



TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

JULY 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Glossary

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

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Tendring District Council (TDC) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an Open Space Assessment. This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study. It provides detail regarding what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality.

It will help inform direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces in Tendring District. It can help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth.

The purpose of an Open Space Study is to recognise the role of open space provision as a resource across Tendring. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

In order for planning policies relating to open space to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; *Assessing Needs and Opportunities*^{*} published in September 2002.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17 as it still remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

Under paragraph 98 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessing-needs-and-opportunities-a-companion-guide-to-planning-policy-guidance-17>

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
Allotments	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Green corridors	Routes providing walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. May also offer opportunities for wildlife mitigation.

1.1 Report structure

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across Tendring. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces as defined in best practice guidance:

- ◀ Part 3: Open space summary
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Provision for children/ young people
- ◀ Part 8: Allotments
- ◀ Part 9: Cemeteries/churchyards
- ◀ Part 10: Green corridors

Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. where it is also available for wider community use as open space) is included in this study. Provision purely for sporting use are the focus of other studies (i.e. Playing Pitch Strategy). On dual use sites, the pitch playing surfaces are counted as part of the overall site size as they are considered to contribute to the total open space site and reflect its multifunctionality.

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1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework (2021), (MHCLG)

The National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 98 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite, paragraph 99 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

National Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG)

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). It is intended that the two documents should be read together.

The guidance determines that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

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

As part of its protection work, Fields in Trust (FiT) offers guidance on open space provision and design. This is to ensure that the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.

Beyond the Six Acre Standard sets out a range of benchmark guidelines on quantity, quality and accessibility for open space and equipped play. It also offers some recommendations to minimum site sizes.

Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England

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

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

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

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

In October 2014 Public Health England (PHE) produced a plan to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, the plan identifies four areas where measures need to be taken at a national and local level:

- ◀ Active society: creating a social movement. Shifting social norms so that physical activity becomes a routine part of daily life.
- ◀ Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise. Making every contact with the health sector count to push the 'active' message and to deliver the message through other sectors including education, sports and leisure, transport and planning.
- ◀ Active environments: creating the right spaces. Making available and accessible appropriate environments that encourage people to be active every day.
- ◀ Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active. Maximising existing assets that enable communities to be active.

Open space provision has an important role in working towards these measures. There is a need to ensure accessible facilities that can help meet the physical activity needs of everyone including the physically and mentally disabled and those with learning difficulties and debilitating diseases.

Summary of the national context

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

* Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

This section details the methodology undertaken as part of the study. The key stages are:

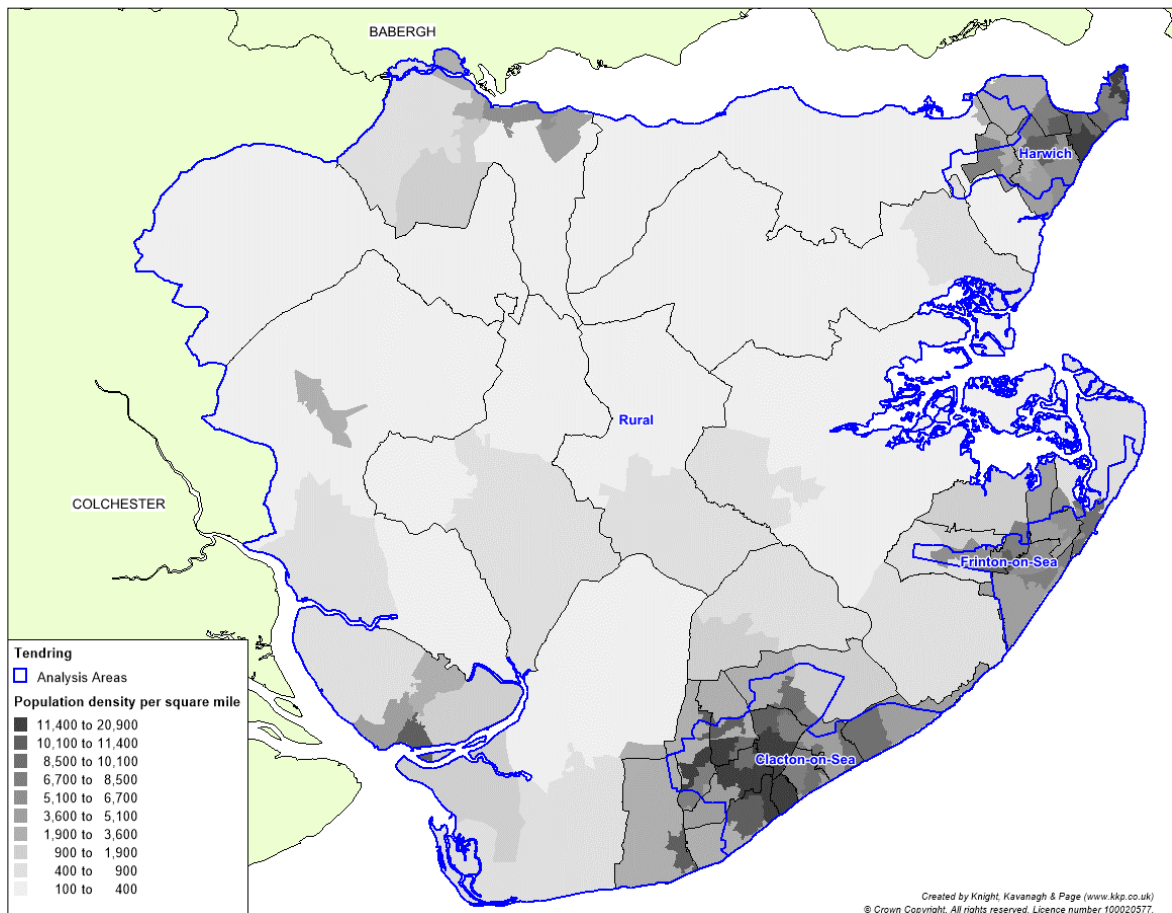
- ◀ 2.1 - Analysis areas
- ◀ 2.2 - Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3 - Open space provision standards
- ◀ 2.4 - Quality and value
- ◀ 2.5 - Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.6 - Accessibility standards

2.1 Analysis area

The study area comprises the whole of Tendring District. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas (consisting of grouped electoral wards which align with other work streams) have been utilised.

Figure 2.1 shows the district broken down into these analysis areas in tandem with population density. Population is considered in more detail below.

Figure 2.1: Map of Tendring District including analysis areas



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Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

Analysis area	Population
Clacton-on-Sea	43,632
Frinton-on-Sea	12,029
Harwich	16,168
Rural	73,891
Tendring	145,720

2.2 Auditing local provision

A review of the previous 2017 site audit was undertaken to reflect any known changes in provision since the last study. Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Only sites publicly accessible are included in the quality and value audit (i.e. private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included).

Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, analyse the following typologies in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17.

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards

Site size threshold

In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. It is recognised that it would be impractical to capture every piece of land that could be classed as open space. They are often too small to provide any meaningful leisure and recreational opportunities to warrant a full site assessment. However, spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife.

If required, they should be assessed on a site-by-site basis (to assess potential community, biodiversity and visual value) should, for example, a request for development be made upon such a site in the future. Planning policies relating to the consideration of the loss of open space could still apply to such sites, even if they are not specifically included in the audit.

It should be noted that some sites below the threshold i.e. those that are identified as having particular significance and considered to provide an important function, as well as play space for children and young people, are included in the audit process.

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Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

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

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

2.3 Open space standards

To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are set and applied later in the document (Part 11).

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

2.4 Quality and value

Through the audit process each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. This allows for the application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a site of high quality may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) site may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

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Analysis of quality

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

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

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

For the provision for children and young people, criteria are also built around Green Flag. It is a non-technical visual assessment of the whole site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision.

This differs, for example, from an independent Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RosPA) review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

Analysis of value

Site visit data plus desk-based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in Companion Guidance to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:

- ◀ Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◀ Level and type of use.
- ◀ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

In addition, the NPPF refers to attributes to value such as beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquillity and richness of wildlife.

Children's and young people play provision is scored for value as part of the audit assessment. Value, in particular is recognised in terms of size of sites and the range of equipment it hosts. For instance, a small site with only one or two items is likely to be of a lower value than a site with a variety of equipment catering for wider age ranges.

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The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

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

One of the implications of Covid-19 has been the importance and vital role open space provision can provide to local communities. Recognising this along with consideration to the future needs and demands of such provision should raise the profile of open spaces and the processes supporting its existence (i.e. ensuring evidence bases are kept up to date and used to inform future decision making processes).

2.5 Quality and value thresholds

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

A site rating low for quality should not automatically be viewed as being fit for development. It is also necessary to understand its value, access and role within the community it serves. It may for example be the only site serving an area and should therefore be considered a priority for enhancement.

The most recognised national benchmark for measuring the quality of parks and open spaces is the 66% pass rate for the Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and open spaces. Although this open space study uses a similar assessment criteria to that of the Green Flag Award scheme it is inappropriate to use the Green Flag benchmark pass for every open space as they are not all designed or expected to perform to the same exceptionally high standard.

For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater variety of ancillary facilities (seating, bins, play equipment) and manicured landscaping and planting, etc. in contrast to an amenity greenspace serving a smaller catchment and fewer people.

Furthermore, a different scoring mechanism is used in this study to that of the Green Flag scheme (albeit criteria for this study is derived from the Green Flag scheme). For each open space typology, a different set and / or weighting for each criterion of quality is used.

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This is to better reflect the different roles, uses and functions of each open space type. Consequently, a different quality threshold level is set for each open space typology.

Quality thresholds in this study are individual to each open space typology. They are based on the average quality score arising from the site assessments and set using KKP's professional judgment and experience from delivering similar studies. The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal. This works as an effective method to reflect the variability in quality at a local level for different types of provision. It allows the Council more flexibility in directing funds towards sites for enhancements which is useful if funds are geographically constrained with respect to individual developments.

Reason and flexibility are needed when evaluating sites close to the average score / threshold. The review of a quality threshold is just one step for this process, a site should also be evaluated against the value assessment and local knowledge.

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

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

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	50%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%
Provision for children and young people	65%	20%
Allotments	45%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	50%	20%

2.6 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments can be used as a tool to identify deficiencies of open space in a local area. This is achieved by applying them to create a distance catchment. The report displays the results of the catchment to highlight any potentially deficiencies in access to provision.

There is an element of subjectivity resulting in time / distance variations. This is to be expected given that people walk at different speeds depending on a number of factors including height, age, levels of fitness and physical barriers on route. Therefore, there will be an element of 'best fit'.

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Accessibility guidance from FIT provides suggested catchment standards for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and provision for children and young people. These are set out in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: FIT accessibility guidelines

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

FIT do not set accessibility catchments/standards for allotments or churchyards / cemeteries. Provision of this type are more unique in their function; making new provision occurs only in exceptional circumstances based on evidence beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to set an accessibility standard.

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND SITE AUDIT

This section provides a summary of the responses to the online community survey. It also describes generic trends and findings from the site visit quality and value ratings. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

3.1 Community Survey

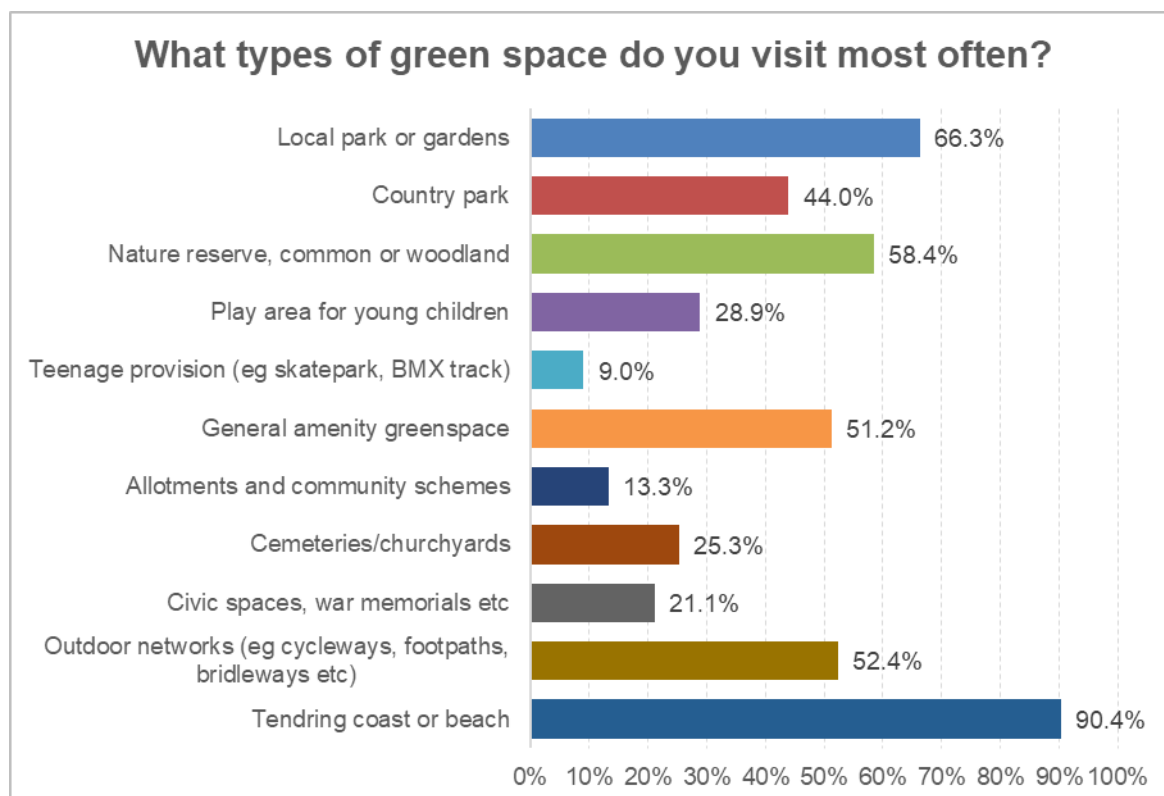
An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media and the Council's communication team. The use of a questionnaire was considered a good approach to providing a widespread opportunity for people to provide their thoughts towards open space provision.

The questionnaire consisted of a series of multiple choice and open-ended questions asking respondents their thoughts on topics such as types of open space visited, frequency, quality etc. A total of 163 responses were received. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

Usage

Popular forms of open space provision to visit most often are coast or beach (90%), parks or gardens (66%), nature reserves, commons or woodlands (58%) and outdoor networks (52%).

Figure 3.1.1: Types of open space to visit



The main reasons for visiting open space are to go for a walk or stroll (89%) for fresh air (89%), and for peace and quiet/to relax (69%).

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The reason ‘to grow fresh fruits and vegetables’ received the lowest percentage with only 6.7% of respondents. This is a specific reason relating to those respondents stating they visit an allotment (with most people not being an allotment holder). Consequently, it is not a common reason for people visiting open space.

Table 3.1.1: Reasons for visits

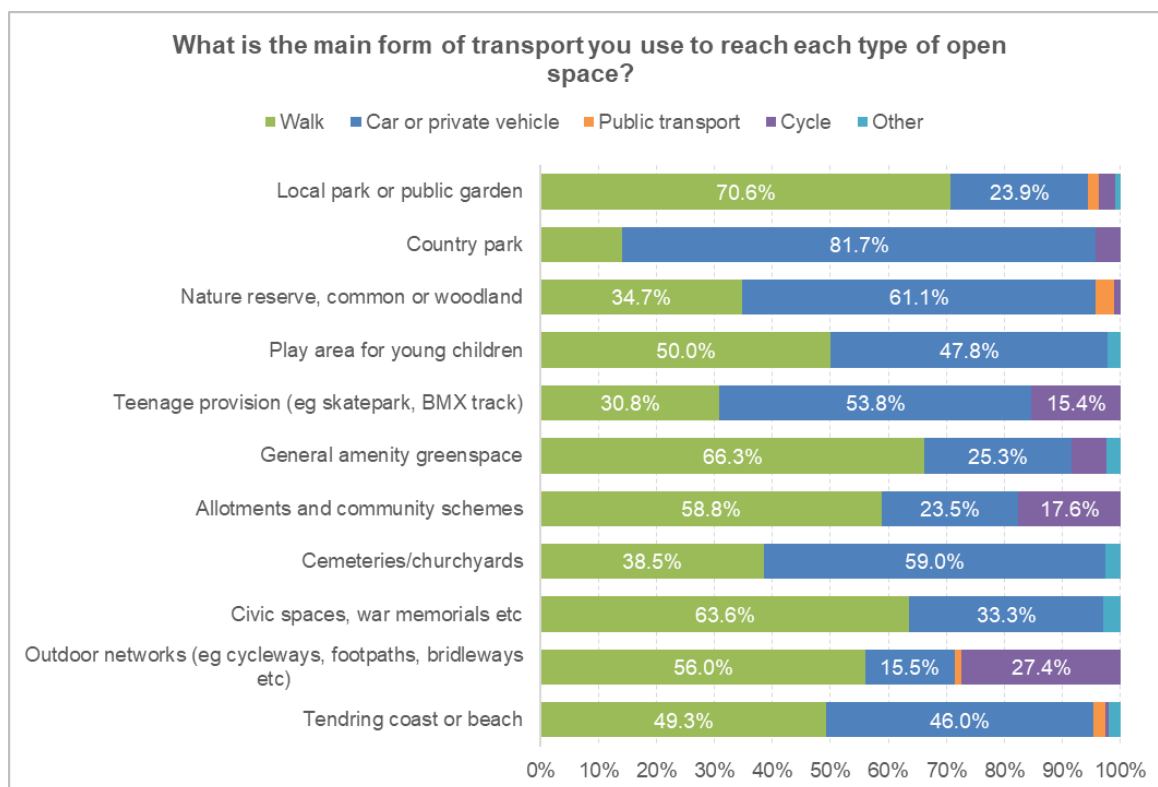
Why do you visit green spaces?	%
Walk/stroll	89.0%
Fresh air	89.0%
Peace and quiet/relax	68.9%
Time with family/friends	59.1%
To experience/see nature	56.1%
Exercise/sport	54.3%
Other (please state)	12.2%
To grow my own fresh fruits and vegetables	6.7%

Accessibility

Individuals generally walk to access provision of parks (71%), amenity greenspace (66%), civic spaces (64%), allotments (59%), outdoor networks (56%), play areas for young children (50%) and the Tendring coast or beach (49%).

The exception to this is for country parks (82%), nature reserves (61%), cemeteries (59%) and teenage provision (54%) which individuals are more willing to travel by car to access.

Figure 3.1.2: Mode of travel to open space sites

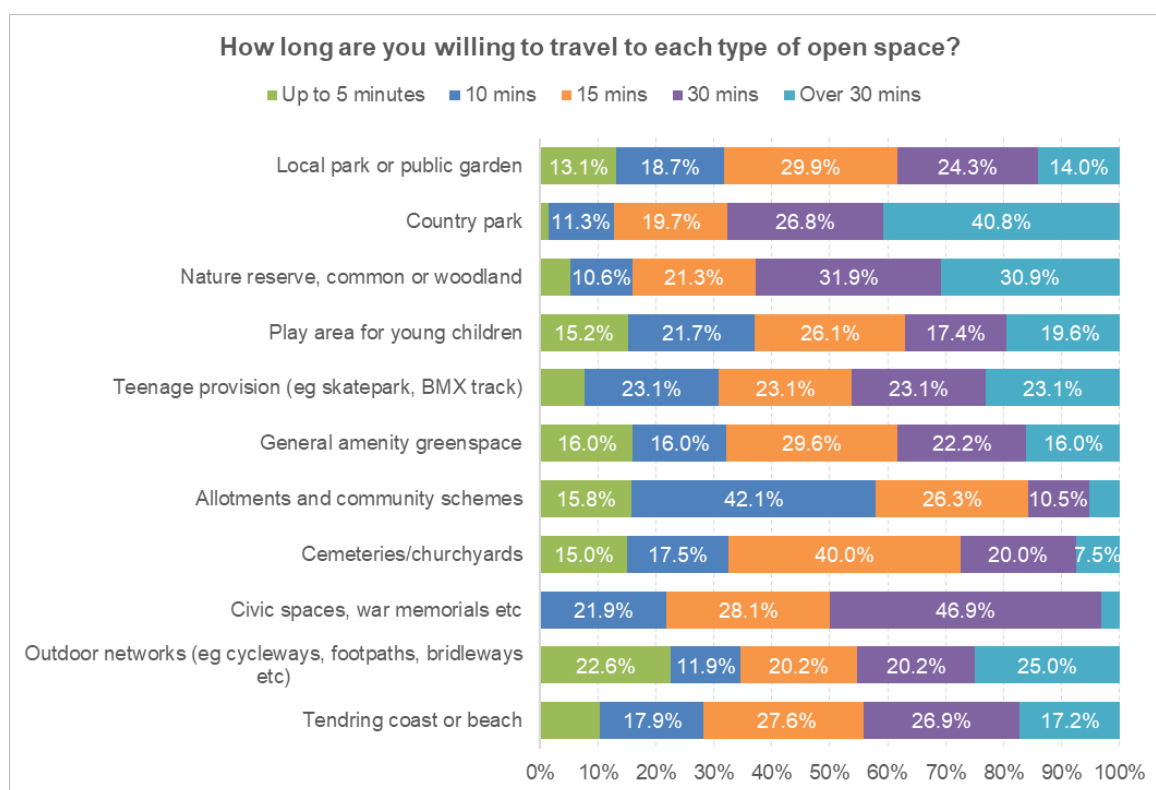


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For some provision such as nature reserves and country parks, there is a willingness to travel further distances with 41% of respondents stating they would travel over 30 minutes to access a country park and 31% willing to travel over 30 minutes to a nature reserve, common or woodland.

For other forms of provision, respondents show a willingness to travel a shorter amount of time (i.e. 10 to 15 minutes). This is particularly noticeable for parks, allotments, amenity greenspace, cemeteries and play provision.

Figure 3.1.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



Availability and Quality

In general, respondents consider the amount of open space provision where they live to be quite satisfactory with over half (51%) stating they are quite satisfactory. Just less than a fifth of respondents (18%) rate availability of open space provision as very satisfactory.

Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with availability of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
18.3%	50.6%	18.3%	8.5%	4.3%

Less than half of survey respondents (40%) consider the quality of open space provision to be generally quite satisfactory. A further 16% rate quality as very satisfactory.

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A slightly greater proportion of ore respondents are unsatisfied with quality than they are with availability with 18% of respondents viewing quality as quite unsatisfactory and an additional 6% viewing quality as very unsatisfactory.

Table 3.1.3: Satisfaction with quality of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
16.0%	39.9%	20.2%	17.8%	6.1%

Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve open space provision. The most common answers include better maintenance and care (56%), more wildlife/habitat promotion (47%), and greater attractiveness (40%).

Table 3.1.4: What would improve open space provision for you?

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Better maintenance and care of features	55.9%
More wildlife/habitat promotion	46.6%
Greater attractiveness (e.g. flowers, trees)	40.4%
Better and wider range of facilities (i.e. play equipment, seating, refreshments)	39.8%
Improved access to and within sites	29.8%
More public events	24.8%
Greater community involvement	18.0%
Other (please state below)	18.0%
Greater information on sites	16.8%

3.2 Audit overview

Within Tendring, this audit has captured a total of 355 sites equating to approximately 947 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural/semi-natural greenspace (579 hectares); accounting for 61%.

Table 3.2: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Allotments	35	28
Amenity greenspace	138	280
Cemeteries/churchyards	24	38
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	45	579
Park and gardens	20	16
Provision for children & young people	93	6
TOTAL	355	947

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

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3.3 Quality

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

Table 3.3: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	45%	19%	44%	60%	17	18
Amenity greenspace	50%	27%	52%	80%	30	55
Cemeteries	50%	26%	51%	82%	11	13
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	8%	34%	89%	28	11
Park and gardens	50%	29%	49%	74%	13	7
Provision for children & young people	60%	39%	66%	88%	32	61
					131	165

There is a mixed quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in 56% of sites scoring above their set thresholds for quality.

Proportionally there are more natural/semi-natural greenspace sites to rate below the quality thresholds. This is reflective of the purpose of these sites which tends to focus on encouraging greater biodiversity and conservation and can in some instances be intentionally without ancillary facilities.

3.4 Value

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

Table 3.4: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Allotments	20%	13%	52%	71%	1	34
Amenity greenspace		8%	38%	72%	5	80
Cemeteries		16%	39%	56%	1	23
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		8%	30%	64%	8	31
Park and gardens		28%	46%	64%	0	20
Provision for children & young people		18%	50%	70%	1	92
					16	280

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Most sites (95%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest, for example, good quality play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and viewed as unattractive.

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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. The provision of country parks is included within the typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace due to their greater role in conservation and environmental education.

4.2 Current provision

There are 20 sites classified as parks and gardens in Tendring, the equivalent of over 16 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. All analysis areas have parks provision.

Table 4.1: Current parks provision in Tendring

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectares	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Clacton-on-Sea	7	8.19	0.19
Frinton-on-Sea	5	0.84	0.07
Harwich	5	5.88	0.36
Rural	3	1.25	0.02
Tendring	20	16.17	0.11

For parks and gardens, the district has a current provision level of 0.11 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to this provision is Marine Parade West (4.42 hectares) located in Clacton-on-Sea Analysis Area. The next largest site is Cliff Park (3.53 hectares) in Harwich Analysis Area.

It is important to note that within the category of parks and gardens there are two distinct types of sites. Some sites are significant in size and act as destination places offering greater recreational facilities and uses which people will often be willing to travel further to access. Examples of this type include Marine Parade West and Mirror Millennium Garden. Other sites within the typology are smaller in size and more formal in character with less recreational uses. Examples of this include Fronks Road War Memorial.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, the district is below this. This is also the case when considering each analysis area separately.

However, as recognised above, the reality is that parks provision, particularly 'destination' parks, are only going to exist in areas of greater population density. Consequently, some analysis areas being below the FIT suggestion does not mean a true deficiency exists. It is therefore important to also consider accessibility and quality of provision.

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4.3 Accessibility

Catchment mapping is based on the Fields in Trust accessibility guidelines. FIT guidance recommends an accessibility walking guideline of 710m. This is an equivalent to nine minutes' walk time.

Figure 4.1 shows the parks and gardens with 710m catchments. Noticeably, provision tends to be located in the settlements of Harwich and Clacton-on-Sea.

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens with 710m catchment

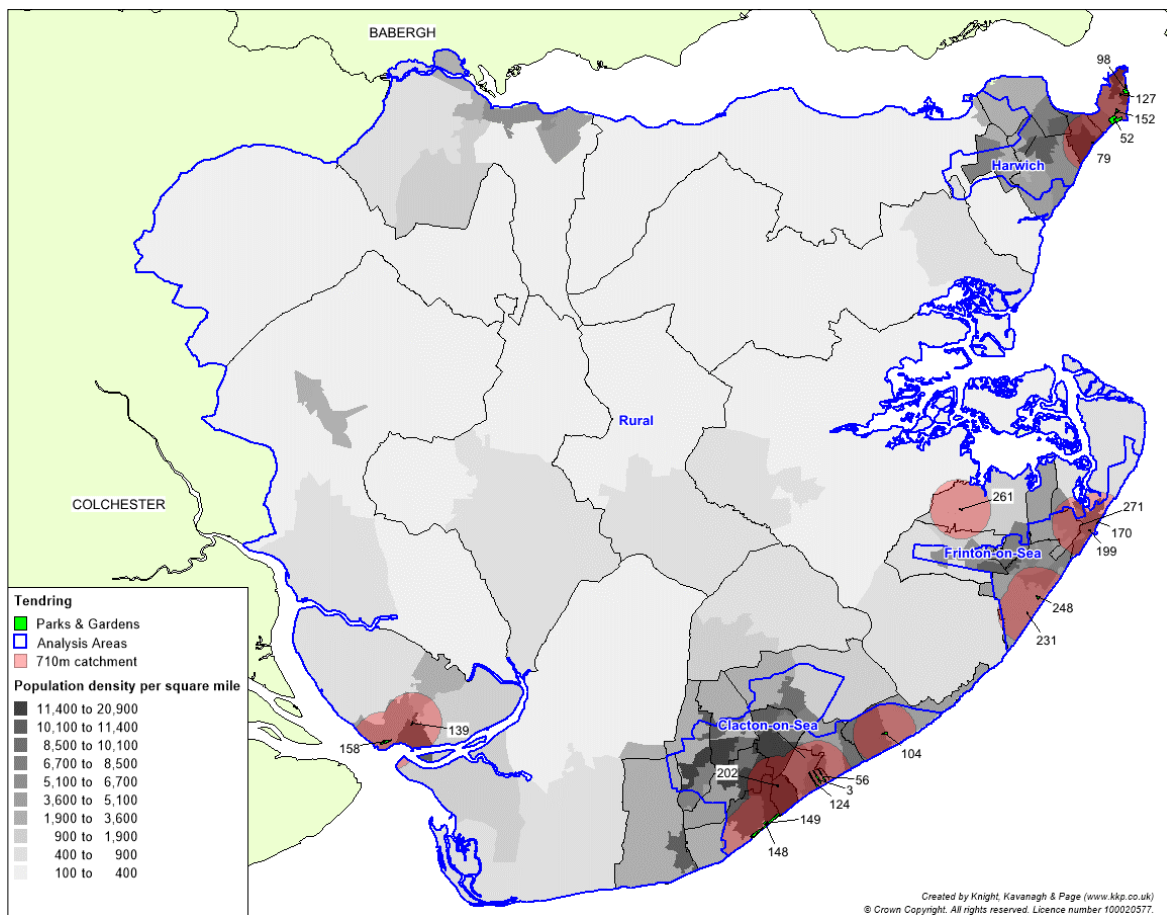


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
3	Albany Gardens	Clacton-on-Sea	0.91	46.4%	48.2%
52	Cliff Park	Harwich	3.53	55.1%	59.1%
56	Connaught Gds	Clacton-on-Sea	0.82	39.1%	46.4%
79	Fronks Road War Memorial	Harwich	0.09	42.2%	52.7%
98	Harwich Green	Harwich	1.55	74.3%	54.5%
104	Hereford Road Park	Clacton-on-Sea	0.47	28.6%	28.2%
124	Lancaster Gds	Clacton-on-Sea	0.98	42.6%	52.7%
127	Land at Cox's Pond Main Road	Harwich	0.11	48.1%	46.4%

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
139	Lower Green Gardens	Rural	0.14	55.1%	43.6%
148	Marine Parade West	Clacton-on-Sea	4.42	72.6%	59.1%
149	Martello tower Marine Parade West	Clacton-on-Sea	0.43	51.7%	34.5%
152	Mayors Gardens	Harwich	0.60	49.7%	43.6%
158	Mirror Millennium Garden	Rural	1.03	51.7%	45.5%
170	off Seafront/Suffolk Street	Frinton-on-Sea	0.06	46.7%	54.5%
199	Portobello Road/The Parade	Frinton-on-Sea	0.14	43.9%	34.5%
202	Public Gardens, Station Road	Clacton-on-Sea	0.17	36.3%	34.5%
231	South of Connaught Avenue	Frinton-on-Sea	0.07	42.2%	39.1%
248	The Crescent	Frinton-on-Sea	0.50	64.2%	59.1%
261	The Street, Kirby le Soken	Rural	0.08	42.0%	37.3%
271	Walton Road Garden	Frinton-on-Sea	0.06	38.1%	32.7%

Overall, there is an adequate distribution of parks across Tendring. Most parks are located near the coast where there are higher population densities. Areas with a greater population density are in parts covered by the walking distance catchment of a site.

However, potential gaps are noticed in the catchment mapping around Manningtree and parts of Harwich and Clacton-on-Sea. Many of these gaps are served by other forms of open space provision such as amenity greenspace. Exploring the potential to formalise features associated with parks on some of these sites could be considered to increase a sites secondary function as a park.

Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Clacton-on-Sea	Carisbrooke Avenue (ID 42) Old Road Recreation Ground (ID 175) Rush Green (ID 215) St Johns Recreation Road (ID 237)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Harwich	Harwich and Dovercourt Rugby Club (ID 97) Lodge Road (ID 134) Longmeadows Open Space (ID 138) Mace Park (ID 144) Welfare Park (ID 273)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rural	Bayards Recreation Ground (ID 21) Dorking Crescent (ID 62) Mistley Recreation Ground (ID 161) Elmstead Market Recreation Ground (ID 207) Riverview, Manningtree (ID 214) Scholl Lane Open Space (ID 226) Stangers Corner Complex (ID 245) Strawberry Avenue (ID 246)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

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4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks across Tendring. A threshold of 50% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	29%	46%	73%	5	2
Frinton-on-Sea	38%	47%	64%	4	1
Harwich	44%	56%	74%	3	2
Rural	42%	50%	55%	1	2
Tendring	29%	49%	74%	13	7

Of the 20 park and garden sites in the district, just over a third (35%) rate above the quality threshold suggesting a reasonably low standard of quality of parks provision. There is a significant difference in quality between the highest scoring site (Harwich Green) and the lowest scoring site (Hereford Road Park).

Some of the lowest scoring sites for quality within the district are:

- ◀ Hereford Road Park (29%)
- ◀ Public Gardens, Station Road (36%)
- ◀ Walton Road Garden (38%)

Despite these sites scoring below the quality threshold, all score high for overall maintenance. However, all three lack signage and Hereford Road Park has no litter bins or benches. The site benefits from a play area whilst Public Gardens, Station Road and Walton Road Garden are more formal, smaller parks. Walton Road Garden is observed as being neat and well maintained but could be enhanced with bins and a wider entrance.

The criteria used to assess parks and gardens is intended to be high, reflecting the Green Flag Award assessment. As such, not all park and garden sites would be expected to score above the threshold set for such a prestigious award. It is more likely for the flagship 'destination' sites to score highly. Consultation with Tendring District Council identifies aspirations include having more destination parks in the urban areas, improving tree planting and preventing vehicular access.

Sites assessed as being of particularly high quality and which rate above the threshold are The Crescent (64%), Marine Parade West (73%) and Harwich Green (74%).

These sites score well for having a high level of maintenance and general appearance. The sites contain several ancillary features such as signage, bins, benches, and disability friendly pathways.

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In addition, Harwich Green, has a cafe, play area and ancient monument, all of which are noted as being to a good quality and appearance. Marine Parade West is observed as a beautiful site with a Green Flag Award (Clacton Seafront & Marine Gardens) with an abundant supply of benches. It has picnic tables, attractive flower beds and lighting providing a welcoming site. Consultation with Tendring District Council identifies long benches have been added at some open space sites including Marine Parade West to allow more people and larger families to sit. The Crescent also benefits from plenty of benches and wide paths. However, the site could benefit from bins. A community garden in Jaywick is under construction and planned to be completed Autumn 2022.

Other sites to rate above the threshold are Mirror Millennium Garden (52%), Lower Green Gardens (55%) and Cliff Park (63%). All three sites benefit from a range of ancillary features including seating, bins and controls to prevent illegal use. All are maintained to a good quality. Mirror Millennium Garden has the additional benefit of a skate park and numerous picnic tables. Lower Green Gardens features a pond and memorial plaques further adding to the quality of the site. Cliff Park is a Green Flag Award site and consists of good paths, a play area, small MUGA, outdoor gym, café, and toilets.

4.5 Value

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

Table 4.5: Value ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	28%	44%	64%	0	7
Frinton-on-Sea	33%	44%	59%	0	5
Harwich	44%	52%	64%	0	5
Rural	37%	42%	45%	0	3
Tendring	28%	46%	64%	0	20

All park and garden sites rate above the threshold for value. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Cliff Park (64%)
- ◀ Marine Parade West (64%)
- ◀ The Crescent (59%)
- ◀ Harwich Green (55%)

All four are also the highest scoring park sites for quality. They each have high amenity and social value due to containing seating and good paths. Harwich Green provides good recreational and exercise opportunities due to its play area. The sites are also observed as attractive, well used and maintained. Consequently, they score highly for visual and landscape benefits.

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Harwich Green (55%) also features ancient monuments, and plaques, enhancing cultural and heritage value benefits. Cliff Park features a bandstand providing cultural value. Harwich Park Run takes place every Saturday enhancing its amenity and social value.

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

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their ability to function as a multipurpose form of open space provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area.

Consequently, sites with a greater diverse range of features and ancillary facilities rate higher for value. The Council would like to have bigger parks in order for people to stay longer in the area and thus, enhance the local economy. There are numerous small, local parks but not many destination parks.

4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- ◀ There are 20 sites classified as parks and gardens totalling over 16 hectares.
- ◀ High scoring sites (Harwich Green, Marine Parade West and The Crescent) are observed as having a good range of features and facilities which are maintained to a high standard.
- ◀ Most parks rate below the threshold for quality. Scores reflect the lack of ancillary features present at some sites when comparing to the quality criteria for parks provision.
- ◀ All park and garden sites score high for value; a reflection of the social interaction, health benefits and sense of place sites offer.

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PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits) and commons. Such sites are often associated with providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

5.2 Current provision

In total, 45 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 578 hectares of provision. There has been an increase in the number of natural and semi-natural greenspace since the previous study. Note that Bullock Wood (23 ha), an ancient woodland, is not included in this study due to being fenced and private. TDC identifies that this site is not open to the public however can be accessed a few times a year.

Table 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace in Tendring

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Clacton-on-Sea	8	31.66	0.73
Frinton-on-Sea	1	2.72	0.23
Harwich	9	40.58	2.51
Rural	27	503.71	6.82
Tendring	45	578.56	3.97

These totals do not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing. Furthermore, they provide 'stepping stones' for flora and fauna enabling freedom of movement for wildlife across the district.

The Rural Analysis Area has the most natural and semi-natural provision with a total of 504 hectares. This makes up 87% of this provision across Tendring.

The two largest sites are Holland Haven Country Park (170 hectares) and Wrabness Nature Reserve (97 hectares). The former makes up 29% of the natural/semi-natural provision.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Within the District, there is an overall provision of 3.97 hectares per 1,000 head of population which exceeds the FIT guidelines. This is also the case for the Harwich and Rural analysis areas.

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Designations

In terms of national designations, there are seven sites recognised within the district of Tendring as local nature reserves (LNRs):

- ◀ Bobbits Hall (0.53 hectares)
- ◀ Burrsville Nature Reserve (7.00 hectares)
- ◀ Cockaynes Wood (5.47 hectares)
- ◀ Great Holland Pits (13.80 hectares)
- ◀ Holland Haven Country Park (209.78 hectares)
- ◀ Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve, Great Clacton (3.68 hectares)
- ◀ Wrabness Nature Reserve (97.01 hectares)

In addition to LNRs, there are also some designated Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) in the district, which include Seafront and Cliffs and Holland Haven Country Park.

5.3 Accessibility

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. They recommend that people living in towns and cities should have. One of the key benchmarks is:

- ◀ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

On this basis, a population such as Tendring District (145,720) is recommended to have approximately 146 hectares of LNR provision. As it stands, Tendring District currently meets this standard with 337 hectares of LNR provision identified.

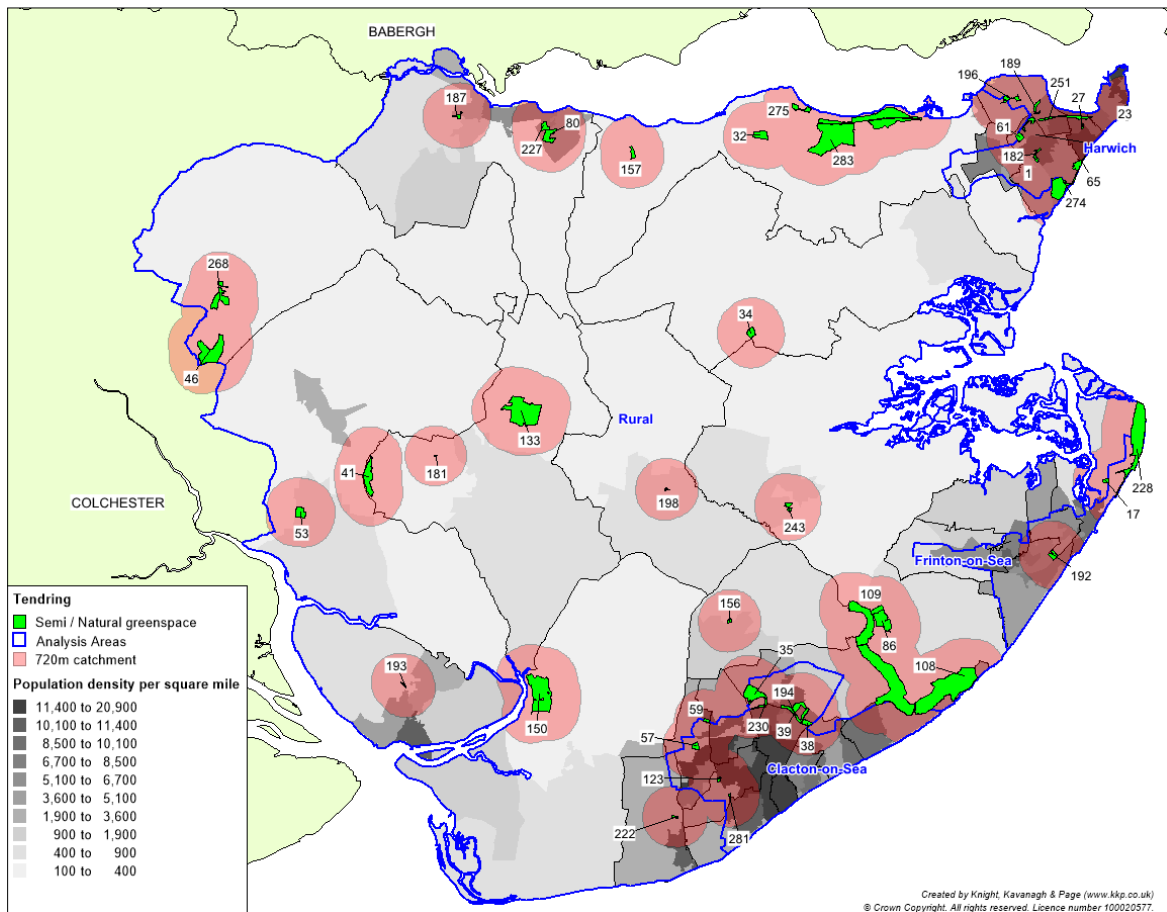
This study, in order to comply with guidance uses locally informed standards does not focus on the ANGSt Standard for accessibility as this uses a different methodology for identifying accessible natural greenspace to that advocated in the PPG17 Companion Guidance.

Catchment mapping is based on the Fields in Trust accessibility guidelines. FIT guidance recommends an accessibility walking guideline of 720m for natural greenspace. This is equivalent to a nine-minute walk time.

Figure 5.1 shows the standards applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace with 720m walk time



Sites with a blank quality and value rating have not been assessed due to being new sites added to the study since the last report.

Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Abbot road	Harwich	0.59		
17	Barnes Spinney Nature Reserve	Rural	1.31	24.8%	31.7%
23	Beacon Hill Fort	Harwich	3.70	31.6%	42.3%
27	Bobbits Hole	Harwich	0.53	54.9%	31.7%
32	Brakey Grove	Rural	6.04	18.6%	17.3%
34	Broadmeadow Wood	Rural	3.71	9.7%	21.2%
35	Brook Country Park	Clacton-on-Sea	13.10	67.0%	43.3%
38	Burrs Road	Clacton-on-Sea	2.38	36.3%	31.7%
39	Burrsville Nature Reserve	Clacton-on-Sea	7.00	50.1%	31.7%
41	Captains Wood	Rural	13.14	15.9%	15.4%
46	Churn Wood	Rural	26.09	16.8%	26.9%
53	Cockaynes Wood	Rural	5.47	46.6%	38.5%
57	Coppins Hall Wood	Clacton-on-Sea	2.34	37.5%	22.1%
59	Cranleigh Road Open Space	Rural	1.03	50.1%	37.5%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
61	Dockfield Avenue	Rural	2.74	16.8%	31.7%
65	Dovercourt Boating Lake	Harwich	3.77	58.7%	36.5%
80	Furze Hills	Rural	6.61	24.8%	32.7%
86	Great Holland Pits	Rural	13.80	39.8%	31.7%
108	Holland Haven Country Park	Rural	170.28	71.1%	52.9%
109	Holland Mill Wood	Rural	3.58	38.6%	31.7%
123	Lake Walk	Clacton-on-Sea	0.83		
133	Little Bentleyhall Wood	Rural	43.22	20.4%	7.7%
150	Martins Farm Country Park	Rural	39.34	53.1%	33.7%
156	Little Clacton Meadow Millennium Green	Rural	0.76	27.1%	37.5%
157	Millgrove Wood	Rural	2.47	21.2%	21.2%
181	Open Space A133/Bromley Road	Rural	0.19		
182	Open Space near Community Centre	Harwich	1.29	33.6%	32.7%
187	Owl Flight	Rural	1.35	36.3%	22.1%
189	Part of Dovercourt Dock River, Parkeston	Harwich	2.06	20.4%	31.7%
192	Pedlars Wood	Frinton-on-Sea	2.72	39.8%	37.5%
193	Pertwee Close	Rural	0.44		
194	Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve, Great Clacton	Clacton-on-Sea	3.68	15.9%	19.2%
196	Playing field on Refinery Road	Harwich	3.12	17.7%	22.1%
198	Pond Area opp Council Offices	Rural	0.29		
222	Sacketts Grove	Rural	0.49	33.6%	27.9%
227	School Wood Mistley	Rural	3.06	8.0%	16.3%
228	Seafront and cliffs	Rural	43.31	88.8%	64.4%
230	South of Brook Park	Clacton-on-Sea	1.93	49.6%	32.7%
243	Station Road, Thorpe-le-Spoken	Rural	2.26	20.4%	31.7%
251	The Hangings	Harwich	7.87	14.2%	15.4%
268	Walls Wood	Rural	12.18	23.0%	17.3%
274	West End Lane	Harwich	17.55	23.0%	27.0%
275	West Grove/East Grove	Rural	3.55	18.6%	15.4%
281	Woodlands off Stanley Road	Clacton-on-Sea	0.39		
283	Wrabness Nature Reserve	Rural	97.01	58.4%	43.3%

Figure 5.1 shows a reasonable distribution of provision across Tendring District. However, parts of Brightlingsea, Frinton-on-Sea and Clacton-on-Sea are noted as not being served by provision.

As the District is classified as being predominantly rural by the Rural Services Network, it is assumed that access to the surrounding countryside and coastal areas is sufficient. Therefore, it may be unlikely that these gaps need to be served by new forms of provision.

The coastal area in Clacton-on-Sea is noted as having a gap in catchment mapping. However, it is recognised that this 'gap' is served by other forms of provision. There is therefore unlikely to be a need to meet this gap.

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Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Clacton-on-Sea	Clacton Marine Parade East (ID 48) Marine Parade West (ID 148) Martello Tower Marine Parade (ID 149) Open Space (the gap) (ID 179) Public Gardens, Station Road (ID 202) Vista Road Recreation Ground (ID 265)	Amenity Park Park Amenity Park Amenity
Frinton-on-Sea	Edenside Open Space (ID 70) Frinton-on-Sea Esplanade (ID 78) Hillside (ID 106)	Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rural	Hurst Green (ID 113) Lower Park Playing Field (ID 141) Mistley Recreation Ground (ID 161) Elmstead Market Recreation Ground (ID 207) Western Promenade (ID 276)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in the district. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.4: Quality ratings for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	16%	43%	67%	3	3
Frinton-on-Sea	40%	40%	40%	1	0
Harwich	14%	32%	59%	6	2
Rural	8%	33%	89%	18	6
Tendring	8%	34%	89%	28	11

Of natural and semi-natural sites assessed, a total of 28 sites (72%) in the district rate below the threshold set for quality, indicating a low standard of quality for provision. The lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ School Wood Mistley (8%)
- ◀ Broadmeadow Wood (10%)
- ◀ The Hangings (14%)

All three sites score very low for entrance scores, user security and controls to prevent illegal use. Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as benches and bins.

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In some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation. Broadmeadow Wood and School Wood Mistley are both noted as having poor access. The former is in a rural isolated location and scores lower for user security and perceived usage.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for quality are:

- ↳ Seafront and Cliffs (89%)
- ↳ Holland Haven Country Park (71%)
- ↳ Brook Country Park (67%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage, seating, and bins. The sites are also observed as having good access for all, with well-maintained pathways and levels of personal security. Furthermore, Seafront and Cliffs and Holland Haven Country Park have the additional benefit of toilets whilst all three sites have car parking and picnic tables.

Site observations describe these sites as having conservation features and as being important landmarks in the area. The highest scoring site, Seafront and Cliffs, is noted as having a heritage society, national cycle network and habitat conservation. It is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Observations note it could have the potential of insufficient parking space at peak times and evidence of dog foul.

Some sites scoring above the threshold, are noted as having some issues regarding maintenance. For example, Wrabness Nature Reserve (58%) has litter at entrances, a lack of bins and benches and tired looking interpretation boards. Similarly, information boards at Burrsville Nature Reserve are noted as requiring a clean. In addition, more litter bins may be needed across the site. Consultation with TDC identifies that there has been tree planting at Burrsville Nature Reserve also known as Burrsville Park.

5.5 Value

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

Table 5.5: Value scores for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	19%	30%	43%	1	5
Frinton-on-Sea	38%	38%	38%	0	1
Harwich	15%	30%	42%	1	7
Rural	8%	29%	64%	6	18
Tendring	8%	30%	64%	8	31

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The majority of assessed natural and semi-natural greenspaces rate above the threshold for value (79%). This is firstly a reflection of the ecological value most of these sites offer through the habitat opportunities they provide for wildlife.

Further to this, some natural and semi-natural sites provide opportunities for exercise, learning and social inclusion through community cohesion. This is especially the case for sites such as Holland Haven Country Park and Seafront and Cliffs. Both rate highly for value with scores of 53% and 64% respectively.

Other high scoring sites include Brook Country Park (43%) and Beacon Hill Fort (42%). The former has high ecological and biological value due to its strong promotion of biodiversity and wildlife habitats. The site features ponds, a variety of trees, wildflower meadow and an enclosed wild flower garden adding to structural landscape benefits as well as ecological value. The network of paths, picnic tables and maze within the site contributes to its high amenity and social benefits. Beacon Hill Fort is a historical landmark therefore has high cultural and heritage value. The site also provides high educational and amenity value.

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 45 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering over 578 hectares.
- ◀ Current provision of 3.97 ha per 1000 population is greater than the FIT standard (1.80).
- ◀ Most areas of greater population density are accessible to provision. Gaps in catchment mapping are noted. However, it is considered that there are examples of some significant forms of provision (i.e. Wrabness Nature Reserve, Holland Haven Country Park) as well as access to surrounding countryside.
- ◀ The district sufficiently meets the ANGSt standard for quantity of provision.
- ◀ Less than a third of assessed sites rate above the threshold for quality. Sites below the threshold are often due to a lack of ancillary features and facilities.
- ◀ Nearly all sites rate above the threshold for value. A reflection of the ecological value offered. Furthermore, some sites provide opportunities for exercise, learning and social inclusion.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Current provision

There are 138 amenity greenspace sites in Tendring equating to over 280 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Current amenity greenspace in Tendring

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Clacton-on-Sea	34	99.73	2.29
Frinton-on-Sea	15	48.88	4.06
Harwich	22	27.14	1.68
Rural	67	104.49	1.41
Tendring	138	280.24	1.92

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, The Green, The Street, Little Clacton at 0.08 hectares acts as an important visual/communal amenity. In contrast, Vista Road Recreation Ground at nearly 12 hectares, is a large recreation ground with a range of recreational and sport opportunities.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall, the district is sufficient on this basis. This is also the case for all four analysis areas.

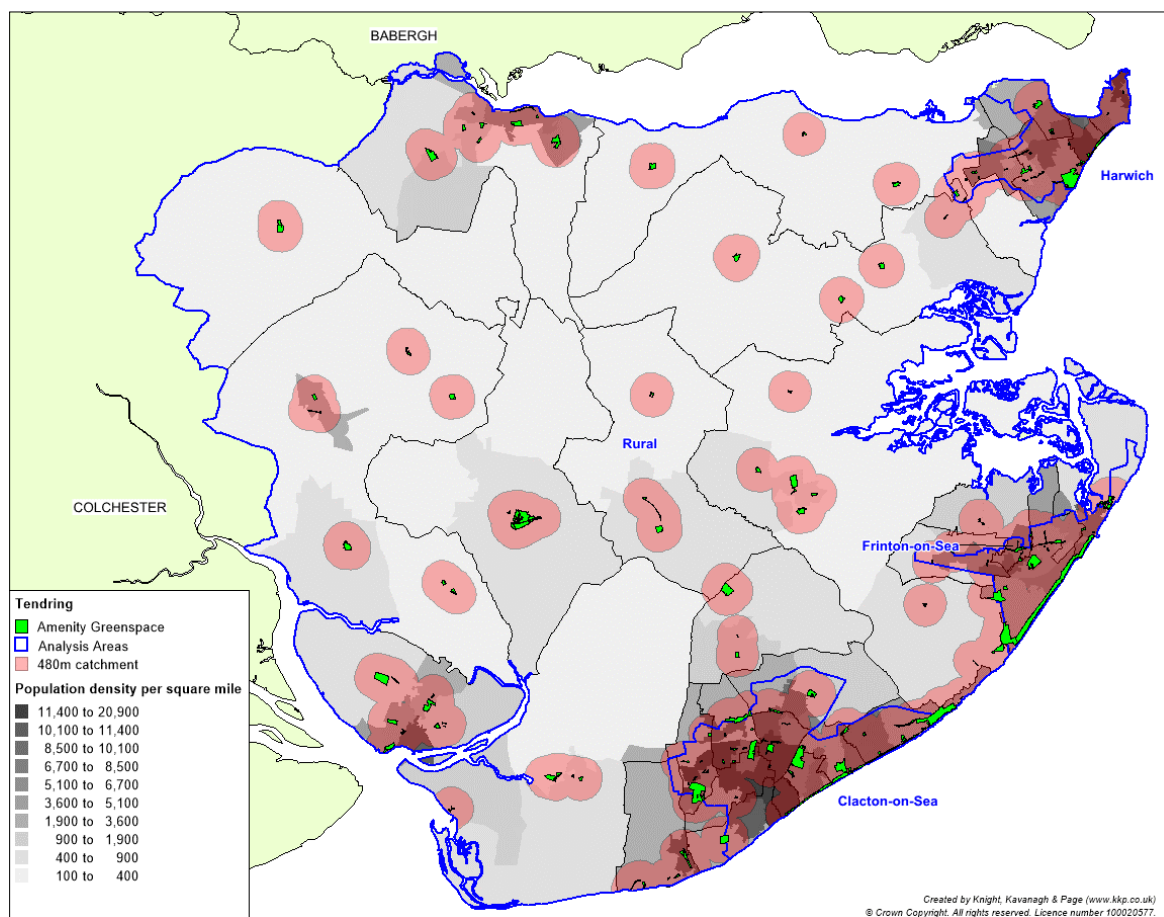
It is important to highlight that it is not always clear to distinguish a site's primary typology. Some sites can bridge the definition of typologies such as natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural greenspace.

6.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping, a six-minute walk time for sites (based on FIT guidelines) is applied. Figure 6.1 shows the catchments applied to amenity greenspace provision to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with a 480m catchment



Sites with a blank quality and value rating have not been assessed due to being new sites added to the study since the last report.

Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
2	Abdy Avenue Playing Fields	Harwich	0.15	50.4%	22.2%
9	Alresford Recreation Ground	Rural	2.80	60.2%	44.4%
12	Ardleigh Millenium Green	Rural	0.97	59.3%	50.0%
14	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	Rural	2.28	75.2%	50.0%
15	Artillery Drive/Regimental Way	Harwich	0.28		
16	Aylesbury Drive Open Space	Clacton-on-Sea	1.59	42.0%	18.9%
18	Bath House Meadow	Rural	4.14	54.0%	37.8%
21	Bayards Recreation Ground	Rural	3.95	66.4%	33.3%
22	Beacon Heights	Rural	0.46		
25	Bellfield Close	Rural	0.24		
29	Bowling Green Marine Parade	Clacton-on-Sea	0.18	51.9%	37.8%
31	Bradfield Recreation Ground	Rural	1.85	53.4%	50.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
33	Brighton Road Open Space	Clacton-on-Sea	1.16	51.6%	32.2%
36	Brook Vale	Rural	0.16		
40	Byrr Close	Harwich	0.21		
42	Carisbrooke Avenue	Clacton-on-Sea	2.48	50.4%	38.9%
43	Chapel Road Playing Field	Rural	0.33	64.6%	44.4%
44	Cherry Tree Ave Open space	Clacton-on-Sea	3.49	38.1%	25.6%
48	Clacton Marine Parade East	Clacton-on-Sea	7.94	57.7%	55.6%
50	Clays Road	Frinton-on-Sea	0.21		
54	Jaywick Community Centre	Rural	0.55	59.6%	38.9%
55	Brightlingsea Community Centre	Rural	0.47	60.6%	55.6%
58	Cowley Park Recreation Ground	Rural	2.55	61.9%	33.3%
62	Dorking Crescent	Rural	5.38	30.1%	25.6%
64	Dovedale Gardens	Clacton-on-Sea	1.29	52.5%	44.4%
69	Eastcliff Eastcliff Recreation Ground	Clacton-on-Sea	5.40	65.5%	50.0%
70	Edenside Open Space	Frinton-on-Sea	2.89	58.4%	43.3%
71	Elm Tree Avenue	Frinton-on-Sea	0.27		
72	Falcon Way, Gt. Clacton Hall Estate	Clacton-on-Sea	0.23		
73	Fern Way	Rural	0.19		
74	Fifth Avenue	Frinton-on-Sea	0.61		
75	Frintion Park Playing Fields	Frinton-on-Sea	6.49	55.8%	37.8%
77	Frinton Road, Kirby Cross	Frinton-on-Sea	0.21		
78	Frinton-on-Sea Esplanade	Frinton-on-Sea	28.82	60.0%	50.0%
81	Garden Road, Jaywick	Rural	0.69	44.5%	27.8%
82	Gerard Road Open Space	Clacton-on-Sea	0.22	51.0%	43.3%
83	Goose Green	Rural	0.52		
84	Great Bentley Village Green	Rural	15.44	42.5%	15.6%
85	Great Holland Green	Rural	0.39	42.8%	32.2%
87	Great Oakley Playing Field	Rural	1.44	51.6%	44.4%
90	Hall Road Open Space	Rural	0.80	49.6%	48.9%
92	Halstead road Playing field	Rural	0.28	46.6%	21.1%
93	Hamstead Avenue	Clacton-on-Sea	0.31	44.2%	33.3%
94	Hankin Avenue	Harwich	0.17		
95	Harold Lilley Playing Field	Rural	1.03	55.5%	44.4%
96	Harpers Way	Clacton-on-Sea	0.11	46.6%	36.7%
97	Harwich and Dovercourt Rugby Club	Harwich	12.26	66.4%	77.8%
102	Haven Avenue Open Space	Clacton-on-Sea	0.28	29.1%	18.9%
103	Hazel Close Open Space, Thorrington	Rural	0.77	60.3%	38.9%
105	Hillcrest	Rural	0.18		
106	Hillside, Frinton On Sea	Frinton-on-Sea	5.78	40.7%	32.2%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
113	Hurst Green	Rural	0.99	56.6%	38.9%
114	Ingestre Street	Harwich	0.12		
115	Ipswich Road Open Space	Clacton-on-Sea	0.37	48.7%	43.3%
116	Jaywick	Rural	0.53	39.5%	22.2%
121	Ladbroke Road Open Space	Clacton-on-Sea	0.22	31.9%	22.2%
122	Lady Nelson Playing Field	Rural	2.24	59.0%	44.4%
126	Land around the High Lighthouse	Harwich	0.10		
128	Land at Louvain Road	Harwich	0.53	38.5%	36.7%
129	Land north of Lower Marine Parade	Harwich	0.40		
130	land off Elm Tree Avenue	Frinton-on-Sea	0.42		
131	Langham Drive Recreation Ground	Clacton-on-Sea	0.53	43.4%	38.9%
132	Larkfield road	Rural	0.18		
134	Lodge Road	Harwich	0.92		
135	Lodge Road/Bay View Crescent	Harwich	0.24		
138	Longmeadows open space	Harwich	1.93	36.3%	31.1%
140	Lower Marine Parade	Harwich	3.34	65.8%	50.0%
141	Lower Park Playing Field	Rural	2.05	50.4%	33.3%
142	Lower Park Road/Promenade Way	Rural	0.03		
143	Lyndhurst Road	Clacton-on-Sea	0.37	50.6%	37.8%
144	Mace Park	Harwich	0.90	68.7%	33.3%
146	Maltings Road/Church Road, Brightlingsea	Rural	0.28		
147	Manor Lane Open Space	Harwich	0.22	41.6%	14.4%
151	Meadow Way	Rural	2.03	58.1%	44.4%
154	Military Way	Harwich	0.34		
160	Mistley Green	Rural	0.27		
161	Mistley Recreation Ground	Rural	2.58	61.9%	33.3%
163	Mistley Village Hall Playing Fields	Rural	3.78	50.0%	38.9%
164	Muswell Walk	Clacton-on-Sea	0.26		
166	New Memorial Gardens	Frinton-on-Sea	0.37	53.7%	36.7%
167	North Green, Colchester Road	Rural	0.15	61.9%	44.4%
168	Off Lavenham Close	Clacton-on-Sea	0.15		
169	Off Park Road, St. Osyth	Rural	0.57		
171	Off Whitegate Road	Rural	0.21		
172	Old Road	Harwich	0.49		
173	Old Road	Clacton-on-Sea	0.24		
175	Old Road Recreation Ground	Clacton-on-Sea	2.66	63.6%	42.2%
178	Open Space	Frinton-on-Sea	0.19		
179	Open Space (the Gap)	Clacton-on-Sea	35.01	56.0%	38.9%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
180	Open Space A133	Rural	0.59		
184	Open space off Oak Ridge	Rural	0.22		
185	Open Space Valley Walk	Frinton-on-Sea	1.27	52.2%	32.2%
186	Open space off Gainsbrough Drive	Rural	0.21		
188	Parish Fields, Plough Corner	Rural	5.25	40.7%	33.3%
190	Part of Pickers Ditch Walkway Open Space	Clacton-on-Sea	1.33	51.6%	38.9%
191	Peake Avenue	Frinton-on-Sea	0.19		
195	Pightle Way	Frinton-on-Sea	1.06	56.3%	31.1%
197	Playing Field, New Thorpe Avenue	Rural	4.43	28.3%	25.6%
200	Priory Area - Open Space	Rural	0.65		
201	Public Gardens	Frinton-on-Sea	0.12		
203	Putting greens and croquet lawn	Harwich	1.05	46.9%	33.3%
204	Pyesand	Rural	0.20		
206	Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Ground	Rural	1.35	61.1%	44.4%
207	Recreation Ground	Rural	0.86		
209	Recreation Ground Harwich Road	Rural	1.53	64.0%	50.0%
211	Rectory Road Playing Field, Wrabness	Rural	0.29	29.2%	33.3%
213	Reed Close	Clacton-on-Sea	0.42		
214	Riverview, Manningtree	Rural	0.98	72.9%	50.0%
215	Rush Green	Clacton-on-Sea	12.89	57.2%	55.6%
223	Safeguarded Land off London Road	Clacton-on-Sea	0.36		
224	Safeguarded Land off St.Johns road	Clacton-on-Sea	0.88		
225	Saxmundham Way	Clacton-on-Sea	0.19		
226	School Lane Open Space	Rural	4.06	64.5%	38.9%
229	South Green Gardens	Clacton-on-Sea	0.42	36.4%	21.1%
232	St Christophers Way	Rural	0.47	40.3%	21.1%
237	St Johns Road Recreation Ground	Clacton-on-Sea	6.12	52.2%	60.0%
245	Strangers Corner Complex	Rural	6.50	33.2%	37.8%
246	Strawberry Avenue	Rural	0.76		
249	The Green	Harwich	0.79		
250	The Green, The Street, Little Clacton	Rural	0.08		
252	The Soils, Great Oakley	Rural	1.43		
253	The Spennells	Rural	0.77		
254	The Walls Open Space	Rural	0.91	66.4%	72.2%
255	Thorpe Green	Rural	0.96	31.0%	7.8%
257	Thorrington Recreation Ground	Rural	0.91	62.8%	37.8%
259	Willow Way Playing fields	Harwich	0.18	55.8%	44.4%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
260	Vaux Avenue	Harwich	0.26		
262	Verge - Clacton Road	Rural	0.22		
263	Verge along Bypass	Rural	0.22		
265	Vista Road Recreation Ground	Clacton-on-Sea	11.75	56.0%	38.9%
266	Waldegrave Way AGS	Rural	0.63		
272	Weekley Village Hall	Rural	1.94	64.9%	33.3%
273	Welfare Park	Harwich	2.28	79.6%	50.0%
276	Western Promenade	Rural	2.58	43.4%	38.9%
277	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Clacton-on-Sea	0.18	59.3%	32.2%
278	Wix Playing Field	Rural	1.72	49.9%	50.0%
280	Woodbridge Grove	Clacton-on-Sea	0.27		
282	Woodrows Lane	Clacton-on-Sea	0.46	51.3%	33.3%

Catchment mapping shows that areas of the district with denser populations are generally covered by amenity greenspace catchments. A couple of very minor catchment gaps are noted in Clacton-on-Sea and Harwich. It is recognised that these gaps are predominantly covered and met by other forms of open space provision such as parks and gardens.

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Clacton-on-Sea	Marine Parade West (ID 148)	Park
	Martello Tower Marine Parade (ID 149)	Park
	Public Gardens, station Road (ID 202)	Park
Harwich	Bobbits Hole (ID 27)	Natural
	The Hangings (ID 251)	Natural

6.4 Quality

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

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Table 6.4: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	29%	50%	65%	9	16
Frinton-on-Sea	41%	54%	60%	1	6
Harwich	36%	55%	80%	4	6
Rural	27%	53%	75%	16	27
Tendring	27%	52%	80%	30	55

More than half of assessed amenity greenspaces in the district (65%) rate above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Welfare Park (80%)
- ◀ Ardleigh Recreation Ground (75%)
- ◀ Riverview, Manningtree (75%)

All three sites are observed as having high standards of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a good overall appearance. All benefit from signage, seating, and litter bins. Welfare Park, the highest scoring amenity greenspace for quality, has the additional benefits of a MUGA and play area. The site also features football goals on the grass further adding to the quality of the site. Similarly, Ardleigh Recreation Ground (75%) also features play provision including a sand pit and fitness area. Riverview, Manningtree scores high for entrances and user security with several entrances to access and exit the site. It also benefits from dog bins, benches, a play area, and football goals.

Other high scoring amenity greenspaces for quality include Eastcliff Playing field and Bayards Recreation Ground & Allotment Gardens (scoring 66%). Both sites have good entrances, user security and benches. Furthermore, the sites have bins to prevent excessive littering and pathways suitable for various users. Both have a play area, enhancing overall quality. Consultation with TDC highlights long benches have been added at Eastcliff Recreation Ground enhancing both the quality and value of the site.

Larger amenity greenspace sites often lend themselves to sporting opportunities such as football. These sporting opportunities as well as other added features on site, such as good quality play areas, provide increased reasons for people to visit such provision.

Just over a third of assessed sites (35%) rate below the quality threshold. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ◀ The Soils, Great Oakley (27%)
- ◀ Playing Field, New Thorpe Avenue (28%)
- ◀ Haven Avenue Open Space (29%)

All these sites lack ancillary features and formal pathways. All three sites lack signage and are perceived as reasonably or hardly used.

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Playing Field, New Thorpe Avenue (28%) scores lower for entrances and user security. Haven Avenue Open Space (29%) is observed as a grass verge area between housing and the main road along the sea front. The site features a bench against brambles and is more of a visual amenity and a potential quiet sitting area. The Soils, Great Oakley (27%) scores low for entrances and access with no parking and is by a private road. However, the site benefits from football goals.

6.5 Value

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

Table 6.5: Value ratings for assessed amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	19%	38%	60%	2	23
Frinton-on-Sea	31%	38%	50%	0	7
Harwich	14%	37%	50%	1	9
Rural	8%	38%	72%	2	41
Tendring	8%	38%	72%	5	80

Most amenity greenspace sites (94%) rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites for value in Tendring are The Walls Open Space (72%), St Johns Road Recreation Ground (60%) and Rush Green (56%). These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational and exercise opportunities they offer to a wide range of users.

The Walls Open Space is located in a beautiful setting, features plenty of benches and has a noticeboard, enhancing social and amenity value as well as structural landscape benefits. St Johns Road Recreation Ground and Rush Green have play provision providing high amenity and social benefits. Consultation with TDC highlights that the football pitches have been developed at Rush Green following lost land from Lister Road. The Walls Open Space has enhanced educational value due to containing information about Mistley Walls and wildlife.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites in the district offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility, and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping and trees), better quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 138 amenity greenspace sites equating to over 280 hectares.
- ◀ Current provision of 1.92 ha per 1000 population is greater than the FIT standard (0.60).
- ◀ Minor gaps in provision are noted to Clacton-on-Sea and Harwicj areas. However these appear to be served by other open space typologies such as parks and gardens.
- ◀ Most sites (65%) rate above the quality threshold. Lower scoring sites tend to lack ancillary facilities.
- ◀ The majority of sites rate above the value threshold (94%). This is likely to reflect the wide benefits such sites provide.

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PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

Provision for children and young people includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

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

7.2 Current provision

A total of 93 play locations are identified in Tendring as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of almost six hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people in Tendring

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Clacton-on-Sea	13	0.70	0.02
Frinton-on-Sea	7	0.55	0.05
Harwich	14	1.08	0.07
Rural	59	3.49	0.05
Tendring	93	5.82	0.04

TDC highlights that two play sites have been removed since the last study (London Road, Clacton and Knox Road). These were small sites with a lot of vandalism and no natural surveillance. However, overall, more play areas now exist compared to the last study.

Play areas can be classified in the following ways to identify their effective target audience utilising Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance.

FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

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

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Table 7.2: Distribution of provision for children and young people by FIT category

Provision for children and young people				
LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Casual	TOTAL
7	55	14	17	93

There are an 13 sites classified as casual play and four sites that are classified as skate parks. Note that some skate parks and MUGAs have been classified as NEAPs.

Most provision is identified as being LEAP (59%) classification; designed for unsupervised play and a wider range of users. This is followed by 15% of sites classified as NEAPs; intended for older age ranges.

7.3 Accessibility

Catchment mapping is based on the Fields in Trust accessibility guidelines. Accessibility guidelines vary depending on the play provision designation (LAP, LEAP, NEAP or Casual provision i.e. MUGA's). This is demonstrated in table 7.2.

Table 7.3: Accessibility guidelines from Fields in Trust for play provision

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

Figure 7.1 shows the catchments applied to provision for children and young people to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people with walk times mapped

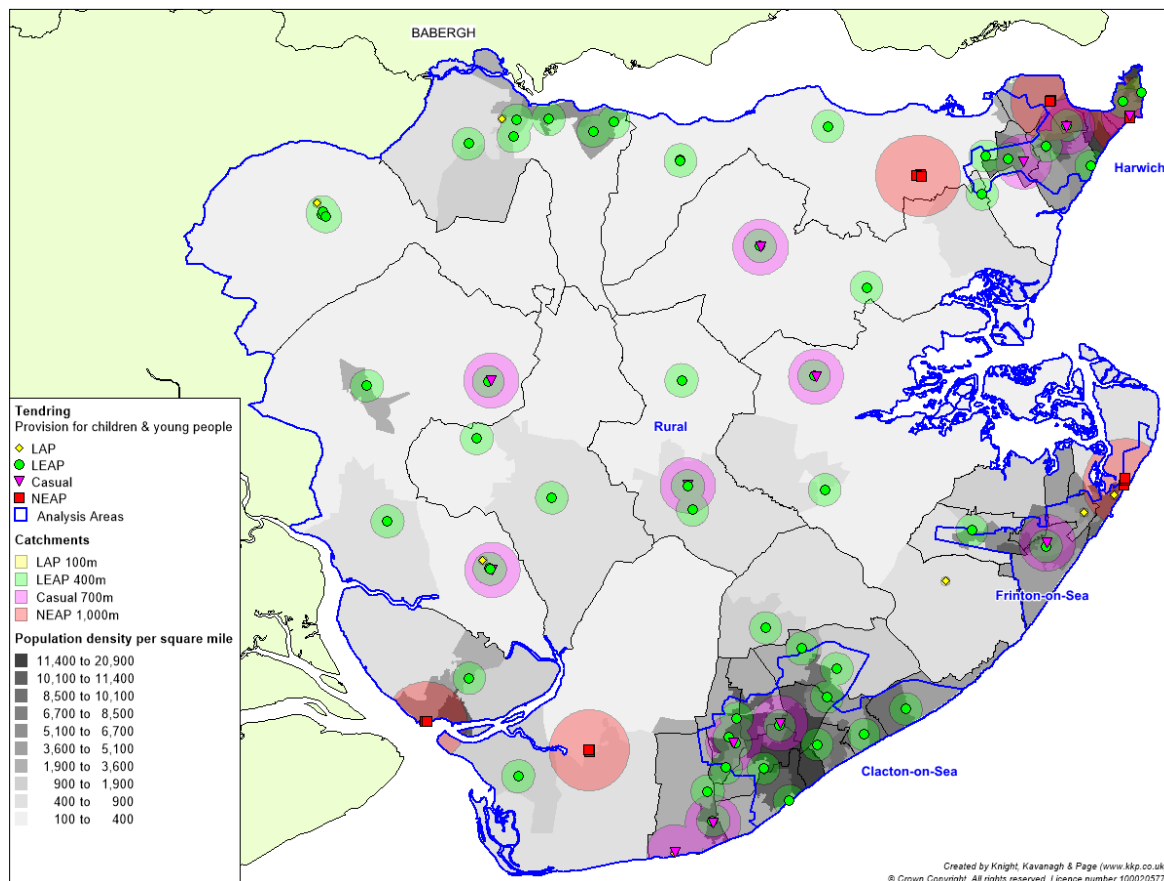


Table 7.4: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
2.1	Abdy Avenue MUGA	Harwich	0.01	62.5%	60.0%
9.1	Alresford Play Area	Rural	0.14	69.6%	60.0%
9.2	Alresford Skate Park	Rural	0.04	45.8%	56.0%
12.1	Ardleigh Millennium Green Play Area	Rural	0.07	53.3%	52.0%
12.2	Millenium Green Play Area	Rural	0.02		
13	Ardleigh Primary School	Rural	0.02	61.3%	34.0%
14.1	Ardleigh Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	0.005	77.7%	60.0%
14.2	Ardleigh Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	0.008		
18.1	Bath House Meadow MUGA	Frinton-on-Sea	0.12	87.8%	80.0%
18.2	Bath House Meadow Play Area	Frinton-on-Sea	0.20		
18.3	Bath House Meadow Skate Park	Frinton-on-Sea	0.03		
19	Bathside Play Area	Harwich	0.14	62.8%	56.0%
21.1	Bayard Recreation Ground	Rural	0.06	79.8%	60.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
28	Bockings Elm Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.06	38.7%	18.0%
31.1	Bradfield Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	0.10	79.2%	60.0%
31.2	Bradfield Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	0.02		
39.1	Burrs Road Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.07	65.2%	46.0%
42.1	Carisbrooke Avenue Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.06	79.5%	50.0%
43.1	Beaumont-cum-Moze Basketball	Rural	0.006	72.6%	50.0%
43.2	Beaumont-cum-Moze Play Area	Rural	0.043		
51	Clayton Road Play Area	Harwich	0.09	47.0%	32.0%
52.1	Cliff Park Basketball	Harwich	0.01	63.7%	60.0%
52.2	Cliff Park Play Area	Harwich	0.11		
54.1	Brooklands Community Centre MUGA	Rural	0.05	55.1%	30.0%
54.2	Brooklands Community Centre Play Area	Rural	0.01		
58.1	Coley Park Ball Park	Rural	0.07	53.3%	50.0%
58.2	Cowley Park Play Area	Rural	0.09		
58.3	Cowley Park Skate Park	Rural	0.02		
63	Dove Crescent Play Area	Harwich	0.16	58.3%	56.0%
67	Dumont Avenue Play Area	Rural	0.15	58.3%	36.0%
68	Eagle Avenue Play Area	Frinton-on-Sea	0.02	56.2%	52.0%
69.1	Eastcliff Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.05	79.2%	60.0%
75.1	Frinton Park MUGA	Frinton-on-Sea	0.08	74.1%	50.0%
75.2	Frinton Park Play Area	Frinton-on-Sea	0.08		
83.1	Goose Green Play Area	Rural	0.23	50.9%	50.0%
84.1	Great Bentley Green Play Area	Rural	0.07	59.8%	50.0%
85.1	Great Holland Green Play Area	Rural	0.03	52.7%	50.0%
87.1	Great Oakley Play Area	Rural	0.06	79.2%	60.0%
89	Grove Avenue Play Area	Frinton-on-Sea	0.03	60.7%	52.0%
92.1	Halstead Road Play Area	Rural	0.02	60.4%	50.0%
95.1	Little Clacton Play Area	Rural	0.04	72.0%	50.0%
97.1	Dovercourt Swimming Pool Play Area	Harwich	0.08	87.5%	50.0%
97.2	Skate Park, Dovercourt	Harwich	0.09	51.5%	50.0%
98.1	Harwich Green Play Area	Harwich	0.13	76.5%	30.0%
101	Harwich Road Play Area, Little Oakley	Rural	0.04	76.2%	42.0%
103.1	Hazel Close Play Area	Rural	0.01	71.7%	56.0%
104.1	Hereford Road Play Area, Holland-on-Sea	Clacton-on-Sea	0.07	64.0%	60.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
107	Hilltop Crescent	Rural	0.09	55.1%	38.0%
107.1	Hilltop Crescent MUGA	Rural	0.01		
122.1	Lady Nelson Play Area	Rural	0.06	77.4%	40.0%
131.1	Langham Drive MUGA	Clacton-on-Sea	0.06	50.9%	50.0%
131.2	Langham Drive Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.02		
144.1	Mace Park MUGA	Harwich	0.06	74.4%	60.0%
144.2	Mace Park Play Area	Harwich	0.03		
148.1	Marine Parade West Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.04	73.5%	46.0%
151.1	Crossways Park Play Area	Rural	0.05	76.5%	60.0%
151.2	Meadow Way MUGA	Rural	0.03		
158.1	Brightlinsea Skate Park	Rural	0.07	69.3%	70.0%
161.1	Welcome Home Field Play Area	Rural	0.15	67.9%	40.0%
163.1	Furze Hill Play Area	Rural	0.08	67.3%	46.0%
165	Nayland Drive Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.07	59.2%	56.0%
176	Old School Lane Play Area	Rural	0.07	73.8%	46.0%
206.1	Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	0.11	74.1%	60.0%
206.2	Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	0.12		
206.3	Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	0.03		
208.1	Foots Farm Playing Fields Play Area	Rural	0.10	50.6%	46.0%
209.1	Hare Green Recreation Ground	Rural	0.009	58.0%	50.0%
209.2	Hare Green Recreation Ground Skate Ramp	Rural	0.008		
209.3	Hare Green Recreation Ground Youth Shelter	Rural	0.004		
211.1	Rectory Road Play Area	Rural	0.05	57.4%	50.0%
214.1	Riverview Play Area	Rural	0.08	84.8%	50.0%
215.1	Rush Green Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	0.08	63.7%	60.0%
222.1	Seymour Road Play Area	Rural	0.13	64.6%	46.0%
226.1	Lawford Rec Play Area	Rural	0.05	72.9%	60.0%
237.1	St Johns Road Recreation Ground MUGA	Clacton-on-Sea	0.05	45.5%	32.0%
237.2	St Johns Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.02		
244	Stour View Close Play Area	Rural	0.07	70.8%	42.0%
246.1	Strawberry Avenue Play Area	Rural	0.02	47.6%	42.0%
256	Tokely Road Play Area	Rural	0.10	57.4%	36.0%
257.1	Chapel Lane Play Area	Rural	0.04	63.1%	50.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
257.2	Chapel Road Half MUGA	Rural	0.009		
257.3	Chapel Road Outdoor Gym	Rural	0.008		
259.1	Willow Way Play Area	Harwich	0.04	61.6%	50.0%
265.1	Vista Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.06	83.0%	50.0%
267	Waldergrave Road Play Area	Rural	0.12	58.0%	46.0%
272.1	Clacton Road Play Area	Rural	0.05	75.0%	50.0%
273.1	Welfare Park MUGA	Harwich	0.03	83.0%	60.0%
273.2	Welfare Park Play Area	Harwich	0.10		
276.1	Pawsons Play Ground	Rural	0.09	83.3%	60.0%
276.2	Western Promenade MUGA	Rural	0.05		
277.1	Windsor Avenue Play Area	Clacton-on-Sea	0.06	62.5%	60.0%
279.1	Wix Hall Playing Field MUGA	Rural	0.03	79.2%	60.0%
279.2	Harwich Road Play Area	Rural	0.09		

There is overall a good spread of play provision across the district. Areas with a greater population density are generally within a walking distance catchment of a form of play provision. However, potential gaps in catchment mapping are observed to the Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea areas. The following sites may help to serve some of the gaps in catchments if the amount and range of play equipment can be expanded.

Table 7.4: Play sites with potential to serve catchment gaps

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Clacton-on-Sea	Burrs Road Play Area (ID 39.1) Eastcliff Play area (ID 69.1) Hereford Road Play Area (ID 104.1) Marine Parade West Play Area (ID 148.1) Vista Road Recreation Ground Play Area (ID 265.1) Windsor Road Play Area (ID 277.1)
Frinton-on-Sea	Frinton Park Play Area (ID 75.1 & 75.2) Halstead Road Play Area (ID 92.1)

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guide); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people. A threshold of 60% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

The quality assessment of play sites does not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment the Council's own inspection reports should be sought.

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Table 7.5: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	39%	64%	83%	6	7
Frinton-on-Sea	56%	70%	88%	1	6
Harwich	47%	66%	87%	3	11
Rural	46%	66%	85%	22	37
Tendring	39%	66%	88%	32	61

A total of 66% of play sites rate above the quality threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites in Tendring are:

- ◀ Riverview Play Area (85%)
- ◀ Dovercourt Swimming Pool Play Area (88%)
- ◀ Bath House Meadow Play Area (88%)

These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the sites cleanliness), seating, signage, and good quality play equipment. The sites generally offer a variety of equipment to a good condition/quality. All three sites have the additional benefit of parking albeit the quality of the car park at Bath House Meadow Play Area scores lower.

There are 32 sites rating below the threshold. Sites rating lower for quality is often due to maintenance/appearance observations and/or the range/quality of equipment on site. Some of the lower scoring sites are:

- ◀ Bockings Elm Play Area (39%)
- ◀ Alresford Skate Park (46%)
- ◀ St Johns Road Recreation Ground Play Area (46%)

Bockings Elm Play Area (39%) is the lowest scoring play site for quality. It is observed as being unappealing and having evidence of vandalism. The site has benches and bins but which are poorly maintained. Alresford Skate Park (46%) has a lack of ancillary features such as seating and bins. However, it does benefit from signage and a car park. St Johns Road Recreation Ground Play Area (46%) has graffiti and no signage as well as litter, contributing to a lower quality score. There are no bins and few controls to prevent illegal use.

7.5 Value

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

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Table 7.6: Value ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	18%	48%	60%	1	12
Frinton-on-Sea	50%	51%	52%	0	7
Harwich	30%	51%	60%	0	14
Rural	30%	50%	70%	0	59
Tendring	18%	50%	70%	1	92

The one site to rate below the value threshold is Bockings Elm Play Area. The site scores low for user security and entrances which impacts usage and limits amenity and social value benefits. Furthermore, the sign is vandalised and the site contains just a multi play.

All other play sites in Tendring are rated as being above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the role play provision provides in allowing children to play but also the contribution sites make in terms of giving children and young people safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect a good range of quality equipment available at sites. Some of the highest scoring sites for value are:

- ✦ Bath House Meadow (80%)
- ✦ Brightlingsea Skate Park (70%)
- ✦ Great Oakley Play Area (60%)
- ✦ Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Ground Play Area (60%)
- ✦ Ardleigh Recreation Ground Play Area (60%)
- ✦ Alresford Play Area (60%)

Such sites are observed as being well maintained with a good to reasonable variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used given their range and quality of equipment.

Consultation with TDC identifies that Bath House Meadow is a new, inclusive play area supporting children and young people with disabilities in Walton-on-the-Naze. It is fully accessible, within a destination park and access to a changing facility. The Council worked with a specialist company in accessible equipment and expanded the play offer onsite enormously. It offers a mix of challenging, dynamic, and sensory play enhancing social inclusion and amenity benefits. The project is part of a drive to improve public spaces in Walton and across Tendring in support of the TDC's regeneration and tourism strategies.

In addition, several other play areas in the district have been improved since the last study including Halstead Road, Kirby Cross which is another accessible play area. The site has been expanded and made more accessible for disabled people. Additional sensory items and long benches have also been added.

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The Council also highlights it would like to incorporate landscaping and biodiversity to play areas by using natural play equipment. However, gaining off site contributions is challenging.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly enhance value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play. For example, Alresford Park caters for a wide age range of children as it contains play equipment, a floodlit basketball court, football area and a skate park. Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Ground Play Area also features a variety of equipment including a play area, zip wire and trim trail/fitness equipment.

It is also important to recognise the benefits of play in terms of healthy, active lifestyles, social inclusion, and interaction between children plus the developmental and educational value sites can offer. The importance of play and of children's rights to play in their local communities is essential.

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are 93 play provision sites in the district equating to a total of 5.82 hectares.
- ◀ The walk time accessibility standards cover the majority of the area. Although minor catchment gaps are noted to Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea. Exploring the potential to expand the range of equipment at some sites could help to address these gaps.
- ◀ A greater proportion of play sites (66%) rate above the quality threshold. Quality is reasonable in general. However, there are a number of sites that rate below the threshold.
- ◀ The majority of play provision is rated above the threshold for value; reflecting the important role such sites provide.

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PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

The allotments typology provides opportunities for people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.

8.2 Current provision

There are 35 sites classified as allotments in Tendring, equating to over 28 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Current allotments in Tendring

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Clacton-on-Sea	9	8.36	0.19
Frinton-on-Sea	4	4.96	0.41
Harwich	6	3.62	0.22
Rural	16	11.43	0.15
Tendring	35	28.38	0.19

The largest site in the district is Alton Park Road Allotments (2.69 hectares).

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 100 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 populations based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

Tendring based on its current population (145,720) is short of the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Tendring is 36 hectares. Existing provision of 28 hectares therefore does not meet this guideline.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped across Tendring.

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Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against analysis areas

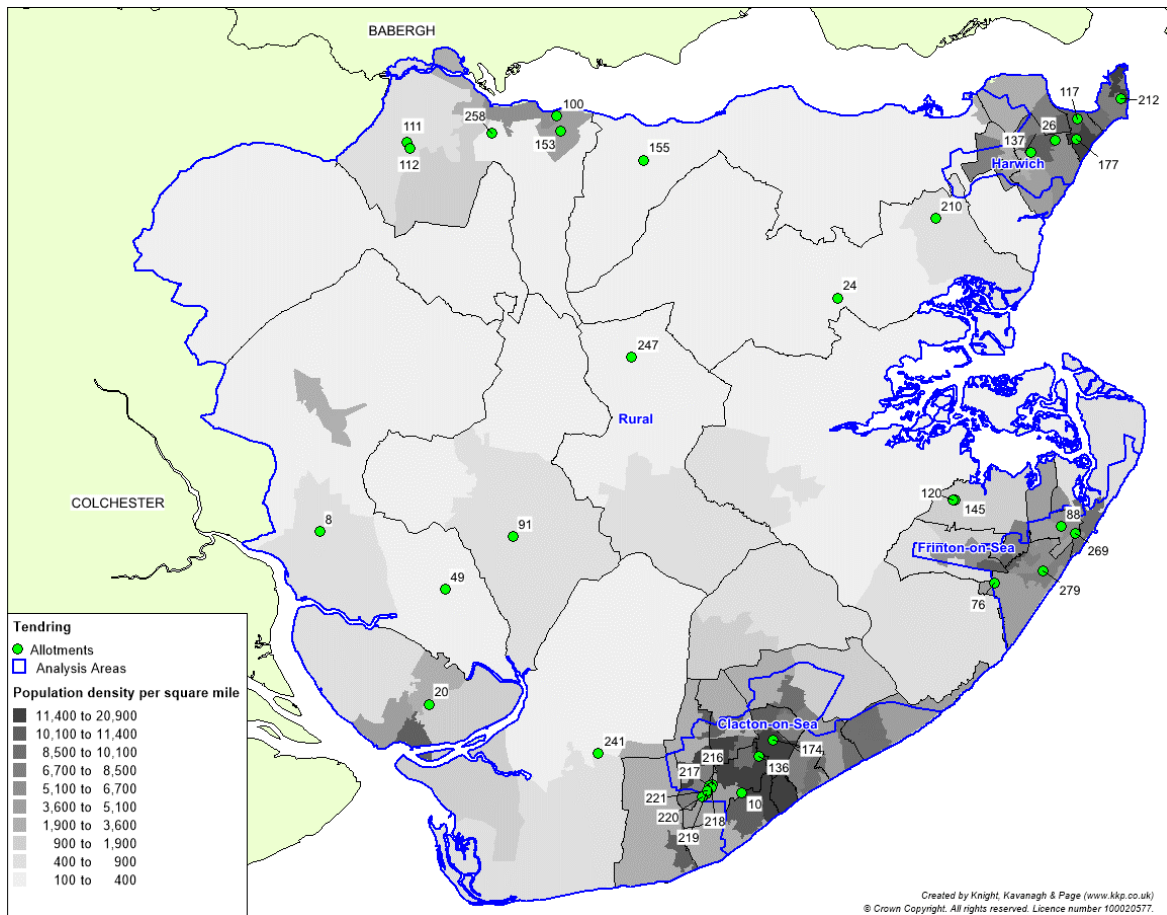


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
8	Alresford Allotments	Rural	0.21	50.1%	58.8%
10	Alton Park Road Allotments	Clacton-on-Sea	2.69	50.1%	58.8%
20	Bayards Allotments	Rural	1.89	43.0%	64.7%
24	Beaumont Road Allotments	Rural	0.44	26.0%	23.5%
26	Boatswains Call Allotments	Harwich	1.20	49.3%	64.7%
49	Clacton Road Allotments	Rural	0.50	53.7%	58.8%
76	Frinton Allotments	Frinton-on-Sea	1.57	41.2%	51.8%
88	Grove Avenue Allotments	Frinton-on-Sea	1.52	48.4%	58.8%
91	Hall View, Allotments	Rural	1.22	51.0%	58.8%
99	Harwich Road Allotments	Harwich	0.10	49.3%	52.9%
100	Harwich Road Allotments, Mistley	Rural	0.32	32.2%	27.1%
111	Hungerdown Lane A	Rural	0.41	43.0%	70.6%
112	Hungerdown Lane B	Rural	1.14	42.1%	58.8%
117	King Georges Allotments	Harwich	0.17	42.1%	64.7%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
120	Kirby-le-Soken Allotments	Rural	1.04	56.4%	58.8%
136	London Road Allotments	Clacton-on-Sea	2.14	46.6%	58.8%
137	Long Meadows Allotments	Harwich	0.21	45.7%	51.8%
145	Maltings Lane Allotments	Rural	0.33	18.8%	20.0%
153	Middlefield Road Allotments, Mistley	Rural	0.22	25.1%	12.9%
155	Mill Lane Allotments	Rural	0.97	53.7%	64.7%
174	Old Road Allotments	Clacton-on-Sea	0.36	39.4%	47.1%
177	Old Vicarage Road Allotments	Harwich	0.84	60.0%	64.7%
210	Rectory Road Allotments	Rural	0.49	26.9%	64.7%
212	Redoubt Allotments	Harwich	1.10	42.1%	64.7%
216	Rush Green Allotments 1	Clacton-on-Sea	1.10	47.5%	45.9%
217	Rush Green Allotments 2	Clacton-on-Sea	0.21	41.2%	47.1%
218	Rush Green Allotments 3	Clacton-on-Sea	0.23	36.7%	47.1%
219	Rush Green Allotments 4	Clacton-on-Sea	0.66	45.7%	29.4%
220	Rush Green Allotments 5	Clacton-on-Sea	0.34	43.9%	47.1%
221	Rush Green Allotments 6	Clacton-on-Sea	0.64	53.1%	47.1%
241	St Osyth Allotments	Rural	0.58	58.2%	47.1%
247	Tendring Green Allotments	Rural	0.08	38.5%	64.7%
258	Trinity Road Allotments, Manningtree	Rural	0.74	49.3%	64.7%
269	Walton Allotments	Frinton-on-Sea	1.68	51.0%	63.5%
279	Waltham Way Allotments	Frinton-on-Sea	0.19	43.0%	51.8%

8.4 Quality

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

Table 8.4: Quality ratings for allotments

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	37%	45%	53%	4	5
Frinton-on-Sea	41%	46%	51%	2	2
Harwich	42%	48%	60%	2	4
Rural	19%	42%	58%	9	7
Tendring	19%	44%	60%	17	18

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Just over half of allotment sites (51%) rate above the threshold for quality. Site assessments highlight that such sites are generally well kept.

The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Old Vicarage Road Allotments (60%)
- ◀ St Osyth Allotments (58%)
- ◀ Kirby-le-Soken Allotments (56%)

These sites are generally observed as having good fencing, signage, pathways, and sufficient personal security. All are welcoming sites and score high for entrances. Kirby-le-Soken Allotments has the additional benefit of car parking.

Sites rating below the quality threshold tend to due to having maintenance issues and narrow paths/entrances. Middlefield Road Allotments Mistley (25%) is observed as being overgrown, abandoned and neglected with no signs or official entrances. Similarly, Beaumont Road Allotments (26%) is also noted as being overgrown. Pathways also score low due to being uneven and narrow.

8.5 Value

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

Table 8.5: Value ratings for allotments

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	29%	48%	59%	0	9
Frinton-on-Sea	52%	56%	64%	0	4
Harwich	52%	61%	65%	0	6
Rural	13%	51%	71%	1	15
Tendring	13%	52%	71%	1	34

All allotments rate above the threshold for value with the exception of one site. This reflects the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.

Trinity Road Allotments, Manningtree (65%) is one of the highest scoring allotment sites for value. The site is recognised for its well-presented appearance and its social and amenity benefits including wide grass paths.

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Allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of open space provision. It is important that allotments are recognised for their social opportunities as well as the broad range of community members they can service. Allotments can be used by families, as well as the older generation.

8.6 Summary

Allotment summary

- ◀ There are 35 allotments sites identified within Tendring equating to over 28 hectares.
- ◀ Current provision of 0.19 ha per 1000 population basis is below the NSALG recommended standard of 0.25 ha per 1000 population.
- ◀ Just over half of the sites (51%) rate above the quality threshold.
- ◀ The majority of allotments (97%) rate above the value threshold. Just one site (Middlefield Road Allotments, Mistley) rates below the threshold. This is likely attributed to the site looking unused as a result from being overgrown and appearing neglected.

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PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

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

9.2 Current provision

There are 24 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to almost 38 hectares of provision in Tendring. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Current cemeteries in Tendring

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Clacton-on-Sea	2	9.96
Frinton-on-Sea	2	0.78
Harwich	4	7.18
Rural	16	19.94
Tendring	24	37.85

The largest contributor to burial provision is Clacton Cemetery (9.40 hectares).

9.3 Accessibility

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

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis areas

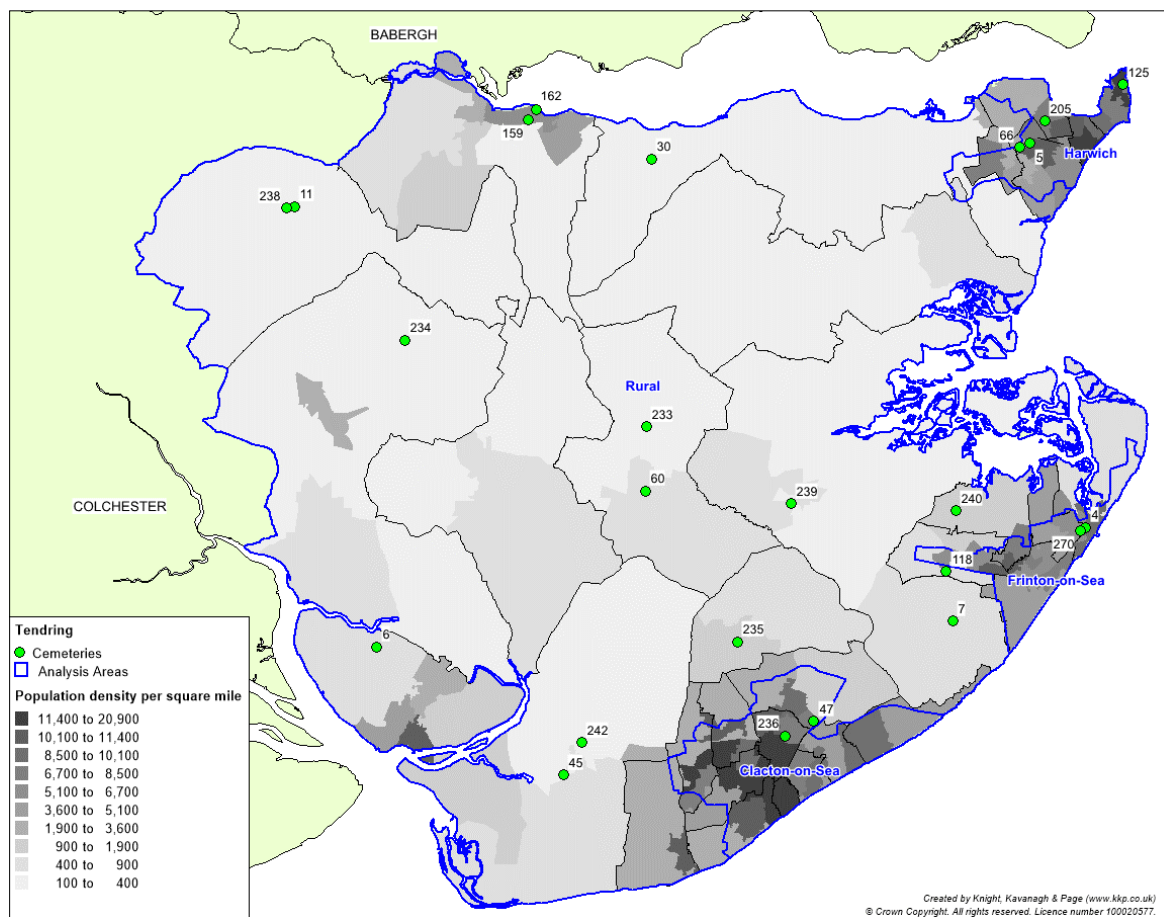


Table 9.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
4	All Saints Church	Frinton-on-Sea	0.18	55.5%	48.9%
5	All Saints Church	Harwich	1.21	39.8%	38.9%
6	All Saints Church, Brightlingsea	Rural	2.13	48.5%	33.3%
7	All Saints Church, Great Holland	Rural	0.41	45.2%	43.3%
11	Ardleigh Cemetery	Rural	0.80	41.9%	27.8%
30	Bradfield Parish Church (St Lawrence)	Rural	0.31	61.2%	50.0%
45	Church of St Peter and St Paul	Rural	0.43	59.1%	33.3%
47	Clacton Cemetery	Clacton-on-Sea	9.40	56.1%	55.6%
60	Weeley Crematorium	Rural	3.02	81.7%	55.6%
66	Dovercourt Cemetery	Harwich	4.53	66.5%	50.0%
118	Kirby Cross Cemetery	Rural	3.96	50.0%	33.3%
125	Land around St. Nicholas Church	Harwich	0.28	52.5%	36.7%
159	Mistley Cemetery	Rural	1.19	47.5%	50.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
162	Mistley Towers	Rural	0.19	46.9%	42.2%
205	Ramsey (Parkeston Cemetery)	Harwich	1.16	26.1%	36.7%
233	St Edmund King & Martyr	Rural	0.42	51.0%	44.4%
234	St George's Church, Great Bromley	Rural	0.25	59.1%	50.0%
235	St James Church, Little Clacton	Rural	0.64	46.5%	33.3%
236	St Johns Church Yard	Clacton-on-Sea	0.55	50.3%	27.8%
238	St Mary's Church, Ardleigh	Rural	0.54	52.3%	27.8%
239	St Michaels Church, Thorpe-le-Soken	Rural	2.15	40.4%	21.1%
240	St Michaels Church, Kirby-le-Soken	Rural	0.95	52.5%	33.3%
242	St Osyth Cemetery	Rural	2.56	60.6%	55.6%
270	Walton Cemetery	Frinton-on-Sea	0.60	31.0%	15.6%

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity. Consultation with TDC identifies that Walton Cemetery is closed.

9.4 Quality

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

Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	50%	53%	56%	0	2
Frinton-on-Sea	31%	43%	55%	1	1
Harwich	26%	46%	66%	2	2
Rural	40%	53%	82%	8	8
Tendring	26%	51%	82%	11	13

Just over half of cemeteries (54%) rate above the threshold for quality. The three sites scoring highest for quality are:

- ◀ Weeley Crematorium (82%)
- ◀ Dovercourt Cemetery (67%)
- ◀ Bradfield Parish Church (St Lawrence) (61%)

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These sites demonstrate high levels of cleanliness and maintenance, with good boundary fencing and signage. The highest scoring site, Weeley Crematorium (82%) is a Green Flag Award site and is observed as a lovely, neat, and cared for site with numerous benches, wide paths and a large car park. It also features several trees and a book of remembrance further adding to the quality of the site.

Similarly, Dovercourt Cemetery is also described as a beautiful, neat site with peaceful surroundings. The site also benefits from a car park, benches and signage.

Other cemetery sites that score above the quality threshold include Clacton Cemetery (56%). This site has had improvements since the last study including the addition of a child burial area to the site. Consultation with TDC highlights that Clacton Cemetery has planning permission to extend it. The site is currently undergoing improvements to further enhance its quality including tree planting as part of a wider Council initiative.

The lowest sites scoring below the threshold are:

- ◀ Land around St. Nicholas Church (19%)
- ◀ Walton Cemetery (31%)
- ◀ Ramsey (Parkeston Cemetery) (34%)

Walton Cemetery and Ramsey (Parkeston Cemetery) have fewer ancillary features such as seating, bins and signage. Despite Land around St. Nicholas Church scoring low, it has good entrances, paths, benches and bins. The site is observed more as an amenity due to no gravestones and the layout despite it having a church building. There are no quality issues noted with the site. Walton Cemetery (31%) scores below the quality threshold due to having poor maintenance including tilted or fallen gravestones, no benches, or paths between gravestones. Consultation with TDC identifies it as now being closed.

9.5 Value

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

Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Clacton-on-Sea	28%	39%	50%	0	2
Frinton-on-Sea	16%	32%	49%	1	1
Harwich	26%	38%	50%	0	4
Rural	21%	40%	56%	0	16
Tendring	16%	39%	56%	1	23

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Nearly all cemeteries and churchyards are rated as being of high value, reflecting their role within local communities.

Weeley Crematorium, St Osyth Cemetery and Clacton Cemetery score the highest for value (56%). The former two sites are very visually attractive and score highly for structural and landscape benefits.

Weeley Crematorium is a Green Flag Award site, a reflection of its quality and value benefits offered. All three sites have high amenity and social value due to peaceful settings and ancillary features, such as benches, encouraging usage and places to relax. Tree planting and wildlife opportunities also provide enhanced ecological value to the sites.

In addition, the cultural/heritage value and the sense of place they provide for local people is acknowledged in the assessment scoring. High scoring sites for value offer visual benefits and opportunities to serve an important function for a local community. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can often offer important low impact recreational benefits to the local area (e.g. habitat provision, wildlife watching).

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries summary

- ◀ There are 24 cemeteries and churchyards: equating to almost 38 hectares of provision.
- ◀ Quality of provision is generally mixed. Over half (54%) rate above the threshold for quality but nearly all sites (96%) rate above the value threshold. It can be assumed that cemeteries are of high value due to their important community role and function.
- ◀ Of particular note, is the Green Flag Award at Weeley Crematorium, a clear indicator of its high standard of quality.
- ◀ It is important for the need for burial provision to be driven by the demand for burials and remaining capacity of sites.

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PART 10: GREEN CORRIDORS

10.1 Introduction

The green corridors typology includes sites that offer opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.

No quality or value ratings are provided for such forms of provision as it cannot be assessed in the same way as an open space site.

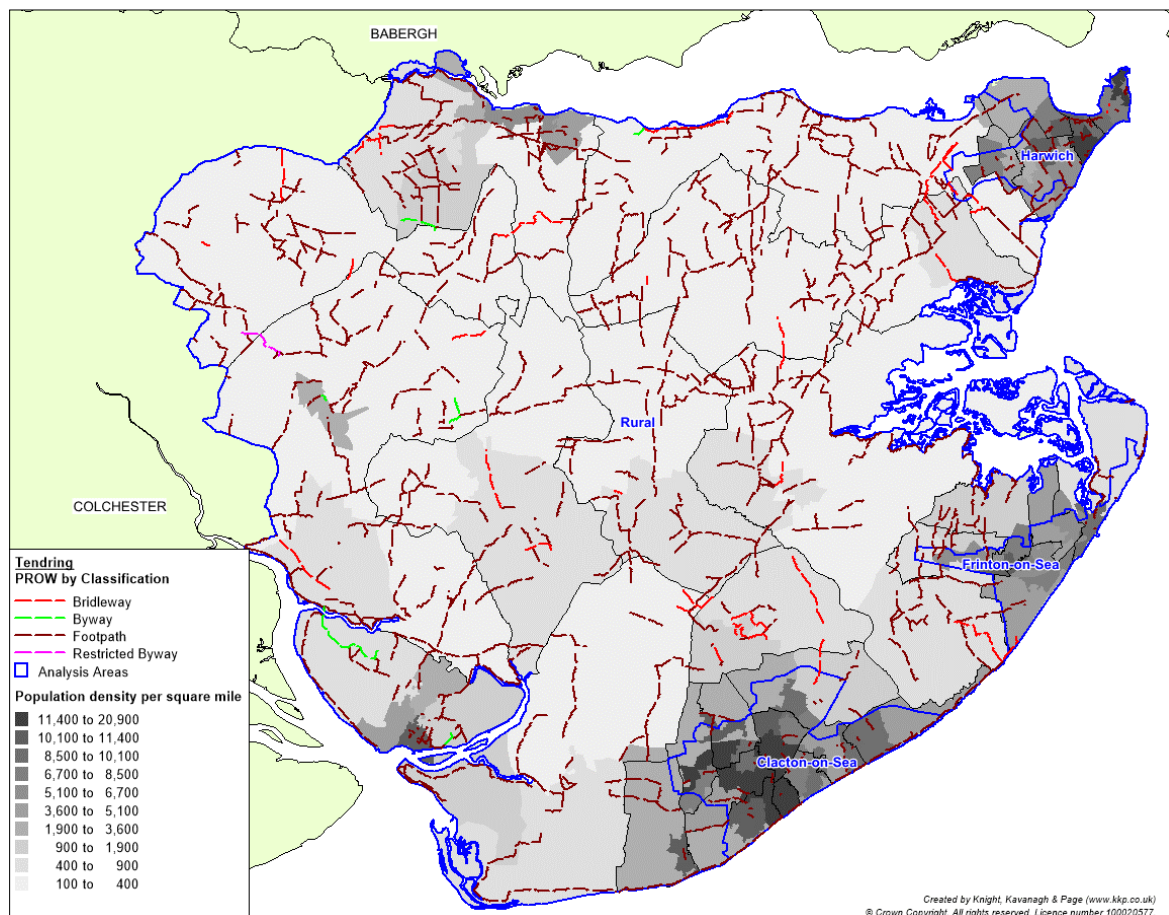
10.2 Current provision

There is an extensive public rights of way network across the district particularly in rural areas. The majority of the network is noted as being classified as footpaths. The area is also served by two National Cycle Network routes (routes 150 and 51). Route 51 is also recognised as part of the EuroVelo network of long-distance cycle routes across Europe.

10.3 Accessibility

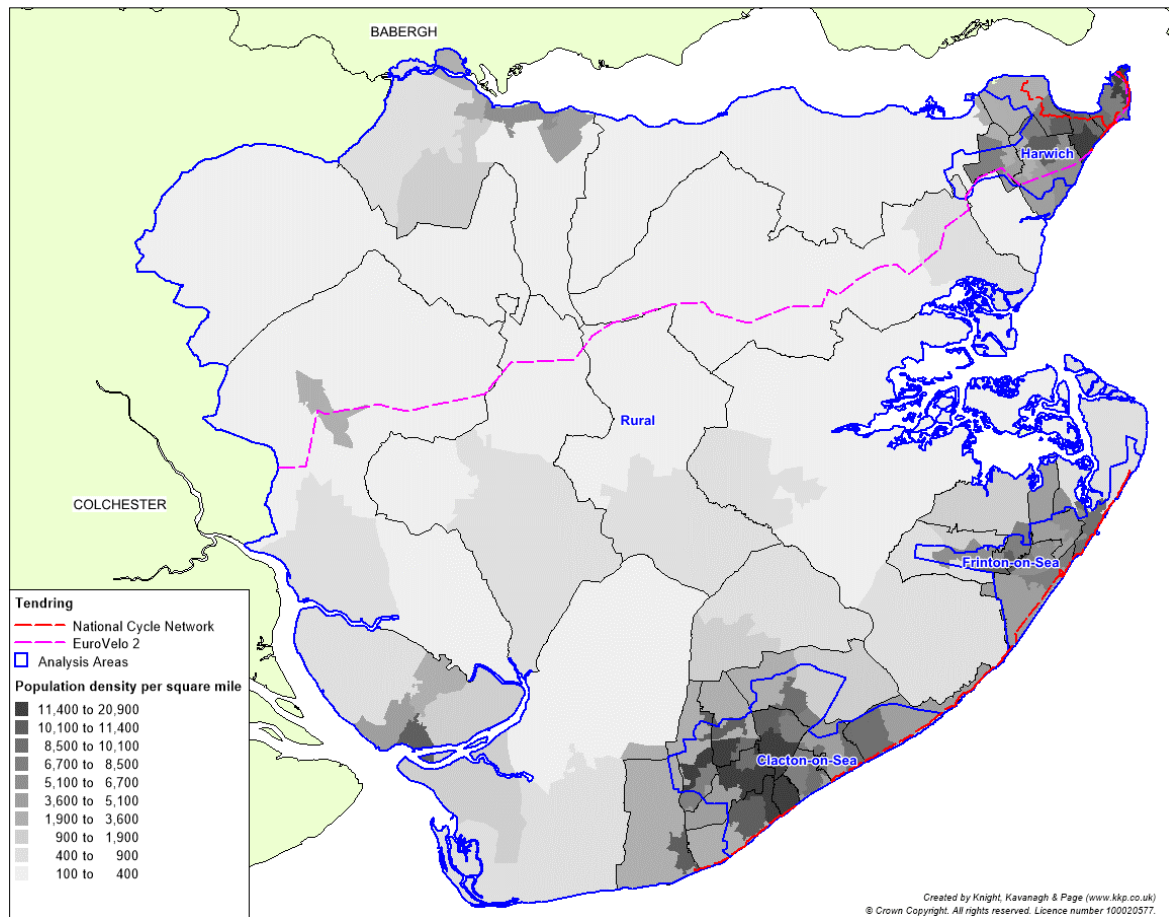
It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their linear nature and usage. Figure 10.1 and 10.2 show the PROW and cycle networks across the area.

Figure 10.1: Public Rights of Way network



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Figure 10.2: National cycle network



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PART 11: PROVISION STANDARDS

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

11.1: Quality and value

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

Quality and value matrix

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

The high/low classification gives the following possible combinations of quality and value:

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

There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low-quality sites. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance sites where it is not appropriate or cost effective to do so. Please refer to the individual typology sections as well as the supporting excel database for a breakdown of the matrix.

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11.2: Accessibility

Accessibility catchments are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors underpinning catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process the concept of 'effective catchments' are used, defined as the distance that most users would travel. The accessibility catchments do not consider if a distance is on an incline or decline. They are therefore intended to act as an initial form of analysis to help identify potential gaps.

For most typologies FIT accessibility standards have been used.

Table 12.2.1: Recommended accessibility standards

Open space type		Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens		710m	9 minutes
Amenity Greenspace		480m	6 minutes
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		720m	9 minutes
Provision for children and young people	LAP	100m	1 minute
	LEAP	400m	5 minutes
	NEAP	1,000m	12 ½ minutes
	Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	700m	9 minutes
Allotment		n/a	n/a
Cemeteries		n/a	n/a
Green corridors		n/a	n/a

No catchments are suggested for the typologies of allotments, cemeteries or green corridors. For these types of provision, it is difficult to assess such provision against catchment mapping. For some, such as allotments and cemeteries, it is better to determine need for provision based on locally known demand.

If an area does not have access to provision (consistent with the catchments) it is deemed deficient. KKP has identified instances where new sites may be needed, or potential opportunities could be explored in order to provide comprehensive access (i.e. a gap in one form of provision may exist but the area in question may be served by another form of open space). Please refer to the associated mapping to view site catchments.

The following tables summarise the deficiencies identified from the application of the accessibility standards. In determining any subsequent actions for identified gaps, the following are key principles for consideration:

- ◀ Increase capacity/usage in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Enhance quality in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ◀ Commuted sum for ongoing maintenance/repairs to mitigate impact of new demand

These principles are intended to mitigate for the impact of increases in demand on existing provision. An increase in population will reduce the lifespan of certain sites and/or features (e.g. play equipment, maintenance regimes etc). This will lead to the increased requirement to refurbish and/or replace such forms of provision.

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Table 11.1.2: Sites helping to serve gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Clacton-on-Sea	Carisbrooke Avenue (ID 42) Old Road Recreation Ground (ID 175) Rush Green (ID 215) St Johns Recreation Road (ID 237)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Harwich	Harwich and Dovercourt Rugby Club (ID 97) Lodge Road (ID 134) Longmeadows Open Space (ID 138) Mace Park (ID 144) Welfare Park (ID 273)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rural	Bayards Recreation Ground (ID 21) Dorking Crescent (ID 62) Mistley Recreation Ground (ID 161) Elmstead Market Recreation Ground (ID 207) Riverview, Manningtree (ID 214) Scholl Lane Open Space (ID 226) Stangers Corner Complex (ID 245) Strawberry Avenue (ID 246)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

Table 11.1.3: Sites helping to serve gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Clacton-on-Sea	Clacton Marine Parade East (ID 48) Marine Parade West (ID 148) Martello Tower Marine Parade (ID 149) Open Space (the gap) (ID 179) Public Gardens, Station Road (ID 202) Vista Road Recreation Ground (ID 265)	Amenity Park Park Amenity Park Amenity
Frinton-on-Sea	Edenside Open Space (ID 70) Frinton-on-Sea Esplanade (ID 78) Hillside (ID 106)	Amenity Amenity Amenity
Rural	Hurst Green (ID 113) Lower Park Playing Field (ID 141) Mistley Recreation Ground (ID 161) Elmstead Market Recreation Ground (ID 207) Western Promenade (ID 276)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

Table 11.1.4: Sites helping to serve gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Clacton-on-Sea	Marine Parade West (ID 148) Martello Tower Marine Parade (ID 149) Public Gardens, station Road (ID 202)	Park Park Park
Harwich	Bobbits Hole (ID 27) The Hangings (ID 251)	Natural Natural

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For play provision, no alternative open spaces serve the same function. However, an option could be to explore and encourage opportunities to expand provision at existing sites nearest to where the gap in current provision is highlighted.

Table 11.1.5: Sites helping to serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Clacton-on-Sea	Burrs Road Play Area (ID 39.1) Eastcliff Play area (ID 69.1) Hereford Road Play Area (ID 104.1) Marine Parade West Play Area (ID 148.1) Vista Road Recreation Ground Play Area (ID 265.1) Windsor Road Play Area (ID 277.1)
Frinton-on-Sea	Frinton Park Play Area (ID 75.1 & 75.2) Halstead Road Play Area (ID 92.1)

11.3: Quantity

Quantity standards can be used to identify areas of shortfalls and help with determining requirements for future developments.

Setting quantity standards

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

Shortfalls in quality and accessibility standards are identified across the district for different types of open space (as set out in Parts 11.1 and 11.2). Consequently, the Council should seek to ensure new developments contribute to the overall provision of open space.

The current provision levels are used as a basis to inform and identify potential shortfalls in existing provision. These can also be used to help determine future requirements as part of new developments.

Table 11.3.1: Summary of current provision levels

Typology	Quantity level (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.11
Amenity greenspace	1.92
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.97
Provision for children & young people	0.04
Allotment	0.19

The current provision levels can be used to help identify where areas may have a shortfall. Table 11.3.2 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space.

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Table 11.3.2: Current provision shortfalls by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Play provision	
	(Hectares per 1000 population)									
	0.11		3.97		1.92		0.19		0.04	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Clacton-on-Sea	0.19	+0.08	0.73	-3.24	2.29	+0.37	0.19	Level	0.02	-0.02
Frinton-on-Sea	0.07	-0.04	0.23	-3.74	4.06	+2.14	0.41	+0.22	0.05	+0.01
Harwich	0.36	+0.25	2.51	-1.46	1.68	-0.24	0.22	+0.03	0.07	+0.02
Rural	0.02	-0.09	6.82	+2.85	1.41	-0.51	0.15	-0.04	0.05	+0.01

All analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. However, no analysis area is highlighted as having shortfalls across all open space types.

The table also shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall in terms of provision for children and young people. Most areas are shown as having a sufficiency. However, Clacton-on-Sea is the only sub area highlighted as having a shortfall.

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Identifying priorities

Several quantity shortfalls in the open space typologies are highlighted. However, creating new provision to address these shortfalls (particularly any quantity shortfalls) is often challenging (as significant amounts of new forms of provision would need to be created). A more realistic approach is to ensure sufficient accessibility and quality of existing provision.

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should be endorsed. Further insight to the shortfalls is provided within each provision standard summary (Parts 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3).

Quantity levels should still be utilised to indicate the potential lack of provision any given area may have. However, this should be done in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of provision in the area.

The current provision levels could also be used to determine the open space requirements as part of new housing developments. In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments.

If this is not considered viable, the column signalling whether an area is sufficient or has a quantity shortfall may be used to help inform the priorities for each type of open space within each area (i.e. the priorities may be where a shortfall has been identified).

11.4: Recommendations

The following section provides a summary on the key findings through the application of the standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to help address the issues highlighted.

Recommendation 1

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

Part 11.2 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision.

Table 11.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
21	Bayards Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
27	Bobbits Hole	Natural	Amenity
39.1	Burrs Road Play Area	Play	Play
42	Carisbrooke Avenue	Amenity	Parks
48	Clacton Marine Parade East	Amenity	Natural
62	Dorking Crescent	Amenity	Parks
69.1	Eastcliff Play Area	Play	Play
70	Edenside Open Space	Amenity	Natural
75.2	Frinton Park Play Area	Play	Play

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
78	Frinton-on-Sea Esplanade	Amenity	Natural
92.1	Halstead Road Play Area	Play	Play
97	Harwich and Dovercourt Rugby Club	Amenity	Parks
104.1	Hereford Road Play Area, Holland-on-Sea	Play	Play
106	Hillside, Frinton On Sea	Amenity	Natural
113	Hurst Green	Amenity	Natural
134	Lodge Road	Amenity	Parks
138	Longmeadows open space	Amenity	Parks
141	Lower Park Playing Field	Amenity	Natural
144	Mace Park	Amenity	Parks
148	Marine Parade West	Parks	Natural/Amenity
148.1	Marine Parade West Play Area	Play	Play
149	Martello tower Marine Parade West	Parks	Natural/Amenity
161	Mistley Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks/Natural
175	Old Road Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
179	Open Space (the Gap)	Amenity	Natural
202	Public Gardens, Station Road	Parks	Natural/Amenity
207	Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks/Natural
214	Riverview, Manningtree	Amenity	Parks
215	Rush Green	Amenity	Parks
226	School Lane Open Space	Amenity	Parks
237	St Johns Road Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
245	Strangers Corner Complex	Amenity	Parks
246	Strawberry Avenue	Amenity	Parks
251	The Hangings	Natural	Amenity
265	Vista Road Recreation Ground	Amenity	Natural
265.1	Vista Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Play	Play
273	Welfare Park	Amenity	Parks
276	Western Promenade	Amenity	Natural
277.1	Windsor Avenue Play Area	Play	Play

These sites currently help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Where possible, the Council may seek to adapt these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to help meet the gaps highlighted.

These sites should therefore be viewed as open space provision that are likely to provide multiple social and value benefits. It is also important that the quality and value of these sites is secured and enhanced (Recommendation 2).

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Recommendation 2

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

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards. The quality and value matrix of the supporting database identifies the sites that should be given priority. A list of low quality and/or value sites currently helping to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 11.4.2 below.

Table 11.4.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
62	Dorking Crescent	Amenity	Parks
106	Hillside, Frinton-on-Sea	Amenity	Natural
134	Lodge Road	Amenity	Parks
138	Longmeadows open space	Amenity	Parks
202	Public Gardens, Station Road	Parks	Natural/Amenity
207	Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks/Natural
245	Strangers Corner Complex	Amenity	Parks
246	Strawberry Avenue	Amenity	Parks
251	The Hangings	Natural	Amenity
276	Western Promenade	Amenity	Natural

Recommendation 3

- ◀ *Recognise areas with sufficient provision in open space and how they may be able to meet other areas of need*

For an area with a sufficiency in one type of open space, and where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that type.

For instance, Frinton-on-Sea has a potential sufficiency in amenity greenspace but a potential shortfall in natural greenspace. Consequently, the function of some amenity greenspace could look to be strengthened to act as natural greenspace provision.

It is important that other factors, such as the potential typology change of a site creating a different catchment gap and/or the potential to help serve deficiencies in other types of provision should also be considered. The Council may also be aware of other issues, such as the importance of a site for heritage, biodiversity or as a visual amenity, that may also indicate that a site should continue to stay the same typology.

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Next steps

Supplementary Planning Document

The Council may wish to update/establish a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide further detail on the policies and proposals within the Local Plan. An SPD focusing on open space provision standards and how they will be applied could assist in the consideration and determining of planning applications.

The following topics may wish to be considered as part of the Council's updated SPD:

- ◀ Policy context – where does the requirement for open space sit in terms of national and local planning policy
- ◀ Overview of the evidence base used to inform setting of standards
- ◀ Explanation to the set provision standards
- ◀ Explanation to how the standards are applied and how contributions are calculated
- ◀ Setting process for calculating the financial contribution for off-site provision or improvements
- ◀ Design principles for open space provision
- ◀ Setting process for calculating maintenance costs required

