



TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

DRAFT OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

APRIL 2017

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kkp.co.uk www.kkp.co.uk



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Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	C. Daniel/ A. Lomax	March 2017
Quality control	C. Macfarlane	April 2017
Client comments	D. Walker	April 2017
Agreed sign off		

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Glossary

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
RoSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
TDC	Tendring District Council

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Open Space Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Tendring District Council (TDC). It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study.

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It identifies any needs and gaps in provision.

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

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 73 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.

As a prerequisite paragraph 74 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.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. The table below details the open space typologies included within the study:

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Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

	Typology	Primary purpose
Greenspaces	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.
	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, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

This report sets out the supply and demand issues for open space provision across the District of 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 originally defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'; it is structured as follows:

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

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1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework

The 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. 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.

Under paragraph 73 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

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- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

1.3 Local context

Tendring's Corporate Plan 2010-2016. Tendring Life: A place to be proud of

The Council's Corporate Plan (Tendring Life) sets out the Council's long term aims to shape and develop the District. Its purpose is to focus the full resources of the Authority on improving and sustaining the economic, social and environmental fabric ensuring Tendring District is a place residents, businesses and visitors can be proud of. The key priorities to achieving this are summarised below:

- ◀ Build a thriving local tourism industry which supports and enhances both coastal towns and the countryside. This will be achieved by stimulating investment in attractions within resorts and promoting what local communities have to offer.
- ◀ Promote sustainable economic growth by ensuring there are more jobs, unemployment stays at or below the national average and wages remain at or above average. In addition, local businesses are supported.
- ◀ Ensure people have the knowledge and skills to secure good employment through improved educational attainment and reducing the number of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). Working with employers and a range of partners through programmes to increase skills of the district's young people and the wider workforce.

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- ◀ Reduce health inequalities and increase life expectancy across the district by working with North East Essex CCG and other partners, focusing on employment, fuel poverty, housing, obesity and poverty.
- ◀ Promote and encourage healthy and active lifestyles by providing a range of activities and services by working with a range of partners. Also, improving facilities within all communities to ensure that there is increased activities for people of all ages.
- ◀ Remain a low crime area and reduce the fear of crime. Working with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to deliver services which will reduce crime.
- ◀ Regenerate the District and improve deprived areas by working with partners and potential funders to deliver improved infrastructure and regeneration in Jaywick, Harwich and Clacton.
- ◀ Ensure all TDC residents live in high quality, affordable housing which meets local needs. In addition, housing land allocations are made available to support sustainable mixed developments.
- ◀ Protect and enhance TDC's environment, countryside and coast by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, reducing the amount of carbon, developing good coastal flood and inland flood protection and enhancing the natural assets of the coast and countryside.

The Corporate Plan states that to ensure its priorities are achieved, there will be a focus on encouraging and sustaining more people in sport and physical activity. One key factor in delivering this is to have accessible indoor and built sports facilities throughout the District. In addition, a wide range of physical activity programmes must be made available to all via a coordinated approach to reduce health inequalities. This should involve key stakeholders, including, for example, North East Essex CCG.

Tendring District Local Plan: 2013-2033 and Beyond

The Local Plan sets out the vision and key policies for the District to be implemented between 2013-2033. The vision is to ensure TDC is a vibrant, healthy and attractive place to live, work and visit. This will be achieved through the following key objectives:

Table 2.1: Tendring District Local Plan objectives

Objective	Description
1	◀ Provide new dwellings within Tendring District up to 2033 of sufficient variety in terms of sites, size, types and tenure. ◀ Deliver high quality sustainable new communities.
2	◀ Provide for the development of employment land on a variety of sites to support a diversity of employment opportunities and to achieve a better balance between the location of jobs and housing.
3	◀ Promote the vitality and viability of the town centres, exploiting the benefit of enhanced growth of the town whilst retaining the best and valued aspects of its existing character.

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Objective	Description
4	- Make efficient use of existing transport infrastructure and ensure sustainable transport opportunities are promoted in all new development. - Enable provision of upgraded broadband infrastructure and services. - Ensure that new growth brings opportunities to enhance existing services, facilities and infrastructure for the benefit of existing and new communities.
5	- Improve and provide good quality educational opportunities and prospects for Tendring's residents as part of sustainable community strategy. - To work with partners in the National Health Service, local health organisations and local community groups to ensure adequate provision of healthcare facilities to support growing communities.
6	Locate development within Tendring District where it will provide the opportunity for people to satisfy their day-to-day needs for employment, shopping, education, and other services locally or in locations which minimise the need to travel and where there are modes of transport available in addition to the use of car.
7	Conserve and enhance Tendring District's heritage, respecting historic buildings and their settings, links and views
8	Provide a network of multi-functional green spaces which secures a net gain in biodiversity, provides for the sporting and recreational needs of the population, promotes healthy lifestyles and enhances the quality of the natural and built environment.
9	Reduce the risk of flooding by securing the appropriate location and design of new development, having regard to the likely impact of climate change
10	Work with partners to provide an enhanced environment for tourism and the maritime sector and its associated services.

Tendring Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2016)

This underpins the Local Plan and is there to address infrastructure needs for the following:

- Education (schools, early years and childcare and other education provision).
- Health (health care and emergency services provision).
- Utilities (potable water, used water, electricity, gas and telecommunications).
- Transport (road and public transport capacity and environmental improvements to pedestrian spaces).
- Green Infrastructure.
- Community Facilities.
- Coastal and Flood Defences.

PART 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study area and population

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Tendring District is treated as one complete analysis area. The Standards Paper to follow on from this Assessment Report will set and explore the levels of provision at a Ward level against applied standards to identify any instances of shortfalls.

In terms of population, Tendring District is identified as having a population of 141,183. Clacton-on-Sea is its largest settlement and, as of 2015, (40,013) 28% of the District's population lived there. The seaside towns of Frinton-on-Sea and Harwich account for a further 5% and 8% of the population respectively.*

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows a map of the study area with population density and settlements.

2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. In total, 236 open spaces (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of open space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with the PPG17 Companion Guidance:

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

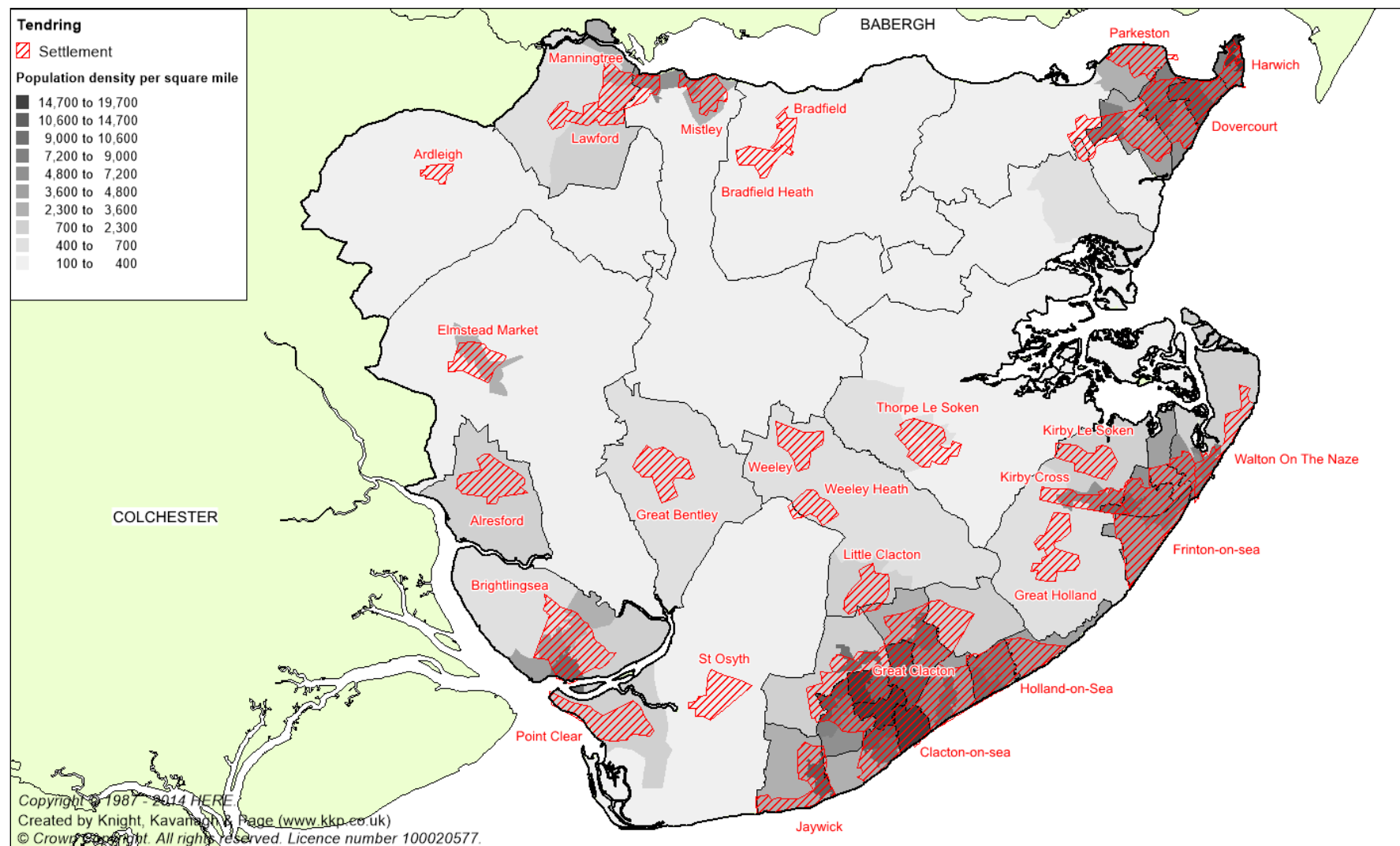
In accordance with best practice recommendations a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. The table below details the threshold for each typology:

Typology	Size threshold
Parks and gardens	no threshold applied
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	0.2 ha
Amenity greenspace	0.2 ha
Provision for children and young people	no threshold applied
Allotments	no threshold applied
Cemeteries/churchyards	no threshold applied

* Populations are based on a proportional sum from Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). LSOAs take into account the population that falls approximately within an area.

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Figure 2.1: Tendring study area



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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 assessed, identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded on it. 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
- ◆ Management
- ◆ Typology
- ◆ Size (hectares)
- ◆ Site visit 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 Quality and value

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high-quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; however, a rundown (poor quality) space 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. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores. 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 within and to a particular open space typology.

Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially derived upon those 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 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

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Criteria for assessing provision for children and young people are also built around Green Flag. It is a non-technical visual assessment of the 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 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 the Companion Guide 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.

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

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) ✦ 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., promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far
Value - non site visit criteria (score)
✦ Designated site such as Local Wildlife Sites ✦ Educational programme in place ✦ Historic site ✦ Listed building or scheduled monument on site ✦ Registered 'friends of' group to the site

Play provision for children and young people 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.

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

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

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The baseline threshold for assessing quality can be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is not appropriate for every open space typology as it is designed to represent a sufficiently high standard of site. Quality thresholds are, thus, worked out so as to better reflect average scores for each typology. Consequently, the baseline threshold for certain typologies is amended to better reflect this.

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold applied is derived from our experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites. Whilst 20% may initially seem low it is relative score - designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). The table below sets out the quality and value scores for each typology.

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	60%	20%
Allotments	45%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	50%	20%

2.5 Accessibility standards

Accessibility standards for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that is willing to be travelled by the majority of users.

Guidance on appropriate walking distance and times is published by Fields In Trust (FIT) in its document *Beyond the Six Acre Standard* (2015). These guidelines have been converted in to an equivalent time period in the table below.

Table 2.3: FIT walking guidelines

Open space type	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens	710m	9 minute
Amenity Greenspace	480m	6 minute
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	720m	9 minute

FIT also offers appropriate accessibility distances for children play provision. These vary depending on the designation of play provision (LAP, LEAP, NEAP). This is set out in Table 2.4.

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It is considered that the 100m catchment for LAP provision is too small a catchment to realistically represent any meaningful 'on the ground' analysis. Consequently the 400m catchment FIT suggest has been used for both LAP and LEAP forms of provision.

Table 2.4: FIT walking guidelines for play provision

Type of play space	Walking guideline
LAP	100m
LEAP	400m
NEAP	1000m

No standard is set for the typologies of allotments or cemeteries. There is no national recommendation in terms of accessibility distances for such forms of provision. For cemeteries, it is difficult to assess such provision against catchment areas due to its role and usage.

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PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section provides a summary of the quality and value ratings for each typology in the District of Tendring. It also includes a summary of the 81 responses from the online survey. Specific typology details are covered in the relevant sections later in the report.

3.1 Quality audit

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. Table 3.1 summarises the results of all the quality assessments for open spaces across the District.

Over half of assessed open spaces in the District (61%) rate above the quality thresholds set. Proportionally there are a higher percentage of amenity greenspace (70%) and provision for children and young people (68%) sites that score above their set quality threshold.

The quality of other open space typologies is generally mixed. For instance, 64% of natural and semi natural greenspaces, 60% of allotments, 58% of parks and gardens and 42% of cemeteries rate below the threshold.

Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	50%	29%	53%	80%	23	53
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	14%	39%	89%	16	9
Park and gardens	50%	29%	51%	74%	7	5
Provision for children & young people	60%	20%	66%	88%	21	45
Allotments	45%	25%	45%	60%	15	21
Cemeteries	50%	31%	52%	82%	9	12
TOTAL					91	145

3.2 Value audit

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 across the District.

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, 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 that are thought of as bland and unattractive.

Nearly all sites (92%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects that nearly all typologies rate high for value, reflecting their role in and importance to local communities and the environments.

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No typologies have a significant proportion of sites to rate below the threshold for value. The typology with the highest number of sites rating below the value threshold is natural and semi-natural (32%). This reflects a lack of ancillary features at some sites leading to a lack of recreational use in comparison to other sites. These include a lack of bins and benches. The typology also contains a number of sites perceived to be maintained to a lesser extent in comparison to other similar sites. However, the value these sites provide in offering habitats for wildlife as well as visual amenity may still be important.

It is important to remember that even though a site may score above the threshold for value, it may still be of lower quality. Both factors should be recognised when considering the future of sites moving forwards.

Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	8%	38%	78%	6	70
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	6%	29%	64%	8	17
Park and gardens	26%	45%	59%	0	12
Provision for children & young people	14%	49%	62%	2	64
Allotments	13%	52%	71%	1	35
Cemeteries	16%	41%	61%	1	20
TOTAL				18	218

3.3 Survey results

Frequency of visits

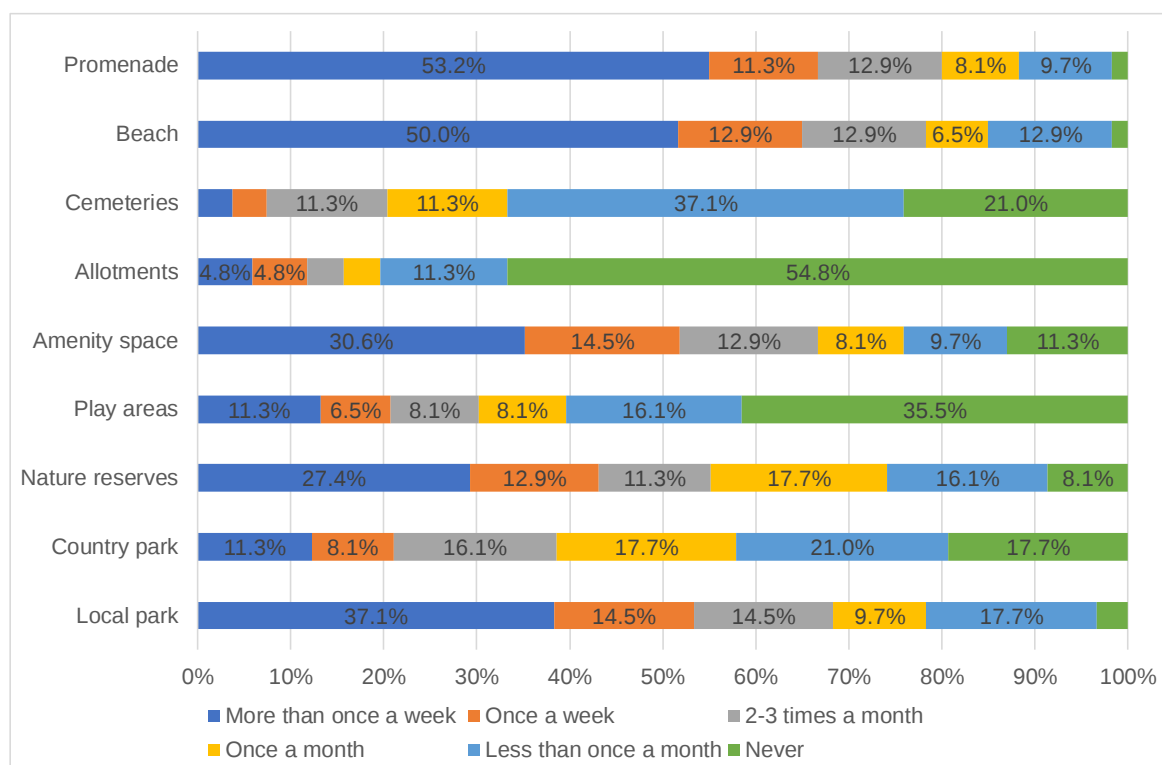
Survey participants were asked how often they visit each type of open space. A high proportion of respondents identify visiting typologies such as parks more than once a week (37%) which is an indication of the popularity of this type of provision. However, the most popular types of open space to be visited more than once a week are promenades (53%) and beaches (50%). Other popular open spaces also visited on a regular basis (i.e. more than once a week) include amenity greenspace (31%) and nature reserves (27%).

Provision such as cemeteries and churchyards are visited on a less frequent basis with more respondents (37%) stating they visit this type of site less than once a month. This is relatively typical of this type of provision. A similar trend can also be seen for country parks; with 21% of respondents stating they visit less than once a month.

A large proportion of respondents indicate they do not access allotment provision (55%). Not surprising given the niche attraction and use of such sites.

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Figure 3.1: Types of open space visited in the previous 12 months



A total of 60% of respondents identify visiting open space provision outside of the District within the last 12 months on a regular basis (i.e. four or more times). Only a handful of respondents cite any specific sites such as Colchester Castle and coastal areas.

Table 3.3: Visiting provision outside of Tendring

Have you regularly visited an open space provision outside Tendring in last 12 months?	
Yes	60%
No	40%

Accessibility

Findings from the Survey show that most individuals travel on foot in order to access different types of open space provision.

Walking to access provision particularly for local parks and public gardens is evident. A greater proportion of respondents (53%) indicate a willingness to walk to provision of this type, with a 15-minute walk time (34%) most common.

For some typologies, there is a willingness, if not a majority, to travel a greater distance by transport. For instance, respondents indicate more of a preference to travel by transport (private car) to access country parks (55%) and nature reserves (58%).

For most other forms of provision a willingness to walk is indicated with an average travel time of 15 minutes in general being stated overall.

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Figure 3.2: Method of travel to open space sites

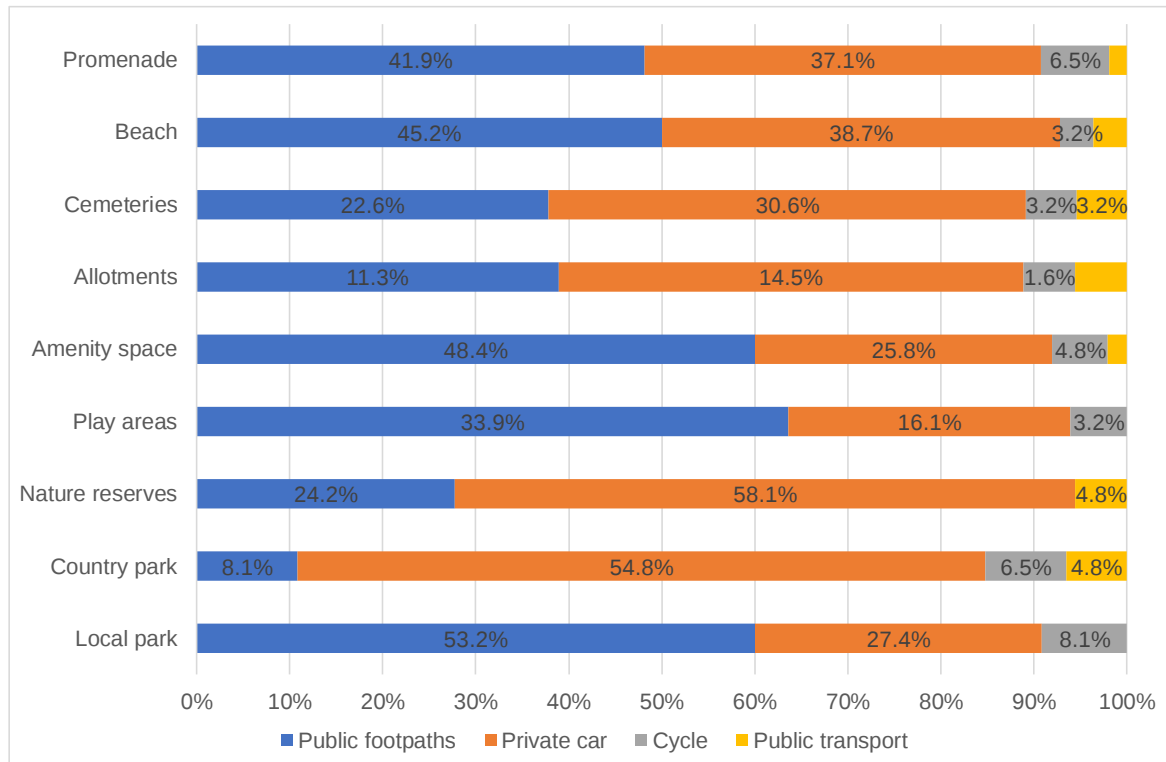
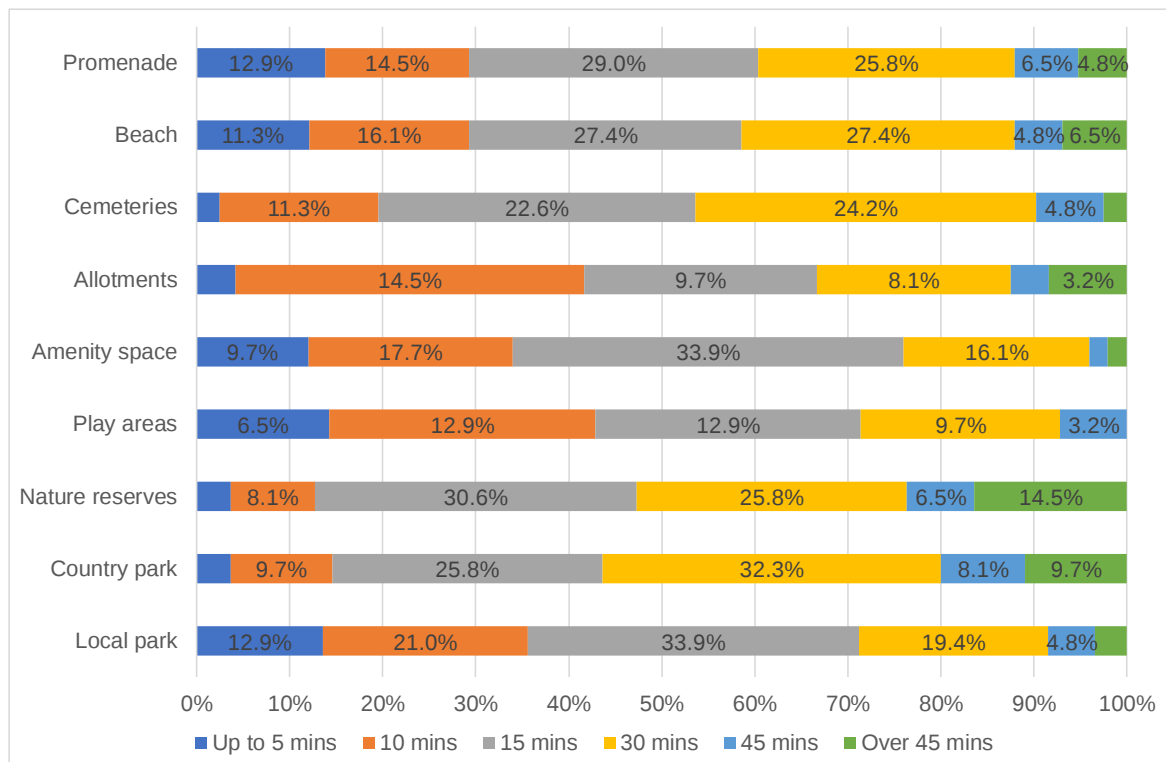


Figure 3.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



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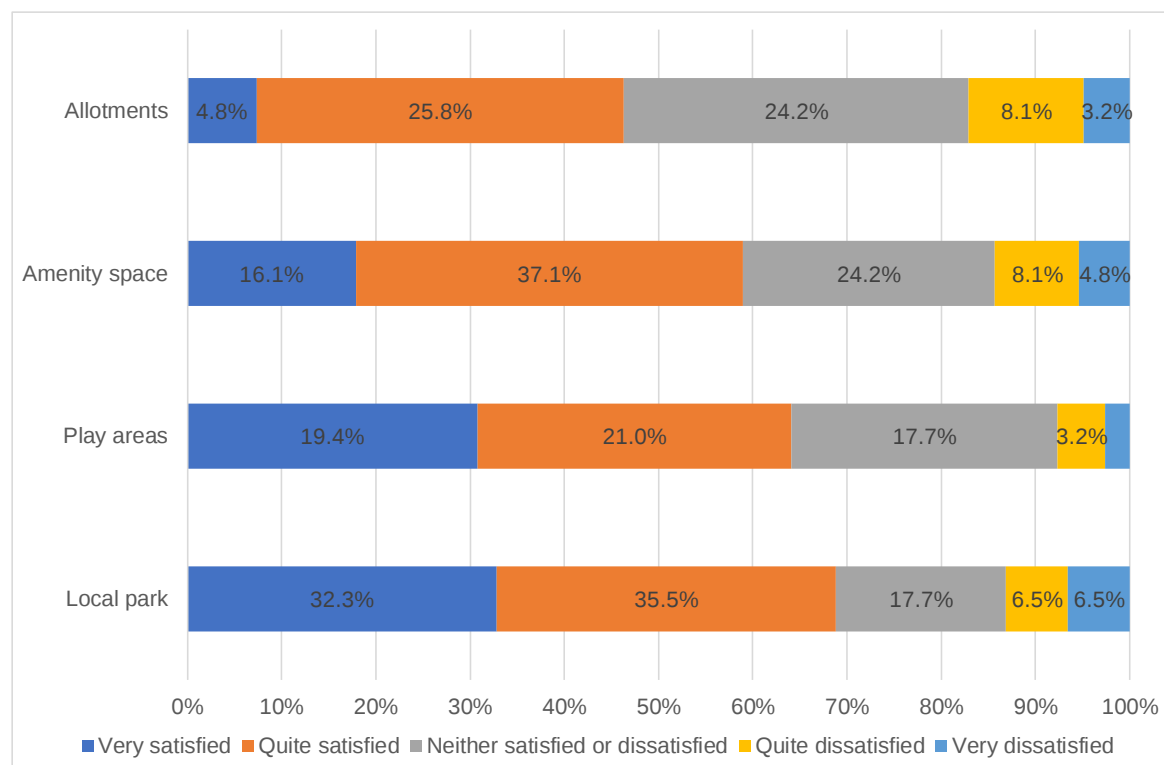
Availability

For most typologies respondents generally consider the availability i.e. the amount of provision, to be either quite or very satisfactory.

Typologies such as parks are viewed as predominantly being to a satisfactory level in terms of availability. It receives the highest proportion of responses for being quite and very satisfactory (68%). This is followed by amenity space with 53% of respondents being either quite or very satisfactory.

Play areas also receive a reasonable proportion of respondents that rate availability as either very satisfactory (19%) or quite satisfactory (21%); a total of 40% of respondents.

Figure 3.4: Satisfaction with availability of open spaces



Proportionally there are a higher percentage of respondents that rate the quality of beaches (81%) and promenades (78%) in the very and quite satisfied categories. This is a reflection to their general good appearance and high standard. This is followed closely by parks (74%).

Nearly all typologies are viewed by respondents as being quite or very satisfactory in terms of quality; with the exception of allotment provision. The typology receives a higher percentage of respondents who are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with quality of provision (29%). Again, this is likely to be a reflection to the niche use of such sites.

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Figure 3.5: Quality scores for all open space typologies

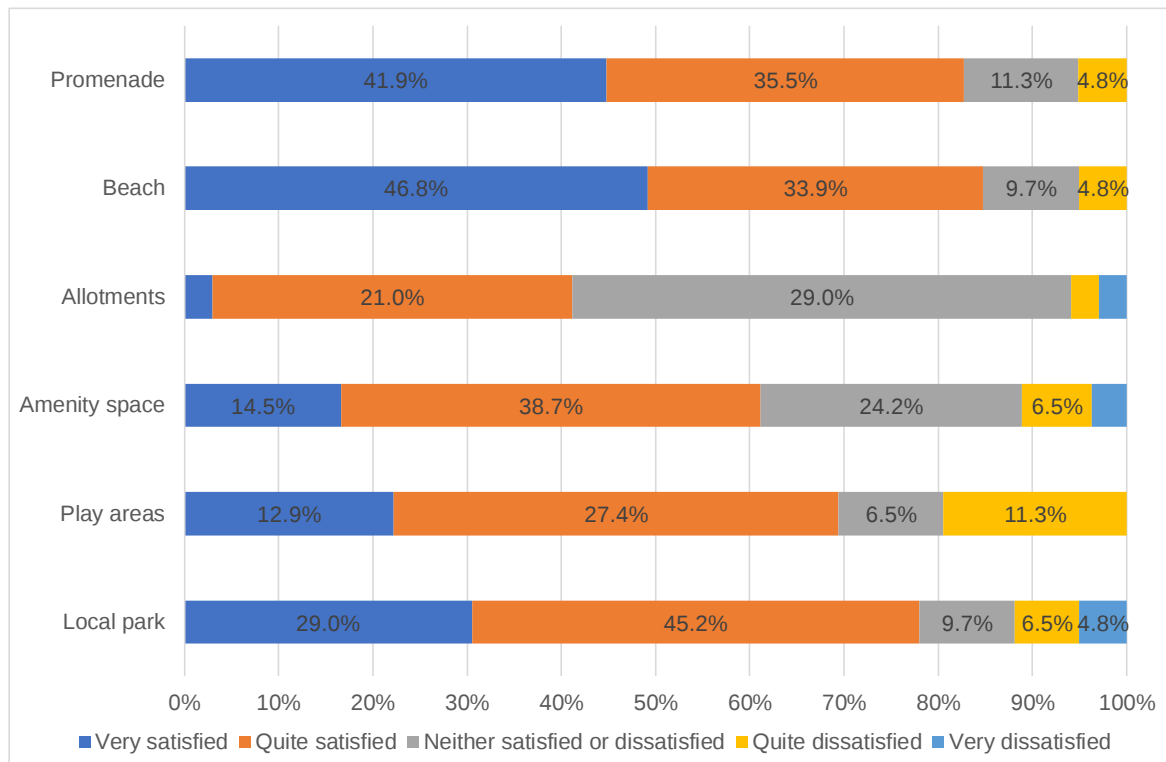
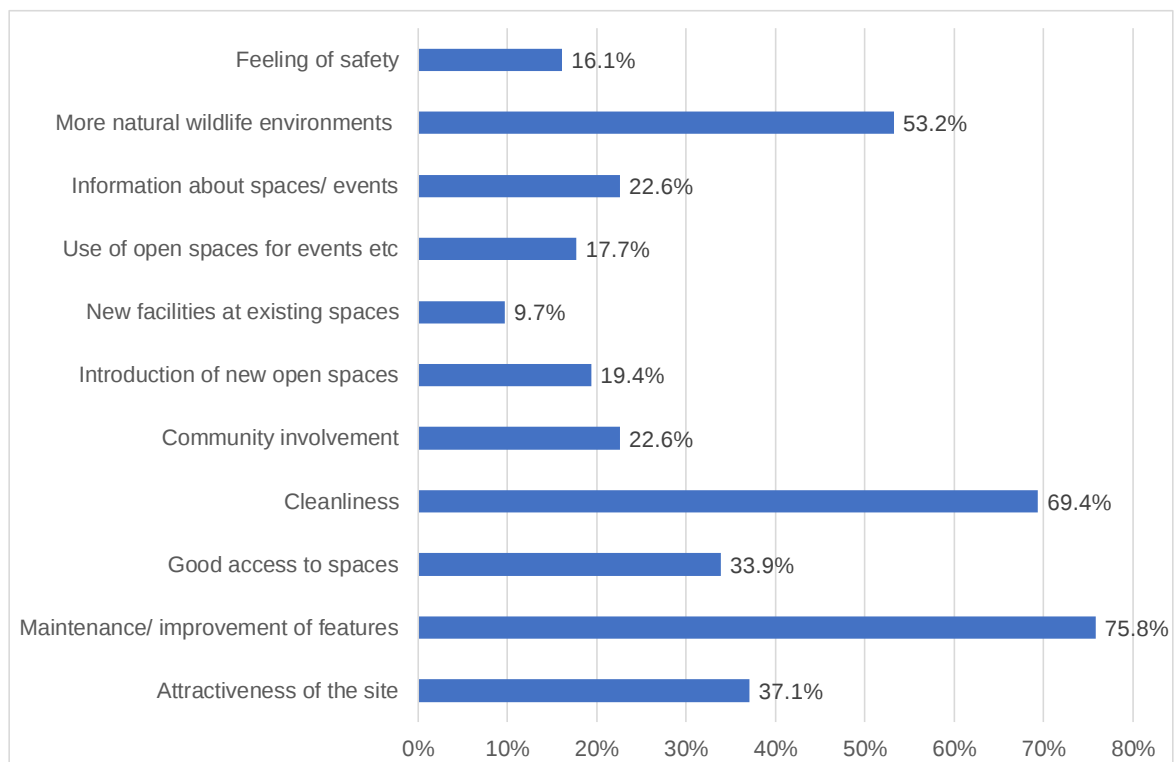


Figure 3.6: Important for open spaces in your area



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Respondents were asked what they thought was most important for open spaces within the areas where they live. The most common answer was maintenance and improvement of features on sites such as footpaths, seating etc (76%). This is followed by cleanliness (69%) and more natural wildlife environments (53%).

3.4 Summary

General summary

- ◆ In total 236 sites in the District are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to over 869 hectares. A total of 236 sites are assessed in terms of quality and value.
- ◆ Accessibility standards set for typologies are based on Fields In Trust guidance. Catchment mapping demonstrates that for most typologies there is a general good level of coverage.
- ◆ A slightly higher proportion of open space (61%) rates above the thresholds set for quality. Most noticeably, more amenity greenspace sites and provision children and young people score above the threshold for quality.
- ◆ Quality of other forms of open space is mixed; a reflection to the wide variation of sites (and the features they contain) included within the study.
- ◆ Nearly all open spaces (92%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of open space provision and its role in offering social, health and environmental benefits.

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 12 sites classified as parks and gardens in the District of Tendring, this equates to over 19 hectares.

Table 4.1: Summary of parks and gardens

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectares	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Tendring	12	19.09	0.13

A current standard of 0.13 hectares per 1,000 population is observed. This is lower than the FIT recommended quantity standard of 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population. Based on quantity, this would suggest new forms of provision are required.

The two largest forms of parks provision are Marine Parade West (4.5 hectares) and Michaelstowe Hall (8.0 hectares). These equate for 66% of parks provision identified in the District. The average size of most park sites is approximately 1.6 hectares.

It is important to also recognise that some sites classified as a different form of open space will also contribute to the perception of parks provision. For example, sites such as Holland Haven Country Park will provide and in some ways as a park space. However, for the purposes of this study, and for the need to classify a site by its primary function, the site is included in the natural and semi-natural greenspace section in Part 5.

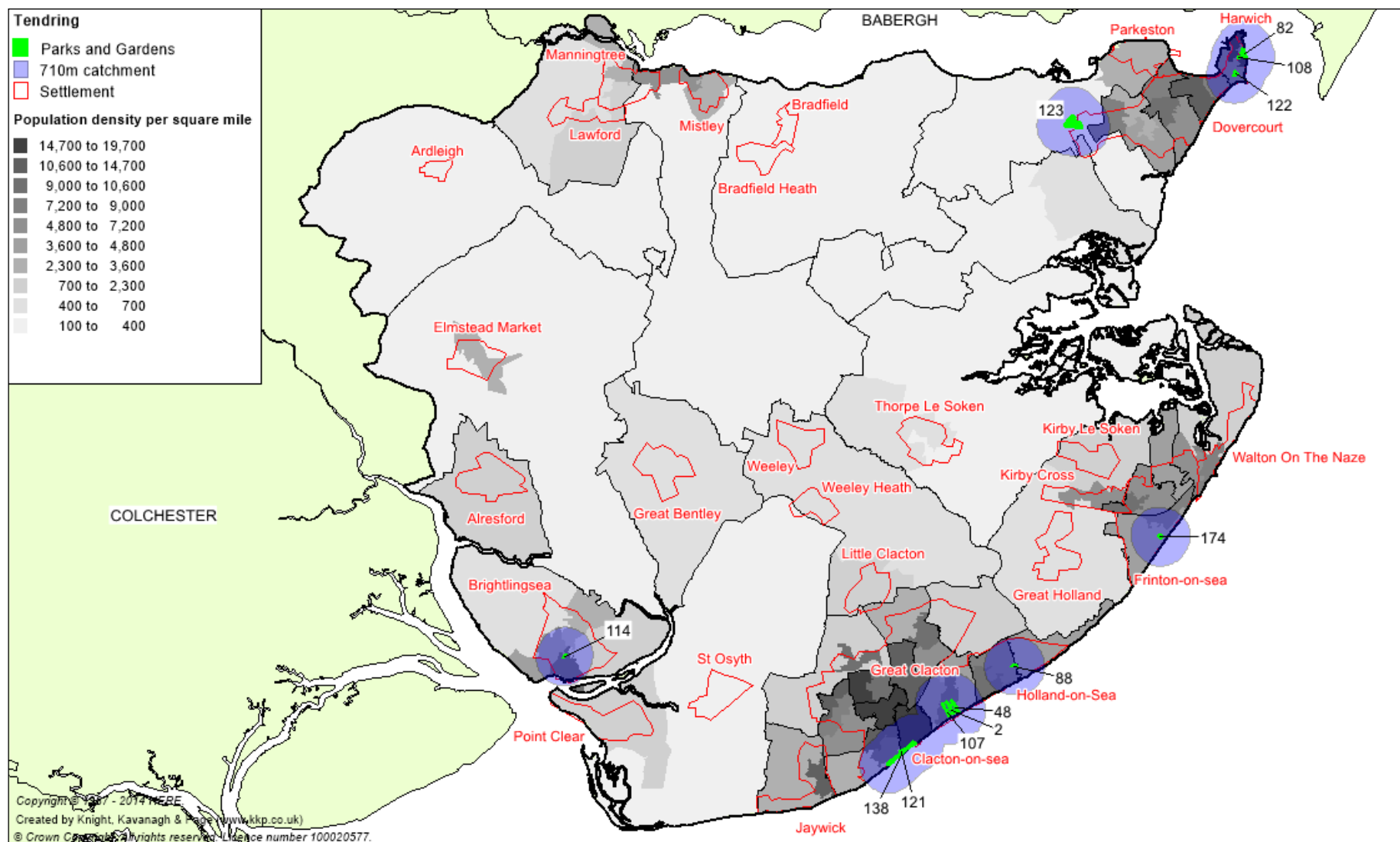
4.3 Accessibility

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.

Figures 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.

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Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens with 710m catchments



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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
2	Albany Gardens	46.4%	48.2%
48	Connaught Gardens	39.1%	46.4%
82	Harwich Green	74.3%	54.5%
88	Hereford Road Park	28.6%	28.2%
107	Lancaster Gardens	42.6%	52.7%
108	Land at Cox's Pond Main Road	48.1%	46.4%
114	Lower Green Gardens	55.1%	43.6%
121	Martello tower Marine Parade West	51.7%	34.5%
122	Mayors Gardens	49.7%	43.6%
123	Michaelstowe Hall	41.5%	26.4%
138	Marine Parade West	72.6%	59.1%
174	The Crescent	64.2%	59.1%

There is overall an adequate distribution of parks across the District of 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, Harwich, Frinton-on-Sea and Clacton-on-Sea. Many of these gaps are served by other forms of open space provision such as natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. Exploring the potential to formalise features associated with parks provision on some of sites could be considered in order to increase a sites secondary function as a park. The Standards Paper will look to explore the need and options with regard to this approach.

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 the District of 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 4.3: Quality scores for parks

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Tendring	29%	51%	74%	46%	7	5

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Most park and garden sites in the District (58%) rate below the threshold for quality. There are however 42% which rate above the threshold. The highest scoring site is Harwich Green with (74%). This is closely followed by Marine Parade West, scoring 73%. Both these sites score well for having a high level of maintenance and general appearance. This is especially the case for Marine Parade West, which scores highly for its landscaping and maintenance. Both sites contain a number of ancillary features including ramps, toilets, parking, bins, benches, picnic tables, lighting and disability friendly pathways.

In addition, Harwich Green, has a cafe, play area and ancient monument. Marine Parade West has attractive flower beds. All elements are observed as being to a high standard.

Other high scoring sites for quality in the District are The Crescent (64%) and Lower Green Gardens (55%). Similar to the sites already discussed, these sites also contain a number of ancillary features (e.g. seating, bins, controls to prevent illegal use and disabled friendly pathways) all of which are maintained to a good quality.

Sites to score below the quality threshold are Albany Gardens (46%), Connaught Gardens (39%), Hereford Road Park (29%), Lancaster Gardens (43%), Land at Cox's Pond Main Road (48%), Mayors Gardens (50%) and Michaelstowe Hall (42%).

It is important to note, although these sites do score below the threshold for quality, they generally do not have any specific quality issues. All but three of these sites are observed as having a good overall standard of maintenance and cleanliness as well as having good pathways, which allow for disabled access. The main reason for lower quality scores is a lack of additional features in comparison to higher scoring sites.

For example, Hereford Road Park is reported to have no seating or benches or litter bins on site. Should these lower scoring sites be scored against criteria for other typologies, such as amenity greenspace, they may score higher for quality. Therefore, it may be worth reviewing the primary use of these sites and look to reclassify. Alternatively, providing more features and facilities at these sites such as bins, benches, signage and lighting will help to improve the quality of the sites against the quality criteria used for scoring park sites.

Michaelstowe Hall scores poorly due to no bins, seating, relatively low personal security and paths unsuited for many, coupled with the steep gradient of the area leading to the river. The site maybe better suited as a natural and semi-natural classification.

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award scheme is licensed and managed by Keep Britain Tidy. It provides national standards for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements, identified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality. This, in turn, impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

A survey by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those without it. Its survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park

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visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

There are currently three Green Flag Award sites identified in the District. Two of these Green Flag Award sites are classified as parks; The Crescent in Frinton-on-Sea and Marine Parade West in Clacton-on-Sea. Both score highly and in the top three of high scoring park sites from the audit.

The other Green Flag Award site in the area is Weeley Crematorium in Weeley. Please see Part 9 for more detail.

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 the Tendring District. 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 4.4: Value scores for parks

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Tendring	26%	45%	59%	33%	0	12

All parks are assessed as being of high value from the site visit assessments. One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is that they can provide opportunities for local communities and people to socialise, relax and exercise. The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities such as sport, dog walking or taking children to the play area are frequently recognised.

The highest scoring sites for value are Marine Parade West and The Crescent (59%). These sites are recognised as Green Flag Award winning sites, with strong ecological benefits and landscape benefits such as attractive flowerbeds. Both sites have active Friends of Groups to provide additional maintenance and visual enhancements.

4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- There 12 sites classified as parks and gardens totalling over 19 hectares.
- The highest 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. No specific quality issues are highlighted. The lower score is thought to reflect the lack of ancillary features present at some sites when comparing to the quality criteria for parks provision.
- Sites scoring the lowest for quality; Hereford Road Park and Connaught Gardens may score higher against quality if categorised as a different form of open space (e.g. amenity greenspace and/or natural greenspace). Therefore, consideration to reclassifying these sites

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should be given.

- ◀ All park and garden sites score high for value; a reflection to the social interaction, health benefits and sense of place sites offer.

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, 25 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 546 hectares of provision. These totals may 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.

Table 5.1: Summary of natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Tendring	25	546.72	3.87

A current standard of 3.87 hectares per 1,000 population is observed. This is significantly greater than the FIT recommended quantity standard of 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population. Based on quantity, this would suggest no new forms of provision are required.

The largest forms of parks provision are Holland Haven Country Park (210 hectares), Wrabness Nature Reserve (97 hectares) and Seafront and Cliffs (43 hectares). These equate for 64% of natural and semi-natural provision identified in the District.

Designations

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

- ◀ Bobbits Hall (0.53 hectares)
- ◀ Burrsville Nature Reserve (11.29 hectares)
- ◀ Cockaynes Wood (5.47 hectares)
- ◀ Great Holland Pits (13.80 hectares)
- ◀ Holland Haven Country Park (209.78 hectares)
- ◀ Home Wood, Hythe (7.11 hectares)
- ◀ Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve, Great Clacton (3.68 hectares)
- ◀ Wrabness nature Reserve (97.00 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 (141,183) is recommended to have approximately 141 hectares of LNR provision. As it stands, Tendring District currently meets this standard with of 348 hectares of LNR provision identified.

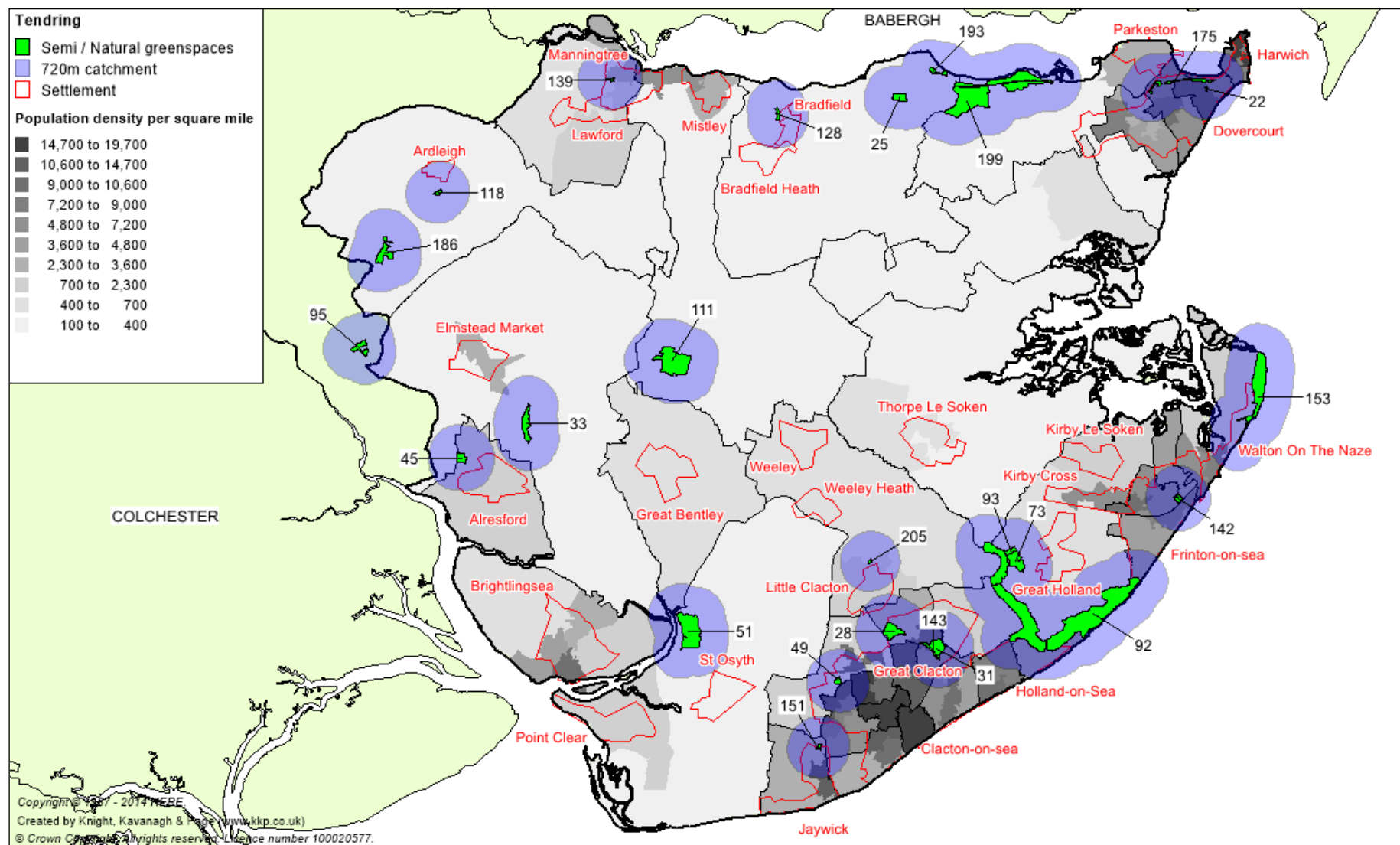
This study, in order to comply with guidance uses locally informed standards does not focus on the ANGSt Standard for accessibility as this uses a different methodology for identifying accessible natural greenspace to that advocated in the PPG17 Companion Guidance.

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 mapped



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Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
22	Bobbits Hole	54.9%	31.7%
25	Brakey Grove	18.6%	17.3%
28	Brook Country Park	67.0%	43.3%
31	Burrsville Nature Reserve	50.1%	31.7%
33	Captains Wood	15.9%	15.4%
45	Cockaynes Wood	46.6%	38.5%
49	Coppins Hall Wood	37.5%	22.1%
51	Country Park off B1027	53.1%	33.7%
73	Great Holland Pits	39.8%	31.7%
92	Holland Haven Country Park	71.1%	52.9%
93	Holland Mill Wood	38.6%	31.7%
95	Home Wood, Hythe	73.7%	44.2%
111	Little Bentleyhall Wood	20.4%	7.7%
118	Manor House Meadow	17.7%	5.8%
128	Millgrove Wood	21.2%	21.2%
139	Owl Flight	36.3%	22.1%
142	Pedlars Wood	39.8%	37.5%
143	Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve, Great Clacton	15.9%	19.2%
151	Sacketts Grove	33.6%	27.9%
153	Seafront and Cliffs	88.8%	64.4%
175	The Hangings	14.2%	15.4%
186	Walls Wood	23.0%	17.3%
193	West Grove/East Grove	18.6%	15.4%
199	Wrabness Nature Reserve	58.4%	43.3%
205	Little Clacton Meadow Millennium Green	27.1%	37.5%

Figure 5.1 shows a reasonable distribution of provision across Tendring District. However, there are some noticeable settlements not covered by catchment mapping. Weeley, Thorpe-le-Soken, Brightlingsea and Kirby le Soken are all 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 such as the seafront and beaches. There is therefore unlikely to be a need to meet this gap.

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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 5.3: Quality scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Tendring	14%	39%	89%	75%	16	9

Sixteen sites (64%) rate below the quality threshold applied. It is worth noting that two of these sites, Pedlars Wood and Holland Mill Wood, do only score marginally below the 40% threshold with 39.8% and 38.6%. Less than half of natural and semi-natural greenspace sites (36%) in the District of Tendring rate above the threshold for quality.

The two lowest scoring sites are Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve, Great Clacton and The Hangings. These sites score 16% and 14% for quality. Neither of these sites, or any of the other sites scoring below the threshold, are reported as having any concerning quality issues. However, they are identified through site assessments as having fewer features and the majority have a lower standard of access/pathways. Moreover, Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve is reported to being a isolated with poor pathways.

It is not unusual for natural and semi-natural sites to be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation and promotion of flora and fauna activity. However, this may result in some sites scoring lower due to a lack of ancillary features in comparison to other natural sites.

Higher scoring sites are maintained to a high standard and have a good range of features and facilities including seating, bins and signage. The majority of these sites also have good pathways. The three highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites are Seafront and Cliffs, Home Wood Hythe and Holland Haven Country Park. These sites score 89%, 74% and 71% respectively. Notes from site observations describe these sites as having conservation features and as being important landmarks in the area. The highest scoring site; Seafront and Cliffs also has additional ancillary facilities such as parking and toilets as well as a cafe. It also has a heritage society, national cycle network and habitat conservation. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

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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 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Tendring	6%	29%	64%	59%	8	17

The majority of natural and semi-natural greenspaces rate above the threshold for value (68%). 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. As a result, it is unsurprising that both rate highly for value, with scores of 53% and 64% respectively.

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- There are 25 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering over 546 hectares.
- On a population basis (i.e. hectares per 1000 population), the current level of provision is 3.87 hectares per 1000 population. This is greater than the FIT standard of 1.80 hectares.
- The walk time accessibility standard shows 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.
- There are seven designated LNRs in Tendring District totalling over 348 hectares. This results in the District sufficiently meeting the ANGSt standard for quantity of provision.
- Less than half of natural and semi-natural greenspace sites in the District rate above the threshold for quality. Those sites that rate below the threshold mainly do so due to a lack of ancillary features and facilities.
- Nearly all sites rate above the threshold for value. This is firstly a reflection of the ecological value these sites offer through the habitats they provide for wildlife. Further to this, some sites provide opportunities for exercise, learning and social inclusion.

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

This is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

6.2 Current provision

There are 76 amenity greenspace sites in the District of Tendring; equivalent to over 234 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways that provide a visual amenity. Provision also includes a number of larger sites such as recreation grounds and playing fields.

Table 6.1: Summary of amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Tendring	76	234.72	1.66

A current standard of 1.66 hectares per 1,000 population is observed. This is higher than the FIT recommended quantity standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population for amenity greenspace. Based on quantity alone, this would suggest no new forms of provision are required.

There are also a number of sites classified as parks and gardens which may offer a similar role and function to amenity greenspace. Against the FIT standard there is a potential shortfall in the quantity of parks and gardens provision as well as gaps in catchment mapping (see Part 4). If the two typologies are combined due to the overlap and shared similarities in the two forms of open space. Together there is 254 hectares of parks and amenity greenspace across the District. This equates to 1.81 hectares per 1,000 population. A FIT combined standard would recommend a quantity standard of 1.40 hectares per 1,000 population (0.80 for parks and 0.60 for amenity greenspace). Consequently, exploring the potential for some amenity greenspace sites to be enhanced in order to help meet the FIT standard in terms of provision could be considered. This would also help to serve potential accessibility gaps in parks provision.

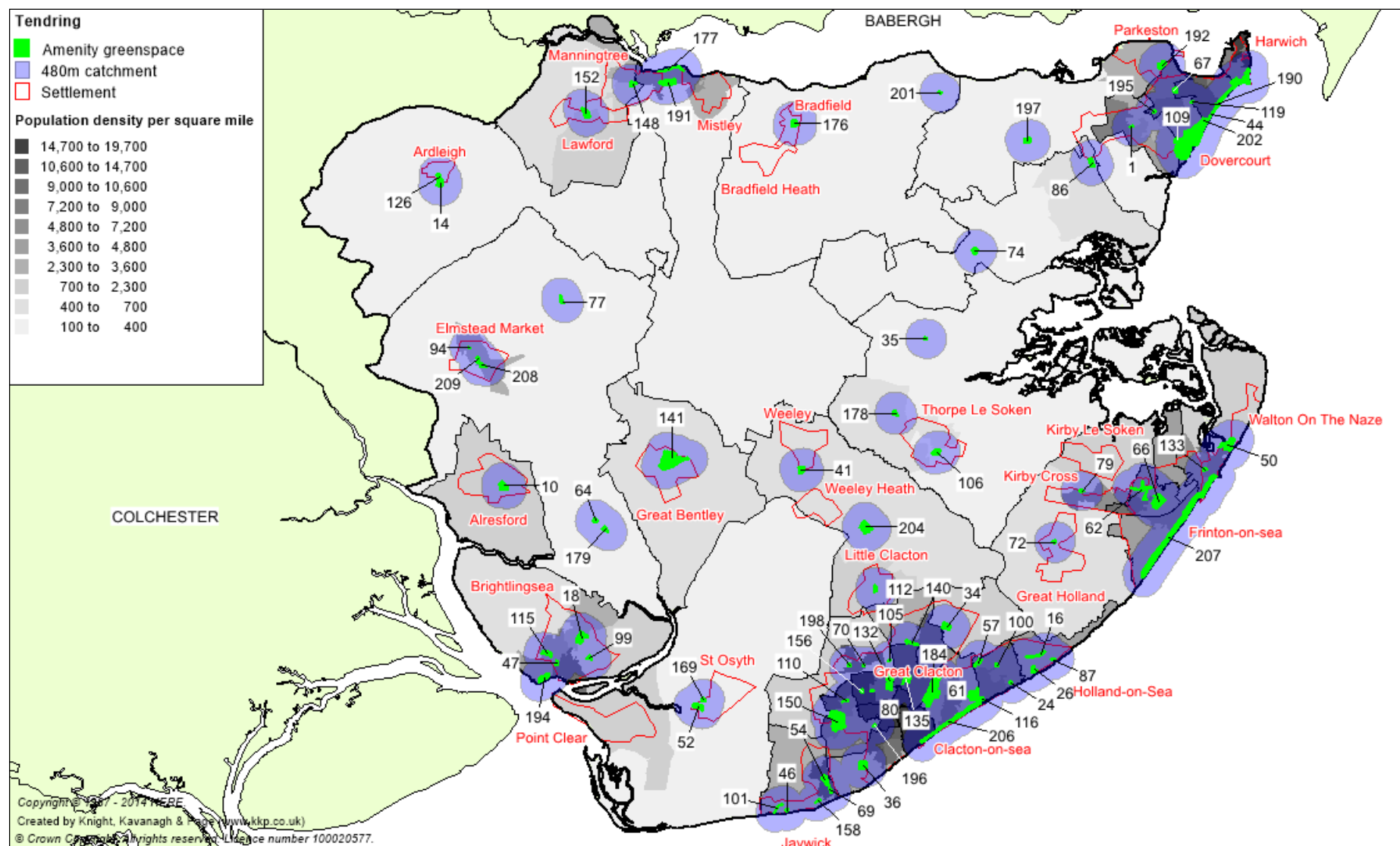
6.3 Accessibility

Catchment mapping is based on the Fields in Trust accessibility guidelines. FIT guidance recommends an accessibility walking guideline of 480m for amenity greenspace. This is an equivalent to a six-minute walk time.

Figure 6.1 shows the standards applied to amenity greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace with 480m walk time mapped



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Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
1	Abdy Avenue Playing Fields	50.4%	22.2%
10	Alresford Recreation Ground	60.2%	44.4%
14	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	75.2%	32.2%
16	Aylesbury Drive Open Space	42.0%	18.9%
18	Bayards Recreation Ground & Allotment Gardens	66.4%	33.3%
24	Bowling Green Marine Parade	51.9%	37.8%
26	Brighton Road Open Space	51.6%	32.2%
34	The Grove Open Space	50.4%	38.9%
35	Chapel Road Playing Field	64.6%	44.4%
36	Cherry Tree Ave Open space	38.1%	25.6%
41	Weeley Village hall	64.9%	33.3%
44	Cliff Park	80.2%	77.8%
46	Community Centre, Jaywick	59.6%	38.9%
47	Community Centre, Brightlingsea	60.6%	55.6%
50	Coronation Recreation Ground	54.0%	37.8%
52	Cowley Park Recreation Ground	61.9%	33.3%
54	Meadow Way	58.1%	44.4%
57	Dovedale Gardens	52.5%	44.4%
61	Eastcliff Playing field	56.0%	38.9%
62	Edenside Open Space	58.4%	43.3%
64	Hazel Close Open Space, Thorrington	60.3%	38.9%
66	Frinton Park Playing Fields	55.8%	37.8%
67	Fryatt Avenue Open Space	68.7%	33.3%
69	Garden Road	44.5%	27.8%
70	Gerard Road Open Space	51.0%	43.3%
72	Great Holland Green	42.8%	32.2%
74	Great Oakley Playing Field	51.6%	44.4%
77	Hall Road Open Space	49.6%	48.9%
79	Halstead road Playing field	46.6%	21.1%
80	Hamstead Avenue	44.2%	33.3%
86	Little Oakley Playing field	54.3%	27.8%
87	Haven Avenue Open Space	29.1%	18.9%
94	Holly Way	42.5%	60.0%
99	Hurst Green	56.6%	38.9%
100	Ipswich Road Open Space	48.7%	43.3%
101	Jaywick	39.5%	22.2%
105	Ladbrooke Road Open Space	31.9%	22.2%
106	Lady Nelson Playing Field	59.0%	44.4%
109	Land at Louvain Road	38.5%	36.7%
110	Langham Drive Recreation Ground	43.4%	38.9%
112	Harold Lilley Playing Field	55.5%	44.4%
115	Lower Park Road Recreation Ground	50.4%	33.3%
116	Lyndhurst Road	50.6%	37.8%
119	Manor Lane Open Space	41.6%	14.4%
126	Millennium Green	59.3%	50.0%
132	Near Coppins Green School	52.2%	60.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
133	New Memorial Gardens	53.7%	36.7%
135	Old Road Recreation Ground	63.6%	42.2%
140	Part of Pickers Ditch Walkway Open Space	51.6%	38.9%
141	Part of Village Green	42.5%	15.6%
148	Schools Open Space - Off Riverview	72.9%	50.0%
150	Rush Green	57.2%	50.0%
152	School Lane Open Space	64.5%	38.9%
156	South Green Gardens	36.4%	21.1%
158	St Christopher's Way	40.3%	21.1%
169	St Osyth Priory Green	50.9%	14.4%
176	The Street Recreation Ground	53.4%	50.0%
177	The Walls Open Space	66.4%	72.2%
178	Thorpe Green	31.0%	7.8%
179	Thorrington Recreation Ground	62.8%	37.8%
184	Vista Road Recreation Ground	56.0%	38.9%
190	Harwich War Memorial	53.1%	60.0%
191	Mistley Recreation Ground	61.9%	33.3%
192	Welfare Park	79.6%	50.0%
194	Western Promenade	43.4%	38.9%
195	Willow Way Playing fields	55.8%	44.4%
196	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	59.3%	32.2%
197	Wix Road Playing field	61.1%	44.4%
198	Woodrows Lane	51.3%	33.3%
201	Rectory Road Playing Field, Wrabness	29.2%	33.3%
202	Putting Greens and Croquet Lawn, Dovercourt	46.9%	33.3%
204	Parish Fields, Plough Corner	40.7%	33.3%
206	Clacton Marine Parade East	57.7%	55.6%
207	Frinton-on-Sea Esplanade	60.0%	50.0%
208	Market Field, Elmstead	56.3%	33.3%
209	North Green, Colchester Road	61.9%	44.4%

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.

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 across the District. 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).

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Table 6.3: Quality scores for amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Tendring	29%	53%	80%	51%	23	53

The majority of amenity greenspace in the District (71%) rates above the threshold for quality. The highest ratings sites for quality are Cliff Park with 80.2% and Welfare Park with 79.6%. Both are observed as being prominent and well located sites.

High scoring sites, such as the ones above, reflect the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the good standard of appearance and maintenance. They also tend to have plenty of ancillary facilities such as bins and signage and in some cases parking and play provision. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access provision.

Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites in the District are observed as having a lack of paths and seating compared to other similar forms of provision. In addition, their general appearance is viewed as having the potential to be better. Furthermore, sites such as Haven Avenue Open Space (29.1%) are considered to be hardly used, with a lack of amenities and not able to meet the needs of many.

Most sites that rate lower for quality are observed as being fairly basic pockets of green space. These tend to be small-grassed areas lacking ancillary facilities to encourage extensive recreational use.

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 in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Value scores for amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Tendring	8%	38%	78%	70%	6	70

The majority of amenity greenspaces (92%) rate above the threshold for value. Similar to quality, sites rating below the value threshold tend to be smaller grassed areas with no noticeable features. They are recognised as providing some visual amenity to their locality and it is important to note that the main role of certain sites may be to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form.

There are however some sites rating lower for value which may be a reflection to their appearance and perceived level of maintenance and usage. For instance, Thorpe Green contains no benches, no paths and has a ditch at the edge before the road restricting access.

Sites rating higher for value are recognised for the level of accessible recreational opportunities they offer to a good standard of quality intended for a wide range of users. They are often noted as providing opportunities to social and health benefits. Their high value is likely a reflection of their greater ability to cater for a wide range of people and uses. High scoring sites for value include examples such as Cliff Park (77.8%), Harwich War Memorial and Clacton Marine Parade East (55.6%)

Amenity greenspace should also 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 of Tendring offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents, as well as being visually pleasing. In relation to this, all sites observed as recreation grounds or playing fields score highly for value.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of ancillary facilities (e.g. benches, play equipment, sports opportunities, landscaping and planting/trees), it is therefore more likely that the better-quality sites are more respected and valued by the local community.

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 76 amenity greenspace sites in the District; equating to over 234 hectares.
- ◀ On a population basis (i.e. hectares per 1000 population), the current level of provision is 1.66 hectares per 1000 population. This is greater than the FIT standard of 0.60 hectares.
- ◀ When parks and amenity greenspace are combined (due to their similarities), the combined quantity standard of 1.81 per 1000 population meets the combined FIT standard of 1.40 hectares per 1000 population.
- ◀ Gaps in provision are noted however these appear to be served by other open space typologies such as parks and gardens.
- ◀ Overall, amenity greenspaces quality tends to be positive. Most sites (71%) rate above the threshold. There is a noticeable proportion of sites recognised as recreation grounds or playing fields which are likely to contribute to the good quality of provision. There is however a proportion of provision that is identified as appearing to be maintained to a lesser extent in comparison to other forms of similar provision. Such sites also tend to lack ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Similar to quality, value of amenity greenspace is also positive. The majority of sites rate above the threshold (92%). This is again likely to reflect the wide variation in the type of sites included within the typology.

PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

This includes areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, 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 Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs).

7.2 Current provision

A total of 66 sites are identified in the District as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over five hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all known provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Summary of provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Tendring	66	5.14	0.03

A current standard of 0.03 hectares per 1,000 population is observed. This is lower than the FIT recommended quantity standard of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population. Based on quantity alone, this would suggest new forms of provision are required.

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.

Play provision in the District of Tendring is summarised using the Fields in Trust (FIT) classifications:

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

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people			
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	TOTAL
Tendring	21	35	10	66

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Most provision is identified as being LEAP (53%) classification; designed for unsupervised play and a wider range of users. This is followed by 32% of sites classified as LAPs; intended specifically for younger children.

Some equipment in play areas have been removed but an assessment was nevertheless, still undertaken. For example, Harpers Way was reported to having no play equipment as such but instead contained a set of rustic seating/balancing/picnic elements and a small hop scotch area.

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 other play provision i.e. MUGA's). This is demonstrated in table 7.3.

Table 7.3: Walking guidelines based on site classification

FIT designation	Walking guideline
LAP	100m
LEAP	400m
NEAP	1,000m
Other provision (i.e. MUGA, skate parks)	700m

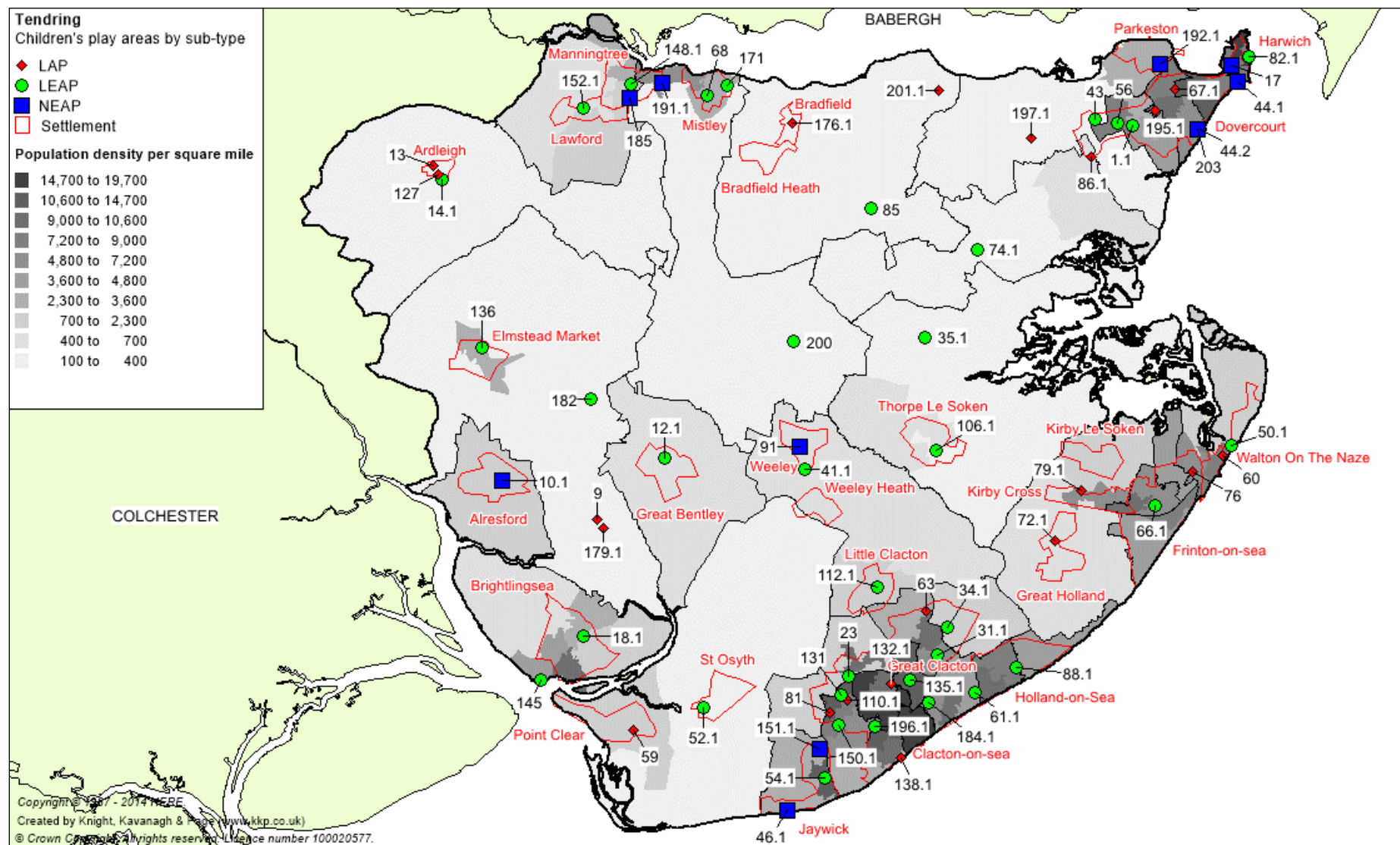
The FIT designation for Other provision includes MUGAs and skate parks, however these facilities are often found as part of a wider range of play equipment at a site (i.e. LEAP or NEAP). Subsequently, these forms of equipment have been mapped as part of the wider sites designation.

It is considered that the 100m catchment for LAP provision is too small a catchment to realistically represent any meaningful 'on the ground' analysis. Consequently, the 400m catchment FIT suggest has been used for both LAP and LEAP forms of provision.

Figure 7.1 and 7.2 show the standards applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

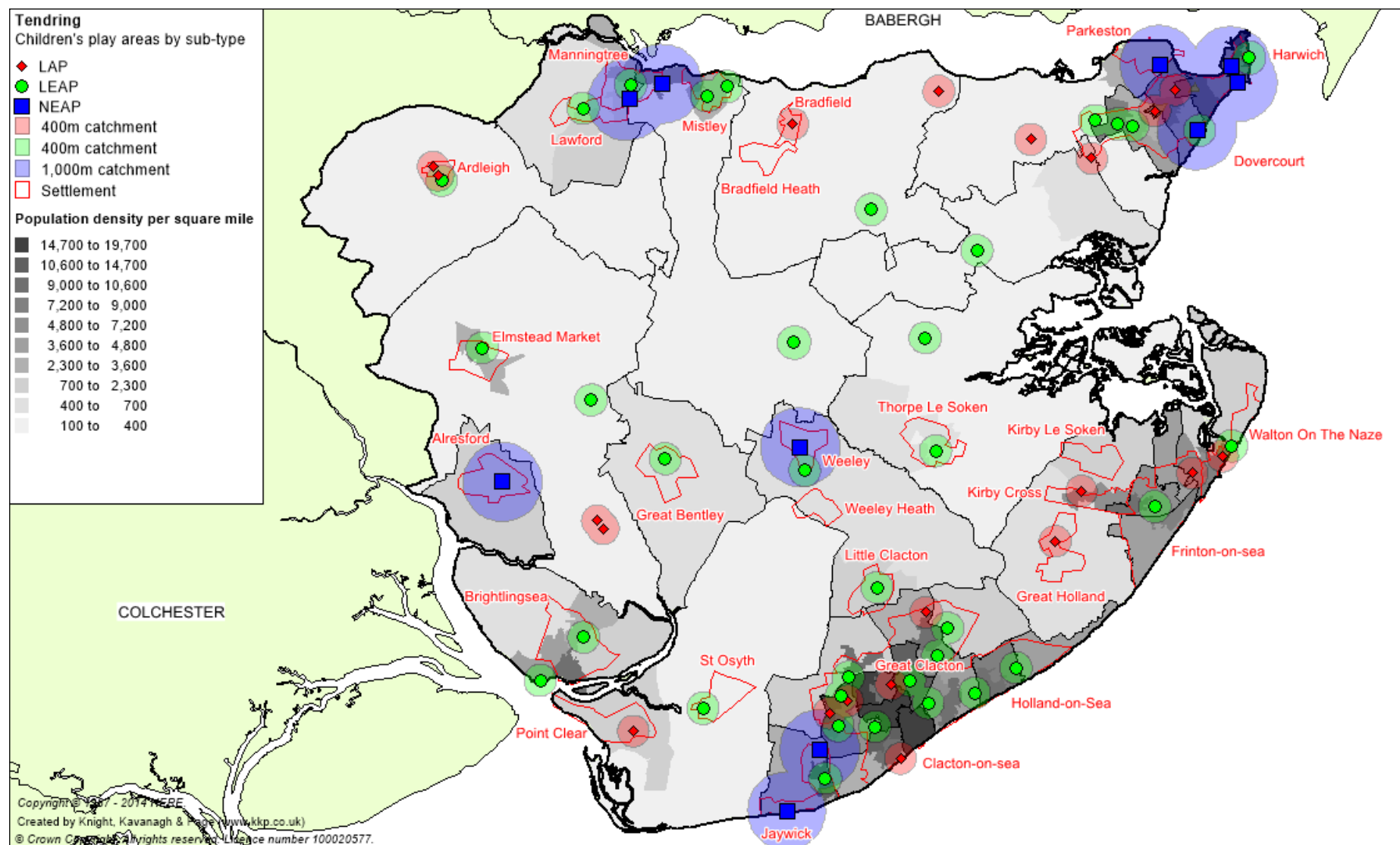
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Figure 7.1: Provision for children and young people - overview



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Figure 7.2: Provision for children and young people with catchments



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Table 7.4: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	FIT classification	Quality score	Value score
1.1	Abdy Avenue Play Area	LEAP	59.8%	60.0%
9	Hazel Close Play Area	LAP	71.7%	56.0%
10.1	Alresford Play Area	NEAP	69.6%	60.0%
12.1	Great Bentley Green Play Area	LEAP	59.8%	50.0%
13	Ardleigh Primary School	LAP	61.3%	34.0%
14.1	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	LEAP	77.7%	60.0%
17	Bathside Play Area	NEAP	62.8%	56.0%
18.1	Bayard Recreation Ground	LEAP	85.7%	30.0%
23	Bockings Elm Play Area	LEAP	38.7%	18.0%
31.1	Burrs Road Play Area	LEAP	65.2%	46.0%
34.1	Carisbrooke Avenue Play Area	LEAP	79.5%	50.0%
35.1	Beaumont-cum-Moze Play Area	LEAP	72.6%	50.0%
41.1	Clacton Road Play Area	LEAP	75.0%	50.0%
43	Clayton Road Play Area	LEAP	47.0%	32.0%
44.1	Cliff Park Play Area	NEAP	63.7%	60.0%
44.2	Dovercourt Swimming Pool Play Area	LEAP	87.5%	50.0%
46.1	Brooklands Community Centre Play Area	NEAP	55.1%	30.0%
50.1	Bath House Meadow Play Area	LEAP	87.8%	50.0%
52.1	Cowley park Play Area	LEAP	53.3%	50.0%
54.1	Crossways Open Space	LEAP	76.5%	60.0%
56	Dove Crescent Play Area	LEAP	58.3%	56.0%
59	Dumont Avenue Play Area	LAP	58.3%	36.0%
60	Eagle Avenue Play Area	LAP	56.2%	52.0%
61.1	Eastcliff Play Area	LEAP	79.2%	60.0%
63	Foots Farm	LAP	19.6%	14.0%
66.1	Frinton Park Play Area	LEAP	74.1%	50.0%
67.1	Mace Park Play Area	LAP	74.4%	60.0%
68	Furze Hill Play Area	LEAP	67.3%	46.0%
72.1	Great Holland Green Play Area	LAP	52.7%	50.0%
74.1	Great Oakley Play Area	LEAP	79.2%	60.0%
76	Grove Avenue Play Area	LAP	60.7%	52.0%
79.1	Halstead Road Play Area	LAP	60.4%	50.0%
81	Harpers Way	LAP	50.0%	42.0%
82.1	Harwich Green Play Area	LEAP	76.5%	30.0%
85	Harwich Road Play Area, Wix	LEAP	79.2%	60.0%
86.1	Harwich Road Play Area, Little Oakley	LAP	76.2%	42.0%
88.1	Hereford Road Play Area, Holland-on-Sea	LEAP	64.0%	60.0%
91	Hilltop Crescent	NEAP	55.1%	38.0%
106.1	Lady Nelson Play Area	LEAP	77.4%	40.0%
110.1	Langham Drive Play Area	LAP	50.9%	50.0%
112.1	Little Clacton Play Area	LEAP	72.0%	50.0%
127	Millenium Green Play Area	LAP	53.3%	52.0%
131	Nayland Drive Play Area	LEAP	59.2%	56.0%
132.1	London Road Rec Ground Play Area	LAP	45.5%	32.0%
135.1	Old Road Play Area	LEAP	64.9%	42.0%
136	Old School Lane Play Area	LEAP	73.8%	46.0%
138.1	Marine Parade West Play Area	LAP	73.5%	46.0%
145	Pawsons Play Ground	LEAP	83.3%	60.0%
148.1	Riverview Play Area	LEAP	84.8%	50.0%
150.1	Rush Green Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	63.7%	60.0%
151.1	Seymour Road Play Area	NEAP	64.6%	46.0%

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Site ID	Site name	FIT classification	Quality score	Value score
152.1	Lawford Rec Play Area	LEAP	72.9%	60.0%
171	Stour View Close Play Area	LEAP	70.8%	42.0%
176.1	The Street Play Area	LAP	79.2%	60.0%
179.1	Chapel Lane Play Area	LAP	63.1%	50.0%
182	Tokely Road Play Area	LEAP	57.4%	36.0%
184.1	Vista Road Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	83.0%	50.0%
185	Waldergrave Road Play Area	NEAP	58.0%	46.0%
191.1	Welcome Home Field Play Area	NEAP	67.9%	40.0%
192.1	Welfare Park Play Area	NEAP	83.0%	60.0%
195.1	Willow Way Play Area	LAP	61.6%	50.0%
196.1	Windsor Avenue Play Area	LEAP	62.5%	60.0%
197.1	Wix Road Play Area	LAP	74.1%	60.0%
200	Goose Green Play Area	LEAP	50.9%	50.0%
203	Skate Park, Low Road, Dovercourt/Harwich	NEAP	51.5%	50.0%
201.1	Rectory Road Play Area	LAP	57.4%	50.0%

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 Standards Paper will look to explore the need and options with regard to these potential gaps.

The two sites mapped but identified as containing no play equipment are:

Table 7.5: Site with no equipment

Site ID	Site name
63	Foots Farm
81	Harpers Way

Both sites identified as having no play equipment are within the vicinity of existing forms of play provision (i.e. covered by the catchment areas of other play sites).

The town council of Harwich and parish councils of Bentley, Bradfield, Frating, Harwich, Little Oakley and Tendring all highlight plans or aspirations to enhance the provision of play equipment in the local area. In most instances this is either to provide a greater range of equipment (usually targeted at older age ranges) or to replace equipment considered as old and dated.

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by 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 quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in the Tendring District. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 7.6: Quality scores for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Tendring	20%	66%	88%	68%	21	45

Quality assessments of play sites do not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment the site owners own, inspection reports should be sought.

Quality of play provision across the District is generally positive with 68% of sites rating above the threshold. Supporting this, no significant concerns are highlighted through consultation with parish and town councils regarding play sites. However, there is still a proportion of sites which rate below the threshold (21%) as part of the audit assessment.

There are 21 sites to rate below the threshold for quality. Often the quality and range of equipment, a sites general appearance and maintenance or a specific problem noticed at the time of visiting is the reason for why a site may rate lower in comparison to others. The tired appearance and dated surface of provision is also observed at a number of sites; and may contribute to some lower scores. Some of the lowest scoring sites for play are:

- ✦ Foots Farm
- ✦ Bockings Elm Play Area
- ✦ London Road Rec Play Area
- ✦ Clayton Road Play area
- ✦ Harpers Way

Higher rating sites in the District are often due to the good condition of play equipment and presence of additional features such as seating, bins, signage and fencing. These additional ancillary facilities are also often to a sufficient standard of quality. High scoring play sites include:

- ✦ Bath House Meadow Play Area
- ✦ Dovercourt Swimming Pool Play Area
- ✦ Bayard Recreation Ground Play Area
- ✦ Riverview Play Area
- ✦ Pawsons Play Ground
- ✦ Vista Road Recreation Ground Play Area
- ✦ Welfare Park Play area

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 in the District of Tendring. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 7.7: Value scores for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Tendring	14%	48%	62%	48%	2	64

The majority of play provision (97%) in the District is 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, to socialise with others and in creating visually pleasing local environments.

Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect the size and amount/range of equipment present on site. Some of the highest scoring sites offer diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages. More specifically, provision such as and MUGAs are highly valued forms of play. Sites containing such forms of provision tend to rate higher for value.

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 66 play provision sites in the District; a total of over five hectares. Most provision is classified as LEAP (53%) followed by LAP (32%).
- On a population basis (i.e. per 1,000 population) the current level of provision is 0.03 hectares per 1,000 population. This is much lower than the FIT standard of 0.25.
- 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.
- A greater proportion of play sites (68%) are above the threshold for quality. 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.

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

Allotments is a typology which covers open spaces that provide opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction. This includes provision such as allotments, community gardens and city farms.

8.2 Current provision

There are 36 sites classified as allotments across the District, equating to over 31 hectares.

Table 8.1: Summary of allotments

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Tendring	36	31.44	0.22

There is a current standard of 0.22 hectares per 1,000 population identified in the District of Tendring.

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 population based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

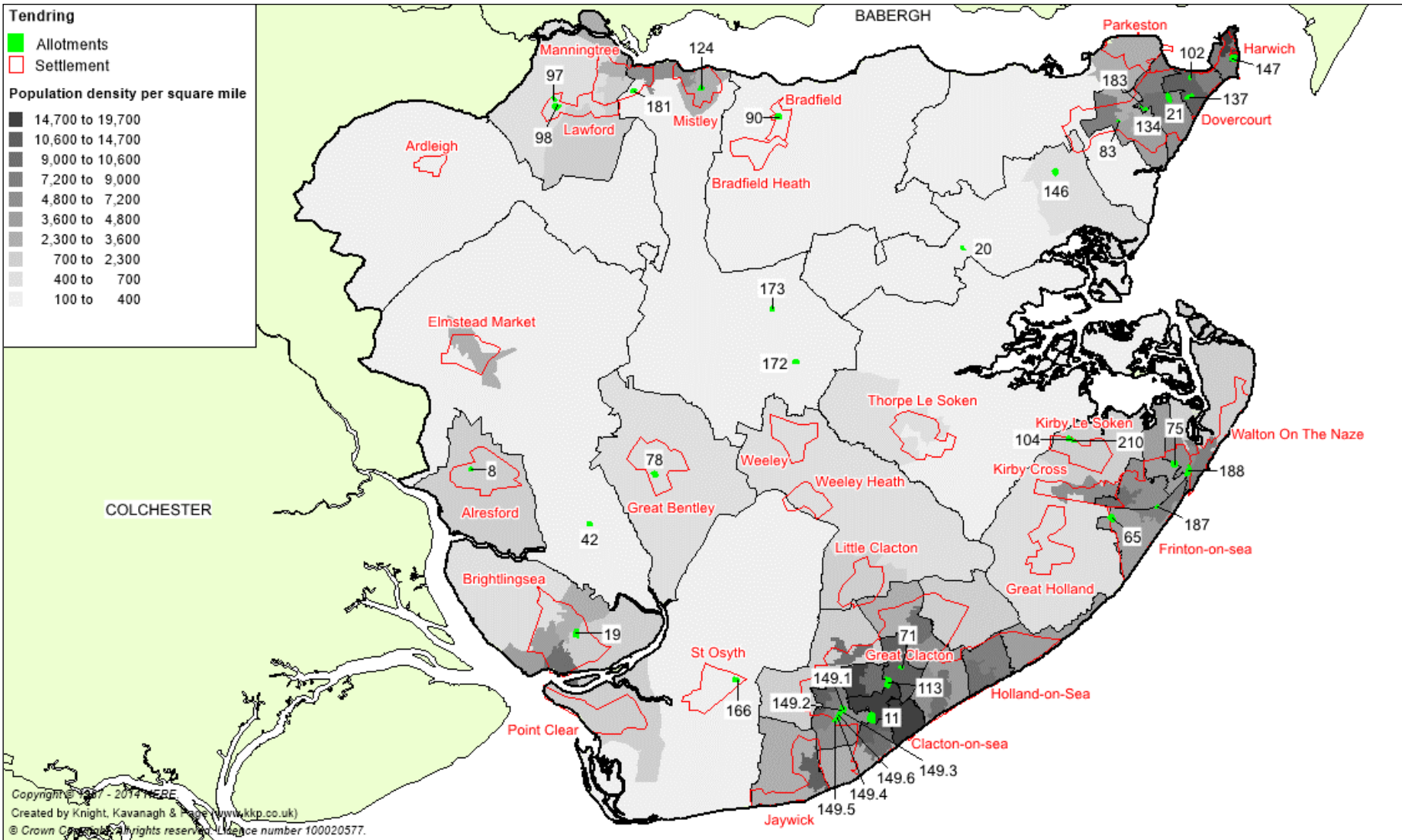
The District, as a whole, based on its current population (141,183) does not meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision required for the District is 35.25 hectares. Therefore, there is a shortfall of 3.81 hectares.

8.3 Accessibility

There is no national recommendation in terms of accessibility distances for allotment provision. Consequently Figure 8.1 shows the location of allotment sites across the District only.

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Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped



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Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
8	Alresford Allotments	50.1%	58.8%
11	Alton Park Road Allotments	50.1%	58.8%
19	Bayards Allotments	43.0%	64.7%
20	Beaumont Road Allotments	26.0%	23.5%
21	Boatswains Call Allotments	49.3%	64.7%
42	Clacton Road Allotments	53.7%	58.8%
65	Frinton Allotments	41.2%	51.8%
71	Great Clacton Allotments	39.4%	47.1%
75	Grove Avenue Allotments	48.4%	58.8%
78	Hall View, Allotments	51.0%	58.8%
83	Harwich Road Allotments	49.3%	52.9%
90	Mill Lane Allotments	53.7%	64.7%
97	Hungerdown Lane A	43.0%	70.6%
98	Hungerdown Lane B	42.1%	58.8%
102	King Georges Allotments	42.1%	64.7%
104	Kirby-le-Soken Allotments	56.4%	58.8%
113	London Road Allotments	46.6%	58.8%
124	Middlefield Road Allotments, Mistley	25.1%	12.9%
134	Off Willow Way	45.7%	51.8%
137	Old Vicarage Road Allotments	60.0%	64.7%
146	Rectory Road Allotments	26.9%	64.7%
147	Redoubt Allotments	42.1%	64.7%
149.1	Rush Green Allotments 1	47.5%	45.9%
149.2	Rush Green Allotments 2	41.2%	47.1%
149.3	Rush Green Allotments 3	36.7%	47.1%
149.4	Rush Green Allotments 4	45.7%	29.4%
149.5	Rush Green Allotments 5	43.9%	47.1%
149.6	Rush Green Allotments 6	53.1%	47.1%
166	St Osyth Allotments	58.2%	47.1%
172	Tendring Allotments	47.5%	21.2%
173	Tendring Green Allotments	38.5%	64.7%
181	Trinity Road Allotments, Manningtree	49.3%	64.7%
183	Willow Way Allotments	46.6%	27.1%
187	Waltham Way Allotments	43.0%	51.8%
188	Walton Allotments	51.0%	63.5%
210	Maltings Lane Allotments	56.4%	47.1%

Most areas of greater population density across the District appear to be served by allotment provision.

Ownership

All allotment sites, with the exception of Maltings Lane Allotments, are controlled by the Town and Parish Councils or through agreements with allotment associations. Maltings Lane Allotments, adjacent to Kirby-le-Soken Allotments, privately owned and rented out to plot holders.

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Consultation does not highlight any significant levels of demand for additional plots; as most parish/town councils only identify a handful of individuals on any waiting lists.

8.4 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 allotments across the District. A threshold of 45% 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 8.3: Quality scores for allotments

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Tendring	25%	45%	60%	35%	15	21

More than half of allotments in the District (57%) rates above the threshold for quality. The highest ratings sites for quality are Old Vicarage Road Allotments with 60% and St Osyth Allotments with 58%.

High scoring sites, such as the ones above, reflect the high standard of appearance and maintenance. Both sites scored excellent for personal security, boundary fencing and drainage as well as good paths. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access provision.

The lowest scoring site, Middlefield Road Allotments, Mistley (25%), is observed as being totally overgrown, abandoned and neglected. This site looks disused and was observed as having no signs or proper entrances. Other low scoring sites such as Beaumont Road Allotments (26%) is observed as having uneven, narrow paths, which may be limiting for all users in terms of access in the site. This site is also overgrown and devoid of signs.

Despite Rectory Road Allotments scoring low (27%), observations highlight that it appears well cared for, flat and clean. However, it is highlighted that the pathways on site are narrow for access. In addition, the site only has a small fence for security.

Furthermore, low scoring sites are generally observed as having poor quality, narrow paths as well as having a lower appearance of maintenance. However, most of the low scoring sites are above 41% and therefore only just score below the threshold of 45%.

8.5 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 in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 8.4: Value scores for allotments

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Tendring	13%	52%	71%	58%	1	35

The majority of allotments (97%) rate above the threshold for value, with just one site; Middlefield Road Allotments, Mistley, scoring below the threshold. This is likely attributed to the site looking unused as a result overgrown and lacking a definitive entrance.

A point to note, Beaumont Road Allotments does also have some issues with maintenance, with a number of areas being observed as being overgrown.

Sites rating higher for value are recognised for their neatness, good landscaping and high maintenance levels. For example, Hungerdown Lane A (the highest scoring site for value, with 71%), is observed as having an excellent level of maintenance with high ecological and social values. 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

Allotments summary

- There are 36 allotments sites identified within the District of Tendring: equating to over 30 hectares.
- Current provision of 0.22 hectares on a per 1000 population basis for the District is below the NSALG recommended standard of 0.25 hectares per 1000 population.
- Over half of sites (57%) are above the quality threshold for quality. There are also a number of sites which only just score below the threshold; suggesting no significant quality issues.
- The majority of allotments (97%) rate above the threshold for value, with just one site; Middlefield Road Allotments, Mistley, scoring below the threshold. This is likely attributed to the site looking unused as a result overgrown and lacking a definitive entrance.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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 21 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 31 hectares of provision across the District of Tendring.

Table 9.1: Summary of cemeteries

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Tendring	21	31.99

The largest contributors to burial provision in the area are the following cemeteries:

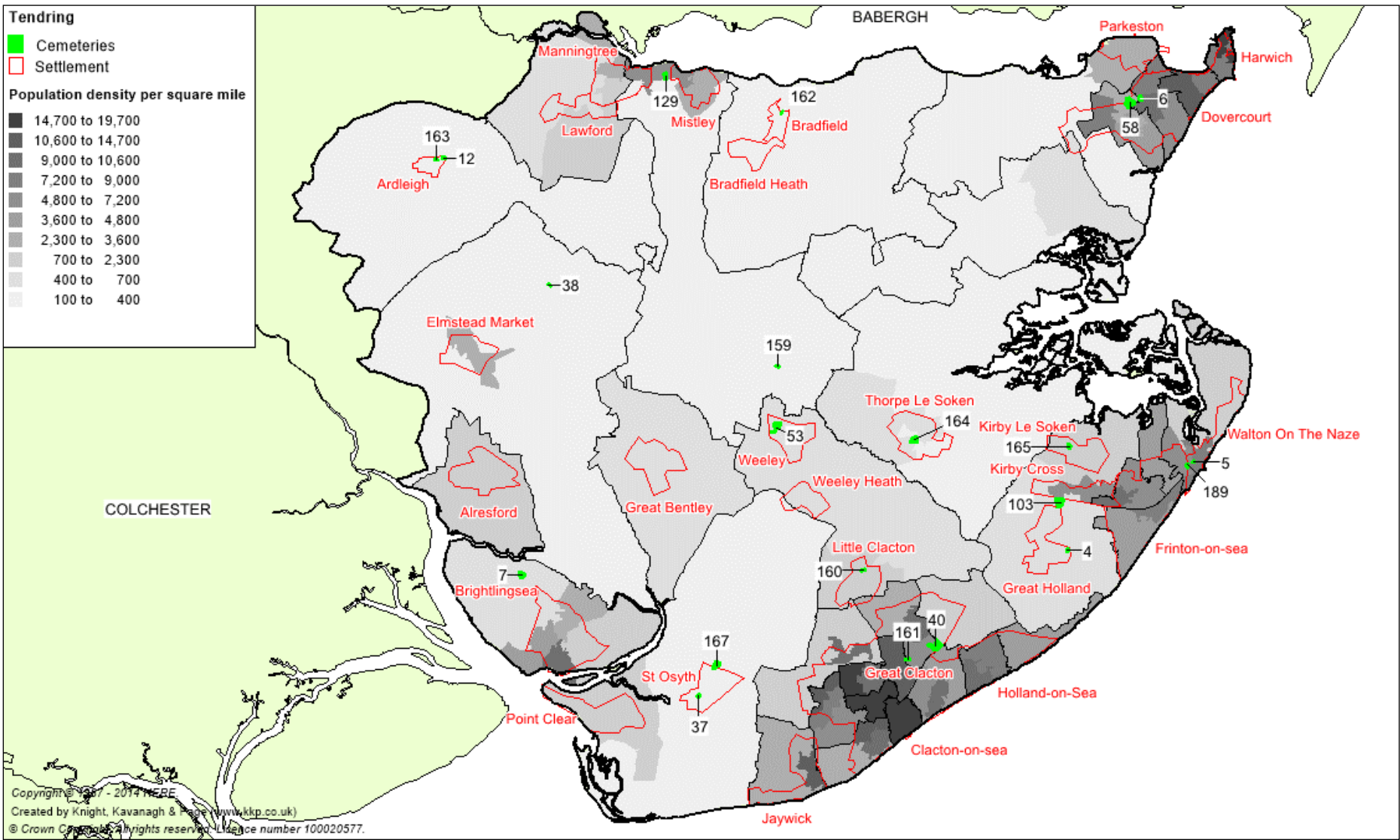
- ✦ Clacton Cemetery (5.12 hectares)
- ✦ Dovercourt Cemetery (4.53 hectares)
- ✦ Kirby Cross Cemetery (3.96 hectares)

9.3 Accessibility

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped across the District.

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped



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Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Quality score	Value score
4	All Saints	45.2%	43.3%
5	All Saints Church, Walton	55.5%	48.9%
6	All Saints Church, Harwich	39.8%	38.9%
7	All Saints Church, Brightlingsea	50.4%	33.3%
12	Ardleigh Cemetery	41.9%	27.8%
37	Church of St Peter and St Paul	59.1%	33.3%
38	Church of St George	59.1%	55.6%
40	Clacton Cemetery	52.9%	38.9%
53	Weeley Crematorium	81.7%	55.6%
58	Dovercourt Cemetery	66.5%	55.6%
103	Kirby Cross Cemetery	52.6%	38.9%
129	Mistley Cemetery	47.5%	50.0%
159	St Edmunds Church	51.0%	50.0%
160	St James Church	46.5%	33.3%
161	St Johns Church Yard	50.3%	33.3%
162	St Lawrence Church	61.2%	50.0%
163	St Mary's Church Yard	52.3%	33.3%
164	St Michaels Church, Thorpe-le-Soken	42.4%	26.7%
165	St Michaels Church, Kirby-le-Soken	52.5%	38.9%
167	St Osyth Cemetery	60.6%	61.1%
189	Walton Cemetery	31.0%	15.6%

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. All densely populated areas appear to be served by burial provision.

It is important to recognise that the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

Ownership

The District Council has four cemeteries it is responsible for:

- ✦ Clacton Cemetery
- ✦ Dovercourt Cemetery
- ✦ Kirby Cross Cemetery
- ✦ Walton-on-the-Naze

In addition, the Council also operates the crematorium at Weeley.

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9.4 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 cemeteries/churchyards in the District. 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 9.2: Quality scores for cemeteries

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <50%	High >50%
Tendring	31%	52%	82%	51%	9	12

Over half of cemeteries/churchyards in the District (57%) rate above the threshold for quality. The highest ratings sites for quality are Weeley Crematorium with 81.7% and Dovercourt Cemetery with 66.5%.

High scoring sites, such as the ones above, reflect the range of ancillary facilities available as well as the excellent standard of appearance and maintenance. They also tend to have plenty of ancillary facilities such as bins, benches, parking and signage. Features such as these contribute to their overall quality and help to create more opportunities and reasons for people to access provision.

Weeley Crematorium has a Green Flag Award and observations demonstrated that it has plenty of car parking, abundant supply of good quality benches, lighting and was a visually very attractive site.

Some of the lowest scoring cemeteries/churchyards sites in the District are observed as containing old, tilted gravestones, poor quality paths and gravestones in close proximity to one another. This is especially the case for Walton Cemetery, the lowest scoring site (31%). In addition, the general appearance of low quality sites is viewed as having the potential to be better.

9.5 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 in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.3: Value scores for cemeteries/churchyards

Analysis area	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Tendring	16%	41%	61%	46%	1	20

Nearly all cemeteries/churchyards (95%) rate above the threshold for value.

Walton Cemetery, which scores below the threshold for quality, also scores below the threshold for value (15.6%). The site contains no paths between gravestones limiting access for a range of users and overall maintenance is perceived to be reasonable.

Sites rating higher for value are recognised for good paths, benches and good maintenance. They are often noted as providing opportunities to social and health benefits such as church services open to all and wide paths. Their high value is likely a reflection of their greater ability to cater for a wide range of people and uses.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of cemeteries. Combined with the presence of ancillary facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping and trees), it is therefore more likely that the better-quality sites are more respected and valued by the local community.

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries summary

- ◀ The District has 21 cemeteries and churchyards: equating to over 30 hectares of provision.
- ◀ Quality and value of provision is generally positive overall. Over half (57%) rate above the threshold for quality and nearly all sites (95%) rate above the threshold for value. 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 status at Weeley Crematorium; a clear indicator to the sites 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.

