way	Hodgson Way/Fanton Chase	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	1.2						52.1%	REASONABLE				HQLB
212	Paddock's Recreation Ground	Pound Lane/Kathleen Ferrier Crescent	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.1						54.6%	REASONABLE				HQLB
214	Land at Royal Court Flats	Powell Road/King Edward Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.7						58.7%	REASONABLE				HQLB
215	Manor House Recreation Ground	Worthing Road/Russell Close	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.0						60.8%	GOOD	Y	Noise Pollution		HQHB

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217	Land at Roosevelt Road	Roosevelt Road/Eisenhower Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						27.9%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution		LQHB
219	Presidents Court Open Space	Durham Road/Hoover Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.7	TPO				TPO 10/80, 01/52	57.4%	REASONABLE				HQLB
221	Land adj. To West Mayne and Mandeville Way	West Mayne/Mandeville Way	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	3.4						34.4%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
222	Land at Coopersales	Coopersales/Jefferson Avenue	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.3	TPO				TPO 04/82	51.3%	REASONABLE				HQLB
224	Land adj. To Mandeville Way (South West side)	Mandeville Way	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.7						52.1%	REASONABLE				HQLB
225	Land adj. To Mandeville Way (South)	Mandeville Way	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.5						54.8%	REASONABLE				HQLB
226	Land adj. To Mandeville Way (South East side)	Mandeville Way	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	2.4						54.3%	REASONABLE				HQLB
227	Land at Northampton Grove	Northampton Grove/Forest Glade	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	4.9	TPO				TPO 01/52	63.6%	GOOD				HQLB
228	Langdon Hills Recreation Ground	New Avenue	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	6.9						67.5%	GOOD	Y	Part LoWS		HQHB
229	Land R/O Heathleigh	Heathleigh Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.3						46.0%	REASONABLE				LQHB
230	Land adj. To Nightingales	Nightingales	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						55.5%	REASONABLE				HQLB
231	Land at Pittfields	Pittfields/Elderberry Close	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						53.2%	REASONABLE				HQLB
233	Berry Boys Club	Valance Way	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.0						39.2%	POOR				LQLB
234	Land at Valance Way	Valance Way	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.6						43.1%	REASONABLE				LQLB
236	Land at Staneway (South Side)	Staneway	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.5						35.3%	POOR				LQLB
239	Land at Laindon Centre	High Road	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	AGS	0.5						51.9%	REASONABLE				HQLB

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240	Land South of Laindon Centre	High Road/Laindon Link	Basildon	Public/Private	AGS	0.4						51.9%	REASONABLE				HQLB
241	Land at Spire Road	Spire Road/Hermitage Drive/St. Lukes Close	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	AGS	0.3						61.2%	GOOD				HQLB
242	Land at The Frame	Markhams Chase/The Frame	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						38.2%	POOR				LQLB
243	Gloucester Park West	Ballards Walk	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	8.4	Gas Pipeline				18" Gas Pipeline	45.8%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
244	Land at Thornbush	Thornbush/Ballards Walk	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.6						44.5%	REASONABLE				LQHB
245	Markhams Chase Recreation Ground	Markhams Chase/Laindon Link	Basildon	Public BDC	OSF	9.5						67.4%	GOOD				HQLB
247	Land at Great Oxcroft	Great Oxcroft/Little Oxcroft	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						52.7%	REASONABLE				HQLB
249	Land at Five Links	Elizabeth Way	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.2						57.0%	REASONABLE				HQLB
250	Yardeley Playground	Yardeley/Shepeshall	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						57.6%	REASONABLE				HQLB
251	Land at Raphaels	Raphaels/Rise Park	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.7						53.1%	REASONABLE				HQLB
252	Land adj. To Laindon Link (North Side)	Laindon Link	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.9						42.7%	REASONABLE				LQLB
254	Land North of Miles Gray Road	Miles Gray Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	6.2						37.0%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
255	Land North of Christopher Martin Road	Christopher Martin Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	5.6						36.0%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
256	Land at Cranes Farm Road	Cranes Farm Road/East Mayne	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						51.8%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		HQHB

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257	Land between Pendle Close and East Mayne	Pendle Close	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.0						60.4%	GOOD	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		HQHB
258	Land at Pendle Drive	Pendle Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.2						56.4%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution		HQHB
259	Land at Denys Drive	Denys Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						48.3%	REASONABLE				LQLB
260	Land at Chesterford Gardens/Craylands	Chesterford Gardens	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.5						50.0%	REASONABLE				LQLB
261	Land at Fryerns School	Peterborough Way, Craylands	Basildon	Public Essex CC	AGS	0.9						39.0%	POOR				LQLB
262	Land adj. To Craylands	Craylands	Basildon	Public/Private	AGS	0.8						0.0%	VERY POOR				LQLB
263	Land at Broadmayne/Lincoln Road (East)	Lincoln Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.5						48.4%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
264	Land at Broadmayne/Lincoln Road (West)	Lincoln Road/Craylands	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						55.3%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		HQLB
265	Barrington Gardens Playground	Barrington Gardens/The Fryth	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						52.2%	REASONABLE				HQLB
266	Fryerns East Recreation Ground	Whitmore Way/Danbury Down/Quilters Straight	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	6.8						68.7%	GOOD				HQLB
268	Land at Cranes Lane	Cranes Lane	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	2.7						20.0%	VERY POOR	Y	Noise Pollution		LQHB
269	Land at Little Spenders	Little Spenders	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						54.9%	REASONABLE				HQLB
270	Playground at The Hatherley	The Hatherley	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.7						61.3%	GOOD				HQLB
271	Land at Audley Way	Audley Way/Broadmayne	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.8	TPO				TPO 01/52	61.5%	GOOD				HQLB
272	Land adj. To Broadmayne	Broadmayne/Long Riding	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.5	TPO	Oil Pipeline	Gas Pipeline		TPO 01/52, 18" Gas Pipeline, Oil Pipeline	48.3%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB

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273	Land behind Priors Close	Priors Close	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						43.9%	REASONABLE				LQLB
274	Land at Pinmill/Church Road	Pinmill/Broad mayne/Church Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						44.3%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
275	Land at Fairlop Gardens/Broad mayne	Fairlop Gardens	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.4						39.1%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
276	Barstable Play Area	Long Riding	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.8						52.3%	REASONABLE				HQLB
277	Land at Rear of Gordon Road	Gordon Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.6						35.4%	POOR				LQLB
278	Land at Fairview Road	Fairview Road/Church Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.2						42.4%	REASONABLE				LQLB
279	Land at West Thorpe	West Thorpe/East Thorpe	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.1	Oil Pipeline	Gas Pipeline			18" Gas Pipeline, Oil Pipeline	54.8%	REASONABLE	Y	Scheduled Monument		HQHB
280	Land at Rear of Great Gregorie	Great Gregorie/Ardleigh	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.3						53.6%	REASONABLE				HQLB
281	Kingswood Open Space	Clay Hill Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	9.3	TPO	Gas Pipeline	Oil Pipeline	Washland	Oil Pipeline, 18" Gas Pipeline, TPO 01/52, 05/98	58.4%	REASONABLE	Y	Washland		HQHB
282	Land at Mistley Path	Mistley Path	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						39.6%	POOR				LQLB
283	Swanmead Recreation Ground	Church Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.2						52.4%	REASONABLE				HQLB
284	Land between London Road and Moss Close	London Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.7						41.1%	REASONABLE				LQLB
285	Land at Hollands Walk Housing Estate	Hollands Walk	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.4						35.0%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
288	Clay Hill Road Recreation Ground	Sparrows Herne	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.5						41.6%	REASONABLE				LQLB
292	Land at Nethermayne/Basildon College	Nethermayne	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.1	TPO				TPO 04/98	54.0%	REASONABLE	Y	Part Village Green / Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		HQHB
293	Land at Takely Ride/Gobions	Takely Ride	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2	TPO				TPO 04/98	41.5%	REASONABLE				LQLB

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294	Land at Renacres	Renacres	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.0	Washland					56.7%	REASONABLE	Y	Part Drainage Throttle Space		HQHB
295	Land at Sporhams	Sporhams/Morrells	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3	Washland					52.4%	REASONABLE	Y	Drainage Throttle Space		HQHB
296	Land at Fletchers	Fletchers	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						31.4%	POOR				LQLB
297	Gaynesford Recreation Ground	Gaynesford	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.3						52.0%	REASONABLE				HQLB
298	Great Gregorie Playground	Great Gregorie	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						44.7%	REASONABLE				LQLB
299	Vange Hill Drive Open	Vange Hill Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.2						45.2%	REASONABLE				LQLB
300	Land between London Road and Polsteads	London Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						41.0%	REASONABLE				LQLB
301	Kent View Road Open Space	Kent View Road/Weavers	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	4.8						47.5%	REASONABLE				LQLB
302	Land at Dencourt Crescent	Dencourt Crescent	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.6						40.8%	REASONABLE				LQLB
303	Land South of Alcotes	Alcotes/Sandon Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						43.1%	REASONABLE				LQLB
304	Land at Sandon Close	Sandon Close	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.5						38.0%	POOR				LQLB
305	Land between Feering Drive and Sandon Road	Feering Drive/Sandon Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						33.8%	POOR				LQLB
306	Land at Timberlog Lane/Luncies Road	Timberlog Lane/Luncies Road/Hannover Close	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.6						42.7%	REASONABLE				LQLB
307	Luncies Road Open Space	Luncies Road/Elsenhams Crescent	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.1						51.9%	REASONABLE				HQLB
309	Land at Ryedene/A13	Ryedene/A13	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	6.1						46.4%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
310	Land at Waterville	Waterville Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.7	TPO				TPO 14/92	42.0%	REASONABLE				LQLB

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311	Land at St. Michael's Church	Brackendale Avenue/Railway Link	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.3						53.2%	REASONABLE	Y	LoWS / Noise Pollution		HQHB
313	Pound Lane Recreation Ground	Pound Lane	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.7						47.9%	REASONABLE				LQLB
314	Land behind Bearsted Drive	Bearsted Drive/Elham Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.1						51.3%	REASONABLE				HQLB
315	Eversley Road Recreation Ground	Crest Avenue	Basildon	Public BDC	OSF	8.1						66.7%	GOOD				HQLB
316	Eversley North Playing Field	Crest Avenue	Basildon	Public BDC	OSF	2.7						67.6%	GOOD				HQLB
317	Land at Great Chalvedon Hall	Tyefields	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.2						52.9%	REASONABLE				HQLB
318	Land adj. To Rectory Road	Rectory Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						56.7%	REASONABLE				HQLB
319	Land adj. To Rectory Road	Rectory Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						55.1%	REASONABLE				HQLB
320	Land at Cobden	Cobden Avenue	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						57.6%	REASONABLE				HQLB
321	Land adj. To Dipple Medical Centre	Wickford Avenue	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	AGS	0.4	TPO				TPO 03/95	44.8%	REASONABLE				LQLB
322	Land North of Pitsea Junior School	Chevers Pawen/Elm Green	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.2	TPO				TPO 01/52	52.9%	REASONABLE				HQLB
324	Land at Cricketers Way	Cricketers Way	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.6	TPO				TPO 05/90	37.1%	POOR	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
332	Land adj. To Burnt Mills Road	Burnt Mills Road	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	1.3	EA Flood Zone					45.4%	REASONABLE	Y	FZ 1 & FZ 3		LQHB
333	Land between Burnt Mills Road and East Mayne	Burnt Mills Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.7	EA Flood Zone					41.2%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution / FZ		LQHB
334	Land at Lanhams	Lanhams	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						64.5%	GOOD				HQLB
335	Land between Camelot Gardens and Fairfax Drive	Camelot Gardens	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						60.0%	REASONABLE				HQLB
336	Land at Rushley/Vermont Close	Rushley	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						40.6%	REASONABLE				LQLB
337	Land at Tyefields	Tyefields/Treham Avenue	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.8	TPO				TPO 01/52	52.3%	REASONABLE				HQLB

Appendix B - Open Space List

ID	Location Name	Location Address	Settlement Area	Location Ownership	Primary Purpose of Land	Primary Purpose Land in Ha	Planning Constraints				Constraint Notes	Quality Score	Quality Rating	Intrinsic Benefit	Intrinsic Benefit Description	Access Rating	Policy Approach Feb 2010
338	Land at Rectory Road	Rectory Road/Tyefields	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						42.8%	REASONABLE				LQLB
339	Plumleys Play Area	Plumleys/Little Searles	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.0						66.0%	GOOD				HQLB
340	Stokefelde Play Area	Stokefelde/Ashlyns	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.8						58.4%	REASONABLE				HQLB
341	Land North of Parkside	Parkside	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	1.3						62.4%	GOOD				HQLB
342	Land East of Bockingham Green	Bockingham Green	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.7						58.5%	REASONABLE				HQLB
343	Land at Malyons Close	Malyons Close/Malyons	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						54.2%	REASONABLE				HQLB
345	Land at Loxford	Loxford	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						59.0%	REASONABLE				HQLB
346	Land at Littlebury Green	Littlebury Green/Felmores	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						51.5%	REASONABLE				HQLB
347	Land at Felmores	Felmores/Burnt Mills Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						47.6%	REASONABLE				LQLB
348	Land adj. To A132 (East Side)	A312/Radwinter Avenue	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	1.0						42.4%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
349	Land at Kingsley Meadows	Kingsley Meadows	Wickford	Public BDC	AGS	0.4	TPO				TPO 03/69	49.1%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution		LQHB
350	Mill Green Open Space	Mill Green	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.1						55.3%	REASONABLE				HQLB
351	Land at Ashlyns	Ashlyns	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	3.5						57.1%	REASONABLE				HQLB
352	Land between Pitsea Road and Southmayne	Pitsea Road	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	2.0						46.5%	REASONABLE	Y	Noise Pollution / Air Pollution		LQHB
353	Land at Moretons	Moretons	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						43.8%	REASONABLE				LQLB
354	Land at Moretons Place	Moretons	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						43.0%	REASONABLE				LQLB
355	Land at Broomfields Mews	Broomfields	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						40.4%	REASONABLE				LQLB
356	Land at Broomfields Place	Broomfields	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						47.1%	REASONABLE				LQLB
357	Land at Wickford Mews	Wickford Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						45.1%	REASONABLE				LQLB

Appendix B - Open Space List

ID	Location Name	Location Address	Settlement Area	Location Ownership	Primary Purpose of Land	Primary Purpose Land in Ha	Planning Constraints				Constraint Notes	Quality Score	Quality Rating	Intrinsic Benefit	Intrinsic Benefit Description	Access Rating	Policy Approach Feb 2010
358	Land at Wickford Place	Wickford Drive	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						43.7%	REASONABLE				LQLB
359	Walthams Play Area	Walthams	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						45.3%	REASONABLE				LQLB
360	Land at Malgraves	Malgraves	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.3						42.4%	REASONABLE				LQLB
361	Eastbrooks	Eastbrooks	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.2						49.6%	REASONABLE				LQLB
362	Land at Delvins	Delvins/Felmores	Basildon	Public BDC	AGS	0.4						45.9%	REASONABLE				LQLB
363	Land at The Lindens	The Lindens/Pittfields	Basildon	Public BDC	N&SNGS	0.3						41.6%	REASONABLE				LQLB
364	Little Burstead Common	West & East of Hatches Farm Road, Little Burstead	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	N&SNGS	4.73						37.8%	POOR	Y	Common Land/ LoWS		LQHB
365	St Peter's Churchyard	Church Lane, Nevendon	Basildon	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	C&C	0.3	TPO					67.3%	GOOD	Y	Perpetuity Use		HQHB
366	Little Burstead Village Pond	Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	AGS	0.1						46.0%	REASONABLE	Y	Perpetuity Use/ Village Green		LQHB
368	All Saint's Churchyard	Off North Benfleet Hall Road, North Benfleet	Basildon	Unknown	C&C	0.2						23.3%	POOR	Y	Perpetuity Use		LQHB
369	BF:Land opposite Red Cottage and Whites Farm	Barleylands Farm Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	7.0						22.2%	POOR			Conditional	LQLB
370	BF:Land to south west of Barleylands Depot	Off Barleylands Farm Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	2.6						32.9%	POOR			Conditional	LQLB
371	BF:Land to south of Whites Farm	Off Barleylands Farm Road	Noak Bridge & Ramsden	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	6.7						44.8%	REASONABLE			Conditional	LQLB
372	BF Land at Barleylands Farm, south of River Crouch	Southend Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	5.4						36.5%	POOR			Conditional	LQLB

Appendix B - Open Space List

ID	Location Name	Location Address	Settlement Area	Location Ownership	Primary Purpose of Land	Primary Purpose Land in Ha	Planning Constraints				Constraint Notes	Quality Score	Quality Rating	Intrinsic Benefit	Intrinsic Benefit Description	Access Rating	Policy Approach Feb 2010
373	BF:Land at Barleylands Farm, by White's Bridge	Southend Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	3.8						36.5%	POOR			Conditional	LQLB
374	BF:Land north west of Barleylands Farm Shop	Southend Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	1.40						42.5%	REASONABLE			Conditional	LQLB
375	BF:Land north of Barleylands Farm Shop	Southend Road	Billericay & Burstead	Private (e.g. RSL, English Partnerships)	OSF	4.90						45.3%	REASONABLE			Conditional	LQLB

Appendix C – Quality Score Checklist

Factors / Typology	Urban Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-natural green space	Amenity green space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Allotments and community gardens	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Civic Space
Technical Assessments (Facilities Present)							
Car Parking	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
CCTV / Other Security	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Changing Facilities / pavilion (Outdoor Sports only)	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Dog bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Footpath	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reasonable access to park areas for disabled persons	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Litter bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Signage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Site based staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Toilets (Urban Parks / Natural open Space / outdoor sports and Allotments only)	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Water features	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Woodland walk	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Car park within or near to the open space	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fixed sport							
Quality of provision of fixed sports areas (e.g. astroturf, five a side kick about areas)	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Management and maintenance of fixed sports areas	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Condition: Vandalism and graffiti	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗

Appendix C – Quality Score Checklist

Factors / Typology	Urban Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-natural green space	Amenity green space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Allotments and community gardens	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Civic Space
Signage: Signs for the sports facility are well situated and designed	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x
Signage: Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space							
Arboriculture (Trees)							
Mix of tree species	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Management and maintenance of parkland tree species	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Silviculture (Woodlands)							
Management of woodland edges	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Management of woodland compartments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grassland							
Management of amenity grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Management of wildflower meadows / unimproved grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
Water Features							
Management of ponds for biodiversity	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
Management of lakes	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
Management of streams or rivers	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
Management of wetland areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x
Horticulture							
Condition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Appendix C – Quality Score Checklist

Factors / Typology	Urban Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-natural green space	Amenity green space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Allotments and community gardens	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Civic Space
Play and Recreation Space							
Children's Play Ground							
Setting	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Accessibility	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Supervision (appropriate provision is made for parents/guardians to supervise play)	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Condition	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Young people's provision							
Appropriate provision	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Management and maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Condition							
Vandalism & graffiti	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Signage in Playspace							
Signs for and within the play space are well situated and designed	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Information on how to contact owner / manager	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Access							
Specific consideration of disabled users in the design of the open space	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal paths and facilities suitable for people with disabilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ease of access between external housing/streets and internal paths	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Welcoming							
Entrances appropriately located, visible and accessible for all	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signage							

Appendix C – Quality Score Checklist

Factors / Typology	Urban Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-natural green space	Amenity green space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Allotments and community gardens	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Civic Space
Signs within the open space are well situated and designed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design							
Facilities appropriate to the size and location of the open space	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design of paths in terms of linkages and desire lines in the site	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Views of the open space from the housing / street scene	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Management & Maintenance							
General 'cared for' appearance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintenance of grass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design, location and repair of lighting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Appearance regarding litter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Condition regarding dog fouling and availability of dog bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Location and repair of litter bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintenance of footpath surfaces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Location and repair of seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Vandalism & graffiti	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Is a site management plan in place?	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Conservation & Heritage							
Arboriculture (Trees)							
Appropriate management and maintenance of parkland tree species	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓

Appendix C – Quality Score Checklist

Factors / Typology	Urban Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-natural green space	Amenity green space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Allotments and community gardens	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Civic Space
Silviculture (Woodlands)							
Appropriate management and maintenance of woodland areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
Horticulture							
Appropriate management and maintenance of plants and shrubs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biodiversity							
Evidence of active management to encourage biodiversity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
On or off site interpretation relating to biodiversity or heritage interest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heritage							
Appropriate management and maintenance of heritage structures or original features	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conservation of landscape							
Appropriate conservation of landscape structure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Healthy, Safe & Secure							
Flow of people through the park to achieve self surveillance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Availability of alternative routes and exits in all parts of the open space to avoid entrapment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Evidence of persistent vandalism and other anti-social behaviour	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level of informal surveillance from neighboring properties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Appendix C – Quality Score Checklist

Factors / Typology	Urban Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi-natural green space	Amenity green space	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Allotments and community gardens	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Civic Space
Community Involvement							
Meeting the needs of a wide range of visitors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Evidence of community activities taking place	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Importance of space within the neighbourhood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marketing							
Promotion of site as community resource	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Management – Sustainability							
Evidence of sustainable management / maintenance methods being employed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Basildon District Council
Qualitative Assessment Form**

Site Info

Assessment undertaken by:	
Date of assessment:	
Assessment start time:	
Assessment finish time:	
Weather conditions	
Site Name:	
Ward	
Total area in ha.	XXXXXXXXXX
O/S ID reference	

Multi-functional nature of site

Horticultural Features <input type="checkbox"/>	Allotment <input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity Green Space <input type="checkbox"/>	Cemetery <input type="checkbox"/>
Natural & Semi-Natural Greenspace <input type="checkbox"/>	Local Nature Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>
Playing Fields <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Use(s): <i>(Please List)</i>
Formal Children / Teenager Play Space <input type="checkbox"/>	
Formal Park or Garden <input type="checkbox"/>	

Technical Survey Assessment

Summary of Facilities	Tick if facility is present
Artificial Sports Pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bowling Green	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCTV / Other Security	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changing Facilities / Pavilion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Defined Park Boundary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Bins	<input type="checkbox"/>
Footpath	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formal / Memorial beds / Floral displays	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reasonable access to park areas for disabled persons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hard surface for play / Kick about area / Kicking wall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litter Bins	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports Pitch(es)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Putting Greens	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seating	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site based staff (Rangers / Wardens, maintenance staff, games attendants, offices)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis / Netball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visitor and/or Information Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
War Memorials / Statues / Sculptures / Follies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Features / Fountains	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Basildon District Council
Qualitative Assessment Form**

Site Info

Additional facilities	
On site supervision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Access Does the open space adjoin other open spaces or is it linked via a footpath, cycleway to other open spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Access Is there a bus stop near the open space?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Access Is there a car park within or near the open space?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Access Is the site part of or linked to a designated long distance recreation route or circular walk?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Landscape character (Landform) Flat / Undulating / Slope	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Undulating <input type="checkbox"/> Slope
Landscape character Open / Closed / Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Close <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed
Landscape character Tree Coverage	<input type="checkbox"/> Majority <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Minority
Landscape character Formal / Informal / Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal <input type="checkbox"/> Informal <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed

**Basildon District Council
Qualitative Assessment Form**

Specific - Sport Play

Existing (On Site) Score

1: Very poor; 2: Poor; 3: reasonable; 4: good; 5: excellent; 0: not applicable

Potential (For Improvement)

1: Very poor; 2: Poor; 3: reasonable; 4: good; 5: excellent; 0: not applicable

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES		25	
Fixed sport Quality of provision of fixed sports areas (e.g. astroturf, five a side kick about areas)			0
Fixed sport Management and maintenance of fixed sports areas			0
Condition – vandalism Vandalism and graffiti			0
Signage Signs for the sports facility are well situated and designed			0
Signage Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager			0
Sub total	0	0	0
% score	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
PLAY AND RECREATIONAL SPACE		55	
Children's Play Ground Setting			0
Children's Play Ground Accessibility			0
Children's Play Ground Supervision (appropriate provision is made for parents/guardians to supervise play)			0
Children's Play Ground Play Value			0
Children's Play Ground Condition			0
Children's Play Ground Maintenance			0
Young People's provision Appropriate provision			0
Young People's provision Management and maintenance			0
Condition – vandalism Vandalism and graffiti			0
Signage Signs for and within the play space are well situated and designed			0
Signage Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager			0
Sub total	0	0	0
% score	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
Potential improvements			
TOTAL SCORES		80	
Total actual scores	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Total % scores	#REF!		#REF!
Other Comments			

**Basildon District Council
Qualitative Assessment Form**

Specific

Specific Assessment

Existing (On Site) Score

1: Very Poor, 2: Poor, 3: Reasonable, 4: Good, 5: Excellent, 0: Not Applicable

Potential (For Improvement)

1: Very Poor, 2: Poor, 3: Reasonable, 4: Good, 5: Excellent, 0: Not Applicable

Type of site (A-L)	Existing	Potential	Gap
NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE		50	
Arboriculture (Trees) Mix of tree species			0
Arboriculture (Trees) Management and maintenance			0
Silviculture (Woodlands) Management of woodland edges			0
Silviculture (Woodlands) Management of woodland compartment			0
Grassland Management of amenity grassland			0
Grassland Management of wildflower meadows / unimproved grassland			0
Water Features Management of ponds for biodiversity			0
Water Features Management of lakes			0
Water Features Management of streams or rivers			0
Water Features Management of wetland areas			0
Sub total	0	0	0
% score	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES		30	
Sports pitches Quality of provision of sports pitches			0
Sports pitches Management and maintenance of sports pitches			0
Sports building Appropriate provision of sports buildings			0
Sports building Management and maintenance of sports buildings			0
Sub total	0	0	0
% score	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
HORTICULTURE		20	
Horticulture Layout and Quantity			0
Horticulture Plant selection			0
Horticulture Condition			0
Horticulture Maintenance			0
Sub total	0	0	0
% score	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
TOTAL SCORES		155	
Total actual scores	0	0	0
Total % scores	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
Other Comments			

**Basildon District Council
Qualitative Assessment Form**

Generic

Generic Assessment

Existing (On Site) Score

1: Very Poor, 2: Poor, 3: Reasonable, 4: Good, 5: Excellent, 0: Not Applicable

Potential (For Improvement)

1: Very Poor, 2: Poor, 3: Reasonable, 4: Good, 5: Excellent, 0: Not Applicable

	Existing	Potential	Gap
ACCESSIBILITY		15	
Accessibility - disabilities Specific consideration of disabled users in the design of the open space (or provision of specialist equipment or facilities)			0
Accessibility – disabilities Internal paths and facilities suitable for people with disabilities			0
Accessibility – location Ease and safety of access between surrounding housing/streets and internal paths for pedestrians			0
Sub total - Accessibility	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
% score	<i>#DIV/0!</i>		<i>#DIV/0!</i>
WELCOMING		25	
Welcoming Entrances appropriately located, visible and accessible for all			0
Welcoming Entrances attractive and welcoming and well maintained			0
Signage Signs within the open space are well situated and designed			0
Signage Availability of information on how to contact owner / manager			0
Information Availability of general information about the park, facilities and events			0
Sub total - Welcoming	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
% score	<i>#DIV/0!</i>		<i>#DIV/0!</i>
DESIGN		40	
Design Acceptability of noise levels			0
Design Value as visual screen/buffer			0
Design Balance of areas of shade and sunlight			0
Design Facilities appropriate to the size and location of the open space			0
Design Relationship to built surroundings and features			0
Design / Paths Design of paths in terms of linkages and desire lines in the site			0
Value / Design Views of the open space from the housing / street scene			0
Value/design How well does the area contribute to appearance of the neighbourhood			0
Sub total - Design	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
% score	<i>#DIV/0!</i>		<i>#DIV/0!</i>

**Basildon District Council
Qualitative Assessment Form**

Generic

	Existing	Potential	Gap
MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE		60	
Condition – general General 'cared for' appearance			0
Maintenance – grass Maintenance of grass			0
Condition – lighting Design, location and repair of lighting			0
Condition – litter Appearance re litter			0
Condition – dogs Condition re dog fouling and availability of dog bins			0
Condition – litter bins Location and repair of litter bins			0
Condition – paths Maintenance of footpath surfaces			0
Condition – seating Location and repair of seating			0
Condition – external boundaries Maintenance and definition of boundaries			0
Condition – internal boundaries Maintenance and definition of boundaries			0
Condition – vandalism Vandalism and graffiti			0
Management Is a site management plan in place			0
Sub total - Management & Maintenance	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
% score	<i>#DIV/0!</i>		<i>#DIV/0!</i>
CONSERVATION & HERITAGE		40	
Arboriculture (Trees) Appropriate management and maintenance of parkland tree species			0
Silviculture (Woodlands) Appropriate management and maintenance of woodland areas			0
Horticulture Appropriate management and maintenance of plants and shrubs			0
Biodiversity Evidence of active management to encourage biodiversity			0
Biodiversity Biodiversity objectives integrated into site management plan			0
Biodiversity On or off site interpretation relating to biodiversity or heritage interest			0
Heritage Appropriate management and maintenance of heritage structures or original features			0
Conservation of landscape Appropriate conservation of landscape structure			0
Sub total - Conservation & Heritage	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
% score	<i>#DIV/0!</i>		<i>#DIV/0!</i>
HEALTHY, SAFE & SECURE		20	
Safety Flow of people through the park (i.e. To achieve self surveillance)			0
Safety Availability of alternative routes and exits in all parts of the open space to avoid entrapment			0
Safety – vandalism Evidence of persistent vandalism and other anti-social behaviour			0
Safety Level of informal surveillance from neighboring properties			0
Sub total - Healthy, Safe & Secure	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
% score	<i>#DIV/0!</i>		<i>#DIV/0!</i>
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT		15	
Community involvement Meeting the needs of a wide range of visitors			0
Community involvement Evidence of community activities taking place			0
Community involvement Importance of space within the neighbourhood			0
Sub total - Community Involvement	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
% score	<i>#DIV/0!</i>		<i>#DIV/0!</i>

**Basildon District Council
Qualitative Assessment Form**

Generic

	Existing	Potential	Gap
MARKETING		10	
Community involvement Promotion of site as community resource (e.g website, leaflets, community notice board)			0
Value / education Availability of educational or interpretive information available for the site			0
Sub total - Community Involvement	0	0	0
% score	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
SUSTAINABILITY		15	
Management – sustainability Evidence of sustainable management / maintenance methods being employed			0
Management – sustainability Use of pesticides			0
Management – sustainability Waste minimisation / recycling			0
Sub total - Community Involvement	0	0	0
% score	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
TOTAL SCORES			
Total actual scores	0	0	0
Average total % scores	#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
Future potential Improvements required			
Other Comments			

Appendix E – Verge Assessment Criteria

As a rule of thumb, verges that are merely strips of grassland bordering the highway should not be included in the assessments. Whilst, in many cases, they have a landscaping function, their ability to be used by the public as open or recreation space are limited and may need to be actively discouraged on highway/ public safety grounds.

There are however a number of 'verges' in the District, which function, albeit informally, as a type of recreation space for the public and in most cases, they include the route of a footpath or bridleway. There is an argument therefore that some local people may regard them as green areas where they can relax, exercise, walk their dog, etc and perhaps they shouldn't be dismissed of this potential completely. Some of the larger areas also function as noise buffers between businesses/roads and areas of housing – and therefore have a valued amenity function.

The following filter criteria apply for a quality assessor to determine what to assess and what not to:

(A) Assess the verge if:

1. The land includes a footpath, cycle-path, bridleway route; and/or
2. Apart from grass, there are any other landscape features/facilities present, which add variety to the space (e.g. ponds, scrub, trees, benches, etc); and/or
3. Evidence to suggest members of the public are using it for casual recreation;

(B) Do not assess if the verge:

1. Is predominantly sloped, which makes public access/ability to use it difficult; and/or
2. Does not incorporate a footpath, cycle-path, or bridleway route; and/or
3. Performs purely a highway safety function (e.g. visibility splay lines);

Those areas which fall into (B) will need to be accounted for and removed from the quantity mapping audit.

Appendix F - Quantitative and Qualitative Open Space Site Comparison

The quantitative mapping audit was a desk-based exercise, using mapping and aerial photography to capture open space areas in the District. A recognised limitation in this approach was that it was difficult to verify for certain, whether an area was used as an open space or provided any useful amenity as an open space.

Following the completion of the qualitative site assessments, the following 58 sites have been reviewed as either not being an open space; not being originally mapped for the most appropriate typology; being a highway verge or in need of a boundary change to better reflect the space available. It is in the interests of analysis to review each site in turn, based on the outputs from the qualitative review, and the surrounding site context. Those which are not appropriate to be regarded as open space have been discounted and removed from the Assessment.

Ref.	Site No.	Name/Location	Action	Reason
1	58	Land at Hardings Elm Road/ Wash Road, Crays Hill	Remove	Not accessible,
2	64	Markhams Chase Recreation Ground	Change from Amenity Green Space to Outdoor Sports Facilities	Range and type of facilities available on site.
3	68	Land adjacent to Spencers Court, Wickford	Change from Amenity Green Space to Natural/Semi-Natural	Small, but natural area of green space besides River Crouch.
4	79	St Michael's Church, Pitsea	Change Merge with 311	Two spaces are not distinguishable on the ground. Treated as one space.
5	100	Gloucester Park	Change boundary	Eastern extreme of polygon not part of Park – now Ghyllgrove Bus Link.
6	136	Land at South of Hannakins Farm Recreation Ground, Billericay	Retain	Informal pathway to Hannakins present, proposed open space in Local Plan Saved Policies.
7	141	Land adjacent to Willowfield, Steeple View, Laindon	Remove from Natural/Semi-Natural	Tree and Shrub Highway Verge. Acts as bund between Steeple View and A127.

8	152	Brickfield Road/ Victoria Road, Vange	Retain	Not accessible, but may be able to be in the future. Retain for that decision to be taken in Strategy.
9	153	Land at Nethermayne adjacent Bells Hills Rd	Retain	Not accessible, but may be able to be in the future. Retain for that decision to be taken in Strategy.
10	154	Land at Nethermayne	Retain	Compact small woodland open space, providing screening for houses from Nethermayne and sheltered pathway.
11	159	Land at Lindens/ Mandeville Way	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Duplicates Site 363
12	160	Land South of Willowfield, Steeple View, Laindon	Remove from Natural/Semi-Natural	Tree and Shrubs. Part elevated to carry Willowfield over A127.
13	161	Land North of Willowfield, Steeple View, Laindon	Remove from Natural/Semi-Natural	Tree and Shrubs. Part elevated to carry Willowfield over A127.
14	168	Land North of Whitmore County Primary School off Cranes Farm Rd Basildon	Retain	Semi-natural green space within close proximity of the urban area. Acts as buffer to Cranes Farm Road from nearby school fields.
15	177	Land at Davids Walk, Billericay	Retain	Compact open space, providing setting for houses.
16	179	Land at London Road/ Hilary Mount, Billericay	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Highway Verge
17	182	Land at London Road and Gilmour Road	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Highway Verge

18	183	Land between Southend Road and Maple Mead	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Highway Verge
19	190	Land South of Hornbeam Way,	Change from Amenity Green Space to Natural/Semi- natural	Tree and Shrubs. Acts as bund to Steeple View and A127, contains large gas valve compound; pond and ditch.
20	199	Land adjacent to A132, Wickford	Remove from Amenity Green Space	River Channel
21	207	Hodgson Way/ Hurricane Way, Wickford	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Remove – washland
22	211	Church Road, Laindon	Remove from Natural-Semi Natural Open Space	Tree belt between Church Road and housing estate to west – streetscape value only.
23	213	Land at St. Nicholas Lane	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Verge between housing area and road. Limited Amenity Value offered due to size and shape of site.
24	216	Land next to West Mayne, Laindon	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Whilst space acts as a buffer between West Mayne and housing to the south, it is a highway verge, where access should be discouraged on highway safety grounds. Retaining it would distort the open space perceived to be available to the community in Laindon Park ward. Reasonable scores

				on biodiversity link provision and landscape.
25	217	Land at Roosevelt Rd/ Eisenhower, Laindon	Retain	Located to the rear of Roosevelt and Eisenhower Road. Access by footpath. Separated from northern highway verge by mature tree boundary – forming a small grass/ tree open space. Reasonable scores on welcoming, design, safety, and community.
26	218	Land at West Mayne, Laindon	Remove from Amenity Green Space.	Whilst space acts as a buffer between West Mayne/Southfields and housing to the south, it is a highway verge, where access should be discouraged on highway safety grounds. Retaining it would distort the open space perceived to be available to the community in Laindon Park ward. Reasonable scores on biodiversity, link provision and landscape.
27	220	Land between Durham Road and Mandeville Way	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Whilst space acts as a buffer between Mandeville Way and housing to the east, it is a highway verge/buffer, with a central fence boundary. Retaining it would

				distort the amenity green space perceived to be available to the community in Laindon Park ward. Reasonable scores on biodiversity, link provision and landscape.
28	221	Land at West Mayne and Mandeville Way	Change from Amenity Green Space to Natural/Semi- Natural Open Space	Bridle-paths and dense scrub give this a more natural character and amenity.
29	223	Land next Mandeville Way North Side, Langdon Hills, Laindon	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Space just a highway verge between Mandeville Way and c2c railway. Retaining it would distort the open space perceived to be available to the community in Laindon Park ward. Reasonable scores on biodiversity, link provision and landscape.
30	224	Land adjacent to Mandeville Way, Laindon, South Western side	Retain	Contains a number of indicators to amenity present (e.g. dog/litter bins; footpaths, seating, etc) Landscape value.
31	225	Land adjacent to Mandeville Way, Laindon, Southside	Retain	Contains a number of indicators to amenity present (e.g. dog/litter bins; footpaths, seating, etc) Landscape value.
32	226	Land adjacent Mandeville Way, Laindon, South Eastern Side	Retain	Contains a number of indicators to amenity present (e.g. dog/litter bins; footpaths, seating,

				etc) Landscape value.
33	232	Land at Florence Way, Langdon Hills, Laindon	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Wooded highway verge, but no public access or safe possibilities. High score for biodiversity, link provision and landscape.
34	235	Land at Staneway (North Side), Laindon	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Highway Verge.
35	246	Land adjacent to Laindon Link, Laindon	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Space lost to housing development as part of 5 Links regeneration scheme.
36	248	Land at Newbury Side, Laindon	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Most of space lost to housing development as part of 5 Links regeneration scheme.
37	252	Land adj to Laindon Link, (North Side)	Change boundary	Remove highway verge that backs 120-201 Wickhay, Basildon.
38	253	Laindon Link Roadside Verge	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Part woody/shrubby highway verge, public access possible. Low link provision and landscape value.
39	259	Land at Denys Drive, Pitsea	Retain	Compact open space, providing setting for houses
40	260	Land at Chesterford Gardens, Pitsea	Retain	Compact open space, providing setting for houses
41	262	Land next to Craylands Basildon	Retain	Will be incorporated into new open space as part of Craylands Regeneration Scheme Phase 1.
42	268	Cranes Lane	Change from Amenity Green Space to	No footpaths present at time of survey, and access therefore difficult.

			Natural/Semi Natural Green Space. Amend site area to account for Genesis housing development.	New open space provided as part of neighbouring development.
43	271	Land at Audley Way, Broadmayne, Basildon	Amend site area	To account for loss from new George Hurd Day Centre development.
44	272	Land next to Broadmayne/Tinkler Side	Amend area to exclude Broadmayne path	Path's inclusion will exaggerate open space available.
45	275	Fairlop Gardens, Barstable, Basildon	Retain, and Amend area to exclude Broadmayne path	Open space provided as part of s.106 agreement from neighbouring development.
46	289	Land between Lee Wootens Lane and Nethermayne	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Whilst there is a footpath present, this is practically a large grass and tree highway verge with steep-recessed footpath to underpass underneath Nethermayne. Other informal use limited.
47	290	Land Basildon Hospital/Nethermayne	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Grass Highway Verge and steep-recessed footpath to underpass underneath Nethermayne. Other informal use limited.
48	296	Fletchers, Lee Chapel South, Basildon	Retain	Compact open space, providing setting for houses.
49	309	Land at Rydene, Vange	Amend boundary to remove verges	Verge of A13 should be removed as it exaggerates open space available.
50	310	Land at Waterville Drive, Vange	Change from Amenity	Scrub lends its current character to natural/ semi-

			Green Space to Natural Semi Natural Green Space	natural open space.
51	312	High Road/A13 Pitsea	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Sloped highway verge.
52	324	Land at Cricketers Way, Pitsea	Retain	Compact small wooded open space, providing screening for houses from retail park, footpath and sheltered character of housing area.
53	325	Land at Lords Way, Pitsea	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Highway Verge – but does provide some screening from neighbouring Sewage Treatment Works.
54	326	Land at East Mayne, Basildon	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Highway Verge providing setting to the rear of Burnt Mills Industrial buildings.
55	333	Land at Mills Road/East Mayne, Basildon	Retain	Amenity land facing Mill Road, but also acts as a buffer between East Mayne and the residential area.
56	344	Land at Felmores, Pitsea	Remove from Amenity Green Space	Highway Verge
57	355	Broomfields Mews, Pitsea	Retain	Compact open space, providing setting for houses.
58	360	Malgraves Play Area, Pitsea	Retain	Compact open space, providing setting for houses.