

**HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE/SPORT AND RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL
NEEDS**



FINAL REPORT

BY

PMP

in association with Donaldsons

JUNE 2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

What is the aim of this open space, sport and recreation study?

The study aims to provide a clear picture of existing and future needs for open space, sport and recreation in Harborough and the current ability to meet those needs in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility.

The study sets local standards based on assessments of local needs, demographics and audits of existing open spaces. It is the basis for addressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process and should form the basis of the development of an open space strategy for Harborough DC.

Scope of the open space and sport and recreation study

The study includes all open space and recreation types identified within the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002). These include parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural areas, green corridors, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards and civic spaces. The study also considers the provision of sport and indoor recreation facilities.

What is the need for the study of open space, sport and recreation?

A local assessment of open space and open space needs will enable the Council to:

- plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to target appropriate types of open space required
- ensure an adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space to meet the needs of community
- ensure any accessible funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need
- conduct S106 negotiations with developers from a position of knowledge with evidence to support.

Where no assessment exists, developers can undertake their own independent assessment to demonstrate that open space is surplus to requirements. It is therefore desirable for the Council to have robust data to protect and develop open space within the District.

Methodology of the assessment

The methodology and development of the 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).

The PPG 17 Companion Guide sets out a 5 step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space and recreation. This process was used in developing this study using our own appropriate mechanisms that meet the requirements of the council to plan, monitor and set targets for the existing and future provision of open space within the District.

The 5-step process is as follows:

- Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
- Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Step 3 – Setting Provision Standards
- Step 4 – Applying Provision Standards
- Step 5 – Drafting Implementation and Action Plan.

Research, consultations, a detailed and comprehensive audit and analysis including quantity, quality, accessibility, usage and value have culminated in the production of this study, report and recommendations.

Provision Standards

The local provision standards justified through the analysis are detailed below. The methodology for setting these standards has been followed in accordance with PPG17 and using both qualitative and quantitative information sources both from the audit and consultation. Standards have been developed in terms of both accessibility and quantity.

Open Space Type	Suggested Quantity Provision Standard
Parks and Gardens	0.5 ha per 1000 population
Natural and Semi-natural areas	8.5 ha per 1,000 population (rural area) 1.5 ha per 1,000 population (urban area)
Green Corridors	PPG17 suggests quantity standard not required due to the nature of the typology. It states that " <i>there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard</i> "
Amenity Greenspace	0.9 ha per 1000 population
Provision for Children and Young People	0.3 ha per 1000 population
Outdoor Sports Facilities	It is inappropriate to set a standard for this typology due to the nature. Consideration should be given to developing a standard for formal sports pitches based on the playing pitch methodology "towards a level playing field". Other sports should be demand led.
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.35 ha per 1000 population
Cemeteries and Churchyards	PPG17 suggests quantity standard not required due to the nature of the typology.
Civic Spaces	No standard set. Usually provided on a opportunity basis rather than demand led.

In addition, the overall supply and demand of indoor sports and recreation provision, consisting of sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness facilities and village halls have been assessed. This assessment concluded that:

- provision of additional sports hall space should be a priority.
- existing swimming provision marginally exceeds demand, hence there is no immediate need (or future need based on current participation rates) for additional facilities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- there is an undersupply of health and fitness provision within the District
- the village halls have an important role to play with regards to indoor sport and recreation provision within the District.

Where are we now? - Audit and Analysis

Prior to undertaking the study there was a general viewpoint that there is a relatively good quality of open space and recreation facilities within the District. There is potential to develop additional open space through S106 agreements. The detailed and comprehensive audit and analysis undertaken reaffirms this viewpoint.

Quantity

When applying the quantity provision standards the following key points were extracted:

- **Parks & Gardens** : there is a deficiency of parks and gardens within all areas of the District, the largest of which is in Kibworth, Fleckney and Great Glen. There are only a small number of parks and gardens within the District
- **Natural and Semi-Natural**: as a result of the predominantly rural nature of natural and semi natural open space, and the vastly different levels of provision between the more urban areas of the District (Market Harborough and Lubenham, and Lutterworth and Broughton Astley) two standards were set. Overall, there is considered to be an oversupply of natural and semi natural open spaces, and only Market Harborough and Lubenham is perceived to have shortfalls in natural and semi natural provision
- **Amenity Greenspace**: only the Market Harborough and Lubenham areas have a surplus of amenity greenspace, all other areas are currently considered to have a shortfall of provision
- **Provision for Children and Young People**: there is a total deficiency of provision across the District equating to over 10 hectares of provision, and there is a deficiency in each of the analysis areas, the largest of which is in Market Harborough and Lubenham
- **Allotments**: there is an overall deficiency of allotments within the District, however there is a small oversupply of provision within the Peatling and Bosworth analysis area

Quality

There are many high quality open spaces provided within the District of Harborough with the majority of sites rated as average or above and more sites than any other rated as 'good' or 'very good'. Very few sites were considered to be poor or very poor.

The quality of cemeteries and churchyards, outdoor sports facilities and parks and gardens was considered to be particularly good. There was less overall satisfaction however with the quality of indoor sports provision.

The main quality issues within the District were perceived to be:

- dog fouling
- parking
- toilets

In addition to making general comments and providing information, Parish clerks were asked to provide examples of good and bad practice. Using these examples, and the reasons highlighted for decisions made, the following quality vision was developed:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“a clean, litter and dog fouling free area that is well-lit and provides a level of varied vegetation and biodiversity, including well-kept grass and other natural features where suitable. The site should be regularly maintained and have suitable parking in close proximity where appropriate. “

Accessibility

Most open spaces within the District are accessible to the public, with the majority of sites considered to be good or very good in terms of accessibility. The main area of concern appears to be public transport links, which are felt to inhibit the usage of some sites.

The study allowed the development of accessibility standards. These are illustrated in table below.

Open Space Type	Suggested Accessibility Provision Standard	
	Time	Distance
Parks and Gardens	10 mins (drive)	4km
Natural and Semi-natural areas	20 mins (walk)	1.6km
Green Corridors	20 mins (walk)	1.6km
Amenity Greenspace	10 mins (walk)	800m
Provision for Children and Young People	5-10 mins (walk)	400m – 800m
Outdoor Sports Facilities	10 mins (drive)	4km
Allotments and Community Gardens	10 mins (drive)	4km
Cemeteries and Churchyards	5 mins drive	2km
Civic Spaces	no standard set due to nature of typology	

Value & Site Specific Priorities

Most sites that have a high level of use would normally have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. Most sites with a low level of use would have an average or poor quality and accessibility rating. This is because the factors are related and interlinked. However there are deviations to this, which suggests that there are specific priority sites that would need some further analysis and investigation.

Given that such large numbers of sites have been audited within the District there are very few sites that are questioned whether the primary purposes is the most beneficial with the main issues being of quality or accessibility of the existing site.

Each type of open space has been assessed separately and specific sites detailed within the appropriate sections. There are many sites of high quality and high accessibility that are very well-used within the district and these should of a high priority to protect. However a summary of the priorities in terms of low quality, low used and/or low accessible sites is provided in the table below :

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Open Space Type	Site Priorities	Reasoning	Recommended Action
Parks and Gardens	Byways Garden (Stoughton)	Good quality and accessibility but despite this usage is low.	<p>Investigate whether primary purpose of open space site is appropriate due to low usage</p> <p>Consider change of open space use</p> <p>Maintain the high quality and accessibility features of the site if usage can be addressed either through change of open space or other means.</p>
Natural & Semi-Natural	<p>Manor Field (Thurnby and Bushby)</p> <p>Milestone Hollow (Claybrooke Magna)</p>	Despite high usage, both quality and accessibility are perceived to be poor – any enhancement would increase user satisfaction.	<p>Enhance quality and accessibility where possible – will increase user satisfaction and experience</p> <p>Protect open space as value is high in terms of high usage rates by the local community.</p>
	<p>Fleckney Open Space</p> <p>Warfield Nature Reserve</p> <p>Fleckney Industrial Area Natural Open Space</p>	Poor quality and poor accessibility with no or low usage.	<p>Enhance quality & enhance value – address accessibility issues</p> <p>Re-delegate to other purpose to try and increase value (usage) – refer to demand for other open spaces</p> <p>If not possible, maybe surplus to requirements.</p>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Open Space Type	Site Priorities	Reasoning	Recommended Action
<p>Green Corridors</p>	<p>Disused Railway Line (Shawell)</p>	<p>Poor quality and poor accessibility with no or low usage.</p>	<p>Enhance quality & enhance value – address accessibility issues</p> <p>Re-delegate to other purpose to try and increase value (usage) – refer to demand for other open spaces</p> <p>If not possible, maybe surplus to requirements.</p>
	<p>Footpath in Dag Lane (Husbands Bosworth)</p>	<p>Frequently used with high accessibility but is of poor quality</p>	<p>Enhance quality where possible – will increase user satisfaction and experience</p> <p>Protect open space as value is high</p>
	<p>Disused Railway line (Medbourne)</p>	<p>Frequently used despite poor quality and poor accessibility assessments.</p>	<p>Enhance quality and accessibility where possible – will increase user satisfaction and experience</p> <p>Protect open space as value is high in terms of high usage rates by the local community.</p>
<p>Amenity Greenspace</p>	<p>Monroe Close (Market Harborough)</p> <p>Stablegate Way Open Space (Market Harborough)</p> <p>Fleetwood Gardens (Market Harborough)</p> <p>Village Green (Smeeton Westerby)</p> <p>St Catherines Green (Houghton on the Hill)</p>	<p>Usage is low, despite good quality and accessibility.</p>	<p>Investigate whether primary purpose of open space site is appropriate due to low usage</p> <p>Consider change of open space use</p> <p>Maintain the high quality and accessibility features of the site if usage can be addressed either through change of open space or other means.</p>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Open Space Type	Site Priorities	Reasoning	Recommended Action
<p>Provision for Children and Young People</p>	<p>Cottage Lane Play Area Childrens Play Area (Lubenham)</p>	<p>High usage of these sites and good accessibility, but rated poor in terms of quality.</p>	<p>Enhance quality where possible – will increase user satisfaction and experience Protect open space as value is high</p>
	<p>Village Hall and Small Play Area (Little Stretton) Folly Field Play Area (Mowsley)</p>	<p>Low usage and are of poorer quality but accessibility is good</p>	<p>Enhance quality – may increase usage with no problems with accessibility. Re-delegate to other purpose to try and increase usage – refer to demand for other open spaces If not possible or not required, maybe surplus to requirements.</p>
	<p>Tilton Play Area Orchard Road (Lutterworth) Public House Garden and Play Area (Swinford) Hog Lane Play Park (Hallaton)</p>	<p>Usage is low, despite good quality and accessibility. Possible analysis should be undertaken as to whether the primary purpose of the site is appropriate.</p>	<p>Investigate whether primary purpose of open space site is appropriate sue to low usage Consider change of open space use Maintain the high quality and accessibility features of the site if usage can be addressed either through change of open space or other means.</p>
	<p>Allotments and Community Gardens</p>	<p>East Norton Allotments Gravel Hole Allotments Walton</p>	<p>Poor quality and poor accessibility with no or low usage.</p>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Open Space Type	Site Priorities	Reasoning	Recommended Action
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Lodge Road Sports Ground	Poor quality and low used site despite high accessibility rating.	Enhance quality – may increase usage with no problems with accessibility. Re-delegate to other purpose to try and increase usage – refer to demand for other open spaces If not possible or not required, maybe surplus to requirements.
	Gilmorton Tennis Courts	A highly valued and well used site, despite its shortcomings with regards to quality.	Enhance quality where possible – will increase user satisfaction and experience Protect open space as value is high
	School Playing Fields (Gilmorton) Fernvale School Playing Fields (Thurnby and Bushby) St Lukes School Playing Fields (Thurnby and Bushby)	Despite the high quality and usage of most of the sites, a number of facilities, primarily school playing fields, have low accessibility.	Address accessibility issues as a priority – increase and/or maintain usage at a high level Protect due to high usage value and quality of the site.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	There are many sites that have High quality and accessibility but despite this usage is low		These sites are probably not appropriate to designate to as other open space types. Promote the usage and natural benefits of these sites.

Planning Guidance

To date, the Government has not provided any statutory procedures for the preparation and adoption of Supplementary Planning Guidance. This will change with the introduction of new planning legislation and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

Through the analysis of existing open space guidance, it can be concluded that:

- all new housing developments (even single dwelling developments) should contribute towards open space provision;
- local standards should be set for different open space typologies
- consideration should be given to the application of different local standards for urban and rural locations and between areas of over provision and under provision
- consideration should be given to providing formulas and worked examples within SPD to show the scale of off-site financial contributions;
- if financial contributions are insufficient to provide new recreation space beyond the ability of individual developments, special area based open space funds should be considered to contribute towards District wide projects. A list of projects and estimated costs contained within the SPD, which can be regularly updated, should be considered.

Summary

It is clear that Harborough has predominantly good quality and accessible open spaces. However there are some areas that have quantitative deficiencies as well as lying outside the recommended catchment areas although these tend to be pre-dominantly rural areas. Details of shortfalls by type of open space and area are detailed within sections 5-13 of the main report.

Very few areas have a surplus of provision particularly when undertaking a local area needs analysis not taking into account the larger District-wide provision.

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction and Background	1
2. Undertaking the Study – PPG17	8
3. Strategic Context	20
4. Consultations	39
<hr/>	
5. Parks and Gardens	49
6. Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space	56
7. Green Corridors	67
8. Amenity Greenspace	73
9. Provision for Children and Young People	82
10. Outdoor Sports Facilities	92
11. Allotments and Community Gardens	101
12. Cemeteries and Churchyards	108
13. Civic Spaces	114
14. Indoor Sport and Recreation	116
15. Quality Assessment	132
<hr/>	
16. Accessibility Assessment	141
17. Planning Overview	148
18. Resourcing Open Space	152
19. Overall Summary and Conclusions	156

APPENDICES

- A. Parish Questionnaire and Guidance Notes
- B. Digitisation and Development Process
- C. Quantity Standards
- D. Sports Club Questionnaire
- E. Demographic Reports and Supply and Demand Models
- F. Sports Club Questionnaire Respondents
- G. Sport and Recreation Parish Questionnaire
- H. Village Hall Facilities
- I. Quality Standards Template
- J. Accessibility Standards Template
- K. Planning Overview
- L. Quality and Accessibility by Site
- M. Quality and Accessibility Factors
- N. Parish Questionnaire Responses
- O. Mapping – Surplus/Deficiencies & Accessibility

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the data within this report is accurate, PMP accept no liability for errors or omissions within this data or any loss or decisions arising from this.

Introduction and background

Introduction and scope

- 1.1 In December 2004, Harborough District Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake an audit of **open space, sport and recreation provision and assessment of local needs** across the whole of the Harborough district area (the district).
- 1.2 This study aims to provide a clear picture of existing and future needs for open space and sport and recreation in Harborough and the current ability to meet those needs in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility. The study is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).
- 1.3 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”*.
- 1.4 Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to 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.
- 1.5 The major change in the policy guidance is the requirement for local authority decisions regarding open space to be informed by local needs assessments and an audit of existing provision. Such audits should incorporate qualitative, quantitative and accessibility considerations as well as the overall non-monetary value of the land including the level of use. National standards are no longer considered to meet local needs, although they may be used as benchmarks.
- 1.6 Other subsequent changes in this planning policy document are :
 - the definition of open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals and lakes which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation
 - a greater emphasis is placed on qualitative considerations – this is particularly important as it will allow local authorities to identify potential for increased use through better design, management and/or maintenance of open space
 - it advocates the setting of local standards appropriate to the local area rather than assessment by national standards although these can be used as benchmarks – the Government believes that national standards are inappropriate, as they do not take into account the demographics of an area, the specific needs of residents and the extent of built development

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- it provides further guidance on the constituent elements of open space typologies
 - it clearly acknowledges the multiple functions that open spaces can perform.
- 1.7 The policy guidance sets out priorities for local authorities in terms of:
- assessing needs and opportunities – undertaking audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities
 - setting local standards
 - maintaining an adequate supply of open space
 - planning for new open space.
- 1.8 The companion guide sets out the process for undertaking local assessments of needs and audits of provision. It also:
- indicates how councils can establish the needs of local communities and apply provision standards
 - promotes a consistent approach across varying types of open space.
- 1.9 PMP has followed the recommendations of PPG17 throughout the study. Following this methodology maximises the potential the resulting strategy has to make a real difference to the quality, accessibility and quantity of open spaces in Harborough.
- 1.10 The open space audit and analysis has been undertaken incorporating quantitative and qualitative information, using various typologies of open spaces in driving policies and actions forward whilst recognising the wider benefits of open spaces.
- 1.11 The study considers all nine typologies of open space identified by PPG17 and also analyses indoor sport and recreation facilities. It takes into account open spaces provided and managed by other organisations including Parish Councils providing a more accurate picture of current provision within the District. The recent Audit Commission inspection on Health and Quality of life – Leisure provision commended the quality of the majority of amenity provision within Harborough.
- 1.12 This study will provide an overall framework that will guide the Council's Planning and Leisure Divisions over the next 5-10 years in the future management and designation of open spaces and the production of an open space and recreation strategy. It will inform the local plan which is to be produced next year.
- 1.13 The study and resulting strategy and supplementary planning policy will enable Harborough DC to ensure the most effective and efficient use of open spaces and indoor sport and recreation facilities within the district and plan and respond appropriately to any pressures of immediate and future developments.

Background

- 1.14 The District of Harborough has a population of around 76,500, and is the largest district in terms of area within Leicestershire. It is a largely rural district, which borders Warwickshire in the west and Rutland in the east. To the north the district borders Leicester, whilst in the south, the Rivers Avon and Welland form its southern boundary with Northamptonshire.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.15 The population is estimated to have grown by just over 12.7% since 1991 – this population growth is significantly higher than both the national average of 2.5% and the county average of 5.7%. 45% of the population of the district is located within one of the three largest settlements – Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley. Other larger settlements within the district include Fleckney, Thurnby, Great Glen and Kibworth Beauchamp.
- 1.16 Harborough DC is ranked at 338 out of 354 (where 1 is the most deprived) according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). None of the wards within the district are ranked within the top 40% of most deprived wards in the Country. Using the overall index of multiple deprivation indicator the most deprived is Langton, which is in the top 45%. Despite this relative affluence, there are five wards in the most deprived 10% when taking into account the access to services. This suggests that the accessibility of open spaces may emerge to be an important issue for the Council.

Why public open space?

- 1.17 Open space and recreation provision has an important role to play within the district and there are a number of specific important issues to understand:

i) Function of open space

Open spaces can provide a number of functions within the urban fabric of cities, towns and villages. For example, the provision for play and informal recreation, a landscaping buffer within and between the built environment and/or a habitat for the promotion of biodiversity. Each type of open space has many various benefits, which depend on the type of open space, for example allotments for the growing of own produce, play areas for children's play and playing pitches for formal sports events.

ii) Balance of provision

There is a required need to provide a balance between different types of open space in order to meet local needs. For example, not all open space should be in the form of playing pitches or allotments. Some local needs will demand 'green corridor' sites such as nature walks or bridleways and other will require small informal recreation areas such as 'amenity greenspace'.

In accordance with PPG17, this balance of provision should be based on local needs and the requirements of ensuring the provision of an attractive environment for people to live, work and play.

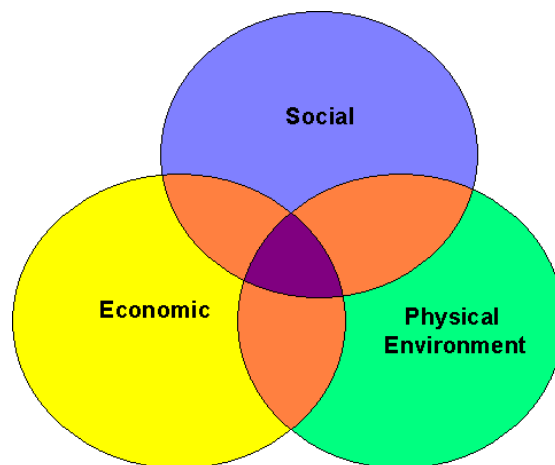
- 1.18 Changing social and economic circumstances have placed new demands on open spaces. They have to serve more diverse communities and face competition from various developers including sport and leisure. There are however new opportunities to develop the role of open spaces.
- 1.19 They can promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector.
- 1.20 Public open space cuts across many people's lives and is a source of local concern for a variety of reasons:
- issues like anti-social behaviour, litter and dog fouling, graffiti and conditions of parks and play areas impacts greatly on the quality of people's daily lives

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- the design, management and maintenance of open spaces directly influences perceptions of safety and actual public usage
- local publicly accessible open space is often of worse quality for people already suffering from other forms of deprivation
- the involvement of local people and partnership working is crucial in reaching the right solutions.

1.21 The theme of public open space fits shared priorities of national and local government – crime, health and social inclusion. It impacts on the social environment, physical environment and economic environment as shown in Figure 1.1 below:

Figure 1.1



1.22 The Government recognises through its publication of 'Our Towns and Cities': The Future Delivering an Urban Renaissance' (November 2002) that there is overwhelming need to develop a vision for the future of parks and open spaces and that there is a need to improve information on quality and quantity of parks and open spaces and the way they are used and maintained.

1.23 This study considers open space sites and how they can meet the needs of the resident population both now and in the future.

Benefits of open space

1.24 Open spaces including parks, playgrounds, amenity greenspace, nature reserves and the countryside are diverse locations that provide opportunities for a range of formal and informal leisure, passive and active sport, recreation and play.

1.25 Parks and open spaces are more accessible to a wider range of people than sports and leisure facilities and are better able to realise the aims of social inclusion and equality of opportunity. The provision of open spaces and recreation provision is also key to an ideal community.

1.26 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality 'public realm' facilities such as parks and open spaces can assist in the promotion of an area as an attractive place to live, and can result in a number of benefits. These are highlighted in Table 1.1 overleaf:

Table 1.1 – Benefits of open space

<p>Social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all ages of the local population to mix and socialise • social cohesion - potential to engender a sense of community ownership and pride • providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising • providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a wide range of outdoor sports and activities.
<p>Recreational</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing easily accessible recreation areas as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits • offers wide range of leisure opportunities from informal leisure and play to formal events, activities and games. • open spaces, particularly parks, are the first areas where children come into contact with the natural world • play opportunities are a vital factor in the development of children.
<p>Environmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing motor car dependence to access specific facilities • providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity • helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity • providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials • providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities.
<p>Educational</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • valuable educational role in promoting an understanding of nature and the opportunity to learn about the environment • open spaces can be used to demonstrate virtues of sustainable development and health awareness.
<p>Economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues • contribution to urban regeneration and renewal projects • contributing to attracting visitors and tourism, including using the parks as venues for major events • encouraging employment and inward investment • complementing new development with a landscape that enhances its value.

Best Value and Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

- 1.27 The Council is required to carry out Best Value Reviews and the Best Value Performance Plan outlines the purpose, aims and values of the Council and sets out what the Council is trying to achieve for the benefit of the whole community.
- 1.28 A recent Best Value inspection for health and community development in August 2003 commented that the Council is delivering many examples of high quality public space initiatives and many sites are highly valued by residents and well used. Other on-going Best Value reviews and planning services provide an opportunity to develop

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

the role of this service in open space planning (Local Plan Review and the evolving planning guidelines) (planning standards and agreements).

1.29 CPA is a new assessment mechanism, announced by the Government in 2001, to assess different levels of councils across the country. It is not a service inspection but a corporate assessment of a council to deliver improvement using universal cross-cutting themes including :

- balancing housing markets
- **public space – clean, green and safe**

The Audit Commission on-site appraisal of Harborough District Council was undertaken in May 2004, prior to which a self-assessment entitled “ The Improving Council” was completed in March 2004.

1.30 The key assessment indicators of public open space within the CPA are :

- (i) Management of the Physical Environment
 - effectiveness of design and maintenance of open spaces
 - accessibility of open spaces
 - contribution of planning policy to the quality environment
- (ii) Keeping the Locality Clean
 - success of reducing vandalism, litter, dog fouling
 - effective partnership working with local providers
- (iii) Improve Community Safety
 - realistic setting of plans for the future
 - strengthening community cohesion
 - addressing anti-social behaviour
- (iv) Promoting an Active Life
 - effectiveness of partnerships to provide a range of recreational activities for young people
 - meeting needs of different groups in terms of pricing and accessibility
 - supporting activities within the local community
- (v) Assessing Partnerships
 - working with County Council
 - working with voluntary sector and private sector in providing open space and promoting its usage to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle

1.31 Using public space (that includes open space as defined within this study) as a key assessment indicator demonstrates the importance of developing this strategy. CPA will assess what the Council has or has not achieved in terms of improvements in the area of public open space specifically against targets set by the Council. The Best Value Performance plan highlights the achievements of the Council during the last year, and sets out how the Council will work towards achieving its' corporate visions.

Need for local assessments

- 1.32 A local assessment of open space and open space needs will enable the Council to:
- plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to target appropriate types of open space required
 - ensure an adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space to meet the needs of community
 - ensure any accessible funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need
 - conduct S106 negotiations with developers from a position of knowledge with evidence to support.
- 1.33 Where no assessment exists, developers can undertake their own independent assessment to demonstrate that open space is surplus to requirements. It is therefore desirable for the Council to have robust data to protect open space within the district.

Outcomes of local assessments

- 1.34 A local assessment of open space will enable the Council to plan effectively and achieve some desirable key outcomes required by PPG17. These are :
- provision of networks of accessible, high quality open space for sport and recreation that meet the needs of residents and visitors
 - provision of open spaces that are 'fit for purpose' – the right type in the right place and of the right size
 - provision of open spaces that are economically and environmentally sustainable
 - provision of an appropriate balance between new open space and enhancement of existing provision
 - setting locally derived provision standards
 - provision of clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and land owners.
- 1.35 It will also enable Parish Councils to review similar issues within their own areas.

Summary

- 1.36 This local assessment will provide an analysis of existing provision and appropriate policies and actions for each type of open space and sport and recreation.
- 1.37 This will enable the Council to plan effectively the provision of open space and sport and recreation to meet the current and future needs and enhance existing open spaces where required.

Undertaking the study

Introduction

- 2.1 This study of open spaces and sport and recreation within the whole of the Harborough district was undertaken in accordance with 'PPG17 and its Companion Guide'. This companion guide is a guidance process suggesting ways and means of undertaking such a study. It emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment, as opposed to following national trends and guidelines. The 4 guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- (i) local needs will vary even within Local Authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
 - (ii) as stated in section 1 the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
 - (iii) delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision
 - (iv) the value of open space depends primarily on meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment
- 2.2 Although 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 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 maybe required.
- 2.3 PPG17 therefore recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each Local Authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The resulting conclusions and recommendations of this study are therefore representative of the local needs for Harborough DC.
- 2.4 Harborough is primarily a rural district, and even the larger settlements within the district are relatively rural, with Market Harborough individual settlement containing a population of over 20,000 (20,127 according to the 2001 census).
- 2.5 Where urban and rural areas are differentiated in this report, the urban areas are considered to be the analysis areas of Market Harborough and Lubenham, and the Western area containing Lutterworth and Broughton Astley, which are the largest conurbations in the district. In addition to Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley are the only other settlements with populations of over 7000.
- 2.6 These analysis areas are the only two with populations of over 20,000.
- 2.7 This study is the result of a local needs assessment for Harborough DC

Types of open space

- 2.8 The overall definition of open space within the government planning guidance is:

“all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity”.

- 2.9 PPG17 identifies nine typologies of open space. These categories include eight types of green open space and one category of urban open space. Full details of these typologies, their definitions and primary purpose are outlined in table 2.1 overleaf.

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Table 2.1- Open space types and descriptions

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal recreation community events.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wildlife conservation, biodiversity environmental education and awareness.
Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking, cycling or horse riding leisure purposes or travel opportunities for wildlife migration.
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal activities close to home or work enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> equipped play areas ball courts outdoor basketball hoop areas skateboard areas teenage shelters and 'hangouts'
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outdoor sports pitches tennis and bowls golf courses athletics playing fields (including school playing fields) water sports
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> growing vegetables and other root crops <p>N.B. does not include private gardens</p>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> quiet contemplation burial of the dead wildlife conservation promotion of biodiversity
Civic Spaces	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> markets setting for civic buildings community events
Indoor Sport and Recreation	Indoor facilities either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participation in sport and recreation activities includes sports halls swimming pools health and fitness village halls

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

- 2.10 There are a number of types of land use that have not been included in this assessment as open space and recreation in conjunction with PPG17, namely:
- grass verges on the side of roads
 - small insignificant areas of grassland or trees – for example on the corner of the junction of 2 roads
 - SLOAP (space left over after planning i.e in and around a block of flats)
 - farmland and farm tracks
 - private roads and private gardens.
- 2.11 As a result of the multifunctionality of open spaces (as discussed in section 1) there is a requirement to classify each open space by its 'primary purpose' as recommended in PPG17 so that it is counted only once in the audit. The full detailed list of open space definitions and their associated primary purpose is illustrated in Table 2.1.
- 2.12 This should be taken into account when considering additional provision. For example - in areas of deficiency of amenity greenspace, playing pitches may exist that provide the function of required amenity greenspace but its primary purpose is as an outdoor sports facility.

PPG17 – 5 step process

- 2.13 The PPG17 Companion Guide sets out a 5 step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was used in undertaking this study to meet the requirements of the council to plan, monitor and set targets for the existing and future provision of open space within the district. Although presented as a linear process below, in reality, many stages were undertaken in parallel.
- 2.14 The 5 step process is as follows:
- Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
 - Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision
 - Step 3 – Setting Provision Standards
 - Step 4 – Applying Provision Standards
 - Step 5 – Drafting Implementation and Action Plan

Our process

- 2.15 The following steps indicate how we have undertaken the study in accordance with PPG17.

Step 1 - Identifying local needs

Research

- desk-based research was undertaken considering national, regional and local policies and strategies that will impact upon local needs for open space and sport and recreation provision within Harborough.

Consultations

- Consultations have been carried out with many organisations and individuals through various methods such as one-to one meetings, telephone calls, questionnaires and by email. Consultations were undertaken with the following:
 - consultation with departments to establish how open space and sport and recreation provision affects each department and the key issues for each section
 - workshop consultation with Harborough District Council members and Harborough Town Councillors, establishing their perceptions of open space and sport and recreation provision within the district
 - consultations with Parish Councils representing the needs, attitudes and expectations of the local communities through two detailed questionnaires taking into account open spaces and sport and recreation facilities and attendance at the February Parish Council liaison meeting. A freephone number was set up and a help desk established to answer queries
 - questionnaire consultations with external agencies and providers
 - drop in sessions located in five dispersed geographical areas of the district to obtain views of the general public
 - consultations with sports clubs regarding the existing facilities and their opinions of such facilities by means of questionnaire
 - further opportunities for comments from the public were provided through a dedicated e mail address and the provision of the freephone number.

Step 2 - Auditing local provision

2.16 The following organisations assisted in auditing open space across the district of Harborough:

- **92 Parish and Town Councils**
PPG17 states *“consulting local communities in rural areas is potentially more onerous than in urban ones and by far the best way of doing it is usually through Parish Councils”*. Parish Councils provided the main data and analysis in each rural parish through two detailed questionnaires and a mapping exercise. The questionnaire and guidance notes provided to each parish are provided in Appendix A.
- **District Council**
The District Council provided detailed copies of the local plan. Internal officers were consulted on the audit of the urban area of Market Harborough, and contributed to the ratings of site quality, accessibility and usage
- **External Agencies**
Some agencies have provided details of sites they own or manage across the district
- **PMP and Bob Littler, PPG17 Ambassador for Harborough District Council**
the accuracy of the audit as far as possible was ensured by cross checking all maps received from parishes, completing the audit for areas where no response had been received and undertaking the audit for the Market Harborough Town Centre.

2.17 A number of cross checking exercises were undertaken to ensure the audit was as comprehensive as possible. These included:

- follow up phone calls to parish clerks regarding any ambiguity in sites identified and/or where no open space was indicated
- cross-checking with Harborough District Local Plan particularly where any ambiguity existed in identified open space sites
- cross-checking with a database of sites developed from all sources of documentation in order to ensure all sites had been included within the analysis for this strategy
- ensuring consistency of categorisation of open space sites into the PPG17 typologies.

2.18 Within the audit and in accordance with PPG17, each open space site identified was rated, where possible, within each of the following categories:

- (i) Accessibility
- (ii) Quality
- (iii) Quantity
- (iv) Level of Use.

2.19 Sport and recreation facilities were audited by PMP using a variety of sources in addition to information provided by parish clerks, including PMP's in house database, www.upmystreet.com, www.yell.com and existing information and documentation.

Digitisation and database development

2.20 Each open space site has been digitised using GIS software and its associated ratings and characteristics are recorded on a linked access database. This will enable further updates of open spaces and varying forms of analysis to be undertaken. This allows a dynamic reporting and assessment mechanism and enables individual sites or specific geographical locations to be examined in detail where necessary. Example screens from the linked database can be found in Appendix B.

2.21 The location of indoor sport and recreation facilities and community facilities has also been plotted as a point, using the postcode of the site.

Steps 3 and 4 - Setting and applying provision standards

2.22 Within the analysis of the significant amount of data collected and site ratings in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and level of use we are able to:

- determine provision standards
- apply such standards

to identify gaps in provision and therefore the areas of priority.

2.23 The analysis has therefore been undertaken by type of open space and indoor provision, looking at different areas of the district (called analysis areas in this report), which were discussed and agreed by the Council. These sub-areas have

been devised where possible using clearly identifiable neighbourhoods and are separated from adjoining areas using ward boundaries. These are discussed later in this section.

- 2.24 The data collected also enables analysis of open space by catchment. Consultation established the distance that most people are willing to travel to each type of open space and standards have therefore been set. These standards can be applied, enabling the identification of gaps in provision and areas of priority.
- 2.25 Setting robust local standards based on assessments of need and audits of existing facilities will form the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process.
- 2.26 Further detail regarding the setting and application of each type of provision standard is outlined below.

Quantity

- 2.27 PPG17 advocates that planning policies for open space, including playing fields, should be based upon local standards derived from a robust assessment of local need.
- 2.28 The quantity of provision provided by the audit of open space has assisted in the setting of such local provision standards for the district. These are included for each type of open space in the separate sections and as recommended by PPG17 is undertaken by population to calculate the quantity of provision per person.
- 2.29 However the quantity analysis has also taken into account key issues raised from the consultations with the public, internally within the Council and externally with national, regional and local agencies. This then provides a more objective view rather than relying solely on statistical calculations. A comparison with the community's view on the existing level of facilities required and the current level of provision is made to help establish a reasonable level of provision.
- 2.30 Provision standards are then applied to determine whether there is a surplus of provision, the provision was about right or there is a deficiency.
- 2.31 All standards are based on 2001 census data, and population projections have been calculated to predict the future – 2011.
- 2.32 The overall aim of the quantity assessment is to:
- establish areas of the district suffering in deficiency of provision within each type of open space
 - areas of significant surplus where it may be possible to investigate changing the type of open space to types that are deficient in that area.
- 2.33 The standards set for each type of open space in Harborough are summarised in section 19, and the basic calculations are outlined in appendix C.

Quality

- 2.34 Quality and Value of open space are fundamentally different and can sometimes be completely unrelated. An example of this could be :
- a high quality open space is provided but is completely inaccessible. Its usage is therefore restricted and its value to the public limited; or

- a low quality open space may be used every day by the public or have some significant wider benefit such as biodiversity or educational use and therefore has a relatively high value to the public.

Therefore the needs assessment will analyse quality and value separately within each type of open space.

2.35 The overall aim of a quality assessment should be to identify deficiencies in quality and key quality factors that need to be improved within:

- the geographical areas of the district
- specific types of open space
- specific quality factors that ensure a high quality open space

This enables resources to be concentrated on areas that need to be improved.

Accessibility

2.36 Accessibility is a key assessment of open space sites. Without accessibility for the public the provision of good quality or good quantity of open space sites would be of very limited value. The overall aim of an accessibility assessment should be to identify:

- how accessible sites are?
- how far are people willing to travel to reach open space?
- areas of the district deficient in provision?
- areas of the district suffering in accessibility and therefore of priority importance
- key accessibility factors that need to be improved

2.37 Setting accessibility standards for open space should be derived from an analysis of the accessibility issues within the audit and in light of community views.

2.38 In undertaking various consultations we were able to attain the aspirations of people in terms of travel time and also in terms of issues regarding access to sites. The outcome of this analysis is detailed in each section for each type of open space. We can use this analysis to determine suitable and appropriate accessibility standards.

2.39 Distance thresholds (i.e. the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport) are a very useful planning tool especially when used in association with a GIS (Geographical Information System).

2.40 PPG17 encourages that any new open space sites or enhancement of existing sites should ensure accessibility by environmentally friendly forms of transport such as walking, cycling and by public transport. There is a real desire to move away from reliability on the car. Distance thresholds that are set should be realistic as well as encouraging a comprehensive provision of accessible open space across the district.

2.41 The consultations both through the detailed parish council questionnaire and neighbourhood 'drop-in' sessions provide specific information to assist in establishing distance thresholds for each type of open space as defined by PPG17.

2.42 Within each section (5-13), the median, mean and mode of responses from Parish Councils regarding the time they are willing to travel to reach open space are identified. These are defined below:

- Mean: the sum of the total responses divided by the number of responses
- Median: the point on above which there are exactly half the scores and below which there are the other half of scores
- Mode: the most frequently occurring score in a distribution.

2.43 In addition, each section recommends distance thresholds, based on the time that 75% of people are willing to travel where appropriate, for each type of open space. The standards set for each type of open space in Harborough are summarised in section 19.

Accessibility standards

2.44 It is not entirely straightforward to set specific distance thresholds for each type of open space for all areas as there are many dependencies. These standards, as PPG17 recommends, provide some guidance in order to identify possible gaps in provision and meet the local needs of the residents within the District of Harborough.

Level of usage and value

2.45 The value of an open space site is entirely different to quality and relates mainly to 3 key factors as described in PPG17 companion guide:

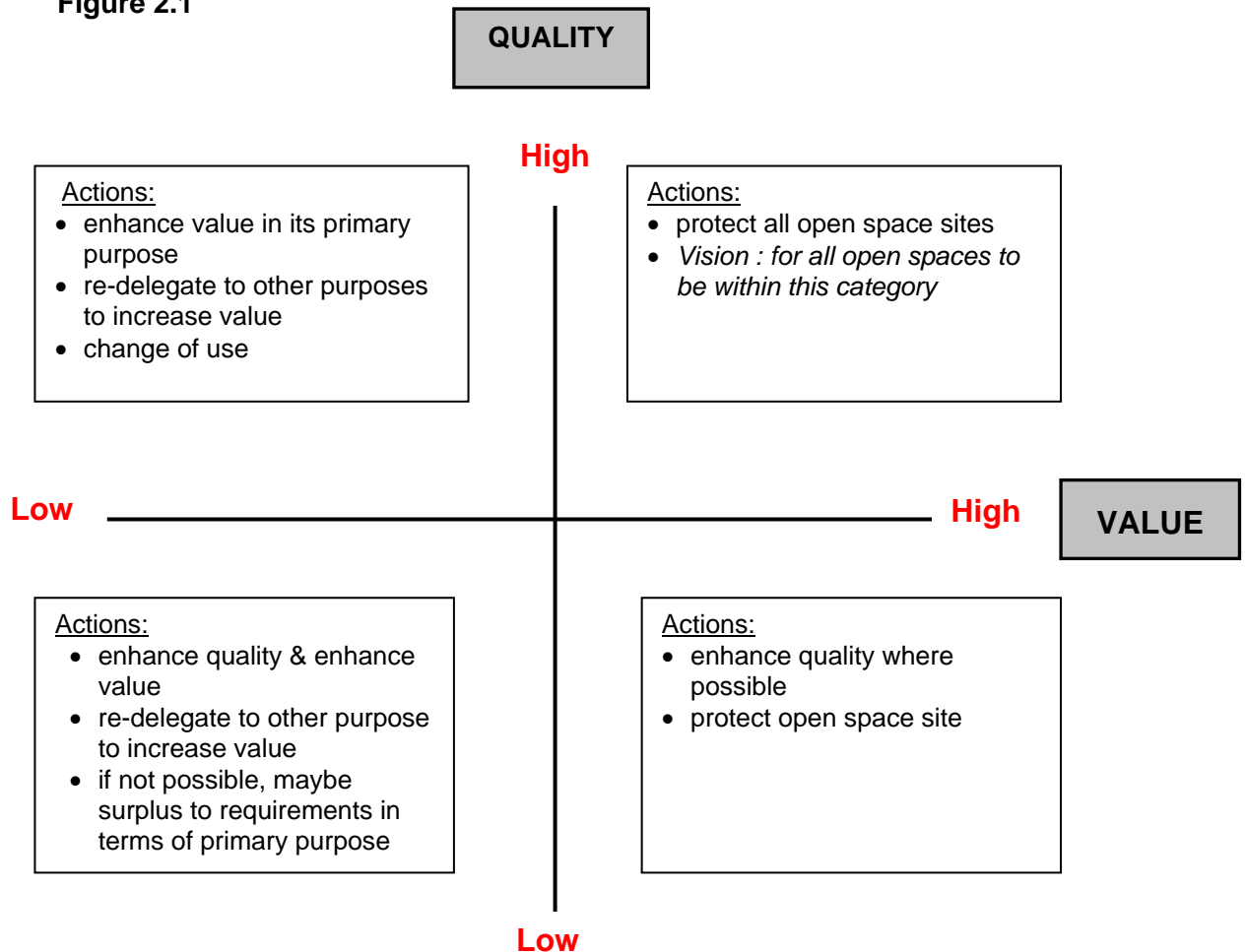
- Context – a site that is inaccessible is irrelevant to potential users and therefore is of little value irrespective of its quality. Also in areas where there are large amounts of high quality open space or more than is actually required, some of it may be of little value. In contrast to this, a site of little quality but in an area of low provision maybe of extremely high value to the public
- Level and Type of Use – poorly used open space sites maybe of little value while highly used sites maybe of high value
- Wider Benefits – there are many wider benefits of open space sites that should be taken into account when analysing the results of particular sites e.g. visual impact, benefits for biodiversity, educational, cultural, economic etc. These benefits are difficult to assess in a systematic way and would require detailed site visits.

2.46 Evaluating value therefore involves attempting to assess these factors, in particular relating the context of the open space site (quality and accessibility) against the level of use of each site.

2.47 From the assessment of the value of sites we are able to start to determine policy options in terms of feeding into a specific action plan. This is fundamental to effective planning:

2.48 Figure 2.1 provides a simple means of determining the most appropriate policy approach to each existing open space site.

Figure 2.1



2.49 Quantity, quality and accessibility of sites will be evaluated within sections 5 – 13, for each specific type and the value of specific sites will also be evaluated.

2.50 The provision of sport and recreation facilities has been assessed using demand models which compare the current supply against the estimated demand. Full details of the demand models and the assumptions used can be found in appendix E.

Analysis areas

2.51 The analysis of the quantity and quality of provision has been undertaken by analysis area in order to extract more specific findings relating to geographical areas within the district of Harborough. The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed level, and provides a geographical background to the analysis.

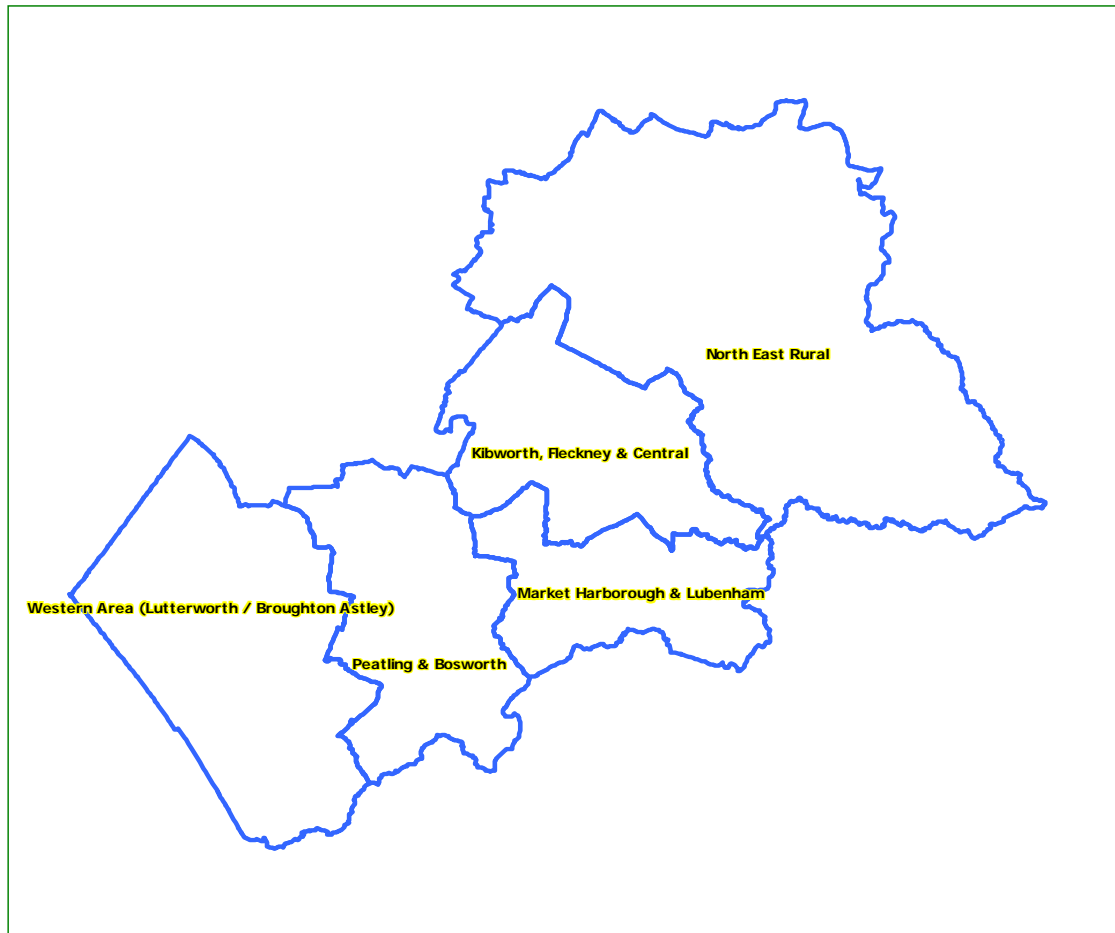
2.52 The five sub areas used in this study are:

- Market Harborough and Lubenham
- North East Rural
- Kibworth, Fleckney and Central
- Western – Lutterworth and Broughton Astley

- Peatling and Bosworth.

2.53 The analysis areas used in this report are illustrated in Figure 2.2 below

Figure 2.2 – Analysis Areas



2.54 However because each site has been digitised on GIS compatible software and its associated ratings and characteristics inputted into a linked access database this will enable further updates of open spaces and varying forms of analysis to be undertaken – a dynamic reporting and assessment mechanism.

2.55 The analysis has been undertaken on the data provided and collected through the process described above. It is acknowledged that some of the 92 parish councils have not returned any data or refused to co-operate within the study. The audit coverage is however 100%, as non responding parishes were audited by Bob Littler. Full details of the parish questionnaire responses can be found in appendix N.

Data quality

2.56 The quality of both the quantitative database data and spatial mapping data was evaluated.

2.57 Database records were assessed on a scale of very good to very poor, using the following criteria:

SECTION 2 – UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

1. Very good – excellent data quality
 2. Good – data quality good, all fields completed
 3. Average – some fields not filled in, duplicate entries
 4. Poor – data unclear or poorly completed
 5. Very poor – data incomplete
- 2.58 Spatial data was also rated on a scale of very good to very poor, based on the following criteria:
1. Very good – landline can be followed 100%
 2. Good – landline can be followed reasonably
 3. Average – data involved small amount of interpretation
 4. Poor – open space was difficult to accurately define
 5. Very poor – could not capture data.
- 2.59 The data quality was also combined in order to produce an overall assessment of the data quality for each site.
- 2.60 Spatial data was considered to be good or very good, and only three responses were not rated as good or very good.
- 2.61 Data quality overall is therefore considered to be **good and reliable**.
- 2.62 The digitisation and database development process assumptions are outlined in Appendix B.

Step 5 – Drafting policies - recommendations and strategic priorities

- 2.63 Finally policy recommendations and guidelines have been drafted, including planning policy advice. Planning policy advice is summarised in section 17, and the full report can be found in appendix K. Recommendations and priorities identified throughout the report are the result of a detailed local assessment of need for Harborough.

Strategic context

- 3.1 This strategic review sets in context the analysis within this local needs assessment by reviewing:
- the current situation regarding the provision of open space nationally
 - the range of national, regional, and local strategic documents and organisations that may have a direct or possibly indirect influence and/or impact upon the provision of open space and leisure facilities within Harborough.

The National Situation

- 3.2 Research undertaken by the government in producing its paper 'Improving Urban Parks, play areas and green spaces' confirms the exceptional importance of urban green space to the future of towns and cities.
- 3.3 Urban green space plays a significant role in the day-to-day life of urban dwellers by :
- i) virtue of its existence – simply knowing it's there and its contribution to the landscape and wildlife
 - ii) providing local free use for recreation and enjoyment
 - iii) providing focal points in bringing communities together
- 3.4 Despite the enormous benefits that open spaces can bring, there are real concerns about the current state of provision in the UK.
- 3.5 In this country, total visits to parks is around 2.5 billion per annum which is more than all the other leisure services put together with only around £600 million spent on their upkeep. Around £400 million is spent nationally subsidising less than 100 million visits to local authority sport and leisure centres.¹
- 3.6 Whilst there are still some examples of good and innovative practice throughout the country, many parks, open spaces and play areas have suffered from decades of neglect and decline, a lack of investment, poor maintenance and a failure to adjust to changing social demands.
- 3.7 It appears that there is a correlation between quality of open spaces and areas of deprivation. The more depressed the area the poorer the local park and open spaces.
- 3.8 The severity of the national situation was highlighted in the recent Public Park Assessment produced by the Urban Parks Forum, which highlighted that:
- park revenue budgets have declined by around 20% over the last 20 years- this equates to a revenue expenditure deficit of around £126 million per year

¹ 'Taken to Task' – Leisure Manager (September 2002)

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- the total cumulative under spend over the last 20 years is in the region of £1.3 billion resulting in a serious decline in the infrastructure and condition of parks and open spaces
- only 18% of parks stocks were reported to be in good condition, 69% fair and 13% poor
- good parks stocks are improving whilst poor stocks are declining
- only 44% of local authorities have a dedicated parks strategy
- 37% of local authorities reported that the overall condition of their open space portfolio is 'in decline'.

3.9 Parks, open spaces, play areas and countryside areas are now seen as a key element in an urban renaissance.

3.10 Recent political developments suggest that the case for better stewardship of parks and open spaces is now being recognised.

3.11 In 1999, The House of Commons Environment Sub Committee undertook an inquiry into Town and Country Parks. The Select Committee's report makes a number of recommendations to Government and local authorities, including:

- the establishment of an Urban Parks and Greenspace Agency
- the establishment of a new 'Green Tax' to provide substantial funds for parks investment
- new research to chart the increase/decrease in cost and quantity of green space provision
- making parks safer should be a priority under Crime and Disorder Strategies
- all local authorities should have an **open spaces strategy** or master plan.

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

Improving urban parks, play areas and green spaces – DTLR, 2002

3.12 The vital importance of parks and other urban green spaces in enhancing the urban environment and the quality of city life has been recognised in both the Urban Taskforce report and the Urban White Paper. The research was commissioned by the DTLR in April 2001, and was conducted by the Department of Landscape at the University of Sheffield.

3.13 Urban Green Space is defined as land that consists predominantly of unsealed, permeable, soft surfaces such as soil, grass, shrubs and trees. It is the umbrella term for all such areas whether or not they are publicly accessible or publicly managed.

3.14 The key findings of this report are:

- research confirms the importance of urban green spaces - it is estimated that, in England, over 33 million people make over 2.5 billion visits to urban green spaces each year
- the five main barriers deterring people from using urban green spaces are:
 - lack of, or poor condition of, facilities (including play facilities for children)
 - other users (including anti-social behaviour)
 - concerns about dogs and mess
 - safety and other psychological issues (eg feelings of vulnerability and inertia)
 - environmental quality issues such as litter, graffiti and vandalism
- in addition, access issues are of concern to the elderly and particularly to people with disabilities
- most of the barriers are resource issues which relate to the location, accessibility or environmental quality of urban green spaces and could therefore be overcome if planners, designers and managers of these spaces could address them satisfactorily
- the most frequently mentioned characteristics of the ideal urban green space were vegetation, play opportunities, comforts, good access, sport and events
- there is no clear link between levels of spending and the extent of good or innovative practice.

Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener – ODPM, October 2002

3.15 Over the past five years, action across the country has led to many new parks and green spaces. For example, there are now 245 new millennium greens and major new parks that have been created as part of regeneration programmes.

3.16 Many parks and green spaces have been given a new lease of life by networks of 'friends' and local groups and by local businesses, working together on projects to improve them. For example, more than 500 green spaces have been supported by the New Opportunities Fund's Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities Programme, and Groundwork, through the Barclays Site Savers scheme has transformed more than 600 derelict or underused sites into community spaces and play areas. The Heritage Lottery Funds Urban Parks Programme has provided new investment to more than 200 historic parks and gardens.

3.17 The Government agrees that parks and green spaces need more visible champions and clearer structures for co-ordinating policy and action better, and at all levels. These changes could significantly raise their profile and achieve better outcomes, which would also be promoted by the added focus that a national body could bring.

- 3.18 The Government also believes that strong local leadership is essential for improving parks and green spaces. There is a growing belief that because parks are not mandatory they are often at a disadvantage compared with other council services. This has led to concerns that parks services have been taken for granted, and have lost local support and priority, skills and investment. Improving the parity of parks and green spaces with other local authority services will require a shared vision, integrated approaches and strategic planning at the local level.
- 3.19 Green spaces are predominantly owned, managed and maintained by local authorities. However, local people, businesses and the voluntary sector are increasingly taking action to improve the quality of the spaces and places where they live. Effective partnership working and engagement of local people have been proven to achieve results that better meet users' needs, and increase the sense of local ownership. Partnership also makes more effective use of resources, facilitates the sharing of expertise and skills and can help to meet a range of community priorities.
- 3.20 Total resources available to urban parks and green spaces have increased significantly over the past five years. Central Government revenue funding to local authorities for parks and green space services is provided as part of the 'environment protection and cultural services block' (EPCS). In addition to direct central funding, a range of new funding opportunities are complementing local expenditure.
- 3.21 Central government provides significant funding through regeneration and renewal programmes. At a regional level, the Regional Development Agencies support improvements to urban green spaces through their target to deliver urban renaissance and excellence in design. A big contribution is also being made to improve the quality of urban parks and green spaces by Lottery programmes, in particular the Heritage Lottery Fund and the New Opportunities Fund.
- 3.22 Kent County Council, Kent Police and the Chief Constable of Kent have set up an innovative Rural Partnership aimed at building community confidence and reassurance by reducing crime and fear of crime, deterring anti-social behaviour, improving residents' access to local authority services and fostering social inclusion.
- 3.23 Twelve pilot areas each have a rural community warden who works alongside a rural police constable. The role of the warden is to support the local rural community with a conspicuous uniformed presence based in the locality. The partnership is promoting community solidarity and is preventing and reducing crime and fear of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Voluntary Quality of Life and Cross-Cutting Indicators (April 2001 – March 2002)

- 3.24 The Audit Commission consulted on a set of voluntary Quality of Life indicators for local authorities during autumn 2000. The exercise was prompted by the new powers given to local authorities in the Local Government Act 2000 to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of their area.
- 3.25 All the proposed indicators are designed to paint a picture of the quality of life in the local area and to challenge all partners locally to address the issues within their community strategies.

- 3.26 Open spaces provide a major factor in the quality of people's lives and this was demonstrated with 5 of the 32 Quality of Life Factors having a direct link with the provision of open spaces. These factors were :
- area of parks and green spaces per 1,000 head of population (includes urban parks and open spaces plus other 'public open areas')
 - percentage of rivers and canals rated as good or fair quality
 - area of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population (ha) - Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife and give people opportunities to study, learn and enjoy nature.
 - the area of land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - provide wonderful opportunities for people to enjoy wildlife and landscape.
 - kilometres of dedicated cycle routes per 100km of principal and other local authority roads.

Claiming Your Share: A Guide to External Funding for Parks and Green Space Community Groups

- 3.27 The document provides guidance to a host of groups and organisations who wish to apply for funding to improve parks and open spaces. There is an acknowledgment that park budgets for local authorities have been reduced over the years and that community groups have the best chance of securing funding to improve green spaces.
- 3.28 The document highlights the difference between revenue and capital funding, the different types of funding available and provides guidance on how to make a funding application. A list of funding and grant-giving bodies is also provided and these are divided into a number of thematic categories according to the types of project they provide money for. These groups are:
- Education
 - Environment and Regeneration
 - Heritage
 - Horticulture
 - Non-Specific
 - Social Inclusion
 - Sport and Recreation

Sustainable Futures: Building for the Future – A Funding Opportunity

- 3.29 The Government plans for building sustainable communities, launched through the 'Sustainable Futures: Building for the Future' document in early February 2003 included funding for parks and open spaces totalling £201 million.
- 3.30 This is in response to the identified need to create and maintain places in which people want to live with parks and open spaces being a key consideration as they form a focal point of community life.
- 3.31 The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) has set up CABE Space to promote the role of parks and open spaces in the UK. A number of

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

reports have been commissioned, and the unit provides advice on strategic issues in relation to parks management, as well as improving the public profile of the service.

- 3.32 It is hoped that there will be funding for over 5,000 projects with a large proportion of the money being available for environmental regeneration schemes. In fact £89 million has been allocated for a 'liveability' fund supporting Local Authorities to improve public spaces across the country.
- 3.33 Further funding is in addition to other existing major funding opportunities such as NOF Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities Programme (£96 million committed by the end of 2002) and Heritage Lottery Fund Urban Parks Programme (£255 million committed by the end of 2002).
- 3.34 This local assessment of open space and sport and recreation provision in Harborough will help to strategically identify priorities, in terms of areas and specific sites where funding may assist in enhancing existing green spaces.

Regional and local strategic documents

County context

Love Leicestershire: Leicestershire Cultural Strategy Partnership

- 3.35 The DCMS encouraged local authorities to produce a Cultural Strategy by the end of 2002. The DCMS required such strategies to consider a diverse range of cultural activities that fall within the Council's area of work, including arts, sports, heritage, children's play, parks, tourism and countryside recreation. The various local authorities of Leicestershire along with the voluntary and private sectors worked in partnership to produce a strategy with four underpinning themes. These are:
- strengthening of communities
 - celebrating Leicestershire
 - improving lifestyles and health
 - building a creative economy
- 3.36 The strategy highlights the need for all communities to have access to relevant forms of cultural provision. Consultation revealed there should be more opportunities for young people, as well as ensuring the elderly have access to cultural activities. There is also a need for cultural activities to be more inclusive targeting those groups previously isolated.
- 3.37 A key theme of the Strategy is the idea of creating a county to be proud of. At the heart of the theme entitled 'Celebrating Leicestershire' is the preservation and development of Leicestershire's cultural assets, of which open spaces are seen as a key element. The strategic aims include:
- conserve, enhance and promote Leicestershire's unique landscape, ecology and built heritage
 - promote and protect Leicestershire's parks, gardens, open spaces, playing fields and rural assets to residents and visitors alike
 - involve local people in identifying and preserving what is special and important.
- 3.38 In addition, a number of strategic aims with specific references to open spaces are highlighted:
- develop more community use of allotments – including young people's schemes and providing habitats for wildlife
 - provide more opportunities for young people's leisure interests
 - develop more community and cultural use of public spaces.
- 3.39 The Strategy recognises the close links between culture, health and well-being and the role that sport and outdoor recreation has to play in supporting a good quality of life. It must therefore be ensured that everybody can access relevant facilities. The strategic aims set out to help improve lifestyles and health and contain a number of specific references to open space. They are:
- to develop opportunities for local people to benefit from and help conserve the natural environment and green spaces, including playing fields
 - to encourage access for all to leisure facilities and their outreach programmes

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- to improve rights of way and access in rural areas for cycling, riding and walking
 - to encourage greater access to children's leisure facilities and activities
- 3.40 The consultation findings highlighted a number of cultural areas the residents of Leicestershire would like to see enhanced, the one direct reference to open spaces was the call for an improvement in the natural environment, country parks and allotments.

Leicestershire and Rutland Sports and Recreation Forum, Facilities Planning Model Assessments, November 2002

- 3.41 The assessment uses the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) in order to identify the extent to which the current provision of sports halls and swimming pools meet the needs of the current population.
- 3.42 Key findings for Harborough were:
- core public supply of sports halls is inadequate for the needs of the district's residents
 - the two main facilities import considerable demand from outside of the district because of their location
 - if education facilities are considered sports hall provision is adequate
 - the district is therefore dependent upon education facilities and their continued availability
 - with regard to swimming pools and taking into account the new Lutterworth Sports Centre which opens in 2004, there is sufficient supply to meet the levels of demand.

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland; Playing Fields Assessment and Strategy February 2003

- 3.43 The Playing Fields Assessment and Strategy was undertaken in early 2003 using the methodology [now superseded] set out in *The Playing Pitch Strategy 1991* and covered the geographical area of Charnwood Borough, Melton Borough, Rutland County, parts of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, Oadby and Wigston Borough, Braunstone SAZ in addition to Harborough District.
- 3.44 Playing pitches are an important aspect of any Open Space Strategy so the findings of such a report require due consideration. Although the document was very broad in terms of its geographical coverage, there were a number of Harborough-specific observations made and strategic priorities recommended. The document will be discussed in more detail in section 10.

Local context

Harborough District Local Plan

- 3.45 The Harborough District Local Plan was adopted in 2001 and covers the whole district. This open space needs assessment will contribute to the production of new policies and recommendations, and to the development of further SPDs. The main functions of the local plan are to:
- set out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land
 - provide a detailed framework for development control
 - provide local communities with the opportunity to participate in the planning process
 - allocate land for specific purposes in general conformity with the structure plan.
- 3.46 The local plan outlines a number of recommendations and policies relevant to open space, indicating that where possible, the Council will support initiatives to preserve and protect open space, and will deny planning permission for developments where there may be negative effects on green corridors, sites of ecological or geological interest, wetlands, marshes, ponds, lakes, waterways or disused railways.
- 3.47 Standards produced by The National Playing Fields Association are used in order to quantify levels of provision within the district, and a number of areas are identified as having overall deficiencies. The plan states that the NPFA standard is appropriate for use as a result of the dispersed nature of recreation provision in the district and the desire to provide pitches which serve the main catchment concentrations of existing and proposed development.
- 3.48 In addition, the plan states that playing fields are normally protected from development because of their recreational value. The loss of these pitches and fields will be resisted where it would result in a net loss of facilities or where this loss would be considered detrimental to the character of the area.
- 3.49 The plan also considers allotments, indicating that although there appear to be sufficient allotments within the district at present to meet the demand, any proposals to develop existing allotments should make provision to replace allotments in use within the preceding five years and to satisfy future demands.
- 3.50 It is also recognised that a number of cemetery sites within the district are nearing capacity and new sites will therefore be required. Policy LR23 therefore takes into account the existing cemeteries and states the criteria which any potential development is required to meet to gain planning permission.
- 3.51 In addition to policies of protection and improvement of existing natural space, the plan also deals with indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities. The plan indicates that the Council will grant planning permission to expand the range of indoor recreation where a number of criteria are met including the proximity of the development to the settlement, provision of adequate landscaping and vehicle

access and the potential adverse effect of the scheme on other developments. The plan also recognises the contribution that private facilities make to the provision of sport and recreation facilities within the district.

3.52 A number of themes relating to policies regarding open space were raised in the local plan issues papers. These included:

- a recommendation by Sport England that policies should be produced in line with PPG17 and commuted sums should be calculated
- the need for facilities for young people
- the requirement for additional facilities for Broughton Astley
- potential to redevelop allotments as many remain unused – a number of these sites could be used to provide alternative leisure provision
- British Waterways would like to see the inclusion of a policy relating to the protection and promotion of the canal and towpath network as sport and recreation opportunities
- there is a perception that the area is poorly served with regard to large scale parks / nature reserves and country parks
- policies should include the protection of existing open spaces
- developers should all make contributions to the provision of open space within the district.

3.53 In addition to the general themes raised, a number of residents and organisations made comments specific to different areas or types of open space facility.

Local Plan Review 2006 –2016

3.54 The current Local Plan adopted in 2001 runs until 2006. Harborough District Council has begun the process of reviewing the Local Plan realising the need to keep the proposals and plans contained within it as up to date and relevant as possible. In reviewing the Plan, the end date of the existing Local Plan is being rolled forward to 2016.

3.55 The first stage in the Local Plan Review was the production of a series of Issues Papers on key topics. Residents were consulted through these Issues Papers in September and October 2003. A whole range of topics were discussed in these Issue Papers many which touched upon the provision of open space. Comments relating to specific types of open space will be referred to in the appropriate sections of the study.

Harborough District Community Strategy, Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership

3.56 The Strategy is an overall plan for improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities within the district of Harborough. At the heart of the Strategy is the Harborough District 2010 Vision, a long-term vision of how the District may look in 2010. This hopes to see:

- the diversity of natural habitats and wildlife encouraged and enhanced which would see the number of Local Nature Reserves increased from 1 to 5

- local people benefiting from a wide range of leisure and sporting activities that add to their quality of life and wellbeing
- an increasing number of people enjoying arts and cultural activities
- people having direct use of facilities within their own locality or good access to them elsewhere
- more citizens contributing to community life through individual or group action.

Cultural Strategy On Street Survey - September 2002

- 3.57 The purpose of the study was to identify the use of, and attitudes towards, the provision of cultural facilities and activities within Harborough.
- 3.58 The Strategy was informed by 474 face-to-face interviews with local residents. These were conducted in the centres of Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley.
- 3.59 The vast majority of respondents (89%) either agreed or strongly agreed that:
- “Cultural activities increase the quality of life for individuals and the community and can help bring communities together.”
- 3.60 The survey found that the residents of Market Harborough are more likely to visit parks and open spaces, with 62% indicating they had done so in the last month. This compared with 54% of respondents from Broughton Astley and 50% of respondents from Lutterworth.
- 3.61 The two main factors influencing how often respondents participate in cultural activities is awareness of what is available (55%) and the distance of such facilities (41%).
- 3.62 Virtually all respondents considered the provision of parks and open spaces in Harborough to be adequate. Opinion was more divided on the provision of existing sports and leisure facilities. For example, 39% of residents consider that existing sports centres in Harborough are inadequate.
- 3.63 When it came to rating the provision, 65% of respondents rated the provision of parks and open spaces as good or very good and a similar percentage also rated public footpaths as good or very good.
- 3.64 The most common suggestions for improving cultural provision in Harborough were:
- a need for better accessible information in order to increase awareness
 - provision of more activities free of charge or at a discounted rate
 - improve the range of activities available
 - improve the accessibility of facilities and activities
- 3.65 In terms of future developments 35% of respondents would like to see an improvement in the provision of swimming and leisure facilities. This opinion was

more pronounced from those respondents in Lutterworth and Broughton Astley. The Strategy suggests sports and leisure provision is adequate in Market Harborough but provision in the other areas requires further investigation.

Harborough DC Health and Community Development (Quality of Life) – Leisure, Audit Commission Inspection Report, August 2003

- 3.66 The report states that the leisure services provided by the Leisure and Community Development Section of Harborough District Council are 'good' and have 'promising' prospects for improvement.
- 3.67 The aim of the leisure service is summarised as:
- 'the provision of a wide range of leisure services to meet community needs and which enhance health, environment, community safety and quality of life.'
- 3.68 The service includes 124 parks, open spaces and amenity green space, 5 allotment sites, 18 play areas, Harborough museum, Market Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Pool. It has a number of key targets:
- contribute to developing and maintaining a positive living environment
 - ensure that services are inclusive and accessible to all sections of the community
 - encourage, promote and provide opportunities for healthier lifestyles
 - promoting community development through social interaction and participation
 - open Lutterworth Sports Centre
 - develop Lutterworth Country Park.
- 3.69 The report acknowledges that the service provides a wide range of facilities and opportunities centred on the leisure centre and swimming pool. There are also events and activities in local communities aimed at all ages and abilities such as 'Harborough in Bloom' as well as a strong focus on youth activities in rural areas.
- 3.70 The report does however argue that leisure facilities do not target particular groups. It suggests more consultation is required to ensure a 'balanced programme' is achieved that meets the needs of the district as a whole.
- 3.71 Play areas, community allotments and parks and open spaces for parishes and housing sites are well distributed across Harborough. Although placed strategically throughout the district, leisure centre sites are not conducive to regular use by the rural community. Opportunities for participation in sport at a purpose built venue are limited in the north of the district.

Making a Difference: Sport and Recreation Plan for the Harborough District April 2004-April 2007

- 3.72 At the time of writing (May 2004) Harborough District Council were in the process of writing a Sports and Recreation Plan and only a draft copy was available.

3.73 The Plan briefly outlines what Harborough District Council's Leisure Services hope to achieve and implement over the next three years. The plan is divided into 5 work areas which all have their own aims but which interlink with each other. These are:

- Community Development- through partnerships develop activities which improve quality of life and promote social inclusion to enable people to feel more involved as active members of the community
- Development Pathways- provide pathways to encourage children and young people to progress their talent and enthusiasm for sport to an appropriate level of their choice
- Facilities- to increase and broaden the number and types of people using sports facilities, in particular those operated by the Council
- School Sport- through working in partnership develop programmes and activities which ensure that a range of out of school hours opportunities are available to clubs and the wider community, whilst also raising the standard of PE in schools
- Club/Coach Development- develop and support sports clubs to offer quality sporting opportunities to encourage young people to participate in sport, offering a pathway for them to progress, whilst developing their skills and knowledge.

3.74 Each work area has a number of key actions/tasks they hope to achieve over the three-year period. Specific references to facility provision are:

- to undertake a district audit of sporting facilities
- identify levels of sports provision and areas of under/over provision
- produce a Harborough Leisure Map highlighting the districts leisure facilities
- promote usage of leisure sites across the district

Harborough District Council Survey of Young People: 2004

3.75 The Council has recently completed a survey undertaken by De Montford University, considering the needs of young people. This study was undertaken using a series of focus groups across the district, enabling qualitative analysis of common themes. A number of issues relevant to open space emerged including:

- infrequent and inappropriate public transport – young people are unable to reach social and sports events easily, particularly in the evenings
- the demand for facilities for teenagers – somewhere appropriate where they are able to meet and socialise – many young people feel that they have nothing to do during the evening.

Harborough District Council Youth Transport Survey (2004)

- 3.76 The findings of this survey primarily supported the findings of the Survey of Young People. This questionnaire was administered in the form of questionnaires, and over 1700 questionnaires were returned.
- 3.77 The main issues identified from the responses to the questionnaire relating to open space were:
- although many depend on public transport to access leisure facilities in the evenings and weekends, services are not available at convenient or appropriate times
 - potential improvements suggested to the public transport network included:
 - more frequent buses
 - later buses
 - buses to more places
 - increased services on Sundays and to special events
 - fare reductions for young people.

Suggested Environmental and Wildlife Improvements Document

- 3.78 A local group produced this document campaigning for the introduction of 'low impact' changes to a number of outdoor amenity spaces in order to encourage wildlife to use them. Such changes include the addition of bird boxes, creation of ponds and planting of vegetation that would encourage wildlife.
- 3.79 The document identifies 12 sites which it believes could be developed as wildlife friendly areas. The sites in question are mainly owned by Harborough District Council and as a result any changes would have to be by means of a partnership approach.
- 3.80 The sites include:
- Hammond Arboretum
 - Trees by Logan Street recreation ground
 - Small copse near Tungstone Factory
 - St Mary in Arden Church
 - Old County Council tree nursery

External Agencies

- 3.81 There are a number of external agencies that impact on the provision of open space within the district of Harborough.

British Waterways – Strategy and Plans

- 3.82 British Waterways has the vision of a sustainable and integrated network of waterways throughout Britain, to provide maximum benefit to society both now and in the future.
- 3.83 British Waterways also recognises the wider role of the waterways and believes that waterways can deliver economic, social and environment/heritage benefits.

SECTION 3 – STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 3.84 In April 2003 it published its new planning policy document '*Waterways and Development Plans*'. The publication shows how local authorities, in partnership with British Waterways, can maximise the benefits of waterspaces through the planning system.
- 3.85 The plan responds to *Waterways for Tomorrow* (June 2000) in which the Government wished to support the development of waterways through the planning system to increase the economic, environmental and social benefits offered by waterways.
- 3.86 Inland waterways are also controlled by the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA) whose aim is :
- "to facilitate the management, maintenance and development of the inland waterways for navigation as an economic, environmental, recreational and social resource".
- 3.87 As part of their response to the Issues Papers for the local plan, British Waterways indicated that it believes that Harborough District is one of the more fortunate districts in terms of leisure and recreational development and seeks to ensure the current facilities are retained and seen as an asset to the area.
- 3.88 This belief is reflected by the presence of Foxton Locks within the district, which is a nationally recognised site, and the Incline Plane Barge lift on the Grand Union Canal. The commitment to developing provision in the area is further evident through the recent renovations of the Union Wharf canal basin in Market Harborough.

The Waterways Trust

- 3.89 The Waterways Trust was established in March 1999 and is a central force in the regeneration of waterways. It has a vision of a network that is "revitalized, valued, supported and enjoyed by all sections of the community.
- 3.90 Aims and objectives of the trust include:
- heighten awareness and enjoyment of the waterways
 - facilitate sustainable regeneration
 - promote broader understanding of the value of the waterways
 - become a major fundraiser and grant body.
- 3.91 The key priorities of these agencies will be considered when looking at the provision of green corridors within Harborough.

English Nature

- 3.92 English Nature is a government agency concerned with wildlife and geology and is a key partner of the countryside agency, which aims to achieve improved understanding of the relationship between access and nature conservation. English Nature is responsible for selecting and designating SSSI's. There are currently 14 SSSIs (see Section 6.2) located within Harborough District Council.

3.93 English Nature attempts to :

- facilitate and encourage access to National Nature Reserves
- support initiatives aimed at increasing the quantity and quality of open cohabitats
- monitor the affects of access on wildlife sites across the country
- stress the value of local sites and recommend that local authorities develop partnerships for the provision of local sites and SSSI's.

3.94 Key position statements of English Nature include:

- access to the countryside and urban greenspace – there is a need for access close to where people live
- respect for nature – access needs to be carefully arranged so that no problems for nature conservation are posed
- access should be considered in light of policies of sustainable development and biodiversity
- local sites are important for quality of life both in rural and urban areas.

3.95 The concept of standards for the provision of accessible natural greenspace in towns and cities arose from a body of work in the early 1990s that sought to recognise the importance of nature in the urban context. English Nature subsequently adopted the idea, publishing Research Report No 153 'Accessible natural green space in towns and cities – a review of appropriate size and distance criteria' in 1995.

3.96 In the context of a new interest in the value of green space, English Nature was concerned to find that its accessible natural green space standards seemed to be little used. In 2001 a project was therefore commenced to look again at the standards model in order to determine whether its validity could still be supported.

3.97 The review found that recent work broadly endorsed the scientific basis of the Research Report No 153, though many aspects of the work that green space plays in an urban context are thinly covered. However, the value of green space in supporting biodiversity and human recreation was found to be well supported and the structure of the standard itself withstood this scrutiny.

3.98 The key recommendations of the review include:

- that **English Nature** should provide additional support to the model by providing practical guidance, implementing an outreach strategy to raise the profile of the model
- that **local authorities** should develop green space strategies as a means of ensuring balanced green space planning, and should set locally appropriated green space standards
- that **central government** should work towards the development of a single framework for integrated green space planning.

3.99 The English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) requires:

- that no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size
- provision of at least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population
- that there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home
- that there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km
- that there should be one 500ha site within 20 km.

3.100 The standards were justified in the following ways:

- everyday contact with nature is important for well-being and quality of life
- everyone should be able to enjoy this contact, in safety, without having to make any special effort or journey to do so
- natural greenspace in towns and cities can play an important role in helping safeguard our national treasure of wildlife and geological features
- accessible natural greenspaces give everyone an excellent chance to learn about nature and help to protect it in practical ways
- adequate provision of vegetated areas helps to ensure that urban areas continue to function ecologically.

The Environment Agency

3.101 The Environment Agency are the leading public body for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales. Their remit covers air, land and water.

3.102 The main pressures on the midlands are identified by the Environment Agency as being:

- the growing demand for new homes and places to work
- increasing calls on essential water resources
- pressures from flooding, land contamination, and volumes of waste.

Forestry Commission

3.103 The Forestry Commission is the Government Department responsible for forestry throughout Britain. The mission of the department is to protect and expand Britain's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment with key aims including :

- developing opportunities for woodland recreation
- increasing public understanding and community participation in forestry.

- 3.104 Forest Enterprise is an executive agency of the Forestry Commission responsible for the management of the forests, with one of its main aims being to increase opportunities for public recreation.

Wildlife Trust

- 3.105 The Wildlife Trust is the leading conservation charity dedicated exclusively to wildlife. It advises local authorities, community groups and landowners on nature conservation issues and has a major input into decision making on planning matters and other issues.

The Civic Trust

- 3.106 The Civic Trust aims to promote improvements in the quality of urban life. It is a charity devoted to “enhancing the quality of life in Britain's cities, towns and villages: the places where people live, work, shop and relax”.
- 3.107 The trust has commented that there is insufficient reference within PPG17 to urban ecology and the heritage aspects of landscape which are essential to the survival of the overall ecosystem and the maintenance of biodiversity.
- 3.108 The Civic Trust is in favour of encouraging local disadvantaged groups to engage in the running of their green spaces, but recognising that this would require large numbers of outreach workers.
- 3.109 The Trust, on behalf of a large steering group, carries out management of the Green Flag Awards and supports the motivational effect that this is having as local authorities aim to improve their green spaces to enable them to obtain the green flag.

National Children’s Bureau – Children’s Play Council

- 3.110 A review of children’s play was undertaken between October 2002 and April 2003. This review takes into account the needs and aspirations and “play” of children between the ages of 0 and 16. The report identified four principles of successful projects:
- they are centered on children and young people – it was suggested that the most successful play spaces focus on a neighbourhood rather than catering for a whole town
 - they have an attractive location with high quality play opportunities
 - they fit in well with local circumstances
 - they give both children and young people and parents a sense of security.
- 3.111 In addition, the report promotes the use of school facilities out of hours, as this offers additional play opportunities and space for young people. Young people were questioned as to the type of facility that they would like to see, and it was concluded that young people appreciated both sites that were not staffed by adults and sites where adult helpers were present.
- 3.112 Suggestions for facilities included:
- adventure playgrounds

- play centres
- youth cafes
- bike tracks
- skateparks
- informal shelter and youth shelters.

3.113 The report discusses the appropriate size of provision for young people and children, and consultation questioned the benefits of providing a small number of large-scale sites in comparison to a larger number of smaller local sites. Findings indicated that young people prefer a larger number of smaller facilities that are closer to their home where they are able to meet with friends on an informal basis.

Summary

- 3.114 There is real concern regarding the state of parks and open spaces within the country particularly with the lack of investment.
- 3.115 The provision of open spaces supports wider governmental objectives such as social and community cohesion, urban renaissance and promoting a healthy and enjoyable life.
- 3.116 Any development of open spaces either new or enhancement of existing areas should take into account the bio-diversity and nature conservation opportunities and develop an increasing environmental awareness.
- 3.117 Many organisations are willing to work in partnership together in managing and developing existing open spaces and share similar aims and objectives e.g. protecting, enhancing and maximising usage and nature conservation value of open spaces.
- 3.118 There appears to be a general consensus that involving the community in managing and designing open space sites creates a sense of ownership and will assist in the maintaining the quality and maximising the usage of open space sites.
- 3.119 Local strategic documents and research highlight the importance of open space within Harborough, and support improvements, maintenance and creation of additional open space where it is perceived to be required. It is highlighted that it is important to ensure that people of all ages are able to access and appreciate the open spaces within the district.
- 3.120 In summary, this review of strategic documents highlights the importance of maintaining and improving open space sites within the district and this local needs study and the resulting strategy will contribute to achieving the wider aims of a number of local and national agencies.

Consultations

Introduction

- 4.1 As part of this study to assess the local needs of Harborough District Council we have undertaken a detailed consultation programme involving internal departments of the Council, Council Members, Parish Councillors and external agencies. Methods used were briefly outlined in section 2, Undertaking the Study. We have also undertaken open public resident consultations through various methods including:
- drop in sessions
 - questionnaires
 - telephone consultations.
- 4.2 The information gained from these consultations has been used to help understand :
- the key issues/problems facing different departments and agencies
 - needs and requirements of local residents
 - attitudes and expectation of open space within the district
 - what is right about existing provision.
- 4.3 The key findings are discussed below, and specific comments regarding specific types of open space are referenced within sections 5-13.

Internal consultations

- 4.4 Many internal officers have been consulted with regards to the current provision and potential need of open spaces and sport and recreation.
- 4.5 The following points summarise the main issues, which emerged from consultations with internal officers.

Quantity

- the current provision of both indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities appears to be sufficient to meet current local needs.
- the provision of a new synthetic turf pitch (STP) and a replacement swimming pool and new sports centre in Lutterworth, due to open in mid-2004, will help facilitate hockey development and meet local needs on the western side of the district. The only potential difficulties in the future maybe with regards to playing pitches in Market Harborough as the main recreation ground at Northampton Road is near capacity in terms of usage of pitches and it is expected an increase in demand will arise in the next 5-10 years.
- the district has a wealth of 'green corridor' provision both within the urban and rural areas. Market Harborough itself has the Millennium Mile, Riverside walkway and cycleway and the national Sustrans network (e.g. Route 6 – Derby to Oxford. This includes the Brampton Valley Way from Market Harborough into Northamptonshire). In the rural areas, there are many long distance footpath routes and local

SECTION 4 – CONSULTATIONS

walks in and around parishes that help promote and link the key open spaces in these local areas.

- there is a shortage of provision with regards to teenage provision (12-16 year age range) such as Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's), teenage shelters and skateboard ramps etc
- the district has some major open space sites that attract visitors on a district wide basis as well as providing local open spaces to the immediate areas surrounding the sites. These sites include:
 - Foxton Locks – currently undergoing restoration and improvements with the help of Leicestershire City Council and the British Waterways Board
 - Lutterworth Country Park – a 16 acre site on the edge of the town arising from acquired land from a developer and with a major plantings scheme to enhance its appearance and user satisfaction
 - there is a current waiting list for allotments suggesting a need for some future increased provision.

Quality

- there is no real problem with the quality of existing facilities now that the old Lutterworth pool is being replaced with Lutterworth Sports Centre
- Some water logging problems with regards to the main playing field site within Market Harborough (Northampton Rd Recreation Ground). Addressing these drainage problems will enable a subsequent increase in usage to be sustainable and meet any potential increase in future demand on the site
- Welland Park acts as a flagship facility for the district as the major and most used open space within Market Harborough. However it still receives its fair share of genuine problems of vandalism and graffiti.

Accessibility

- public transport routes have changed considerably over recent years and now concentrate on the major linear routes in and out of Market Harborough and Lutterworth (i.e. A6, A47 etc). Anyone living more than a reasonable walking distance off these routes would require other forms of transport access.
- having said this, the area is fairly affluent with high car ownership levels and therefore a subsequent heavy reliance upon the car is common. Therefore usage is not really affected by transport issues for the majority of people. Due to the rural nature of the area, there is an increased expectancy for people to travel further to facilities than maybe the case in a more urbanised district.

Usage

- from a usage survey the main indoor sport and recreation centre at Northampton Road, it was established that 23% of users come from Northamptonshire and a further 11% from other areas outside the district of Harborough – a total of 34%. Therefore there is a real issue with regards to cross-border provision, particularly with the main town of Market Harborough located on the southern boundary of the district. Although 40% travel less than 2 miles to this centre, 36% travel between 5-10 miles which also suggests there a lot of users come from surrounding districts.
- small open spaces within housing areas tend to cause problems in terms of users v local residents. Solutions may involve 'no-ball' game signs but then there is a need to provide another area for ball games within housing estates. Relatively, this is more of a problem in Broughton Astley where there are lots of small open spaces as opposed to Market Harborough. The Council needs to consider the amalgamation of required open spaces needs from many new housing developments to provide possibly larger but fewer more useful and usable open spaces.
- there has been recent areas of population growth particularly with the development of new housing estates in Market Harborough. This subsequently places increasing pressure on the main open spaces within the town such as Welland Park. Further housing pressure will result in new housing estates being located within easy access of the park as a local open space and this needs to be taken into account when considering using any funding for increasing the quantity, but more importantly, the quality and sustainability of such existing and vitally important open space provision.

Revenue funding and maintenance

- 4.6 The increasing amount of various types of open spaces, many of which are provided and funded through new housing developments will have an increasing impact on revenue requirements particularly in the long term. Many new open spaces are under 15 year revenue maintenance agreements but there is concern as to what will happen after the 15 year period.
- 4.7 Proactive measures have worked such as Park Ranger roles in major open spaces and should be encouraged in the future.

Section 106

- 4.8 There is a fundamental need to establish new internal guidance with regards to:
- i) providing suitable justification for obtaining appropriate Section 106 contributions for on-site and off-site developments no matter what size of development
 - ii) establishing priorities with regards to expenditure of Section 106 monies and other funding sources on open spaces e.g. quality of provision, types of open space, which specific sites, which areas etc

Members Consultations – Quantity, Quality and Accessibility

- 4.9 Two sessions were held with Council Members over the course of the project. The first with Market Harborough councillors considered the issues facing Market Harborough, and the second looked at provision across the district as a whole, with all Councillors. These workshop sessions provided a valuable insight into issues regularly raised by residents.
- 4.10 The main topics of discussion centred on the following
- positive and negative aspects of existing open space
 - methods of improving existing open space
 - catchment areas of each type of open space
 - key factors of a 'quality' open space.
- 4.11 The main issues discussed at these sessions, with specific reference to the characteristics contained within PPG17, are highlighted overleaf:

Quantity

- many people feel that some outlying rural areas are becoming overdeveloped leading to the loss of open space
- new developments within some urban areas have not adequately provided children's play areas as had originally been promised
- there are insufficient outdoor sports facilities to meet the demands of local residents

Quality

- the majority of complaints regarding quality across the district involve the amount of dog fouling and litter
- maintenance of many open space sites is currently considered poor
- insufficient rural policing results in vandalism and teenagers using facilities not intended for them – this is considered detrimental to the quality of the site

Accessibility

- signage, especially in the main towns is considered poor
- a number of complaints have been received about the accessibility of facilities, particularly from residents of Lutterworth and Broughton Astley
- transport to larger sites should be considered to improve opportunities for people to use sites outside their immediate neighbourhood
- better links are needed to open countryside.

Opportunities and methods for improving open space

4.12 There were a number of suggestions for how the problems encountered within open spaces could be resolved:

- improved transport links in rural areas
- ensure there is adequate provision for maintenance
- reduce dog fouling by providing more dog walking areas and bins along with preventative measures such as better education
- increased focus on provision for older youths e.g. teenage shelters, skate parks
- provision of equipment in certain open spaces would enhance their value e.g. seats, benches
- reduction in the number of new housing developments across the district
- more and better signposting to open spaces
- creation of a master plan of footpaths and cycleways to link open spaces together

General comments

- acknowledgment that there is an urban vs. rural issue. Generally people in the urban areas expect more provision to be in close proximity to their homes, whereas people in rural areas are more willing to travel to some types of open space e.g. country parks, natural and semi natural spaces. Although this emerged clearly during members consultation, there appeared to be no clear division within Parish Consultations
- large areas of open space are more highly valued, although it is important to have localised facilities so that people do not have to travel to certain types of open space e.g. amenity green space, children's play areas . There should be a balance between larger facilities with numerous amenities and, smaller, local facilities
- the ideal open space should be one that meets a wide range of needs providing opportunities for both young and old alike to enjoy. Welland Park is viewed as a site of good practice because it separates sports facilities, play areas and other facilities so different tastes can be catered for.

Parish Councils

4.13 Parish Councillors were consulted via a postal questionnaire and their input has proved to be invaluable. Parish Councillors were asked to provide details of open space within their parish as well as to comment on the following issues with regards to the provision of existing open space within their parish and the district as a whole:

- positive and negative aspects of existing open space, in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility
- methods of improving existing open space
- catchment areas for each open space typology

4.14 There was a whole raft of issues raised by each parish many of which are parish specific, however there are a number of general themes which are highlighted below:

Quantity

- there is concern over loss of green spaces in a number of parishes due to planned housing developments

Quality

- dog fouling and litter are a common problem across a number of parishes
- green spaces in certain village centres are overwhelmed by parked cars
- vandalism of some sites by youths with nothing better to do is ruining the quality of open spaces across the district

Accessibility

- disabled access poor at a number of sites
- a number of key sites are not currently accessible to the public
- a number of recreation grounds are poorly located making them unsafe for young children to use unsupervised.

Opportunities and methods for improving open space

- increased access to a number of privately owned sites would be beneficial, in particular school playing fields
- more litter and dog fouling bins
- improved and more targeted maintenance
- better playground equipment and an emphasis on provision for older youths
- more thought given to vegetation planted in open spaces
- improved wheelchair access at key sites.

Resident Consultations – Quality, Quantity and Accessibility

4.15 PMP undertook consultations with residents to determine views, attitudes and expectations on open spaces throughout the District. Five open consultation sessions were held in Broughton Astley, Fleckney, Lutterworth, Market Harborough and Thurnby and Bushby.

4.16 Discussions centred on two key areas, namely:

- positive and negative aspects of existing open space
- methods of improving existing open space

4.17 Key issues and ideas emerging from these consultations have been divided into sections linking in with the characteristics of open space identified in PPG17 and are as follows:

Quantity

- there are limited opportunities particularly for teenagers and older people – this was particularly evident in Broughton Astley
- the opportunities for both children and teenagers are particularly limited in rural areas
- there is an overall lack of open space within rural areas
- there is a demand for play areas even in small villages and hamlets
- there are insufficient public areas for sport
- there is a particular deficiency of sports pitches in rural areas, especially football pitches for juniors and mini football.
- allotments are considered important as recreational facilities for older citizens and there is a concern over the possible loss of some sites
- although small plots of open space are a valued amenity, there is a need for larger parks such as Welland Park
- there is a lack of formal open space facilities
- should developments continue at their current rate more open spaces should be provided to compensate
- more encouragement should be given to farmers to set aside land as open space.

Quality

- open space is well valued overall - there is a need to protect and improve the existing stock
- improved maintenance of some sites is required to increase usage
- dog fouling is a problem in many areas – there is a need for a specific dog walking areas
- litter is a problem across the district
- concern over the safety of some play areas
- open spaces would benefit from better monitoring/policing
- equipment / facilities in the open space is important and makes the space more valuable and likely to be used
- more thought should be given to the vegetation and planting in open spaces
- more consideration should be given to supporting wildlife.

Accessibility

- there are many existing open spaces that are not accessible e.g. school playing fields – this is often the only open space available in rural villages
- transport is a big problem in rural areas, a definite need for better transport links across the district
- promotion of open spaces could be improved
- signposting of key sites would be beneficial
- an acknowledgment that people travel outside the district to use open space in neighbouring districts and similarly people from outside use Harborough's open spaces
- parking at some larger sites is insufficient at times.

General

4.18 Other valued comments raised from resident consultations included:

- provision of specific facilities within open spaces for teenagers and OAP's is important
- some parishes have tried to campaign for better teenage provision but the opposition of local residents has often thwarted such developments
- local farmers should be encouraged to diversify and create publicly valued open space
- many parish councils have problems in maintaining their open spaces. Smaller parishes would like help from the District Council to create and maintain open space – although help is often available parishes do not know how to access it – more information to clerks is therefore needed
- the district would benefit from the opening up of education sites for community use
- dog fouling problems could be reduced if people were educated about the fundamental issues associated with this problem.

Opportunities and methods for improving open space

4.19 Through the consultations with residents of the district, varying opportunities and methods of addressing the negative aspects and current problems with the provision of open space were encouraged in order to determine how the public would want to see the problems addressed. These include :

- increased education for the public on open space in terms of :
 - providing signage and information boards on open space sites therefore promoting availability and hopefully increasing usage
 - ensuring that people see the benefits of open space
 - encouraging people to respect open space

- provision of specific wildlife areas for the public to use and become more educated with wildlife
- provision of designated cycle tracks
- provision of specific dog walking areas like the one within Welland Park
- additional litter collection bins and dog fouling bins
- develop forests and woodland through further tree planting
- increased dialogue between the Council and local groups to enable the improvement of open spaces.

External agencies and organisations

- 4.20 There are many varying external agencies and organisations that impact on the provision and quality of open space within the district. These agencies were therefore consulted and include the Countryside Agency, English Nature, British Waterways and local agencies such as the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. The key issues emerging from consultations with responding agencies are outlined below:

Influencing open space and funding

- 4.21 Many agencies interlink in liaison with national, regional and local initiatives and on local action plans.
- 4.22 The Countryside Agency are involved with the provision of open space through influencing polices and funding specific projects within urban areas e.g. Doorstep Greens which provides funding for community groups to create accessible useable green space close to where they live.
- 4.23 Many agencies get involved in funding partnerships and involving the community is a key issue to the success of improving and providing new open spaces.
- 4.24 The availability of revenue funding is becoming an increasingly critical issue in maintaining and providing good quality areas of open space which are accessible to the public.
- 4.25 There are 14 Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the district a number of which are privately owned, with varying levels of accessibility. The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust own two of these sites and manage four; Launde Big Wood, Launde Park Wood, Great Merrible Wood and Tilton Railway Crossing.
- 4.26 The Trust's quality standard reads: 'Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserves must have safe public access and adequate information.' The Trust acknowledges that these sites are fairly inaccessible but despite this are considered to be well used.
- 4.27 The Trust is keen to acquire/manage further nature reserves should suitable prospects arise.

Key issues / problems

- 4.28 There is an apparent lack of open space sites in the district of Harborough. The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust believe there is an urgent need for more quality open space sites.
- 4.29 On a positive note English Nature points out that there are a number of new Local Nature Reserves planned for within the Harborough district area. As discussed in an earlier section the Harborough District Community Strategy cites that one of its aims is to increase the number of Local Nature Reserves from 1 to 5 by 2010.
- 4.30 The quality of the few large open space sites that exist is considered good and they are well managed.
- 4.31 Apart from Welland Park the accessibility to most open spaces is poor necessitating vehicle use. The four nature reserves owned by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust are remote and only accessible for mobile able-bodied people who have access to a vehicle.
- 4.32 The Countryside Agency believe the rural nature of the district means there is good potential for open space provision, in particular the linkage of sites through a network of green corridors consisting of cycleways and footpaths.

Good examples

- 4.33 Through the consultations both verbally and through questionnaires many good examples of open space sites were discussed. These will be highlighted in the specific open space type sections that follow, and in the summaries relating to quality and accessibility.

Summary

- 4.34 Consultations both internally within the District Council and externally through parish councils, agencies and residents of the district have extracted both similar key issues and some varying issues with regards to open space provision within the district.
- 4.35 The main issue emerging is the lack of provision for children and young people particularly teenagers within the district, and the perceived inaccessibility of some sites by residents.
- 4.36 The management and design of open space should include the community as this provides a sense of ownership and will assist in overcoming and shortcomings in the quality of open space sites.
- 4.37 Quality of sites is important to all consulted, and dog fouling and litter are thought to be a particular problem within the district.

Parks and gardens

Definition

- 5.1 This type of open space includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events.

Strategic context and consultation

- 5.2 A national survey commissioned by Sport England, the Countryside Agency and English Heritage was undertaken during 2003, looking at the provision of parks within England. The aims of the survey were to establish:

- how many adults in England use parks
- what activities people take part in when visiting parks
- the reasons people visit particular parks
- the levels of satisfaction with the amenities on offer
- why non-users do not use parks.

- 5.3 The definition of a park used in the survey was very broad and included both formal provision such as town parks, country parks and recreation grounds and also less formal provision such as village greens and common land.

- just under two thirds of adults in England had visited a public park during the previous 12 months
- there is a distinct bias in the use of parks by social groups, with almost three quarters of adults from the higher social group visiting a park compared with only half of those from the lower social group
- people from black and ethnic minority communities also have relatively low participation as well as those adults with a disability
- over 8 in 10 adults who had used a park in the previous 12 months did so at least once a month during the spring/ summer with almost two thirds visiting a park at least once a week, and women tended to visit parks more often than men
- it is estimated that the 24.3 million adults who use parks make approximately 1.2 billion visits to parks during the spring and summer months and 600 million visits during the autumn and winter months – a total of 1.8 billion visits a year
- the most popular type of park visited was an urban/ city park.

- 5.4 A survey undertaken as part of the cultural strategy (September 2002) indicated that almost all respondents considered the provision of parks within the district to be adequate.

- 5.5 Welland Park is the flagship facility for the district, and is the most used open space within Market Harborough. It is considered very accessible by local residents, and significant recent investment has seen improvements to the park, and it is now

SECTION 5 – PARKS AND GARDENS

highlighted as an example of good practice. Welland Park was instrumental in winning East Midlands in Bloom during 2002 / 2003.

- 5.6 A number of residents support the view that Welland Park is highly valued and well used, not just in Market Harborough but throughout the district. The dog walking area was highly regarded, and a number of consultees expressed support for this to be repeated in other areas. This supports the vision to implement the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996, highlighted in the Best Value Performance Plan. Welland Park can be seen in Picture 5.1 below.

Picture 5.1 – Welland Park



Quantity

- 5.7 In addition to the large parks discussed above, there are a number of smaller parks and gardens within the district, many of which are memorial gardens.

Setting provision standards

- 5.8 The process for setting local quantitative standards is described within PPG 17 Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and this process has been followed in order to set a local standard for the district of Harborough. A diagrammatic format of this process is provided within Appendix C – 'Quantity Standards' along with a summary of all calculations.
- 5.9 There are no definitive national or local standards for parks and gardens.
- 5.10 The audit has discovered 18.83 hectares of parks and gardens in total. This represents provision equivalent to 0.25 hectares per 1000 population at present.

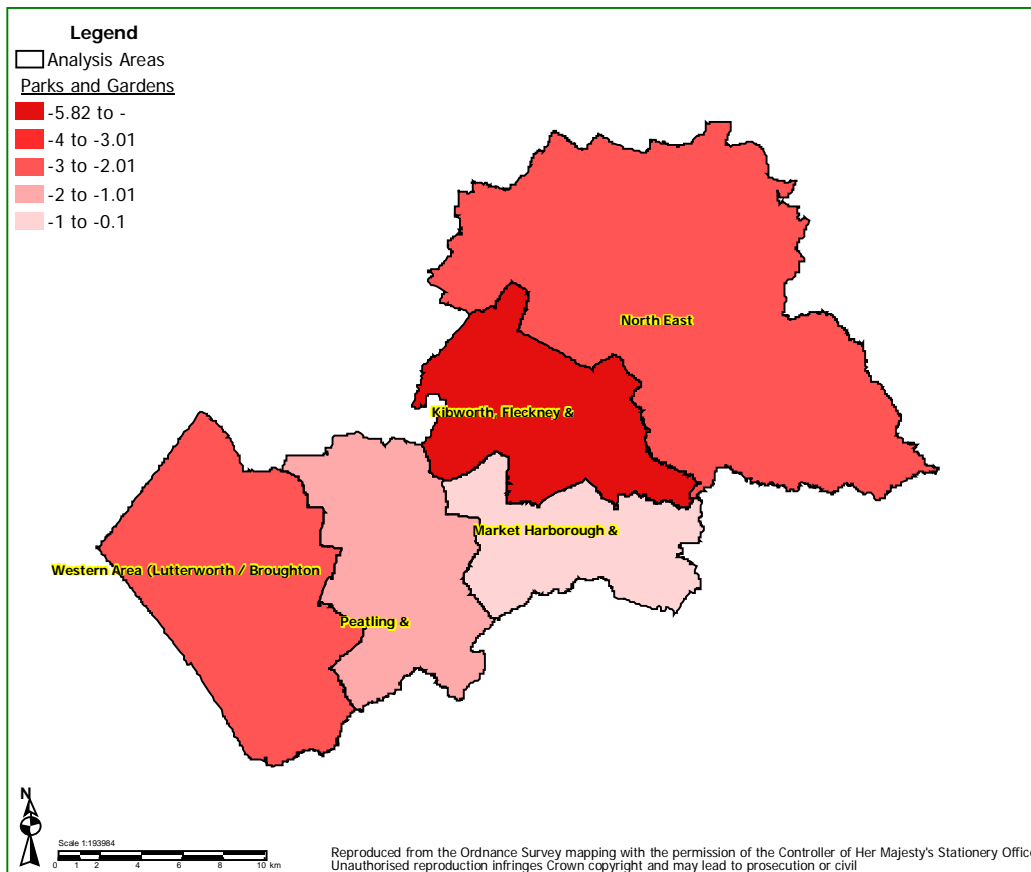
SECTION 5 – PARKS AND GARDENS

- 5.11 There were no indications from consultation that there was a surplus of parks and gardens in the district. However, 59% of questionnaire responses suggested the level of provision was about right, 41% of responses suggesting that there was a deficiency. This indicates that provision standards should be higher than the total existing level of 0.25 ha across the district.
- 5.12 In Market Harborough and Lubenham, which has a current provision level of 0.39, all respondents indicated that this was about right. This area includes the provision of Welland Park and suggests that a local standard should be at this level. More qualitative consultation through the neighbourhood drop-in sessions also supports the quality and quantity of this provision.
- 5.13 In the North East Rural area (current provision of 0.23 ha per 1,000 population), 33% of respondents suggested there was a deficiency and Lutterworth and Broughton Astley (current provision of 0.31 ha per 1,000 population), where only 50% felt that provision was about right and 50% suggested there was a deficiency of provision. These consultation findings support a local standard above 0.23 and 0.31 ha per 1,000 population.
- 5.14 There are no significant differences in the level of provision and perceived local need for parks and gardens between the rural and the more urban areas of the district, suggesting the same standard could be applied to the whole of the district. Also parks and gardens is a typology that one would expect to be realistically provided both in urban and rural areas.
- 5.15 Therefore from the analysis it is suggested that for the district of Harborough a local **provision standard of 0.4 ha per 1,000 population** is applied.

Applying provision standards

- 5.16 When applying the provision standards suggested the following analysis can be undertaken.
- 5.17 When applying the provision standard of 0.4 ha per 1000 population to the district as a whole, there is a total shortfall of provision equivalent to 11.79 hectares. This is predicted to increase in by 2016 (based on population projections) to 16.6 hectares.
- 5.18 The main issues arising from the application of standards are:
- there is a deficiency in each analysis area although the levels of shortfall vary across the district
 - the smallest deficiency is in Market Harborough and Lubenham (where Welland Park is located) and amounts to 0.22 hectares – this will reach 1.57 hectares in 2011
 - the largest deficiency is 5.82 hectares located in Kibworth, Fleckney and the Central area.
- 5.19 Figure 5.1 overleaf demonstrates the surplus / deficiencies within each analysis area based on the provision standard of 0.4 ha per 1,000 population for 2004. All maps are provided in Appendix O including projection surplus and deficiency maps for 2016 based on future populations.

Figure 5.1 - Current Surplus & Deficiency of Parks and Gardens by Analysis Area (2004)



5.20 The application of the provision standard for each area is summarised in section 19, and can be found in Appendix C.

Quality

- 5.21 The quality of parks and gardens in the district overall is very good. No parks and gardens were considered to be of poor quality, and 66% were rated as good or very good.
- 5.22 In Market Harborough and Lubenham and the North East Rural analysis areas parks were rated as very good. As previously highlighted, Welland Park in Market Harborough is considered to be a high quality urban park. In addition to being well used and high quality, it is a good example of clever management maintaining a balance between nature conservation needs and intensive recreation.
- 5.23 There are no parks and gardens in Peatling and Bosworth at present, and parks in the remaining two analysis areas (Western and Kibworth, Fleckney and Central) were rated as average.
- 5.24 One of these areas deemed to be average is Lutterworth Country Park. Consultation highlighted that residents are currently frustrated at the lack of progress made with the development of the park due to a lack of funding. It is perceived to be lacking infrastructure and facilities, however as previously highlighted, it has been identified as a primary aim of the leisure service to get the park up to a standard where it can be enjoyed and valued by residents of the district, once S106 or other funding becomes available.

Accessibility

- 5.25 Overall over 70% of parks and gardens in the district were considered to have either good or very good accessibility. No sites were thought to have poor or very poor accessibility.
- 5.26 Access to parks and gardens in Market Harborough and the North East Rural area is considered very good and no sites are considered to be average or below.
- 5.27 In analysis areas 4 and 5 accessibility to all but 1 of the sites is deemed to be average – The Memorial Gardens in Broughton Astley are highlighted as being very accessible and very well used.

Catchment

- 5.28 Parish Clerks were asked to comment on the most appropriate, in terms of time prepared to travel, for parks and gardens. This was combined with opinions of others consulted. Table 5.1 below summarises the mean, median and mode of responses.
- 5.29 The table also indicates for how long 75% of respondents are willing to travel. According to PPG17, this is the most appropriate means of defining local accessibility standard for each type of open space.

Table 5.1 Time prepared to travel

		Overall - Harborough District - Parish Councils					Members	
		Median	Mean	Mode	Minimum	Maximum	75%	General Consensus
Walk		15	15	20	5	60	20 minutes	
Cycle		10	8	10	2	20		20 minutes
Bus		24	14	10	5	20		
Car		5	8	5	1	30	10 minutes	15 minutes

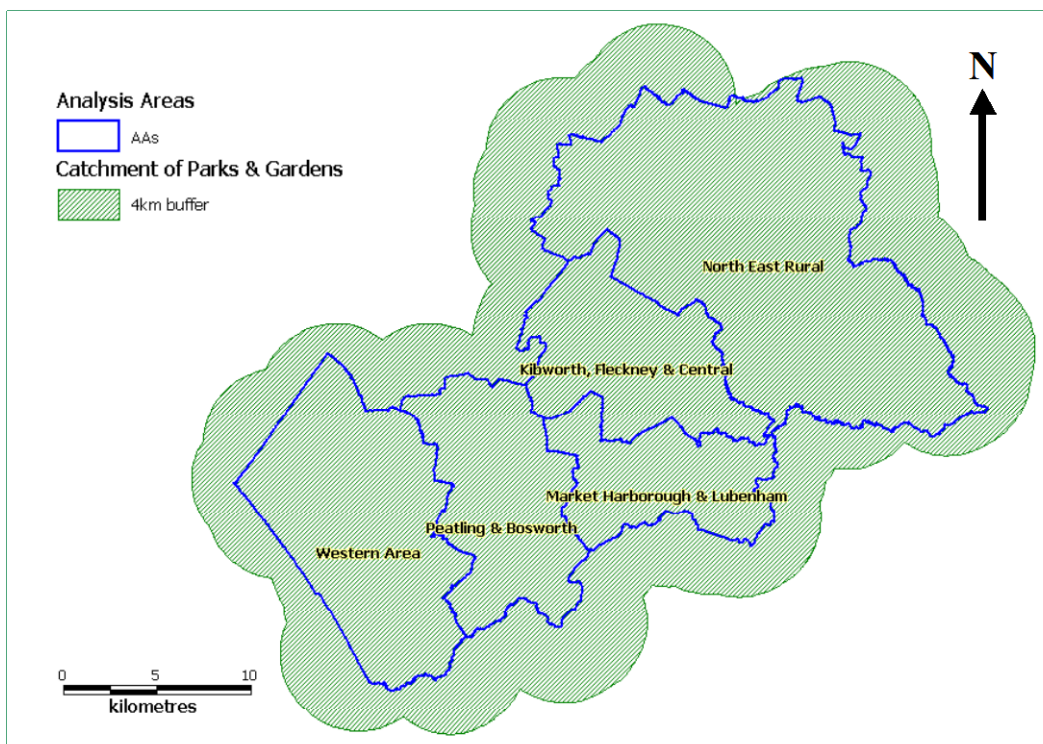
- 5.30 There was a diverse set of opinions regarding the time people were prepared to walk to parks and gardens.
- 5.31 Responses varied from people who felt 5 to 60 minutes walk would be appropriate, while some respondents felt car journeys of up to 30 minutes would be acceptable.
- 5.32 On the whole people appreciate that parks and gardens cater for a larger geographical area than some types of open space and as such are prepared to travel further. 75% of respondents suggested that they would expect to drive for 10 minutes to a park or garden.

Table 5.2 Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard – Parks and Gardens	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
10 minute drivetime	4km

5.33 Figure 5.2 below illustrates the application of this standard to the provision of parks and gardens within the district. All maps are provided in Appendix O which demonstrates clearly the areas outside the recommended catchment area.

Figure 5.2 - Accessibility Threshold – Parks and Gardens



5.34 As can be seen in Figure 5.2 above, all residents within the district have access to a park or garden within a ten minute drivetime, or 4kms of their house.

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

5.35 Most sites that have a high level of use would normally have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. Most sites with a low level of use would have an average or poor quality and accessibility rating. This is because the factors are related

SECTION 5 – PARKS AND GARDENS

and interlinked. However there are deviations to this, which suggests that these sites would need some further analysis.

- 5.36 The accessibility and quality of parks and gardens within Harborough overall is good, and there are number of sites which have high use – these are sites that are of high value and importance and should therefore be a priority for protection. These include Welland Park, Broughton Astley Memorial Gardens and Market Harborough Memorial Gardens. There are further sites which are also used often, which have good quality and accessibility.
- 5.37 Although the quality of Byways Garden in Stoughton is considered good, and the accessibility very good, it is thought there is currently very little use of the site. This indicates that although the site is of good quality, little value is placed upon it at present. Investigations should be made to establish why this is the case.

Summary

- 5.38 When applying the suggested provision standard of 0.4 ha per 1000 population each analysis area has a deficiency in parks and gardens with some areas clearly worse off than others. The largest area of deficiency is Kibworth, Fleckney and Central.
- 5.39 However the accessibility of parks and gardens within the district is considered to be good, and consultation suggests that 75% are willing to travel up to 10 minutes in the car. This demonstrates that although there are perceived quantitative deficiencies all people are within the recommended catchment of this typology.
- 5.40 Due to the fact there is only a small number of parks and gardens within the district the quality of these types of open space is particularly important. It appears that the quality of parks and gardens within Harborough is good, although there are a number of sites which may benefit from investigations into improvement.

Semi-natural and natural open space

Definition

- 6.1 This type of open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and bio-diversity.

Picture 6.1 – Tilton SSSI – an example of a natural and semi-natural area



Specific strategic context and consultations

Conservation importance

- 6.2 Among the natural and semi-natural areas there are 19 countryside sites that Vale Royal Borough Council manage. The sites cover 156 hectares and hold a wide variety of habitats ranging from waterside meadows to ancient woodland including:
- 12 sites of significant ecological value
 - 2 local nature reserves
 - one nationally important site of specific scientific interest
 - one regional important geological site
 - 2 sites of biological interest

- 6.3 The most popular sites are classified as ‘First Tier’ sites in the hierarchical classification system, and they tend to be the larger and better used sites, including:
- Marshall’s Arm LNR – this was Vale Royal’s first local nature reserve and was designated in 1998. The site comprises of three distinct habitats, including woodland, grassland/meadows and wetland/open water
 - Furey Woodland – a reclaimed site which, was once a tip, used by the chemical industry. The site has two areas of grassland and a woodland spreading down the slope to the River Weaver
 - Leftwich Meadows – the site was once part of a larger privately owned estate and is divided into two main areas with a linear woodland and grassland running down to a wetland area
 - Helsby Quarry LNR - it was once a working quarry called Mountskill Quarry and is now a designated regional important geological site. It consists mainly of woodland, grassland and rock faces.
 - Rilshaw Meadows – the residents of Winsford have used this historic site for recreational purposes for over 100 years. The site is made up of four main habitats including woodland, grassland, hedgerow and margins of the flash.
KM

6.4 Four of the sites discussed above, and an additional site; Launde Park Wood are either owned or managed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust:

- Great Merrible Wood
- Tilton Railway Cutting
- Launde Big Wood

6.5 Despite the presence of these sites, The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust believe that there is an urgent need for more open space sites of high quality within the district.

6.6 The Harborough District Community Plan states the intention to increase the number of Local Nature Reserves from one to five by 2010, a target that is supported by English Nature.

6.7 Policies in the existing Harborough District Local Plan consider recreational development at reservoirs, and permit such development providing the use does not have an adverse effect upon the amenities of the area. It is suggested that suitable development of these areas may include nature trails, picnic areas, improved footpaths and bridleway and cycle access, along with adequate parking provision.

Consultation

6.8 The Local Plan Review Issues Papers raised a number of comments specifically relating to natural and semi-natural open spaces.

6.9 The production of a Biodiversity Strategy is supported, and in general encouraging biodiversity by appropriately landscaping open spaces is considered a good idea.

Biodiversity would also be encouraged by the retention and protection of hedgerows, trees, old railway lines, rivers and wetland areas.

- 6.10 There were a number of habitats that were deemed in need of protection including woods and trees, open areas, dismantled railway lines, waterways and bog areas.

Quantity

Setting provision standards

- 6.11 The process for setting local quantitative standards is described within PPG 17 Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and this process has been followed in order to set a local standard for the district of Harborough. A diagrammatic format of this process is provided within Appendix C – 'Quantity Standards' along with a summary of all calculations.
- 6.12 The only definitive national standards for natural and semi-natural areas have been produced by English Nature. This suggests that there should be 1 ha of Local Nature Reserves per 1,000 population. There is no national or local standard that covers the whole of this category of open space although English Nature does approve other greenspace standards set by other organisations.
- 6.13 The total provision of natural and semi natural open space within the district amounts to a total of 682.53 hectares. This represents 8.92 hectares per 1000 population.
- 6.14 Although Harborough is largely a rural district, levels of provision differed between rural and more urban areas significantly. The areas of Market Harborough and Lubenham and the Western Area consisting of Lutterworth and Broughton Astley have been considered to be the more urban areas. These areas contain the main towns and the majority of the districts population (60%).
- 6.15 As expected, due to the fact that this typology occurs naturally within rural areas, the rural area does contain much more natural and semi-natural land such as woodlands, natural areas and reservoirs and so realistically a larger provision standard could be expected. Hence separate standards have been set for the urban and rural area. It is also important to emphasise the role of larger sites (e.g. woodland sites) within rural areas in meeting local needs and the contribution they make towards providing district wide facilities.
- 6.16 However it is important to ensure that such larger sites should not influence or skew any analysis which otherwise would result in the setting of high provision standards that are likely to be unrealistic to achieve across the district.
- 6.17 Across the district, 73% of questionnaire responses across the district indicated that levels of provision of natural and semi natural open space was about right, 21% indicated that was a deficiency and only 6% felt there was a surplus of provision.
- 6.18 More specifically, and similar to parks and gardens, in Market Harborough and Lubenham which has a current provision of 1.19 ha per 1,000 population all consultation questionnaire responses indicated this was about right. In the other urban area (Western area) where the provision was 1.82 ha per 1,000 population the majority of responses (70%) also indicated provision was about right. Again, more qualitative consultation through the neighbourhood drop-in sessions also supports this outcome.

SECTION 6 – SEMI-NATURAL AND NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- 6.19 In the rural area, it is easy for the analysis to be skewed by large sites that act as a district-wide provision. However with :
- the overall provision being 8.4 ha per 1,000 population and the majority (73%) suggesting this was about right; and
 - the rural area of Peatling and Bosworth, that didn't have large district-wide provision sites that would skew the analysis, with a provision of 8.54 ha per 1,000 population and majority of responses suggesting that this also was about right, even though some suggested deficiencies and some suggesting a surplus
- it would be realistic to suggest a rural provision standard of 8.5 ha per 1,000 population.

6.20 Based on the results from the analysis it is therefore suggested that for the district of Harborough provision standards of **1.5 ha per 1,000 population for the urban area** and **8.5 hectares for the rural areas** are applied.

- 6.21 The larger standard for the rural area takes into account the ability of this area to provide larger areas of natural and semi natural open space. It is recognised that planning for new natural greenspace, particularly in established urban areas, has to be largely opportunity led.
- 6.22 In addition, PPG17 promotes the development of Local Biodiversity Action Plans to help determine desirable levels of provision of wildlife habitats and species populations that reflect regional and national conservation objectives. These should be undertaken on a site-by-site basis.

Applying provision standards

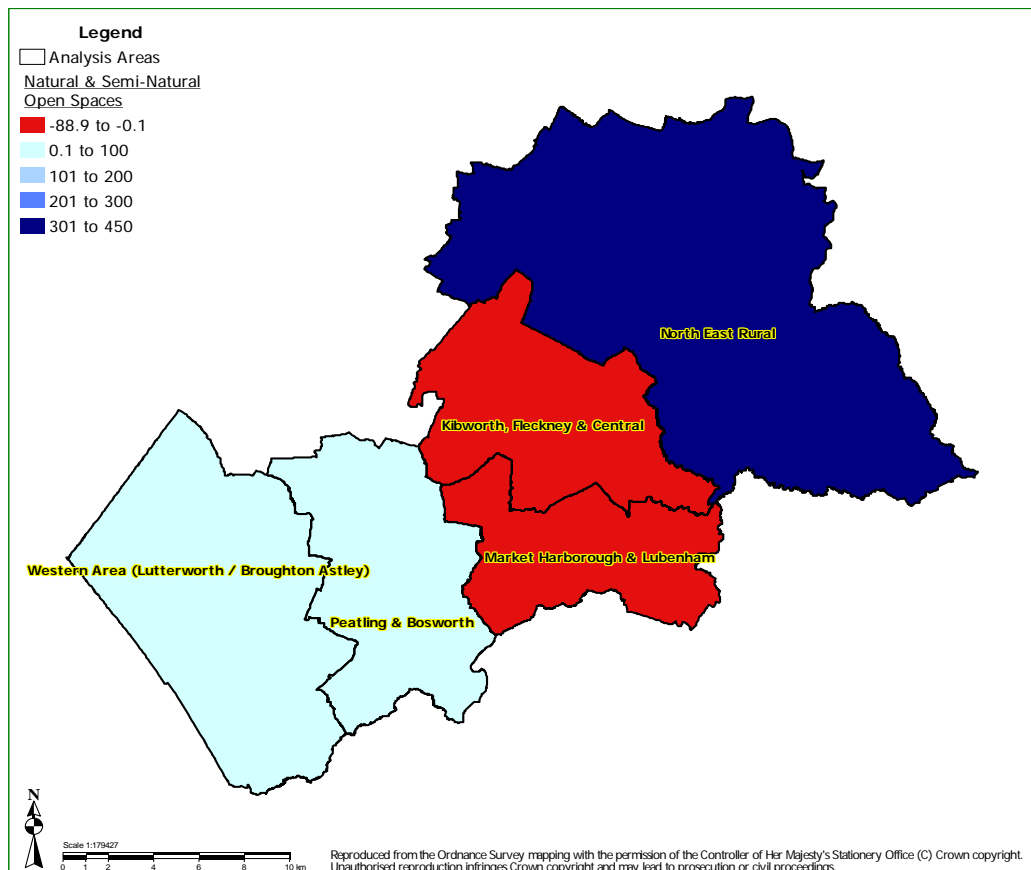
- 6.23 The application of these provision standards illustrates that there is a total oversupply of natural and semi natural open space within the district.
- 6.24 Although Harborough is primarily a rural district, and even the larger settlements within the district are relatively rural, with no individual settlement containing a population of over 20,000, provision of natural and semi natural open space varies between the urban and rural area.
- 6.25 The analysis areas of Market Harborough and Lubenham, and the Western area containing Lutterworth and Broughton Astley, which are the largest conurbations in the district, as explained in section two, are considered to be the urban areas within the district.
- 6.26 The main themes emerging from the analysis of the provision of natural and semi natural open space are:
- of the total 682 hectares audited, 79% was located in the North East Rural area, hence based on the local standard, this area has a large oversupply of natural and semi natural open spaces. It is important however that it is acknowledged that a number of large sites are located within this area, including lakes and reservoirs. Provision is very high however, equivalent to 45.44 hectares per 1000 hence the numerical oversupply is 440 hectares

SECTION 6 – SEMI-NATURAL AND NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- there are also small oversupplies of natural and semi natural open space in the some rural areas. These oversupplies will reduce in future years. It is important to note that although the oversupplies indicate that there is little requirement for future development, it is important to maintain the character of the area
- within the two urban areas, supply in the western area of Broughton Astley and Lutterworth is over the local standard by the equivalent of 7.35 hectares. In contrast, the Market Harborough and Lubenham area has a deficiency of 7.04 hectares at present, which is predicted to rise in future years to 13.98 hectares.

6.27 Figure 6.2 overleaf demonstrates the surplus / deficiencies within each analysis area based on the provision standards of 1.5 ha per 1,000 population for the urban area and 8.5 ha per 1,000 population for the rural area. All maps are provided in Appendix O including projection surplus and deficiency maps for 2016 based on future populations.

Figure 6.2 - Current Surplus & Deficiency of Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space by Analysis Area (2004)



6.28 The full results of the application of quantity standards can be found in Appendix C.

Quality

6.29 Overall, across the district, the quality of 53% of sites is considered to be good or very good while 32% of sites are rated as average and 15% of sites are poor or very poor quality.

6.30 In Market Harborough and Lubenham half the sites are rated as good or very good and only 7% are thought to be poor. The North East Rural area has the highest incidence of natural and semi-natural sites rated as poor, 27%. War Field Nature Reserve in Scraftoft and Gaulby Lane Pond in Stoughton were cited as very poor quality sites.

6.31 Kibworth, Fleckney and Central have 25% of sites rated as poor or below and the Western Area has 20%. This suggests that if improvements to natural and semi natural open space sites are undertaken, it may be appropriate to prioritise sites within the rural areas and Lutterworth and Broughton Astley.

6.32 Only Peatling and Bosworth has no sites which are considered to be poor or very poor. In addition, 75% of sites in this area are considered to be of good or very good quality. These include Brickfield Spinney, Husbands Bosworth and the fishing lakes in both Willoughby Waterleys and Peatling Parva.

Accessibility

- 6.33 Within the district, 44% of natural and semi natural areas are considered to have good or very good accessibility. In contrast, 35% of sites are considered to be poorly accessible – indicating that the accessibility of natural and semi natural areas is the worst of all types of open space.
- 6.34 There maybe viable reasons for this. For example, the location of natural and semi-natural sites such as woodlands and wetlands can be remote from the local community. There also needs to be a balance between the accessibility and conservation of such sites.
- 6.35 Some of those facilities regarded as high quality sites within the district have very poor accessibility and this problem needs addressing. Despite high ratings of quality within Peatling and Bosworth, this area had the highest rated open space sites in terms of quality but also has the worst rating for accessibility, with 56% of sites deemed as poorly accessible.
- 6.36 The most urban analysis area, Market Harborough and Lubenham is the only area to have no sites rated as very poor in terms of accessibility, although 27% of sites are rated poor.

Catchment

- 6.37 Parish Clerks and Members were asked to comment on the most appropriate catchment area for natural and semi natural areas. This was combined with opinions of others consulted. Table 6.1 below summarises the mean, median and mode of responses.
- 6.38 The table indicates for how long 75% of respondents are willing to travel which according to PPG17 is the most appropriate means of defining a local accessibility standard for each type of open space.

Table 6.1 – Time prepared to travel

		Overall - Harborough District - Parish Councils						Members
		Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75% are willing to travel	General Consensus
Walk		15	14	20	5	30	20 minutes	
Cycle		7	8	5	2	15		
Bus		10	10	10	5	15		
Car		5	7	5	2	20	5 minutes	15 - 20 minutes

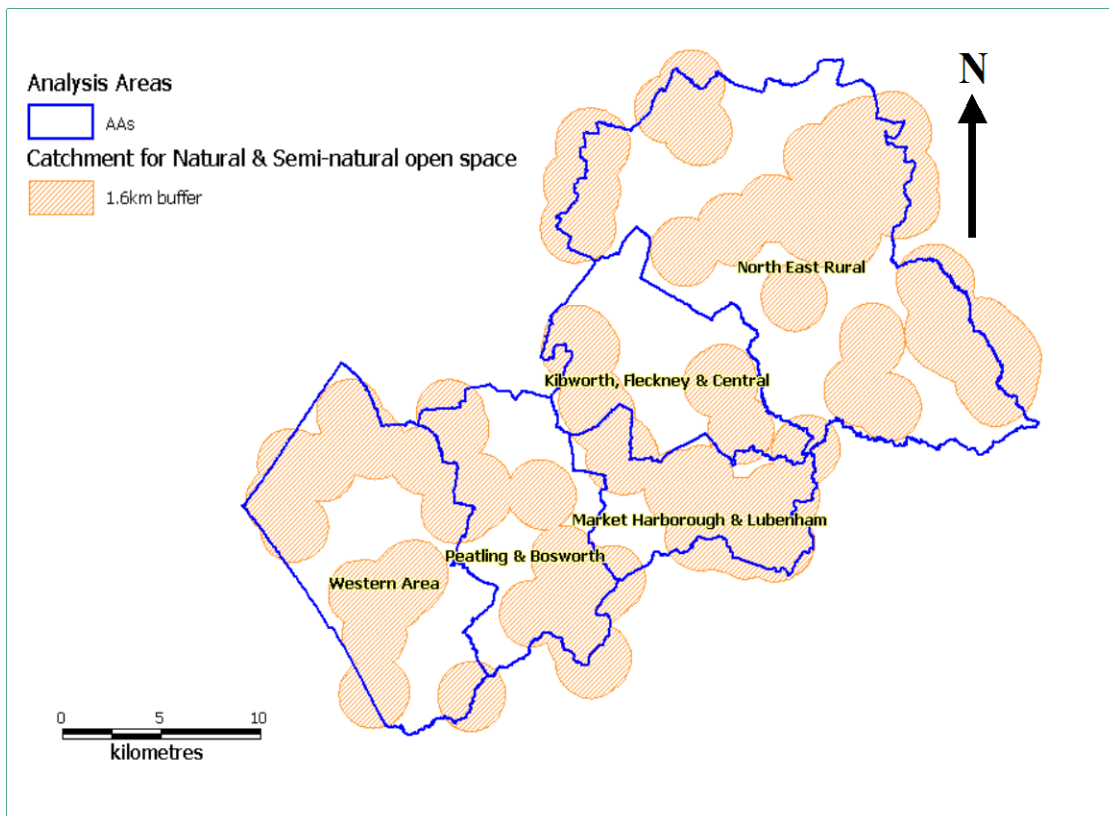
- 6.39 Like with a number of other types of open space opinion was divided on the time people are prepared to travel to natural and semi natural sites. Responses ranged from a 5 minute walk to a 20 minute drive.
- 6.40 Possibly due to the large numbers of natural and semi natural sites both numerically and in terms of cumulative size people are generally prepared to walk to such sites.
- 6.41 75% indicated that they would be willing to walk up to 20 minutes to reach a natural and semi natural open space. The recommended accessibility standard is therefore highlighted in the table below.

Table 6.2 – Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard – Natural and Semi Natural	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
20 minute walk	1.6km

- 6.42 Figure 6.3 overleaf illustrates the application of this standard to the provision of natural and semi-natural open spaces within the district. All maps are provided in Appendix O which demonstrate clearly the areas outside the recommended catchment area.

Figure 6.3 - Accessibility Threshold – Natural and Semi-Natural Open Spaces



6.43 As can be seen in Figure 6.2 above, there are some areas within the district that are outside of the recommended catchment area.

6.44 English Nature have adopted threshold standards although these relate mainly to Local Nature Reserve (LNR's) suggesting:

- no person shall live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size
- provision of at least 1ha of LNR per 1,000 population
- should be at least one accessible site within 2km from home
- should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km
- should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km

6.45 It is acknowledged that these may not be achievable in the short term, particularly the larger site standards but provide threshold aspirations for the long term. Other open spaces also need to be taken into account as they provide multi-functional usage.

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

6.46 Most sites that have a high level of use would normally have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. Most sites with a low level of use would have an

SECTION 6 – SEMI-NATURAL AND NATURAL OPEN SPACE

average or poor quality and accessibility rating. This is because the factors are related and interlinked.

- 6.47 There are many sites that have high quality, high accessibility and high usage – these sites are of high value and importance and it may be appropriate to prioritise these sites for protection. These include Wistow Country Estate, Foxton Locks, Nethergreen - Great Bowden, Community Wood Great Bowden, The Hollow – Medbourn and Hackluits Pond.
- 6.48 In addition to 17 sites which are thought to have low or insignificant use, there are 14 sites which are deemed to be unused, of which eight are in Peatling and Bosworth. These are predominantly thought to have relatively poor accessibility, although they are of average or above quality.
- 6.49 There is only one site, Manor Field, located in Thurnby and Bushby where despite very high use, both quality and accessibility are perceived to be poor by local residents. Milestone Hollow in Claybrooke Magna is used often, despite both poor accessibility and quality.
- 6.50 This illustrates that where both quality and accessibility are rated as good or very good, usage is also generally high. There is only one example where usage is low despite high accessibility. This is the Upper Green in Great Bowden. Quality of this site is only average, suggesting it may be possible that it is the quality that is restricting the use of this site.
- 6.51 There are a few sites where there is no usage or low usage with the possible reasons being that quality and accessibility are poor. The following sites fall into this category:
- Fleckney Open Space
 - Warfield Nature Reserve
 - Fleckney Industrial Area Natural Open Space
- 6.52 This analysis suggests that most sites with good quality and good accessibility are also well used and valued, highlighting the importance of accessibility and quality.

Summary

- 6.53 Due to the predominantly rural nature of natural and semi-natural sites it is necessary to have different local standards for rural and potentially more urban areas. Therefore a standard of 1.5 ha per 1000 population has been suggested for both analysis areas 1 and 4 which contain the main centres of population, Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley. A standard of 8.5 ha per 1000 population has been set for the more rural areas.
- 6.54 Consultation suggests that 75% are willing to travel up to 20 minutes or 1.6km.
- 6.55 When applying these standards all areas except Market Harborough and Lubenham and Kibworth, Fleckney and Central contain an oversupply. These two analysis areas of deficiency in quantity terms also have areas that lie outside the recommended accessibility catchment, mainly the north and central area of Kibworth, Fleckney and Central.

SECTION 6 – SEMI-NATURAL AND NATURAL OPEN SPACE

- 6.56 The quality of sites is a potential area for improvement in some areas and it may also be appropriate to investigate the protection of existing good quality sites.
- 6.57 Natural and semi natural sites are rated as the least accessible open space sites within the district. This is partly due to the remote location of such sites and also the discouragement of people to help conservation. The importance of balancing accessibility and conservation of such sites is recognised.

Green corridors

Definition

- 7.1 This open space type includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines with the primary purpose to provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration.
- 7.2 Picture 7.1 below illustrates a green corridor (Jubilee Walk) within Harborough District.

Picture 7.1 – Jubilee Walk



PPG17 – the role of green corridors

- 7.3 With regards to green corridors the emphasis of PPG17 appears to be on urban areas. It uses the typology from the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce Report that is an 'urban typology'.
- 7.4 Furthermore, elements of PPG17 are contradictory with the companion guide on this issue, where despite PPG17 suggesting that all corridors, including those in remote rural settlements should be included, the Companion Guide insinuates that unless a green corridor is used as a transport link between facilities i.e. home and school, town and sports facility etc, it should not be included within an audit.
- 7.5 This quality and accessibility analysis considers all types of green corridors identified by parish clerks, including public rights of way, disused railway lines, footpaths, towpaths and other specially designated areas. Although the role that all green

corridors play in the provision of open space and recreation within the district is recognised, the focus is however on important urban corridors and public rights of way.

Local context

- 7.6 The Harborough District Local Plan recognises the potential which the canal network offers for tourism and recreation within the district and encourages British Waterways to maintain this network. The importance of maintaining a balance between the recreational facility and the need to protect the amenity and ecology of the canal environment from development. It states that :

“the district council will grant planning permission for canal based recreation proposals where the following criteria are met:

- *the proposal does not adversely affect the character, appearance and nature conservation interest of the canal environment*
- *the proposal does not adversely affect the amenities of residents in the vicinity*
- *new mooring facilities and proposals involving new buildings are located close to existing settlements or wharves*
- *adequate parking provision is made.”*

Consultation

- 7.7 Consultation as part of the issues papers for the new local plan (*in future to be a Local Development Framework*) revealed that:

- *residents feel that dismantled railways are in need of protection*
- *rights of way are highly valued – the need for them to be protected and incorporated into new development is recognised*
- *safe pedestrian and cycle routes are also encouraged*
- *linear recreation routes within urban areas such as the canal and the Millennium Mile are highly valued*
- *routes for walking and cycling should be maintained to a high standard*

- 7.8 Consultation undertaken for this study highlighted the perceived value of green corridors, and a number of good practice examples were quoted. The Millennium Mile in Market Harborough was seen to be an excellent development and many residents would like to see this extended further to link up with other green corridors.

- 7.9 Sustrans have recently developed Cycle Route 6, running through Welland Park, from Derby to Oxford, which is part of the developing National Cycle route network.

- 7.10 In addition, a number of examples were highlighted by the Parish Councils as being examples of good practice within the more rural area. These include:

- Jubilee Walk, Leire
- Medbourne Towpath

- Medbourne Dog Walk
 - Green Lane, Claybrooke Parva.
- 7.11 A number of green corridors act as visitor and tourist attractions for the local area. The more popular green corridors include:
- Brampton Valley Way
 - Grand Union Canal
- 7.12 In addition, there are a number of rural countryside walks which link a number of rural villages together.

The Audit

- 7.13 Public Rights of Way and the main green corridors within the urban area have been focused upon within the assessment. All comments from consultation regarding all types of green corridors have also been incorporated, and they are able to feed into the local analysis of this typology within Harborough.

Quantity

- 7.14 There is a vast network of green corridors within Harborough District, covering both the more urban and rural areas. In addition to some corridors which link urban areas together, there is a dispersed rural network which supports the needs of the rural population.
- 7.15 There was a significant majority of consultees that indicated the provision of green corridors within the district was about right, while only seven felt there to be a demand for additional sites.
- 7.16 The Annex A of PPG17 – Open Space Typology states :
- “the need for Green Corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads. “*
- 7.17 It is therefore recommended that no provision standard should be set. PPG17 goes onto to state that::
- “instead planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to ‘plug in’ access to them from as wide an area as possible”*
- 7.18 Provision of green corridors in Harborough is clearly well valued, therefore opportunities for further development of green corridors where there is demand should be taken. It is likely that a large proportion of future provision will need to be opportunity led.

SECTION 7 – GREEN CORRIDORS

- 7.19 Green corridors represent an important chance to link urban and rural areas, and to promote transport by cycle and walking.

Quality

- 7.20 The overall quality of green corridors within the district appears to be good, and over 60% of green corridors were considered to be good or very good. Only four corridors were considered to be poor, and one very poor – the disused railway line in Shawell.
- 7.21 This indicates that Harborough is well served in terms of the quality of green corridors.

Accessibility

- 7.22 Again, the accessibility of green corridors in the district is good, and 69% are considered to have good accessibility. Only five corridors have poor accessibility, highlighting that the majority of the population of Harborough have good access to the various provisions within this typology.

Catchment

- 7.23 Consultation indicated that overall, people expect to be able to have easy walking access to a green corridor. Although the maximum suggested walking time to a green corridor was 30 minutes, both the mode and median response was 15. This suggests a demand for relatively local access to such types of open space. A full summary of the parish consultation is illustrated in table 7.1.

Table 7.1 – Time Prepared to Travel

		Overall - Harborough District - Parish Councils (All figures in minutes)					
		Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75%
Walk		15	13	15	3	30	20 minutes
Cycle		8	7	5	2	15	
Bus		8	8	5	5	15	
Car		5	7	5	1	30	5 minutes

- 7.24 75% of respondents indicated that they would be willing to travel up to 20 minutes in order to reach a green corridor on foot. It is therefore suggested that this is the most appropriate accessibility standard for this type of open space. This is equivalent to approximately 1.6km.

Table 7.2 – Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard – Green Corridors	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
20 minute walk	1.6km

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

- 7.25 Consultation has indicated that green corridors are highly valued by the residents of Harborough – there are few sites across the district where usage is considered to be low or insignificant including the disused railways in Shawell, Husbands Bosworth, Loddington and Drayton.
- 7.26 There are a number of green corridors which have very high quality and accessibility ratings and also are very well-used. These sites are therefore good examples and are very important to residents. They highly valued and should therefore be protected where possible. These sites include:
- Grand Union Canal - Great Bowden PC
 - Towpath - Medbourne
 - Dog Walk -Medbourne
 - Froleswoth Irrigation Lake Walk
 - Canal Tow Path – Wistow
 - Millennium Mile & canal towpath in Market Harborough
- 7.27 As expected the majority of green corridors where usage is high also tend to be of good quality. In addition, there are no green corridor sites where there is no usage, but high accessibility and high quality.
- 7.28 The only site which currently has no use, and is of poor quality and accessibility is the disused railway line in Shawell. In the first instance, investigations should be undertaken to consider improving the quality and accessibility of the site to encourage an increase in usage.
- 7.29 As expected there are few green corridors where use is high despite poor quality and poor accessibility. The footpath in Dag Lane, Husbands Bosworth is frequently used and has high accessibility, but is of poor quality, suggesting the user experience of the site would be enhanced if quality was improved.

SECTION 7 – GREEN CORRIDORS

- 7.30 The disused railway line in Medbourne is frequently used, despite both poor quality and accessibility. In order to increase usage, further improvements to the quality and accessibility should be considered.

Summary

- 7.31 Consultation indicates that green corridors are highly valued within the district of Harborough, particularly the Millennium Mile in Market Harborough. Usage of almost all green corridors is high.

- 7.32 The quality and accessibility of green corridors is also good, with over 60% of corridors with good quality and accessibility.

- 7.33 PPG17 highlights that it is inappropriate to set quantitative provision standards for green corridors. Instead it states:

“planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities.”

- 7.34 Consultation highlights that the provision of green corridors is sufficient, however further corridors should be developed on a demand led basis when the opportunity arises.

Amenity greenspace

Definition

- 8.1 This type of open space is most commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and greenspaces in and around housing with its primary purpose to provide opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. An example of amenity green space is shown in picture 8.1 below.

Picture 8.1 - Lowesby Village Green – an example of amenity greenspace



- 8.2 In rural areas examples of this type of open space consist of village greens and the grounds around village halls.

Specific strategic context and consultations

Doorstep Greens and Millennium Greens (Countryside Agency)

- 8.3 The Doorstep Greens programme is helping communities around England to create their own new amenity green space, or to transform existing open spaces to meet their needs. Many projects have been funded in urban and rural areas, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to create and manage 'multi-purpose' community greens and for the community to be involved in creating open space.
- 8.4 The aim of the Millennium Greens initiative is to provide new areas of public open space close to people's homes that could be enjoyed permanently by the local community. They were to be breathing spaces - places for relaxation, play and

enjoyment of nature and pleasant surroundings. They could be small or large, and in urban or rural locations.

- 8.5 The Harborough Improvement Team is exploring the possibility of landscaping and restoring land within Market Harborough to provide more open spaces and green areas as well as opportunities to develop land on new estates into usable community space. Doorstep Greens has been cited as a potential funding source. Such work will need to be co-ordinated with the work of the Council's Leisure Service section.

Consultation

- 8.6 Consultation highlighted the following key issues
- amenity greenspace sites can be large useful areas of land but also can be small pieces of land within housing estates that may be too small to have any significant recreational value. However there is an aesthetic value of small amenity greenspace sites within housing areas.
 - when dealing with developers contributions towards the provision of amenity greenspace sites it is important that consideration should be given to amalgamating the required open space to provide a significant useful area of open space rather than the same amount of quantity provision in many less useful smaller segments. Further investigation should be undertaken into the perceived value of small amenity green space sites within the district
 - despite the clear high impact on maintenance costs, many villages indicated that they valued village greens, particularly within the more rural areas.

Quantity

- 8.7 Open spaces such as playing pitches are classified under the category of outdoor sports facilities (see section 10) as their primary purpose, however in many instances, they do provide the function of amenity greenspace in more rural areas and urban areas where there is limited amenity greenspace. Frequently, areas designated as official sports pitches are used for dog walking midweek, and are a vital piece of open land within the community. This should be taken into account if it is necessary to make a more detailed specific analysis of an area.

Setting provision standards

- 8.8 The process for setting local quantitative standards is described within PPG 17 Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and this process has been followed in order to set a local standard for the district of Harborough. A diagrammatic format of this process is provided within Appendix C – 'Quantity Standards' along with a summary of all calculations.
- 8.9 The only national standard for amenity greenspace provided is 0.5 ha per 1,000 population based on the current UK average of all applicable local authorities provision standards for amenity open space as defined in the Rethinking Open Space Report (2001).
- 8.10 Although the existing Local Plan outlines the specific standards for casual and informal space, these numerical standards apply only to provision for outdoor sports and children within housing estates.

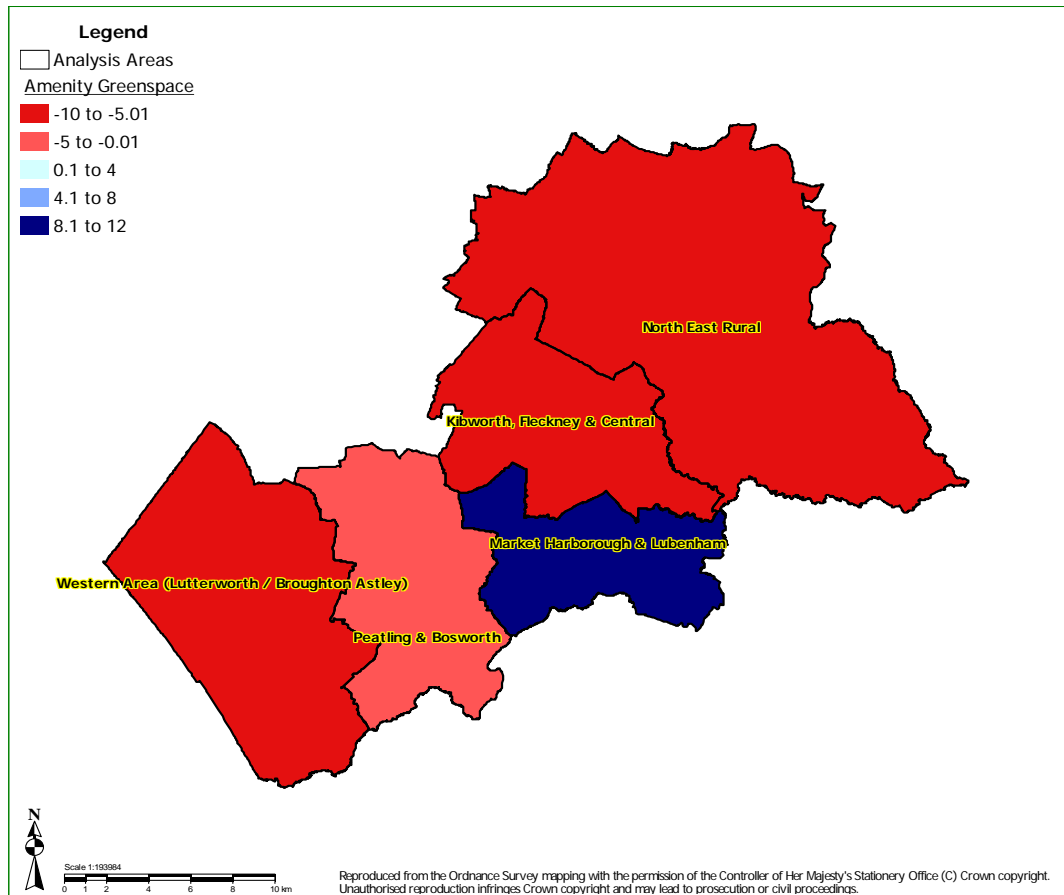
SECTION 8 – AMENITY GREENSPACE

- 8.11 It is stated that amenity open space and areas of strategic landscaping should be provided within or adjoining new housing development. Provision of amenity green space should be provided in addition to space satisfying play space requirements and should allow additional landscaping as required. It is noted that the Council will not adopt small amenity area, but may consider the adoption of amenity green space that is located adjacent to play areas.
- 8.12 The total provision of amenity green space within Harborough District Council amounts to 58.73 hectares. This is equivalent to 0.77 hectares per 1000 population.
- 8.13 Consultation through questionnaires indicated that while 63% of respondents felt that there were sufficient amenity green spaces within the district, 34% indicated that there was a shortfall. Only one response suggested a surplus – within the Peatling and Bosworth area. This suggests that provision is currently about right although a higher provision level would help to increasingly meet the needs of over a third who suggested there was a shortfall.
- 8.14 Importantly, all responses within Market Harborough and Lubenham suggested that levels of provision were about right although the current provision of just under 1.4 ha per 1,000 population is high compared to the overall provision and national standard mentioned in paragraph 8.9. This provision maybe a result of the large amenity greenspace areas provided within the many new housing developments on the edge of town.
- 8.15 The higher levels of deficiency were indicated in rural areas particularly the North East Rural area where provision was less than 0.4 ha suggesting provision should be higher than this level. This is supported by the more qualitative consultation methods (e.g. neighbourhood ‘drop-in’ sessions) where a key outcome was the lack of general open space in rural areas.
- 8.16 The other urban area (Lutterworth and Broughton Astley) has a provision of just over 0.5 ha per 1,000 population with 70% of consultation responses suggesting this was about right although 30% still feeling this is deficient level of provision.
- 8.17 Given the above statistics a provision standard should be significantly above 0.5 ha but also below 1.4 ha and given that overall 34% of responses suggest existing provision (currently 0.77ha) is deficient the standard should be slightly above this to meet local needs. Therefore a local standard of 0.9 ha per 1,000 population
- 8.18 The need for amenity green space is not confined to housing areas, it may also be developed within village or urban centres, or to serve other purposes such as reducing noise or providing shelter from prevailing winds. This supports the fact that there are no significant differences in the level of provision and perceived local need for amenity green space between the rural and the more urban areas of the district, hence the suggested standard should be applied to all analysis areas.
- 8.19 The analysis suggests that **a provision standard for the district of Harborough of 0.9ha per 1,000 population** is provided.
- 8.20 The importance of amenity green space in enhancing the visual appearance of areas must also be taken into account. PPG17 insinuates that in addition to the application of standards, “higher quality local environments will result from the use of an urban design led approach .

Applying provision standards

- 8.21 When applying the provision standard of 0.8ha – 1ha per 1000 people, there is an overall deficit of amenity green space within the district. Depending upon which standard is used (0.8 or 1ha per 1000), this shortfall varies from 2.52 ha up to 17.83 hectares. This will have increased by 2016 up to a ceiling of 29.84 hectares.
- 8.22 When applying the suggested provision standards within each analysis area the following issues arise:
- within the Market Harborough and Lubenham area, total provision amounts to 1.39 ha per 1000 people. Although this will decrease to 1.15 ha by 2016, application of the standard still results in a small oversupply of between 8.78 - 13.29 ha total (between 4.16 and 9.59 by 2016). This indicates that there is no demand for additional provision with Market Harborough and Lubenham, based on the current population
 - there is a shortfall of provision within all of the other four areas, the largest of which is in Lutterworth and Broughton Astley.
 - levels of deficiency in Peatling and Bosworth are very small, equivalent to less than 1 hectare in total.
- 8.23 The full results of the application of quantity standards can be found in Appendix C and are summarised in section 19.
- 8.24 Figure 8.1 overleaf demonstrates the surplus / deficiencies within each analysis area based on the provision standard of 0.9 ha per 1,000 population for 2004. All maps are provided in Appendix O including projection surplus and deficiency maps for 2016 based on future populations.

Figure 8.1 - Current Surplus & Deficiency of Amenity Greenspace by Analysis Area (2004)



Quality

- 8.25 58% of amenity green space sites within the district are considered to be of good quality, and only 7% overall are poor or very poor. This suggests that the quality of amenity green space sites is not as good overall as other typologies.
- 8.26 Within Market Harborough and Lubenham, 47% of sites are rated either good or very good with 45% of all amenity green space in the area rated as average.
- 8.27 Quality is particularly high in Peatling and Bosworth, where 73% of sites are rated as good or very good. In fact, there are no sites that are considered to be poor within either Kibworth, Fleckney and Central or Peatling and Bosworth.
- 8.28 In North East Rural, 52% of sites are rated as very good and in the Western Area, 67% of sites are considered to be good or very good.

Accessibility

- 8.29 Accessibility of amenity greenspace in the district is good, with 64% of sites considered to have good or very good accessibility. Only 10% of sites are rated as poor or very poor.

SECTION 8 – AMENITY GREENSPACE

- 8.30 Overall, accessibility of amenity green space sites in Market Harborough and Lubenham is positive with 40% of sites considered to be good or very good. There are however a number of sites with very poor accessibility, for example within the urban area of Market Harborough, Lindsey Gardens and the Ridgeway received very poor ratings. Consultation however identified that these sites are intended primarily as a visual amenity, and are important sites for this purpose. A number of other sites also serve as a visual amenity.
- 8.31 Kibworth, Fleckney and Central had no negatively rated amenity green space sites and 89% were rated as good or very good, indicating that accessibility is particularly high within this area.
- 8.32 Similarly, North East Rural had an impressive 71% of its sites rated as very good and 85% of sites within Peatling and Bosworth were rated good or very good.
- 8.33 Accessibility to amenity green space sites doesn't seem to be a major problem and many appear to have good accessibility.

Catchment

- 8.34 Table 8.1 below presents the distances people are willing to travel to reach amenity green space sites, based on consultation responses. The median, mean, mode have been identified, in addition to the time that 75% of respondents are willing to travel.
- 8.35 PPG17 indicates that accessibility standards should be based on the time and appropriate mode of transport that 75% of the population are willing to use and travel.

Table 8.1 Time prepared to travel

	Overall - Harborough District - Parish Councils							Members
	Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75%	General Consensus	
Walk	10	12	10	5	15	10 - 15 minutes	5 minutes	
Cycle	5	7	5	2	10			
Bus	8	6	10	5	10			
Car	5	5	5	1	10			

- 8.36 Almost all consultation responses indicated that they would expect to travel on foot, suggesting that provision of this type of open space should be local to residents.
- 8.37 75% of responses indicated a willingness to walk for about 10 minutes to use amenity green space. This was also the median and the mode response. Opinions ranged from 5 – 15 minutes walk.

SECTION 8 – AMENITY GREENSPACE

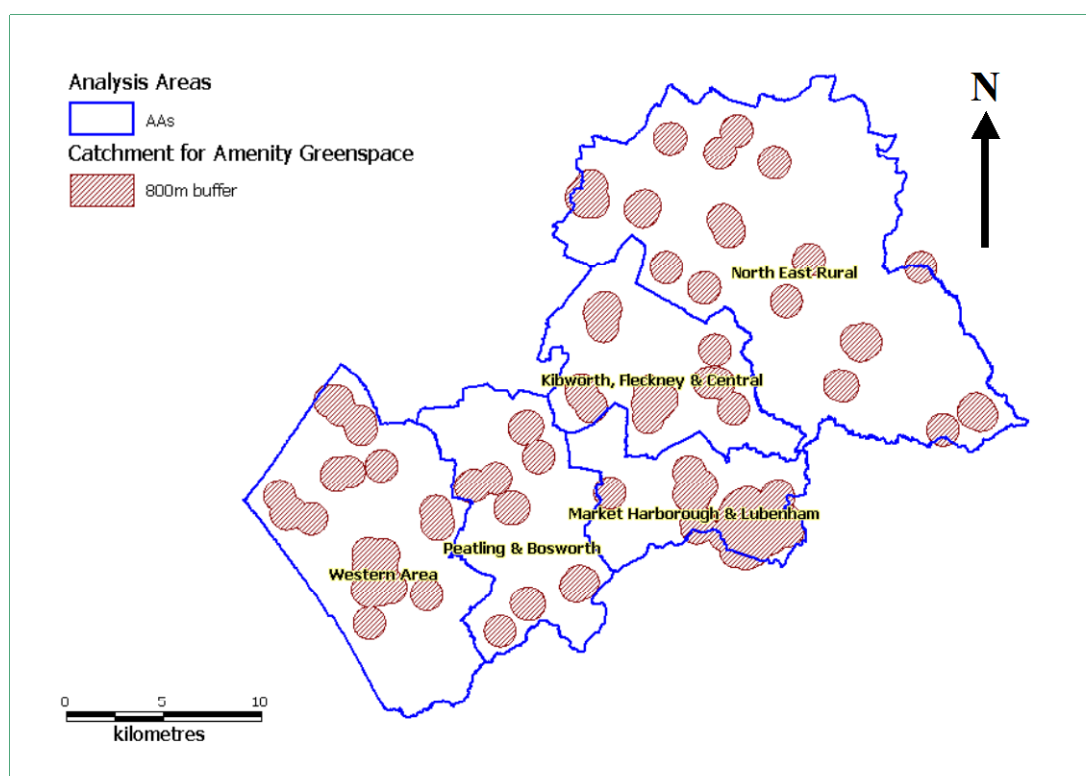
8.38 A 10-minute walking standard catchment area should therefore be considered to be the most appropriate accessibility standard. The recommended accessibility standard and appropriate travelling distance are set out in table 8.2 below.

Table 8.2 Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard - Amenity Green Space	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
10 minute walk	800m

8.39 Figure 8.2 below illustrates the application of this standard to the provision of amenity greenspace within the district. All maps are provided in Appendix O which demonstrates clearly the areas outside the recommended catchment area.

Figure 8.2 - Accessibility Threshold – Parks and Gardens



8.40 As can be seen in Figure 8.2 above, there are some areas within the district that are outside of the recommended catchment area.

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

8.41 There are nine amenity green space sites within the district that have high levels of use, in addition to very high quality and very good accessibility. These sites are of very high value to the district and should be protected where possible. They are:

- Great Glen Recreation Ground
- Memorial Green Stonehall Court Flats - Great Glen
- Village Green - Great Bowden
- Village Green at Billesdon
- Common Land North End - Hallaton
- The Cross Amenity Green Space – Hallaton (see picture 8.1 below)
- Village Green - Lowesby
- Arnesby Village Hall
- Shearsby Village Green

Picture 8.2 – The Cross Amenity Green Space – Hallaton



8.42 Simborough Road Recreation Ground (Market Harborough) is the only site which has high use and quality but poor accessibility. There are no well used sites with poor

SECTION 8 – AMENITY GREENSPACE

quality, indicating that both good accessibility and good quality are important in ensuring that a site is well-used and has a high value to the community.

- 8.43 The majority of sites that have low usage are of lower quality (primarily rated average), suggesting that the improved quality of such sites may increase usage by the community. On sites where accessibility is poor effort should be made to increase the accessibility, in order to enhance the usage.
- 8.44 On sites where usage is low, despite good quality and accessibility, analysis should be undertaken as to whether the primary purpose of the site is appropriate. There are a number of sites to which this is relevant, including:
- Monroe Close, Market Harborough
 - Stablegate Way Open Space , Market Harborough
 - Fleetwood Gardens, Market Harborough
 - Village Green in Smeeton Westerby
 - St Catherines Green - Houghton on the Hill

Summary

- 8.45 There are a number of green space sites within Harborough which are highly valued. The quality of amenity green space is however lower than some of the other typologies in the district. Despite this, almost 60% of sites were rated as good or very good.
- 8.46 Accessibility of amenity green space is relatively good. Catchment area analysis indicates that such spaces should be relatively local facilities, and 75% of people would expect to have an amenity green space within a 10 minute walk, (or 800m) of their residence.
- 8.47 When applying the suggested standard of 0.8 – 1 hectare per 1000, there is a small oversupply of amenity green space within the Market Harborough and Lubenham area, and an undersupply in all other areas. This suggests that there is no requirement for additional amenity green space within Market Harborough and Lubenham at present, although there are further development opportunities in all other areas. When considering levels of amenity green space, the impact of the proposed space on the environment should also be taken into account.
- 8.48 When comparing the quantitative analysis and accessibility analysis it is clear there are many areas where there are quantitative deficiencies based on the provision standard as well as these areas being outside the recommended catchment of amenity greenspace. However, some playing fields in these areas may provide the function of amenity greenspace and therefore this should be considered when undertaking further detailed analysis.

Provision for children and young people

Definition

- 9.1 This type of open space includes areas such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters with a primary purpose to provide opportunities for play and social interaction involving children and young people. An example of an area for children and young people is shown in picture 9.1 below.

Specific strategic context and consultations

- 9.2 Although the Council does not currently have a play strategy, it is clear that play areas are an important priority for the Council.
- 9.3 The Best Value Performance Plan 2003 highlights the achievements of the Council during the year, including the development of a new play area at Roman Way. Council dedication to the provision of play areas is further echoed through the target for 2004 to begin a programme of renovation on existing play areas. Since the beginning of 2004 Goodwood Close and Burford Green Play Areas have both been completed.
- 9.4 A number of consultees highlighted the perceived lack of provision of open space for young people and children, particularly teenagers and young adults. It appeared that this was a particular problem within the Western analysis area, containing Lutterworth and Broughton Astley, primarily within Broughton Astley Parish.

Quantity

- 9.5 All play areas were audited specifically where equipment was provided. Frequently equipped play areas were found to be located amongst a larger area of amenity greenspace. This greenspace has been audited as amenity greenspace and not as a play area. Therefore any calculations and standards within this local needs PPG17 study refer specifically to equipped play areas, ball courts and skateboard areas and are measured separately to amenity greenspace.
- 9.6 The Local Plan contains several policy statements that relate to the provision for young people and children, and breaks down the outdoor playing space standard of 2.43 hectares per 1000 population into 0.6 – 0.8 hectares of outdoor playing space for children. However this standard includes the amenity greenspace around equipped play areas and therefore is not comparable to any local standard that is set as a result of the audit and analysis.
- 9.7 The plan states that the proposed location must be given at the time of the full planning application. It is suggested that if the proposed play space land is split between different sites, the main area should have a minimum site area of 1.2ha, and other subsidiary elements should be a minimum of 0.4ha. Again these standards relate to children's play space rather than specifically equipped areas.

Setting provision standards

- 9.8 The process for setting local quantitative standards is described within PPG 17 Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and this process has been followed in order to set a local standard for the district of Harborough. A diagrammatic format of this process is provided within Appendix C – 'Quantity Standards' along with a summary of all calculations.

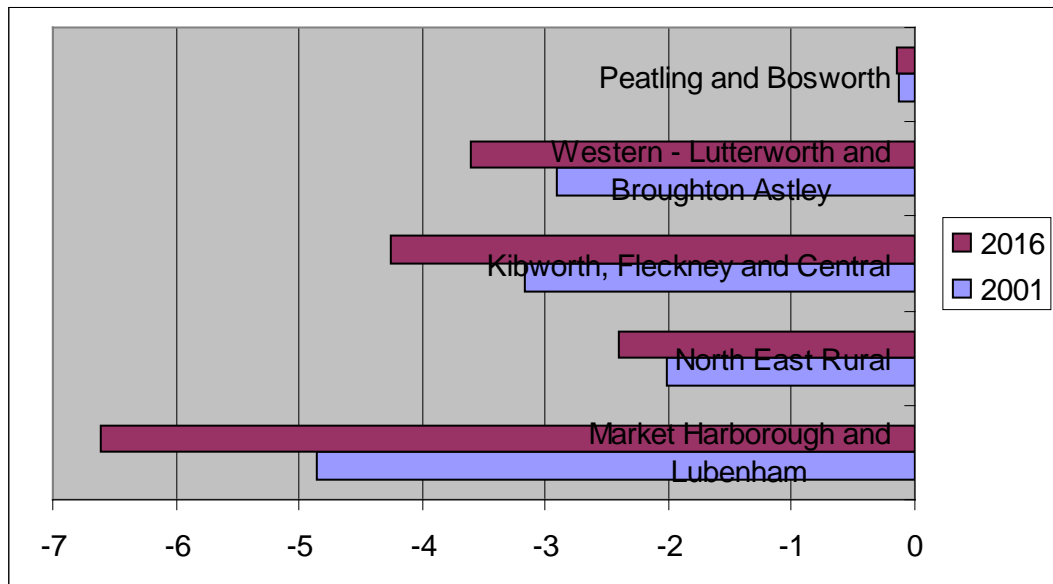
SECTION 9 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 9.9 There are national standards for children's play space provided by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) which suggests 0.81ha per 1,000 population is provided. The current quantitative standards set by the district council are based upon this recommendation.
- 9.10 As indicated previously, the Local Plan and National standards include the amenity greenspace surrounding play areas, in addition to the equipped area. These standards are therefore not directly comparable with the audit undertaken and the local provision standards developed for this local needs assessment PPG17 study, which are outlined below.
- 9.11 Current levels of provision for young people and children in the district amount to 9.92 hectares, which equates to a total of 0.13 hectares per 1000 population.
- 9.12 Although 41% of respondents suggested that provision for young people was about right, the majority (59%) indicated that there was a deficiency with no responses suggesting there was a surplus of provision. This percentage of deficiency responses was the highest of any open space type. These figures were also supported by all other forms of which specifically suggested the shortage was more to do with teenage provision than provision for the younger children.
- 9.13 With the exception of Market Harborough and Lubenham area, over 50% of consultation responses in each area suggest that there is a deficiency of provision for young people and children. More specifically, those areas that had higher responses of deficiency have a provision of less than 0.2 ha per 1,000 population suggesting any local standard should be above this level of provision. Peatling and Bosworth had an equal number of responses suggesting provision was about right and deficient with a provision level of 0.27 ha per 1,000 population suggesting a local standard should be above this but not too much higher.
- 9.14 There are no significant differences in the level of provision and perceived local need for provision for children and young people between the rural and the more urban areas of the district, suggesting the same standard could be applied to the whole of the district. In fact one of the key points from the more qualitative consultation through the neighbourhood 'drop-in' sessions was that there is a demand for play areas even in small village settlements and therefore this type of open space is could be expected to be realistically provided equally in both urban and rural areas.
- 9.15 A provision standard for this type of open space should be realistic. For example, 1 ha of equipped play area would be a very large provision (bigger than a football pitch and would be unrealistic). Therefore given the above statistics a local standard of 0.3 ha would improve the provision but also probably achievable and realistic. This equates to about a 17m x 17m of equipped play area per 1,000 population.
- 9.16 Based on the analysis, consultation and existing levels of provision it is therefore suggested that for the district of Harborough **a provision standard of around 0.3 ha per 1,000 population** is provided.

Applying provision standards

- 9.17 Based on a provision standard of 0.3 hectares, there is a total deficiency of 13.5, rising to almost 15 by 2011.
- 9.18 Figure 9.1 overleaf highlights the levels of undersupply of provision for young people and children within the district.

Figure 9.1 –Deficiency of provision for children and young people in hectares by analysis area



9.19 The key issues that arise from the application of standards are:

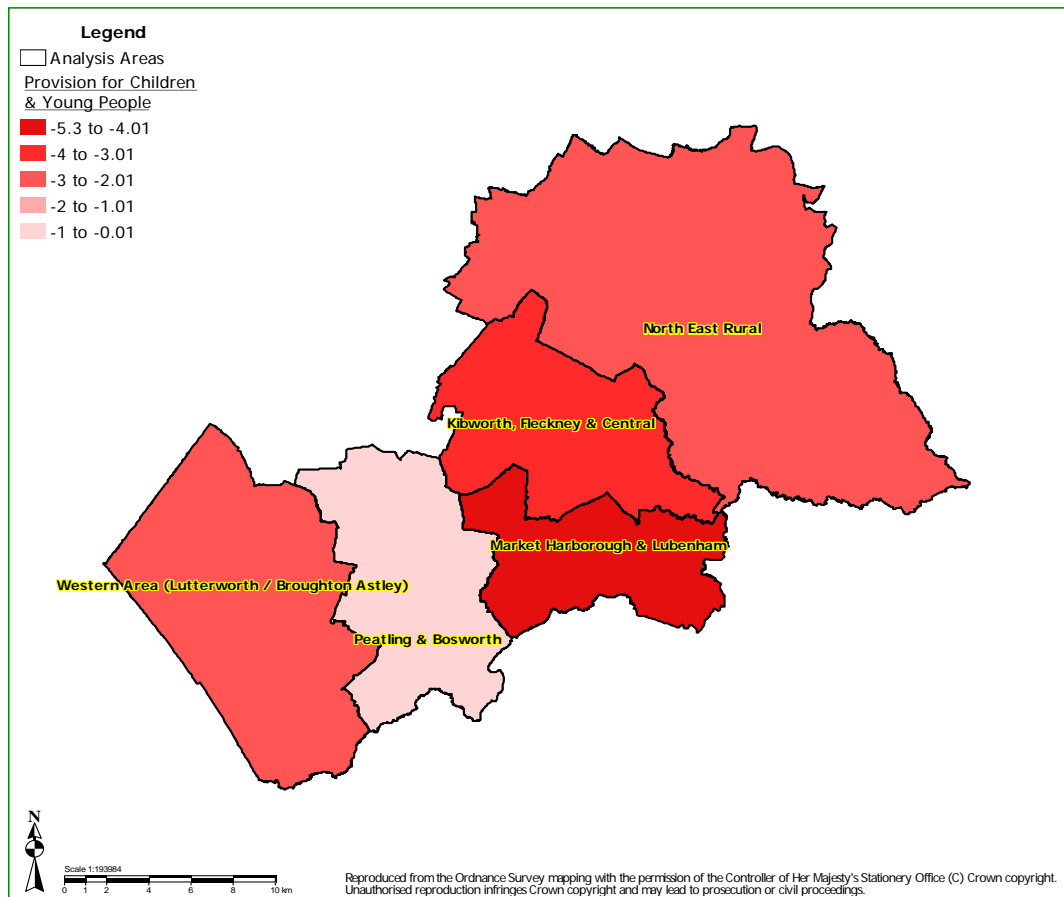
- with the exception of Peatling and Bosworth, the deficiencies in all areas are proportionately large
- the largest deficiency of provision for children and young people is in Market Harborough, where there is a shortfall of 4.85 hectares
- shortfalls in Lutterworth and Broughton Astley will increase to 3.61 hectares by 2016, supporting the findings from the consultation that there may be a requirement for additional sites.

9.20 Consultation has indicated that there is a shortfall of provision for young people and children, however the main shortfalls are focused in the upper end of this typology – provision for teenagers. It is recommended that detailed investigation is undertaken into the actual split and the demand for additional provision. This will ensure that the needs of teenagers are not ignored. This approach is highlighted within PPG17.

9.21 Full details of the application of quantity standards for young people can be found in Appendix C.

9.22 Figure 9.2 overleaf demonstrates the surplus / deficiencies within each analysis area based on the provision standard of 0.3 ha per 1,000 population for 2004. All maps are provided in Appendix O including projection surplus and deficiency maps for 2016 based on future populations.

Figure 9.2 - Current Surplus & Deficiency of Provision for Children and Young people by Analysis Area (2004)



Quality

- 9.23 66% of sites for young people and children in the district are considered to be of either good or very good quality. Only 14% of sites are rated as poor or very poor.
- 9.24 In Market Harborough and Lubenham, 64% of sites for children and young people are considered to be good or very good quality. Both Goodwood Close Play Area and Burford Green Play Area in the Market Harborough urban area are rated as very good, as is the Village Hall play area in Lubenham.
- 9.25 Goodwood Close and Burford Green Play Areas have both recently been opened at a cost of £27,000 and £26,000 respectively.
- 9.26 North East Rural is the only area to have none of its sites for young people and children rated as poor. In addition 77% of its sites are considered to be good or very good. The Millennium Green play area in Hungarton is considered to be of particularly good quality.
- 9.27 The Kibworth, Fleckney and Central region is perhaps the biggest area of concern with 43% of its play areas considered as poor or worse. The two play areas in Fleckney are rated as very poor.
- 9.28 A number of sites for young people and children come in for some criticism within the Western Area and Peatling and Bosworth such as the play area in Gilmorton and

Byre Crescent and Cottage Lane play areas in Broughton Astley. Overall however, in the Western area there is general satisfaction with the quality of sites for young people and children with 73% rated as good or very good.

Accessibility

- 9.29 Accessibility of provision for children and young people in the district as a whole is excellent as 80% of sites are rated as good or very good. Only 7% of sites are rated as poor or very poor. This is the second lowest percentage of sites rated negatively of all open space types suggesting that along with cemeteries and churchyards, play areas are the most accessible type of open space within the district of Harborough.
- 9.30 Consultation has identified that wheelchair access to some playgrounds is difficult. Accessibility for the disabled, to and within sites of play provision, should therefore be considered in any future improvements or new developments.
- 9.31 Only 4 sites in total were deemed to have poor or very poor accessibility. These were Gilmorton play area, Bellfields Road Recreation Ground play area in Market Harborough, Harrison's Field playground in Claybrooke and a play area attached to a public house in Peatling Parva.
- 9.32 The two areas with the best accessibility were North East Rural and Peatling and Bosworth with 78% and 73% of ratings good or very good respectively.

Catchment

- 9.33 Catchment areas have been used to identify appropriate accessibility standards for play areas.
- 9.34 The Local Plan identifies the recommendations for play provision adopted by the NPFA, suggesting:
- local area for play – unsupervised open space for children – within one minute walk from the house
 - local equipped area for play – unsupervised equipped area for play for children of early school age – within a five minute walk of home
 - neighbourhood equipped area for play – unsupervised site equipped primarily for older children but with opportunities for younger children – within 15 minutes walk of home.
- 9.35 Based on consultation responses, the mean, median and modes are outlined in table 9.1 overleaf. In addition, in accordance with PPG17, the time that 75% of the population is willing to travel is also shown.

Table 9.1 Time prepared to travel

		Overall - Harborough District - Parish Councils						Members
		Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75%	General Consensus
Walk		10	10	5	5	20	10 minutes	5 minutes
Cycle		5	5	5	2	10		
Bus		10	11	10	2	30		
Car		5	7	5	1	15		

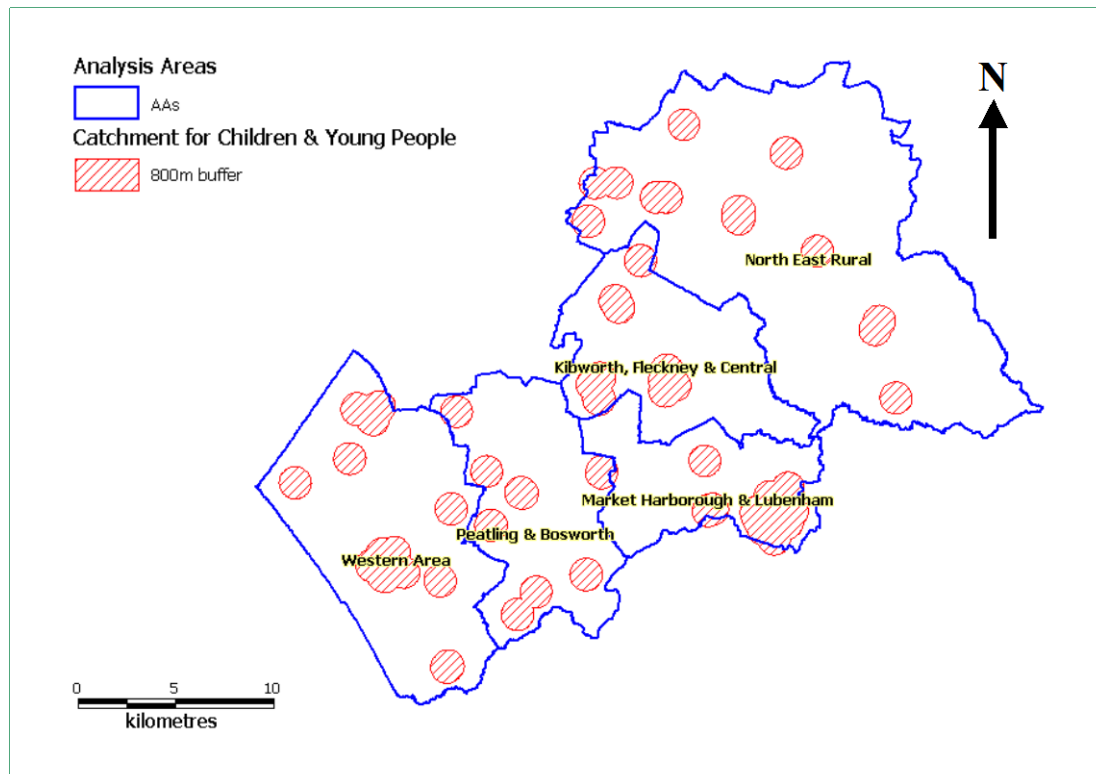
- 9.36 Again, and similar to amenity greenspace, local needs and expectations suggest that play provision is a local amenity and should be located close to places of residence.
- 9.37 Most consultees expect to be able to walk to a play area, rather than drive, cycle or use public transport.
- 9.38 Consultation highlighted that residents expected to be able to walk to a play area within 5 to 10 minutes. There was a feeling that an adequately sized play area should be provided within this catchment but people are more prepared to travel to larger sites with more equipment. Some people indicated that a walk of up to 20 minutes is acceptable, however the modal response was 5 minutes.
- 9.39 75% of those consulted are willing to travel up to 10 minutes to use a play area. This suggests, as shown in summary table 9.2 below, that play areas should be located within 400 – 800 metres of their residents.

Table 9.2 Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard – Play Areas	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
5 - 10 minute walk	400m - 800m

9.40 Figure 9.3 below illustrates the application of this standard to the provision of children and young people within the district. All maps are provided in Appendix O which demonstrates clearly the areas outside the recommended catchment area.

Figure 9.3 - Accessibility Threshold – Provision for Children and Young People



9.41 As can be seen in Figure 9.3, there are many areas within the district that are outside of the recommended catchment area although many of these maybe very rural where a limited number of people live.

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

9.42 Children’s play areas are a popular use of open space, and as highlighted previously, both the quality and accessibility of most sites within the district is considered to be good.

9.43 A number of sites have high levels of usage in addition to very good quality and very good accessibility. These sites are of high value to the community and should be protected. They include:

- The Headland Recreation Ground Play Area, Market Harborough
- Roman Way Play Area, Market Harborough
- Sherrard Road Play Area, Market Harborough
- Little Bowden Play Area, Market Harborough
- Logan Street Recreation Play Area, Market Harborough
- Welland Park Play Area, Market Harborough (see picture 9.1 below)
- Billlesdon Primary School Play Area

SECTION 9 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Village Play Area, Gaulby Way - Stoughton
- Houghton on the Hill Playing Field Play Area.

Picture 9.1 – Welland Park play area – example of good practice



- 9.44 Most sites that have a high level of use usually have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. The majority of sites with a low level of use have an average or poor quality and accessibility rating. This is because the factors are related and interlinked. Cottage Lane Play Area and the Childrens Play Area in Lubenham are exceptions to this – they have high use and accessibility, despite their poor quality.
- 9.45 There are no sites for young people and children where usage is low and both quality and accessibility are either very poor or poor, or very good or good. However there are four playgrounds in the district where accessibility is not a problem but they have low usage and are of poorer quality. The quality of these sites should be enhanced in order to increase usage and improve the value of the site. Sites in this category include:
- Village Hall and Small Play Area - Little Stretton
 - Folly Field Play Area – Mowsley

Picture 9.2 – Little Stretton play area – low usage, and poor quality and accessibility



9.46 In addition, there are a number of sites in the district where despite high quality and accessibility usage is poor. Investigations should be made into the reasons why, and as to whether their current purpose is appropriate. These sites include:

- Tilton Play Area
- Orchard Road - Lutterworth
- Public House Garden and Play Area - Swinford
- Hog Lane Play Park - Hallaton

Summary

- 9.47 Children's play areas are a popular use of open space, and as highlighted previously, both the quality and accessibility of most sites within the district is considered to be good.
- 9.48 Consultation indicated that there was felt to be a deficiency of provision, particularly for teenagers. The application of a local standard of 0.3 ha per 1000 population has been suggested. When applying this standard, all areas have an undersupply of provision, the largest of which is in Market Harborough and Lubenham, equivalent to 4.85 hectares in total.
- 9.49 It is suggested that play areas are relatively local facilities, and 75% of people expect to walk to a small play area within 5 – 10 minutes of their home.

SECTION 9 – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- | | |
|------|---|
| 9.50 | There are therefore many areas that lie outside of this catchment although the areas covered centre around the main urban areas where the majority of population reside. |
| 9.51 | 66% of sites within the district were rated as good or very good in terms of quality, and accessibility was also indicated to be high. Despite this, there are a number of sites which require investigation and / or improvement, as they are currently used less frequently than other sites. |

Outdoor sports facilities

Definition

- 10.1 Outdoor Sports Facilities is a wide-ranging category of open space and includes natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned which are used for sport and recreation. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.

Picture 10.1 – Northampton Road Playing Fields



Specific strategic context and consultations

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland; Playing Fields Assessment and Strategy February 2003

- 10.2 Although the document is very broad in terms of its geographical coverage, the following observations were made relating to pitch provision in Harborough:
- there is an apparent oversupply of pitches due to difficulty accessing certain rural pitches, the result being a relatively low usage of these pitches
 - a large proportion of teams use school pitches through 'informal' agreements
 - transport is a key issue for young people due to the rural nature of the District
 - there is an unmet demand in Thurnby
 - the overall quality of football pitches is considered satisfactory and meets the demand of teams
 - there is considered to be an under supply of junior football pitches in comparison with the expanding demand

SECTION 10 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- a number of Cricket clubs have folded which has been partly attributed to poor quality facilities.

10.3 The plan identifies a number of strategic priorities for Harborough including:

- support of plans to develop land into mini pitches at Symington Recreation Ground for Harborough Mini's FC
- investigate the development of adequate recreational provision near housing developments
- support the development of a new grass pitch at Hall Park, Hall Lane, Bitteswell
- support plans to develop ancillary facilities at Husbands Bosworth CC, Lutterworth Rugby Club, Dunley Way and Great Glen Recreation Ground.

Local plan

10.4 The Local Plan recognises the significance of playing fields and sports pitches and indicates that they will normally be protected from development because of their recreational value. Planning permission on existing sites would only be granted if:

- the proposals are in association with the use of the land for recreation; or
- sports and recreation facilities on the site can best be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site; or
- suitable alternative facilities are provided in the locality; and
- the development is in keeping with the scale and character of the surrounding area.

10.5 The plan also recognises the important contribution made by private recreation facilities to the overall level of recreation facilities within the district. The plan acknowledges that the full potential of all these resources is not currently utilised and states:

“the District Council will continue to encourage and support the public use of private recreation facilities including the dual use of educational facilities”.

Sports club consultation

10.6 Sports clubs from across the district were consulted to provide their views on sports provision within Harborough. This will be analysed in more detail in section 14 when discussing Indoor Sports and Recreation.

10.7 There were, however, a number of specific references to outdoor sports facilities that it is important to highlight. The following issues were consistently raised as problems with outdoor provision:

- lack of changing facilities at the majority of venues
- insufficient football pitches
- pitch booking system unfair
- poor accessibility to private pitches, especially schools
- insufficient training areas for clubs.

SECTION 10 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 10.8 Clubs from both Thurnby and Foxton stated that insufficient pitches and training areas are restricting their ability to develop. The lack of accessible pitches was also considered a problem in Fleckney and Scraftoft. In Scraftoft, there are a number of disused sports pitches on the former De Montfort University site. This site is currently inaccessible to the local community.
- 10.9 Sports clubs have a number of ideas on how they would like to see outdoor sports provision within Harborough improved:
- more all weather pitches and multi-use games areas for training purposes
 - ensure facilities are accessible to all
 - develop school sport facilities to link with sports clubs to supplement and enhance present club facilities and opportunities
 - improved maintenance of pitches
 - provision of extra changing facilities.

Quantity

- 10.10 As recommended by PPG17 the audit and analysis has included golf courses, school playing fields and private recreation grounds. Even though these may not be available for formal community use they may provide some recreational value. A detailed playing pitch analysis in accordance with the latest Sport England Guidance (*'Towards a Level Playing Field'*) would enable a more realistic assessment to be made on playing pitches within the district of Harborough).
- 10.11 The Playing Fields Association (NPFA) provides minimum standards for the provision of outdoor playing space. The standard recommends a minimum of 1.6 – 1.8 ha per 1000 population of outdoor sports facilities, covering playing pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts and athletics tracks. These are national standards and do not account for the local context or the demographic analysis of the local area.
- 10.12 The existing Harborough Local Plan recommends the use of the NPFA Standard.
- 10.13 Existing outdoor sports provision is equivalent to 398.49 hectares. This includes golf courses, athletics tracks and all other outdoor sports provision including an aero flying sports club. There is outdoor sports provision located in all five areas of the district. Provision in relation to the population is particularly high in Peatling and Bosworth, equivalent to 22.03 hectares.
- 10.14 Consultation indicated that opinions regarding the level of provision of outdoor sports facilities is almost equally divided, with just over 50% of respondents suggesting that there was a deficiency.
- 10.15 PPG17 indicates that the provision of outdoor sports facilities is usually demand led, suggesting that it is possible to develop and use a quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities. Previous experience however suggests that due to the wide-ranging definition of this typology, a quantitative standard is relatively meaningless.
- 10.16 A 9-hole golf course is around 30 hectares in size and hence distorts any quantitative standards. It is also inappropriate to quantify demand for different types of pitches, courses and courts within the same standard.

SECTION 10 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 10.17 The existing Leicestershire County Playing Pitch Strategy considers provision in Harborough on a district level, and applies the NPFA 6 acre standard to groups of wards in order to provide an insight into local levels of provision. It is therefore recommended that a detailed playing pitch assessment for Harborough District is undertaken, using the new Sport England Methodology “Towards A Level Playing Field” in order to set a local standard, for formal outdoor sports pitch provision.
- 10.18 Provision of other outdoor sports facilities, such as golf courses, should be demand led, rather than based on the application of broad quantitative standards.
- 10.19 Therefore from the analysis it is recommended that no local standard is set at this stage, and further research on types of facilities within the overall typology is undertaken.

Quality

- 10.20 The quality of outdoor sports facilities in the district is good, with 81% of sites rated as good or very good. Only 6% of the total sites were considered to be of poor quality. Only cemeteries and churchyards have a higher quality rating than outdoor sports facilities within the district.
- 10.21 In Market Harborough and Lubenham, 83% of sites are considered to be good or very good. The only site with a poor rating in this area is the artificial turf pitch at Welland Park. All other sports facilities within Welland Park received positive ratings. A ball court area has recently been built at Burford Green Recreation Ground at a cost of £45,000 and is rated as a very good quality facility.
- 10.22 No sites within North East Rural area are deemed to be poor or very poor and 91% of sites are rated as good or very good.
- 10.23 Kibworth, Fleckney and Central has the lowest percentage of sites rated as good or very good, 57%, and 29% of sites are rated as average. Lodge Road Sports facilities in Fleckney are seen as poor quality facilities.
- 10.24 In the Western area, 82% of sites are viewed as good or very good including sites such as the various sports facilities at Coventry Road in Lutterworth. 70% of sites in Peatling and Bosworth are rated as good or very good.
- 10.25 Sites from across the district, which may need some attention with regard to quality are the playing fields at Walton Village Hall, Ullesthorpe Recreation Field and the Tennis Courts at Gilmorton where the accessibility is also rated as very poor. Investigations into these sites should be considered.

Accessibility

- 10.26 The accessibility of 65% of outdoor sports facilities in the district was rated as good or very good while access to only 10% of facilities is considered to be poor.
- 10.27 Like the assessment of quality, accessibility of outdoor sports facilities in Market Harborough and Lubenham is positive with access to 65% of sites rated as good or very good. Only the School Playing Field in Lubenham is considered to have poor accessibility.
- 10.28 The North East Rural area has 43% of sites with very good accessibility and a further 35% rated as good. A number of schools sites in Thurnby and Bushby were deemed

SECTION 10 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

to have poor accessibility which may be an area that could be improved with better partnership working.

- 10.29 In Kibworth, Fleckney and Central area there are sites with poor or very poor accessibility ratings. Similarly, in the Western area, accessibility was generally viewed as positive, however there were a number of sites with poor accessibility such as Claybrooke Parva School Playing Fields.
- 10.30 Peatling and Bosworth contains two sites with very poor accessibility, one of which was a private cricket ground owned by Laughton and Mowsley Cricket Club, the other being St Nicholas School in Mowsley.
- 10.31 The majority of sites that were given poor or very poor accessibility ratings tended to belong to educational establishments, indicating that these facilities are not available for use by the general public. Consultation cited the university pitches next to Scraftoft Campus as an example of facilities that could be valuable to local clubs if accessible.

Catchment

- 10.32 The views of Parish Clerks on the time they are willing to travel to reach outdoor sports facilities is illustrated in table 10.1 below. As a result of the broad range of facilities included within this typology it is difficult to make any solid conclusions. People for example are likely to travel much further to use an athletics track (due to the scarcity of such facilities) than to a football pitch.

Table 10.1 Time prepared to travel

		Overall - Harborough District - Parish Councils						Members
		Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75%	General Consensus
Walk		10	15	10	5	60	15 minutes	
Cycle		10	8	10	3	20		20 minutes
Bus		10	10	5	5	30		
Car		8	8	5	1	20	10 minutes	15 minutes

- 10.33 Consultation highlighted a number of different viewpoints regarding the time people are prepared to travel in order to reach outdoor sports facilities.
- 10.34 Responses varied from people who felt 5 to 60 minutes walk would be appropriate, while some respondents felt car journeys of up to 20 minutes would be acceptable.

SECTION 10 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

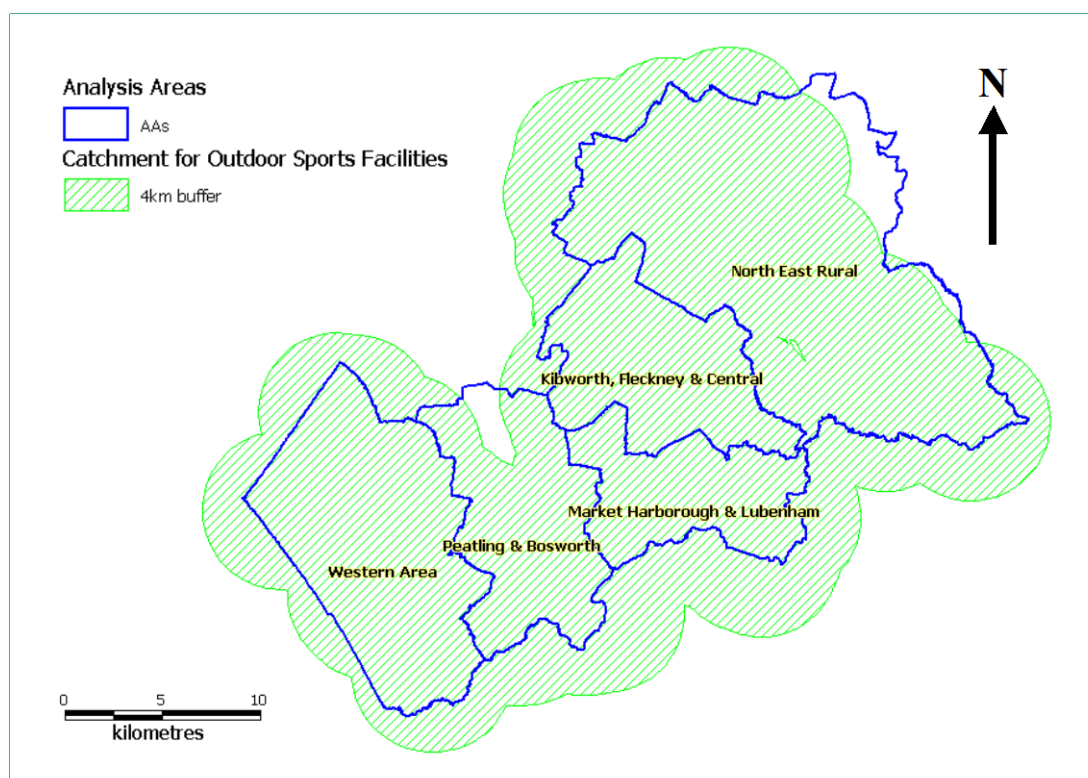
- 10.35 Many people also indicated that they were willing to cycle to reach an outdoor sports facility and both the mean and median suggest that they would cycle for 10 minutes.
- 10.36 75% of respondents suggested that they would expect to drive for and between 10 and 15 minutes but overall it depends on the likely duration of the activity what sport facility is sought. It is acknowledged by residents that they may have to travel further to participate in more unusual sports.

Table 10.2 Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard – Outdoor Sports Facilities	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
10 - 15 minute drive	4 - 6km

- 10.37 Figure 10.1 overleaf illustrates the application of this standard for outdoor sports facilities within the district. All maps are provided in Appendix O which demonstrates clearly the areas outside the recommended catchment area.

Figure 10.1 - Accessibility Threshold – Outdoor Sports Facilities



- 10.38 As can be seen in Figure 10.1, the only area within the district that lies outside of the recommended catchment is the area on the North East border of the district. However although the map gives the impression that all people are within easy access of

SECTION 10 – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

outdoor sports facilities this typology is a wide-ranging one does not necessarily mean all people are within easy access of playing pitches for example.

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

- 10.39 Most sites that have a high level of use would normally have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. Most sites with a low level of use have an average or poor quality and accessibility rating as factors are related and interlinked.
- 10.40 The popularity and value of sports facilities within Harborough is clear – all but one site is considered to be used either often, or very frequently. This indicates that outdoor sports facilities have a vital role to play, and as a priority, consideration should therefore be given to improving those sites which are of poorer quality or accessibility.
- 10.41 Lodge Road Sports Ground is the only site on which usage is low. It is suggested that this results from the poor quality of the site. The only other site considered to be of poor quality – Gilmorton Tennis Courts, is still highly valued and well used, despite its shortcomings with regards to quality.
- 10.42 Despite the high quality and usage of most of the sites, a number of facilities, primarily school playing fields, have low accessibility. These include:
- School Playing Fields - Gilmorton
 - Fernvale School - Thurnby and Bushby
 - St Lukes School - Thurnby and Bushby
- 10.43 Partnership working at these sites represents a significant opportunity to enhance the accessibility of these sites, and the facilities available for the local community.

Summary

- 10.44 It is considered inappropriate to set standards for outdoor sports facilities as a result of the wide-ranging definition of this typology. Development should be demand led, and a detailed, district-wide playing pitch strategy should be undertaken, to develop a robust local standard for pitch sports.
- 10.45 Outdoor sports facilities are a highly valued typology, and all pitches with the exception of Lodge Sports Ground, where the quality is low are very well used. Investigations of improvements to enhance user satisfaction could therefore be undertaken for this site. Overall, the quality of pitches within the district is good, with over 80% good or very good.
- 10.46 Sports clubs would be keen to see improvements to outdoor sports facilities, in particular the development of changing and training facilities.
- 10.47 Accessibility is also considered good, although there are a number of school sites which have limited accessibility to the public. Improvements in partnership working could therefore be considered to increase the opportunities for outdoor sports in the district.

Allotments and community gardens

Definition

- 11.1 This includes all forms of allotments with a primary purpose to provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. This type of open space may also include urban farms.

Specific strategic context and consultations

- 11.2 Like other open space types, allotments can provide a number of wider benefits to the community as well as the primary use of growing produce. These include:
- bringing together different cultural backgrounds
 - improving physical and mental health
 - providing a source of recreation
 - wider contribution to green and open space.
- 11.3 Leicestershire's Cultural Strategic Partnership states that one of its aims is to develop more community use allotments to include young people's schemes and to provide a habitat for wildlife.
- 11.4 There is no current allotment strategy, however the existing Harborough District Local Plan states that although there currently appear to be sufficient allotments within the district to meet current demands, it acknowledges that latent demand is more difficult to determine.
- 11.5 The plan therefore suggests "any proposals to develop an existing allotments should make provision to replace allotments in use within the preceding five years and to satisfy future demands. Planning permission will therefore be granted where alternative provision adequate to meet current and future needs is provided.
- 11.6 Research conducted, as part of this open space needs assessment concluded that allotments across the district are almost at capacity. There are only six sites that currently have spare plots. These are:
- Welland Park Road, Market Harborough
 - Bufton Allotments, Misterton with Walcote
 - Crescent Road, Lutterworth
 - Gilmorton
 - Lubenham
 - Husbands Bosworth.
- 11.7 Spare capacity at these sites is minimal, with no more than five plots available at any site. All other allotment sites are currently thought to be full. Internal consultation highlighted that there is a waiting list for certain sites.
- 11.8 Consultation highlighted that the Deverdon Road Allotments in Lutterworth are particularly highly valued, however there is concern from allotment holders and residents alike that they are soon to be relocated. Many existing tenants expressed the view that they would prefer the site to remain at its current location, due to the work they had put in to developing their specific plot.

Picture 11.1 – Deverdon Road Allotments



- 11.9 The Local Plan Review Issue Papers highlighted a strong support for the protection of well-used allotments against community development.

Quantity

- 11.10 Harborough District Council currently manages five allotment sites around the district. Three are in Market Harborough - at Welland Park Road, Douglas Drive and Little Bowden, one is at Great Bowden and one at Saddington. There are waiting lists at four of these sites. All other sites are privately managed, or owned and managed by Parish Councils.
- 11.11 The largest sites outside the ownership of the district Council is the Western Willows Allotments in Broughton Astley, which has 88 plots, all of which are occupied and the Deverdon Road allotments, which are again all occupied.

Setting provision standards

- 11.12 The process for setting local quantitative standards is described within PPG 17 Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and this process has been followed in order to set a local standard for the district of Harborough. A diagrammatic format of this process is provided within Appendix C – 'Quantity Standards' along with a summary of all calculations.
- 11.13 There are no definitive national standards for 'allotments and community gardens' and there are currently no local standards set by the District Council. The National

SECTION 11 – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggests 20 allotment plots per 2,200 people. This standard does not take into account local demand or demographics.

- 11.14 At present within Harborough District Council there is a total of 22.16 hectares of allotments. This amounts to a level of just under 0.3 hectares per 1000 population.
- 11.15 Overall, consultation through questionnaires indicated that on balance, residents think that the provision of allotments is about right – only 35% responses suggested that there was an deficiency where as 62% indicated that provision matched their expectations. More qualitative consultation indicated the importance of allotments as a recreational facility particularly for older citizens and there was concern regarding the potential loss of some sites.
- 11.16 More specifically the urban area of Market Harborough and Lubenham has a current provision levels of 0.32 ha and per 1,000 population and all respondents indicated that this was about right. In the other urban area, Western Area (Lutterworth and Broughton Astley), there is a current provision level of 0.35 ha per 1,000 population with the majority (77%) indicating this was about right. These outcomes are perhaps due to the proximity of Market Harborough Allotments and the Deverdon Road Allotments in Lutterworth but support a local standard at this level.
- 11.17 In support of this, the main shortfall within the district was perceived to be in the North East rural area and this is where provision per hectare per 1000 people is lowest – equivalent to just 0.09.
- 11.18 There are no significant differences in the level of provision and perceived local need for allotments between the rural and the more urban areas of the district, hence the suggested standard should be applied to all analysis areas.
- 11.19 There are no significant differences in the level of provision and perceived local need for allotments between the rural and the more urban areas of the district, suggesting the same standard could be applied to the whole of the district. Also, allotments is a typology that one would expect to be realistically provided both in urban and rural areas.
- 11.20 From this analysis it is suggested that for the district of Harborough the **local provision standard of 0.35 hectares per 1000 population** is applied.

Applying provision standards

- 11.21 The total provision of 0.29 hectares per 1000 population translates into a shortfall of just 4.64 hectares of allotments across the whole district. This deficiency is likely to increase slightly by 2016.
- 11.22 When applying the provision standards in the five areas, only one area – Peatling and Bosworth, is deemed to have sufficient allotments. The only consultee suggesting that there were too many allotments within the district was also based within this area.
- 11.23 The other issues which can be extracted include:
- there are deficits of provision of over three hectares in total in the North East Rural Area and in Kibworth, Fleckney and Central
 - allotment provision within both Market Harborough and Lubenham and the Western Area is almost at it's optimum level – there is a shortfall of just 0.4

SECTION 11 – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

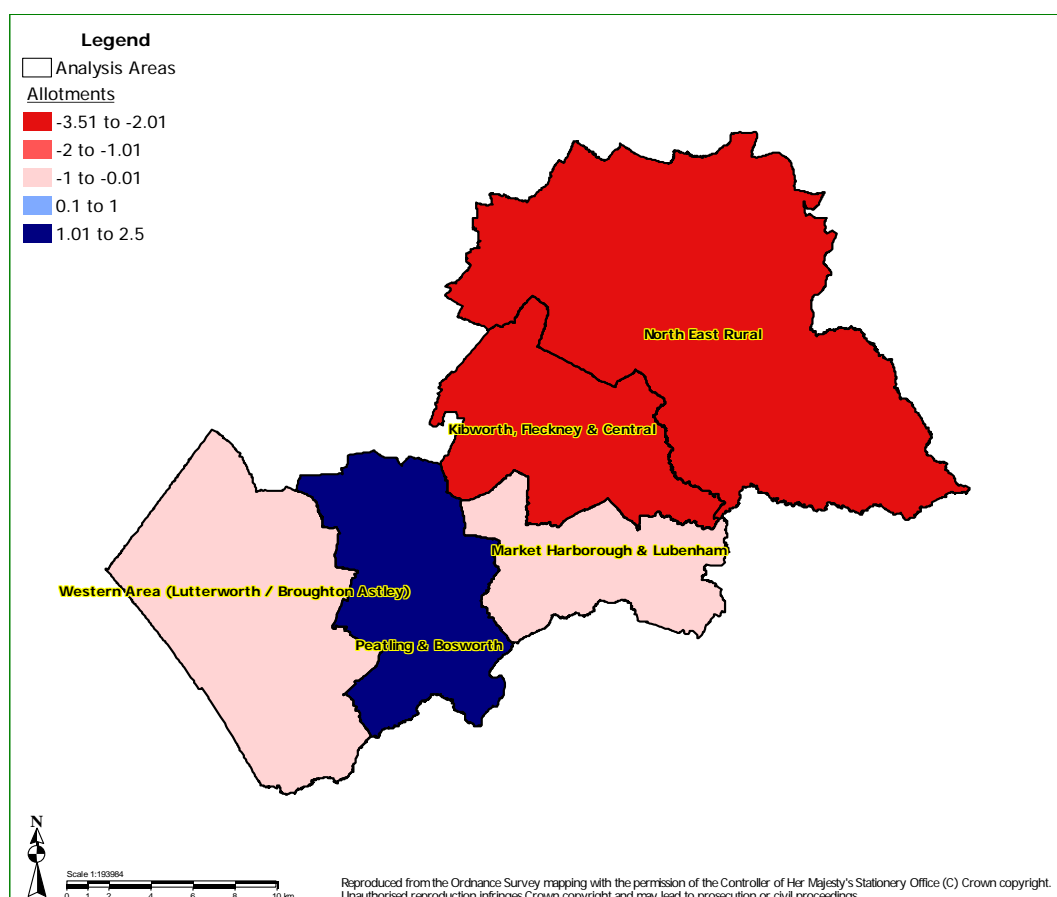
hectares in Lutterworth and Broughton Astley, although population increases will see this rise to almost a hectare by 2016

- these findings are supported by consultation, which highlights waiting lists at some sites, indicating that there is a need for additional provision
- the full applications of the suggested local allotments standard can be found in Appendix C. In addition, they are summarised in section 19.

11.24 Full details of the application of quantity standards for allotments can be found in Appendix C.

11.25 Figure 11.1 below demonstrates the surplus / deficiencies within each analysis area based on the provision standard of 0.35 ha per 1,000 population for 2004. All maps are provided in Appendix O including projection surplus and deficiency maps for 2016 based on future populations.

Figure 11.1 - Current Surplus & Deficiency of Provision for Allotments by Analysis Area (2004)



Quality

11.26 45% of allotments in the district are considered to be good or very good quality, the lowest percentage of any open space typology within Harborough. 17% of sites were considered to be poor or very poor the highest percentage for any type of open space within the study. This suggests that investigations into improvements of quality of open space sites may include some allotment sites in the short term.

SECTION 11 – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

- 11.27 Although no allotments in Market Harborough and Lubenham are considered to be very good, only 1 site is considered poor, Northampton Road Allotments in Market Harborough.
- 11.28 There are only 2 allotment sites that have been rated which are located in analysis North East Rural. One of these is the allotment plots in East Norton which are considered to be very poor.
- 11.29 No allotments in Kibworth, Fleckney and the central part of the district are rated as poor or very poor and the allotments in both Smeeton and Westerby and Thorpe Langton are thought to be very good quality sites.
- 11.30 The Western area has a number of highly rated allotment sites namely those in Broughton Astley and Dunton Bassett and Deverdon Road allotments in Lutterworth. The Deverdon Road allotments were frequently discussed in consultation and are considered to be an important site in this area.
- 11.31 There is only 1 site rated as very poor in analysis area 5 (Peatling and Bosworth) - the Gravel Hole at Walton.

Accessibility

- 11.32 In terms of accessibility, 56% of allotment provision in Harborough District is considered to be good or very good and only 9% is considered to be poor.
- 11.33 Both Market Harborough and Lubenham and Kibworth, Fleckney and Central areas have no allotment sites which have poor or very poor accessibility ratings.
- 11.34 Across the other analysis areas there are 3 sites which have poor or very poor accessibility ratings. These are the allotments at Claybrooke Parva, East Langton and the Gravel Hole at Walton.

Catchment

- 11.35 In order to develop accessibility standards for each type of open space, opinions of parish clerks and other consultees regarding the distance they are willing to travel to reach allotments have been captured in table 11.1 below.

Table 11.1 - Time prepared to travel

	Overall - Harborough District - Parish Councils						Members
	Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75%	General Consensus
Walk	10	12	20	5	20	10 minutes	
Cycle	9	8	10	2	10		
Bus	8	8	8	5	10		
Car	5	7	5	1	15	10 minutes	

SECTION 11 – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

- 11.36 People are more prepared to drive to allotments due to the need to transport equipment to and from the site.
- 11.37 Consultation indicates that 75% of people expect to find allotments and community gardens within a ten minute drive of their property. Both the median and mode responses were 5.
- 11.38 In line with PPG17, which suggests that accessibility standards should consider the distance / time that 75% of the population are willing to travel, table 11.2 below sets out the suggested accessibility standard for allotments.

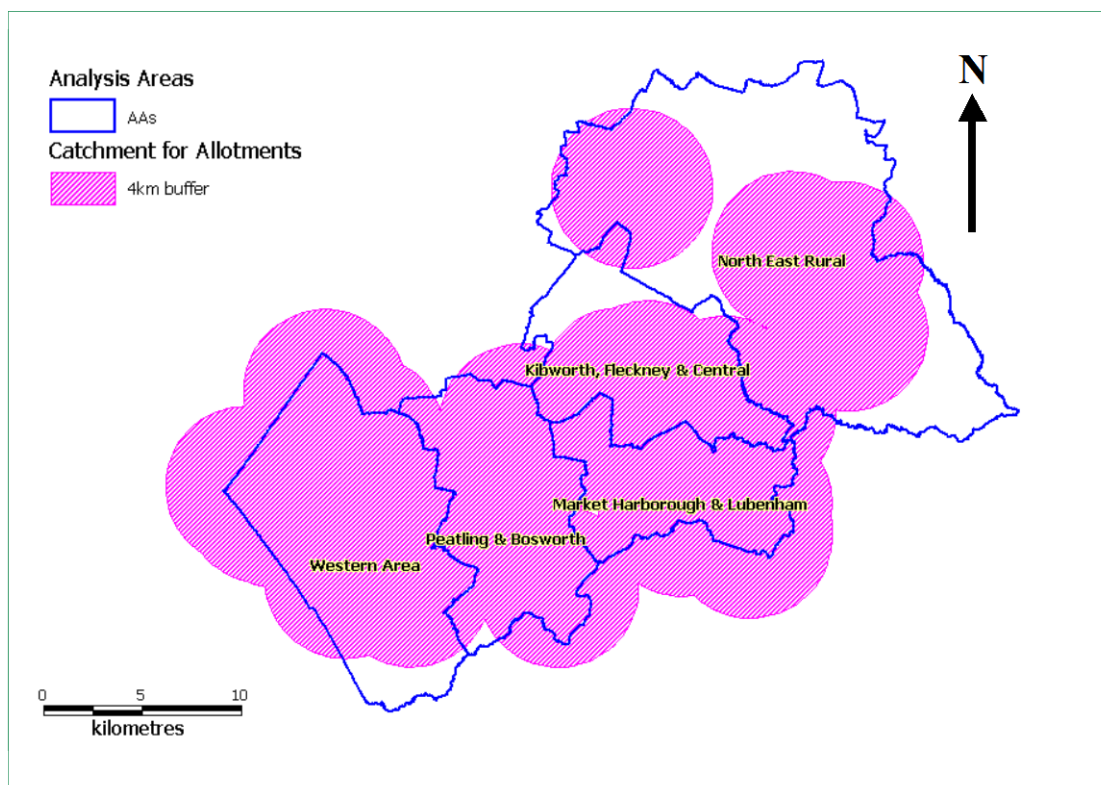
Table 11.2 - Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard - Allotments	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
10 minute drive	2 - 4km

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

- 11.39 Figure 11.2 below illustrates the application of this standard for allotments within the district. All maps are provided in Appendix O which demonstrates clearly the areas outside the recommended catchment area.

Figure 11.2 - Accessibility Threshold – Allotments



SECTION 11 – ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

- 11.40 Most sites that have a high level of use would normally have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. Most sites with a low level of use would have an average or poor quality and accessibility rating.
- 11.41 There are two allotment sites where usage is high and both quality and accessibility are very good. These sites are valued sites to the community and should be prioritised for protection. These are:
- Main Street Allotments – Thorpe Langley
 - Weston Willows Allotments – Broughton Astley.
- 11.42 There are a number of other well used sites, located across the district.
- 11.43 There are no allotment sites where usage is high and quality and accessibility is poor or very poor. Additionally, there are no sites where usage is low and quality is good or very good. It appears that there is a direct correlation between level of usage and the level of quality and accessibility.
- 11.44 The allotments in East Norton and the Gravel Hole Allotments at Walton are two examples where quality and accessibility is very low, and usage is low. In their current form they therefore have limited value. Investigations should therefore be undertaken to consider improving the quality and accessibility and if this fails to increase usage, analysis should then be considered in order to establish whether the primary purpose of open space on these sites is correct.

Summary

- 11.45 Research showed that almost all allotments were fully occupied and that many had waiting lists. Consultation highlighted that allotments are a valuable recreation facility for older citizens
- 11.46 The application of a local standard of 0.35 ha per 1000 population has been suggested and when applying this standard only Peatling and Bosworth are considered to have sufficient allotment sites. Consideration to the increased provision of allotment sites may therefore be required.
- 11.47 A drive time of between 5 and 10 minutes is considered an appropriate accessibility standard for allotments and community gardens.
- 11.48 When considering both the quantitative deficiencies and accessibility deficiencies in terms of catchment areas, the main areas are the more rural areas particularly in the North East rural area.

Cemeteries and churchyards

Definition

- 12.1 Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church and cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church. These include private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards. The primary purpose of this type of open space is for burial of the dead and quiet contemplation but also for the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Picture 12.1 – Gilmorton Churchyard – an example of this typology



Specific strategic context and consultations

Conservation importance

- 12.2 Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in some areas particularly in rural areas. In other areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land, but are able to provide areas of nature conservation importance. Some churchyards retain areas of unimproved grasslands and other various habitats.
- 12.3 They can make a significant contribution to the provision of urban green space sometimes providing a sanctuary for wildlife in urban areas devoid of greenspace.
- 12.4 Although many have restricted access they still provide a useful resource for the local community. A wide variety of habitats can be often be found supporting the other open space types such as areas of semi-natural and natural areas.

- 12.5 Within urban areas, churchyards are often among the few areas of greenspace where the local community is able to have some contact with the natural world.

Capacity of Cemeteries and Churchyards

- 12.6 The existing Harborough District plan suggests that many of the cemeteries in the district are nearing capacity and new sites may be required. It states that where existing cemeteries require expansion or replacement, planning applications will be granted on the successful meeting of criteria concerning the level of access, the provision of adequate parking and the development of suitable landscaping.
- 12.7 Research undertaken for this project supports the local plan, suggesting that a number of cemeteries have recently been filled. This may suggest that there is a need for additional sites within the district at present.
- 12.8 Consultation highlighted there is concern that the cemeteries in Market Harborough and Lutterworth are almost at full capacity and there are development pressures on a proposed site at Leaders Farm, this situation needs to be clarified.

Quantity

- 12.9 Harborough District Council have responsibility for the following cemeteries at present
- Market Harborough
 - Great Bowden
 - Foxton
 - Saddington
 - Great Easton
 - Blaston.

Setting provision standards

- 12.10 There are no definitive national or local standards for cemeteries and churchyards at present.
- 12.11 Consultation responses suggested that the level of provision is about right, in comparison to just 13 who felt that there was a deficiency. Additional consultation with Parish Councils suggested that a number of cemeteries are nearing capacity.
- 12.12 Overall within the district, there is a total of 40.27 hectares of provision, representing 0.53 ha per 1000 people. Provision within the rural areas per 1000 population is high.
- 12.13 PPG17 suggests that the development of quantity standards for churchyards is inappropriate. The annex of the PPG17 Companion Guide states that:
- “as churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standards which will be required is a qualitative one”.
- 12.14 In addition, it is recognised that every cemetery has a finite capacity; hence demand for cemeteries is steady. It is therefore suggested that if the application of a quantitative standard is required, this is calculated using a combination of population estimates and the average number of deaths resulting in a burial in the district. It is

SECTION 12 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

however suggested that this matter should be dealt with at district level, rather than applying a provision standard.

Quality

- 12.15 Overall, 84% of cemeteries and churchyards in the district are rated as good or very good quality and only 2% are considered to be poor. Of the 9 open space typologies, cemeteries and churchyards appear to be some of the highest quality sites.
- 12.16 There are in fact no cemetery and churchyard sites across the district rated as very poor.
- 12.17 Only two of the analysis areas, North East Rural and Western have cemetery and churchyard sites which are rated as poor. These sites are St Mary's Church in Ashby Magna and St Peter's Church in Horninghold.

Accessibility

- 12.18 The accessibility of cemeteries and churchyards within the district is good, with access to 46% of sites rated as very good, and access to a further 38% good. Only 7% of sites have poor access and no sites in the district have very poor access.
- 12.19 All sites within Peatling and Bosworth are rated good or very good.
- 12.20 Only two of the analysis areas, North East Rural and Western have cemetery and churchyard sites which are considered to have poor access. These are St Leonard's Churchyard in Misterton with Walcote and Withcote Chapel.

Catchment

- 12.21 Accessibility to cemeteries and churchyards is particularly important to enable relatives to visit sites. Consultees indicated that on the whole, they expect to live within relatively close proximity to a cemetery or churchyard.
- 12.22 A summary of key findings, including the median, mean, mode of responses are outlined in the table below.

Table 12.1 – Distance prepared to travel

	Accessibility – Parish Councils					
	Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75%
Walk	10	11	10	3	20	15 minutes
Cycle	9	9	10	2	20	
Bus	9	9	10	5	10	
Car	5	6	5	1	15	5 minutes

SECTION 12 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

- 12.23 Responses were varied, with people indicating that they are willing to walk between 3 and 20 minutes, although both the median and mode were 10.
- 12.24 75% of Parish representatives are willing to walk up to 15 minutes. This type of open space provides a local facility for the local community to visit for quiet contemplation and nature conservation value.
- 12.25 Although a large proportion of Parish representatives expect to walk to a cemetery, it was felt that this may not always be realistic particularly in the rural area. 75% of representatives suggested that they were willing to travel up to 5 minutes in the car.
- 12.26 An accessibility standard of a five-minute drivetime is therefore recommended in table 12.2 below.

Table 12.2 – Recommended Accessibility Standard

Local Standard – Cemeteries and Churchyards	
Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
5 minute drive	2km

- 12.27 Although a car travel time is recommended, it is important to encourage other “green types” of transport, such as cycling.

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

- 12.28 Most sites that have a high level of use would normally have a good or very good quality and accessibility rating. Most sites with a low level of use¹ would have an average or poor quality and accessibility rating. This is because the factors are related and interlinked.
- 12.29 There are a number of cemeteries and churchyards that are of high quality and high accessibility in addition to being well used. These sites are highly valued sites and should therefore be protected. Sites where accessibility and quality are both rated as very good and are well used include:
- Newton Harcourt Church St Lukes - Wistow
 - Churchyard - Medbourne
 - Arnesby Baptist Chapel - Arnesby

¹ Usage is determined by people visiting for various reasons such as for contemplation etc rather than number of burials

SECTION 12 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

- St Marys Churchyard - Broughton Astley
- Frolesworth Road Cemetery - Broughton Astley
- Sutton in the Elms Cemetery - Broughton Astley
- St Nicholas Churchyard - Frolesworth.

12.30 There are a number of additional well-used sites that are rated good, which also represent highly valued sites within the community.

12.31 The quality and accessibility of most cemeteries and churchyards in the district is good and usage is also high. There are no sites where there is high usage, despite poor or very poor quality ratings. This emphasises the importance of the condition and accessibility of the cemeteries and churchyards in determining their usage.

12.32 There are several sites where usage is relatively low despite good quality and accessibility of the sites. There remains however a requirement to maintain these sites. These include:

- Knaptoft Church Ruins and Garden
- Churchyard - (High Street) - Husbands Bosworth
- Saint Nicholas Churchyard - (closed) - Mowsley
- Mowsley Parish Burial Ground
- St Mary's Churchyard - Willoughby
- St Mary's Church - Bruntingthorpe
- Churchyard in Swinford
- Cemetery in Swinford
- Withcote Chapel
- St Lukes Churchyard
- All Saints Churchyard - Scraptoft
- St Andrews Church - Owston and Newbold
- Church and Churchyard in Hungarton

Summary

12.33 While it is inappropriate to set a quantity standard for cemeteries, there is a steady demand in the district and a number of existing burial sites are nearing capacity. This therefore suggests that the development of existing sites should be considered in the near future. Consideration should be given however as to why a number of good quality sites within the district remain relatively unused at present.

SECTION 12 – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

- 12.34 The quality of cemeteries and churchyards is particularly important – many people use cemeteries and churchyards as amenity green space – for peace and relaxation. It appears that the quality of cemeteries and churchyards within Harborough is good and higher than the quality of sites in most other typologies. They should therefore not be considered priority for improvement. There are no sites with both poor quality and poor accessibility.
- 12.35 The accessibility of cemeteries within the district is also considered to be good, and consultation suggests that 75% are willing to travel up to 5 minutes in the car. Green modes of transport should also be encouraged.

Civic spaces

Definition

- 13.1 Civic spaces is the only urban open space within the open space categories provided in PPG17. This type of open space includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians with the primary purpose of providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

Quantity

- 13.2 There are 3 main civic spaces within Harborough at present, both of which are in Market Harborough. These are:
- The Square, Market Harborough
 - Church Square, Market Harborough
 - Lutterworth Town Square.
- 13.3 There is a further civic space within Broughton Astley – the Western area of the district. This is currently under development.
- 13.4 In addition, there is one civic space within the more rural areas of the district – the Fleckney Band Stand. There are no further civic spaces within the rural area - this is due to the predominantly rural nature of the area containing small hamlets and villages. Civic spaces relates mainly to larger urban areas.

Setting provision standards

- 13.5 There are no definitive national or local standards for civic spaces and the Local Plan makes no reference to any provision standards for civic spaces.
- 13.6 There is a total of 0.94 ha of civic space provided over the 4 sites audited (excluding Lutterworth Town Square). However consultation responses indicate that there is a small deficiency of provision. 57% suggest a deficiency of provision compared to 43% who feel that levels of provision are about right. No respondents perceived there to be a surplus of civic spaces.
- 13.7 It is not possible to make a reasoned judgement in setting provision standards for civic spaces within Harborough due to the limited amount of civic space provision. Furthermore, PPG17 suggests that it is not realistic to set a quantity standard for civic spaces.
- 13.8 Therefore from the analysis it is suggested that **no provision standard** is set. However, PPG17 adds that it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centres.

Quality

- 13.9 Overall, the quality of the civic spaces within Harborough is relatively good – 50% were rated as average and 50% good.

Accessibility

- 13.10 Accessibility to civic spaces is also good, with 75% of provision rated as either good or very good. The civic spaces within Market Harborough are located in the town

centre with good public transport links. The band stand in Fleckney is less accessible due to the more rural location of the village.

Catchment

13.11 A breakdown of the results of the analysis of catchment thresholds is illustrated in table 13.1 below.

Table 13.1 Time prepared to travel

	Median	Mean	Mode	Min	Max	75%
Walk	15	17	20	5	60	20 minutes
Cycle	0	0	0	0	0	
Bus	10	12	10	5	30	
Car	9	9	5	5	20	10 minutes

13.12 75% of respondents indicated that they would be willing to walk up to 20 minutes, and to drive up to 10 minutes to reach a civic space. No respondents perceived cycling to be a suitable form of transport.

13.13 It was suggested that as a result of the nature of civic spaces, which are always likely to be centrally located within urbanised and more populated areas, a car is the most appropriate mode of transport.

13.14 These characteristics of civic spaces suggest that setting a definitive accessibility standard for civic spaces is largely inappropriate, particularly in rural areas, where it may not be expected that civic spaces would be located in close proximity.

Assessment of value (Usage v Quality v Accessibility)

13.15 The civic spaces within the district of Harborough are of both good quality and accessibility, and are well used. Only Fleckney Bandstand is not used very frequently. They are therefore highly valued open spaces.

Summary

13.16 The rural nature of most of the district means there are fewer civic spaces than any other type of open space. Due to the existence of such a small number of sites it is considered inappropriate to set local standards for civic spaces.

13.17 Those civic spaces that do exist are rated as good or average.

13.18 Accessibility to existing civic spaces is rated as good or very good, and 75% of people would expect to travel up to 10 minutes in a car.

Indoor sport and recreation

- 14.1 A broad review of sport and recreation facilities within Harborough has been undertaken to help guide future planning. In addition to the outdoor sports facilities discussed within section 10, PPG17 also recommends the assessment of existing indoor sport and recreation provision.

Local context

- 14.2 The Harborough District Council Best Value Performance Plan 2003 – 2004 highlights the increasing importance the Council is placing upon improving sport and activity. This is particularly relevant to sports facilities, and emerges following the recent publication of Game Plan, a national document by Sport England which sets the target of increasing participation by 70% through 5 sessions of activity of 30 minutes per person each week by the year 2020.
- 14.3 A survey undertaken for the Best Value Performance Plan in 2003 - 2004 highlights that 63% had used a sports facility during the five weeks prior to the survey. The plan advocates the setting of targets for increasing participation, which will be measured by a five-year survey.
- 14.4 The commitment of the Council to the development of indoor sport and recreation is further highlighted through the priorities for 2003 / 2004 which include the opening of the Lutterworth Sports Centre. The Council also states that planning permission would be granted to extend the range of indoor recreation facilities in the district where a number of criteria regarding parking, neighbourhood areas, landscaping, location and ecological affects are met.
- 14.5 This commitment is further highlighted where it is stated that the District Council will support the establishment and retention of key facilities, including village halls, community buildings and local recreation facilities. Permission will not be granted for proposals that would result in the loss of such facilities, unless alternative facilities are available, or the facility is not financially viable and cannot be retained. In addition, the local plan states that the District Council will support and encourage the renovation and development of village halls appropriate to the needs and residents in the district.
- 14.6 The on the street survey, conducted as part of the development of the Cultural Strategy during September 2002 illustrated the current opinions of residents of the district regarding the existing sport and recreation facilities – 39% indicated that they felt that existing facilities are inadequate and do not meet the needs of the population.
- 14.7 The importance of cross border issues when assessing indoor provision in Harborough must also not be overlooked – nearly 40% of users of the main Leisure Centre reside in Northamptonshire, and similarly, many residents of Broughton Astley and surrounding areas travel into Leicester rather than to facilities within Harborough.
- 14.8 There is a particular movement, driven by Broughton Astley Parish Council, for the village to own its own sports facilities. There is an area of open space (Devitt Way) that has been given to the Parish Council to develop facilities but this land must be handed back to the developer if nothing is built by 2006. It is a relatively small piece of land and several options including a Scout building and youth shelter are being considered.
- 14.9 Current revenue funding applications have been made to Sport England to facilitate sports development in the rural areas. The audit of village and community halls will help to provide a facility asset list to help with this development.

Indoor sport and recreation provision

- 14.10 Alongside the main audit of open space a smaller secondary audit of indoor sport and recreation facilities has therefore been undertaken. This has included:
- Leisure Centres
 - School Halls
 - Village Halls and Community Centres
 - Swimming Pools
 - Private Gyms
- 14.11 We have used a number of sources to ensure the audit is as comprehensive as possible. The co-operation of parish councillors was important to gain information on village halls and we have also consulted with local sports clubs asking them to indicate which facilities they used. The questionnaires sent to each club can be found in Appendix D.
- 14.12 The responses from parish councillors and sport clubs provide a useful insight into both the usage of indoor facilities within Harborough and the perceived quality and quantity of indoor sports facilities within the district.
- 14.13 For the purpose of this study the provision of indoor facilities within Harborough has been divided into two types:
1. Sports facilities
 2. Other recreational facilities
- 14.14 A supply and demand assessment has been carried out for the three main types of indoor sports facilities.

Supply and demand analysis

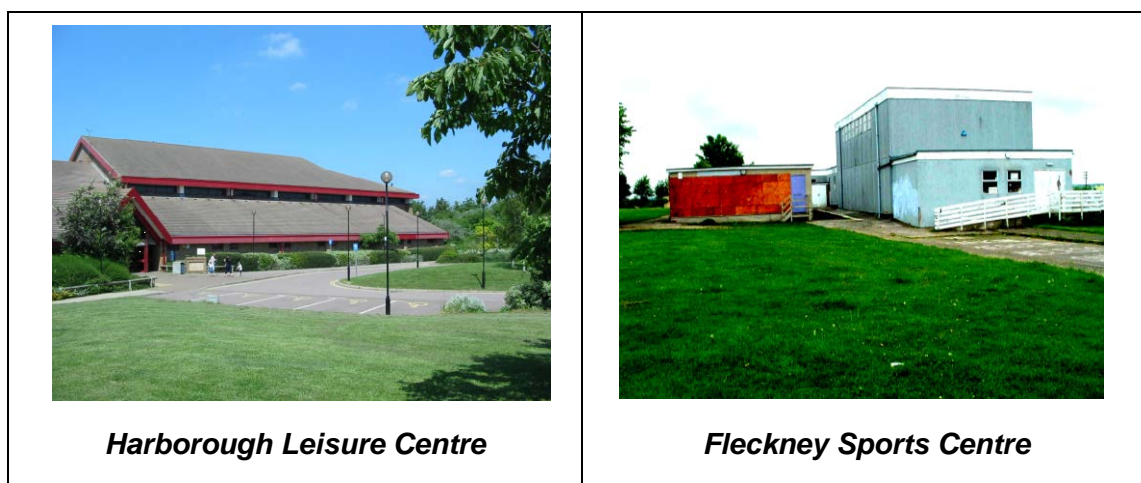
- 14.15 This section assesses the current supply and compares it to the demand for different types of sports facilities. Research was undertaken to assess how this relationship might change in future years.
- 14.16 The supply against demand in Harborough has been analysed for the following facilities:
- Health and Fitness Gyms
 - Sports Halls (includes village halls and school halls above a certain size)
 - Swimming Pools.
- 14.17 As has already been discussed we have used a variety of sources to ascertain the existing supply of all the above facilities. All known planning applications were also considered in order to assess the likely level of future provision.
- 14.18 Two levels of supply (present and future 2010) were compared to an estimated demand for each type of facility. The foundations of all demand assessments are an analysis of the demographic nature of the resident population within an accurate

SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION

catchment area of a site. As a result of the fast changing nature and high rate of development of indoor sport and recreation facilities and the affect that changing participation rates may have on the local requirement for facilities, future supply is measured only up to 2010.

- 14.19 The population statistics are calculated using output areas and GIS boundaries and therefore differ slightly from the figures used for other elements of the open space study. Assessment of indoor sports provision using the geographical analysis areas was not considered appropriate for indoor sport and recreation facilities due to the wider target catchment and dispersed nature of these facilities.
- 14.20 We have therefore used the district boundary as one catchment area but it is important to indicate this has its limitations as it excludes any facilities on the edge of the district.
- 14.21 The geographical nature of Harborough, in particular the location of two (Market Harborough and Lutterworth) of the three main towns (and subsequently the main indoor sports facilities), means there is a large amount of inward and outward migration when it comes to sports centre usage. With this in mind a second catchment area including a 3-kilometre buffer around the district boundary has been applied to more accurately take into account the impact of facilities on the periphery of the district and cross boundary movement.
- 14.22 This buffer takes into account the facilities in close proximity to Harborough, which may affect the demand for sites within the district. It is however assumed that the number of people travelling out of the district will roughly equal those travelling in. This buffer does not suggest that people will not travel from further than 3km, it is used purely as a basis for analysis.
- 14.23 Once the resident population has been profiled, market penetration rates and frequency of participation rates of each sport or leisure activity are used to quantify demand. This ensures that results are specific to the requirements of the population of Harborough.
- 14.24 The demand for facilities was also evaluated through a postal survey to current sports clubs which will be examined later in the section.

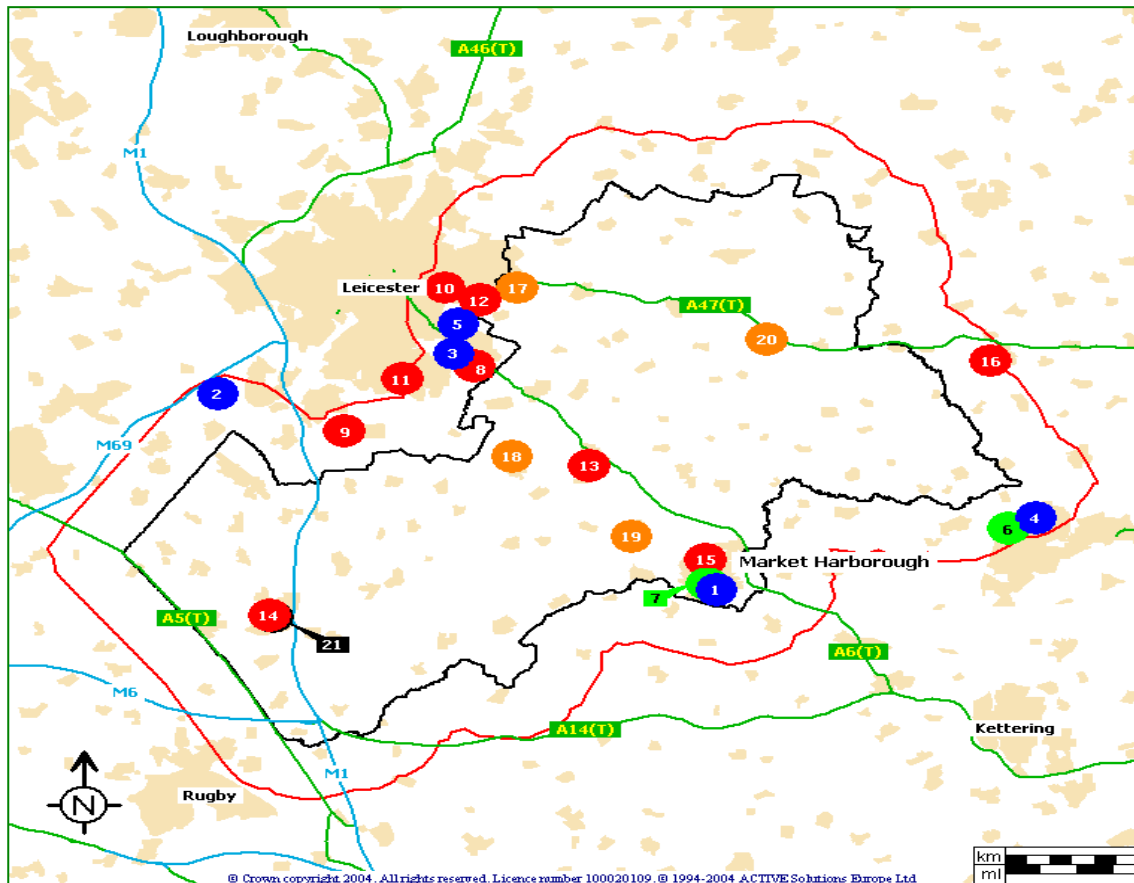
Picture 14.1 – A contrast of provision within the District



Sports Hall provision – supply / demand modelling

14.25 The supply of sports halls in Harborough is illustrated in Figure 14.1 below. Full supply and demand models and a list of the assumptions made can be found in Appendix E. The key messages are highlighted below.

Figure 14.1 Sports Halls in the district of Harborough plus a 3km Buffer Zone



Key:

- Harborough District Boundary
- 3km Buffer Boundary
- Public Facilities
- Club-use Facilities
- Dual-use Facilities
- Other Facilities
- Planned Facilities

ID Name

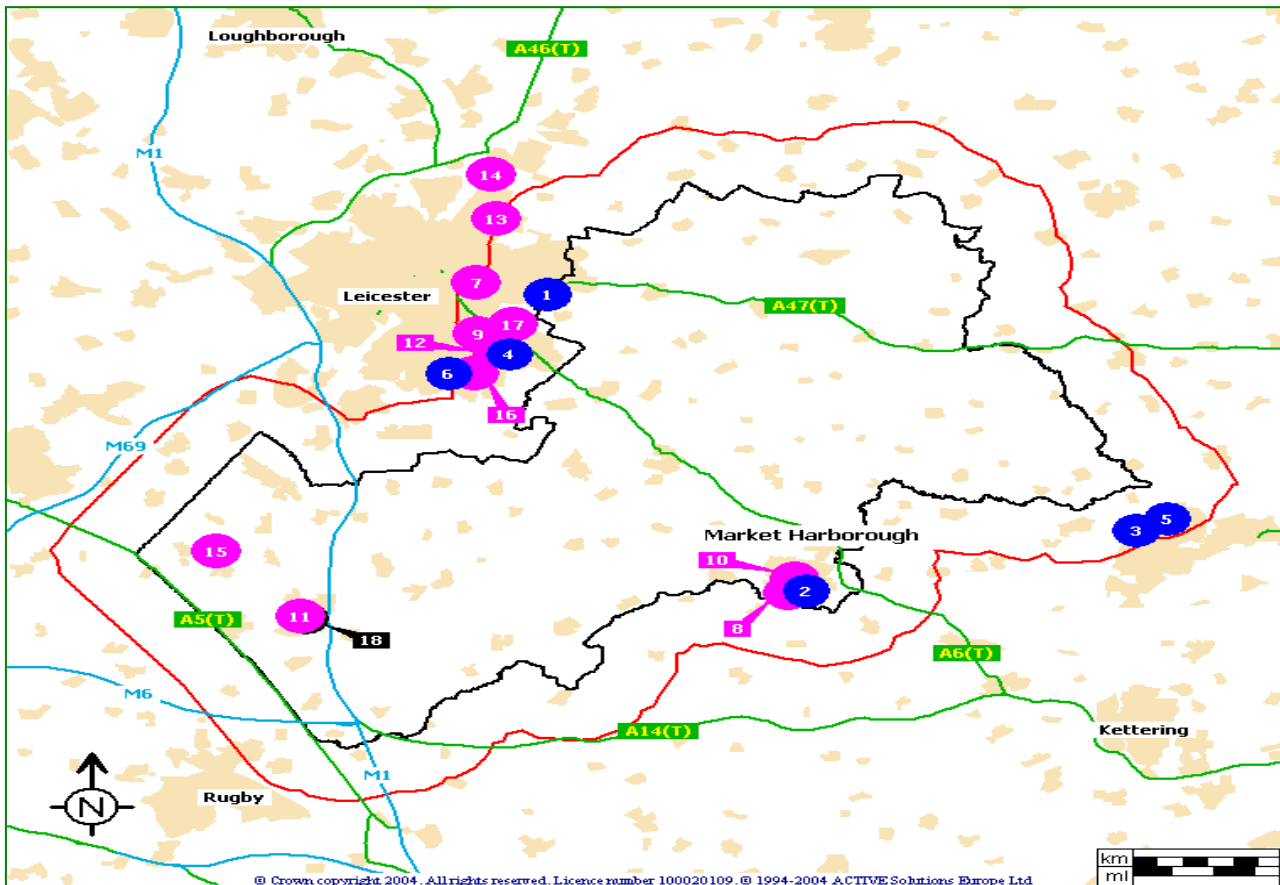
- 1 Harborough Leisure Centre (4 court hall)
- 2 Huncote Leisure Centre
- 3 Parklands Leisure Centre
- 4 Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex
- 5 University of Leicester
- 6 Lodge Park Sports Centre
- 7 Welland Park Community College
- 8 Beauchamp College
- 9 Countesthorpe Community College
- 10 Crown Hills College
- 11 Guthlaxton Community College
- 12 Judgemeadow Community College
- 13 Kibworth Sports Centre
- 14 Lutterworth Community College Sports Centre
- 15 Robert Smyth Upper School
- 16 Uppingham School Sports Centre
- 17 Coplow Centre
- 18 Fleckney Sports Hall
- 19 Foxton PC Sports Hall
- 20 The Tugby Centre Sports Hall
- 21 Lutterworth Sports Centre (4 court hall)

Sports Halls	Supply v Demand – Key Messages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• only publicly accessible facilities are included in the modelling, therefore facilities which are only available for club use (i.e. can not be booked for casual use by individuals) such as Lutterworth Community College are discounted• supply at dual use facilities (Welland Park Community College) is reduced by 25% to reflect restricted access• only halls of 3 courts and above are considered in the modelling in line with Sport England guidelines – halls of smaller size are unsuitable for a number of sports• within the district of Harborough there is currently only 1 publicly accessible leisure centre and 1 dual use facility, all other facilities within the district are either for club-use only or below 3 courts in size, for example Kibworth Sports Centre• existing supply is equal to 7 courts, 4 courts at Market Harborough Leisure Centre and 3 courts at Welland Park Community College (there are 4 courts at the College but as previously stated supply reduced by 25%)• existing demand (based on population and participation rates) is equivalent to 16 courts• existing undersupply is equivalent to 9 courts• a new sports hall is nearing completion in Lutterworth which will increase supply by 4 courts, thus reducing the undersupply to 5 courts• there are a number of halls located just outside the district which contribute to the sport and recreation provision for residents of Harborough District. In addition, 34% (23% from Northamptonshire) of participants at Market Harborough Leisure Centre reside outside the district• the undersupply could be reduced through better partnership agreements with schools and other education sites, which allow the community access to school facilities• if targets of increased participation are met, the undersupply of sports halls within the district will substantially increase• the new covered air dome (adjacent to Market Harborough Leisure Centre) has an important role to play in the provision of sport and leisure facilities in Harborough, and will reduce some of the pressure on sports hall facilities. It is not currently marked out for badminton• smaller village and community halls also play an important role in leisure and recreation provision and this will be discussed in more detail later in the section.






Health and fitness provision – supply / demand modelling

14.26 The supply of health and fitness facilities in Harborough is set out below. A full supply and demand model along with the assumptions and parameters used is found in Appendix E. The key messages are highlighted below:

Figure 14.2 Health and Fitness facilities within Harborough plus 3km Buffer Zone



Key:

-  Harborough District Boundary
-  3km Buffer Boundary
-  Public Facilities
-  Private Facilities
-  Planned Facilities

ID Name

- 1 Evington Pool
- 2 Harborough Leisure Centre
- 3 Lodge Park Sports Centre
- 4 Parklands Leisure Centre
- 5 Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex
- 6 Wigston Swimming Pool
- 7 Abbey Court Leisure Centre
- 8 Bruno's Gym
- 9 Chase Hotel & Leisure Complex
- 10 Inches Health & Beauty
- 11 Lutterworth Community College Sports Centre
- 12 Oadby Workhouse II
- 13 The Engine Room Health & Fitness Centre
- 14 The Regency Health Club
- 15 Ullesthorpe Court Hotel & Golf Club
- 16 Unique Physique
- 17 University of Leicester
- 18 Lutterworth Sports Centre

Health and Fitness

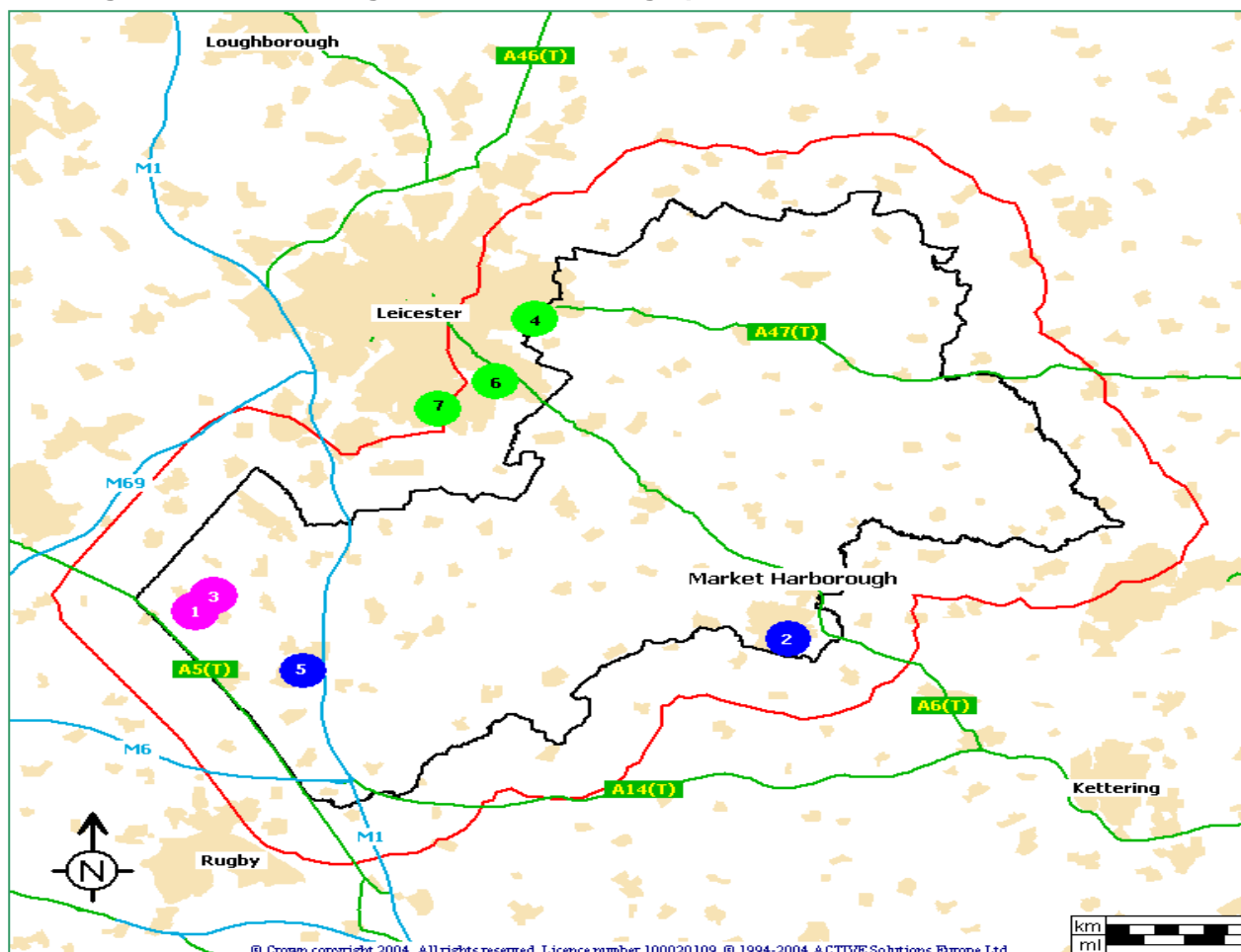
Supply v Demand – Key Messages

- there are currently 1 public and 4 private health and fitness facilities within Harborough district – these facilities are all located in the larger urban areas of the district – on the edge of the district boundaries
- demand in Harborough is for 303 stations (based on population and participation rates). As indicated in 14.26, a full supply and demand model along with the assumptions and parameters used can be found in Appendix E.
- the existing supply is equal to 161 stations
- existing unmet demand is therefore equivalent to 142 stations
- the soon to be opened Lutterworth Sports Centre will contain approximately 60 stations hence the under supply will reduce to around 100 stations
- as with sports halls there is a tendency for residents of neighbouring authorities to use the facilities within Market Harborough. There is also usage of facilities outside the district by Harborough residents especially from those living in the North of the district
- the demand models show that taking into account the 3 kilometre buffer there is an unmet demand of 426 stations. This is perhaps a little misleading as the majority of the extra population in this catchment is within a 10 minute drive of Leicester, the majority of the city's facilities falling just outside the scope of the audit.






Swimming pool provision – supply / demand modelling

14.27 The supply of swimming pools in Harborough is set out in Figure 14.3 below. A full supply and demand model, along with the assumptions and parameters used can be found in Appendix E. The key messages are highlighted below.

Figure 14.3 Swimming Pools in Harborough plus 3km Buffer Zone



Key:

-  Harborough District Boundary
-  3km Buffer Boundary
-  Public Facilities
-  Private Facilities
-  Dual-use Facilities

ID Name

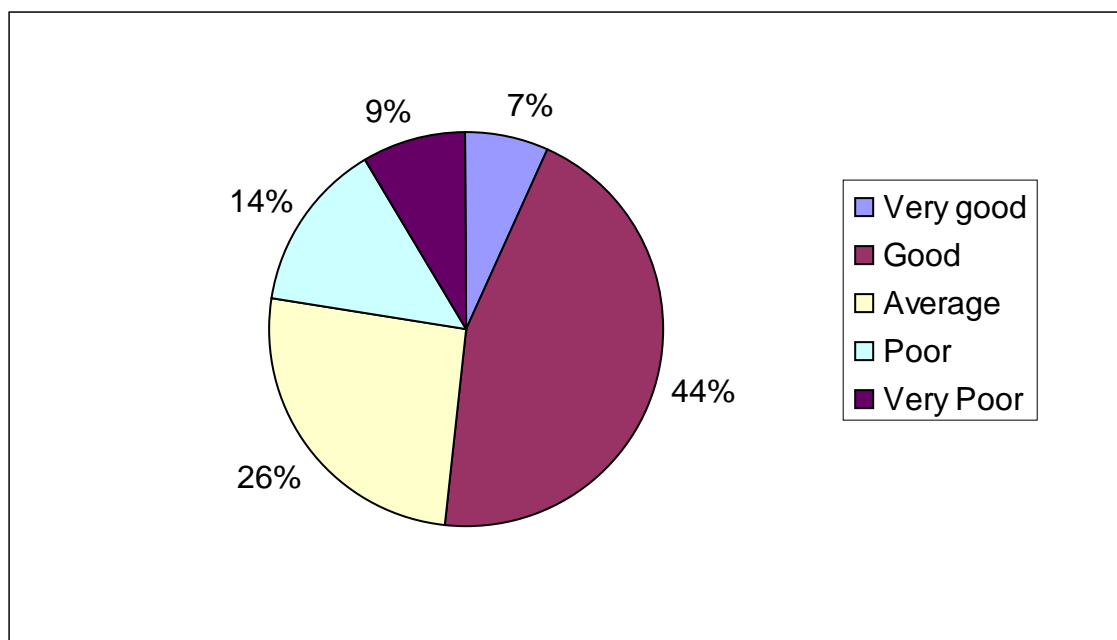
- 1 Claybroke Parva School
- 2 Harborough Leisure Centre
- 3 Ullesthorpe Court Hotel & Golf Club
- 4 Evington Pool
- 5 Lutterworth Swimming Pool
- 6 Oadby Swimming Pool
- 7 Wigston Swimming Pool

Swimming Pools	Supply v Demand – Key Messages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• according to Sport England , one pool unit = 212m² or a 4 lane 25m pool• only public facilities with casual access are included – hotel pools are not included as they have no casual access• there are currently 2 publicly accessible facilities within Harborough – these facilities are all located on the edges of the district – there are no facilities within the geographical centre• current demand is equivalent to 274m² (based on population and participation rates). As identified in 14.27, a full supply and demand model along with the assumptions and parameters used can be found in Appendix E.• current supply equals 338m²• hence there is a small oversupply of 64m²• the new pool at Lutterworth Sports Centre will further increase the over supply of swimming pool area within the district• taking into account the 3 kilometre buffer there is currently an unmet demand equivalent to 175m² , as with all other sports facilities non Harborough residents also use the district's swimming pools and the new pool in Lutterworth should account for this unmet demand• however, if Government Game Plan targets advocating an increase in participation were met, it is likely that there would continue to be an undersupply of pools within the 3km buffer

Sports club consultation

- 14.28 In section 10 consultation with sports clubs was briefly discussed. The following section analyses this in more detail.
- 14.29 64 sports clubs from across the district responded to the sports and recreation survey, a copy of which can be found in Appendix D. These included clubs from a variety of sports from pitch sports like football and cricket to indoor sports such as badminton and table tennis, through to dance and sub-aqua.
- 14.30 The responding sports clubs represented both a range of sports and geographical areas. The two largest towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth were well represented as were some of the more rural areas of Kibworth, Fleckney, Great Glen and Thurnby and Bushby. A full list of responding clubs is found in Appendix F.
- 14.31 Each club was asked to rate the overall provision of leisure facilities within the district of Harborough, the results of which are illustrated in Figure 14.4. Just over 50% of respondents rated leisure provision as either good or very good. 23% of respondents rated provision as poor or very poor.

Figure 14.4 Rating of leisure provision within the district of Harborough



- 14.32 Reasons cited by those respondents who rated provision as poor included:
- leisure centres are too far away and difficult to access
 - insufficient facilities in rural areas
 - Harborough Leisure Centre often overcrowded
- 14.33 Clubs were also asked whether or not existing leisure provision met the current needs of their club or organisation. Of those clubs that responded 65% answered no to this

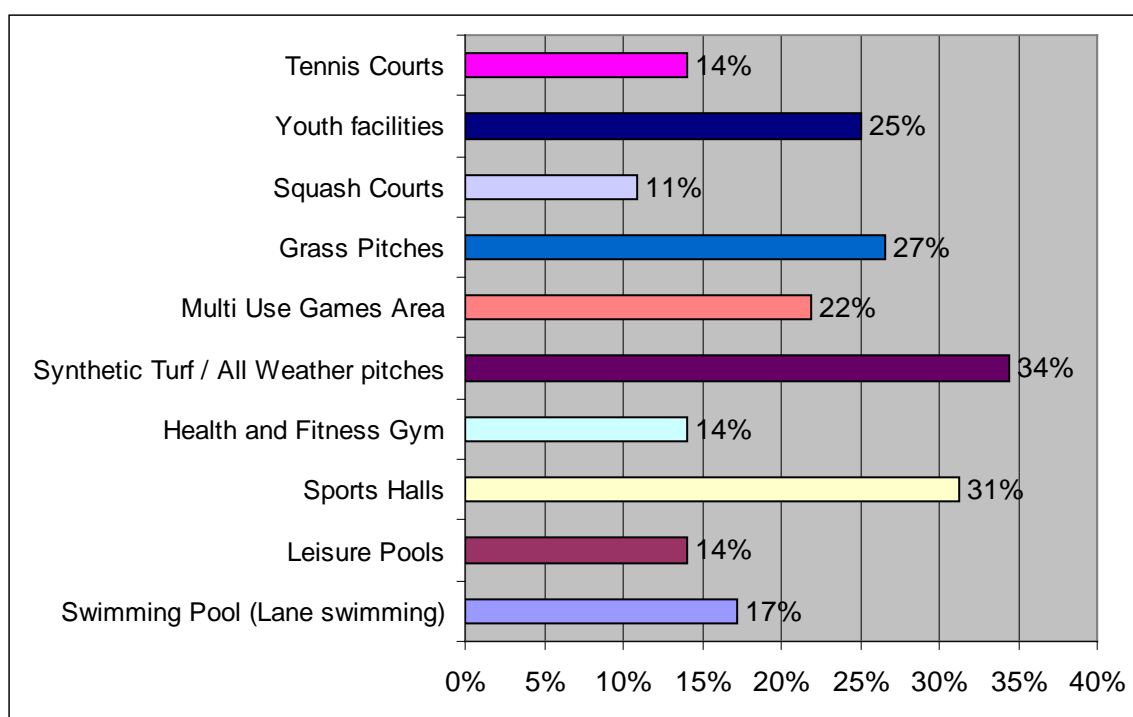
SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION

question. Reasons cited for negative responses with specific reference to indoor facilities included:

- difficult to book sessions at leisure centre as limited space and availability
- insufficient community halls and facilities within rural localities
- leisure centre too expensive
- poor accessibility to most indoor facilities.

14.34 Clubs were asked to comment on what they would like to see more of in the district and what they feel there is a demand for in Harborough. The responses have to be treated with a degree of caution as there is a tendency for individual sports to select facilities which directly benefit them. The results are illustrated in Figure 14.5.

Figure 14.5 Facilities clubs would like to see more of and believe there is a demand for in Harborough



14.35 34% of respondents said they feel there is a need for all weather pitches and 22% multi-use games areas, both of which are outdoor facilities. The benefit of these facilities is their multi-sport nature and such facilities enable football training, for example, to move outside and thus 'free up' indoor space for dedicated indoor sports.

14.36 Nearly a third of respondents indicated that a greater number of sports halls were required. There was however an appreciation that the situation would be significantly improved when the Lutterworth Sports Centre opens.

14.37 Clubs were asked to comment on possible improvements to indoor leisure provision. The following is a summary of frequently raised issues:

- provision of affordable halls for use by smaller clubs

- fair and equal treatment of clubs and a fair pricing system
- development of more facilities outside of Market Harborough
- provision of a bus service to and from the two main leisure centres
- improved maintenance of existing facilities
- develop school sport facilities to link with sports clubs
- partnership approaches were generally considered to be the way forward

14.38 Clubs were encouraged to provide general comments on Harborough's leisure provision. A number of interesting comments were made:

- Harborough needs to work at providing equality in sports; many of the region's sports facilities are neglected. Prestigious sports developments do not provide the best solution to the provision of sport for all. Small grants and more equal distribution to existing sport facilities should be considered
- the quality of current provision is good but may need to be reviewed in the light of new housing developments in Market Harborough and Kibworth
- thought should also be given to non 'athletic' sports such as motorcycling, horse riding, model aircraft flying, model car race users, model boating groups, skate boarders, and roller and skate rinks.

Parish council consultation

14.39 Parish councillors were also asked to comment on indoor leisure provision within Harborough. Respondents believed the two most restrictive factors affecting residents use of all types of indoor leisure and recreational facilities are the location of facilities and poor public transport.

14.40 In terms of what leisure facilities parish councillors would like to see more of and believe there is a demand for there was a fairly even spread of responses for swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness gyms and village and community halls.

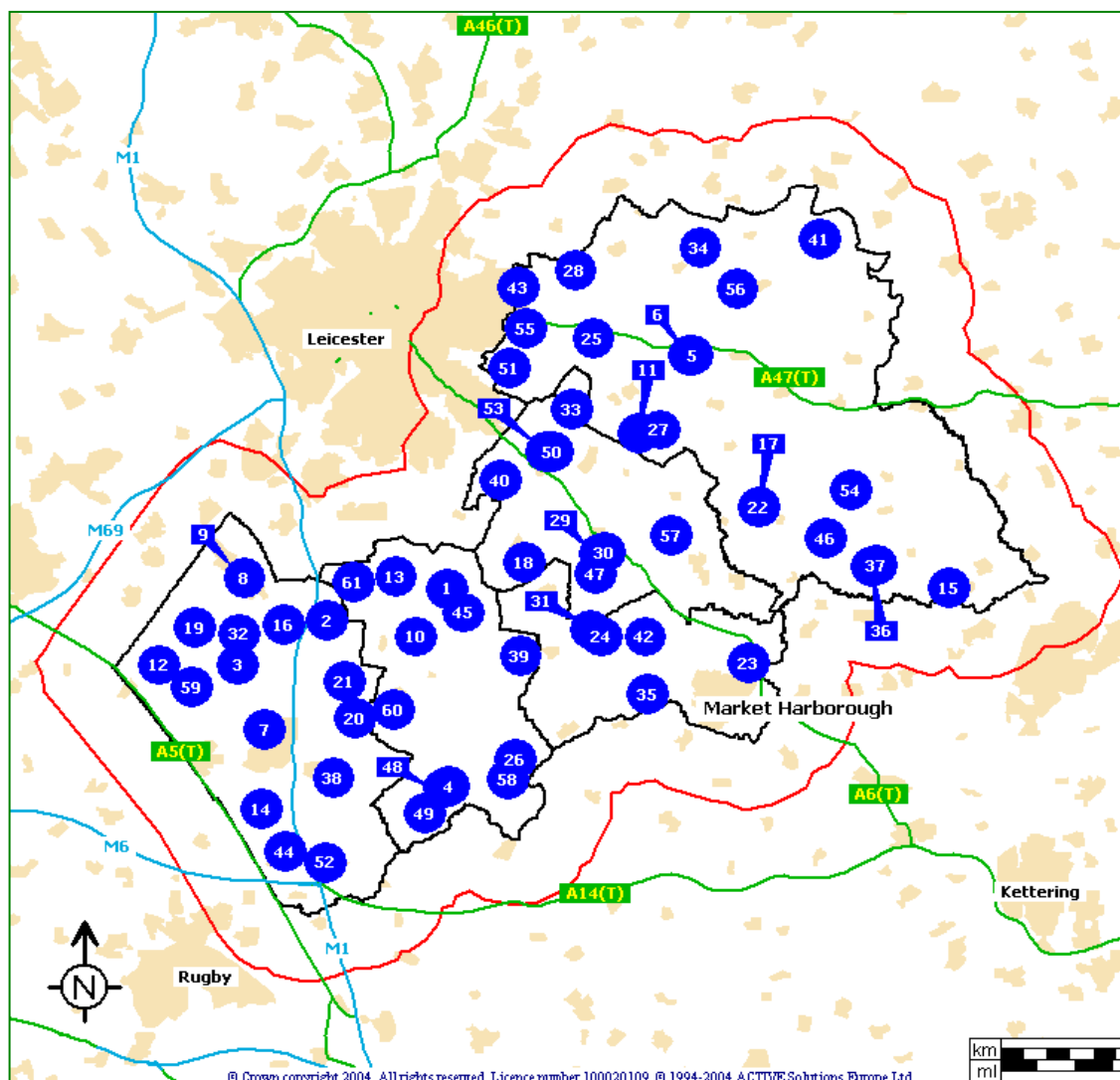
Other recreational facilities

14.41 Dedicated indoor sports facilities are not the only form of indoor recreational facilities available to Harborough's residents. The district has a number of village and community halls many of which are used regularly as recreational facilities.

14.42 Parish Councillors were asked to provide details of existing facilities within their parish and to rate the usage and quality of such facilities. The survey completed by the parishes can be found in Appendix G.

14.43 A map illustrating the location of village and community halls is illustrated overleaf and a full list of all halls and the facilities they offer can be found in Appendix H.

Figure 14.6 Location of Village Halls within the District of Harborough



Key:

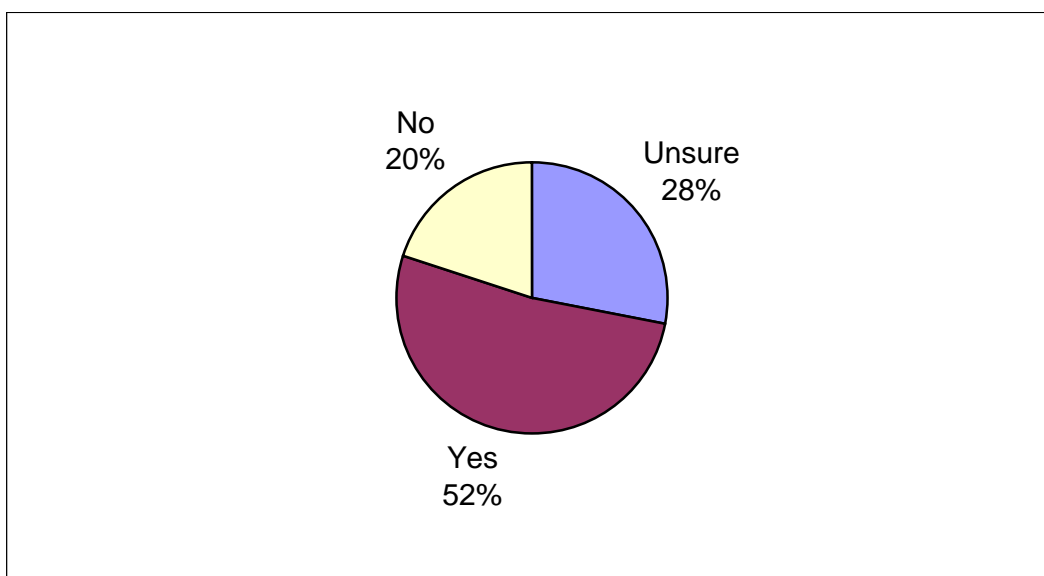
ID	Name of Parish	Indoor Recreational Facility	ID	Name of Parish	Indoor Recreational Facility
1	Arnesby	Village Hall	32	Leire	Village Hall
2	Ashby Magna	Village Hall	33	Little Stretton	Village Hall
3	Ashby Parva	Village Hall	34	Lowesby	Village Hall
4	North Kilworth	Belgrave Village hall	35	Lubenham	Village Hall
5	Billesdon	Baptist Chapel	36	Medbourne	Medbourne Sports Club
6	Billesdon	Old School	37	Medbourne	Medbourne Village Hall

SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION

7	Bitteswell	Village Hall	38	Misterton with Walcote	Memorial Hall
8	Broughton Astley	Scouts Hall	39	Mowsley	Mowsley Village Hall
9	Broughton Astley	Village Hall	40	Wistow Cum Newton Harcourt	Newton Harcourt Village hall
10	Bruntingthorpe	Bruntingthorpe Village Hall	41	Owston & Newbold	Village Hall
11	Burton Overy	Village Hall	42	Foxton	Robert Monk Hall
12	Claybrooke Magna	Village Hall	43	Scraptoft	Scraptoft Village hall
13	Peatling Magna	Coronation Hall	44	Shawell	Shawell Memorial Hall
14	Cotesbach	Village Hall	45	Shearsby	Village Hall
15	Drayton	Drayton & Bringhurst Village Hall	46	Slawston	Slawston Village Hall
16	Dunton Bassett	Village Hall	47	Smeeton & Westerby	Village Hall
17	East Langton	Horsia Hut	48	North Kilworth	Sports Club
18	Fleckney	Village Hall & Library	49	South Kilworth	Village Hall
19	Frolesworth	Frolesworth Village Hall	50	Great Glen	St Cuthberts C E School
20	Gilmorton	Pavilion (GCPFA)	51	Stoughton	Village Hall
21	Gilmorton	Gilmorton Village Hall	52	Swinford	Swinford Village Hall
22	Glooston	Glooston Village Hall	53	Great Glen	The Scouts Hall
23	Great Bowden	Great Bowden Village Hall	54	Hallaton	The Stenning Hall
24	Gumley	Village Hall	55	Thurnby & Bushby	Memorial Hall
25	Houghton-on-the-Hill	Houghton Village Hall	56	Tilton-on-the-Hill	Tilton Village Hall
26	Husbands Bosworth	Church Hall	57	Tur Langton	Tur Langton Village Hall
27	Illston on the Hill	Village Hall	58	Husbands Bosworth	Turville Memorail Hall
28	Keyham	Village Hall	59	Ullesthorpe	Memorial Hall
29	Kibworth Beauchamp	Grammar School Road	60	Kimcote & Walton	Walton Village Hall
30	Kibworth Beauchamp	Village Hall	61	Willoughby Waterleys	Village Hall
31	Laughton	Village Hall			

- 14.44 The map illustrates an excellent geographical spread of facilities across the district, highlighting the important role these facilities play in the life of residents, particularly in the more rural areas.
- 14.45 These facilities are used for a wide range of pastimes. The larger halls can accommodate indoor sports such as table tennis and badminton for example Husbands Bosworth, Burton Overy and Thurnby and Bushby.
- 14.46 The majority of halls are too small for formal sports although a number of halls do offer keep-fit classes, yoga, short mat bowls and dance and ballet classes.
- 14.47 The primary function of the majority of halls is for village social activities such as coffee mornings, parish meetings, arts activities and youth clubs. The full range of activities offered at each facility is illustrated in Appendix H.
- 14.48 Of those parishes who indicated that they have village/community halls, 84% agreed that these facilities provide a vital leisure facility for the residents of the parish. Parish councillors were also asked whether or not they feel there is greater potential for the use of these facilities by the community. The results are illustrated in Figure 14.7.

Figure 14.7: A greater potential for use of village halls by the community?



- 14.49 Over half the parishes believe there is potential for greater use of facilities within the parish. Only 20% believe that facilities are currently at full capacity.
- 14.50 Parish councillors were asked to comment on the quality of indoor facilities within their parish. The majority of parishes were happy with their current facilities and believed them to be adequate for the size of their villages. There were however a number of recurring issues:
- facilities in need of upgrading
 - poor disabled access
 - limited space means activities offered are limited

- lack of changing facilities
- 14.51 A number of facilities have recently undergone refurbishment or are seeking funding to enable refurbishment. These include:
- The Stenning Hall, Hallaton - fitted a disabled ramp and toilet, and added kitchen and baby changing facilities
 - Ashby Parva Village Hall - currently undergoing major restoration and refurbishment over a 4 yr period
 - Willoughby Waterleys Village Hall - has recently been refurbished and the facilities are considered to be good
 - Claybrooke Magna Village Hall - recent improvements to disabled toilets, floors, heating and storage, thanks to fund raising and grants
 - Belgrave Village Hall, North Kilworth - in the process of applying for grants having just completed a business plan

Summary

- 14.52 The existing undersupply of sports halls within the district indicates that the provision of additional sports hall space should be a priority. This was supported by consultation. Partnership approaches and agreements with local schools could address this shortfall. Policies in the existing local plan support both partnerships with school, and public use of private recreation facilities. Population growth and potential increases in participation may result in increased levels of demand in future years.
- 14.53 Existing swimming provision marginally exceeds demand, hence there is no immediate need (or future need based on current participation rates) for additional facilities. The new Lutterworth Pool will enhance the quality of the existing provision within Harborough.
- 14.54 There is an undersupply of health and fitness provision within the district, equivalent to over 100 stations. The new Lutterworth Leisure Centre will address much of this undersupply, however additional health and fitness facilities within the district are also needed.
- 14.55 The village halls have an important role to play in the provision of leisure and recreation facilities within the district. It is important that this community provision is maintained and updated. This is supported by policies in the existing local plan that protect village halls and community recreation facilities.

Quality

- 15.1 Previous research on open spaces undertaken by various organisations suggests that what concerns most users and deters non-users of parks and open spaces are resource related issues, with the general condition and quality of open spaces ranking very highly.
- 15.2 Design is often a key part in tackling the quality factors and consequently barriers to use of urban green spaces.

Wider impact of quality

- 15.3 High quality open spaces are essential to improving the social, economic and cultural characteristics of priority areas. The visibility of open spaces and the importance accorded to them by local residents makes them essential to achieving other objectives. They are often the obvious key indicators of the state of the area in which they are located.
- 15.4 The condition of open spaces can often be the vital ingredient to successfully regenerating priority and deprived areas, improving townscapes and creating a sense of place for the local community.
- 15.5 Quality of open space is vital in determining the value attached to an open space site, and the likely use of the site.
- 15.6 Local standards should include the setting of qualitative standards for open space, providing a vision and benchmark for the development of future and existing open spaces.

Local context

- 15.7 The 2003/ 2004 Best Value Performance Plan outlines a number of visions for 2010, including a vision for a cleaner healthier environment where:
- “Pollution of the air is lower and roads are less congested. Households and businesses produce less waste and a greater percentage is recycled. Flooding risks are lower and local development takes great account of local environmental needs. The diversity of natural habitats and wildlife is encouraged and enhanced. There is greater awareness of environmental and energy conservation issues. Organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors are following good environmental policies and practice.”
- 15.8 The plan states that a number of activities are key to delivering the vision, including:
- Open spaces and amenity areas
 - Cemeteries and Burial Grounds
 - Closed Churchyards
 - Public conveniences
 - Street cleaning
 - Grounds maintenance.

15.9 Improving the quality of open space in the district will be key in achieving the vision of a cleaner and healthier environment by 2010.

15.10 The importance placed on improving the quality of open spaces by the Council is evident through:

- the victory of Market Harborough in the East Midlands In Bloom Competition
- the target outlined in the Best Value Performance Plan of implementing the dogs (fouling of land) Act 1996 – aimed at reducing the amount of dog fouling, which will improve the quality of open space
- improve the cleanliness of all streets and open spaces within the district, and the level of satisfaction of Parish Councils – this will be measured by the development of a new performance indicator.
- a number of achievements relating to improving the quality of open space are highlighted in the plan, including:
 - the official opening of Lutterworth Country Park
 - £15,000 of new play equipment for Roman Way, plus new equipment at Welland park, Goodwood Close and Burford Green
 - work is completed on the Millennium Mile.

15.11 In addition, further improvements to the quality of open spaces within the district are planned:

- Develop a new play area at Gores Lane / Goodwood Close – now completed
- Review Northampton Road Cemetery Provision
- Produce a 10 year development plan for Welland Park
- Undertake major improvements to play areas.

15.12 Consultation indicated that quality of open spaces is highly important in determining the use of open space and the value placed upon specific sites.

Assessment by quality factors

15.13 Many of the above plans involve the improvement of the quality of open spaces within the district.

15.14 Any assessment of ‘quality’ with regards to open space requires some form of scoring system against clear assessment factors. The overall aim should be to identify:

- areas of the district suffering in quality and therefore of priority importance
- key quality factors that need to be improved.

15.15 As analysed within each open space type section, every open space site within the district, where possible, has been given a quality rating. More specifically though each parish and ward area has been assessed against specific key quality factors. Parish councillors were asked to give overall quality ratings for all open spaces within

their parish. It is important to note that these ratings are subjective. The factors were grouped under the headings of:

- Cleanliness and Maintenance
- Security and Safety
- Vegetation
- Ancillary Accommodation.

15.16 The following analysis is by analysis-area, analysing the key quality factors that are good or poor and therefore identifying the key problems and issues with regards to general quality in each area.

Quality analysis - overall

15.17 34% of parish councillors who responded said that they had received complaints about the quality of open spaces within their parish and 36% indicated that residents were keen to see improvements. 35% of those parishes that responded provided examples of good or bad practice in terms of quality within their parish.

15.18 53% of respondents rated the overall quality of open spaces as good or very good and only 7% poor or very poor indicating that in general, quality of open spaces is relatively high.

15.19 Dog fouling (34%), parking (57%) and toilets within open spaces (75%) are the worst rated quality factors within Harborough district.

15.20 Other themes emerging include:

- vandalism and graffiti are not considered to be a major problem as 77% said that the situation was good or very good
- litter is of some concern with 22% of responses poor or very poor
- the maintenance and management of open space sites is generally well regarded with 66% rating it as good or very good
- planted areas and grassed areas were the among the best rated quality factors with minimal responses indicated as poor or very poor and 61% and 69% as good or very good
- information and signage could be better with 63% rating this as average or below.

Analysis Area 1 – Market Harborough and Lubenham

15.21 This sub-area follows similar concerns to the overall analysis in that the worst rated factors include litter, dog fouling and parking.

15.22 Parking was considered to be the biggest problem at open space sites with 60% rating this as average or below. Unlike the overall analysis a large proportion, 80% regarded information and signage in this area to be good or very good.

- 15.23 Overall this analysis area has the highest overall quality rating with 67% rating this as good.

Analysis Area 2 – North East Rural

- 15.24 Again the main concerns include dog fouling (31% as poor or very poor) and parking within open spaces (63%).
- 15.25 Both the quality of equipment (29% poor or very poor) and signage and information (33%) could also be improved.
- 15.26 Vandalism and graffiti are not considered a problem in this area with 88% rating the situation as good or very good and only 1 of 32 parishes in this region indicating a negative response.

Analysis Area 3 – Kibworth, Fleckney and Central

- 15.27 Dog fouling was the worst factor in this area with 58% of responses rating as poor or very poor. Litter is also the common problem with 40% rating as poor and 33% believing the provision of litter bins to be very poor.
- 15.28 Planted and grassed areas are well rated with 89% of responses indicating them to be good or very good and there were no negative responses for either.

Analysis Area 4 – Western Area (Lutterworth, Broughton Astley)

- 15.29 Only 29% of responses rated the overall quality of open space as good or above. The majority believe open space in the area to be average. 57% believe litter to be average or below this figure was even higher for dog fouling, 71%.
- 15.30 The more positive ratings were planted areas (50% as good), grass areas (40% as good), maintenance and management (47% as good) and the lack of vandalism and graffiti (67% as good or very good).

Analysis Area 5 – Kibworth, Fleckney and Central

- 15.31 This was the best rated analysis area in terms of cleanliness and maintenance with 80% rating this as good or very good. In terms of the overall quality rating for open space there were no negative responses.
- 15.32 Unlike other areas there were some responses indicating a positive rating regarding litter problems, 50% rate the situation as good or very good and there were no negative responses.
- 15.33 Overall, dog fouling (40% responses as poor or very poor), noise (30%), and equipment within open spaces (43%) are the worst rated quality factors within the area.
- 15.34 Vandalism and graffiti was a very positive factor with 78% of responses rated as good or very good. 80% rated maintenance and management as good or very good.

Determining quality standards

- 15.35 Quality standards for each type of open space should be derived from an analysis of the quality issues within the audit and in light of community views.

15.36 There are no universal set standards for open space types. However the Green Flag award scheme set up by the Civic Trust does provide some guidance under the following headings:

- welcoming place
- healthy, safe and secure place
- clean and well-maintained place
- sustainability
- conservation and heritage
- community involvement
- marketing

15.37 This Green Flag scheme is the most advanced national model for assessing the qualities that attract people to parks and green spaces.

Aspiring to specific standards

15.38 The qualities identified in local standards should be recognised and accepted by the local community.

15.39 Quality standards should:

- enable good designs to create ‘places from spaces’ i.e. a well designed open space should encourage usage and will create a sense of well-being in the community
- enable the expectations of the local community to be met
- provide a measurable vision for those existing open spaces that are low quality which if achieved would give these poor spaces a new lease of life and enable them to serve the needs of the local community
- help to determine which existing open spaces require enhancement
- encompass management and maintenance issues.

15.40 PPG17 recommends that **quality standards should not be absolute measures but reasonable aspirations and benchmarks** upon which to measure the quality of any existing open space in order to determine the need for enhancement.

15.41 The companion guide ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities’ also states that any assessment of quality or nature of open spaces or sport and recreation facilities needs a clear set of benchmarks relating to stated standards and ideally some form of scoring system.

15.42 In developing this study we have developed a matrix which outlines our interpretation of ratings from “very good” to poor, for each of the quality factors identified.

15.43 This matrix of standards covers the main categories of cleanliness and maintenance, security and safety, vegetation and ancillary accommodation. The matrix is provided in Appendix I.

15.44 This analysis and quality vision could be developed into an assessment mechanism against which to assess future open space sites within Harborough District Council.

A quality vision

15.45 In addition to commenting on current problems with open space in the parish, for example dog fouling and parking, parish clerks were asked to identify what improvements they would like to see to open spaces within their parish. This begins to illustrate what factors are perceived to be important in a quality open space, and contributes towards the development of a vision for open spaces in the future within Harborough District.

15.46 Those factors identified by Parish Clerks as potential improvements in the quality of their sites include:

- no dog fouling – provision of dog litter bins
- presence of signing
- provision of litter bins
- improvements to the security of sites and development of sufficient but appropriate lighting
- suitable parking
- drainage for sports pitches
- provision of play equipment
- reduction of vandalism.

15.47 These factors represent the start of a vision for an ideal open space within Harborough DC.

15.48 In addition, clerks were asked to indicate whether there were any open space sites which they would consider to be good practice or bad practice within their parish. Those highlighted as good practice and the reasons why are outlined in table 15.1 below:

Table 15.1 Good practice open space sites

Parish	Site	Reasons
Swinford	Childrens Play Area	
Stonton Wyville	Childrens Play Area	It is well used and well maintained
South Kilworth	Childrens Play Area and Playing Field	Well designed. Safety features. Well used. Good village usage.
Wiston cum Newton Harcourt	Countryside stewardship wistow estate site	Good access and well maintained. Very well used.

SECTION 15 – QUALITY

Lutterworth	Coventry Road Recreation Ground	Facilities provided for all age groups. Dog/litter bins provided and grounds maintenance carry out daily checks and litter collection.
East Norton	Churchyard	Maintained with pride by volunteers.
Ullesthorpe	Disused Railway	Tree planting.
Claybrooke Parva	Green Lane	Reclamation of space that had fallen into disuse.
Kibworth Harcourt	Jubilee Green Cemetery	High standard of care and maintenance.
Gilmorton	Pavilion and playing fields	Well used facility. Well maintained. Used regularly for functions.
Leire	Playing field and enclosed childrens area and adjacent Jubilee Walk and nature reserve	
Hallaton	The Cross	Well kept and mown, maintained etc...
Great Bowden	Village Greens	Maintained by Parish Council.
Lowesby	Village Green and Cricket Path	Very well maintained.
Claybrooke Magna	Village Green and Playground	Well maintained, attractive and designed. Good range of equipment and well maintained.
Fleckney	Village Hall	Good all round facilities for group use. Located near centre of Village.
Misterton with Walcote	Walcote School Allotments	Well used and maintained.
Rolleston	Well maintained farmland	Large number of footpaths.
East Langton	Cricket Club	Well drained and well used.
Bitteswell	Cemetery	Joint action between Parish Council and Church.
North Kilworth	Millennium Green	Accessible, well throughout and well used - being adjacent to car park and Village Hall
Medbourne	The Hollow	Good design and planting scheme and encouragement of wildlife, well maintained and used.

SECTION 15 – QUALITY

Billesdon	Village Green and Billesdon Woodland and Lake	Overhauled and enhanced as a millennium project. Under development to promote bio-diversity.
Cotesbach	Village Pond	A new initiative in the village. Further work in the year to improve by planting

15.49 The main reason why sites were identified as examples of bad practice within the district was they are considered to be overgrown and appear untidy. The level of maintenance should therefore also be considered to be important in the production of a quality benchmarking standard for Harborough DC.

15.50 Those sites which were considered to be examples of bad practice are highlighted in table 15.2 below.

Table 15.2 – Bad practice open space sites

Parish	Site	Reasons
Claybrooke Magna	Fosseway and Milestone Hollow	Both very overgrown.
Kimcote and Walton	Gravel Hole	Previous answer.
Fleckney	Leicester Road	Facilities not kept pace with needs of Village. Youth Centre inadequate and security poor.
Scraptoft	Local Nature Reserve	Overgrown. Shooting ground. Little maintenance.
Gilmorton	Recreation Ground	Out-dated play equipment. No access. Two, well used and maintained tennis courts.
Great Bowden	Recreation Ground	Lacks car parking, area poorly maintained and Parish Council need to raise adequate funds.
Ullesthorpe	Ullesthorpe Recreation Field	Needs money spending on it.
South Kilworth	Village Green	Roads by and across needs alterations and enhancement to make facility able to be used on regular basis.
Stoughton	Paddock	Centre of Village needs to be kept tidy - plus hedge facing Gaulby Lane cut back.
Billesdon	Village close	Area generally looks unkept.
Cotesbach	Footpaths and bridleways	Often ploughed up and not re-instated. Some paths blocked.

SECTION 15 – QUALITY

15.51 Taking into account comments received during consultation regarding aspirations for a quality open space, and data received from Parish Councils throughout the process, it is recommended that a quality standard for Harborough DC could include:

“a clean, litter and dog fouling free area that is well-lit and provides a level of varied vegetation and biodiversity, including well-kept grass and other natural features where suitable. The site should be regularly maintained and have suitable parking in close proximity where appropriate. “

15.52 This could be used as a measurement to assess where open space sites are now and what improvements could be made in the future. It is also useful to make comparisons to other good quality sites in other Local Authorities.

15.53 Further public consultation should be undertaken prior to the adaptation of a quality standard in order to ascertain the public perception of an ideal open space from a cross section of residents across Harborough District.

Accessibility

- 16.1 Without accessibility for the public, the provision of good quality open space sites is of little benefit to the community. Limited accessibility greatly reduces the use of a site, and reduces the value of sites to the community. High quality sites are of little value to the community if accessibility is low.
- 16.2 Recent government research suggests that issues such as access for the disabled and elderly may contribute to the low levels of engagement of urban green spaces. With the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 coming into force in 2004 the accessibility of open spaces for the disabled will become fundamentally important over the next 5 years.

Local context

- 16.3 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) developed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister includes a services domain – this takes into account the accessibility of services for local residents within each ward, and within the district as a whole.
- 16.4 There are five wards in Harborough which are amongst the most 10% of deprived wards in the country in relation to the accessibility of services.
- 16.5 Consultation has indicated that public transport is perceived to be a major issue within the district of Harborough. A number of comments were received regarding this issue, particularly in the Western area – Broughton Astley and Lutterworth area of the district. Poor public transport appears to be particularly inhibitive for young people, and prevents them from a greater use of open space. Furthermore, restricted levels of public transport lead to a greater reliance on the car.
- 16.6 The playing pitch strategy also refers to this restricted transport network and the resulting difficulties in accessing some sites, stating that while there is an oversupply of pitches within the district, there are difficulties in accessing a number of the more rural pitches, hence pitches are not as well used as they could be.
- 16.7 The Harborough Cultural Strategy On Street Survey indicated that one of the two main factors influencing how frequently people participate in cultural activities is the distance i.e. the accessibility of facilities. In addition, the Urban Parks, Play Areas and Green Spaces Report (DTLR 2002) highlights the importance of enhancing accessibility to encourage the elderly and less mobile to use open spaces more frequently.
- 16.8 The Harborough Cultural Strategy, jointly developed by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Cultural Partnership, sets out a number of visions for 2010, including the aim to ensure that residents have direct use of facilities within their own locality or good access to them elsewhere.
- 16.9 Accessibility issues are therefore of priority importance at present within the district of Harborough.

Assessment by accessibility factors

- 16.10 Accessibility is a key assessment of open space sites. Without accessibility for the public, the provision of good quality or good quantity of open space sites would be of very limited value.

SECTION 16 – ACCESSIBILITY

16.11 The overall aim of any accessibility assessment should be to identify:

- how accessible sites are
- areas of the district suffering in accessibility and therefore of priority importance
- key accessibility factors that need to be improved.

16.12 As analysed within each open space type section, every open space site within the district where possible has been given an accessibility rating. More specifically though, each parish and ward area has been assessed against specific key accessibility factors. Parish councillors were asked to give overall accessibility ratings for all open spaces within their parish.

16.13 The following assessment is by analysis area, studying the key accessibility factors that are good or poor, therefore identifying the key problems and issues with regards to accessibility in each area of the district.

Overall accessibility analysis

16.14 Only 20% of parish councillors who responded indicated that residents within their parish had concerns or complaints regarding the accessibility of open space sites. 25% of responding parishes provided examples of good or bad practice in terms of access to sites within their parish.

16.15 54% of respondents rated overall accessibility in Harborough as good or very good, and only 10% considered it to be poor or very poor. This indicates that overall, accessibility of open space sites is not perceived to be a fundamental problem.

16.16 89% of respondents rate the value for money of sites as good or very good.

16.17 The main area of concern which was also raised frequently in consultation is the provision of public transport to open space sites, with 70% rating this as poor or very poor.

16.18 Other findings include:

- opening times are considered good or very good by 82% of respondents and there were no negative responses
- the walking distance to open spaces is a highly rated factor with 85% considering this to be good or very good
- information and promotion of sites could be improved with 60% regarding this as average or below.

Analysis Area 1 – Market Harborough and Lubenham

- the overall accessibility in this analysis area is predominantly rated as good (80%). No respondents rated accessibility as poor overall
- information and promotion is the main area in need of improvement. Entrance to sites was also raised as an area for improvement within this sub area
- accessibility by walking and cycleways were the most highly rated factors, receiving no ratings of poor.

Analysis Area 2 – North East Rural

- there were no positive ratings for the provision of public transport and 94% deem this to be poor or very poor
- further areas of improvement are the promotion and information of open space sites and provision of cycleways
- cost and value for money were the highest rated accessibility factors.

Analysis Area 3 – Kibworth, Fleckney and Central

- like analysis areas 1 and 2, the cost and overall value for money of open space sites is the most highly rated accessibility factor
- the lack of cycleways is considered the biggest problem with 86% rating current provision as very poor
- further areas of concern mirror those in other areas – the lack of public transport (76% very poor), promotion and information and signage of open space sites. Again, consideration should be given into the improvement of these accessibility factors.

Analysis Area 4 – Western Area (Lutterworth/Broughton Astley)

- overall, accessibility in the Western area is considered to be average
- as in the other analysis areas, public transport, signage and information and promotion received poor ratings
- provision of cycleways was also considered to be relatively poor. These areas should be prioritised for improvement
- opening times was the highest rated accessibility factor. Cost and value for money was also rated highly, alongside distance from the majority of the population of the parish.

Analysis Area 5 – Peatling and Bosworth

- on the whole, accessibility ratings were relatively good for Peatling and Bosworth with only 11% providing negative responses
- the issue of poor public transport to open space sites was again evident in this area
- value for money and opening times are the most highly valued accessibility factors. Unlike other areas responses on information and signage were in general positive.

An accessibility vision

- 16.19 In addition to commenting on issues and examples where the accessibility of sites is currently a problem within the parish, clerks were asked to identify what improvements they would like to see to open spaces within their locality. This begins to illustrate what features are perceived to lead to an accessible open space, and

SECTION 16 – ACCESSIBILITY

contributes towards the development of a vision for accessible open spaces in the future within Harborough.

16.20 Those factors identified by Parish Clerks as potential improvements in the accessibility of their sites include:

- increases in the level of signage – particularly in rural villages
- improvements in the public transport network
- improvements in the accessibility of open space sites for wheelchair and disabled users
- extended opening hours (facilitated by the installation of lighting and security)
- the development of infrastructure within larger open space sites, such as Lutterworth Country Park.

16.21 These factors represent the start of a vision for the ideal accessible open space within Harborough DC.

16.22 In addition, clerks were asked to indicate whether there were any open space sites which they would consider to be good or bad examples of accessibility within their parish. Those highlighted as good practice, and the reasons why are outlined in table 16.1 below:

Table 16.1 Good Practice Sites

Parish	Site	Reasons
Gilmorton	Church and Churchyard.	Good access from two sides. Paths throughout.
Kibworth Harcourt	Jubilee Green Cemetery.	Within expected travel time
Laughton	Public rights of way and Village Green.	Well used and very accessible.
Shearsby	Shearsby Village Green.	Available to all, at all times, for permitted use as decided by Parish meeting.
Welham	St Andrews Church.	A level site with double doors at the entrance
Cranoe	St Michaels and All Angels.	
Claybrooke Magna	Village Green.	Good access and maintained to a high standard.
Wiston cum Newton Harcourt	Wistow Estate Countryside Stewardship.	Several access points.
Bitteswell	Village Greens.	Access ramps provided for prams, wheelchairs.
Medbourne	Playground.	Flat easy access for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
Billesdon	Woodland and Lake site.	Scheme designed with disabled access included.

16.23 The main reason why sites were identified as examples of bad practice within the district was they are considered to be inaccessible for wheelchairs. Many parishes were conscious that their open space sites are not compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Table 16.2 –Bad practice sites

Parish	Site	Reasons
Lutterworth	Country Park	Needs infrastructure.
Thurnby and Bushby	Manor Field Park	Entrance is hidden. No signs to entrance. No notices. Car park abused for illegal purposes.
Lowesby	Midshires Way	Sometimes becomes very deep in mud.
Gilmorton	Recreation Ground	Poor access to play equipment limits use
Little Stretton	Sence Walk Play area	Poor maintenance of entrances and walk areas. Drainage problems, uneven grass play area, poor play equipment.
Tur Langton	St Andrews	Wheelchair access.
Billesdon	Play area	Originally planned with no concern for disabled access.

16.24 Taking into account comments received during consultation regarding aspirations for an accessible open space, and data received from Parish Councils throughout the process, it is recommended that future sites for Harborough should

- take into account the requirements of the disabled
- have good signage
- larger sites should be easily access through public transport, or a network of footpaths / cycleways.

16.25 These features could form the start of a measurement to assess where open space sites are now and what improvements could be made in the future. It is also useful to make comparisons to other good sites in other Local Authorities.

Determining accessibility standards

16.26 Accessibility standards for each type of open space should be derived from an analysis of the accessibility issues and assessment within the audit and in light of community views.

Distance thresholds and catchments

16.27 Distance thresholds (i.e. the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport) are a very useful planning tool especially when used in association with a Geographical Information System (GIS).

- 16.28 PPG17 encourages that any new open space sites or enhancement of existing sites should ensure accessibility by environmentally friendly forms of transport such as walking, cycling and by public transport. There is a real desire to move away from reliability on the car.
- 16.29 It should be noted that there may be justifiable reasons to set higher or lower thresholds in different areas e.g. a higher threshold may be set if there is no realistic possibility of sufficient new provision to enable a lower threshold to be achievable. Therefore distance thresholds that are set should be realistic as well as encouraging a comprehensive provision of accessible open space across the district. There may also be a case for setting varying standards for urban and rural areas.
- 16.30 There are many varying factors that influence how far people are willing to travel to an open space type. An initial indication of how far people are willing to travel was investigated during consultation for this needs assessment, and has been discussed for each open space type in previous sections, and recommendations for an accessibility standard suggested.

Aspiring to specific standards

- 16.31 Attempts to set specific accessibility standards, identify effective catchments of sites and set distance thresholds for each type of open space in detail would require comprehensive on-site community consultation over a period of time during which the open spaces were used in order to get a random sample of typical users of sites across the district. e.g. during the summer.
- 16.32 In setting accessibility standards to aspire to, these standards should be recognised and accepted by the local community. Regular surveys of users can then be used to confirm whether the accessibility standards are being met. Similar to the quality standards described in section 15, where possible, accessibility standards should:
- enable good designs to encourage usage by appropriate forms of transport
 - enable expectations of the local community to be met
 - provide a measurable vision for those open spaces that are rated as poor or very poor and if achieved, would give these poor spaces a new lease of life and enable them to serve the needs of the local community.
- 16.33 In developing this study a set of accessibility standards was used for each of the ratings used from 'Very Good to Very Poor' for all open space types. These should not be seen as absolute measures but reasonable aspirations and benchmarks upon which to measure the accessibility of any existing open space in order to determine the need for enhancement. These cover the main categories of entrance and signage, distance and catchments, cost, transport and access routes. This matrix is provided in Appendix J.
- 16.34 The primary method of setting an accessibility standard is through the use of catchment areas, as discussed within each of the individual open space type sections. This offers an opportunity to see which areas are deficient in accessible facilities for each open space type.
- 16.35 Suggested recommendations (outlined in each of the specific sections) based on the results of consultation for this study are illustrated in table 16.3 overleaf. It is suggested that further detailed public consultation is undertaken prior to the formal adoption of accessibility standards for the district.

SECTION 16 – ACCESSIBILITY

16.36 The development of standards will enable effective planning and comparisons with other areas in future years.

Table 16.3 Accessibility Catchment Summary

Open Space Type	Mode of Transport	Members		Catchment Areas	
		75%	General Consensus	Recommended Travel Time	Estimated equivalent distance
Parks and Gardens	Walk	20 minutes		10 minute drivetime	4km
	Cycle		20 minutes		
	Bus				
	Car	Between 5 and 10 minutes	15 minutes		
Natural Open Spaces	Walk	20 minutes		20 minute walk	1.6km
	Cycle				
	Bus				
	Car	5 minutes	15 - 20 minutes		
Green Corridors	Walk	20 minutes		20 minute walk	1.6km
	Cycle				
	Bus				
	Car				
Amenity Green Space	Walk	10 - 15 minutes	5 minutes	10 minute walk	800m
	Cycle				
	Bus				
	Car				
Play Spaces for Children	Walk	10 minutes	5 minutes	5 - 10 minute walk	400m - 800m
	Cycle				
	Bus				
	Car				
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Walk	15 minutes		10 - 15 minute drive	4 - 6km
	Cycle		20 minutes		
	Bus				
	Car	10 minutes	15 minutes		
Allotments	Walk	10 minutes		5 - 10 minute drive	2 - 4km
	Cycle				
	Bus				
	Car	5-10 minutes			
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Walk	15 minutes		10 minute drive	4km
	Cycle				
	Bus				
	Car	5 minutes			
Civic Spaces	Walk	20 minutes		10 minute drive	4km
	Cycle				
	Bus				
	Car	10 minutes			

Planning overview

- 17.1 The Donaldsons Planning, Regeneration and Compensation team was appointed, in association with PMP, to advise on the implications for the development of planning policies on open space, sport and recreation within the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) and on recommendations for securing Section 106 developer contributions.
- 17.2 This section provides a summary of the findings. The full 'Planning Overview' report can be found in Appendix K.
- 17.3 The intention of this planning overview is to provide initial advice and to scope the key planning issues and respond to the following points:
- comment on existing Unitary Deposit Plan (UDP) policy and the emerging Local Development Framework;
 - review the Urban Capacity Study and outline population projections to 2016; and
 - analyse and comment on Open Space Supplementary Planning Guidance produced by other Local Authorities.

Key planning policy framework

- 17.4 The companion guide to PPG17 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' illustrates 5 steps which should be addressed when undertaking open space, sport and recreation assessments and audits. Step 5 provides guidance as to drafting planning policies. When considering planning policies, the Companion Guide suggests that four strategic options should be identified:
1. existing provision to be protected;
 2. existing provision to be enhanced;
 3. areas in which new provision is required; and
 4. opportunities for new, enhanced or relocated provision.

The Companion Guide also suggests a fifth component – land or facilities which are surplus to requirements and therefore no longer needed.

- 17.5 Turning to drafting policy, the Companion Guide suggests that policy should:
- protect or enhance existing open spaces or sport and recreational facilities of value (or potential value) to the local community;
 - re-locate poorly located but necessary open spaces or sport and recreation facilities;
 - address circumstances in which the planning authority may allow the redevelopment of an existing open space or sport and recreation facility;
 - require new provision to fill identified gaps in existing provision; and
 - address additional on-site or off-site provision as a consequence of new developments, together with how the authority will assess any related commuted maintenance or establishment sums.

Existing and Emerging Policy

- 17.6 The government's Planning and Compulsory Bill has now completed its passage through the Palace of Westminster and received Royal Assent on 13 May 2004. The Act will come into force via a commencement order two months after Royal Assent. In other words, the legislation will formally commence in mid-July.
- 17.7 The Bill sets out to reform the planning system and includes the introduction of overarching Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) which will consist of a portfolio of Local Development Documents (LDDs). There will be three types of LDDs, namely, Development Plan Documents (DPDs) to replace local plans and unitary development plans, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to replace SPGs and Statements of Community Involvement (SCIs). Local Authorities will also need to produce Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs).
- 17.8 Under the new Act, therefore, Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) will replace the existing system of Local, Structure and Unitary Development Plans. Local authorities are required to have adopted LDFs in place three years after commencement of the Act.
- 17.9 Harborough District Council has prepared a draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out what documents the Council is proposing to produce and when. The LDS also indicates at what stage the public can be expected to be involved in the planning process.
- 17.10 The LDS sets out those policies of the adopted Local Plan that will be 'saved' and therefore will still form part of the development plan for the area over the next 3 years. The Council has indicated that initially, it is intended that all the policies within the adopted Harborough District Local Plan (1991 – 2006) will be saved until its expiry in March 2006. The Council has also indicated that as the new LDDs are produced, the LDS will be revised to indicate which policies in the existing plan have been superseded by new policies contained within LDDs.
- 17.11 It is understood that the Council has resolved that the following documents will be prepared as part of the LDF over the next 3 years:
- Statement of Community Involvement;
 - Core Strategy Development Plan Document;
 - Housing Development Plan Document;
 - Proposals Map; and
 - Annual Monitoring Report.
- 17.12 The Council has indicated that existing SPG which is cross-referenced to policy within the adopted Local Plan will be retained until the plan expires in 2006 or such documents are reviewed under the new arrangements. The Council has advised that all existing SPG documents have been subject to public consultation and adoption by the Council. It is important to note that these documents will continue to constitute a 'material consideration' in

planning decisions if they are cross-referenced to a policy within the adopted Local plan and if comprehensive consultation has been undertaken, as set out within the SCI in relation to SPD.

17.13 The analysis of existing and emerging policy concluded that:

- consideration should be given to an early review of the adopted SPG with a view to producing a revised SPD which encompasses aspects from the adopted SPD together with current internal documents
- within the emerging planning system, strategic open space policy should be contained within the core strategy of the DPD
- within the emerging planning system, a more detailed policy which addresses open space and new residential development should be contained within the housing DPD
- AAPs will contain focused area assessments in which more specific local requirements may be set
- SPDs provide more detailed policy requirement and ensure a clear framework for developers. SPDs have added flexibility and allow for regular updates and amendments
- in areas of acute deficiency or opportunity and where the private sector is unlikely to be harnessed (through development or section 106) a more proactive approach towards asset disposal should be considered.

Urban Capacity Studies and Outline Population Projections

17.14 Urban Capacity Studies assess supply of housing land and the ability of a district to meet identified housing needs.

17.15 The Harborough Urban Capacity Study identifies the total potential future supply of new housing that is likely to be provided from within the main towns and other significant settlements of the District.

17.16 The number of new dwellings that need to be provided within the District over the period 2006 – 2016 will be determined in the emerging Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan. The emerging plan states that 7,550 new homes are required in Harborough District between 1996 and 2016.

17.17 The Council has indicated that between 1996 – 2003, 3808 houses have already been built. This leaves a strategic requirement of 3,742 houses between 2003 – 2016. Using the ‘worst case’ scenario under the urban capacity study, 3,946 dwellings can be accommodated within the urban area over the period 2003 – 2016.

17.18 The key issues and themes emerging from the study of the Urban Capacity study and outline population projections are:

- population projections indicate a steady, small increase in population growth within the District between 2001 and 2016.
- policy at a strategic level does not need to take into account anticipated sharp increases in housing provision.

Review of open space guidance

- 17.19 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is used to show how policies will be put into practice; gives greater detail on policies and proposals than would be appropriate in the Plan and anticipates guidance, which may be included in a future review of the Plan.
- 17.20 To date, the Government has not provided any statutory procedures for the preparation and adoption of SPG. This will change with the introduction of new planning legislation and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
- 17.21 A review of Leicester City Council's 'Open Space Provision in New Residential Development' (April 2003) and Cambridge City Council's 'Open Space Standards: Guidance for Interpretation and Implementation' (July 2002) has been undertaken. The Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council's 'Recreational Open Space Provision and Commuted Payments' (February 2001) has also been reviewed. These documents are adopted SPG.
- 17.22 A review has also been undertaken of key guidance produced by both Harrogate Borough Council 'Provision of Open Space in Connection with New Housing Development' (June 2003) and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council 'Play and Open Space Guide' (October 2002).
- 17.23 Through the analysis of existing open space guidance, it can be concluded that:
- all new housing developments (even single dwelling developments) should contribute towards open space provision;
 - local standards should be set for different open space typologies
 - consideration should be given to the application of different local standards for urban and rural locations and between areas of over provision and under provision
 - consideration should be given to providing formulas and worked examples within SPD to show the scale of off-site financial contributions;
 - if financial contributions are insufficient to provide new recreation space beyond the ability of individual developments, special area based open space funds should be considered to contribute towards district wide projects. A list of projects and estimated costs contained within the SPD, which can be regularly updated, should be considered.

Resourcing open space

- 18.1 There are always improvements, enhancements and new provisions that could be made to improve the network of open space across the district. However many would require funding of some format.
- 18.2 Identified priorities can be resourced in a number of ways. Initially it may be necessary to allocate funding from within existing budgets for open spaces. This funding will be used to support other funding that is available from external sources, much of which will come from governmental organisations or quangos which require match-funding from local authorities.

- 18.3 Potential sources of income are outlined below:

Sale of Council land

- 18.4 Generating and reinvesting resources obtained from land which is surplus to requirements is a principle that has been successfully adopted in the London Borough of Bromley, and by Glasgow City Council (through its Parks and Opens Spaces Strategy).
- 18.5 This is, however, likely to be a long process, and ultimately may prove difficult to achieve
- 18.6 If considered feasible at some future stage, reinvestment would:
- secure political credibility for the sale of land
 - provide sufficient funding to carry out significant rather than purely minor open space improvements. It should, however, be realised that the process may take two/three years to introduce, owing to planning, legal and other restrictions which could delay its introduction
 - also, this mechanism is likely to be create some public controversy and its potential success depends on how the process and sale of land is sold to the public in terms of benefits and outcomes.

Section 106 planning agreements

- 18.7 In particular, Section 106 agreements can be used to achieve environmental improvements. Once a Strategy framework has been established, the process of obtaining these improvements will be enhanced because they can be used to achieve specific purposes, e.g:
- by opening linear route ways to connect green spaces
 - providing walking and cycling routes
 - obtaining open space in areas of deficiency
 - funding open space improvements
 - there are maintenance considerations to be taken into account; ie significant costs may arise, particularly if new open space is acquired.
 - it may therefore be necessary to obtain an endowment fund wherever possible to cover these ongoing costs.

- it should of course be noted that such Agreements have to meet the test of Circular 1/97, and “Developers should not be expected to pay for facilities which are needed solely in order to resolve existing deficiencies”
- some councils have used part of the contributions towards revenue ‘Development Officer’ posts; e.g. in N Nottinghamshire.

Use of redundant buildings

- 18.8 Sympathetic use of redundant facilities for leisure and recreational purposes is also a possibility. This could include the establishment of small commercial sports facilities (e.g. tennis) in parks. Another example could be the use of a redundant sports pavilion as a children’s crèche or nursery.
- 18.9 However there appear to be few (if any) redundant buildings within Harborough District Council at present. This is not an issue that has been raised through the consultation process.

Business funding/sponsorships

- 18.10 Examples from other boroughs including sponsorship of Cardiff City Council’s events and festivals programme, and the Body Shop Playground Project in Auchinlea Park, Glasgow.

Partnership arrangements with the voluntary sector

- 18.11 This could include the formation of further parks “Friends” groups. An example is that of Rossmere Park, Hartlepool, where the community was encouraged to take ownership. The park was promoted and became heavily-used, attracting investment from funding bodies. The Harborough in Bloom project has in the region of 30 volunteers for the main planting project in early summer, and for on-going maintenance. It is a good example of a sustainable project supported by the local community.

Lottery funding

- 18.12 This could include the Heritage Fund if works are carried out which are of outstanding interest and importance to the national heritage. Funding is provided for whole-park projects, the conservation of park features or park activities. Grants are available from £50,000 to £5 million for a period of up to five years. Projects must be designed to involve all stakeholders, must demonstrate sustainability, and must demonstrate the heritage value of the park in question.

Review of pricing

- 18.13 This needs to cover all charges where a significant income is obtained, including outdoor sports, allotments and burials. The review needs to consider:
- charges for similar provision in other local authorities
 - the quality of provision
 - whether the service can be improved to justify a price increase
 - the extent to which the market will bear any future increase

- whether differential pricing can be used to encourage off-peak usage
- concessions for minority groups, or those which the Council particularly wishes to encourage
- pricing at a level which does not deny access
- lower and/or more favourable charges for Harborough residents.

Living spaces

18.14 The “Living Spaces” grant scheme was launched in May 2003, and covers schemes with a value of £1,000 to £100,000. It may be suitable for small local parks, and is open to existing neighbourhood groups. The scheme supports:

- improving local parks
- creating or improving pocket parks or community gardens
- creating or improving play or seating areas
- cleaning up neglected residential land
- restoring village greens
- carrying out planting schemes on estates or verges
- creating or improving nature areas or city farms
- restoring local cemeteries
- restoring paths, gateways, ponds or boundaries.

The “People’s Places” Scheme

18.15 The “People’s Places” scheme runs until the year 2006, and is administered by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. It is provided for local community groups, and is for the transformation of derelict, underused or unsightly land or buildings. The scope of grant available is for schemes with a value of £3,000 to £10,000.

The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

- 18.16 The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme was revised in April 2003, and allows registered landfill operators to contribute 6.5% of their annual landfill tax liability to environmental bodies approved by the organisation ENTRUST.
- 18.17 The scheme must be used for social, environmental and community based projects complying with specific “approved objects.” These objects are the provision and maintenance of public amenity, and restoration and repair of buildings open to the public with historical or architectural significance.
- 18.18 The project must be within 10 miles of a landfill/extraction operation. Note however that District Councils cannot apply.

Local Heritage Initiatives

18.19 Local Heritage Initiatives are to assist local communities in the preservation of their environment, landmarks and traditions including archaeological, natural, built and industrial heritage. A community group could investigate and celebrate a historic park, prepare a public exhibition in a park, and repair a feature. Up to 100% of project costs between values of £3,000 and £25,000 are payable.

SECTION 18 – RESOURCING OPEN SPACE

18.20 Your Heritage Grants are available from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and are for projects of between £5,000 and £50,000 in value.

18.21 English Heritage supports the Heritage Grant Fund for historic parks and gardens where there is a significant risk of losing important landscape features.

Lottery Small Grants Scheme

18.22 The Lottery Small Grants Scheme offers Awards for All grants of between £500 and £5,000 for small projects which involve people in their community, and can include local environmental work and community park projects.

Barclays Sitesavers

18.23 Barclays Sitesavers is a grant mechanism for community projects which transform derelict land into community leisure and recreation facilities. Between £4,000 and £10,000 per project is available.

The Tree Council

18.24 The Tree Council supports the Community Trees Fund which funds up to 75% of all expenditure on tree planting schemes having a value of £100 to £700.

The Esmee Fairburn Foundation

18.25 The Esmee Fairburn Foundation aims to improve quality of life, particularly for people who face disadvantage. Eligible activities include the preservation and enhancement of open space, and good management of woodlands, gardens and allotments. The size of grant is not limited, with the average award for the year 2002 being £33,500.

Others

18.26 These could include other pro-active mechanisms such as :

- increased income from events and activities
- improvements negotiated as “added value” from service providers

18.27 The degree of funding will define the scope and timescale over which any developments could be implemented. It is therefore essential to carefully consider all possible sources of funding.

18.28 These should include Council capital and revenue funding, but should also include consideration of the release of existing funds; commercial opportunities such as the franchising of facilities such as catering outlets; the delegated management of facilities such as outdoor sports; commercial sponsorship (e.g. floral bedding); planning gain (e.g. through Section 106 agreements); volunteer support; reviews of fees and charges; and increased income from events and activities.

18.29 Further detailed information regarding grants can be found in Claiming Your Share: A Guide to External Funding for Parks and Green Space Community Groups, obtainable from <http://www.greenspace.org.uk>

Overall summary

Introduction

- 19.1 The study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).
- 19.2 The overall aim of the project was to:
- consider the local context of open space in Harborough
 - undertake an audit of open space in line with PPG17 typologies
 - undertake consultation to ascertain the demand for open space within the district
 - assess the extent to which demand is currently satisfied
 - set and apply local provision standards based on local needs and aspirations
 - and advise on the implication for the development of policies on open space, sport and recreation for the Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 19.3 The study has provided:
- an overview of the open space resource within the District according to definitions provided within PPG17
 - a review of relevant plans and strategies and national developments
 - detailed consultations using various methods including parish council questionnaires, sports clubs questionnaires, neighbourhood drop in sessions and consultation with internal and external agencies to establish the key issues and needs
 - consideration of relevant and appropriate provision standards
 - provision of a site value 'assessment table' to help identify priorities and actions from simple quality, usage and accessibility assessments
 - a planning review
 - a review of possible funding sources for improvements and future developments
 - a summary of key issues based on the main findings from the supply and demand analysis in terms of quantity, quality, accessibility and value.
- 19.4 The following sections summarise the key findings of the study, under the headings of quantity, quality, accessibility and value.

SECTION 19 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Quantity

- 19.5 From the quantity analysis, in association with consultations and surveys undertaken, we are able to determine provision standards appropriate for a number of types of open space within the district.
- 19.6 PPG17 advocates the development of local standards rather than the use of national standards which do not take into account the local context. The standards have therefore been developed for consideration by the Council and are in hectares per 1000 population.

These standards are outlined in table 19.1 below.

Table 19.1

PPG17 Typology	Quantity Provision Standard
Parks and Public Gardens	0.5 hectares per 1000 population
Natural and Semi Natural Space	8.5 hectares rural area, 1.5 hectares urban area
Green Corridors	PPG17 suggests that the setting of a quantitative standard is inappropriate
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Recommended that any standard set for such typology would be meaningless due to the wide ranging facilities included. Further recommended that quantity standards, if required, should be assessed on a facility basis e.g. using the Sport England playing pitch methodology for grass pitches. Existing playing pitch strategy on a county wide-basis suggests a pitch standard of 0.57 ha per 1,000 population.
Amenity Green Spaces	0.8 – 1.0 ha per 1000 population
Provision for Children & Young People	0.3 ha per 1000 population
Allotments	0.35 ha per 1000 population
Cemeteries and Churchyards	PPG17 suggests quantity standard not required due to the nature of the typology. However if a quantity standard is needed this should be a quantitative population based provision standard but also take into account statistics on the average number of deaths which result in burials.
Civic Spaces	PPG17 suggests that a quantitative standard is inappropriate for this open space type

- 19.7 Indoor sport and recreation facilities were analysed using a combination of club questionnaires and supply and demand models based on local demographics and participation rates. It was concluded that:
- provision of additional sports hall space (existing undersupply of 5 courts following opening of new Lutterworth Sports Centre) should be a priority.

SECTION 19 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- existing swimming provision marginally exceeds demand, hence there is no immediate need (or future need based on current participation rates) for additional facilities
- there is an undersupply of health and fitness provision (around 100 stations following opening of new Lutterworth Sports Centre) within the district
- the village halls have an important role to play with regards to indoor sport and recreation provision within the district.

Quality

19.8 The majority of sites within Harborough are of good quality in particular:

- cemeteries and churchyards
- outdoor sports facilities
- parks and gardens.

19.9 There is less satisfaction with indoor sports provision.

19.10 The main quality issues within the district are:

- dog fouling
- parking
- toilets

19.11 A general quality vision could be developed, based on qualities that consultees have highlighted as good practice. This vision for open spaces could be:

“a clean, litter and dog fouling free area that is well-lit and provides a level of varied vegetation and biodiversity, including well-kept grass and other natural features where suitable. The site should be regularly maintained and have suitable parking in close proximity where appropriate. “

19.12 This could be used as a benchmarking measurement to assess where open space sites are now and what improvements could be made in the future. It could be broken down into a detailed assessment matrix as follows for any future quality assessments of sites :

- a clean and litter free
- dog fouling free area
- well-lit
- varied vegetation and biodiversity
- well-kept grass
- natural features provided where appropriate
- maintained to reasonable standard
- suitable parking in close proximity

19.13 Full details of quality analysis by site can be found in Appendix L. Quality factors can be found in Appendix M.

SECTION 19 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Accessibility

- 19.14 Accessibility is a key assessment of open space sites. Without accessibility for the public the provision of good quality or good quantity of open space sites would be of little benefit to the community.
- 19.15 PPG17 encourages that any new open space sites or enhancement of existing sites should ensure accessibility by environmentally friendly forms of transport such as walking, cycling and by public transport. There is a real desire to move away from a reliability on the car.
- 19.16 There is an overall satisfaction level by residents regarding accessibility to existing sites.
- 19.17 The main area of concern is public transport, which was rated as poor or very poor by 70% of residents.
- 19.18 The consultations both through the parish questionnaire, workshops and neighbourhood 'drop-in' sessions provide specific information to assist in establishing distance thresholds and accessibility standards for each type of open space as defined by PPG17. Table 19.2 shows recommended distance thresholds for each type of open space.

Table 19.2

Open Space Type	Realistic Mode of transport (from analysis)	Recommended Travel Time	Estimated Equivalent Distance
Parks and Gardens	Drive by Car	10 mins	4km (urban)
Natural Open Spaces	Walk	20 mins	1.6km
Green Corridors	Walk	20 mins	1.6km
Amenity Green Space	Walk	5 mins	400m
Play Spaces for Children and Young People	Walk	5-10 mins	400m - 800m
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Drive by Car	10-15 mins	4km – 6km
Allotments	Drive by Car	5 - 10 mins	2km - 4km
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Drive by Car	10 mins	4km
Civic Spaces	Drive by Car	10 mins	4km

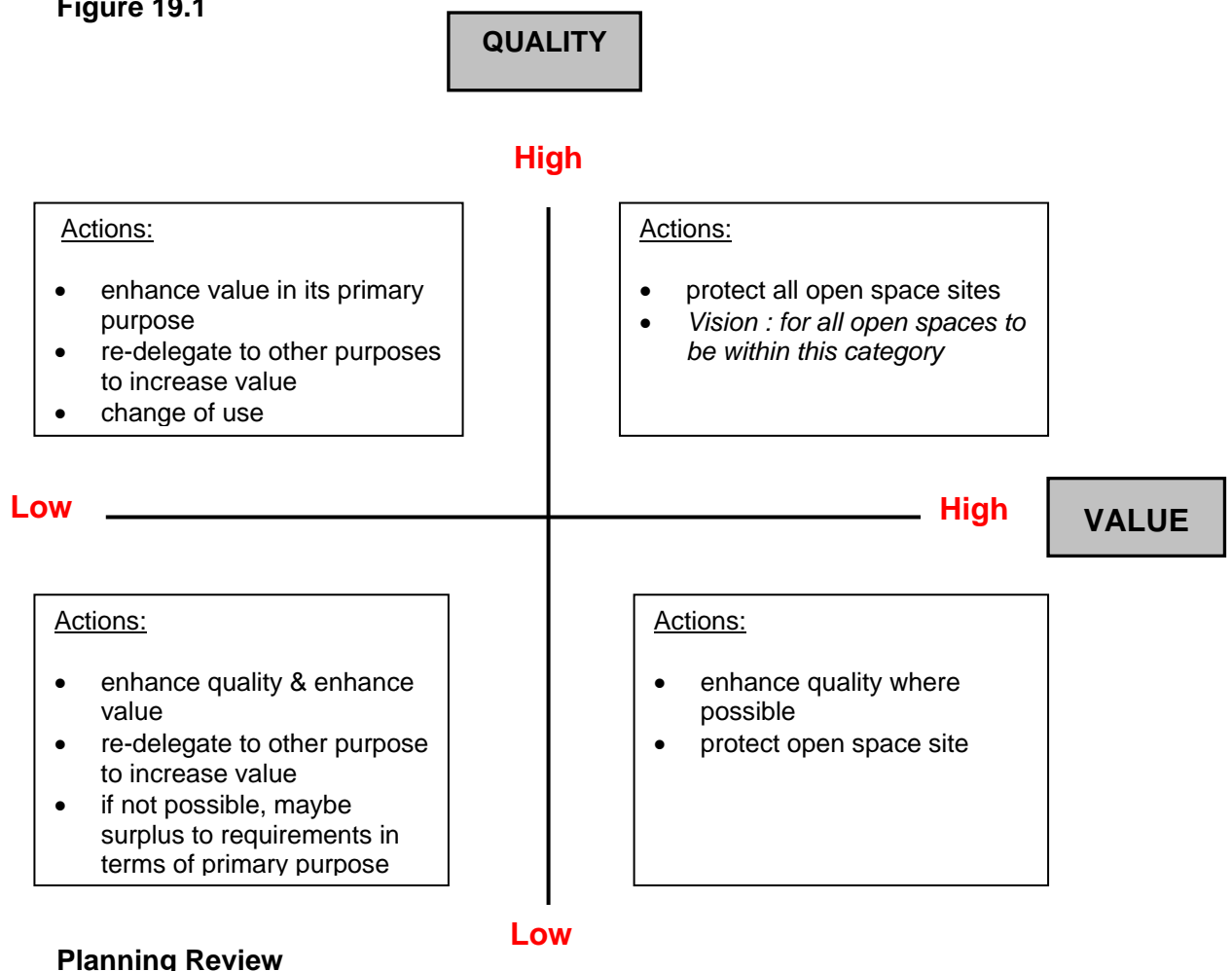
SECTION 19 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 19.19 It is not entirely straightforward to set specific distance thresholds for each type of open space for all areas as there are many dependencies. However these standards, as PPG17 recommends, provides guidance in order to identify gaps in provision and meet the local needs of Harborough residents.
- 19.20 Full details of accessibility analysis by site can be found in Appendix L. Accessibility factors can be found in Appendix M.

Value

- 19.21 The value of open space sites takes into account the usage, quality and accessibility of a site. The matrix below outlines the recommended actions for different sites. Specific sites falling into these categories for each typology are outlined in sections 5 – 14.

Figure 19.1



- 19.22 The analysis of existing and emerging policy concluded that:

- consideration should be given to an early review of the adopted SPG with a view to producing a revised SPD which encompasses aspects from the adopted SPD together with current internal documents
- within the emerging planning system, strategic open space policy should be contained within the core strategy of the DPD

SECTION 19 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- within the emerging planning system, a more detailed policy which addresses open space and new residential development should be contained within the housing DPD
- AAPs will contain focused area assessments in which more specific local requirements may be set
- SPDs provide more detailed policy requirement and ensure a clear framework for developers. SPDs have added flexibility and allow for regular updates and amendments
- in areas of acute deficiency or opportunity and where the private sector is unlikely to be harnessed (through development or section 106) a more proactive approach towards asset disposal should be considered.

The analysis of existing open space guidance concludes that:

- local standards should be set for different open space typologies
- consideration should be given to the application of different local standards for urban and rural locations and between areas of over provision and under provision
- consideration should be given to providing formulas and worked examples within SPD to show the scale of off-site financial contributions;
- if financial contributions are insufficient to provide new recreation space beyond the ability of individual developments, special area based open space funds should be considered to contribute towards district wide projects. A list of projects and estimated costs contained within the SPD, which can be regularly updated, should be considered.

**HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE/SPORT AND RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL
NEEDS - APPENDICES**



JUNE 2004

APPENDIX A

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE AND GUIDANCE NOTES



OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction and Guidance Notes
(Parish & Town Councils)

January 2004

OPEN SPACES PROVISION & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Why we need your help?

As part of the significant task of assessing the open space provision and needs within the District of Harborough we would like you to complete the following questionnaire. **It is critical to the whole process of assessment that you complete the questionnaire as accurately as possible.**

To ensure the effective planning of open spaces, sport and recreation within the district as a whole it is essential that the needs, attitudes and expectations of the local communities are known. It is therefore **important for you as a Parish to represent the views of your Parish and local resident population.**

What do we mean by Open Space?

The overall definition of open space within government planning guidance is :

*“all **open space of public value**, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity”.*

Please note that open space can be of public value **irrespective of ownership** and therefore do not concentrate solely on open space owned by the Parish Council.

We appreciate that in some instances there maybe some confusion and inconsistency of opinion in terms of what open space means so in accordance with Government guidance (Planning Policy Guidance 17) we have categorised the types of open spaces. The 9 categories are :

- Parks and Gardens
- Provision for Children & Young People
- Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Green Corridors
- Allotments and Community Gardens
- Amenity Greenspace
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Civic spaces

All open spaces are assessed by area (i.e. hectares) apart from green corridors that are assessed in length (metres)

What don't we mean by open spaces?

Some examples of what we don't mean by open spaces within this study include :

- off-highway open space – e.g. grass verges on the side of roads
- small insignificant areas of grassland or trees – for example on the corner of the junction of 2 roads
- SLOAP (space left over after planning) i.e. in and around a block of flats etc
- farmland and farm tracks
- private roads and private gardens

Types of Open Spaces

Many open spaces are multi-functional. For example, a grass pitch is probably used for children's play, exercising dogs or jogging as well as formal sports. We need to classify each open space by its 'primary purpose' so that it is counted only once in the audit.

Open Space Types and Definitions

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal recreation community events.
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wildlife conservation, biodiversity environmental education and awareness.
Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking, cycling or horse riding leisure purposes or travel opportunities for wildlife migration.
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> informal activities close to home or work enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> equipped play areas ball courts outdoor basketball hoop areas skateboard areas teenage shelters and 'hangouts'
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outdoor sports pitches tennis and bowls golf courses athletics playing fields (including school playing fields) water sports
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> growing vegetables and other root crops <p>N.B. does not include private gardens</p>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> quiet contemplation burial of the dead wildlife conservation promotion of biodiversity
Civic Spaces	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> markets setting for civic buildings community events

Step by Step Instructions to Completing the Questionnaire

(1) Complete the Map and General Analysis Table

Completing the Map

- On your map highlight the open space areas in your parish by drawing round the space with a **red pen** or **highlighter** pen in the correct location. Please be as accurate as possible and follow the lines on the map where possible. Number it so it is easily identifiable. This number should then correspond with the site number automatically allocated in the general analysis table (**refer to the attached example map and general analysis table**).
- The easiest way of undertaking this task is to **take each open space type and definition one at a time** and analyse the map of your Parish highlighting the areas that meet this definition.

Completing the General Analysis Table

- Complete the names of sites on the General Analysis table so that they match the areas numbered on the map.
- Complete the table using the guidance notes found on the next page. Please read the specific guidance notes for this table before completing any of the requested information.
- Complete the table for **all open spaces** as defined by the definitions and primary purpose **irrespective of ownership**.
- **Do not complete the last 2 sections entitled 'Quality' assessment and 'Accessibility' assessment at this stage.**

(2) Complete the Quantity Analysis Table and Extra Questions (A1 – A3)

- Please refer to the instructions located above the table.

(3) Complete the Quality Analysis Table and Associated Questions (B1 – B5)

- Please refer to the instructions located above the table.

(4) Complete the Accessibility Analysis Table and Associated Questions (C1 - C6)

- Please refer to the instructions located above the table.

(5) Complete the final two columns of the General Analysis Table

- Having completed the quality and accessibility analysis tables you will now be more familiar with the factors that influence both the quality and accessibility of open spaces. Representing the Parish and its residents, please rate each site simply by ticking the appropriate box. Don't forget to rate each site listed.

(6) Return the Questionnaire and Map

- Return the questionnaire and map in the prepaid envelope provided to Harborough DC.

NOTE : If you have NO OPEN SPACE at all within your area please complete the 'quantity' analysis table only and return both the map and questionnaire.

Guidance Notes – General Analysis

Site Number	This automatically allocates a number for each 'open space' site that you may refer to at any stage during this assessment questionnaire.
Name of Site / Reference of Site	Please provide either the official name of the site, the name that you would normally use to refer to the site or provide a brief description e.g. corner of Landsdown Rd and Wellington Rd. Only write down each open space once despite that it may have a number of uses. Refer to the definitions and primary purpose.
Type of Open Space	Please indicate with a tick (✓) the type of open space. Please refer to the definitions and primary use table provided.
Ownership	Complete the table for <u>all open spaces</u> as defined by the definitions and primary purpose <u>irrespective of ownership</u> . Please state in this box who owns the site. Normally this will be the Parish Council, District Council or possibly another agency such as the Forestry Commission or Waterways Board.
Management	Please state in this box who manages the site. Normally this will be the same as 'ownership' but in some cases it may be different. For example – the District Council may own the site but a private association manages the site.
Tick Box (Boundary of site on map / Site Labelled on map)	Please indicate with a tick (✓) to confirm you have drawn the boundary of the site on the map with a red pen or highlighter pen. and to confirm you have labelled the site on the map with the appropriate site number.
Specific Facilities Available	Give a brief description of any specific facilities available at the site. For example – play areas within a park, 2 tennis courts, changing rooms etc
Level of Use	We need to take account of the usage by both people and wildlife. For example, a nature reserve may not be used by people but is used everyday by wildlife and therefore should be graded as 'high' usage. Please provide a rating for each site with a tick (✓) in the appropriate box. Some definitions to help are outlined below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High / Significant - the area is used either everyday or almost everyday by either people and/or wildlife • Often - the area is used fairly often by either people and/or wildlife • Low / Insignificant - the area is used but not very often. • No Use - the area is not used.
Quality	DO NOT COMPLETE AT THIS STAGE
Accessibility	DO NOT COMPLETE AT THIS STAGE

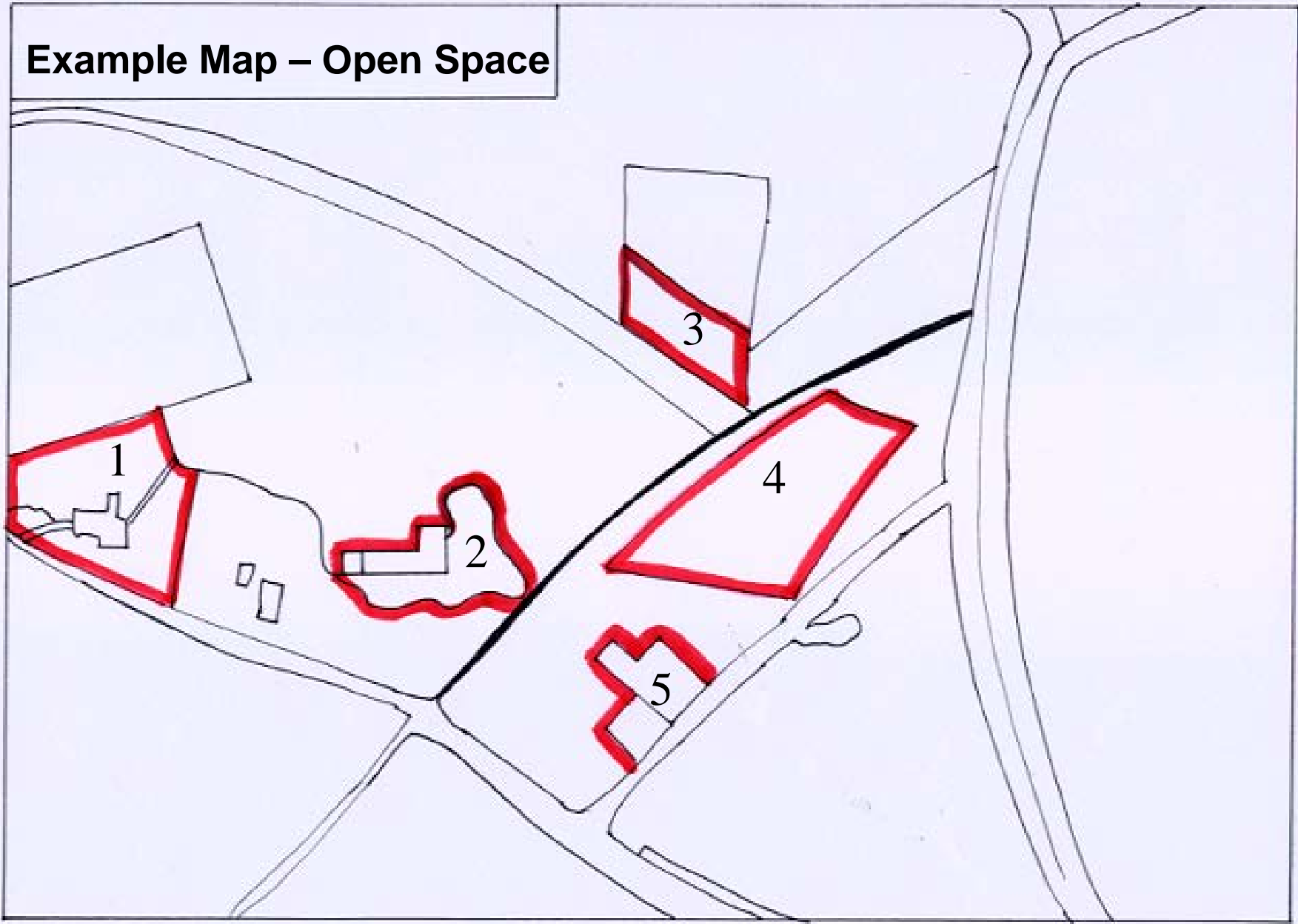
NOW **COMPLETE THE REST OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE** (QUANTITY, QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY ANALYSIS TABLES AND THE ASSOCIATED QUESTIONS)

- You will now have completed the whole questionnaire. Having provided an overview rating across your area on the key factors that determine QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY please now give an overall rating for each open space. We appreciate that this may be difficult in some circumstances but please make an informed guess or estimate rather than leaving the question blank.

Quality Assessment	Representing the parish and its residents, please rate the quality of the site. In doing so take account of the factors that you have rated in the 'Quality Assessment' for the overall area in terms of the sites condition and fitness for purpose . Ask yourself whether the sites in question are good or bad and whether usage opportunities are hindered by quality factors?
Accessibility	Representing the parish and its residents, please rate how accessible each site is taking into account key factors that you have rated in the "Accessibility Assessment" for the overall area such as cost, distance from majority of households, opening times, pathways, cycleways, signage etc. If the open space is <u>privately owned and no access is allowed then please rate the accessibility as 'very poor'.</u>

Appendix A – Parish questionnaire and guidance notes

Example Map – Open Space



APPENDIX B

DIGITISATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Questionnaire

PARISH :

PARISH CLERK :

TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO HARBOROUGH DISTRICT
COUNCIL IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED BY
WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2004

January 2004

GENERAL ANALYSIS

Site No.	Name of Site / Reference of Site	Type of Open Space								Ownership	Management	Specific Facilities Available	Boundary of Site drawn on map Site Labelled on the map with appropriate site number (please tick)	Level of Use (please tick)				Quality (please tick)				Accessibility (please tick)						
		Parks and Gardens	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Green Corridors	Amenity Greenspace	Young People and Children	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Allotments	Cemeteries & Churchyards					Civic Spaces	High / Significant	Often	Low / Insignificant	No use	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
1																												
2																												
3																												
4																												
5																												
6																												
7																												
8																												

QUANTITY ASSESSMENT

Please Read :

(A1) We would like you to provide an overall **QUANTITY** assessment of all green spaces **within your parish area** in order to help us identify the key provision issues and adequacy of provision for each type of green space within your Parish. We appreciate that this may be difficult in some circumstances, but as this is to provide a broad overview, please make an informed guess or estimate and provide any specific details with regards to the reasons for your choice.

Type of Green Space	Please tick (✓) where appropriate				Reasons for Answer (please provide brief comments on the reason for your answer)
	More than we need	About Right	Less than we need	N/A	
Parks and Gardens					
Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces					
Green Corridors					
Amenity Greenspace					
Provision for Children & Young People					
Outdoor Sports Facilities					
Allotments					
Cemeteries and Churchyards					
Civic Spaces					

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Please Read :

(B1) We would like you to provide an overall **QUALITY** assessment of all open spaces within your parish area in order to help us identify the key quality issues within your Parish. We appreciate that this may be difficult in some circumstances and that there maybe some variation with some specific sites but this is to provide a broad overview and so please make an informed guess or estimate rather than leaving any questions blank.

Please then answer the questions on 'quality' of open spaces within your area.

Category	Please tick (✓) where appropriate					
	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
Cleanliness and Maintenance						
Vandalism and Graffiti						
Litter problems						
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter						
Dog Fouling						
Noise						
Smells (unattractive)						
Maintenance & Management						
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance						
Security and Safety						
Lighting						
Equipment (e.g. in play areas or recreation provision)						
Boundaries (including hedges, fencing and gates)						
Overall Security and Safety						
Vegetation						
Planted areas						
Grass areas						
Ancillary Accommodation						
Toilets						
Parking (related to open spaces)						
Pathways (within the open space sites)						
Information & Signage						
Overall						
Overall Quality Rating of Open Spaces in your Parish area						

Please answer the following questions to provide any comments you may have on the 'QUALITY' aspects of open space sites **within your parish area.**

(B2) Are you aware of any concerns or complaints from residents about the 'QUALITY' of any green space sites in your parish?

Yes

No

If yes, please give brief details below :

(B3) Are there any general perceptions or requests from residents who are keen to see improvements to the 'QUALITY' of green spaces within your Parish?

Yes

No

If yes, please give brief details below:

(B4) Would you consider any green space sites in your parish to be examples of good practice (i.e. sites that are well-designed, well-used and maintained to a high standard) or bad practice (i.e. sites that are in disrepair and/or in need of significant improvement) in terms of the 'QUALITY' of open space?

Yes

No

If yes, please give brief details below and reasons for your choice :

	Name of Site	Reasons
GOOD PRACTICE		
BAD PRACTICE		

(B5) Please provide any further comments you would like to make relating to the 'QUALITY' of green space sites within your Parish area:

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Please Read :

(C1) We would like you to provide an overall **ACCESSIBILITY** assessment of all open spaces within your parish area in order to help us identify the key accessibility issues within your Parish. By accessibility we mean “*can those who wish to use the various types of open space get to them when they wish to do so?*” We appreciate that it may be difficult in some circumstances to provide an overall assessment and that there maybe some variation with some specific sites but this is to provide a broad overview and so please make an informed guess or estimate rather than leaving any questions blank.

Please then answer the questions on ‘accessibility’ of open spaces within your area.

Category		Please tick (✓) where appropriate					N/A
		Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	
General							
Entrance to the sites <i>(i.e. are the entrances to sites easily seen, easily accessible etc)</i>							
Opening Times <i>(i.e. are sites open at all times such as informal recreation areas or are there specific closing times for instance locking of gates to a park)</i>							
Cost to User i.e. Value for Money <i>(i.e. are most open space sites free for use or are there charges that deter usage by the local resident population)</i>							
Distances & Catchment Area							
Public Transport	Provision <i>(please rate the provision of public transport to open spaces sites– if none then rate as very poor)</i>						
	Distance from Population <i>(i.e. do the majority of people in your parish live within easy reach of open space by public transport)</i>						
Cycleways	Provision <i>(please rate the provision of cycleways to open spaces sites within your area)</i>						
	Distance from Population <i>(i.e. do the majority of people in your parish live within easy reach of open space by cycling)</i>						
Walking	Distance from Population <i>(i.e. do the majority of people in your parish live within easy walking distance of open space)</i>						
Signage & Promotion							
Signage <i>(i.e. is the signage to the open spaces appropriate where required and clear to see and easy to follow)</i>							
Information and/or promotion of the sites <i>(i.e. is the information and promotion, where provided, appropriate and clear to see, easy to read and encourages positive usage)</i>							
Overall							
Overall Accessibility Rating of Open Spaces in your Parish area							

Please answer the following questions to provide any comments you may have on the **'ACCESSIBILITY'** aspects of open space sites within your parish area.

(C2) How far do you think one should be expected to travel to each type of open space? Please indicate the maximum **time you would expect to travel and by what **mode of transport**.**

Fill in as many boxes as you wish but please answer at least once for each type of open space.

Type of Open Space	Place a time in minutes within the box relating to the type of transport.			
	Walk	Cycle	Bus	Car
	Travel Time (minutes)			
<i>Example Open Space</i>	<i>20</i>			<i>5</i>
Parks and Gardens				
Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces				
Green Corridors				
Amenity Greenspace				
Provision for Children & Young People				
Outdoor Sports Facilities				
Allotments and Community Gardens				
Cemeteries and Churchyards				
Civic Spaces				

(C3) Are you aware of any concerns or complaints from residents about the **'ACCESSIBILITY' of any green space sites in your parish?**

Yes

No

If yes, please give brief details below :

(C4) Are there any general perceptions or requests from residents who are keen to see improvements to the 'ACCESSIBILITY' of green spaces within your Parish?

Yes

No

If yes, please give brief details below:

(C5) Would you consider any green space sites in your parish to be examples of good practice (i.e. sites that are well-designed, well-used and maintained to a high standard) or bad practice (i.e. sites that are in disrepair and/or in need of significant improvement) in terms of the 'ACCESSIBILITY' of open space?

Yes

No

If yes, please give brief details below and reasons for your choice :

	Name of Site	Reasons
GOOD PRACTICE		
BAD PRACTICE		

(C6) Please make any further comments you would like to make relating to the 'ACCESSIBILITY' of green space sites within your Parish area:

ANY OTHER COMMENTS : If you have any further comments or key issues regarding the type, quantity, quality and/or accessibility of greenspace sites within your Parish please outline them below:

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME IN COMPLETING THIS ASSESSMENT
QUESTIONNAIRE ON OPEN SPACES.**

PLEASE RETURN TO HARBOROUGH DC IN THE PRE-PAID ENVELOPE

Appendix B - Digitising and Database Development Process

In digitising every open space site within the district some consistency rules needed to be applied due to the varying nature of information returned by parish councils although the majority of returns were very good. Rules applied were as follows:

- mapping of open spaces followed Ordnance Survey Landline data wherever possible
- a status code allocation indicating quality of map information returned and quality of questionnaire information for the database has also been attributed to each open space site
- incomplete mapping of sites – local plan and follow up phone calls were used to ensure data entry was accurate
- where sites over spilled into other parish areas the data was attributed to the parish where the majority of the site was located
- where the district council identified the same open space as the Parish Council the number and ratings provided by the Parish were used. If a site was identified by the District Council and not by the Parish Council a new site was assigned in accordance with the data provided by the district council.

Figure 2.2 – Sample Map from Digitised Landline Mapping Undertaken

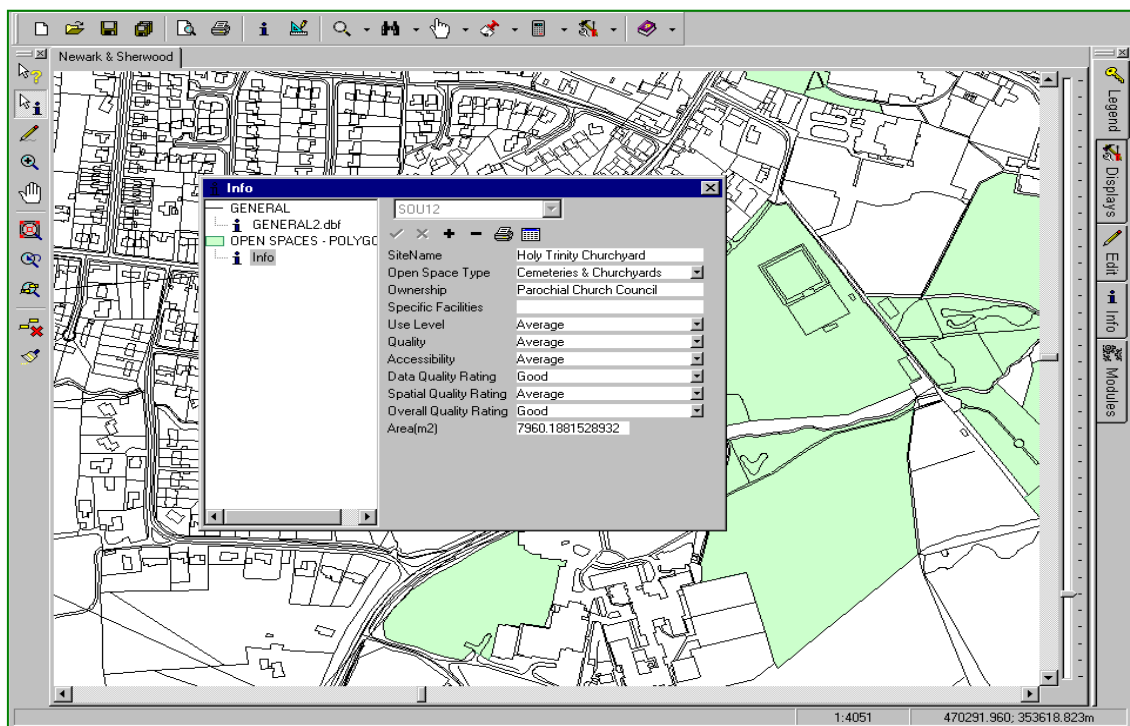
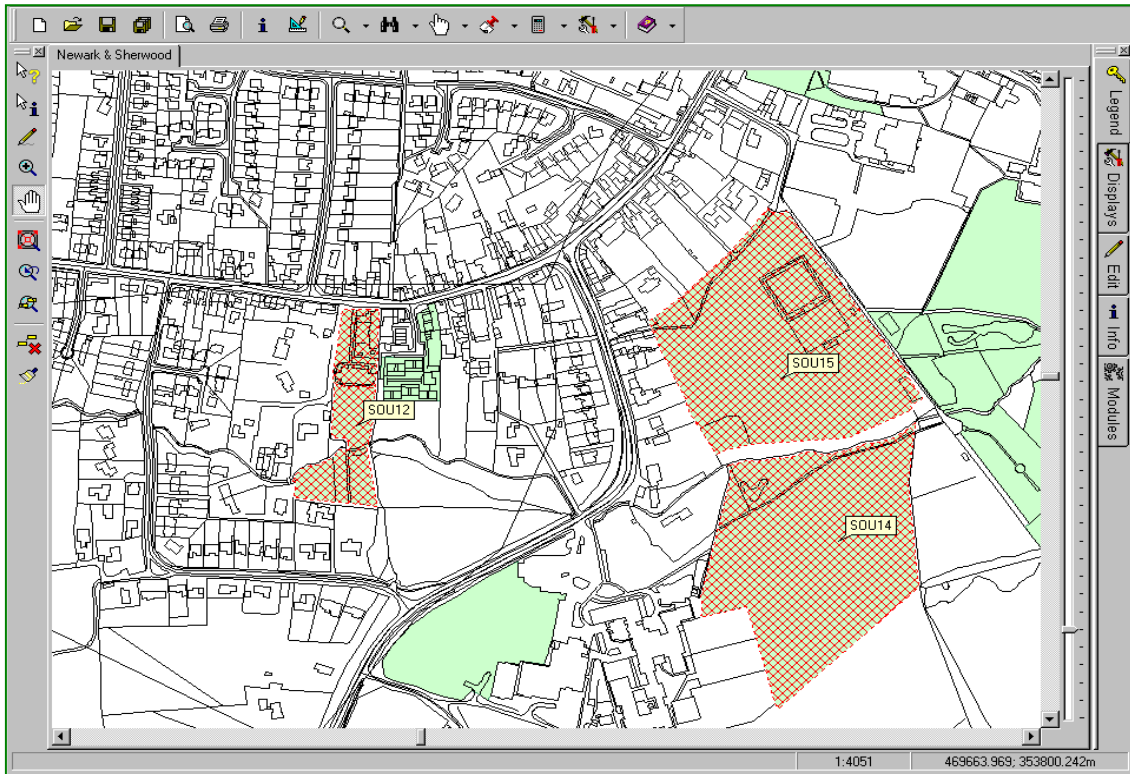


Figure 2.3 – Sample Map with Linked Database from Digitised Mapping Process



APPENDIX C
QUANTITY STANDARDS

NOTES

Population Projections

Current Populations are based on the 2001 census

Future populations are projected to 2016, and are based on Office of National Statistics district forecasts.

Existing Provision

All figures are in hectares

Consultation

Consultation - taken from consultation undertaken with Parish Clerks, representing the views of their residents

The future balance is calculated on the basis of these population projections

When setting standards all other consultation undertaken has been taken into consideration and not simply the responses of parish questionnaires

Urban /Rural

Urban - Conurbations of over 20000 - Market Harborough and Lubenham, and the Western Area (Lutterworth and Broughton Astley)

Rural - smaller settlements

Balance

Balance - Indicates an under / over supply of provision of each type of open space, in each area

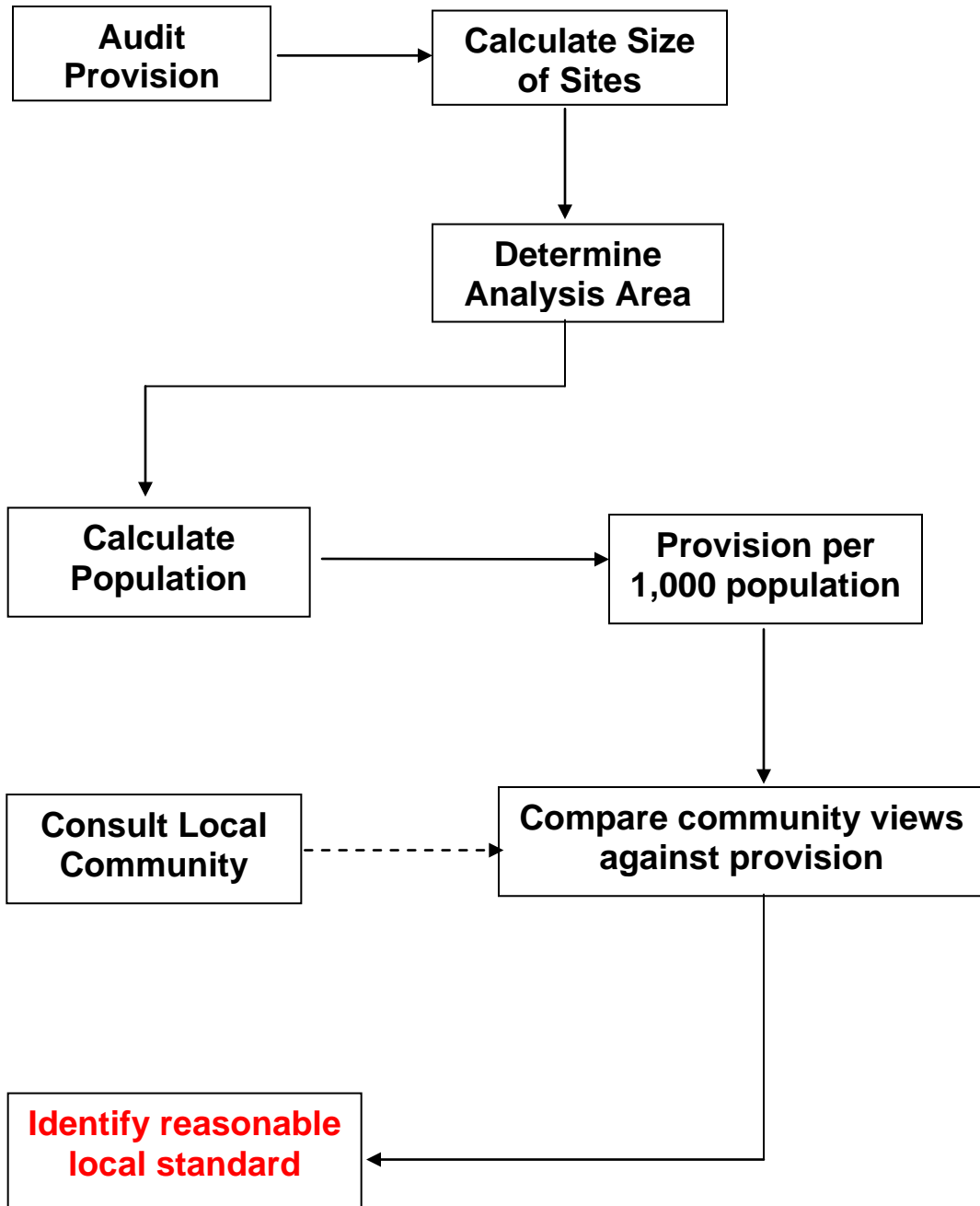
PPG17 Typology	Quantity Provision Standard
Parks and Public Gardens	0.5 hectares per 1000 population
Natural and Semi Natural Space	8.5 hectares rural area, 1.5 hectares urban area
Green Corridors	PPG17 suggests that the setting of a quantitative standard is inappropriate
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Recommended that any standard set for such typology would be meaningless due to the wide ranging facilities included. Further recommended that quantity standards, if required, should be assessed on a facility basis e.g. using the Sport England playing pitch methodology for grass pitches. Existing playing pitch strategy on a county wide-basis suggests a pitch standard of 0.57 ha per 1,000 population
Amenity Green Spaces	0.8 – 1.0 ha per 1000 population
Provision for Children & Young People	0.3 ha per 1000 population
Allotments	0.35 ha per 1000 population
Cemeteries and Churchyards	PPG17 suggests quantity standard not required due to the nature of the typology. However if a quantity standard is needed this should be a quantitative population based provision standard but also take into account statistics on the average number of deaths which result in burials.
Civic Spaces	PPG17 suggests that a quantitative standard is inappropriate for this open space type

Appendix C - Quantity Standards

Harborough Green Space Calculations Quantity

Category	Populations	Parks & Gardens	Nat & Semi Nat Open Space	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children and Young People	Allotments	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Civic Spaces
Total Provision - Existing Open Space (ha)									
Market Harborough and Lubenham	22,546	8.8	26.78	31.33	1.54	7.32	60.49	7.47	0.41
North East Rural	11,929	2.75	542.02	4.49	1.57	1.05	45.25	13.52	0
Kibworth, Fleckney and Central	14,570	0.01	34.98	7.44	1.21	2.08	61.52	6.4	0.27
Western - Lutterworth and Broughton Astley	23,233	7.27	42.2	11.76	4.07	8.09	136.91	7.69	0.26
Peatling and Bosworth	4,281	0	36.55	3.71	1.16	3.62	94.32	5.19	0
Overall	76,559	18.83	682.53	58.73	9.55	22.16	398.49	40.27	0.94
Existing Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)									
Market Harborough and Lubenham	22,546	0.39	1.19	1.39	0.07	0.32	2.68	0.33	0.02
North East Rural	11,929	0.23	45.44	0.38	0.13	0.09	3.79	1.13	0.00
Kibworth, Fleckney and Central	14,570	0.00	2.40	0.51	0.08	0.14	4.22	0.44	0.02
Western - Lutterworth and Broughton Astley	23,233	0.31	1.82	0.51	0.18	0.35	5.89	0.33	0.01
Peatling and Bosworth	4,281	0.00	8.54	0.87	0.27	0.85	22.03	1.21	0.00
Overall	76,559	0.25	8.92	0.77	0.12	0.29	5.21	0.53	0.01
Future Open Space (ha per 1000 Population)									
Market Harborough and Lubenham	27,170	0.32	0.99	1.15	0.06	0.27	2.23	0.27	0.02
North East Rural	13,220	0.21	41.00	0.34	0.12	0.08	3.42	1.02	0.00
Kibworth, Fleckney and Central	18,200	0.00	1.92	0.41	0.07	0.11	3.38	0.35	0.01
Western - Lutterworth and Broughton Astley	25,600	0.28	1.65	0.46	0.16	0.32	5.35	0.30	0.01
Peatling and Bosworth	4,380	0.00	8.34	0.85	0.26	0.83	21.53	1.18	0.00
Overall	88,570	0.21	7.71	0.66	0.11	0.25	4.50	0.45	0.01
Consultation (no of responses)									
About Rights		59%	73%	63%	41%	62%	48%	80%	38%
Deficiency		41%	21%	34%	59%	35%	52%	20%	63%
Surplus		0%	6%	2%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
RECOMMENDED PROVISION STANDARD									
	Urban	0.4	1.5	0.9	0.3	0.35	Typology not suitable <small>(Analysis of County PPS undertaken - see Section 10)</small>	Typology not suitable	Typology not suitable
	Rural		8.5						
Balance									
Market Harborough and Lubenham		-0.22	-7.04	11.04	-5.22	-0.57	Refer to Section 10 and PPG 17	Refer to Section 12 and PPG 17	Refer to Section 13 and PPG 17
North East Rural		-2.02	440.62	-6.25	-2.01	-3.13			
Kibworth, Fleckney and Central		-5.82	-88.87	-5.67	-3.16	-3.02			
Western - Lutterworth and Broughton Astley		-2.02	7.35	-9.15	-2.90	-0.04			
Peatling and Bosworth		-1.71	0.16	-0.14	-0.12	2.12			
Future Balance									
Market Harborough and Lubenham		-2.07	-13.98	6.88	-6.61	-2.19	Refer to Section 10 and PPG 17	Refer to Section 12 and PPG 17	Refer to Section 13 and PPG 17
North East Rural		-2.54	429.65	-7.41	-2.40	-3.58			
Kibworth, Fleckney and Central		-7.27	-119.72	-8.94	-4.25	-4.29			
Western - Lutterworth and Broughton Astley		-2.97	3.80	-11.28	-3.61	-0.87			
Peatling and Bosworth		-1.75	-0.68	-0.23	-0.15	2.09			

Setting Quantity Standards *“The Process”*



APPENDIX D

SPORTS CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE

Data

Demographic Profile - 2001 Census



Report for : PMP
 Defined Area: Harborough District
 Postcode: N/A

	Results from area	Results as % of area	Results as % of England & Wales	Results as % of GB	From GB % Index (ave. =100)	From GB % Index difference	From England & Wales % Index (ave. =100)	From England & Wales % Index difference
Total Population	77,157	100	100.0	100	100	0	100	0
0 - 4	4,642	6.0	6.0	5.7	105	5	101	1
5 - 9	4,875	6.3	6.4	6.2	102	2	99	-1
10 -15	6,010	7.8	7.8	7.8	100	0	99	-1
16 - 19	3,435	4.5	4.9	4.9	90	-10	91	-9
20 - 29	7,066	9.2	12.7	12.6	73	-27	72	-28
30 - 39	12,228	15.8	15.6	15.6	102	2	102	2
40 - 49	11,565	15.0	13.4	13.8	109	9	112	12
50 - 59	11,263	14.6	12.6	12.6	116	16	116	16
60 +	16,073	20.8	20.8	20.9	100	-0	100	0
Males								
Total	38,297	49.6	48.7	48.4	103	3	102	2
0 - 4	2,448	3.2	3.0	2.9	108	8	104	4
5 - 9	2,535	3.3	3.3	3.2	103	3	101	1
10 -15	3,071	4.0	4.0	4.0	100	0	99	-1
16 - 19	1,734	2.2	2.5	2.5	89	-11	90	-10
20 - 29	3,617	4.7	6.3	6.2	76	-24	75	-25
30 - 39	6,076	7.9	7.7	7.6	104	4	103	3
40 - 49	5,781	7.5	6.6	6.8	110	10	113	13
50 - 59	5,728	7.4	6.2	6.2	119	19	119	19
60 +	7,307	9.5	9.1	9.0	105	5	104	4
Females								
Total	38,860	50.4	51.3	51.6	98	-2	98	-2
0 - 4	2,194	2.8	2.9	2.8	102	2	98	-2
5 - 9	2,340	3.0	3.1	3.0	100	0	98	-2
10 -15	2,939	3.8	3.8	3.8	101	1	100	-0
16 - 19	1,701	2.2	2.4	2.4	91	-9	92	-8
20 - 29	3,449	4.5	6.4	6.4	70	-30	70	-30
30 - 39	6,152	8.0	7.9	8.0	100	0	101	1
40 - 49	5,784	7.5	6.7	7.0	108	8	111	11
50 - 59	5,535	7.2	6.3	6.4	113	13	113	13
60 +	8,766	11.4	11.7	11.9	95	-5	97	-3
Ethnic Origin								
All White	75,615	98.0	90.9	0.0	N/A	N/A	108	8
White - British	73,987	95.9	87.0	0.0	N/A	N/A	110	10
White - Irish	499	0.6	1.3	0.0	N/A	N/A	51	-49
White - Other	1,129	1.5	2.7	0.0	N/A	N/A	55	-45
All Black	138	0.2	2.3	0.0	N/A	N/A	8	-92
Black - Caribbean	89	0.1	1.1	0.0	N/A	N/A	10	-90
Black - African	28	0.0	1.0	0.0	N/A	N/A	4	-96
Black - Other	21	0.0	0.2	0.0	N/A	N/A	14	-86
Chinese	121	0.2	0.4	0.0	N/A	N/A	35	-65

	Results from area	Results as % of area	Results as % of England & Wales	Results as % of GB	From GB % Index (ave. =100)	From GB % Index difference	From England & Wales % Index (ave. =100)	From England & Wales % Index difference
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Ethnic Origin contd

All Asian	780	1.0	4.6	0.0	N/A	N/A	22	-78
Asian - Indian	622	0.8	2.1	0.0	N/A	N/A	39	-61
Asian - Pakistani	40	0.1	1.4	0.0	N/A	N/A	4	-96
Asian - Bangladeshi	17	0.0	0.6	0.0	N/A	N/A	4	-96
Asian - Other	101	0.1	0.5	0.0	N/A	N/A	27	-73
Others	78	0.1	0.4	0.0	N/A	N/A	23	-77
All Mixed	440	0.6	1.3	0.0	N/A	N/A	43	-57
White and Black Caribbean	164	0.2	0.5	0.0	N/A	N/A	45	-55
Mixed - White and Black African	21	0.0	0.2	0.0	N/A	N/A	17	-83
Mixed - White and Asian	173	0.2	0.4	0.0	N/A	N/A	60	-40
Mixed - Others	82	0.1	0.3	0.0	N/A	N/A	35	-65

Residents who have a limiting long-term illness	9,965	12.9	17.0	17.5	74	-26	76	-24
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Economic Activity of Household Residents (aged 16 and over)

Total	63,795	[total of all economic sub-types]						
In Full-time employment	29,781	46.7	39.0	40.5	115	15	120	20
In Part-time employment	10,244	16.1	12.8	13.1	122	22	126	26
Self employed	6,523	10.2	5.2	5.7	181	81	195	95
Unemployed	1,045	1.6	2.5	3.0	54	-46	66	-34
Students	3,005	4.7	18.3	12.5	38	-62	26	-74
Permanently Sick/Disabled	1,518	2.4	4.3	5.6	43	-57	55	-45
Retired	7,742	12.1	9.9	11.3	107	7	122	22
Other inactive	980	1.5	2.5	3.1	50	-50	60	-40
Looking after home/family	2,957	4.6	5.3	5.2	89	-11	87	-13

Males

In Full-time employment	20,045	31.4	25.3	26.0	121	21	124	24
In Part-time employment	1,922	3.0	2.7	2.7	112	12	111	11
Self employed	4,594	7.2	3.8	4.1	176	76	190	90
Unemployed	597	0.9	1.5	1.9	48	-52	63	-37
Students	1,429	2.2	9.2	6.1	37	-63	24	-76
Permanently Sick/Disabled	765	1.2	2.4	3.0	40	-60	51	-49
Retired	3,268	5.1	4.0	4.5	113	13	128	28
Other inactive	426	0.7	1.1	1.3	50	-50	61	-39
Looking after home/family	120	0.2	0.4	0.4	49	-51	51	-49

Female

In Full-time employment	9,736	15.3	13.7	14.5	105	5	112	12
In Part-time employment	8,322	13.0	10.1	10.5	125	25	130	30
Self employed	1,929	3.0	1.5	1.6	192	92	201	101
Unemployed	448	0.7	1.0	1.1	63	-37	72	-28
Students	1,576	2.5	9.4	6.5	38	-62	26	-74
Permanently Sick/Disabled	753	1.2	2.0	2.6	46	-54	60	-40
Retired	4,474	7.0	6.2	6.9	101	1	113	13
Other inactive	554	0.9	1.4	1.7	50	-50	60	-40
Looking after home/family	2,837	4.4	5.0	4.8	92	-8	89	-11

Lone Parents

Total	61,630	[Total of All People aged 16+]						
Total	2,263	3.7	5.6	6.0	61	-39	65	-35
Male	433	0.7	0.8	0.8	88	-12	90	-10
Female	1,830	3.0	4.9	5.2	57	-43	61	-39
		Results from area	Results as % of area	Results as % of England & Wales	Results as % of GB	From GB % Index (ave. =100)	From England & Wales % Index (ave. =100)	From England & Wales % Index difference

Tenure of Households

Total Occupied Household Spaces	31,086
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Owned	26,161	84.2	68.7	65.7	128	28	122	22
Private Rented or Living Rent Free	2,300	7.4	12.0	11.2	66	-34	62	-38
Rented from Council	2,107	6.8	13.2	17.4	39	-61	51	-49
Other Social Rented	518	1.7	6.1	5.8	29	-71	28	-72

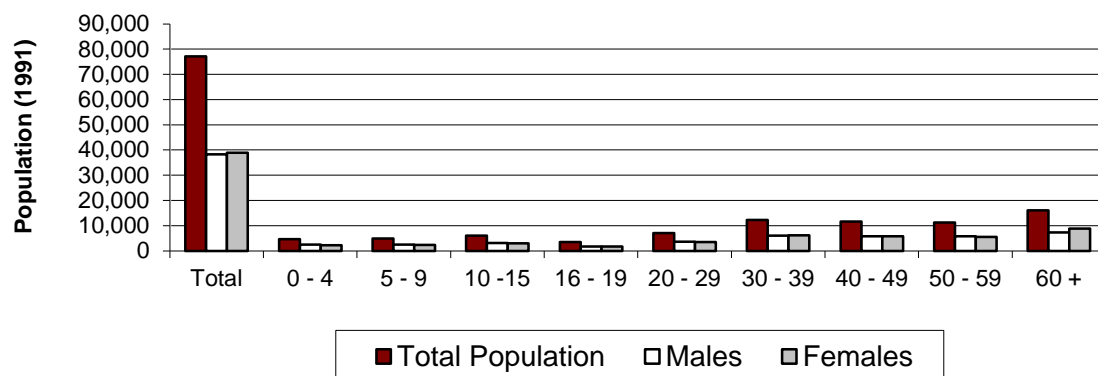
Car Availability by Household

with no car	3,958	12.7	26.8	30.5	42	-58	47	-53
with 1 car	12,262	39.4	43.7	43.5	91	-9	90	-10
with 2 cars	14,881	47.9	29.5	26.0	184	84	162	62

Social Class of Head of Household

Total Head of Household (aged 16+)	60,249							
AB - Higher & Intermediate managerial/admin/professional	18,033	29.9	22.2	20.6	145	45	135	35
Supervisory, clerical, junior	18,795	31.2	29.7	28.1	111	11	105	5
C2 - Skilled manual workers	8,820	14.6	15.1	14.8	99	-1	97	-3
D - Semi-skilled & unskilled manual workers	7,619	12.6	17.0	17.3	73	-27	74	-26
E - On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade	6,982	11.6	16.0	19.2	60	-40	72	-28

Graph to illustrate population by age and gender.



APPENDIX E

DEMOGRAPHIC REPORTS AND SUPPLY AND DEMAND MODELS

Population Projection Report

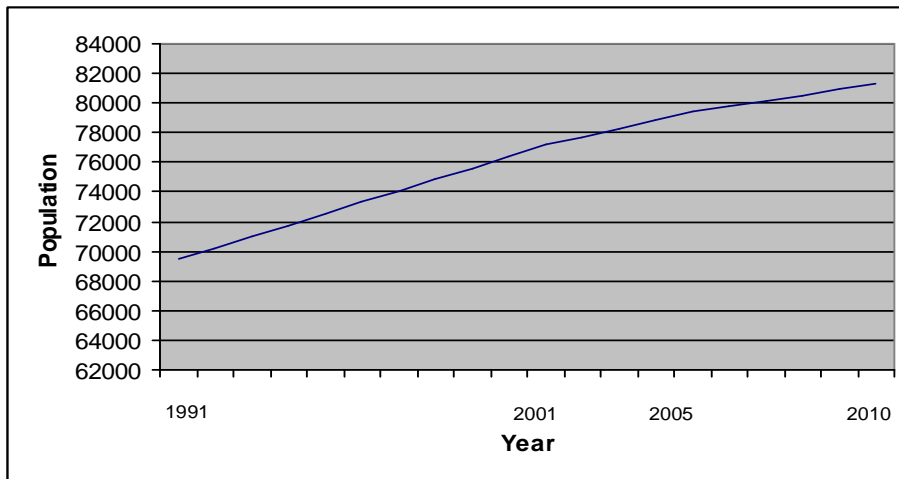


Report for : PMP
Defined Area: Harborough District
Postcode: N/A

Data Table:

	Population	% change	Actual Change	
1991	69,435	-	-	
2001	77,157	11.1%	7,722	
2005	79,378	2.9%	2,221	<i>(increase on 2001 pop)</i>
2010	81,297	5.4%	4,140	<i>(increase on 2001 pop)</i>

Population Projections	1991-2000	2001-2005	2001-2010
Harborough District	11.1%	2.9%	5.4%
Actual Total Change	7,722	2,221	4,140



Source: 1996 Sub-National Projections. Reproduced by permission of the Office of National Statistics.

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Note: Some variations may occur in projections due to the changes in postal geography.

MtF Demand Model - Swimming Pools - PART A - DEMAND SIDE

Target Area: **Harborough District**

Target Site: **N/A**



Any model is based on a number of assumptions. The assumptions used in this model are as follows:

Assumptions/Parameters used in Model

Source: 1999 Sport England

- q Proportion of visits during peak times = 65%
- q Average duration of visit = 45 mins
- q Normal peak periods = 43.5 hours per week = 58 peak sessions
- q At one time capacity = 0.25 people per m²
A one time capacity is defined as the supply/capacity of one m² of pool area at any one time
- q Capacity per 212m² (1 pool unit) = 3,074 people. (number of metres squared multiplied by the at one time capacity of one m²)
A pool unit is defined as an average four laned, 25 metre pool.

These assumptions are then applied to the population (classified by age and gender) of the target area. Calculated Sport England demand parameters for each category of age and gender are also applied (see the following table).

Demand Assessment Table

Demand in relation to the age and gender profile of the target area is calculated by applying the Sport England parameters to it.

Age group	Population		Rate of participation (%)		Participation numbers		Frequency of participation (per week)		Visits per week		Peak visits (65%)	Game Plan Factor of 1.51
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
0-15	8,054	7,473	12.58	10.7	1013	800	1.16	1.22	1175	976	1398	2111
16-24	3,458	3,145	3.9	7.62	135	240	1.27	1.46	171	350	339	512
25-39	7,969	8,157	5.43	9.21	433	751	1.38	1.14	597	856	945	1427
40-59	11,509	11,319	4.15	6.8	478	770	1.29	0.94	616	724	871	1315
60-79	6,188	6,808	3.66	4.16	226	283	1.38	1.22	313	346	428	646
Total	37,178	36,902			2,285	2,843			2,872	3,251	3,980	6,010

Quantifying Demand

The figure of total visits during peak times is used to calculate the size of a swimming pool needed to serve this demand at any one time.

This is calculated by:

- q dividing the total peak visits by the number of peak sessions(58)
- q multiply this number by the number of people that can 'fit' into each 1m² of pool area.

This leaves one number signifying the total demand from the catchment area, measured in square metres of pool.

Current	Game Plan
69	104
0.25	0.25
274	414

	Current	Game Plan Adjusted
Water area required to meet potential demand/m², in 2001 :	274	414 m ²
The corresponding demand in 2005 will be :	282	426 m ²
The corresponding demand in 2010 will be :	289	437 m ²
Pool Units Required in 2001:	1.3	
Pool Units Required in 2010:	1.4	
Pool Units Required in 2010 (Game Plan adjusted):	2.1	

A pool unit is equal to: 212 sqm or a 4 lane 25 metre pool

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the data above is accurate PMP Consultancy Ltd (MtF) accept no liability for errors or omissions within this data or any losses arising from this.

Note: Demand will change over time in relation to the increase or decrease in resident population.

Alternative Demand Parameters to Estimate Swimming Demand

Using General Household Survey (GHS 1996) Parameters

The demand model above can be recalculated by combining the parameters from the GHS (1996) for adult swimmers and the Sport England parameters for juniors. The GHS survey is a more robust survey with a larger sample size.

Demand Assessment Table

The **GHS (1996) estimates** for adult swimmers, aged 16+, 12.8% penetration rate and participation rate of once per week. Applying this to the population in the catchment area will result in the total number of visits per week.

Visits per week in peak times (aged 16+) - using GHS parameters :	5,128
Visits per week in peak times (aged under 16) - using Sport England Parameters :	1,398
Total visits per week in peak times :	6,526

The total visits per week in peak times is then divided by the number of peak periods in a week and multiplied by the number of people that can 'fit' into 1m².

Quantifying Demand

Water area required to meet potential demand/m ² , in 1991 :	450	m ²
The corresponding demand in 2000 will be :	500	m ²
The corresponding demand in 2005 will be :	463	m ²
The corresponding demand in 2010 will be :	474	m ²

MtF Demand Model - Swimming Pool - PART B - MODEL RUNS

Target Area: Harborough District

Target Site: N/A



The total demand (calculated in the pool demand sheet) is then compared to the supply of pool area within the catchment area. There are three scenarios considered:

(1). **Present situation.** In the year 2001 the existing pool area available is compared to the corresponding estimated demand.

Using projected demand in the year 2010 and population projections to estimate any change in demand, the situation in 2010 is estimated. It is assessed under two conditions.

(2). **Worst Case Scenario.** Assumes that all current planning applications will come to fruition.

(3). **Most Likely Scenario.** Assumes that only the projects that are currently underway (have gained planning permission) will eventually be completed.

The Three Scenarios

1. Present Situation		Year 2001		
Using the 2001 Census population projections, and only those facilities that are presently built				
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2001		Demand in Year 2001 = 274	
	Public LCs	1		
	Dual Use	1		
	Club Use	0		
Total		2	There is an over supply equivalent to 64 sqm	
Existing pool area (m ²)	Public LCs	188		
	Dual Use	150		
	Club Use	0		
	Total		338	
2. Worst Case Scenario (Do everything)		Year 2010		
Using population projection to the year 2010, and assumes all planned developments come to fruition				
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010 = 289	
	Public LCs	1		
	Dual Use	1		
Planned Sites	Public LCs	0	There is an over supply equivalent to 349 sqm	
	Dual Use	1		
	Club Use	0		
Total Sites		Total	3	
Existing pool area (m ²)	Public LCs	188	There is an over supply equivalent to 349 sqm	
	Dual Use	150		
	Club Use	0		
Planned pool area (m ²)	Public LCs	0	There is an over supply equivalent to 349 sqm	
	Dual Use	300		
	Club Use	0		
	Total			638
3. Most Likely Scenario (Do something)		Year 2010		
Using population projection to the year 2010, and only planned developments where building work has started on site.				
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010 = 289	Demand in Year 2010 = 437 (Game Plan Adjusted)
	Public LCs	1		
	Dual Use	1		
Planned Sites	Public LCs	0	There is an over supply equivalent to 349 sqm	Over supply (Game Plan adjusted) 201 sqm
	Dual Use	1		
	Club Use	0		
Total Sites		Total	3	
Existing pool area (m ²)	Public LCs	188	Over supply (Game Plan adjusted) 201 sqm	
	Dual Use	150		
	Club Use	0		
Planned pool area (m ²)	Public LCs	0	Over supply (Game Plan adjusted) 201 sqm	
	Dual Use	300		
	Club Use	0		
	Total			638

Notes:

Public LCs - Public leisure centres with unrestricted public access

Dual Use - Leisure centres that only allow public access during out of school hours and holidays. Supply has been reduced by 25% to reflect this.

Club Use - Facilities that can only be hired out as a whole, to clubs and associations, usually on a block booking system. Such facilities do not provide staff or any other support. These facilities are therefore not included in the model.

MtF Demand Model - Sports Halls - PART A - DEMAND SIDE

Target Area: **Harborough District**Target Site: **N/A**

Any model is based on a number of assumptions. The assumptions used in this model are as follows:

Assumptions/Parameters used in Model:		Source: 1999 Sport England
q	Proportion of visits during peak times = 65%	
q	Average duration of visit = 1 hour	
q	Normal peak periods = 44 hours per week	
q	At one time capacity = 5 people per badminton court	

These assumptions are then applied to the population (classified by age and gender) of the target area. Calculated Sport England demand parameters for each category of age and gender are also applied (see the following table).

Demand Assessment Table

Demand in relation to the age and gender profile of the target area is calculated by applying Sport England demand parameters to it.

Age Group	Population		Rate of Participation (%)		Participation Nr's		Frequency of participation (per week)		Visits per week		Peak Visits (65%)	Game Plan Factor of 1.51
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
0-15	8,054	7,473	6.64	7.36	535	550	1.23	1.10	658	605	821	1239
16-24	3,458	3,145	8.27	3.24	286	102	1.71	1.57	489	160	422	637
25-34	4,684	4,928	8.01	9.09	375	448	1.39	1.27	522	569	709	1070
35-44	6,273	6,171	7.06	5.93	443	366	1.15	1.37	509	501	657	992
45-59	8,521	8,377	3.23	5.89	275	493	1	0.90	275	444	468	706
60-79	6,188	6,808	2.42	2.87	150	195	1.77	1.45	265	283	356	538
Total	37,178	36,902							2,718	2,563	3,432	5,183

Quantifying Demand

The figure of total visits during peak times is used to calculate the size of a sports hall needed to serve this demand at any one time.

This is calculated by :

- q dividing the total peak visits by the number of peak sessions (44) :
- q divide this number by the average number of people that play on a badminton court (5) :

This leaves one number signifying the total demand from the catchment area, measured in badminton courts.

Current	Game Plan
78	118
5	5
15.6	23.6

	Current	Game Plan Adjusted
No of badminton courts demand in 2001	15.6	23.6 courts
The corresponding demand in 2005 will be:	16.1	24.2 courts
The corresponding demand in 2010 will be:	16.4	24.8 courts

Number of four court sports halls required in 2001 is: 3.9

Number of four court sports halls required in 2010 is: 4.1

Number of four court sports halls required in 2010 (Game Plan Adjusted) is: 6.2

Note: Demand will change over time in relation to the increase or decrease in resident population.

MtF Demand Model - Sports Halls - PART B - MODEL RUNS



Target Area: Harborough District

Target Site: N/A

The total demand (calculated in the hall demand sheet) is then compared to the supply of sports halls within the catchment area. There are three scenarios considered:

(1). **Present situation.** In the year 2001 the existing sports halls available are compared to the corresponding estimated demand.

Using projected demand in the year 2010 and population projections to estimate any change in demand, the situation in 2010 is estimated. It is assessed under two conditions.

(2). **Worst Case Scenario.** Assumes that all current planning applications will come to fruition.

(3). **Most Likely Scenario.** Assumes that only the projects that are currently underway (have gained planning permission) will eventually be completed.

1. Present Situation		Year 2001	
Using population projections to the year 2000, and only those facilities that are presently built.			
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2001		Demand in Year 2001 = 16
	Public LCs	1	
	Dual Use	1	
	Club Use	3	
Total		5	
Existing badminton courts	Public LCs		There is an unmet demand equivalent to 9 courts *discounted from demand model
	Dual Use		
	Club Use*		
	Total		
4		7	

2. Worst Case Scenario (Do everything)		Year 2010	
Using population projection to the year 2010, and assumes all planned developments come to fruition			
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010 = 16
	Public LCs	1	
	Dual Use	1	
	Club Use	3	
Planned Sites	Public LCs	1	
	Dual Use	0	
	Club Use	0	
Total Sites		Total	6
Total Sites		Total	6
Existing badminton courts	Public LCs		There is an unmet demand equivalent to 5 courts *discounted from demand model
	Dual Use		
	Club Use*		
Planned badminton courts	Public LCs		
	Dual Use		
	Club Use		
4		11	

3. Most Likely Scenario (Do something)		Year 2010	
Using population projection to the year 2010, and only planned developments where building work has started on site.			
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010 = 16
	Public LCs	1	
	Dual Use	1	
	Club Use	3	
Planned Sites	Public LCs	1	
	Dual Use	0	
	Club Use	0	
Total Sites		Total	6
Total Sites		Total	6
Existing badminton courts	Public LCs		There is an unmet demand equivalent to 5 courts Unmet Demand (Game Plan Adjusted) 14 courts *discounted from demand model
	Dual Use		
	Club Use*		
Planned badminton courts	Public LCs		
	Dual Use		
	Club Use		
4		11	

Notes:

- Public LCs - Public leisure centres with unrestricted public access
- Dual Use - Leisure centres that only allow public access during out of school hours and holidays. Supply has been reduced by 25% to reflect this.
- Club Use - Facilities that can only be hired out as a whole, to clubs and associations, usually on a block booking system. Such facilities do not provide staff or any other support. These facilities are therefore not included in the model.

MtF Demand Model - Health and Fitness - PART A - DEMAND SIDE**FORECAST**Target Area: **Harborough District**Target Site: **N/A****Generic Assumptions Used in the Model**

- q The model defines health and fitness users as all people participating in health and fitness, including private club members, users of local authority facilities, home users.
- q The model is based on the premise that for the supply to be sufficient, it must be large enough to cater for the maximum demand at any one time. Maximum demand is described as the demand during a peak hour/session.
- q Penetration of health and fitness users is defined using results from MtF's Sport and Leisure Potential Report. This report is derived from a representative sample of nearly 1 million people who completed a survey, a significant number of which reside within the target area. The penetration rate is therefore dependent upon the character of people in the target catchment area. A figure of 19.7% penetration was attained for GB as a whole. This is a current figure and does not take into account market trends in health and fitness.
- q A reduction of 10% in the demand for stations is assumed to represent the proportion of health and fitness users who do not use gyms, including 'home' users, etc. The reduction is subtracted at the end of the model calculations.

Parameters Used in the Model

- q A potential penetration rate of 21.1% will be used. This figure was obtained from the Sport and Leisure Potential Report for this target area. It includes **all** health and fitness users (from home gym users to members of private health and fitness clubs)
- q The average health and fitness session is one hour
- q 65% of use is during peak times
- q Peak times are 5-9pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm weekends (36 hours in a week).
- q The average user participates on average 1.5 times per week or six times a month.
- q The at one time capacity of a health and fitness facility is calculated by the ratio of one user per station.

The Calculations Used to Calculate Demand (2001)

Total Adult Population = 58,882
 Number of Potential members/users of health and fitness clubs = 21.1% of total adults = 12,424
 Number of visits per week = potential members/users *1.5 = 18,636
 Number of visits per week in peak times = 65% of total number of visits = 12,113
 Number of visits in one hour of peak time = total visits during peak times /36 = 337
 Reduce figure by 10% to account for non gym users = 303

A total number of 303 stations would be required to cater for the predicted demand by potential members/users of any health and fitness facility.

Quantifying Demand - demand changes over time as a result of changes in resident population.

In 2001 there will be a demand for : 303 stations
In 2005 there will be a demand for : 312 stations
In 2010 there will be a demand for : 320 stations

NB. Market trends have not been considered at this stage.

MtF Demand Model - Health and Fitness - PART B - MODEL RUNS

Target Area: Harborough District

Target Site: N/A



The total demand (calculated in the demand sheet) is then compared to the supply of stations within the catchment area. There are three scenarios considered:

(1). **Present situation.** In the year 2001 the existing stations available are compared to the corresponding estimated demand.

Using projected demand in the year 2010 and population projections to estimate any change in demand, the situation in 2010 is estimated. It is assessed under two conditions.

(2). **Worst Case Scenario.** Assumes that all current planning applications will come to fruition.

(3). **Most Likely Scenario.** Assumes that only the projects that are currently underway (have gained planning permission) will eventually be completed.

1. Present Situation			Year 2001
Using population projections to the year 2000, and only those facilities that are presently built.			
Year 2001	Supply in Year 2001		
Existing Sites	Public	1	Demand in Year 2001 = 303
	Private	4	
	Total	5	
Existing Stations	Public	78	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 142 stations
	Private	83	
	Total	161	

2. Worst Case Scenario (Do everything)			Year 2010
Using population projection to the year 2010, and all planned developments come to fruition			
Year 2010	Supply in Year 2010		
Existing Sites	Public	1	Demand in Year 2010 = 320
	Private	4	
	Planned	1	
	Total	6	
No of Stations	Public	78	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 115 stations
	Private	83	
	Planned	44	
	Total	205	

3. Most Likely Scenario (Do something)			Year 2010
Using population projection to the year 2010, and only planned developments which are looking favourable come to fruition			
Year 2010	Supply in Year 2010		
Existing Sites	Public	1	Demand in Year 2010 = 320
	Private	4	
	Planned	1	
	Total	6	
No of Stations	Public	78	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 115 stations
	Private	83	
	Planned	44	
	Total	205	

Notes: No assumptions/consideration has been made regarding the quality of facilities. It is assumed that although private clubs require a membership fee to be paid before joining, no reduction in accessibility to the facility results. Similarly, the standard requirement in public facilities to undertake an induction before using the facility also has no impact on accessibility.

Data

Demographic Profile - 2001 Census



Report for : PMP
 Defined Area: Harborough District & 3km Buffer
 Postcode: N/A

	Results from area	Results as % of area	Results as % of England & Wales	Results as % of GB	From GB % Index (ave. =100)	From GB % Index difference	From England & Wales % Index (ave. =100)	From England & Wales % Index difference
Total Population	259,598	100	100.0	100	100	0	100	0
0 - 4	15,548	6.0	6.0	5.7	105	5	101	1
5 - 9	16,822	6.5	6.4	6.2	104	4	102	2
10 -15	21,482	8.3	7.8	7.8	107	7	106	6
16 - 19	14,212	5.5	4.9	4.9	111	11	112	12
20 - 29	28,595	11.0	12.7	12.6	88	-12	87	-13
30 - 39	39,502	15.2	15.6	15.6	98	-2	98	-2
40 - 49	37,053	14.3	13.4	13.8	104	4	107	7
50 - 59	33,530	12.9	12.6	12.6	103	3	103	3
60 +	52,854	20.4	20.8	20.9	97	-3	98	-2
Males								
Total	127,336	49.1	48.7	48.4	101	1	101	1
0 - 4	8,064	3.1	3.0	2.9	106	6	102	2
5 - 9	8,776	3.4	3.3	3.2	106	6	104	4
10 -15	11,004	4.2	4.0	4.0	107	7	106	6
16 - 19	7,310	2.8	2.5	2.5	112	12	112	12
20 - 29	14,204	5.5	6.3	6.2	88	-12	88	-12
30 - 39	19,239	7.4	7.7	7.6	98	-2	97	-3
40 - 49	18,548	7.1	6.6	6.8	105	5	108	8
50 - 59	16,727	6.4	6.2	6.2	104	4	104	4
60 +	23,464	9.0	9.1	9.0	101	1	100	-0
Females								
Total	132,262	50.9	51.3	51.6	99	-1	99	-1
0 - 4	7,484	2.9	2.9	2.8	104	4	99	-1
5 - 9	8,046	3.1	3.1	3.0	102	2	100	0
10 -15	10,478	4.0	3.8	3.8	107	7	106	6
16 - 19	6,902	2.7	2.4	2.4	110	10	111	11
20 - 29	14,391	5.5	6.4	6.4	87	-13	87	-13
30 - 39	20,263	7.8	7.9	8.0	98	-2	99	-1
40 - 49	18,505	7.1	6.7	7.0	102	2	106	6
50 - 59	16,803	6.5	6.3	6.4	102	2	102	2
60 +	29,390	11.3	11.7	11.9	95	-5	97	-3
Ethnic Origin								
All White	216,928	83.6	90.9	0.0	N/A	N/A	92	-8
White - British	210,559	81.1	87.0	0.0	N/A	N/A	93	-7
White - Irish	2,365	0.9	1.3	0.0	N/A	N/A	72	-28
White - Other	4,004	1.5	2.7	0.0	N/A	N/A	58	-42
All Black	2,721	1.0	2.3	0.0	N/A	N/A	45	-55
Black - Caribbean	1,621	0.6	1.1	0.0	N/A	N/A	55	-45
Black - African	893	0.3	1.0	0.0	N/A	N/A	36	-64
Black - Other	207	0.1	0.2	0.0	N/A	N/A	41	-59
Chinese	806	0.3	0.4	0.0	N/A	N/A	69	-31

	Results from area	Results as % of area	Results as % of England & Wales	Results as % of GB	From GB % Index (ave. =100)	From GB % Index difference	From England & Wales % Index (ave. =100)	From England & Wales % Index difference
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Ethnic Origin contd

All Asian	35,338	13.6	4.6	0.0	N/A	N/A	298	198
Asian - Indian	29,889	11.5	2.1	0.0	N/A	N/A	550	450
Asian - Pakistani	2,231	0.9	1.4	0.0	N/A	N/A	60	-40
Asian - Bangladeshi	830	0.3	0.6	0.0	N/A	N/A	57	-43
Asian - Other	2,388	0.9	0.5	0.0	N/A	N/A	190	90
Others	472	0.2	0.4	0.0	N/A	N/A	42	-58
All Mixed	3,082	1.2	1.3	0.0	N/A	N/A	91	-9
White and Black Caribbean	1,110	0.4	0.5	0.0	N/A	N/A	91	-9
Mixed - White and Black African	198	0.1	0.2	0.0	N/A	N/A	49	-51
Mixed - White and Asian	1,170	0.5	0.4	0.0	N/A	N/A	120	20
Mixed - Others	604	0.2	0.3	0.0	N/A	N/A	76	-24

Residents who have a limiting long-term illness	37,943	14.6	17.0	17.5	83	-17	86	-14
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Economic Activity of Household Residents (aged 16 and over)

Total	207,913	[total of all economic sub-types]						
In Full-time employment	93,207	44.8	39.0	40.5	111	11	115	15
In Part-time employment	31,266	15.0	12.8	13.1	114	14	118	18
Self employed	16,670	8.0	5.2	5.7	142	42	153	53
Unemployed	4,872	2.3	2.5	3.0	77	-23	95	-5
Students	15,385	7.4	18.3	12.5	59	-41	40	-60
Permanently Sick/Disabled	7,134	3.4	4.3	5.6	62	-38	79	-21
Retired	24,642	11.9	9.9	11.3	105	5	119	19
Other inactive	4,544	2.2	2.5	3.1	72	-28	86	-14
Looking after home/family	10,193	4.9	5.3	5.2	94	-6	92	-8

Males

In Full-time employment	61,187	29.4	25.3	26.0	113	13	116	16
In Part-time employment	6,417	3.1	2.7	2.7	115	15	114	14
Self employed	12,144	5.8	3.8	4.1	142	42	154	54
Unemployed	2,912	1.4	1.5	1.9	72	-28	94	-6
Students	7,556	3.6	9.2	6.1	59	-41	40	-60
Permanently Sick/Disabled	3,581	1.7	2.4	3.0	57	-43	73	-27
Retired	10,225	4.9	4.0	4.5	108	8	123	23
Other inactive	1,830	0.9	1.1	1.3	66	-34	80	-20
Looking after home/family	598	0.3	0.4	0.4	74	-26	78	-22

Female

In Full-time employment	32,020	15.4	13.7	14.5	106	6	113	13
In Part-time employment	24,849	12.0	10.1	10.5	114	14	119	19
Self employed	4,529	2.2	1.5	1.6	138	38	145	45
Unemployed	1,960	0.9	1.0	1.1	85	-15	97	-3
Students	7,959	3.8	9.4	6.5	59	-41	41	-59
Permanently Sick/Disabled	3,553	1.7	2.0	2.6	66	-34	86	-14
Retired	14,553	7.0	6.2	6.9	101	1	113	13
Other inactive	2,714	1.3	1.4	1.7	76	-24	91	-9
Looking after home/family	9,595	4.6	5.0	4.8	96	-4	93	-7

Lone Parents

Total	205,746	[Total of All People aged 16+]						
Total	9,298	4.5	5.6	6.0	75	-25	80	-20
Male	1,403	0.7	0.8	0.8	85	-15	88	-12
Female	7,895	3.8	4.9	5.2	74	-26	79	-21
		Results as % of area	Results as % of England & Wales	Results as % of GB	From GB % Index (ave. =100)	From GB % Index difference	From England & Wales % Index (ave. =100)	From England & Wales % Index difference

Tenure of Households

Total Occupied Household Spaces	101,934
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Owned	80,495	79.0	68.7	65.7	120	20	115	15
Private Rented or Living Rent Free	8,242	8.1	12.0	11.2	73	-27	67	-33
Rented from Council	10,784	10.6	13.2	17.4	61	-39	80	-20
Other Social Rented	2,413	2.4	6.1	5.8	41	-59	39	-61

Car Availability by Household

with no car	19,766	19.4	26.8	30.5	64	-36	72	-28
with 1 car	43,670	42.8	43.7	43.5	98	-2	98	-2
with 2 cars	38,780	38.0	29.5	26.0	147	47	129	29

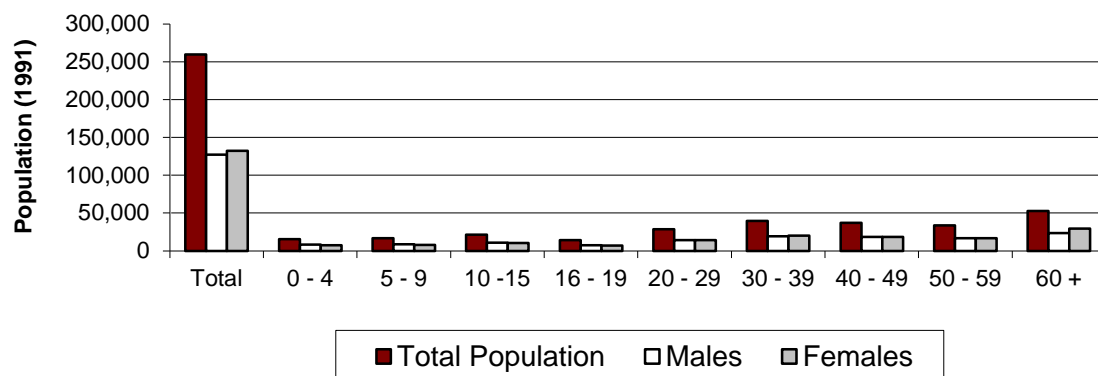
Social Class of Head of Household

Total Head of Household (aged 16+)

199,585

AB - Higher & Intermediate managerial/admin/professional	50,006	25.1	22.2	20.6	122	22	113	13
Supervisory, clerical, junior	58,204	29.2	29.7	28.1	104	4	98	-2
C2 - Skilled manual workers	29,992	15.0	15.1	14.8	101	1	100	-0
D - Semi-skilled & unskilled manual workers	34,398	17.2	17.0	17.3	100	-0	101	1
E - On state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade	26,985	13.5	16.0	19.2	70	-30	85	-15

Graph to illustrate population by age and gender.



Population Projection Report

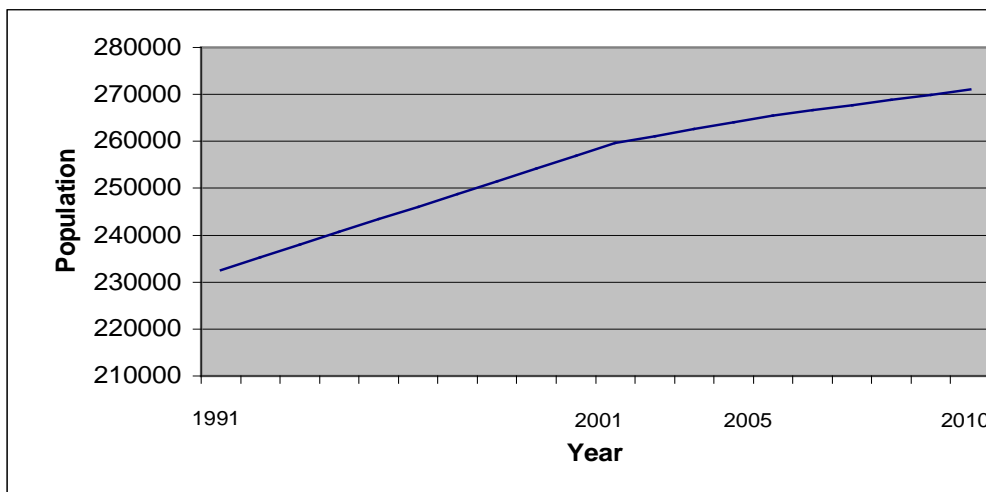


Report for : PMP
Defined Area: Harborough District & 3km Buffer
Postcode: N/A

Data Table:

	Population	% change	Actual Change	
1991	232,582	-	-	
2001	259,598	11.6%	27,016	
2005	265,543	2.3%	5,945	<i>(increase on 2001 pop)</i>
2010	271,051	4.4%	11,453	<i>(increase on 2001 pop)</i>

Population Projections	1991-2000	2001-2005	2001-2010
Harborough District & 3km Buffer	11.6%	2.3%	4.4%
Actual Total Change	27,016	5,945	11,453



Source: 1996 Sub-National Projections. Reproduced by permission of the Office of National Statistics.

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Note: Some variations may occur in projections due to the changes in postal geography.

MtF Demand Model - Swimming Pools - PART A - DEMAND SIDE

Target Area: **Harborough District & 3km Buffer**Target Site: **N/A**

Any model is based on a number of assumptions. The assumptions used in this model are as follows:

Assumptions/Parameters used in Model

Source: 1999 Sport England

- q Proportion of visits during peak times = 65%
- q Average duration of visit = 45 mins
- q Normal peak periods = 43.5 hours per week = 58 peak sessions
- q At one time capacity = 0.25 people per m²
A one time capacity is defined as the supply/capacity of one m² of pool area at any one time
- q Capacity per 212m² (1 pool unit) = 3,074 people. (number of metres squared multiplied by the at one time capacity of one m²)
A pool unit is defined as an average four laned, 25 metre pool.

These assumptions are then applied to the population (classified by age and gender) of the target area. Calculated Sport England demand parameters for each category of age and gender are also applied (see the following table).

Demand Assessment Table

Demand in relation to the age and gender profile of the target area is calculated by applying the Sport England parameters to it.

Age group	Population		Rate of participation (%)		Participation numbers		Frequency of participation (per week)		Visits per week		Peak visits (65%)	Game Plan Factor of 1.51
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
0-15	27,844	26,008	12.58	10.7	3503	2783	1.16	1.22	4063	3395	4848	7320
16-24	14,506	13,855	3.9	7.62	566	1056	1.27	1.46	718	1541	1469	2218
25-39	26,247	27,701	5.43	9.21	1425	2551	1.38	1.14	1967	2908	3169	4785
40-59	35,275	35,308	4.15	6.8	1464	2401	1.29	0.94	1888	2257	2694	4069
60-79	19,932	22,666	3.66	4.16	730	943	1.38	1.22	1007	1150	1402	2117
Total	123,804	125,538			7,687	9,734			9,644	11,252	13,582	20,509

Quantifying Demand

The figure of total visits during peak times is used to calculate the size of a swimming pool needed to serve this demand at any one time.

This is calculated by:

- q dividing the total peak visits by the number of peak sessions(58)
- q multiply this number by the number of people that can 'fit' into each 1m² of pool area.

This leaves one number signifying the total demand from the catchment area, measured in square metres of pool.

Current	Game Plan
234	354
0.25	0.25
937	1414

	Current	Game Plan Adjusted
Water area required to meet potential demand/m², in 2001 :	937	1414 m ²
The corresponding demand in 2005 will be :	958	1447 m ²
The corresponding demand in 2010 will be :	978	1477 m ²
Pool Units Required in 2001:	4.4	
Pool Units Required in 2010:	4.6	
Pool Units Required in 2010 (Game Plan adjusted):	7.0	

A pool unit is equal to: 212 sqm or a 4 lane 25 metre pool

Note: Demand will change over time in relation to the increase or decrease in resident population.

Alternative Demand Parameters to Estimate Swimming Demand

Using General Household Survey (GHS 1996) Parameters

The demand model above can be recalculated by combining the parameters from the GHS (1996) for adult swimmers and the Sport England parameters for juniors. The GHS survey is a more robust survey with a larger sample size.

Demand Assessment Table

The **GHS (1996) estimates** for adult swimmers, aged 16+, 12.8% penetration rate and participation rate of once per week. Applying this to the population in the catchment area will result in the total number of visits per week.

Visits per week in peak times (aged 16+) - using GHS parameters :	17,118
Visits per week in peak times (aged under 16) - using Sport England Parameters :	4,848
Total visits per week in peak times :	21,966

The total visits per week in peak times is then divided by the number of peak periods in a week and multiplied by the number of people that can 'fit' into 1m².

Quantifying Demand

Water area required to meet potential demand/m ² , in 1991 :	1,515	m ²
The corresponding demand in 2000 will be :	1,691	m²
The corresponding demand in 2005 will be :	1,550	m²
The corresponding demand in 2010 will be :	1,582	m²

MtF Demand Model - Swimming Pool - PART B - MODEL RUNS

Target Area: Harborough District & 3km Buffer

Target Site: N/A



The total demand (calculated in the pool demand sheet) is then compared to the supply of pool area within the catchment area. There are three scenarios considered:

(1). **Present situation.** In the year 2001 the existing pool area available is compared to the corresponding estimated demand.

Using projected demand in the year 2010 and population projections to estimate any change in demand, the situation in 2010 is estimated. It is assessed under two conditions.

(2). **Worst Case Scenario.** Assumes that all current planning applications will come to fruition.

(3). **Most Likely Scenario.** Assumes that only the projects that are currently underway (have gained planning permission) will eventually be completed.

The Three Scenarios

1. Present Situation		Year 2001	
Using the 2001 Census population projections, and only those facilities that are presently built			
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2001		Demand in Year 2001 = 937
	Public LCs	1	
	Dual Use	3	
	Club Use	0	
Total		4	
Existing pool area (m ²)	Public LCs		There is an unmet demand equivalent to 175 sqm
	Dual Use		
	Club Use		
	Total		
Public LCs		188	
Dual Use		574	
Club Use		0	
Total		762	

2. Worst Case Scenario (Do everything)		Year 2010	
Using population projection to the year 2010, and assumes all planned developments come to fruition			
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010 = 978
	Public LCs	1	
	Dual Use	3	
	Club Use	0	
Planned Sites	Public LCs	0	
	Dual Use	1	
	Club Use	0	
Total Sites		5	
Existing pool area (m ²)	Public LCs		There is an over supply equivalent to 84 sqm
	Dual Use		
	Club Use		
	Total		
Public LCs		188	
Dual Use		574	
Club Use		0	
Planned pool area (m ²)	Public LCs		Total 1062
	Dual Use		
	Club Use		
	Total		
Public LCs		0	
Dual Use		300	
Club Use		0	
Total		1062	

3. Most Likely Scenario (Do something)		Year 2010	
Using population projection to the year 2010, and only planned developments where building work has started on site.			
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010 = 978
	Public LCs	1	
	Dual Use	3	
	Club Use	0	
Planned Sites	Public LCs	0	
	Dual Use	1	
	Club Use	0	
Total Sites		5	
Existing pool area (m ²)	Public LCs		There is an over supply equivalent to 84 sqm
	Dual Use		
	Club Use		
	Total		
Public LCs		188	
Dual Use		574	
Club Use		0	
Planned pool area (m ²)	Public LCs		Unmet demand (Game Plan adjusted) 415 sqm
	Dual Use		
	Club Use		
	Total		
Public LCs		0	
Dual Use		300	
Club Use		0	
Total		1062	

Notes:

Public LCs - Public leisure centres with unrestricted public access

Dual Use - Leisure centres that only allow public access during out of school hours and holidays. Supply has been reduced by 25% to reflect this.

Club Use - Facilities that can only be hired out as a whole, to clubs and associations, usually on a block booking system. Such facilities do not provide staff or any other support. These facilities are therefore not included in the model.

MtF Demand Model - Sports Halls - PART A - DEMAND SIDE

Target Area: **Harborough District & 3km Buffer**Target Site: **N/A**

Any model is based on a number of assumptions. The assumptions used in this model are as follows:

Assumptions/Parameters used in Model:		Source: 1999 Sport England
q	Proportion of visits during peak times = 65%	
q	Average duration of visit = 1 hour	
q	Normal peak periods = 44 hours per week	
q	At one time capacity = 5 people per badminton court	

These assumptions are then applied to the population (classified by age and gender) of the target area. Calculated Sport England demand parameters for each category of age and gender are also applied (see the following table).

Demand Assessment Table

Demand in relation to the age and gender profile of the target area is calculated by applying Sport England demand parameters to it.

Age Group	Population		Rate of Participation (%)		Participation Nr's		Frequency of participation (per week)		Visits per week		Peak Visits (65%)	Game Plan Factor of 1.51
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
0-15	27,844	26,008	6.64	7.36	1849	1914	1.23	1.10	2274	2106	2847	4299
16-24	14,506	13,855	8.27	3.24	1200	449	1.71	1.57	2051	705	1792	2705
25-34	16,249	17,267	8.01	9.09	1302	1570	1.39	1.27	1809	1993	2472	3732
35-44	19,672	19,944	7.06	5.93	1389	1183	1.15	1.37	1597	1620	2091	3158
45-59	25,601	25,798	3.23	5.89	827	1520	1	0.90	827	1368	1426	2154
60-79	19,932	22,666	2.42	2.87	482	651	1.77	1.45	854	943	1168	1764
Total	123,804	125,538							9,412	8,735	11,796	17,812

Quantifying Demand

The figure of total visits during peak times is used to calculate the size of a sports hall needed to serve this demand at any one time.

This is calculated by :

q dividing the total peak visits by the number of peak sessions (44) :

q divide this number by the average number of people that play on a badminton court (5) :

This leaves one number signifying the total demand from the catchment area, measured in badminton courts.

Current	Game Plan
268	405
5	5
53.6	81.0

	Current	Game Plan Adjusted
No of badminton courts demand in 2001	53.6	81.0 courts
The corresponding demand in 2005 will be:	54.8	82.8 courts
The corresponding demand in 2010 will be:	56.0	84.5 courts

Number of four court sports halls required in 2001 is: 13.4

Number of four court sports halls required in 2010 is: 14.0

Number of four court sports halls required in 2010 (Game Plan Adjusted) is: 21.1

Note: Demand will change over time in relation to the increase or decrease in resident population.

MtF Demand Model - Sports Halls - PART B - MODEL RUNS



Target Area: Harborough District & 3km Buffer

Target Site: N/A

The total demand (calculated in the hall demand sheet) is then compared to the supply of sports halls within the catchment area. There are three scenarios considered:

(1). **Present situation.** In the year 2001 the existing sports halls available are compared to the corresponding estimated demand.

Using projected demand in the year 2010 and population projections to estimate any change in demand, the situation in 2010 is estimated. It is assessed under two conditions.

(2). **Worst Case Scenario.** Assumes that all current planning applications will come to fruition.

(3). **Most Likely Scenario.** Assumes that only the projects that are currently underway (have gained planning permission) will eventually be completed.

1. Present Situation			Year 2001	
Using population projections to the year 2000, and only those facilities that are presently built.				
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2001		Demand in Year 2001	
	Public LCs	5	= 54	
	Dual Use	2		
	Club Use	9		
Total	16			
Existing badminton courts	Public LCs	24	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 23 courts	
	Dual Use	7		
	Club Use*	28		
	Total	31		
*discounted from demand model				

2. Worst Case Scenario (Do everything)			Year 2010	
Using population projection to the year 2010, and assumes all planned developments come to fruition				
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010	
	Public LCs	5	= 56	
	Dual Use	2		
	Club Use	9		
Total	16			
Planned Sites	Public LCs	1	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 21 courts	
	Dual Use	0		
	Club Use	0		
Total Sites	Total	17	*discounted from demand model	
Existing badminton courts	Public LCs	24		
	Dual Use	7		
	Club Use*	28		
Planned badminton courts	Public LCs	4		
	Dual Use	0		
	Club Use	0		
Total		35		

3. Most Likely Scenario (Do something)			Year 2010	
Using population projection to the year 2010, and only planned developments where building work has started on site.				
Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010	Demand in Year 2010
	Public LCs	5	= 56	= 85
	Dual Use	2		(Game Plan Adjusted)
	Club Use	9		
Planned Sites	Public LCs	1	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 20 courts	
	Dual Use	0		
	Club Use	0		
Total Sites	Total	17	Unmet Demand (Game Plan Adjusted) 49 courts	
Existing badminton courts	Public LCs	24	*discounted from demand model	
	Dual Use	7		
	Club Use*	28		
Planned badminton courts	Public LCs	5		
	Dual Use	0		
	Club Use	0		
Total		36		

Notes:

- Public LCs - Public leisure centres with unrestricted public access
- Dual Use - Leisure centres that only allow public access during out of school hours and holidays. Supply has been reduced by 25% to reflect this.
- Club Use - Facilities that can only be hired out as a whole, to clubs and associations, usually on a block booking system. Such facilities do not provide staff or any other support. These facilities are therefore not included in the model.

MtF Demand Model - Health and Fitness - PART A - DEMAND SIDE**FORECAST**Target Area: **Harborough District & 3km Buffer**Target Site: **N/A****Generic Assumptions Used in the Model**

- q The model defines health and fitness users as all people participating in health and fitness, including private club members, users of local authority facilities, home users.
- q The model is based on the premise that for the supply to be sufficient, it must be large enough to cater for the maximum demand at any one time. Maximum demand is described as the demand during a peak hour/session.
- q Penetration of health and fitness users is defined using results from MtF's Sport and Leisure Potential Report. This report is derived from a representative sample of nearly 1 million people who completed a survey, a significant number of which reside within the target area. The penetration rate is therefore dependent upon the character of people in the target catchment area. A figure of 19.7% penetration was attained for GB as a whole. This is a current figure and does not take into account market trends in health and fitness.
- q A reduction of 10% in the demand for stations is assumed to represent the proportion of health and fitness users who do not use gyms, including 'home' users, etc. The reduction is subtracted at the end of the model calculations.

Parameters Used in the Model

- q A potential penetration rate of 21.1% will be used. This figure was obtained from the Sport and Leisure Potential Report for this target area. It includes **all** health and fitness users (from home gym users to members of private health and fitness clubs)
- q The average health and fitness session is one hour
- q 65% of use is during peak times
- q Peak times are 5-9pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm weekends (36 hours in a week).
- q The average user participates on average 1.5 times per week or six times a month.
- q The at one time capacity of a health and fitness facility is calculated by the ratio of one user per station.

The Calculations Used to Calculate Demand (2001)

Total Adult Population = 194,376

Number of Potential members/users of health and fitness clubs = 21.1% of total adults = 41,013

Number of visits per week = potential members/users *1.5 = 61,520

Number of visits per week in peak times = 65% of total number of visits = 39,988

Number of visits in one hour of peak time = total visits during peak times /36 = 1,111

Reduce figure by 10% to account for non gym users = 1,000

A total number of 1,000 stations would be required to cater for the predicted demand by potential members/users of any health and fitness facility.

Quantifying Demand - demand changes over time as a result of changes in resident population.**In 2001 there will be a demand for : 1,000 stations****In 2005 there will be a demand for : 1,023 stations****In 2010 there will be a demand for : 1,044 stations**

NB. Market trends have not been considered at this stage.

MtF Demand Model - Health and Fitness - PART B - MODEL RUNS

Target Area: Harborough District & 3km Buffer

Target Site: N/A



The total demand (calculated in the demand sheet) is then compared to the supply of stations within the catchment area. There are three scenarios considered:

(1). **Present situation.** In the year 2001 the existing stations available are compared to the corresponding estimated demand.

Using projected demand in the year 2010 and population projections to estimate any change in demand, the situation in 2010 is estimated. It is assessed under two conditions.

(2). **Worst Case Scenario.** Assumes that all current planning applications will come to fruition.

(3). **Most Likely Scenario.** Assumes that only the projects that are currently underway (have gained planning permission) will eventually be completed.

1. Present Situation			Year 2001	
Using population projections to the year 2000, and only those facilities that are presently built.				
Year 2001 Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2001		Demand in Year 2001	
	Public	5	= 1,000	
	Private	10		
	Total	15		
Existing Stations	Public	189	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 426 stations	
	Private	385		
	Total	574		

2. Worst Case Scenario (Do everything)			Year 2010	
Using population projection to the year 2010, and all planned developments come to fruition				
Year 2010 Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010	
	Public	5	= 1,044	
	Private	10		
	Planned	1		
	Total	16		
No of Stations	Public	189	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 426 stations	
	Private	385		
	Planned	44		
	Total	618		

3. Most Likely Scenario (Do something)			Year 2010	
Using population projection to the year 2010, and only planned developments which are looking favourable come to fruition				
Year 2010 Existing Sites	Supply in Year 2010		Demand in Year 2010	
	Public	5	= 1,044	
	Private	10		
	Planned	1		
	Total	16		
No of Stations	Public	189	There is an unmet demand equivalent to 426 stations	
	Private	385		
	Planned	44		
	Total	618		

Notes: No assumptions/consideration has been made regarding the quality of facilities. It is assumed that although private clubs require a membership fee to be paid before joining, no reduction in accessibility to the facility results. Similarly, the standard requirement in public facilities to undertake an induction before using the facility also has no impact on accessibility.

Sports Halls (Number of Courts)

Site Name	Number of Courts	Community Access
Robert Smyth Upper School	4	Public
Kibworth Sports Centre	4	Club Use
Uppingham School Sports Centre	4	Club Use
Harborough Leisure Centre	4	Public
Lutterworth Sports Centre	4	Public
University of Leicester	4	Public
Parklands Leisure Centre	8	Public
Beauchamp College	4	Club Use
Crown Hills College	4	Club Use
Judgemeadow Community College	4	Club Use
Countesthorpe Community College	4	Club Use
Huncote Leisure Centre	4	Public
Lodge Park Sports Centre	4	Dual Use
Welland Park Community College	4	Dual Use
Guthlaxton Community College	4	Club Use
Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex	4	Public
Foxton Parish Council Sports Centre	Too small for inclusion within demand model	Too small for inclusion within demand model
Coplow Sports Centre	Too small for inclusion within demand model	Too small for inclusion within demand model
The Tugby Centre	Too small for inclusion within demand model	Too small for inclusion within demand model
Fleckney Sports Centre	Too small for inclusion within demand model	Too small for inclusion within demand model

APPENDIX F

SPORTS CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS

Facility Criteria	Leisure Facilities:	Manor Field	Hamilton CC	City Of Leicester School	Scraptoft Valley School	3rd Market Harborough Scout HQ	Scraptoft Golf Club	Great Glen Recreation Ground	Fairfield Road School	Assembly Room - Welland Park School	Symington Recreation Ground	Swiftway Centre	Football Club - Clipston	Robert Smyth School	Welland Park College	Welland Park School	Welland Park School	Leisure Centre Market Harborough	St Joseph's Great Bowden Church of England	Thurnby Memorial Hall	Kilworth Road Playing Field	Clipston Playing Field	Tennis Courts, St Withberts School	Bushloe High School	Lutterworth Grammer School (STP)	Kibworth Rugby Club												
Location		5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	1	4	5	3	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	4							
Range of Facilities		4	5	4	4	4	4	2	5	4	4	3	4	1	4	3	5	4	2	4	3	3	4	4	2	5	3	5	2	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	
Appearance		5	5	4	5	4	4	2	5	3	5	3	3	5	4	1	3	3	5	3	2	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	3	5	4	
Ease of Booking		5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	5	2	5	4	3	5	4	1	2	5	3	1	1	5	5	4	5	5	4	3	5	4
Pricing		5	5	5	3	5	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	3	2	4	1	3	2	3	5	4	4	3	3	5	3	3	5	5	4
Accessibility by Public transport		1	4	2	4	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	5	3	3	3	5	5	1	3	3	1	2	4	1	3	3	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	3	2	4	
Helpfulness of Staff		5	5	5	5	5	4	2	5	4	5	3	5	4	2	4	2	5	5	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Overall		4	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	5	3	4	3	2	4	4	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4

N.B. Rated on a scale of 1-5 where 1=poor and 5=very good

Facility Criteria	Leisure Facilities:	Kibworth High School Sports Hall	Goals at Manor Fields	Indoor Bowls at Enderby	Indoor Bowls at Desborough	Indoor at Harborough	Lutterworth Community College	Rockingham Forest Wheelers Clubhouse	Meadowdale School	Little Bowden Recreation Ground	Great Bowden Church Hall	Great Bowden Village Hall	South Kilworth Bowling Green	Kibworth Tennis Club	Lutterworth GS Astro Turf	Coventry Road Recreation Ground	South Kilworth Playing Fields	Dunley Way Football Ground	Lutterworth Community College	Great Glen Community College	Wadkins Pavillion	St Lukes School	Judge Meadow School	Market Harborough Rugby Club	Lutterworth Swimming Pool	Great Bowden Recreation Ground	Houghton on the Hill Tennis Courts	Houghton on the Hill Bowling Green	Houghton on the Hill Village Hall	Froresworth Road Recreation Ground	Manor Road Sports Hall	Manor Road Sports Ground	Medbourne Sports Club	Corby Indoor Tennis Courts	Other Leicestershire Tennis Courts	Medbourne Cricket Pitch and Sports Club	Welland Park Indoor Nets	Fleckney Recreation Ground	Kibworth Recreation Ground	Kibworth Sports Centre			
Location		4	3	2	2	2	4	5	5	5	3	3	5	5	5	5	2	5	5	5	4	5	5	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	3	5	2	5	2
Range of Facilities		3	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	1	3	3	5	4	3	4	4	3	2	5	1	4	3	4	5	1	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	1	1	4	4
Appearance		4	5	3	4	2	2	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	5	3	2	4	1	5	5	4	4	5	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	3	1	1	3	4
Ease of Booking		4	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	5	5	5	3	5	4	5	5	2	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	2	5	3	3	5	5	5	5	1	4	
Pricing		5	2	2	3	2	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	5	5	5	4	4	2	5	4	1	5	1	5	5	5	5	4	2	2	2	5	2	5	5	3	1	1	2	
Accessibility by Public transport		1	5	4	4	4	2	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	5	1	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Helpfulness of Staff		4	5	2	2	1	2	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	2	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	2	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	2	5	5	5	3	4	4	1	3	4	
Overall		4	4	2	3	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	2	5	3	4	4	3	5	1	5	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	5	5	4	3	1	1	3	3

N.B. Rated on a scale of 1-5 where 1=poor and 5=very good

Appendix F - Responding Clubs (Sports Club Questionnaire)
Humberstone Rangers Junior FC
Harborough Table Tennis Club
Scraptoft Golf Club
Glen Villa Junior FC
Market Harborough Scottish County Dance Society
Lutterworth Morris MFH
Welland Park Bowwing club
Harborough Indoor Bowls Club
Market Harborough Town Bowls Club
Lutterworth Jets
Welland Valley Cycling Club
Market Harborough Lawn Tennis Club
Market Harborough 'Arrows' Disabled Archery Club
Welland Valley Archers
Dainite Bowls Club
Thurnby and Bushby Table Tennis Club
Harborough Badminton Club
Market Harborough District Ladies Rounders League
Great Glen Tennis Club
Bowmen of Glen Archery Society
Harborough Minis FC
Market Harborough Swimming Club
Harborough Academy of Performing Arts
Aylestone St James RFC
Lutterworth Ladies Hockey Club
Market Harborough Mixed Hockey Club
Kibworth Rugby Club
Bowden Cricket Club
Houghton Tennis Club
Houghton-on-the-Hill Bowling Club
Dainloe Sports FC
Broughton Astley FC
Lutterworth Town Bowling Club
Glen Villa FC
Harborough Rubber Youth Netball Club
Medbourne Tennis Club
Saddington Sailing Club
Lutterworth Sub-Aqua Club
Medbourne Cricket Club
Fleckney Athletic FC
Kibworth Cricket Club
Cuthberts Rainbow Baton Twirlers
Bushby Junior FC
Harborough Flyers Basketball Club

Appendix F – Sports club questionnaire respondents

Hart of Fleckney Bowls Club
Claybrooke Badminton Club
Rockingham Forest Wheelers
Borough Alliance FC
Leicester Dragons
The Oakley School of Dancing
Kibworth Rambling Group
South Kibworth Bowling Group
Fleckney Walking Club
Kibworth Tennis Club
Lutterworth Junior & Youth FC
Bitteswell Cricket Club
Great Glen Badminton Club
Gilmorton Tennis Club
Lutterworth Cricket Club
Wycliffe Bowling Club
Kibworth RFC
Kibworth Bowling Vlub
Bushby United Football Club
Lutterworth Sub Aqua Club

APPENDIX G

SPORT AND RECREATION PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

Harborough District Council

Indoor Sport & Recreation

Facilities Review



Name of Parish / Town Council

Existing Sport & Leisure Provision

(Q1) What indoor sporting facilities are provided within your Parish Council area?

Swimming Pool Sports Hall Health & Fitness Suite

Other, please specify:

(Q2) If yes, please state the name and address of these facilities:

Name _____ Name _____
Address _____ Address _____
Postcode _____ Postcode _____

NOTE : Outdoor sport facilities such as playing pitches, athletics tracks, outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts etc, should be covered through the mapping and assessment of 'Outdoor Sports Facilities' when completing the map and questionnaire in your open space assessment.

Other Indoor Recreational Provision (Village Halls & Community Halls)

(Q3) Are there any other indoor recreation facilities (village halls / community halls) in your parish?

Yes No If no, please go to question 10

(Q4) If yes, please state the name and address of these facilities:

Name _____ Name _____
Address _____ Address _____
Postcode _____ Postcode _____

(Q5) Please provide details of what these facilities are primarily used for:

(Q6) Please provide any comments on the quality of these facilities in your parish:

(Q7) Would you say that the village hall / community hall provides a vital leisure facility for the residents of your parish?

Yes No Unsure

(Q8) Do you believe there is greater potential for use of these facilities by the community?

Yes No Unsure

(Q9) Please explain further your reasons for the answer to Q8:

Usage

(Q10) What are the key issues, if any, that restrict your residents from using all types of indoor leisure and recreational facilities?

Too expensive	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor public transport links	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of time	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of choice of activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opening Hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of activity information	<input type="checkbox"/>	No real restrictions	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other, please specify:

Future Leisure Provision

(Q11) What types of leisure facilities would you like to see more of, and/or think there is a demand for in the district of Harborough?

Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sports Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health & Fitness Suite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Village Halls / Community Halls	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other, please specify:

Other Comments

(Q12) If you have any other comments that you would like to make regarding the provision of indoor leisure and recreational facilities in your parish or the district of Harborough, please use the space provided below (or use a separate sheet):

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME IN COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE
PLEASE RETURN TO HARBOROUGH DC IN THE PRE-PAID ENVELOPE
(with your map and Open Spaces Questionnaire)

APPENDIX H
VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

	Name of Parish	Indoor Recreational Facilities	Address 1	Address 2	Postcode	What are these facilities primarily used for?
1	Arnesby	Village Hall	Mill Hill Road		LE8 5WG	public meetings, parties, school play group and youth club etc
2	Ashby Magna	Village Hall	Pevenil Road		LE17 5NP	Village events
3	Ashby Parva	Village Hall	Main Street		LE17 5HR	play groups, village events, Sunday school, private hire, table tennis and drama groups
4	North Kilworth	Belgrave village hall	Church Street	North Kilworth	LE17 6EZ	social evenings eg quiz and themed nights
5	Billesdon	Baptist Chapel	Brook Lane		LE7 9AB	church activities eg rainbows
6	Billesdon	Old School	Church Street		LE7 9AE	community groups eg art club
7	Bitteswell	Village Hall	Manor Road		LE17 4RZ	post office, village meetings and private hire
8	Broughton Astley	Scouts Hall	Station Road		LE9 6PT	scout meetings
9	Broughton Astley	Village Hall	Station Road		LE9 6PT	plays, concerts, club meetings, dances, parties etc
10	Bruntingthorpe	Bruntingthorpe Village Hall	Main Street	Bruntingthorpe	LE17 5QF	parish council meetings
11	Burton Overy	Village Hall			LE7 9ED	Badminton
12	Claybrooke Magna	Village Hall	Main Road		LE17 5AJ	social, recreation, keep fit, education, community facility and private hire
13	Peatling Magna	Coronation Hall	Main Street	Peatling Magna	LE8 5UQ	coffee mornings, harvest suppers, meetings, art groups and parties
14	Cotesbach	Village Hall	Main Street	Cotesbach	LE17 4HZ	upholstery and keep fit classes, square dancing, meetings and village activities
15	Drayton	Drayton & Bringham Village Hall	Hall Lane	Drayton	LE16 8SD	community events, coffee mornings, art events and private hire
16	Dunton Bassett	Village Hall	The Mount	Dunton Bassett	LE17 5JL	Meetings of community groups and lunch served to many primary school children
17	East Langton	Horsia Hut	Hanburt		LE16 7SH	community activities
18	Fleckney	Village Hall & Library	School Street		LE8 8AS	club functions, drama groups, private functions
19	Frolesworth	Frolesworth Village Hall	Ullesthorpe Road		LE17 5EN	coffee mornings, brass bands, art classes and other social events
20	Gilmorton	Pavilion (GCPFA)	Kimcote Road	Gilmorton	LE17 5PL	hiring for functions, mums and tots, The Pavilion houses changing facilities, keep fit and yoga classes
21	Gilmorton	Gilmorton Village Hall	Main Street	Gilmorton	LE17 5LS	
22	Glooston	Glooston Village Hall	Glooston		LE16 7ST	table tennis, parish meetings, coffee mornings, dances, quizzes and parties
23	Great Bowden	Great Bowden Village Hall	Great Bowden		LE16 7EU	village meetings, clubs, judo and keep fit
24	Gumley	Village Hall	Main Street		LE16 7RU	social events in Gumley and hire 10 outside groups
25	Houghton-on-the-Hill	Houghton Village Hall	Main Street	Houghton	LE7 9GD	Village meetings, classes, youth groups, parish council meetings, fund raising activities and social events.
26	Husbands Bosworth	Church Hall	Honeypot Lane		LE17 6LY	
27	Ilston on the Hill	Village Hall	Main Street	Ilston	LE7 9EG	dance class, whist drives and youth club
28	Keyham	Village Hall	Main Street	Keyham	LE7 9JQ	Badminton
29	Kibworth Beauchamp	Grammar School Road	School Road		LE8 0JD	
30	Kibworth Beauchamp	Village Hall	Station Street		LE8 0LN	anything including public meetings
31	Laughton	Village Hall (owned by local charitable)			LE16 7RX	suitable for and used by the village for small village meetings
32	Leire	Village Hall	Main Street	Leire	LE17 5HF	pre school, mums and tots, beavers, tai chi, garden club, computer classes, meetings and parties
33	Little Stretton	Village Hall	Main Street		LE2 2FT	occasional use by villagers and Sunday school club hall owned by Co-op farms and rented to village
34	Lovesby	Village Hall	Lovesby		LE7 9DD	Meetings connected with village events and church, eg parish meetings, harvest suppaer and hunt meetings.
35	Lubenham	Village Hall	Laughton Road		LE16 9TE	meeting room for all the community for any social or sporting function
36	Medbourne	Medbourne Sports Club	Hallaton Road	Medbourne	LE16 8DR	
37	Medbourne	Medbourne Village Hall	Main Street	Medbourne	LE16 8DT	social functions/clubs & organisations, play groups, leisure ie table skittles, youth club etc
38	Misterton with Walcote	Memorial Hall	Lutterworth Road	Walocote	LE17 4JW	parish council meetings WI
39	Mowsley	Mowsley Village Hall	Main Street	Mowsley	LE17 6NU	daytime-extra school room for local primary school evening- socials, parish meetings
40	Wistow Cum Newton Harcourt	Newton Harcourt Village hall	Glen Road	Newton Harcourt	L38 9FH	group meetings and parties
41	Owston & Newbold	Village Hall	Owston	Leics	LE15 8DN	village social activities
42	Foxton	Robert Monk Hall	Middle Street		LE16 7RE	snooker and short mat bowls, scout meetings
43	Scraptoft	Scraptoft Village hall	Scraptoft Rise	Scraptoft	LE17 9TF	parish council meetings, martial arts, parties and over 60s
44	Shawell	Shawell Memorial Hall	Luterworth Road		LE17 6AE	village meetings, voting station, occasional meetings of clubs etc
45	Shearsby	Village Hall	Church Lane	Shearsby	LE17 6PG	keep fit/aerobics
46	Slawston	Slawston Village Hall	Main Street	Slawston	LE16 7UF	bowls evening once a week
47	Smeeton & Westerby	Village Hall	Main Street		LE8 0QJ	recreation
48	North Kilworth	Sports Club	South Kilworth Road	North Kilworth	LE17 6HJ	social evenings and post football matches team socials
49	South Kilworth	Village Hall	Leys Crescent		LE17 6DS	villages activities, plays, music, keep fit, meetings, mums and tots, football changing
50	Great Glen	St Cuthberts C E School	The Chase	Great Glen	LE8 9EQ	meetings, school creche, dinner dances
51	Stoughton	Village Hall	Gaulby Lane		LE2 2FL	parties and playschool
52	Swinford	Swinford Village Hall	Chapel Street	Swinford	LE17 6B	youth club, dramatic society and normal village hall clubs parties etc
53	Great Glen	The Scouts Hall	Stretton Road		LE8 9EU	scout activities
54	Hallaton	The Stenning Hall	Horn Lane	Hallaton	LE16 8UG	snooker, yoga, keep fit and others, charity events and private functions
55	Thurnby & Bushby	Memorial Hall	Main Street	Thurnby	LE7 9PN	table tennis, badminton and ballet
56	Tilton-on-the-Hill	Tilton Village Hall	Leicester Road		LE7 9DB	Indoor bowls
57	Tur Langton	Tur Langton Village Hall	Main Street		LE8 0PJ	PC meeting, brownies, entertainment events and pilates
58	Husbands Bosworth	Turville Memorail Hall	Welford Road		LE17 6JH	badminton, bowls, drama, play school, keep fit
59	Ullesthorpe	Memorial Hall	Main Street	Ullesthorpe	LE17 5BT	Community meeting place
60	Kimcote & Walton	Walton Village Hall	Kimcote Road	Walton	LE17 5RR	family events, community services, mums and tots and meetings of W.I
61	Willoughby Waterleys	Village Hall	Main Street	Willoughby Waterleys	LE8 6UF	village events and meetings

APPENDIX I

QUALITY STANDARDS TEMPLATE

Site Matrix **Quality** Standard Template

QUALITY	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Cleanliness & Maintenance	Clean and tidy. Well maintained and inviting. No litter, dog fouling or graffiti.	Clean and tidy. Well maintained and inviting. Maintained to a good standard. Very little litter, dog fouling or graffiti	Reasonably clean and tidy. Some litter, dog fouling or graffiti but doesn't hinder usage significantly.	Questions of cleanliness and consequently maintenance. Evidence of litter, dog fouling and/or graffiti that detracts from the area.	Poor cleanliness and maintenance and clear evidence of litter, dog fouling and/or graffiti that would detract usage on a significant scale.
Security and Safety	Safe and good lighting and well-maintained Boundaries clearly defined and well-kept	Boundaries clearly defined Safe and good lighting	Boundaries are visible but not overly clear. Safe and reasonable lighting appropriate	Safety and lighting questionable. Boundaries not very clear or well-designed.	Boundaries are unclear and not visible. Safety issues in question and very poor lighting if any.
Vegetation	Numerous range of planting, no weeds Maintained to very high standard. Grass cover throughout and cleanly cut.	Numerous range of planting, few weeds Maintained to good standard Grass cover throughout, cleanly cut but few weeds.	Appropriate range of vegetation and plants but with some patchy maintenance. Full grass cover where appropriate but some thin patches or some excessive growth areas.	Limited range of plants and vegetation e.g. just grass in a park. General grass cover but some significant areas thin, saturated or poorly maintained.	Limited planting and which is reflected through it being poorly maintained. General grass cover but serious wear and tear and no efforts to correct problem.
Ancillary Accommodation (bins, seats, toilets, parking)	Numerous appropriate facilities in excellent condition. Suitable material for road and paths and in excellent condition. Car parks where appropriate.	Numerous appropriate facilities and in good condition Suitable material for road and paths and in good condition Car parks where appropriate but maintenance could be better	Suitable material for roads and paths and safe to use. Appropriate facilities but in average condition and possibly difficult to find.	Possibly unsuitable material for road and paths or right material but with some faults. Insufficient number of facilities and/or in poor condition i.e. not inviting or very well looked after	Roads, paths in need of repair and rethink on materials. Limited facilities and generally avoided by users.

APPENDIX J

ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS TEMPLATE

Site Matrix **Accessibility** Standard Template

ACCESSIBILITY	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Entrance	Easy to find, clean and tidy and welcoming.	Appropriate size, clean and tidy and well-maintained	Obvious entrance and fairly clean but possibly some improvements could be made.	Apparent as a entrance although quite clear that improvements could be made in terms of access.	Some confusion as to where entrance is located or not easily accessible.
Signage	Information available, attractive and easy to read. Well signposted from the road and as to where to park, entrance to the site etc.	Information available and easy to read and appropriate signage outside and inside the relevant open space.	Some information available but possibly some improvements could be made to improve easy access through signage and information.	Limited information available and/or not very attractive or easy to read. Quite clear that improvements could be made.	No information or signage available which would almost certainly detract from its potential usage.
Roads, paths and cycleways and accesses	Good disabled access throughout. Specific separate cycle access and walking access provided which are maintained in an excellent condition.	Disabled access in most areas. Reasonable access for cycling and walking and which is encouraged e.g. cycle locks provided.	Some disabled access but maybe with some inconvenience. Pathways and cycleways provided and accessible but untidy or with slight disrepair.	Limited disabled access provision. Limited cycle access and limited access to and from pathways and/or which are in some form of disrepair.	No disabled access provision and no cycleways or cycle locks – i.e. discourages cycling to site. Pathways not suitable and not easily accessible.
Distances and Catchments	Over 90% of effective catchment within recommended distance threshold time for each type of open space	75-90% of effective catchment within recommended distance threshold time for each type of open space	50-75% of effective catchment within recommended distance threshold time for each type of open space	25-50% of effective catchment within recommended distance threshold time for each type of open space	less than 25% of effective catchment within recommended distance threshold time for each type of open space
Cost	Very good value for money – i.e. free to use for a very good facility	Good value for money – i.e. free to use for a good facility or some little cost for a very good facility	Average value for money - some cost that provides average value for money. Would be used more if facility was provided for free.	Poor Value for money – i.e. high cost for a reasonable facility or charging for a poor facility	Very poor value for money – i.e. very high cost in relation to quality of open space or charging for a very poor facility
Transport	Accessible by all forms of environmentally friendly modes of transport including public transport and the provision of cycleways and walkways. Accessible by car as well but not encouraged as the dominant user access mode of transport.	Accessible by most forms of environmentally friendly modes of transport particularly walking, cycling and public transport. Accessible by car as well but not dominant user access mode of transport.	Accessible by at least 2 forms of environmentally friendly modes transport such as walking, cycling or various forms of public transport. Some significant access encouraged by car.	Limited access by at least 2 forms of environmentally friendly modes of transport such as walking, cycling or various forms of public transport. Majority of access encouraged by car.	Very limited access by most forms of environmentally friendly modes of transport such as walking, cycling or various forms of public transport. Nearly all access encouraged by car.

APPENDIX K

PLANNING OVERVIEW

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June 2004

Final Report

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT OF OPEN SPACES/SPORT AND
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND
ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEEDS

Planning Overview

Report

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 KEY PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**
- 3 OVERVIEW OF URBAN CAPACITY STUDY AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS**
- 4 REVIEW OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE GUIDANCE**
- 5 CONCLUSION AND KEY ISSUES**

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pre-amble

PMP has been working alongside Harborough District Council (HDC) in formulating an effective strategy for the delivery of accessible, high quality greenspaces, civic spaces and sport and recreation facilities to meet the needs of local residents and visitors to the District.

PMP, following guidance contained within Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) (July 2002) and guidance contained within “Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17” (September 2002), has undertaken an audit and assessment of all existing open space, sport and recreational facilities within the District.

The Donaldsons Planning, Regeneration and Compensation team was appointed, in association with PMP, to advise on the implications for the development of planning policies on open space, sport and recreation within the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) and on recommendations for securing Section 106 developer contributions.

The intention of this planning overview is to provide initial advice and to scope the key planning issues, as agreed with HDC following a meeting with officers on the 5 February 2004. This initial report responds to the following points:

- i) comment on adopted Harborough District Local Plan and the emerging Local Development Framework;
- ii) review the Urban Capacity Study and outline population projections to 2011; and
- iii) analyse and comment on Open Space Supplementary Planning Guidance produced by other Local Authorities.

2 KEY PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

2.1 PPG17 : Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG17) (July 2002) addresses planning for open space, sport and recreation. It states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broad Government objectives including supporting an urban renaissance and rural renewal, promoting social inclusion and community cohesion.

The companion guide to PPG17 ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities’ illustrates 5 steps which should be addressed when undertaking open space, sport and recreation assessments and audits. Step 5 provides guidance as to drafting planning policies. When considering planning policies, the Companion Guide suggests that four strategic options should be identified:

1. Existing provision to be protected;
2. Existing provision to be enhanced;
3. Areas in which new provision is required; and
4. Opportunities for new, enhanced or relocated provision.

The Companion Guide also suggests a fifth component – land or facilities which are surplus to requirements and therefore no longer needed.

Turning to drafting policy, the Companion Guide suggests that policy should:

- Protect or enhance existing open spaces or sport and recreational facilities of value (or potential value) to the local community;
- Re-locate poorly located but necessary open spaces or sport and recreation facilities;
- Address circumstances in which the planning authority may allow the redevelopment of an existing open space or sport and recreation facility;
- Require new provision to fill identified gaps in existing provision; and
- Address additional on-site or off-site provision as a consequence of new developments, together with how the authority will assess any related commuted maintenance or establishment sums.

2.2 The Development Plan

Section 54a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states that:

“Where, in making any determination under the Planning Act, regard is to be had to the Development Plan, the determination shall be made in accordance with the Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.”

The Harborough District Council Local Plan covers the period 1991 to 2006 and was adopted in April 2001. The Plan has been prepared within the strategic context of the Leicestershire Structure Plan 1991 – 2006 which was adopted in January 1994.

The following provides a short summary of key policy contained within the Harborough District Local Plan relating to open space and recreation.

2.3 Harborough District Local Plan (Adopted April 2001)

The Local Plan addresses the need to encourage the provision of appropriately located leisure and recreational opportunities in the District and to maintain an effective level of provision of leisure and recreation opportunities within the District.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Having regard to indoor recreation facilities **Policy LR/1** states that:

“The District Council will grant planning permission to expand the range of indoor recreation facilities in the District where the following criteria are met:-

1. the development is located within or close to an existing settlement;
2. adequate provision is made for landscaping;
3. satisfactory vehicular and pedestrian access is provided;
4. adequate provision is made within the site for parking and servicing;
5. the proposed development would not adversely affect areas of ecological or archaeological significance;
6. the proposed development would not adversely affect the amenities of neighbouring residents.”

Sports and Playing Fields

Turning to Sports and Playing Fields, **Policy LR/2** states that the District Council will grant planning permission for outdoor recreation facilities to serve settlements in the District subject to (inter alia) a satisfactory vehicular and pedestrian access, adequate provision for parking and that the proposed development would not adversely affect the amenities of neighbouring residents.

Retention of Existing Sports Facilities

The Local Plan seeks to protect playing fields and sports pitches from development. The loss of existing playing fields and pitches will be resisted where it would result in a net loss of facilities or be detrimental to the character of the area.

Policy LR/3 states that:

“The District Council will normally refuse planning permission for development on existing recreation areas and sports grounds unless:-

1. The proposals are in association with the use of the land for recreation; or

2. Sports and recreation facilities on the site can be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site; or
3. Suitable alternative facilities are provided in the locality; and
4. The development is in keeping with the scale and character of the surrounding area.”

Some facilities connected with educational institutions are available for public use, particularly in schools that are community colleges or centres. The provision of new recreation facilities on these sites will be encouraged.

Policy LR/4 states that:

“On land in use for educational purposes, the development of new facilities or extensions to existing facilities will be permitted subject to design, access, parking and amenity considerations. The development of land for purposes unconnected with its educational use will be refused unless the proposed development:-

1. Rectifies a proven local deficiency in public open space, recreation or community land or building provision;
2. Results in the provision of enhanced facilities on the remainder of the site.”

Recreation Requirements in New Residential Development

The Local Plan indicates that new residential development should include outdoor recreation space for both children’s use and youth and adult needs, within reasonable walking distance of the development. **Policy LR/5** states that:

“Adequate and appropriately located, equipped and landscaped outdoor recreation space will be required in conjunction with new residential development.”

Appendix H sets out the standards for the provision of land for outdoor play space in new residential development.

Within this Appendix the Council has adopted the National Playing Fields Association’s minimum standards for the provision of outdoor playing space.

The Council indicates that they will require an adequate and appropriate provision of land for outdoor playing space in conjunction with new residential development. A provision of up to 2.43ha (6 acres) per 1000 population, which equates with 0.3ha (0.75 acres) per 50 dwellings will be sought. It will be necessary to calculate the actual provision for each site taking into account provision in the area and other local circumstances.

The guidelines sub-divide outdoor open space for children (0.6 – 0.8 ha/1000 population) and play space for outdoor sport (1.6 – 1.8ha/1000 population).

The guidance also states that where major development is proposed (usually 100 dwellings) the full requirement will need to be met on site. However, on smaller sites and in villages there may be other opportunities or proposals on sites in the locality which could better meet the needs of a given development

for outdoor sport. In these cases, a commuted sum of money may be acceptable to cover the cost of the provision of the land and the facilities elsewhere, and their maintenance.

The guidance also holds that on substantial new housing developments throughout the District the provision of land for play space in more than one location in the development can be considered. The main area should have a minimum site area of 1.2ha (3 acres) to allow for organised games. Other subsidiary elements should have a minimum site area of 0.4ha (1 acre) where appropriate.

The guidance also indicates that the developer should state how the play space land is to be maintained and it is anticipated that the majority of developers will offer the land to the District Council for adoption and future maintenance.

2.4 Requirements for the Provision of Land for Outdoor Play Space in New Residential Developments (Supplementary Planning Guidance) (March 2003)

The Council has prepared Supplementary Planning Guidance which relates to Policy LR/5 and Appendix H of the Local Plan with regards to the provision of land for outdoor play space in new residential developments.

This SPG contains guidelines on suggested locations for playing space within housing developments and design.

The guidance holds (as set out within Appendix H of the Local Plan) that developments of 50+ dwellings require a LEAP and developments of 135+ dwellings require a NEAP.

2.5 Financial Contributions by Developers Towards Off-Site Outdoor Playing Space (December 2003)

The District Council has produced guidance which considers that all new residential developments generate a requirement for outdoor playing space ranging from small children's play areas to sports pitches for adults. This is not adopted SPG but is used for internal purposes.

In developments of 50+ dwellings, which would give a minimum of 0.3ha, on-site outdoor playing space is sought.

However, outdoor playing spaces below 0.3ha are not generally considered acceptable because these are too small to have a usable activity zone. To cater for small developments the Council will therefore seek an off-site contribution to provide additional space elsewhere or improve existing local facilities. The basis of this being that the accumulation of relatively small residential development collectively creates a very large demand for playing space.

The guidance states that the playing space contributions will be used by the Council on providing new facilities or additions and improvements to existing facilities. These will include:-

- Acquisition of land for use as outdoor playing space
- New playground equipment
- Safer surfacing
- Informal youth facilities – ball courts, skateboard parks, meeting points etc

- Pitch drainage
- Pavilions, changing rooms for sports facilities
- Fencing
- Footpaths
- Landscaping
- Car parking and access roads
- Grants to voluntary organisations

The Council indicates that the contributions will be used within the locality of the town or village where the development is taking place, unless they are intended to fulfil a district or regional function. Furthermore, the guidance states that the Council will undertake to spend the contributions within 10 years of it being received and contributions will normally be paid to the Council upon the occupancy of 50% of the proposed dwellings.

The guidance contains worked examples of the cost for contributions, together with future maintenance costs and land purchase costs.

2.6 Reforms to the Planning System

The government's Planning and Compulsory Bill has now completed its passage through the Palace of Westminster and received Royal Assent on 13 May 2004. The Act will come into force via a commencement order two months after Royal Assent. In other words, the legislation will formally commence in mid-July.

The Bill sets out to reform the planning system and includes the introduction of overarching Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) which will consist of a portfolio of Local Development Documents (LDDs). There will be three types of LDDs, namely, Development Plan Documents (DPDs) to replace local plans and unitary development plans, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to replace SPGs and Statements of Community Involvement (SCIs). Local Authorities will also need to produce Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs).

To summarise, the statement of community involvement is a statement setting standards for the authority to meet in engaging the public in the preparation of LDDs. The SCI sets out who, when and how the Council will engage stakeholders and the community in the process.

The DPD will contain the core strategy which will set out the vision, strategic objectives and overarching policies for the local authority area. It contains the core policies that will guide the future development of the authority and which will form the basis of development control decisions. This is likely to be of a similar strategic nature to those policies currently contained within Part I of Local Plans UDPs. This should therefore incorporate key open space and recreation policy and outline the key strategy for open space provision within the District.

In light of the above, the Council should give careful consideration to strategic open space and recreation policy contained within the Core Strategy.

More detailed area policies would be contained within Area Action Plans (AAPs) in which more specific local requirements may be set based on under or over provision of open space.

It is also important to consider SPDs and their potential to act as a vehicle to provide more detailed policy requirements of open space provision in consideration of new development. The potential role and importance of SPDs is explored more fully in Section 5 of this report.

2.7 Harborough District Council – proposed draft Local Development Scheme

Under the new Act, therefore, Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) will replace the existing system of Local, Structure and Unitary Development Plans. Local authorities are required to have adopted LDFs in place three years after commencement of the Act.

Harborough District Council has prepared a draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) which sets out what documents the Council is proposing to produce and when. The LDS also indicates at what stage the public can be expected to be involved in the planning process.

The LDS sets out those policies of the adopted Local Plan that will be ‘saved’ and therefore will still form part of the development plan for the area over the next 3 years. The Council has indicated that initially, it is intended that all the policies within the adopted Harborough District Local Plan (1991 – 2006) will be saved until its expiry in March 2006. The Council has also indicated that as the new LDDs are produced, the LDS will be revised to indicate which policies in the existing plan have been superseded by new policies contained within LDDs.

The Council has indicated that existing SPG which is cross-referenced to policy within the adopted Local Plan will be retained until the plan expires in 2006 or such documents are reviewed under the new arrangements. The Council has advised that all existing SPG documents have been subject to public consultation and adoption by the Council. It is important to note that these documents will continue to constitute a ‘material consideration’ in planning decisions if they are cross-referenced to a policy within the adopted Local plan and if comprehensive consultation has been undertaken, as set out within the SCI in relation to SPD.

2.8 Policy Summary Analysis

Existing leisure and recreation policy within the Local Plan generally seeks to retain and enhance sports facilities and sports/playing fields.

Of key importance in this review is Policy LR/5 which addresses recreation requirements in new residential development. Appendix H of the Local Plan addresses outdoor play space requirements for new residential development and a Council internal document addresses financial contributions by developers towards off-site playing space.

This latter document considers that all new residential developments generate a requirement for outdoor playing space. The guidance holds that playing spaces below 0.3ha are not considered acceptable as they are too small to have a usable activity zone. Concern is raised with regard to the materiality of this internal document which has not been subject to public consultation. The Council should therefore seek to rectify this during the production of the next generation of plans.

From our experience and review of other local authority relevant policy and SPG we would also recommend that policy seeks to require all residential development (even sole dwelling development) to provide play space, informal and formal play space, where the assessment has found acute under-provision or history has shown that facilities are not being provided because of small, incremental housing growth.

In line with current local plan guidance we also consider that playing spaces below 0.3ha are too small to have a usable activity zone on-site. We therefore recommend that if financial contributions are insufficient to provide new usable recreational space, contributions in lieu of on-site provisions should be paid into special area based funds to contribute towards enhancement of existing facilities or District wide facilities. This recommendation is detailed further in Section 5.

The Council may also wish to consider policy which requires employment and retail development to provide open space and recreational facilities. The typology of provision will need to be carefully considered and the policy will also need to be strongly justified through the need to provide a good urban design layout or to meet a need in staff requirements not already in existence.

Turning to the proposed LDS, the Council intends to produce a core strategy DPD. The Council will need to emphasise the strategic need for open space and highlight areas of acute under provision.

The Council has also indicated that it intends to produce a housing DPD and we would therefore recommend that this document contain more detailed policies which addresses open space and new residential development.

Section 5 of this report addresses SPG/SPD in greater detail, however, the Council's SPG 'Requirements for the Provision of Land for Outdoor Play Space in New Residential Developments' is linked to Policy LR/5 of the Local Plan. This adopted SPG will therefore be retained until the Plan expires in 2006 unless the Council decides to review it under the new arrangements. It is important to note again that this document will continue to constitute a 'material consideration' in planning decisions if it is cross-referenced to a policy within the adopted Local plan and if comprehensive consultation has been undertaken, as set out within the SCI in relation to SPD.

We recommend that the Council begin an early review of this SPG with a view to producing a revised SPD which encompasses examples of worked financial contributions as currently set out in the internal document dated December 2003 as well as considering further key components as detailed in Section 4 of this report.

In light of the data analysis undertaken by PMP which highlights areas of surplus and deficiency within the defined 5 ward areas (across the typologies of parks & gardens; natural and semi natural open space; amenity greenspace; provision for children and young people and allotments) policy recommendations following guidance within Step 5 of PPG17 are set out in the following tables below.

These recommendations have drawn on the quantitative data analysis and not qualitative data and therefore we have not commented on enhancement policies although this is clearly something that the Council should consider when drafting policy.

Key Issues and Policy Vehicles

Area	Issue Identified	PPG17 Policy Typology	Policy Options	Policy Vehicles		
District-wide	Deficiency within the parks and gardens typology and provision for children and young people	Protective	Overarching, strategic protective policy	Core Strategy DPD		
1	Acute under provision within the natural and semi natural open space typology		Area focused protective policy	Leisure and Recreation DPD or AAP		
2	Acute under provision within the amenity greenspace and allotment typologies					
3	Acute under provision within allotments and amenity greenspace typology					
4	Acute under provision within the amenity greenspace typology					
1	Under provision within the allotment typology					
4	Under provision within the allotment typology					
1	Acute over provision of amenity greenspace				Relocation	Policy should seek to encourage redistribution between typologies where appropriate, whilst acknowledging all other relevant UDP policies. As outlined within PPG17 local planning authorities are actively encouraged to consider relocation between typologies where surpluses exist.
2	Acute over provision of natural and semi natural open space typology					
3	Acute over provision of natural and semi natural open space typology					
4	Acute over provision of natural and semi natural open space typology					

5	Over provision within natural and semi natural open space, amenity greenspace and allotments			
1	Deficiencies within natural and semi natural open space, provision for children and young people, allotments and parks and gardens	New Provision	Policy should, in particular, seek to secure new provision in deficient typologies through securing provision within new developments or through developer contributions	Planning Obligations SPD
2	Deficiencies within parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments			
3	Deficiencies within parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments			
4	Deficiencies within parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments			
5	Deficiencies within parks and gardens and provision for children and young people			
1	Acute over provision within amenity greenspace	Disposal	Policy should consider the disposal of some surplus sites to cater for deficiencies in other typologies or to enable funding of ear marked sports and open space facilities to benefit the wider district. Policy may also address the disposal of other land assets and alternative sources of funding where disposal is not possible. Policy should also acknowledge all other relevant UDP policy.	Development Control DPD and Leisure and Recreation DPD
2	Acute over provision within natural and semi natural open space			
3	Acute over provision within natural and semi natural open space			
4	Acute over provision within natural and semi natural open space			
5	Over provision within natural and semi natural open space, amenity greenspace and allotments			

Area

1: Market Harborough and Lubenham; 2: North East Rural; 3: Kibworth, Fleckney and Central; 4: Western – Lutterworth and Broughton Astley;
5: Peatling and Bosworth

Existing Quantity and Key Issues

Typology	Area 1: Market Harborough					Area 2 – North East Rural					Area 3 – Kibworth, Fleckney & Central					Area 4 – Western					Area 5 – Peatling and Bosworth				
	AUP	UP	A	OP	AOP	AUP	UP	A	OP	AOP	AUP	UP	A	OP	AOP	AUP	UP	A	OP	AOP	AUP	UP	A	OP	AOP
Parks and Gardens		UP					UP				AUP						UP						UP		
Natural and Semi Natural Open Space	UP																							OP	
Amenity Greenspace					UP	UP					AUP					UP									
Provision for Children and Young People	UP						UP				AUP					UP									
Allotments		UP				UP					AUP					UP									
Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute under provision within natural and semi natural open space and provision for children and young people 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute under provision within amenity greenspace and allotments 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute under provision within parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute under provision within amenity greenspace 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute under provision within parks and gardens and provision for children and young people 				
Key:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under provision within parks and gardens and allotments 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under provision within parks and gardens and provision for children and young people 										<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under provision within parks and gardens, provision for children and young people and allotments 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over provision within natural and semi natural open space, amenity greenspace and allotments 				
AUP Acute Under Provision																									
UP Under Provision																									
A Average																									
OP Over Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute over provision in amenity greenspace 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute over provision in natural and semi natural open space 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute over provision within natural and semi natural open space 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acute over provision within natural and semi natural open space 									
AOP Acute Over Provision																									

Policy Options and Vehicles

Core Strategy DPD

- **Overarching, Strategic Protective Policy**

District-wide – Protect parks and gardens and provision for children and young people

Development Control DPD or Leisure and Recreation DPD

- **Policy should consider the disposal of some surplus sites to cater for deficiencies in other typologies or to enable funding of earmarked sports and open space facilities. Policy may address the disposal of other land assets and alternative sources of funding where disposal is not possible**

Area 1: **Surplus within amenity greenspace**

Area 2: **Surplus within natural and semi natural open space**

Area 3: **Surplus within natural and semi natural open space**

Area 4: **Surplus within natural and semi natural open space**

Leisure and Recreation DPD or AAP

- **Area Focused Protective Policy**

Area 1: Protect natural and semi natural open space and allotments

Area 2: Protect amenity greenspace and allotments

Area 3: Protect amenity greenspace and allotments

Area 4: Protect amenity greenspace and allotments

Leisure and Recreation DPD

- **Policy should consider relocation between typologies where surpluses exist**

Area 1: Surplus within amenity greenspace

Area 2: Surplus within natural and semi natural open space

Area 3: Surplus within natural and semi natural open space

Area 4: Surplus within natural and semi natural open space

Area 5: Surplus within natural and semi natural open space, amenity greenspace and allotments

Planning Obligations SPD

- **Policy should seek to secure new provision in deficient typologies through new developments or developer contributions**

Area 1: Deficiencies within natural and semi natural open space and provision for children and young people, allotments and parks and gardens

Area 2: Deficiencies within parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments

Area 3: Deficiencies within parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments

Area 4: Deficiencies within parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments

Area 5: Deficiencies within parks and gardens and provision for children and young people

3 OVERVIEW OF URBAN CAPACITY STUDY AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS

3.1 Introduction

Urban Capacity Studies (UCS) assess supply of housing land and the ability of a district to meet identified housing needs.

A review of the Harborough UCS (January 2003) has been undertaken. This study identified the total potential future supply of new housing that is likely to be provided from within the main towns and other significant settlements of the District.

The results of the study are set out over two time frames, the first being the remaining period of the adopted Local Plan to 2003 and the second being the period 2003 to 2016, to coincide with the end date of the emerging Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan.

Nine settlements within Central Leicestershire Policy Area (CLPA) were identified for inclusion in the study; Broughton Astley, Fleckney, Great Glen, Houghton on the Hill, Kibworth Beachamp, Kibworth Harcourt, Scrapcourt, Stoughton and Thurnby. In addition, eleven other significant settlements from the rest of the District were identified together with the two main towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth.

The Study concludes that over the period 2003 to 2016, a range of between 3046 and 3527 dwellings could come forward for housing development.

The number of new dwellings that need to be provided within the District over the period 2006 – 2016 will be determined in the emerging Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan. The emerging plan states that 7,550 new homes are required to be built in Harborough District between 1996 and 2016.

The Council has indicated that between 1996 – 2003, 3808 houses have already been built. This leaves a strategic requirement of 3,742 houses between 2003 – 2016.

Using the ‘best case’ scenario under the urban capacity study, 3,527 dwellings can be accommodated within the urban area over the period 2003 – 2016.

This indicates that the majority of the strategic housing requirement can be accommodated within the urban area, however, some greenfield development may be required. The Council has also commented that there is intense pressure for housing development on the urban fringes within the District.

Population Projections have been provided by the Local Planning Authority, which take into accounts housing requirements and developments in the pipeline.

Table 2: Population Projections, 2001 - 2011

Ward	Census 2001	2005	2011	2016
Billesdon	1586	1586	1586	1620
Bosworth	2134	2134	2134	2180
Broughton Astley (Astley, Broughton, Primethorpe, Sutton)	8290	8600	8950	9400
Dunton	2159	2159	2159	2200
Fleckney	4613	4800	5000	5250
Glen	3876	4630	4800	5050
Kibworth	6081	7200	7500	7900
Lubenham	2419	2419	2419	2470
Lutterworth (Brookfield, Orchard, Springs, Swift)	8293	8600	8950	9400
Market Harborough (Great Bowden and Arden, Little Bowden, Logan, Welland)	20127	22600	23500	24700
Misterton	2442	2442	2442	2500
Nevill	1970	1970	1970	2000
Peatling	2147	2147	2147	2200
Thurnby and Houghton	6516	7000	7300	7700
Tilton	1857	1857	1857	1900
Ullesthorpe	2049	2049	2049	2100
Total	76,559	82,193	84,763	88,570

Source: Harborough District Council, April 2004

Using a pro rata increase, population within the District as whole is expected to grow between 2001 and 2016 at a rate of 1% each year.

Population projections indicate a steady, small increase in population growth between 2001 and 2011. Acknowledging this small population growth and the urban capacity study, it is understood that the majority of the strategic population requirement will be accommodated within the urban area. Future policy will therefore need to be tailored to capture this piecemeal urban housing development and population growth. This is particularly the case in areas of under provision. Policy will therefore need to ensure that off-site contributions are provided where small developments do not provide usable activity spaces.

Policy will also need to ensure that open space requirements are secured within larger, greenfield development and where possible facilities are provided on site.

This small population growth may also indicate that there is not a significant additional need to provide new open space in the future and therefore future policy may need to address improving the quality of the existing supply.

4 REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE GUIDANCE

4.1 Introduction

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is used to show how policies will be put into practice, gives greater detail on policies and proposals than would be appropriate in the Plan and anticipates guidance which may be included in a future review of the Plan.

The Government's national planning guidance indicates that SPG can provide helpful guidance to those preparing planning applications; may be taken into account as a material consideration in deciding planning applications; and weight accorded to it will increase if it has been prepared in consultation with the public and has been the subject of a Council resolution.

To date, the Government has not provided any statutory procedures for the preparation and adoption of SPG. This will change with the introduction of new planning legislation (as outlined in Section 2) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

SPD is a key document to enable the delivery of open space in association with residential development and is a vital tool to assist local authorities in their negotiations with developers. Furthermore, SPD can be regularly reviewed and monitored.

4.2 Review of Open Space Guidance

A review of Leicester City Council's 'Open Space Provision in New Residential Development' (April 2003) and Cambridge City Council's 'Open Space Standards: Guidance for Interpretation and Implementation' (July 2002) has been undertaken. The Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council's 'Recreational Open Space Provision and Commuted Payments' (February 2001) has also been reviewed. These documents are adopted SPG.

A review has also been undertaken of key guidance produced by both Harrogate Borough Council 'Provision of Open Space in Connection with New Housing Development' (June 2003) and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council 'Play and Open Space Guide' (October 2002).

A full review of these documents is provided within Appendix 1, however, the key points and themes highlighted throughout the guidance are summarised below. These should be considered and fed into the preparation of any SPD:

- All new housing developments (even single dwelling developments) should contribute towards open space provision;
- Local standards (or thresholds) for different open space typologies are provided e.g. amenity areas, recreational areas, children's play provision etc. As minimum standards are set for informal and formal open space and children's play areas;

- Local standards are applied across the local authority area. The Council may want to consider standards for both urban and rural areas as suggested within PPG17;
- Commuted payments are appropriate if provision is not suitable on site;
- Formulas are provided, together with worked examples, to show the scale of financial contribution required;
- If the financial contribution is insufficient to provide new recreational space etc, these will be paid into special area based open space funds (these funds are ring-fenced within the appropriate area based budget). It may be appropriate to provide a list of projects which have been identified which will benefit existing provision in the locality or benefit residents throughout the District.

SPD can provide a clear framework for developers and sets out comprehensively what open space provision is required for housing developments. SPD can also provide a structure for commuted payments and allows developers to understand 'up front' what financial contributions are required.

Under the revised Bill a tariff system will be introduced, to run alongside the existing section 106 system. Proposed guidance with any SPD will need to be reviewed under this new tariff system.

Similar to existing SPG, all SPD should be supplemental to the policies or proposals in DPDs. In contrast to core policies, SPD is flexible and can be regularly updated to allow for revised and updated assessments and standards, together with changes in the market and inflation etc.

5 CONCLUSION AND KEY ISSUES

6.1 Summary

This planning overview has addressed the following:

- i) commented on existing policy and the emerging Local Development Framework;
- ii) provided a review of the Urban Capacity Study and population projections to 2011 and its implications; and
- iii) analysed and commented on Open Space Supplementary Planning Guidance produced by other Local Authorities.

6.2 Key Issues

ii) Existing and Emerging Policy

- Consideration should be given to an early review of the adopted SPG with a view to producing a revised SPD which encompasses aspects from the adopted SPD together with current internal documents.
- Within the emerging planning system, strategic open space policy should be contained within the core strategy of the DPD.
- Within the emerging planning system, a more detailed policy which addresses open space and new residential development should be contained within the housing DPD.
- AAPs will contain focused area assessments in which more specific local requirements may be set.
- SPDs provide more detailed policy requirement and ensure a clear framework for developers. SPDs have added flexibility and allow for regular updates and amendments.
- In areas of acute deficiency or opportunity and where the private sector is unlikely to be harnessed (through development or section 106) a more proactive approach towards asset disposal should be considered.

iii) Urban Capacity Study and Population Projections

- Population projections indicate a steady, small increase in population growth within the District between 2001 and 2011.
- Policy which seeks to secure open space in new residential development will need to address and consider both small scale urban development (which may require off-site contributions) and larger, greenfield development (which may be able to provide on site facilities).

iv) Review of Open Space Guidance

- Local standards should be set for different open space typologies.
- Consideration should be given to the application of different local standards for urban and rural locations and between areas of over provision and under provision.
- Consideration should be given to providing formulas and worked examples within SPD to show the scale of off-site financial contributions;
- If financial contributions are insufficient to provide new recreation space beyond the ability of individual developments, special area based open space funds should be considered to contribute towards district wide projects. A list of projects and estimated costs contained within the SPD, which can be regularly updated, should be considered.

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE GUIDANCE

Leicester City Council Open Space Provision in New Residential Developments (City Wide Guidance) SPG (April 2003)

- All new housing developments (even single dwelling developments) should contribute towards open space provision, including flats, maisonettes, conversions, student accommodation;
- Where a financial contribution is appropriate, the scale of the contribution is calculated using a formula that takes account of the scale of development, type of dwellings to be built, cost of designing and maintenance;
- Any financial contribution paid by the developer towards the provision or enhancement of open space will be the subject of a legal agreement specifying the amount of any contribution, when it should be paid and where it will be spent;
- Policies GE12 - 14, UD14 and UD15 requires that developers ensure that there would be sufficient planning, amenity open space and playing space in the local area to meet the needs of people living in new housing developments;
- A minimum of 1.6ha of amenity open space is expected per 1000 population;
- Open space should be provided to the agreed standards contained within the Local Plan policies – emphasis is on meeting specific local recreational needs in a flexible manner;
- In the cases of recreational open space and playing space / facilities it may sometimes be appropriate to require a financial contribution to improving recreational facilities in the locality of access to these existing facilities rather than requiring direct provision;
- For small sites or high-density city centre sites and conversions where it is inappropriate to make recreational provision on site a commuted payment in lieu of provision will be required;
- For larger developments the Council will be able to indicate exactly where any contributions made by developers will be spent;
- For smaller developments the financial contributions arising from the scheme may be insufficient to provide new recreation space or carry out necessary improvements to recreation space in the locality – in these case any contribution made by developers will be paid into special area based open space fund, where it is reserved for use in the area where the development takes place. Any money held in these funds will be ring-fenced within the appropriate area based budget to ensure that the money is used for the purposes for which it was intended;
- The need for housing developers to provide recreational open space, or contribute to provision, is determined by the existing amount of open space in the locality, the quality of that open space and the

scale and nature of the housing development – the SPG helps to explain how those different factors will be taken into account when determining planning applications;

- Comprehensive guidance is provided on how different sizes and types of housing development should make open space provision;
- Types of Open Space Needed in Housing Developments: amenity areas; recreational areas and children’s play provision;
- Meeting Needs for Open Space (per 1000 population):
 - Amenity Open Space: 1.6ha
 - Children’s Play Areas: 0.8ha
 - Youth and Adult Playing Space: 1.6ha
- For housing developments involving the construction of 15 units of family housing or more the provision for children’s play should include at least one LAP; developments of 50 units or more will be required to include at least one LEAP;
- For youth and adult provision for developments of less than 100 dwellings, the Council will seek to negotiate a commensurate commuted sum;
- Outline applications where the size and type of the proposed development is not known, the requirement for open space will be reserved through a planning condition;
- An appendix provides guidance for the calculation of commuted payments by developers for the provision or enhancement of open space – the figures may be adjusted upwards or downwards according to the particular planning application but provide a starting point for negotiations. These tables are updated on an annual basis to take account of inflation.

**Cambridge City Council Open Space Standards: Guidance for Interpretation and Implementation
SPG (July 2002)**

- Local standards are provided for informal and formal open space and children’s play areas;
- These standards are applied to all new build self contained residential units and conversions or change of use;
- Open space is not sought on site for developments of less than 10 dwellings;
- Detailed calculations and examples are provided to indicate the amount of open space required;
- Any shortfall in provision should be met through commuted payments and this will be spent on projects already identified, which benefit residents throughout the city;
- The list of identified projects and their estimated capital cost is updated every 12 – 18 months;

- Detailed calculations and examples are provided to indicate commuted payments.

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council Recreational Open Space Provision and Commuted Payments (February 2001)

- SPG explains further the operation of Policy UL1.3 'Provision of Recreation and Amenity Open Space in New Developments' within the UDP (1998);
- Clear standards are set for the required provision of space for active recreation, children's play space and open space in new developments;
- For active recreation space the Council seeks to achieve an overall minimum standard for the Borough of 2.4 ha per thousand population (to include pitches, courts and greens for public and private use; athletics facilities; pitch and putt courses);
- With reference to new residential developments, and where there is a proven deficiency, developments should include provision within an agreed timescale:
 - Residential developments likely to be occupied by 100 people or more should include a standard equivalent of local open space for formal recreation on site to 1.7ha per 1000 population and children's play and casual recreation on site to 0.7ha per 1000 population.
 - Residential developments likely to be occupied by 50 – 100 people should include children's play and casual recreation on site to 0.7ha per 1000 population.
 - Residential developments likely to be occupied by less than 50 people will require contributions towards children's play and casual recreation which is fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development proposal (only where such contributions would secure provisions in a location close to and easily accessible from the new development and where it would be of direct benefit to the occupiers of the new development).
- Exceptions to the above will be made in the case of sheltered housing and special needs housing for elderly people in the provision of children's play/casual recreation or formal recreation space.
- Exceptions (or partial exceptions) to the provision of this policy will be made where it can be demonstrated that existing provision in the vicinity exceeds the minimum requirement and includes adequate play facilities on the basis that it can meet all (or part) of the demand likely to be generated by the new development.
- In large retail or business development proposals the Council will encourage the provision of recreation open space within the development. It is considered appropriate that such opportunities exist for workers/visitors to have access to areas of public open space.
- For residential developments which are small in scale, it may be impractical or unreasonable for a development to accommodate useful areas of open space, commuted payments may be acceptable.

- Funds will be held by the Local Authority in an interest earning account until such time that the appropriate thresholds have been reached and an improvement can be brought through the use of the accumulated funds;
- Funds collected in lieu of on site provision for formal facilities will be used within the area easily accessible from the funding development thereby ensuring a direct relationship between a facility and the funding development;
- Funds collected in lieu of on site provision for children's/casual play space will be used within up to 1000 metres from the funding development.
- Detailed calculations and examples are provided to indicate commuted payments.
- The Council will require developers to maintain or pay commuted sums for the maintenance of open space.
- In the case of outline planning applications the requirement for the provision of open space would be reserved through a legal agreement so it can be resolved when a detailed application is made;
- A note regarding the open space system will be issued with all relevant planning application forms;
- If planning permission is likely to be granted the applicant may make a voluntary payment before the decision is made or enter into a Section 106 agreement;

**Harrogate Borough Council
Provision of Open Space in Connection with New Housing Development (revised June 2003)**

- Document is not adopted SPG;
- Guidance relates to Policy R4 of the Harrogate District Local Plan which states that:
“Proposals for new housing development will be required to make adequate provision for open space in accordance with the Borough Council's adopted standards as set out in Appendix VIII. Where developments are unable to provide their open space requirements on-site, the Council will accept, in appropriate circumstances, financial payments from developers for the provision of open space elsewhere.

Developers will normally be required to make a contribution to the future maintenance of open space provided to meet needs arising from the new development.”

- The policy and principles contained within the document form part of the adopted Local Plan and were subject of full pre-deposit consultation and examination at the Local Plan Inquiry;
- Policy to be applied to all applications for new residential development which result in a net gain in residential units (including conversions, changes of use, sheltered housing);

- Open space requirements will be waived where development involves single bedroom units only and less than 10 dwellings are proposed;
- Following categories of open space should be provided for:
 - Leisure Areas: minimum size 0.10 ha;
 - Children's Equipped Play Areas: should be constructed to meet minimum standards set out by NPFA for LEAPs and NEAPs. Fenced off areas should measure at least 0.04ha and should be located at a minimum of 20m from the boundary of nearest property;
 - Casual Play Areas: minimum size for a casual play area is 0.15ha;
 - Youth & Adult Play Areas: sports pitches should measure at least 0.81ha plus clearance zones.
- Open space should be provided to the following standards (per 1,000 population):
 - Leisure Area: 0.8ha;
 - Children's Equipped Play Area: 0.3ha;
 - Casual Play Area: 0.5ha;
 - Youth & Adult Play Area: 1.8ha
- Standards to be applied to the estimated number of residents resulting from the proposed developed;
- Outline applications to be based on the application of a minimum density of 25 dwellings/hectare of gross housing development and average household size of 2.47 persons;
- Wherever possible, open space requirement should be provided on-site;
- Open space should not be provided on-site if levels required fall below minimum sizes:
 - Leisure Area: 0.10ha;
 - Children's Equipped Play Area: 0.04ha;
 - Casual Play Area: 0.15ha;
 - Youth and Adult Play Area 0.81ha
- Developers may offer a sum towards the new provision or upgrading of open space off-site by way of commuted payment – only appropriate provided they can be targeted to sites within suitable walking and driving distances of development (if no sites are within suitable distances then the requirement for open space will be waived);
- Examples of calculations are provided.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Play and Open Space Guide (October 2002)

- The guidance sets clear standards and criteria for the provision of play space and open space; aims to ensure that recreation provision should be responsive to changes in demand and the needs of different locations; adequate provision is made for subsequent maintenance of open spaces;
- Policies REC2 and REC3 offer an initial assessment on which to base the provision of open space – this guidance sets out in detail where off site provisions of open space, and financial contributions in lieu of open space are appropriate;

- Where there is an over-supply of Public Open Space within easy walking distance (400 metres) of a proposed development, it would not be reasonable to seek additional open space provision either on or off site;
- There are circumstances where non-residential development may have an impact on existing areas of open space (i.e. new retail, office). In such cases a financial contribution to improve facilities such as footpath lighting or new furniture may be sought, but must be reasonable and commensurate with the scale of development sought;
- Thresholds are provided:
 - Formal Open Space: developments of 0 – 100 dwellings (requiring less than 4,000 sq m of formal play space) will normally require a financial contribution in lieu of on-site provision; developments of 100 - 250 dwellings (requiring 4,000 – 10,000 sq m of formal play space) will require on site provision of formal play space; developments over 250 dwellings – on site provision will be required in most cases;
 - Informal Open Space: developments of 0 to 50 dwellings (where the requirement is for 1,000 sq m or less of children’s play space) on site provision of small play areas equipped for pre-school children will only be accepted where they are sited to avoid disturbance to nearby residential properties, allow safe access to children without highway danger; on larger sites where informal space would be greater than 9,00 sq m, on site provision is acceptable; developments 50 to 100 dwellings (where the requirement is for 1,000 sq m to 2,000 sq m of informal open space) NEAPS will be required; developments of over 100 dwellings (where the requirement is for 2,000 sq m and of informal open space) on site provision of an equipped area of play should be provided in most cases.
 - Circumstances where ‘off site provision’ or a payment of a financial contribution to improve existing informal open space may be acceptable:
 - Where the development site is too small to reasonably accommodate formal or informal open space;
 - High density schemes in urban areas where on site provision would not optimise the use of land;
- An appendix outlines where financial contributions will be required in lieu of on site provision of open space and provides worked examples and method of calculation.

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APPENDIX L

QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY BY SITE

QUALITY

Parks and Gardens

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
North East Rural	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Peatling & Bosworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	3	3	0	0	0	9

Natural and Semi Natural Areas

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	3	4	6	1	0	0	14
North East Rural	3	4	4	2	2	0	15
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	1	1	4	1	1	0	8
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	4	4	4	3	0	0	15
Peatling & Bosworth	3	9	4	0	0	0	16
Total	14	22	22	7	3	0	68

Green Corridors

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North East Rural	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Peatling & Bosworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Parks and Gardens

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%
North East Rural	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	33%	0%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	33%	33%	33%	0%	0%	0%

Natural and Semi Natural Areas

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	21%	29%	43%	7%	0%	0%
North East Rural	20%	27%	27%	13%	13%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	13%	13%	50%	13%	13%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	27%	27%	27%	20%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	19%	56%	25%	0%	0%	0%
Total	21%	32%	32%	10%	4%	0%

Green Corridors

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North East Rural	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Amenity Greenspace

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	1	24	24	3	1	0	53
North East Rural	15	5	7	2	0	0	29
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	3	1	5	0	0	0	9
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	5	9	5	2	0	0	21
Peatling & Bosworth	6	2	3	0	0	0	11
Total	30	41	44	7	1	0	123

Amenity Greenspace

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	2%	45%	45%	6%	2%	0%
North East Rural	52%	17%	24%	7%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	33%	11%	56%	0%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	24%	43%	24%	10%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	55%	18%	27%	0%	0%	0%
Total	24%	33%	36%	6%	1%	0%

Young People and Children

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	3	6	5	1	0	0	14
North East Rural	3	7	3	0	0	0	13
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	2	2	0	1	2	0	7
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	4	7	1	3	0	0	15
Peatling & Bosworth	3	0	3	0	1	0	7
Total	15	22	12	5	3	0	56

Young People and Children

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	21%	43%	36%	7%	0%	0%
North East Rural	23%	54%	23%	0%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	29%	29%	0%	14%	29%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	27%	47%	7%	20%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	43%	0%	43%	0%	14%	0%
Total	27%	39%	21%	9%	5%	0%

Outdoor Sports Facilities

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	7	8	2	1	0	0	18
North East Rural	7	14	2	0	0	0	23
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	2	2	2	1	0	0	7
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	10	13	3	2	0	0	28
Peatling & Bosworth	3	4	2	1	0	0	10
Total	29	41	11	5	0	0	86

Outdoor Sports Facilities

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	39%	44%	11%	6%	0%	0%
North East Rural	30%	61%	9%	0%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	29%	29%	29%	14%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	36%	46%	11%	7%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	30%	40%	20%	10%	0%	0%
Total	34%	48%	13%	6%	0%	0%

Allotments

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	0	3	6	1	0	0	10
North East Rural	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	3	0	2	0	0	0	5
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	2	1	3	2	0	0	8
Peatling & Bosworth	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Total	5	8	11	3	2	0	29

Cemeteries & Churchyards

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	3	5	1	0	0	0	9
North East Rural	10	16	3	1	0	0	30
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	7	0	4	0	0	0	11
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	6	9	2	1	0	0	18
Peatling & Bosworth	2	10	1	0	0	0	13
Total	28	40	11	2	0	0	81

Civic Spaces

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
North East Rural	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Peatling & Bosworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	2	0	0	0	4

Allotments

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	0%	30%	60%	10%	0%	0%
North East Rural	0%	67%	0%	0%	33%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	60%	0%	40%	0%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	25%	13%	38%	25%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	0%	67%	0%	0%	33%	0%
Total	17%	28%	38%	10%	7%	0%

Cemeteries & Churchyards

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	33%	56%	11%	0%	0%	0%
North East Rural	33%	53%	10%	3%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	64%	0%	36%	0%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	33%	50%	11%	6%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	15%	77%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Total	35%	49%	14%	2%	0%	0%

Civic Spaces

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA
Market Harborough & Lubenham	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
North East Rural	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%

ACCESSIBILITY

Parks and Gardens

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Market Harborough & Lubenham	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
North East Rural	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Peatling & Bosworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	2	3	0	0	0	10

Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Lubenham	5	2	4	4	0	0	15
North East Rural	4	5	4	1	3	0	17
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	2	2	1	1	2	0	8
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	3	3	4	2	3	0	15
Peatling & Bosworth	2	3	2	0	9	0	16
Total	16	15	15	8	17	0	71

Green Corridors

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Lubenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North East Rural	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peatling & Bosworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	0	0	0	0	0	3

Parks and Gardens

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
North East Rural	33%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	33%	0%	67%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	50%	20%	30%	0%	0%

Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	33%	13%	27%	27%	0%
North East Rural	24%	29%	24%	6%	18%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	25%	25%	13%	13%	25%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	20%	20%	27%	13%	20%
Peatling & Bosworth	13%	19%	13%	0%	56%
	23%	21%	21%	11%	24%

Green Corridors

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North East Rural	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Amenity Greenspace

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Lubenham	5	16	26	4	2	0	53
North East Rural	20	4	2	1	1	0	28
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	4	4	1	0	0	0	9
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	8	8	3	1	2	0	22
Peatling & Bosworth	7	4	1	1	0	0	13
Total	44	36	33	7	5	0	125

Young people and children

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Lubenham	3	7	4	1	0	0	14
North East Rural	7	4	2	0	0	0	13
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	2	3	2	0	0	0	7
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	4	9	0	1	1	0	15
Peatling & Bosworth	2	4	0	1	0	0	7
Total	18	27	8	3	1	0	56

Outdoor sports facilities

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Lubenham	6	5	5	1	0	0	17
North East Rural	10	8	2	3	0	0	23
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	1	3	3	0	0	0	7
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	9	6	10	1	2	0	28
Peatling & Bosworth	3	5	1	0	2	0	11
Total	29	27	21	5	4	0	86

Amenity Greenspace

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	9%	30%	49%	8%	4%
North East Rural	71%	14%	7%	4%	4%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	44%	44%	11%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	36%	36%	14%	5%	9%
Peatling & Bosworth	54%	31%	8%	8%	0%
Total	35%	29%	26%	6%	4%

Young people and children

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	21%	50%	29%	7%	0%
North East Rural	54%	31%	15%	0%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	29%	43%	29%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	27%	60%	0%	7%	7%
Peatling & Bosworth	29%	57%	0%	14%	0%
Total	32%	48%	14%	5%	2%

Outdoor sports facilities

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	35%	29%	29%	6%	0%
North East Rural	43%	35%	9%	13%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	14%	43%	43%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	32%	21%	36%	4%	7%
Peatling & Bosworth	27%	45%	9%	0%	18%
Total	34%	31%	24%	6%	5%

Allotments

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Lubenham	1	3	7	0	0	0	11
North East Rural	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	1	2	2	0	0	0	5
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	2	5	2	1	0	0	10
Peatling & Bosworth	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Total	4	14	11	1	2	0	32

Cemeteries and churchyards

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Lubenham	2	5	4	0	0	0	11
North East Rural	16	9	5	1	0	0	31
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	7	2	2	0	0	0	11
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	9	7	0	1	0	0	17
Peatling & Bosworth	4	8	0	0	0	0	12
Total	38	31	11	2	0	0	82

Civic spaces

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	NA	Total
Lubenham	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
North East Rural	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peatling & Bosworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	1	1	0	0	0	4

Allotments

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	9%	27%	64%	0%	0%
North East Rural	0%	67%	0%	0%	33%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	20%	40%	40%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	20%	50%	20%	10%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	0%	67%	0%	0%	33%
	13%	44%	34%	3%	6%

Cemeteries and churchyards

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	18%	45%	36%	0%	0%
North East Rural	52%	29%	16%	3%	0%
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	64%	18%	18%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	53%	41%	0%	6%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	33%	67%	0%	0%	0%
	46%	38%	13%	2%	0%

Civic spaces

AnalysisArea	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Market Harborough & Lubenham	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
North East Rural	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kibworth, Fleckney & Central	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Peatling & Bosworth	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	50%	25%	25%	0%	0%

APPENDIX M

QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY FACTORS

QUALITY

Analysis Area 1- Market Harborough & Lubenham

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A	Total
Vandalism and Graffiti	1	3	2	0	0		6
Litter Problems	0	2	3	1	0		6
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	0	4	1	1	0		6
Dog Fouling	0	1	3	1	1		6
Noise	0	3	3	0	0		6
Smells (unattractive)	0	4	2	0	0		6
Maintenance & Management	0	3	2	0	0		5
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	0	2	3	1	0		6
Lighting	0	1	2	0	0		3
Equipment	0	1	2	0	0		3
Boundaries	0	4	2	0	0		6
Overall Security and Safety	0	4	1	0	0		5
Planted areas	0	3	2	0	0		5
Grass areas	0	4	1	1	0		6
Toilets	0	0	1	1	0		2
Parking	0	1	1	2	1		5
Pathways	0	2	4	0	0		6
Information & Signage	0	4	0	1	0		5
Overall Quality Rating	0	4	2	0	0		6

Analysis Area 1- Market Harborough & Lubenham

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
Vandalism and Graffiti	17%	50%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Litter Problems	0%	33%	50%	17%	0%	0%
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	0%	67%	17%	17%	0%	0%
Dog Fouling	0%	17%	50%	17%	17%	0%
Noise	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Smells (unattractive)	0%	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Maintenance & Management	0%	60%	40%	0%	0%	0%
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	0%	33%	50%	17%	0%	0%
Lighting	0%	33%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Equipment	0%	33%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Boundaries	0%	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Overall Security and Safety	0%	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
Planted areas	0%	60%	40%	0%	0%	0%
Grass areas	0%	67%	17%	17%	0%	0%
Toilets	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
Parking	0%	20%	20%	40%	20%	0%
Pathways	0%	33%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Information & Signage	0%	80%	0%	20%	0%	0%
Overall Quality Rating	0%	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%

Analysis Area 2- North East Rural

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A	Total
Vandalism and Graffiti	9	13	2	0	1		25
Litter Problems	4	10	9	4	1		28
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	2	7	9	1	2		21
Dog Fouling	4	9	5	5	3		26
Noise	8	11	8	0	0		27
Smells (unattractive)	8	11	6	0	0		25
Maintenance & Management	7	11	7	4	0		29
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	8	10	11	1	0		30
Lighting	1	6	9	2	2		20
Equipment	1	7	4	1	4		17
Boundaries	1	14	8	1	1		25
Overall Security and Safety	2	10	10	3	0		25
Planted areas	3	6	9	1	1		20
Grass areas	4	8	10	0	0		22
Toilets	0	1	1	0	3		5
Parking	0	3	4	5	7		19
Pathways	1	8	9	2	1		21
Information & Signage	0	5	5	5	0		15
Overall Quality Rating	6	9	11	2	0		28

Analysis Area 2- North East Rural

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
Vandalism and Graffiti	36%	52%	8%	0%	4%	0%
Litter Problems	14%	36%	32%	14%	4%	0%
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	10%	33%	43%	5%	10%	0%
Dog Fouling	15%	35%	19%	19%	12%	0%
Noise	30%	41%	30%	0%	0%	0%
Smells (unattractive)	32%	44%	24%	0%	0%	0%
Maintenance & Management	24%	38%	24%	14%	0%	0%
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	27%	33%	37%	3%	0%	0%
Lighting	5%	30%	45%	10%	10%	0%
Equipment	6%	41%	24%	6%	24%	0%
Boundaries	4%	56%	32%	4%	4%	0%
Overall Security and Safety	8%	40%	40%	12%	0%	0%
Planted areas	15%	30%	45%	5%	5%	0%
Grass areas	18%	36%	45%	0%	0%	0%
Toilets	0%	20%	20%	0%	60%	0%
Parking	0%	16%	21%	26%	37%	0%
Pathways	5%	38%	43%	10%	5%	0%
Information & Signage	0%	33%	33%	33%	0%	0%
Overall Quality Rating	21%	32%	39%	7%	0%	0%

Analysis Area 3 - Kibworth, Fleckney & Central

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A	Total
Vandalism and Graffiti	4	2	3	1	0		10
Litter Problems	1	4	1	4	0		10
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	1	4	1	0	3		9
Dog Fouling	2	2	1	5	2		12
Noise	2	3	3	0	0		8
Smells (unattractive)	2	3	2	0	0		7
Maintenance & Management	4	3	2	0	0		9
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	3	2	3	1	0		9
Lighting	1	3	0	1	2		7
Equipment	2	2	1	0	2		7
Boundaries	2	6	1	1	0		10
Overall Security and Safety	2	5	2	1	0		10
Planted areas	3	5	1	0	0		9
Grass areas	4	4	1	0	0		9
Toilets	0	0	0	0	1		1
Parking	0	2	1	4	0		7
Pathways	1	4	3	0	0		8
Information & Signage	2	2	0	3	0		7
Overall Quality Rating	1	5	3	1	0		10

Analysis Area 3 - Kibworth, Fleckney & Central

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
Vandalism and Graffiti	40%	20%	30%	10%	0%	0%
Litter Problems	10%	40%	10%	40%	0%	0%
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	11%	44%	11%	0%	33%	0%
Dog Fouling	17%	17%	8%	42%	17%	0%
Noise	25%	38%	38%	0%	0%	0%
Smells (unattractive)	29%	43%	29%	0%	0%	0%
Maintenance & Management	44%	33%	22%	0%	0%	0%
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	33%	22%	33%	11%	0%	0%
Lighting	14%	43%	0%	14%	29%	0%
Equipment	29%	29%	14%	0%	29%	0%
Boundaries	20%	60%	10%	10%	0%	0%
Overall Security and Safety	20%	50%	20%	10%	0%	0%
Planted areas	33%	56%	11%	0%	0%	0%
Grass areas	44%	44%	11%	0%	0%	0%
Toilets	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Parking	0%	29%	14%	57%	0%	0%
Pathways	13%	50%	38%	0%	0%	0%
Information & Signage	29%	29%	0%	43%	0%	0%
Overall Quality Rating	10%	50%	30%	10%	0%	0%

Analysis Area 4 - Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A	Total
Vandalism and Graffiti	6	4	3	0	1		14
Litter Problems	3	3	3	4	1		14
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	0	5	3	2	1		11
Dog Fouling	2	2	8	1	1		14
Noise	2	6	4	1	0		13
Smells (unattractive)	2	7	1	2	0		12
Maintenance & Management	1	7	6	0	0		14
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	1	6	7	0	0		14
Lighting	0	2	3	1	2		8
Equipment	1	2	3	0	3		9
Boundaries	1	6	5	0	1		13
Overall Security and Safety	1	4	5	2	0		12
Planted areas	1	7	3	0	0		11
Grass areas	0	6	7	0	1		14
Toilets	0	0	1	4	3		8
Parking	1	1	3	5	2		12
Pathways	1	3	8	1	1		14
Information & Signage	0	2	7	2	1		12
Overall Quality Rating	1	3	8	2	0		14

Analysis Area 4 - Western Area (Lutterworth / Broughton Astley)

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
Vandalism and Graffiti	43%	29%	21%	0%	7%	0%
Litter Problems	21%	21%	21%	29%	7%	0%
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	0%	45%	27%	18%	9%	0%
Dog Fouling	14%	14%	57%	7%	7%	0%
Noise	15%	46%	31%	8%	0%	0%
Smells (unattractive)	17%	58%	8%	17%	0%	0%
Maintenance & Management	7%	50%	43%	0%	0%	0%
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	7%	43%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Lighting	0%	25%	38%	13%	25%	0%
Equipment	11%	22%	33%	0%	33%	0%
Boundaries	8%	46%	38%	0%	8%	0%
Overall Security and Safety	8%	33%	42%	17%	0%	0%
Planted areas	9%	64%	27%	0%	0%	0%
Grass areas	0%	43%	50%	0%	7%	0%
Toilets	0%	0%	13%	50%	38%	0%
Parking	8%	8%	25%	42%	17%	0%
Pathways	7%	21%	57%	7%	7%	0%
Information & Signage	0%	17%	58%	17%	8%	0%
Overall Quality Rating	7%	21%	57%	14%	0%	0%

Analysis Area 5 - Kibworth, Fleckney & Central

Analysis Area 5 - Kibworth, Fleckney & Central

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A	Total
Vandalism and Graffiti	5	2	1	1	0		9
Litter Problems	1	4	5	0	0		10
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	0	4	2	1	0		7
Dog Fouling	1	1	4	3	1		10
Noise	2	2	3	2	1		10
Smells (unattractive)	2	5	1	2	0		10
Maintenance & Management	2	6	2	0	0		10
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	2	6	2	0	0		10
Lighting	0	2	4	1	1		8
Equipment	2	0	2	1	2		7
Boundaries	3	1	4	0	0		8
Overall Security and Safety	2	2	3	1	0		8
Planted areas	1	2	3	0	0		6
Grass areas	2	3	3	0	0		8
Toilets	0	0	0	0	0		0
Parking	0	3	1	2	0		6
Pathways	0	2	2	0	0		4
Information & Signage	1	1	3	2	0		7
Overall Quality Rating	2	5	3	0	0		10

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
Vandalism and Graffiti	56%	22%	11%	11%	0%	0%
Litter Problems	10%	40%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	0%	57%	29%	14%	0%	0%
Dog Fouling	10%	10%	40%	30%	10%	0%
Noise	20%	20%	30%	20%	10%	0%
Smells (unattractive)	20%	50%	10%	20%	0%	0%
Maintenance & Management	20%	60%	20%	0%	0%	0%
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	20%	60%	20%	0%	0%	0%
Lighting	0%	25%	50%	13%	13%	0%
Equipment	29%	0%	29%	14%	29%	0%
Boundaries	38%	13%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Overall Security and Safety	25%	25%	38%	13%	0%	0%
Planted areas	17%	33%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Grass areas	25%	38%	38%	0%	0%	0%
Toilets	#####	#####	#DIV/0!	#####	#####	#####
Parking	0%	50%	17%	33%	0%	0%
Pathways	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Information & Signage	14%	14%	43%	29%	0%	0%
Overall Quality Rating	20%	50%	30%	0%	0%	0%

Total

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A	Total
Vandalism and Graffiti	25	24	11	2	2	0	64
Litter Problems	9	23	21	13	2	0	68
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	3	24	16	5	6	0	54
Dog Fouling	9	15	21	15	8	0	68
Noise	14	25	21	3	1	0	64
Smells (unattractive)	14	30	12	4	0	0	60
Maintenance & Management	14	30	19	4	0	0	67
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	14	26	26	3	0	0	69
Lighting	2	14	18	5	7	0	46
Equipment	6	12	12	2	11	0	43
Boundaries	7	31	20	2	2	0	62
Overall Security and Safety	7	25	21	7	0	0	60
Planted areas	8	23	18	1	1	0	51
Grass areas	10	25	22	1	1	0	59
Toilets	0	1	3	5	7	0	16
Parking	1	10	10	18	10	0	49
Pathways	3	19	26	3	2	0	53
Information & Signage	3	14	15	13	1	0	46
Overall Quality Rating	10	26	27	5	0	0	68

Total

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	N/A
Vandalism and Graffiti	39%	38%	17%	3%	3%	0%
Litter Problems	13%	34%	31%	19%	3%	0%
Provision of bins for rubbish/litter	6%	44%	30%	9%	11%	0%
Dog Fouling	13%	22%	31%	22%	12%	0%
Noise	22%	39%	33%	5%	2%	0%
Smells (unattractive)	23%	50%	20%	7%	0%	0%
Maintenance & Management	21%	45%	28%	6%	0%	0%
Overall Cleanliness & Maintenance	20%	38%	38%	4%	0%	0%
Lighting	4%	30%	39%	11%	15%	0%
Equipment	14%	28%	28%	5%	26%	0%
Boundaries	11%	50%	32%	3%	3%	0%
Overall Security and Safety	12%	42%	35%	12%	0%	0%
Planted areas	16%	45%	35%	2%	2%	0%
Grass areas	17%	42%	37%	2%	2%	0%
Toilets	0%	6%	19%	31%	44%	0%
Parking	2%	20%	20%	37%	20%	0%
Pathways	6%	36%	49%	6%	4%	0%
Information & Signage	7%	30%	33%	28%	2%	0%
Overall Quality Rating	15%	38%	40%	7%	0%	0%

ACCESSIBILITY

Analysis Area 1- Market Harborough & Lubenham

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Entrance to the sites	0%	67%	33%	0%	0%
Opening Times	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Cost to User	20%	40%	0%	0%	0%
Public Transport - Provision	0%	17%	17%	0%	17%
Public Transport - Distance from Population	0%	17%	17%	0%	0%
Cycleways - Provision	0%	33%	0%	0%	17%
Cycleways - Distance from Population	17%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Walking - Distance from Population	17%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Signage	0%	60%	20%	0%	20%
Information and/or promotion of the sites	0%	20%	20%	40%	0%
Overall Accessibility rating	0%	80%	20%	0%	0%

Analysis Area 2- North East Rural

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Entrance to the sites	19%	31%	38%	8%	4%
Opening Times	47%	29%	24%	0%	0%
Cost to User	73%	13%	13%	0%	0%
Public Transport - Provision	0%	0%	6%	44%	50%
Public Transport - Distance from Population	7%	47%	7%	13%	27%
Cycleways - Provision	29%	36%	0%	21%	14%
Cycleways - Distance from Population	47%	37%	0%	5%	11%
Walking - Distance from Population	48%	43%	4%	0%	4%
Signage	21%	21%	36%	14%	7%
Information and/or promotion of the sites	9%	18%	45%	9%	18%
Overall Accessibility rating	16%	40%	32%	4%	8%

Analysis Area 3 - Kibworth, Fleckney & Central

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Entrance to the sites	40%	20%	30%	10%	0%
Opening Times	63%	38%	0%	0%	0%
Cost to User	63%	38%	0%	0%	0%
Public Transport - Provision	13%	13%	0%	0%	75%
Public Transport - Distance from Population	33%	33%	17%	0%	17%
Cycleways - Provision	0%	0%	14%	0%	86%
Cycleways - Distance from Population	57%	29%	14%	0%	0%
Walking - Distance from Population	60%	30%	0%	10%	0%
Signage	13%	25%	13%	38%	13%
Information and/or promotion of the sites	13%	25%	0%	25%	38%
Overall Accessibility rating	40%	20%	40%	0%	0%

Analysis Area 4 - Western - Lutterworth and Broughton Astley

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Entrance to the sites	7%	60%	27%	7%	0%
Opening Times	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Cost to User	50%	40%	0%	10%	0%
Public Transport - Provision	0%	33%	11%	0%	56%
Public Transport - Distance from Population	22%	44%	33%	0%	0%
Cycleways - Provision	14%	14%	0%	29%	43%
Cycleways - Distance from Population	44%	33%	0%	11%	11%
Walking - Distance from Population	40%	40%	13%	0%	7%
Signage	14%	21%	21%	29%	14%
Information and/or promotion of the sites	0%	42%	8%	42%	8%
Overall Accessibility rating	14%	36%	29%	14%	7%

Analysis Area 5- Peatling and Bosworth

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Entrance to the sites	33%	56%	11%	0%	0%
Opening Times	50%	33%	17%	0%	0%
Cost to User	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Public Transport - Provision	0%	33%	0%	17%	50%
Public Transport - Distance from Population	40%	20%	20%	0%	20%
Cycleways - Provision	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Cycleways - Distance from Population	60%	0%	20%	0%	20%
Walking - Distance from Population	75%	0%	25%	0%	0%
Signage	25%	50%	25%	0%	0%
Information and/or promotion of the sites	43%	14%	29%	14%	0%
Overall Accessibility rating	33%	33%	22%	0%	11%

Total

Category	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Entrance to the sites	20%	42%	30%	6%	2%
Opening Times	44%	38%	11%	0%	0%
Cost to User	59%	30%	5%	2%	0%
Public Transport - Provision	2%	15%	6%	19%	51%
Public Transport - Distance from Population	17%	37%	17%	5%	15%
Cycleways - Provision	14%	23%	3%	14%	37%
Cycleways - Distance from Population	46%	35%	4%	4%	9%
Walking - Distance from Population	48%	37%	8%	2%	3%
Signage	16%	31%	24%	18%	10%
Information and/or promotion of the sites	12%	26%	21%	26%	14%
Overall Accessibility rating	21%	38%	30%	5%	6%

APPENDIX N

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

PPG17 PARISH INFO RETURNED

Parish	O/S QQ	Indoor QQ	Map	Date fwd	Comments
Westrill & Starmore	n/a – only 3 inhabitants			20 th Jan	
Kings Norton	✓	✓	✓	20 th Jan	“Will deliver rest by hand.” When? Subsequently completed by BL
Glooston	✓	✓	✓	20 th Jan	
Keyham	✓	✓	✓	21 st Jan	
Gumley	✓	✓	✓	21 st Jan	
Rolleston	✓	✓		21 st Jan	
Arnesby	✓	✓	✓	21 st Jan	
Marefield	✓		✓	21 st Jan	“Not completed; no facilities; none required” Subsequently completed by BL
Carlton Curlieu	✓	✓	✓	21 st Jan	
Stockerston	✓	✓	✓	21 st Jan	Initially only indoor QQ (partially) completed. Subsequently completed by BL
Shadwell	✓	✓	✓	23 rd Jan	
Cranoë	✓	✓	✓	26 th Jan	
Kibworth Beauchamp	✓	✓	✓	29 th Jan	
Welham	✓	✓	✓	29 th Jan	Map not completed as nothing to put on it
Noseley	✓	✓	✓	29 th Jan	
Burton Overy	✓	✓	✓	29 th Jan	
Frisby	✓	✓		29 th Jan	Map not returned as no publicly-owned land; only green corridors
Thurnby & Bushby	✓	✓	✓	29 th Jan	
Shangton	✓		✓		Originally returned uncompleted as chair of parish meeting has resigned and no successor to pass forms on to. Subsequently completed by BL
Ashby Parva	✓	✓	✓	29 th Jan	
Goadby	✓	✓	✓	29 th Jan	
Claybrook Magna	✓	✓	✓	29 th Jan	
Mowsley	✓	✓	✓	30 th Jan	
S Kilworth	✓	✓	✓	30 th Jan	
Stonton Wyville	✓	✓	✓	2 nd Feb	
Gaulby	✓	✓	✓	2 nd Feb	
Scaptoft	✓	✓	✓	2 nd Feb	
Kimcote & Walton	✓	✓	✓	2 nd Feb	
Claybrook Parva	✓	✓	✓	2 nd Feb	
Leire	✓	✓	✓	2 nd Feb	
East Norton	✓	✓	✓	5 th Feb	

Parish	O/S QQ	Indoor QQ	Map	Date fwd	Comments
Little Stretton	✓	✓	✓	5 th Feb	
Tilton	✓	✓	✓	5 th Feb	
Ashby Magna	✓	✓	✓	5 th Feb	
Gilmorton	✓	✓	✓	5 th Feb	
Lutterworth	✓	✓	✓	5 th Feb	
Blaston	✓	✓	✓	5 th Feb	
Withcote	✓	✓	✓	9 th Feb	
Billesdon	✓	✓	✓	9 th Feb	
Owston & Newbold	✓	✓	✓	9 th Feb	
W Langton	✓	✓	✓	9 th Feb	
Hallaton	✓	✓	✓	9 th Feb	
Willoughby Waterleys	✓	✓	✓	9 th Feb	
Horninghold	✓	✓	✓	9 th Feb	
Slawston	✓	✓	✓	10 th Feb	
Thorpe Langton	✓	✓	✓	11 th Feb	
Smeeton Westerby	✓	✓	✓	12 th Feb	
Great Glen	✓	✓	✓		
Medbourne	✓	✓	✓		
Stoughton	✓	✓	✓		
Shearsby	✓	✓	✓		
Knaptoft	✓	✓	✓		
Swinford	✓	✓	✓		
Husbands Bosworth	✓	✓	✓	17 th Feb	
Ullesthorpe	✓	✓	✓	17 th Feb	
Frolesworth	✓	✓	✓	17 th Feb	
Lubenham	✓	✓	✓	17 th Feb	
Broughton Astley	✓	✓	✓		Also checked by BL
Foxton	✓	✓	✓	20 th Feb	
Fleckney	✓	✓	✓	20 th Feb	
Misterton	✓	✓	✓	20 th Feb	
Dunton Bassett	✓	✓	✓	20 th Feb	
Saddington	✓	✓	✓	20 th Feb	
Bruntingthorpe	✓	✓	✓	20 th Feb	
Tur Langton		✓		20 th Feb	
Wistow/Newton Harcourt	✓	✓	✓	24 th Feb	
Kibworth Harcourt	✓	✓	✓	1 st Mar	
Skeffington	✓	✓	✓	1 st Mar	
Peatling Magna	✓	✓	✓	1 st Mar	
East Langton	✓	✓	✓	1 st Mar	
Hungarton	✓		✓	1 st Mar	
Bitteswell	✓	✓	✓	1 st Mar	
North Kilworth	✓	✓	✓	3 rd Mar	
Gt Bowden	✓	✓	✓	11 th Mar	
Cotesbach	✓	✓	✓	11 th Mar	
Bringhurst	✓	✓	✓	29 th Mar	
Drayton	✓	✓	✓	29 th Mar	
Nevill Holt	✓	✓	✓	29 th Mar	
Tugby & Keythorpe	✓	✓	✓	29 th Mar	
Laughton	✓	✓	✓		
Lowesby	✓	✓	✓	13 th April	
Loddington	✓	✓	✓	14 th April	

Appendix N – Parish questionnaire responses

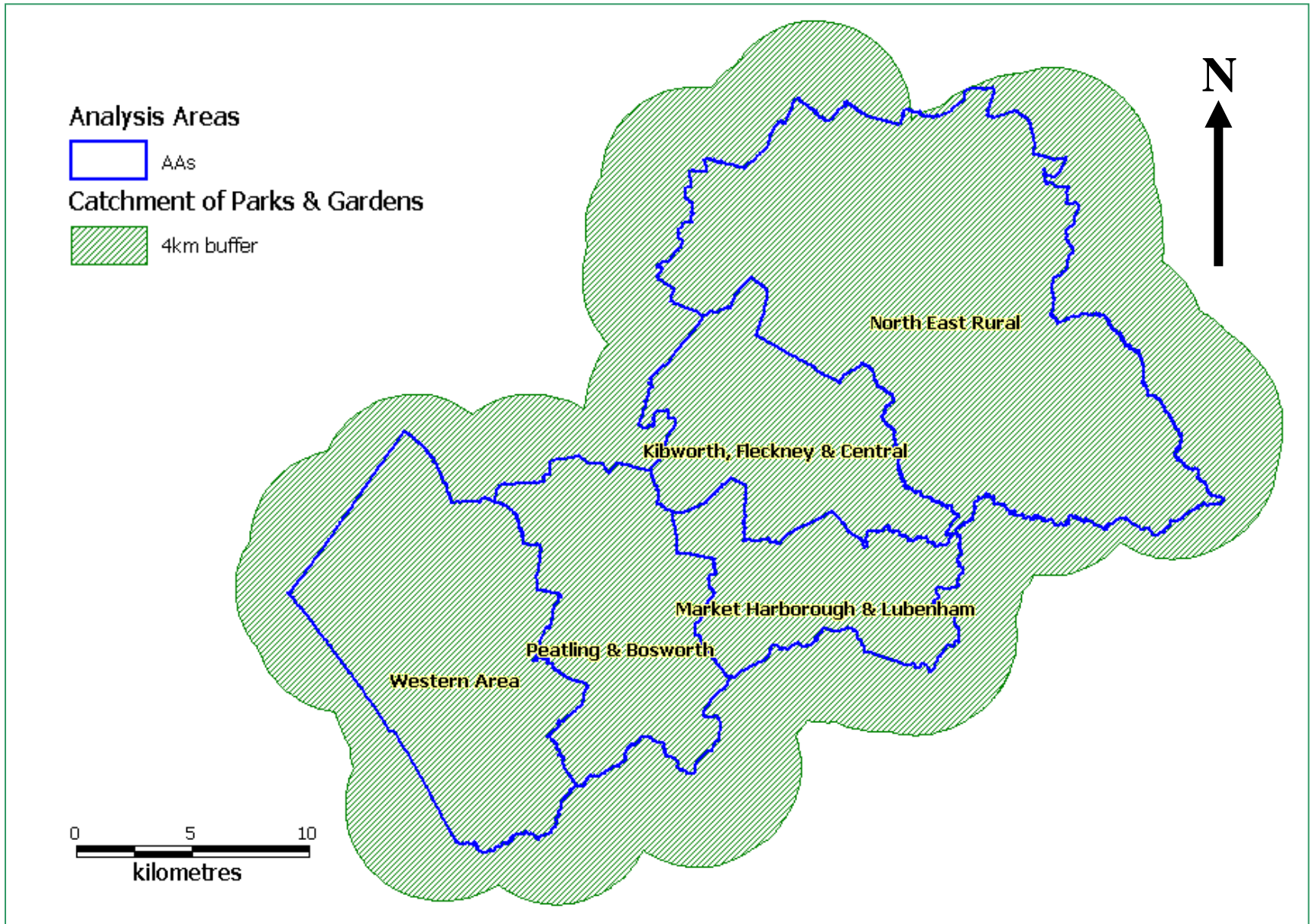
Parish	O/S QQ	Indoor QQ	Map	Date fwd	Comments
Launde	✓	✓	✓	14 th April	
Houghton on the Hill	✓	✓	✓	14 th April	
Bitteswell	✓		✓		Completed by BL
Catthorpe	✓		✓		Completed by BL
Theddingworth	✓		✓		Completed by BL
Alexton	✓		✓		Completed by BL
Gt Easton	✓		✓		Completed by BL
Peatling Parva	✓		✓		Completed by BL

Bob Littler
18th May 2004

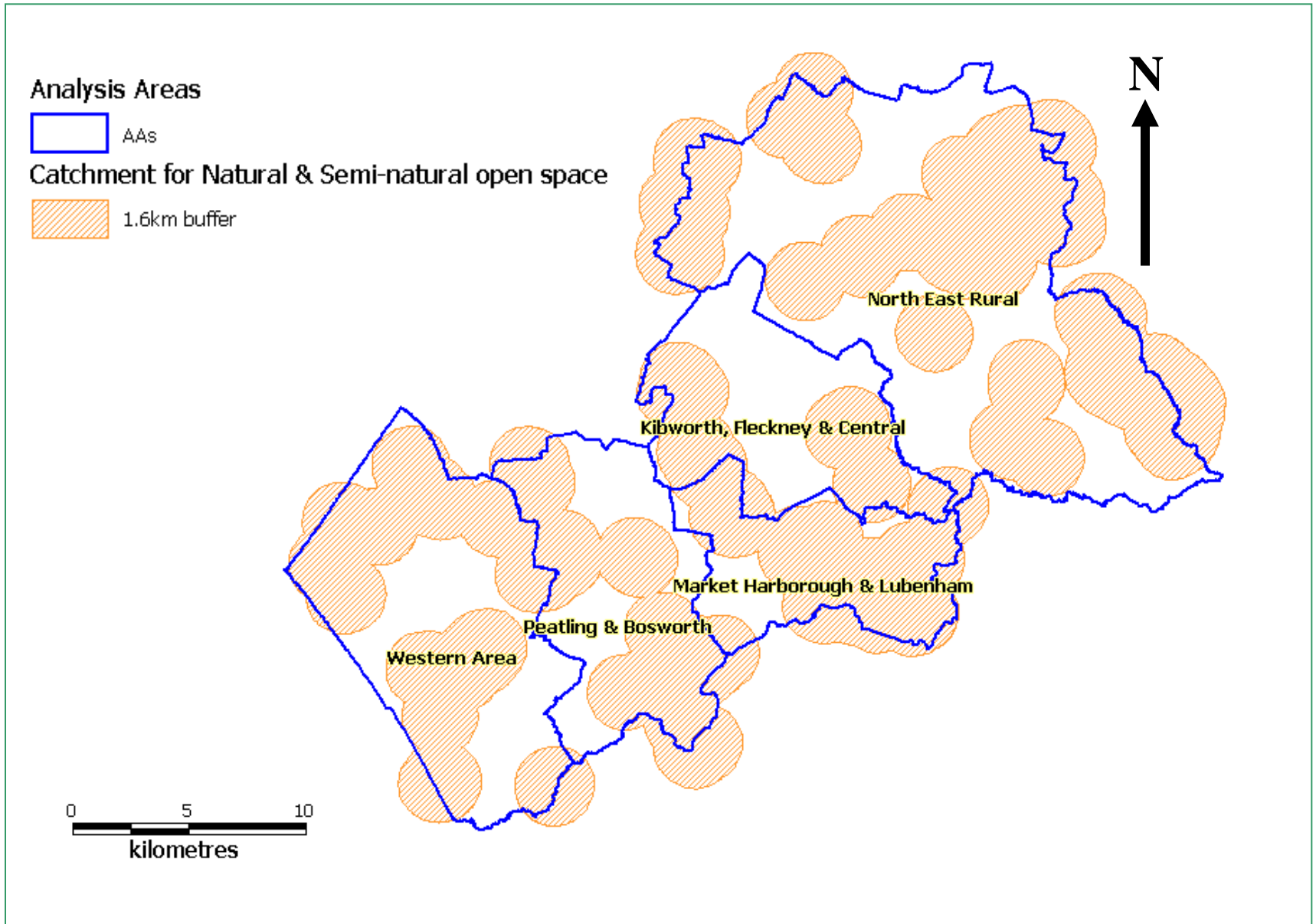
APPENDIX 0

MAPPING – SURPLUS / DEFICIENCIES & ACCESSIBILITY

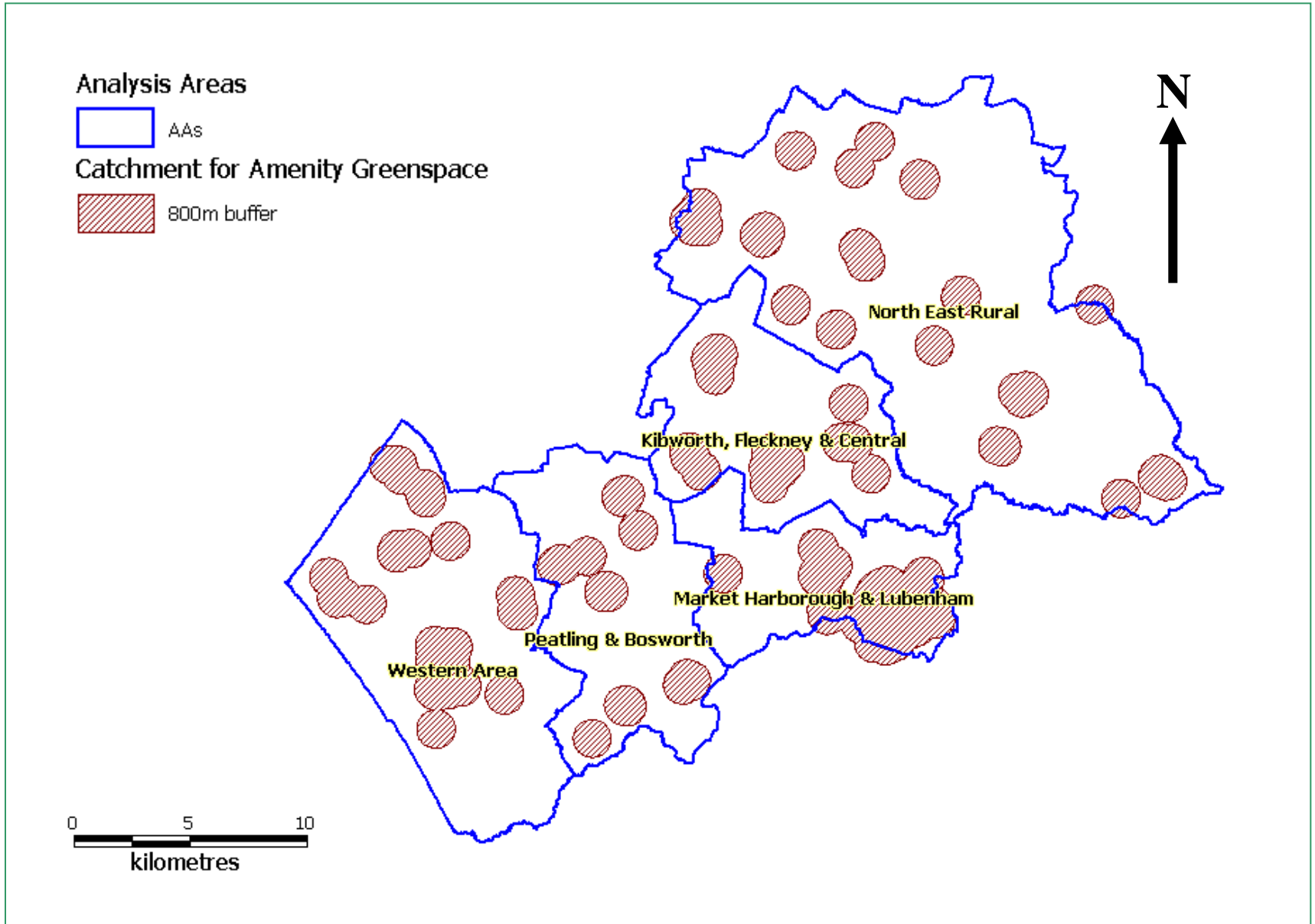
Overview Map: Analysis Areas and Open Space Type Catchments – Parks & Gardens



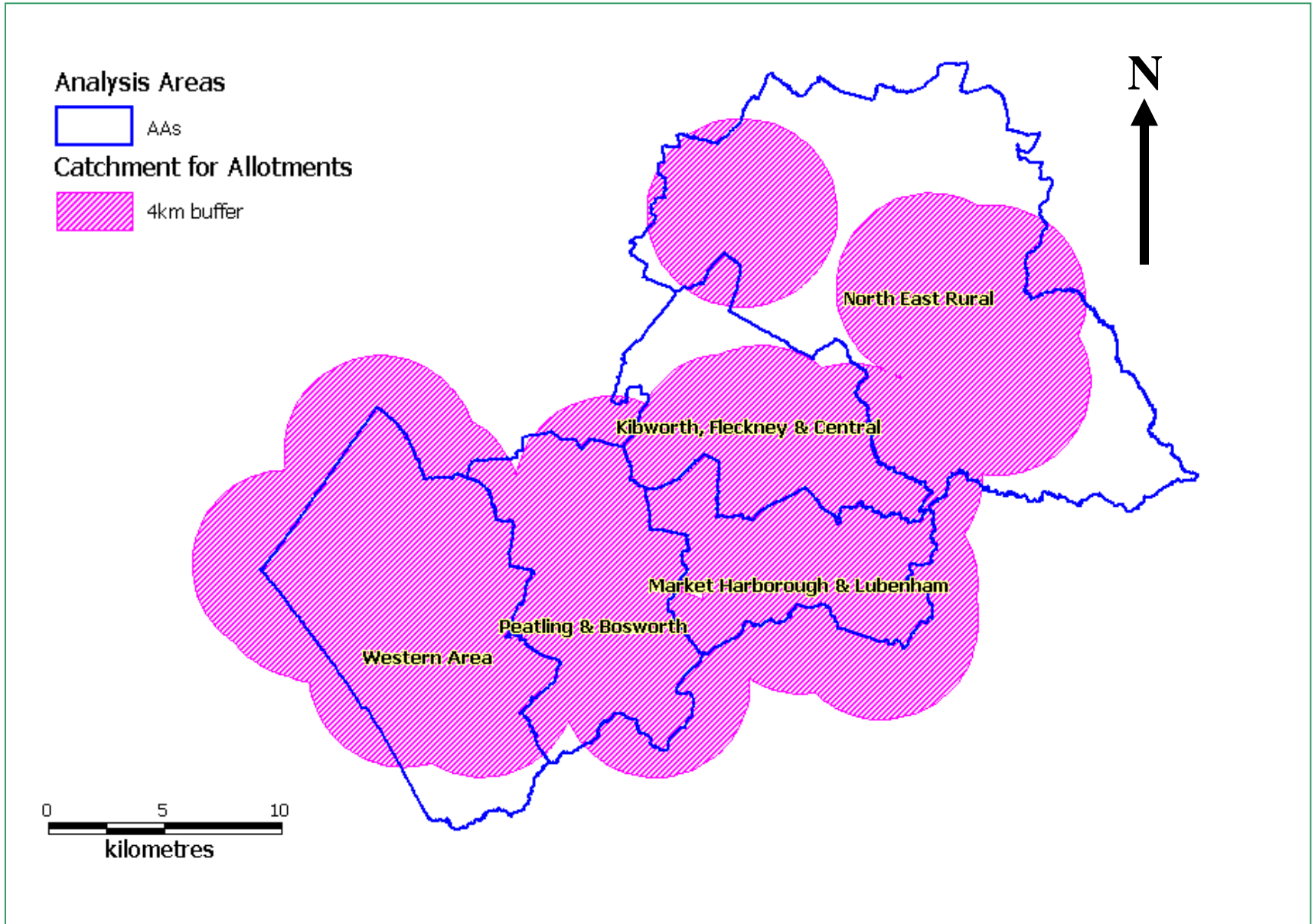
Overview Map: Analysis Areas and Open Space Type Catchments – Natural & Semi-natural open space



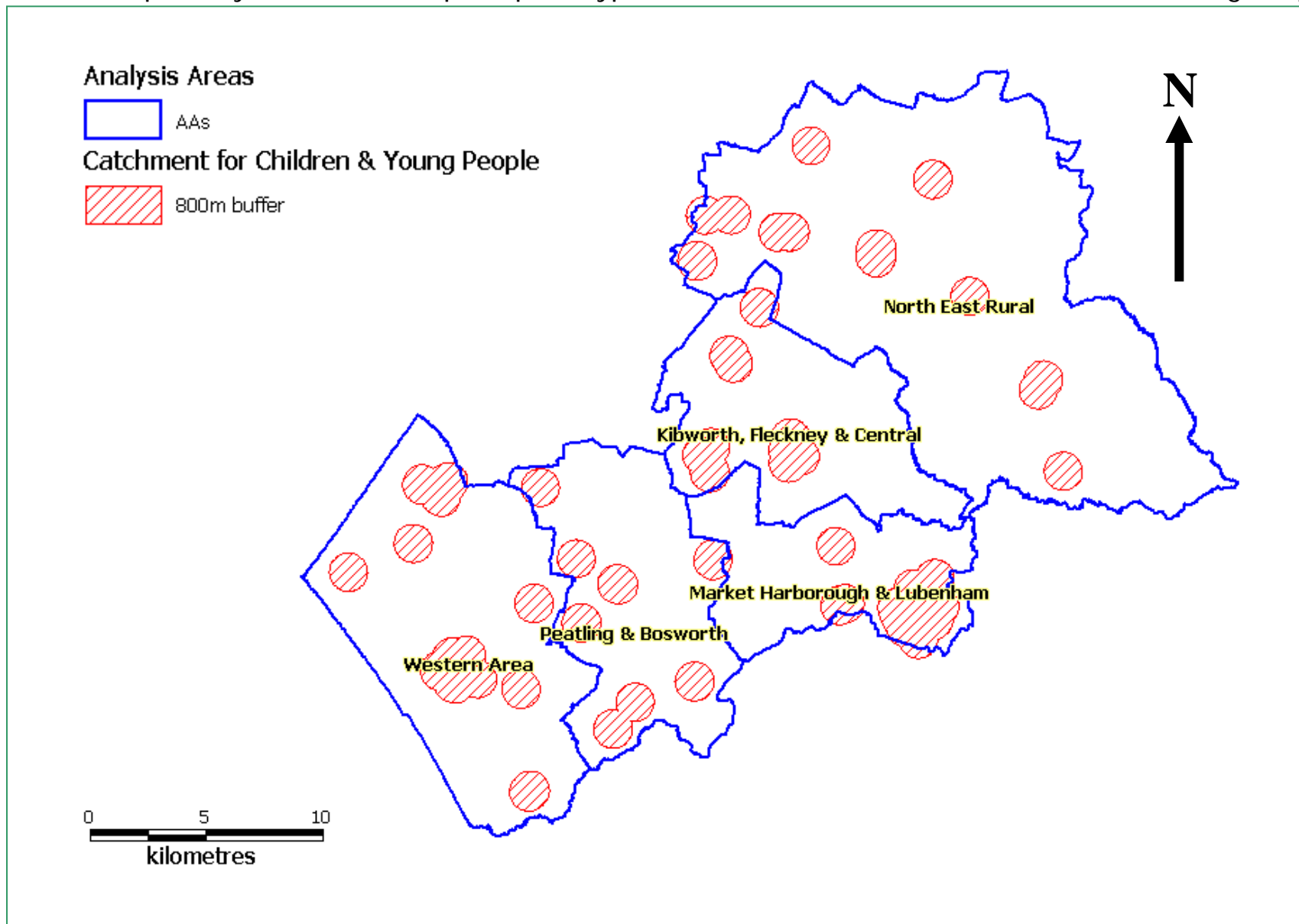
Overview Map: Analysis Areas and Open Space Type Catchments – Amenity Green Space



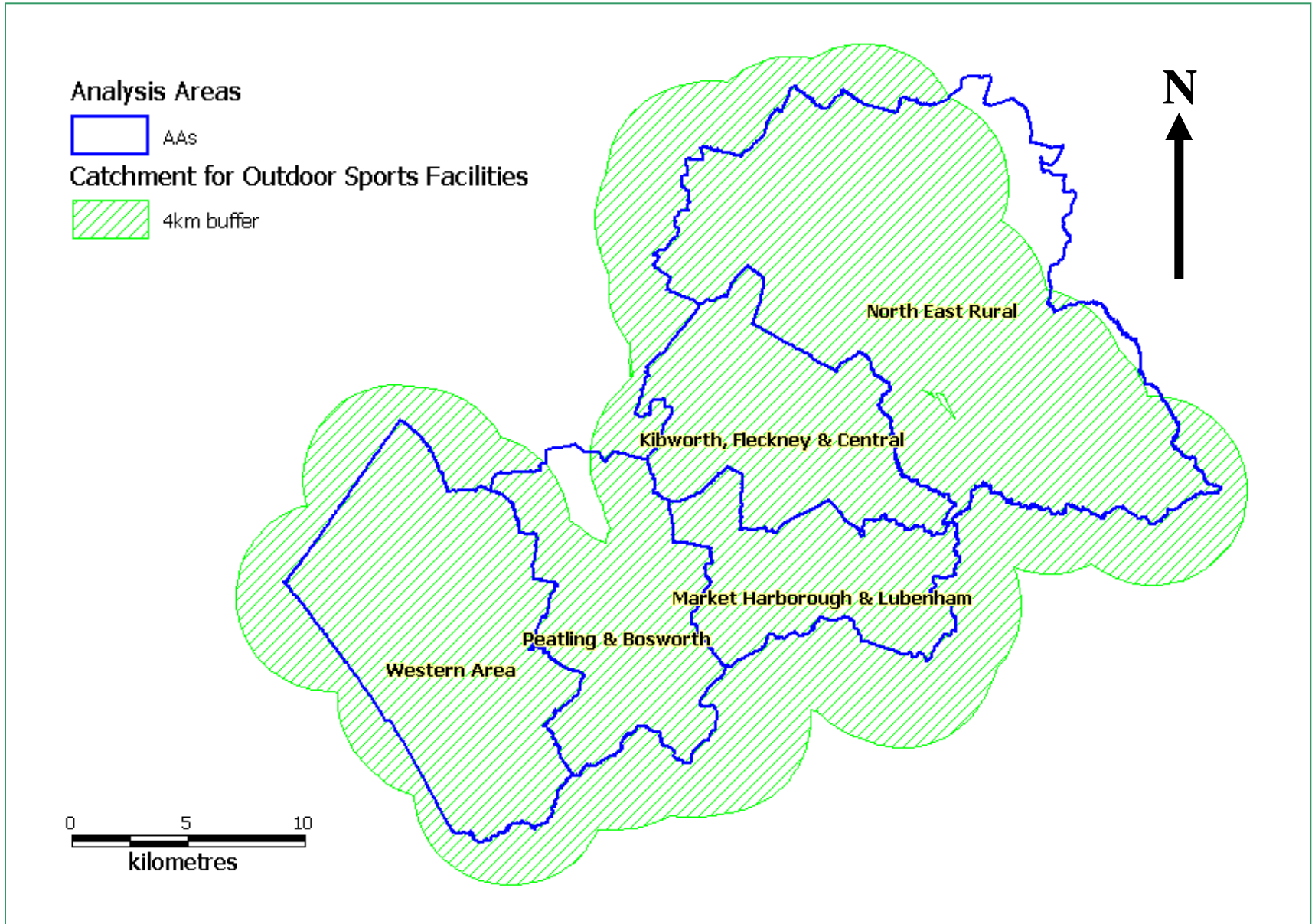
Overview Map: Analysis Areas and Open Space Type Catchments – Allotments



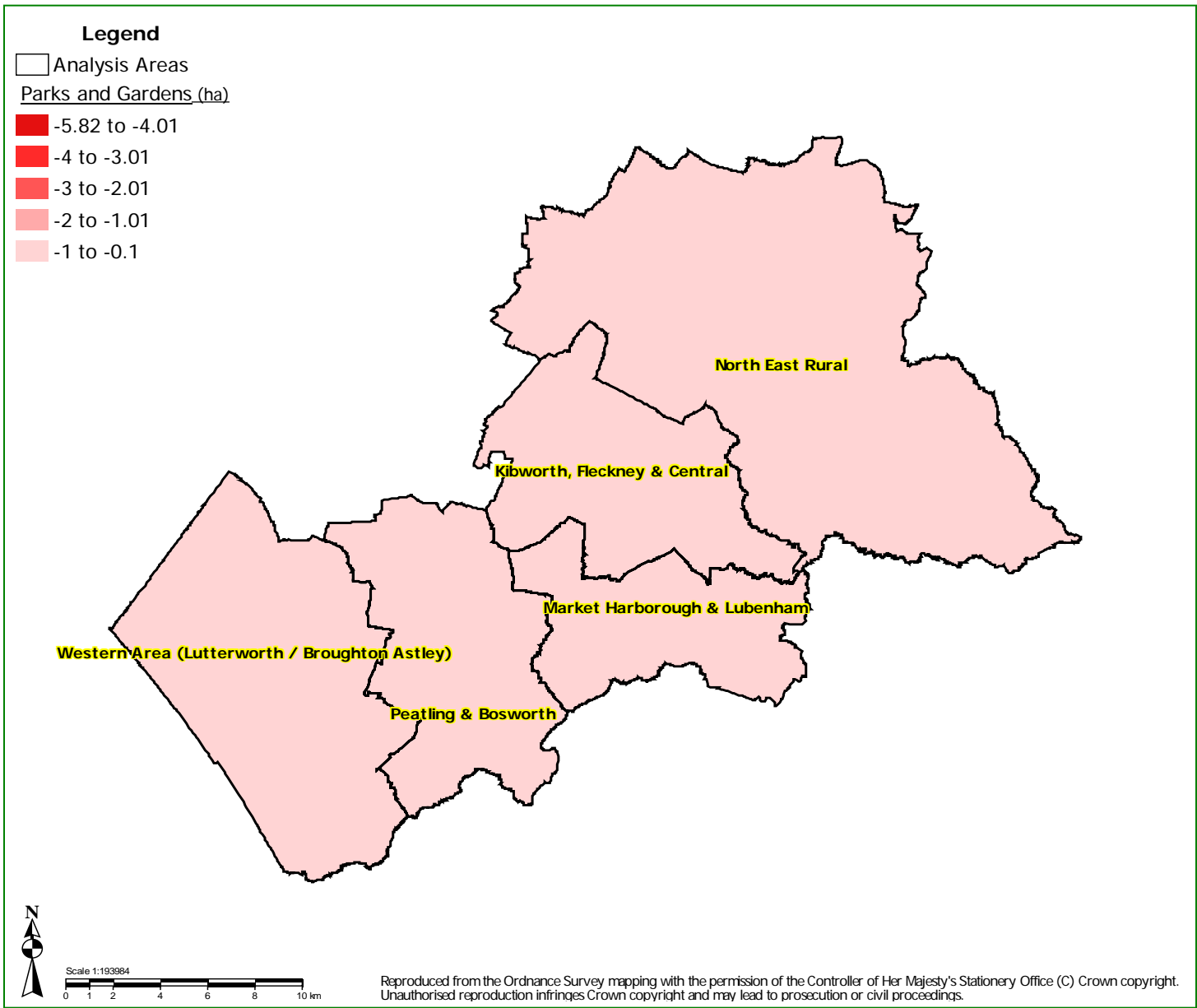
Overview Map: Analysis Areas and Open Space Type Catchments – Provision for Children and Young People



Overview Map: Analysis Areas and Open Space Type Catchments – Outdoor Sports Facilities



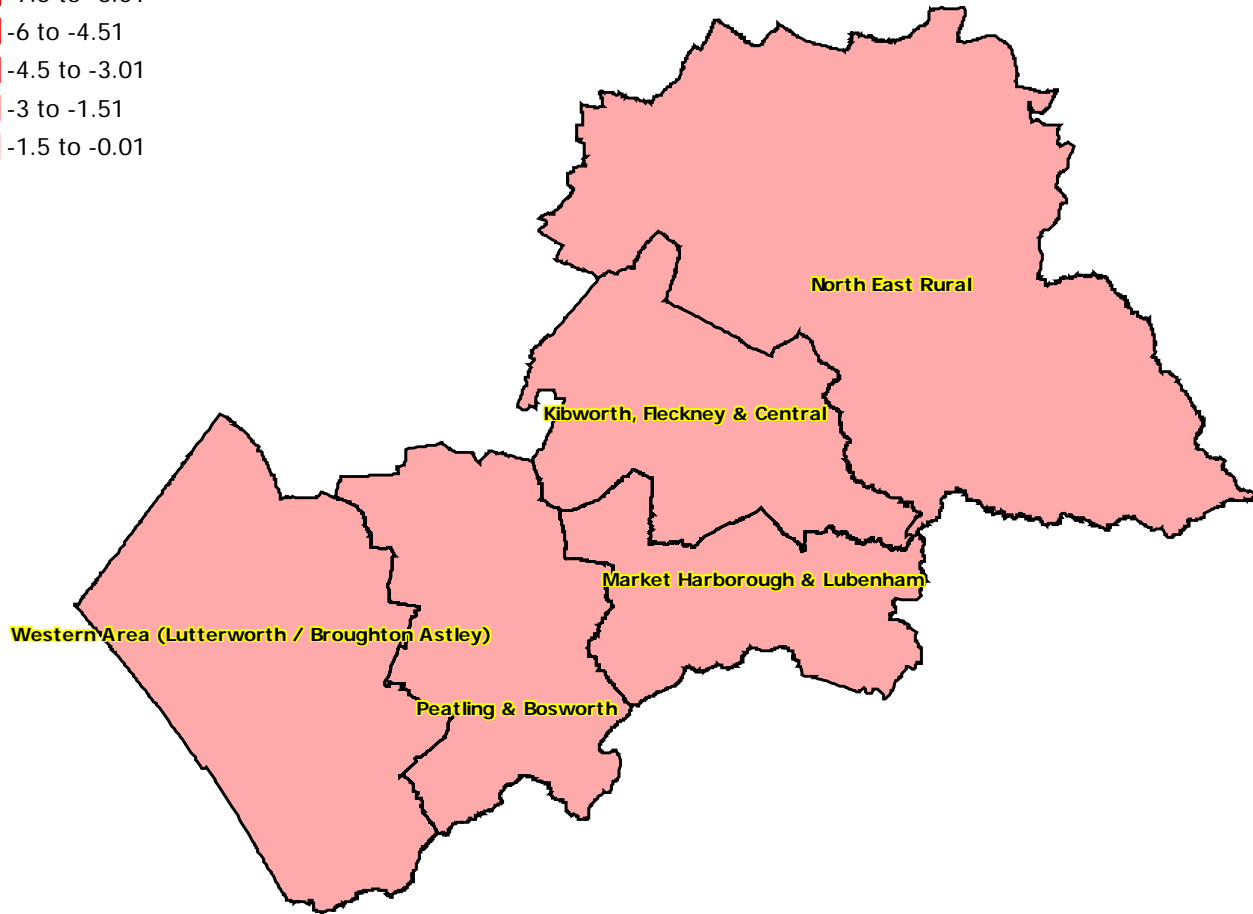
Current Surplus & Deficiency of Parks and Gardens by Analysis Area (2004)



Future Surplus & Deficiency of Parks and Gardens by Analysis Area (2016)

Legend

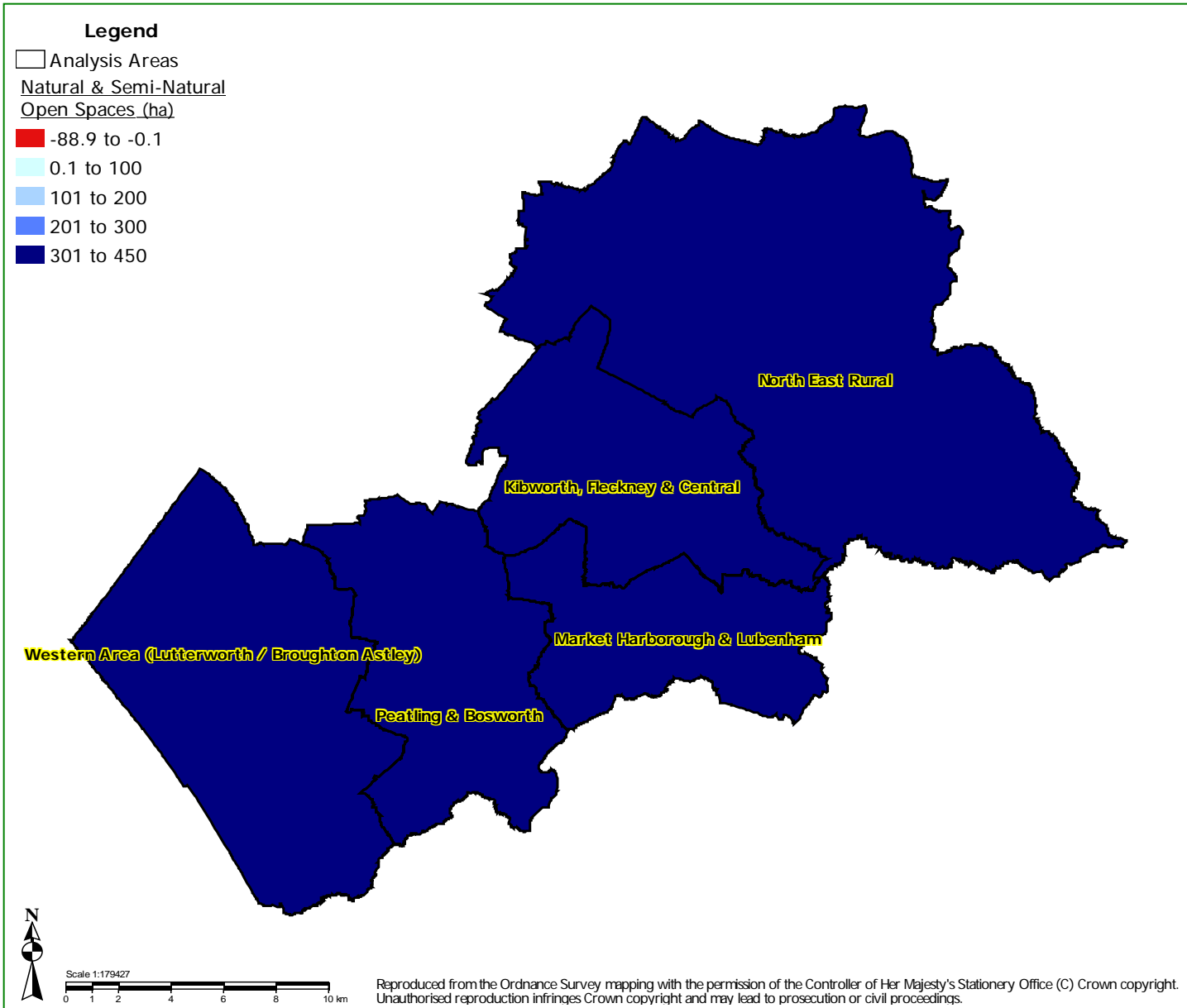
- Analysis Areas
- Parks & Gardens (ha)
 - 7.5 to -6.01
 - 6 to -4.51
 - 4.5 to -3.01
 - 3 to -1.51
 - 1.5 to -0.01



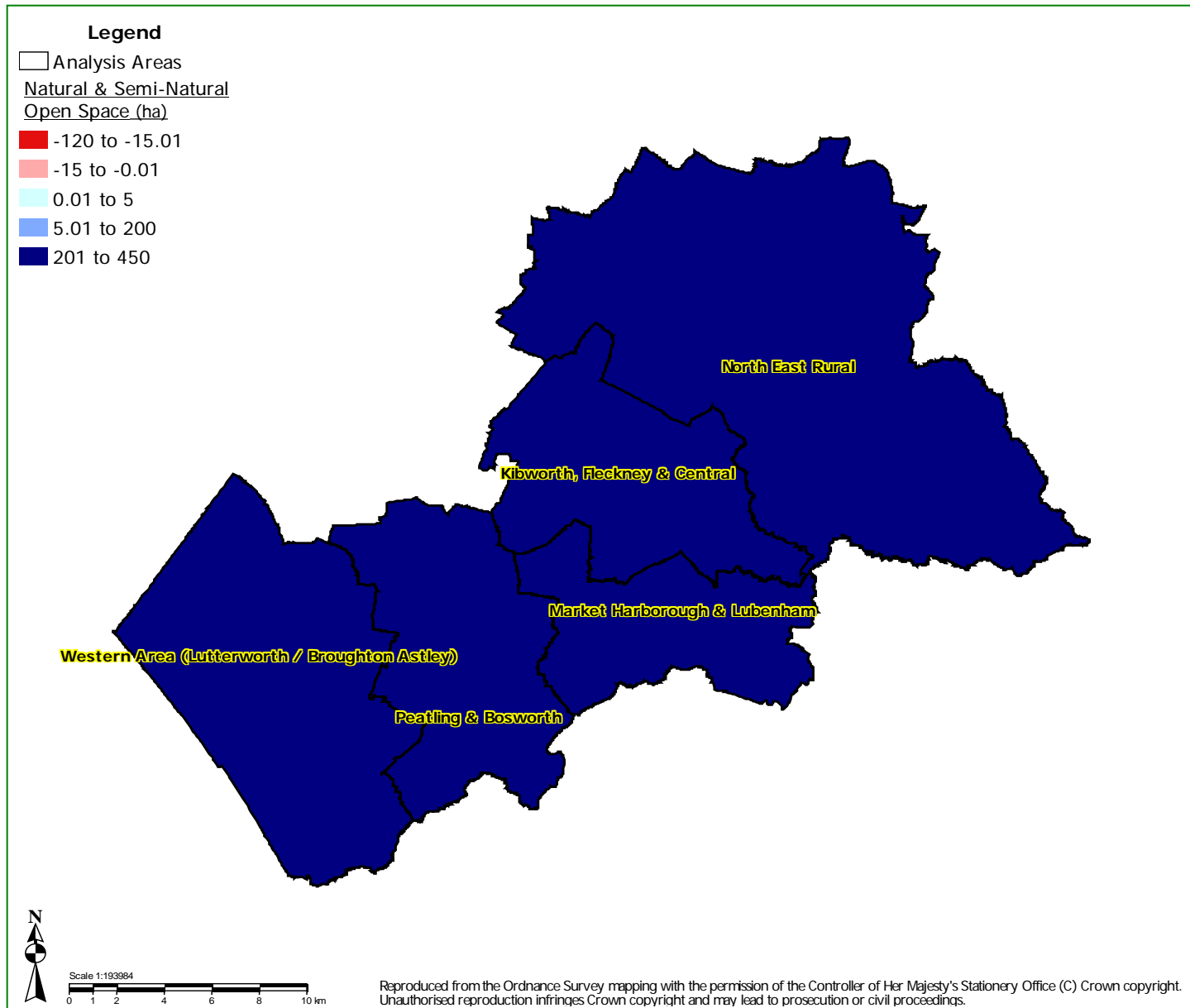
Scale 1:193984
0 1 2 4 6 8 10 km

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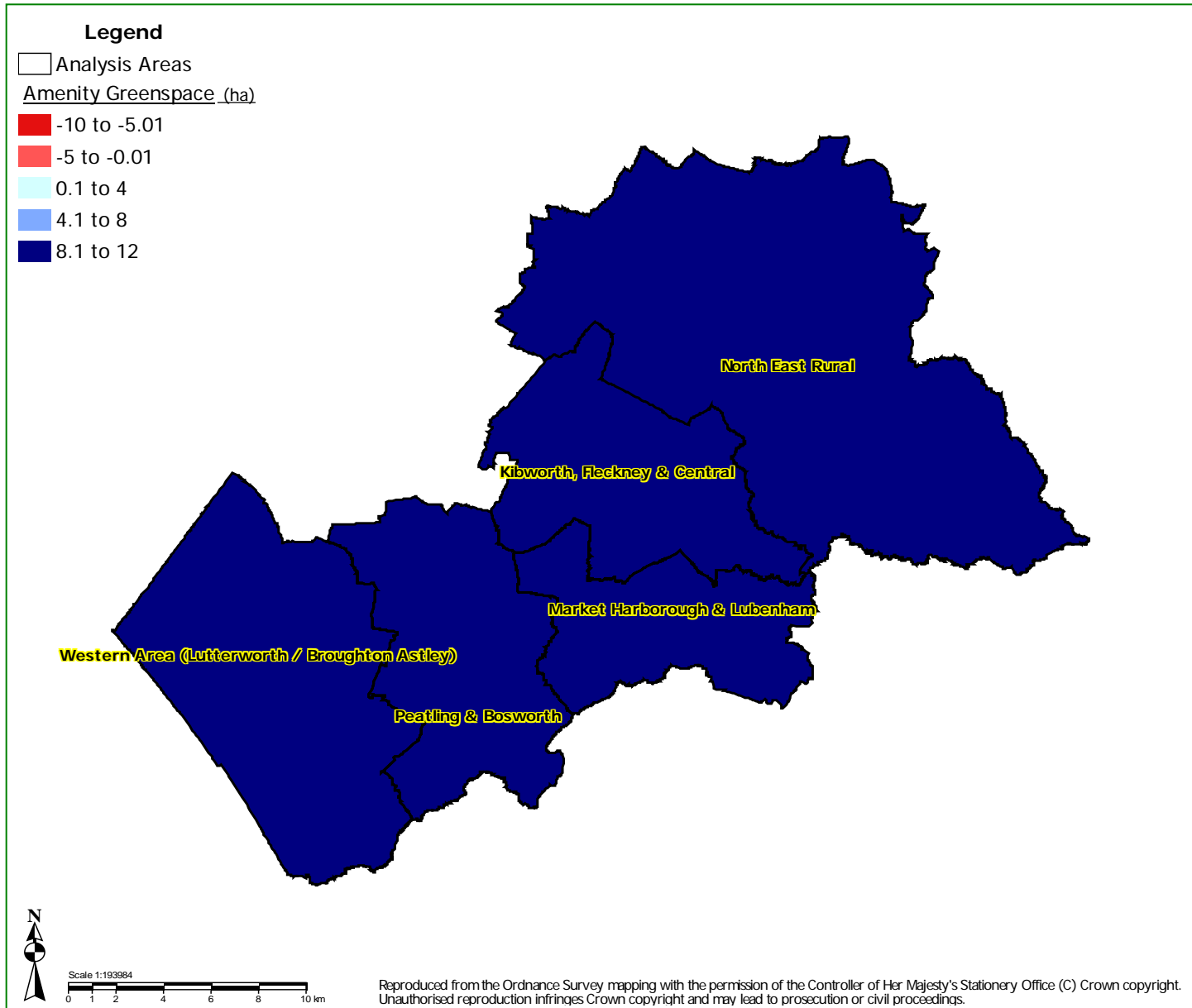
Current Surplus & Deficiency of Natural & Semi-Natural Open Space by Analysis Area (2004)



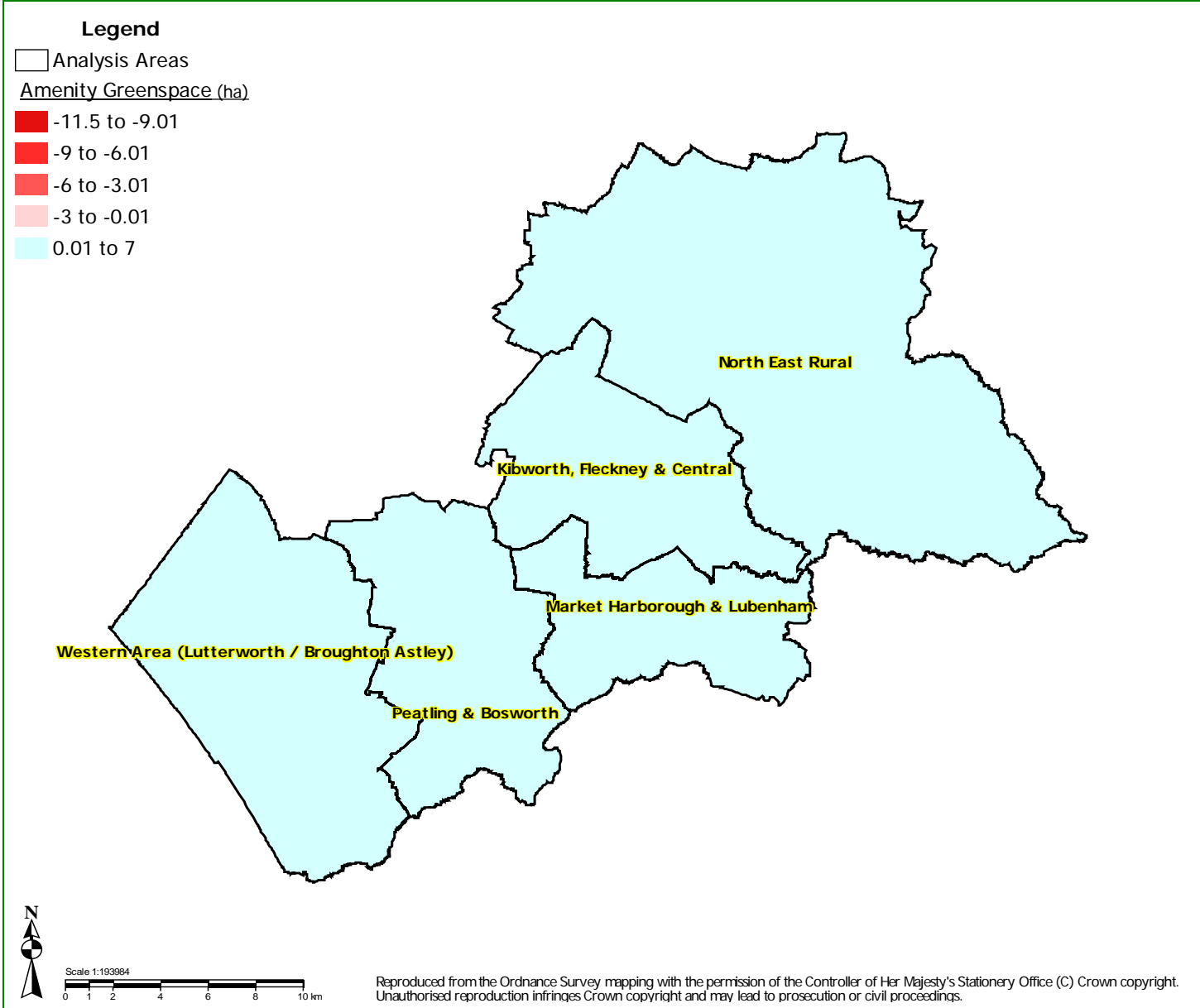
Future Surplus & Deficiency of Natural & Semi-Natural Open Space by Analysis Area (2016)



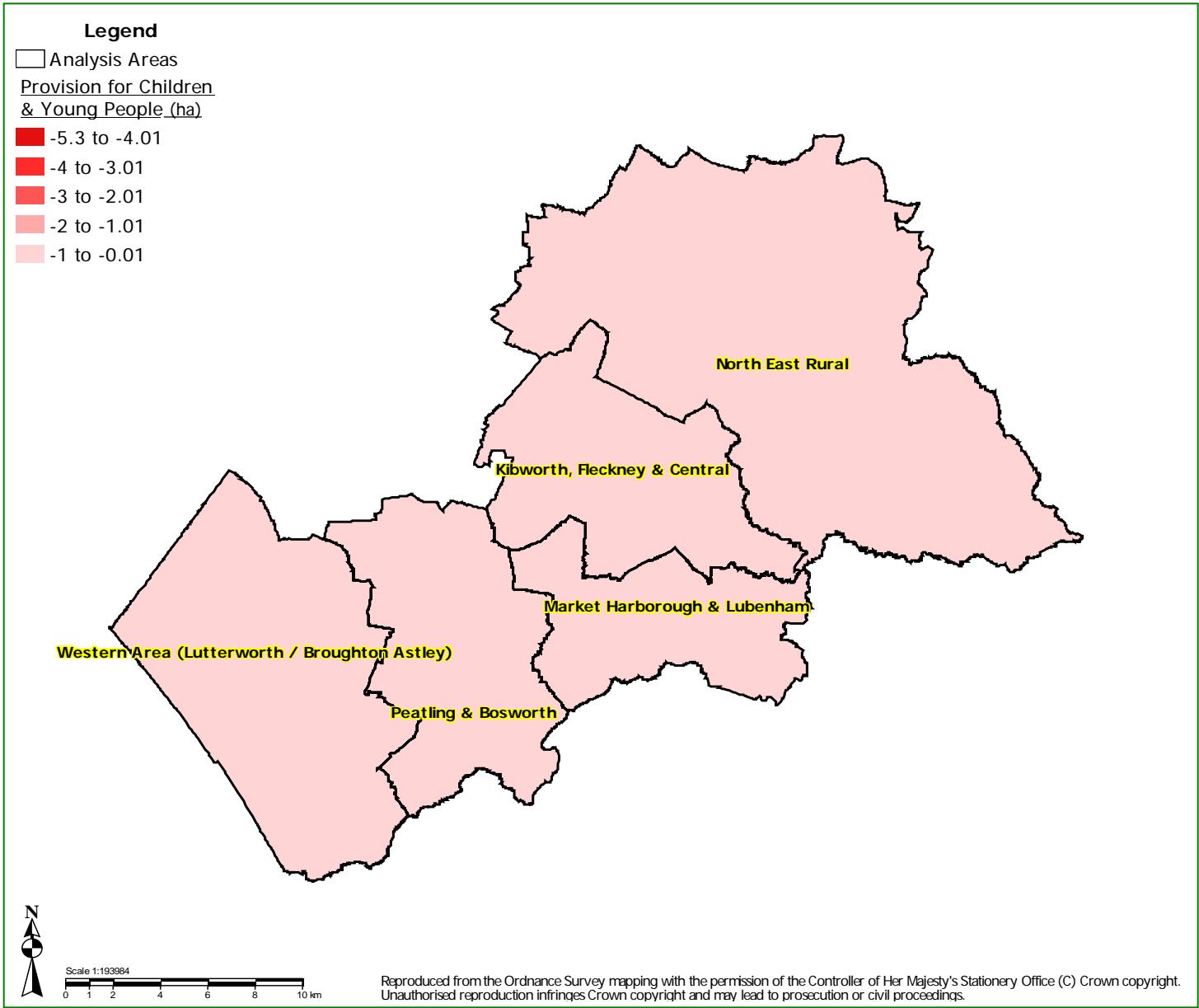
Current Surplus & Deficiency of Amenity Greenspace by Analysis Area (2004)



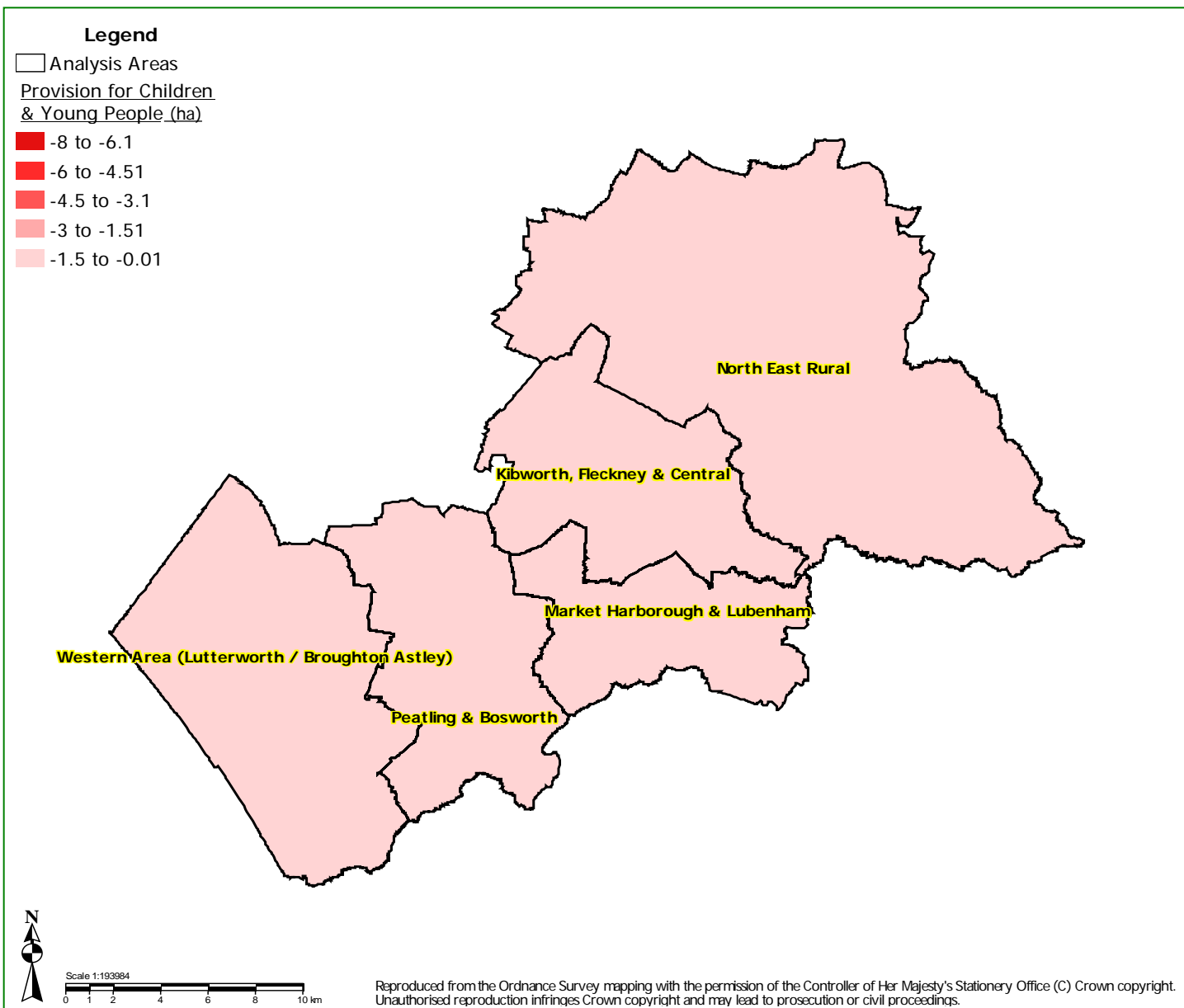
Future Surplus & Deficiency of Amenity Greenspace by Analysis Area (2016)



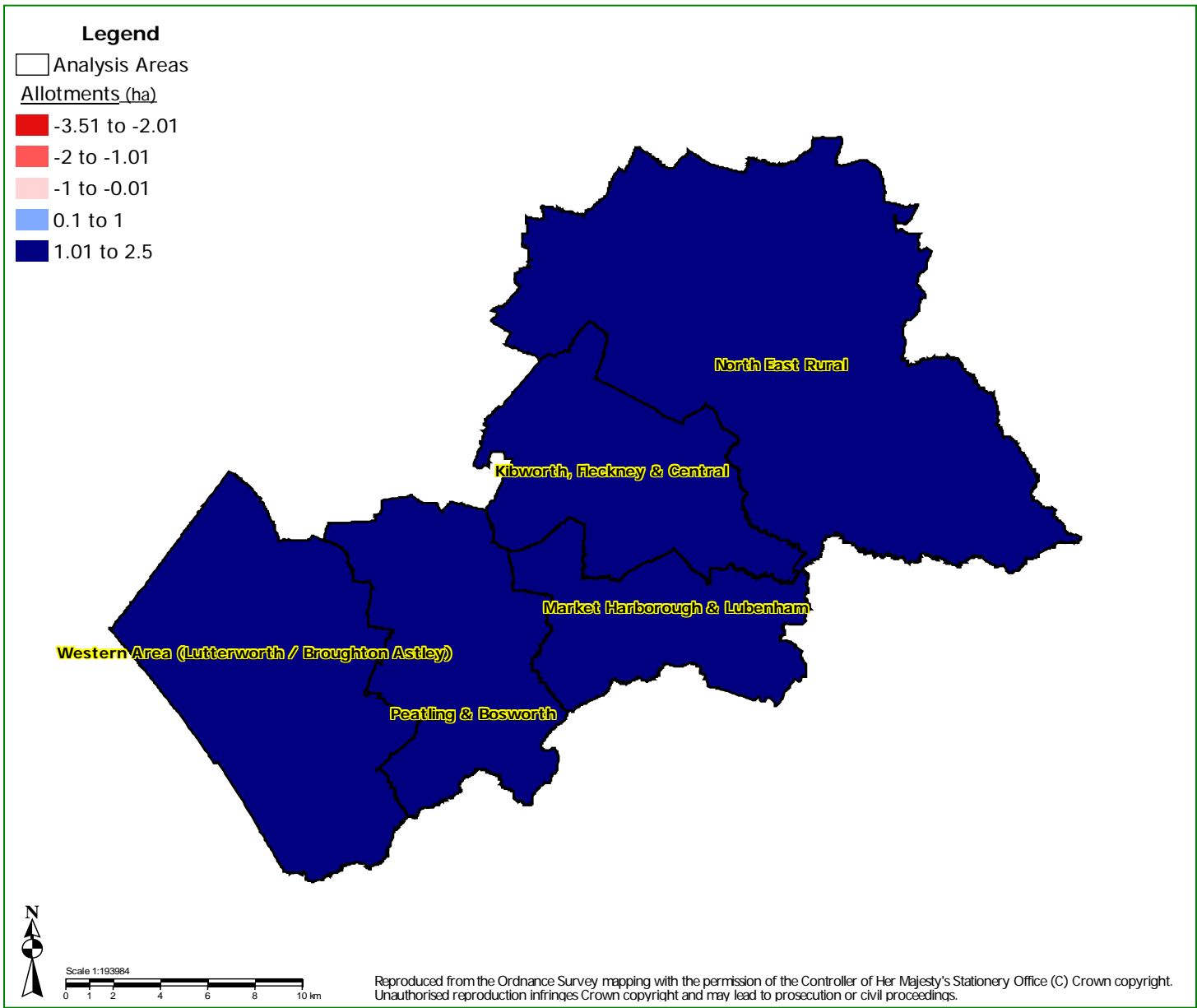
Current Surplus & Deficiency of Provision for Children & Young People by Analysis Area (2004)



Future Surplus & Deficiency of Provision for Children & Young People by Analysis Area (2016)



Current Surplus & Deficiency of Allotments by Analysis Area (2004)



Future Surplus & Deficiency of Allotments by Analysis Area (2016)

