

# Tendring Open Spaces Strategy

October 2009

Final



*Tendring*  
District Council



the **landscape** partnership

**Photograph on cover:** Marine Gardens, Walton

'Thank-you to Bob Ivison who assisted with this project under the Cabe space Enabling scheme.'

## Quality control

Issue

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# Contents

## Executive summary

### Part 1: The Strategy

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Scope of the Study	1
1.3	Tendring Profile	2
1.4	Environmental Context	3
1.5	Policy Context	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Approach to the study</b>	<b>16</b>
2.1	Needs Assessments	16
2.2	Hard to Reach Groups	16
2.3	Site Audit	17
2.4	Stakeholder Consultation	21
2.5	Setting Standards	21
<b>3</b>	<b>The vision</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>The Strategy</b>	<b>26</b>
4.1	Parks and Gardens	26
4.2	Amenity Greenspace	37
4.3	Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	46
4.4	Green Corridors/Seafront	60
4.5	Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities	69
4.6	Provision for Children and Young People	91
4.7	Allotments	102
4.8	Cemeteries and Churchyards	108
<b>5</b>	<b>Summary of recommendations</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Making it happen</b>	<b>117</b>
6.1	Introduction	117
6.2	Delivery through the Planning System	117
6.3	Funding	117
6.4	Stakeholder Engagement and Promotion	118
6.5	Management and Maintenance	118
6.6	Monitoring and Review	119

### Part 2: Maps and figures

Figure 1	Tendring Environmental Context
Figure 2	Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Concept Map
Figure 3	Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Opportunities
Figure 4	Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Opportunities Schedule
Figure 5	Tendring sub-areas
Figure 6	Park and Gardens accessibility deficiencies
Figure 7	Amenity Greenspace accessibility deficiencies
Figure 8	Natural and Semi-natural greenspace accessibility deficiencies
Figure 9	Seafront/Green Corridors accessibility deficiencies
Figure 10	Allotments accessibility deficiencies



## Executive Summary

Tendring District Council is committed to producing a strategy to steer open space management and enhancement as part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework. The Landscape Partnership was commissioned in May 2008, in partnership with PLC Consulting Ltd., to carry out the following brief:

- Review Policy Data
- Carry out a needs assessment and sites audit
- Analysis and standard setting
- Drafting an Open Spaces Strategy
- Consultation with the community and key stakeholders
- Final report

The **Policy review** identified the importance of the sub-regional context of the Haven Gateway and its status as a Growth Point to the impact on greenspaces and the role they can play in creating sustainable communities. The **environmental context** noted the importance of the low-lying, coastal landscapes to the character of Tendring with their open vistas and important biodiversity status. Tendring also has a dispersed settlement pattern historically which gives rise to access issues to facilities in the more rural areas.

The **needs assessment** involved a stakeholder and community questionnaire and generated the following vision:

**Our vision for Tendring open spaces is a dynamic network at the heart of the community that is safe and well-maintained, accessible to all, good for wildlife and fun for all ages, whilst conserving peace and quiet wherever possible.**

The **sites audit** looked at issues including landscape character and green infrastructure context; local plan designation; biodiversity and amenity value; quality of access by pedestrian, cycle-way or bridleway access; disabled access; signage; facilities such as seating, bins, lighting, car-parks toilets; features such as historic features, water features, sculpture; playing pitches, sports facilities or children's play.

176 sites > 0.2 hectares were identified across the following eight typologies:

- Parks and Gardens
- Amenity Greenspace
- Natural and Semi-natural greenspace
- Seafront/Green Corridors
- Pitches/Outdoor sports facilities
- Children and young people's provision
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and Churchyards

The sites were audited across seven sub-areas identified by the Local Authority. Each site was assigned a typology, as above, based on its primary purpose. The multi-functional role of the site was also noted.

**Standards** were identified for each typology based on quantity, accessibility and quality as recommended by PPG 17. Comparator authorities were used to guide standard setting along with the data generated by the needs assessment and sites audit. Current deficiencies against all the standards were noted including any sub-area differences.

The Report identifies a comprehensive list of **recommendations** across all typologies to mitigate the deficiencies identified and notes some next steps that can be taken to help deliver the strategy.

# ***Part 1: The Strategy***



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Landscape Partnership was commissioned in May 2008 by Tendring District Council to produce an Open Spaces Strategy for the district. This strategy is supported by 'CABE Space' through their project enabling scheme. CABE Space is a division of the Commission of Architecture and the Built Environment devoted to delivery of well designed and managed open spaces across England.
- 1.1.2 Tendring District Council is at the start of the Local Development Framework (LDF) process, having adopted the Tendring District Local Plan in December 2007. A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Open Space contributions from new development was adopted by the Council in May 2008. The Tendring Open Space Strategy not only provides a valuable piece of evidence to inform the preparation of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF); it also provides information to inform the future monitoring and review of the SPD.
- 1.1.3 The Landscape Partnership has also recently completed the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Open Space Strategy for the Tendring District will reflect the strategic objectives of that strategy at a local level. Production of a Green Infrastructure Strategy was a condition of New Growth Point status for the Haven Gateway.
- 1.1.4 The five Haven ports of Felixstowe, Harwich International, Harwich Navyard, Ipswich and Mistley – three of which are in the Tendring District - represent the single most important cluster of ports in the UK. The Haven Gateway Partnership was established in 2001 to provide a framework through which public and private sector partners can work together to promote economic growth in the sub-region.
- 1.1.5 Since then, the sub-region has been set challenging growth targets in the Draft East of England Plan and has, for this reason, been afforded New Growth Point status by the Government. In Tendring, the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) identifies 8,500 new homes that need to be accommodated by 2021. At the same time Tendring is the most deprived district in Essex and is within the most deprived 28% of districts nationally. Some areas of Clacton and Jaywick are amongst the most deprived in England.
- 1.1.6 As traditional seaside towns, there is a need for regeneration in all of these urban areas. The port of Harwich and Parkeston Quay is to undergo significant expansion, including infrastructure improvements, which will enhance accessibility to and from Harwich.

## 1.2 Scope of the study

- 1.2.1 The brief for the Tendring Open Spaces Strategy identified six stages to the study:
- 1.2.2 Stage 1: **Review of existing policy data** including local and regional strategies outlined in the brief; collation of existing data and other resources; identification of any gaps in the datasets including in the GIS-based mapping and previous audits.

- 1.2.3 Stage 2: **Needs assessment and sites audit:** Refining of the approach to community consultation and the programme for consultation; setting up a database of contacts; designing stakeholder questionnaire and interviews with key stakeholders; design, distribution and evaluation of community questionnaire; consultation with key hard-to-reach groups; review design of audit checklist; agree approach to site audit, test approach and review as necessary; carrying out and collate site audits.
- 1.2.4 Stage 3: **Analysis:** Agree draft vision to guide bench-marking; bench-marking with other authorities to guide quality standards; draft standards; consultation with district councillors application of standards; identification of strategic options and policies.
- 1.2.5 Stage 4: **Drafting Open Spaces Strategy:** Agree format of strategy document; Draft strategy report and mapping; submission of draft report and revision to documents as appropriate.
- 1.2.6 Stage 5: **Consultation;** Agree approach to consultation on draft strategy; preparation of consultation material; attendance at two consultation events; recording of responses.
- 1.2.7 Stage 6: **Final Open Spaces Strategy:** agree changes to be made to the final report following consultation; revise draft documents; production of final report.

### 1.3 Tendring Profile

- 1.3.1 The 2001 census recorded the population of Tendring district to be 138,539 people, of which 66,265 were male and 72,274 were female. The latest mid-year estimates suggest that the population had grown to around 146,200 in 2007.
- 1.3.2 The average age in 2001 was 44.8 years, which compared with the average for England of 38.6 years. The population below 16 years of age constituted approximately 17.5% of the total, whilst those above 65 (interpreted as 'normal' retirement age in the Employment Equality (Age Regulations 2006) constituted 26%. Those between 16 and 65 were 56.5% of the population. These figures compare to approximately 20.15%, 15.9% and 64% respectively for England. Tendring therefore had a higher proportion of retired people and less than the national averages of people under 16 and between 16 and 65.
- 1.3.3 96.77% of the population classified themselves as white (British) and 1.12% as white (other). This compares to 86.99% and 2.66% nationally, so there are substantially more white than ethnic minorities in the district, compared to nationally, so ethnic minorities form a much smaller proportion of Tendring's population compared to the national average.
- 1.3.4 Economic activity amongst those of normal working age (16-64) was 32.87% full time and 12.37% part time. This compares to 40.81% and 11.81% nationally. Unemployment figures for Tendring in 2001 were 3% for the economically active age range which compared to 3.35% nationally.
- 1.3.5 Health - The 2001 census reported health statistics as follows:

- General health as good – 62.51% compared to 68.76% nationally
- General health fairly good – 26.32% compared to 22.21 nationally
- General health not good – 11.17% compared to 9.03% nationally

1.3.6 The figure for people reporting having a limiting long-term illness was 24% which is higher than the National Average of 17.93%.

1.3.7 Deprivation - In 2007 Tendring were ranked 103<sup>rd</sup> of 354 local authorities in England and Wales for the average deprivation score (1 being the most deprived).

1.3.8 Education - In Tendring between 2005 and 2006 50.2% of 15 year old pupils achieved 5+ A\*-C grades at GCSE (or equivalent) compared to 58.4% nationally. 84.5% achieved 5+ A\*-G grades at GCSE and 6.2% achieved no passes, this compared to 89.2% and 3.5% respectively nationally. Tendring's education achievements are, therefore, slightly below the national average.

1.3.9 Housing - In 2001 in Tendring there were 64,907 households, 61,411 of which were occupied. 91.5% of dwellings were owned or private rented compared to 81.5% nationally. 2% of the population of Tendring were living in communal establishments compared to 1.8% nationally (communal establishments including managed residential accommodation is supervised hostels, hotels, large hospitals and prisons. All households in the area at the time of the 2001 Census, whose Household Reference Person was of pensionable age was 25,909 (40% of total households approx).

## 1.4 Environmental Context (See Figure 1)

1.4.1 **Topography, river patterns and flood zones:** Tendring lies between two estuaries: the Stour and the Colne. A large part of this estuarine landscape is low-lying, the coast itself consisting of mud-flats, creeks and salt-marsh. Further inland, the landscape comprises rolling clay plateau agricultural land. Many low-lying parts of Tendring have been identified as being at risk from flooding from the sea or rivers, a risk that will increase with climate change. There is already an economic debate about which undeveloped areas can be protected and which may have to be allowed to become inundated over time. There is a role that greenspace can play in mitigating some of this impact, although there will also be some decisions to be made on access e.g. to sea walls. The UK Climate Impacts Programme is predicting changes to UK weather patterns and levels of precipitation over the coming decades. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that the East of England may experience hotter, drier summers, milder, wetter winters, more extreme climate events and increased risk of flooding. Despite being classified as semi-arid, the eastern region is likely to experience both water shortages during drier summers and flooding during the winter due to climate change.

1.4.2 **Geology and Soils;** A broadly flat, but undulating plateau covered by till dominates the northern part of Essex. A ridge grades **northwards** to beyond Colchester into heathlands developed on sands and gravels, which in turn give way to the London Clay which underlies most of Tendring. More recent

muds, silts and sands cover the London Clay and give rise to mudflats and salt marsh all along the Tendring coast. This underlying geology affects both the local soils and the quality of the land for agriculture. High quality and more diverse land is found on the Tendring peninsula with large pockets of Grade 1 and 2 land east of Colchester. This fertility has led to large-scale, intensively farmed landscapes with sparse biodiversity and access provision in places.

1.4.3 **Landscape character:** the **landscape** character of Tendring falls into three character areas as defined under the Countryside Agency/English Nature/English Heritage 'Character Map of England'. Landscape character should be used to inform enhancements to the greenspace network, particularly in Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces.

***The Greater Thames Estuary:*** this extends around the coast from the Thames up to, but not including, the Stour Estuary. It is a low-lying landscape characterised by extensive open spaces dominated by the sky, often with a strong sense of remoteness. Its distinctive features include the mudflats and salt marshes populated by large and varied bird populations, traditional unimproved wet pasture or open grazing pastures patterned by creeks, ditches and dykes; and the distinctive sea walls.

***The Northern Thames Basin:*** this character area forms the higher land behind the coastal lands of the Greater Thames Estuary character area. This is a predominantly plateau landscape divided by a series of broad river valleys and extensive areas of broadleaved woodlands. Many of the plateau areas are used for arable agriculture, often with large fields where the hedgerows have been **removed**. The distinctive character of the river valleys is modified by reservoirs, gravel pits, artificial wetlands, river realignment or canalisation of water courses.

***South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland:*** the area is a broadly flat, chalky boulder clay plateau dissected by undulating river valley topography. It is predominantly arable with irregular field patterns and a wooded appearance. There is some pasture in the valley floors. The area has a cultural association with Constable and the popular Dedham Vale.

1.4.4 **Designated wildlife sites and Biodiversity Action Plan habitats:** There are a number of conservation designations providing legal protection to coastal and estuarine areas within Tendring. These include the Special Protection Area (SPA) at Hamford Water and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Hamford Water and the Harwich Foreshore. Hamford Water is also a National Nature Reserve.

1.4.5 The Biodiversity Action Plan for Essex details the priorities for nationally and locally important habitats and wildlife. The Plan identifies species that are disturbance sensitive and which present a serious possible conflict between biodiversity and recreational need. Priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitats in Tendring include coastal habitats such as salt marsh, grazing marsh, mudflats and saline lagoons as

well as small areas of ancient woodland, Regards should be given to biodiversity in all typologies of open space but particularly in Natural and Semi-natural greenspace and Green Corridors.

1.4.6 **Landscape Designations:** A small part of Tendring close to Manningtree falls within the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Generally, the designation covers the eastern end of the Stour Valley. It protects an area of exceptional lowland river valley, coinciding with the part of the Stour Valley associated with the landscape paintings of John Constable.

1.4.7 **Historic landscape:** On the Tendring peninsula, the settlement pattern is very dispersed historically. There are numerous greens and a mix of pre-C18th irregular fields, probably of medieval origin and later enclosure. There are extensive areas of mineral extraction to the south. The influence of the C20th trend for seaside-based holidays is evident around Point Clear and the resort towns of Clacton, Frinton and Walton. The remainder of the coastline is marked by present and former grazing marsh and saltmarsh. Hamford Water, in particular, represents a complex historic landscape whose heritage should be celebrated and enhanced.

## 1.5 Policy Context

### *National Policy*

#### **Sustainable Communities: Building for the future, CLG 2004**

1.5.1 The Communities and Local Government (CLG) plan 'Sustainable Communities: Building for the future' sets out the government's proposed locations for major growth (Growth areas). The Sustainable Communities Agenda has since been expanded to incorporate growth points, including the Haven Gateway. The objectives for Green Infrastructure in the growth areas and growth points are:

- To raise the quality and accessibility of greenbelt land by improving accessibility, biodiversity and utility value;
- To promote more and better publicly accessible green space in and around communities; and
- To protect green wedges and green corridors through the planning system.

#### **PPG17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation, DCLG, 2002**

1.5.2 Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) states that provision for open space, sport and recreation is fundamental to delivering broader government objectives including urban renaissance, rural renewal, social inclusion and community cohesion, health and well being and sustainable development. The companion guide to PPG17 reiterates the role of provision for open space, providing guidance on how local authorities should assess that open space.

**PPS7: Sustainable development in rural areas, DCLG, 2006**

- 1.5.3 Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) sets out the Government's planning policies for rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas.
- 1.5.4 PPS7 places a duty on local authorities to ensure the improvement of the quality and sustainability of local environments and neighbourhoods, continuing protection of valued landscapes, natural resources and of the open countryside for the benefit of all.

**PPS9: Biodiversity and geological conservation, DCLG, 2004**

- 1.5.5 PPS9 is an extension of the government's biodiversity strategy 'Working with the grain of nature: A biodiversity strategy for England'. PPS9 identifies that biological and geological diversity should be sustained and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development.

***National Guidance*****Green Spaces, Better Places, Urban Green Space Task Force, 2002**

- 1.5.6 The Urban Green Space Task Force report identifies how changing social and economic circumstances have placed new demands on parks and green spaces, but that this has given rise to the opportunity to put them at the centre of the renaissance of our towns and cities. The report identifies how urban parks and green spaces contribute to urban regeneration and renewal, health, social cohesion, community development and citizenship, education and life long learning, environmental sustainability, heritage and culture.

**Living Places – Cleaner, Safer Greener, CLG, 2002**

- 1.5.7 This CLG report from 2002 identified that a network of safe, well-maintained and people friendly spaces encourage people to walk, get to know their neighbours and respect their surroundings, and that new thinking is therefore required in the way that the public realm is designed, managed and maintained. The four challenges identified include accounting for the wide range of owners, tenants and users, combating creeping degradation, improving the quality of public space for everyone and responding to rapidly changing circumstances.

**The countryside in and around towns: A vision for connecting town and country in pursuit of sustainable development, The Countryside Agency and Groundwork, 2005**

- 1.5.8 The Countryside Agency and Groundwork set out their vision for connecting town and country within this document. At the heart of this vision is the need to ensure a high quality of life for all whilst reducing our impact on the resources that we share. The report sets out ten key functions for the countryside in and around towns to contribute to a high quality of life for all, in addition to reducing collective impacts on scarce resources.

**Biodiversity by Design: A guide for sustainable communities, Town and Country Planning Association, 2004**

- 1.5.9 The Town and Country Planning Association document provides guidance on how to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity in the planning and design of sustainable communities. It offers exemplars from international projects on successful design and management of environmental infrastructure, benefiting communities, to demonstrate new approaches which have the potential for replication in the UK. The document considers core design principles which relate well to biodiversity, examines methods of analysing a site and its context, advises on how new Green Infrastructure can be created that links to existing networks, and considers detailed design and long term management.

**Start with the park: creating sustainable urban green spaces in areas of housing growth and renewal, 2005. CABESpace**

- 1.5.10 Start with the park is a good practice guide for everyone involved in the processes of sustainable growth and renewal in England. It is particularly relevant to the creation and care of green spaces in housing growth areas and housing market renewal areas.

**Is the grass greener? Learning from international innovations in urban green space management 2004. CABESpace.**

- 1.5.11 Certain cities around the world are well known for the quality of their urban green space. CABE space believes that by setting the right aspirations, resources and political commitment, it is within the grasp of every local authority in this country to be among the very best in the world.

**The value of public space: how high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value 2004. CABESpace.**

- 1.5.12 CABE identifies that there are many benefits to high quality parks and public spaces. These benefits can include; a significant impact on the economic life of urban environments; stimulating increased house prices; improvement to our physical and mental health by encouraging us to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment; providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning; helping to allay fear of crime; shaping the cultural identity of an area; providing a safer and more welcoming environment, encouraging walking and cycling; redress the imbalance known as the 'heat island effect'; vegetation also has benefits to mental well being.

**Paying for parks: eight models for funding green space, 2006. CABESpace**

- 1.5.13 CABE space identifies that there is increasing recognition of the value of well-designed, managed and resourced parks and green spaces. Yet finding funding, in particular long-term revenue funding remains a significant challenge. This guidance sets out the main funding mechanisms for green spaces in the UK and abroad.

**Spaceshaper: a Users's Guide, 2007. CABEspace**

- 1.5.14 CABEspace's Spaceshaper is a practical toolkit for use by anyone to measure the quality of public space before investing time and money in improving it. This guide explains how Spaceshaper works and how Spaceshaper has been used elsewhere.

**A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England / Playing Fields for Sport Revisited, Sport England (2000)**

- 1.5.15 These documents provide Sport England's planning policy statement on playing fields. It acknowledges that playing fields are one of the most important resources for sport in England as they provide the space which is required for the playing of team sports on outdoor pitches, that open space is becoming an increasingly scarce resource and that it can provide an important landscape function, perform the function of a strategic gap or provide a resource for other community activities and informal recreation.

**Planning for Open Space, Sport England (Sept 2002)**

- 1.5.16 Sport England draws together the large body of research and good practice on the subject of open space and focuses on the revised PPG 17 and its companion guide. The main messages from Sport England within this document are:
- 1.5.17 Sport England's policy on planning applications for development of playing fields (A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England) provides 5 exceptions to its normal stance of opposing any loss of all or part of such facilities and are reflected in PPG 17 (paragraphs 10-15).
- 1.5.18 Sport England must be consulted on development proposals affecting land that has been used as playing fields at any time in the previous 5 years, or that is identified as a playing field in a development plan.
- 1.5.19 It is highly likely that planning inspectors will no longer accept a Six Acre Standard approach in emerging development plans and it therefore increases the importance of setting local standards.
- 1.5.20 In undertaking a playing pitch assessment as part of an overall open space assessment, local authorities will need to consider the revised advice and methodology 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A manual for the production of Playing Pitch Strategies' produced by Sport England<sup>1</sup> and available on their website..

***Regional Policy*****Regional Spatial Strategy**

- 1.5.21 The East of England Plan (amongst other regional strategies) provides regional planning policy context to the year 2021 but with a longer-term vision. It includes issues covering economic development,

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<sup>1</sup> [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)

housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation and mineral extraction.

- 1.5.22 Its vision is that by 2021 the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people, including by meeting their housing needs in sustainable inclusive communities. At the same time it will reduce its impact on climate change and the environment, including through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets.
- 1.5.23 The Plan's objectives include to improve and conserve the region's environment. There is a specific policy for green infrastructure, POLICY ENV1: Green Infrastructure, which states that areas and networks of green infrastructure should be identified, created, protected, enhanced and managed to ensure an improved and healthy environment is available for present and future communities.
- 1.5.24 It specifically identifies that Local Development Documents (LDDs) should define a multiple hierarchy of green infrastructure, in terms of location, function, size and levels of use, based on analysis of natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, and the identification of areas where additional green infrastructure is required.
- 1.5.25 It further identifies assets of regional significance for the retention, provision and enhancement of green infrastructure, and that these include areas around the Stour Estuary.

### ***Regional guidance***

#### **The Haven Gateway framework for growth, 2007**

- 1.5.26 The Haven Gateway sub-region has been set challenging growth targets in the Draft East of England Plan and has, for this reason, been afforded New Growth Point status by the Government. The draft framework for growth include the requirement that development contributes to an improved environment by requiring high standards of design and sustainable construction, protecting and enhancing environmental assets and providing green space and related infrastructure.
- 1.5.27 The framework sets out priorities for environmental infrastructure and enhancement, highlighting the significance of the area for recreation, ecology, landscape and the historic environment.

#### **Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2008**

- 1.5.28 Production of a Green Infrastructure Strategy was a condition of New Growth Point status for the Haven Gateway. Green infrastructure is a connected system of protected sites, nature reserves, greenspaces and greenway linkages. Green infrastructure will be particularly important in settlements and surrounding areas proposed for regionally or sub-regionally significant development. The vision and principles include;
- To establish a framework for the delivery of high quality green infrastructure over the next 20 years, complementing and supporting planned housing and development growth.

- To contribute to quality of life through ensuring that everyone living and working in the Haven Gateway has access to a high quality natural and historic environment.
- 1.5.29 A set of principles was developed to guide planning, design and maintenance of the green infrastructure network. These principles are elaborated under the themes of access, biodiversity, historic environment and landscape.
- 1.5.30 **ANG Standards:** As part of this work, a set of standards was developed for enhancements to the Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) network. This provides opportunities for informal recreation in a natural setting, therefore giving people the opportunity to experience wildlife close to where they live. This is important for quality of life, healthy living and sense of place. Natural England (NE) believes that the provision of natural areas should be part of a balanced policy of greenspace provision. The deficiencies were appraised to see where they corresponded to areas of population density and anticipated economic and spatial growth.
- 1.5.31 **Opportunities:** Consultation was carried out with the key stakeholders to identify and analyse the resource data and to determine indicative project opportunities. Seven types of opportunity have been identified including access projects, other green links, site-based and area-wide projects. **See Figures 3 and 4.**
- 1.5.32 A Concept Map identifies key existing assets such as ANG, rivers, promoted walks and cycleways, key areas for ANG creation at the Regional, Sub-regional and District Levels, and key potential access routes. **See Figure 2.**
- Access to the countryside in and around towns, 2006.**
- 1.5.33 Essex Landscape Design were commissioned by the Countryside Agency to undertake a strategic study of the existing supply and future for open space in four towns in Haven Gateway, including Harwich, as an exemplar for the Countryside In and Around Towns initiative (CIAT). The CIAT initiative was new in looking at the many ways in which green spaces could function, with many green spaces being multi-functional.
- 1.5.34 The primary aims of the study were to identify and plot the existing green spaces over 2ha and links between them; audit the green spaces; identify the functions of the existing green spaces; develop appropriate standards for green spaces in the area; identify shortfalls in provision and possible new sites for green space and how to make better non-vehicular links in light of the proposed increase in population.
- 1.5.35 The results showed that Harwich has the fewest areas of green space of the four towns in the study. Only 8 of Harwich's 30 identified green spaces are above 2ha in size, comprising around 129ha in total. These are mainly sited by the promenade on the south-east side of the town. The designed parks are much in need of more and improved facilities and restoration. Apart from the link provided by the promenade there are few links between the green spaces nor along the Ramsey Creek

between Parkeston and Ramsey. The series of nature reserves situated along the Stour Estuary offers a total of 380 ha if one includes the estuary itself (Section owned by RSPB). The Essex Way, a long distance path stretching across the county, runs through these reserves and ends in Harwich Port.

### ***Local Policy***

#### **Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan Adopted April 2001**

1.5.36 Most of the planning policies contained in the Adopted Structure Plan expired on the 27 September 2007 and are therefore no longer in effect. This is a consequence of the provisions of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, the Secretary of State has decided that a limited number of Adopted Structure Plan policies should be 'saved' and should continue to apply after this date.

1.5.37 She has issued a statutory Direction to this effect, since amended to reflect her approval of the East of England Plan on the 12 May 2008. These six 'saved' policies include NR3 – Extension of Suffolk Coasts/Heaths AONB (in the Tendring district) and CC1 – Undeveloped Coast: Coastal Protection Belt. These saved policies above will continue to be a material consideration for the purposes of local planning and development control decisions. These policies have a transitional status and remain in force until they are replaced by Development Plan Documents adopted by district planning authorities.

#### **Tendring Local Plan 2007**

1.5.38 This provides planning policy guidance for the district up to 2011. Relevant policies in the local Plan include:

- Policy COM4 – New Community Facilities (including Built Sports and Recreation Facilities)
- Policy COM6 – Provision of Recreational Open Space for New Residential Development
- Policy COM7 – Protection of Existing Recreational Open Space including Children's Play Areas and Pitch and Non-Pitch Sports Facilities
- Policy COM7a – Protection of Existing Playing Fields, including School Playing Fields
- Policy COM8 – Provision and Improvement of Outdoor Recreational Facilities
- Policy COM8a - Proposed New Recreational Open Space
- Policy COM9 – Allotments
- Policy COM11 - Formal Recreation Facilities in the Countryside
- Policy COM15 - Coastal Water Recreation Facilities
- Policy COM15a – Protection of Existing Water Recreation Facilities
- Policy COM18 - Ardleigh Reservoir
- Policy COM25 - Cemeteries and the Crematorium

- Policy EN2 – Local Green Gaps
- Policy EN11c – Protection of Local Sites: Local Nature Reserves, County Wildlife Sites, Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites
- Policy TR3a – Provision for Walking
- Policy TR4 – Safeguarding and Improving Public Rights of Way

**A Sustainable Community Strategy for Tendring 2008-16**

1.5.39 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Tendring is the responsibility of the Local Strategic Partnership. It addresses the key strategic issues likely to affect the future of the District over the next ten years. The vision takes account of the opportunities to bring about change in different settings with different audiences and new ways of working together with new sources of finance. The vision for Tendring is:

- ‘By 2016, Tendring will have a thriving and prosperous economy. All our residents will be able to access a safe and healthy Quality of Life in an attractive environment.
- Each of our communities will offer a range of new housing and other important services and facilities, and children and young people will have the opportunity to have a good start in life’.
- The six strategic themes are Health; Economic Development; Children and Young People; Crime and disorder; Deprivation and the Environment.
- Creating and maintaining an attractive network of open spaces will contribute to delivery of all these key themes. Of the performance measures identified under each theme, the following are the most likely to be delivered through support for open space enhancement.

Theme	Measure
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher participation rates in sports, culture and the arts</li> <li>• Reducing adult and child obesity</li> </ul>
<b>Economic development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More visitors attracted to the district</li> </ul>
<b>Children and young people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher levels of achievement in schools</li> <li>• Measurable increases in the confidence and participation of young people</li> </ul>
<b>Crime and disorder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More people feeling safe by day and night</li> </ul>
<b>Deprivation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased number of people in deprived areas feeling services are easy to access</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress on the preparation of the Local Development Framework</li> <li>• Improvements to the public realm in terms of higher quality design standards in open spaces, town centres and conservation areas</li> <li>• Greater use of alternative means of transport to the car</li> </ul>

**Tendring Open Space SPD 2008**

- 1.5.40 Formally adopted by the Council in May 2008, the SPD was informed by an open space audit undertaken in 2006 and revised in 2008 along with a 'guidance note to applicants' that explains how legal agreements are to be used to secure financial contributions from developers towards open space. The SPD provides a summary of need in Tendring district relating to equipped play areas and formal recreational open space. The SPD will be updated in due course to encompass all types of open space as a result of this study.

**Dedham Vale AONB and Stour valley Management Strategy (2004 to 2009)**

- 1.5.41 The Management Strategy has been prepared by the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Joint Advisory Committee on behalf of the local authorities of the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley. The Dedham Vale was designated by the then Countryside Commission as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970. It protects an area of exceptional lowland river valley. The purpose of designation is primarily to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Recreation is not an objective of designation (unlike the National Parks) but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.
- 1.5.42 Many know The Dedham Vale AONB as 'Constable Country'. The designation of the AONB was strongly influenced by the desire to protect the views that Constable painted 150 years ago. It is this strong cultural connection that makes it such a valued landscape. His scenes of a living, working, rural landscape have come to represent the epitome of lowland English countryside, still recognizable today.
- 1.5.43 The Vale stands apart from other lowland river valleys because of the mix of features; the meandering River Stour, the gentle valley slopes with scattered woodlands, water meadows, small fields enclosed by rich hedgerows, intimate tributary valleys, sunken rural lanes and beautiful villages. It has remained a predominantly farmed landscape with little evidence of urban, industrial or mineral extraction intruding. Its closeness to London and the proposed growth agenda in the East of England makes it vulnerable to erosion of its special character.

**Tendring District Historic Environment Characterisation Project, Essex County Council (2008)**

- 1.5.44 The historic environment is a central resource for modern life. It has a powerful influence on peoples' sense of identity and civic pride. Its enduring physical presence contributes significantly to the character and 'sense of place' of rural and urban environments.
- 1.5.45 It is important that the many opportunities for the enhancement of the historic environment are realized and that adverse impacts associated with development are minimized so as to avoid unnecessary degradation. The historic environment lends character to places and provides a positive template for new development. It can play a key role in creating a 'sense of place' and identities as

new communities are created and existing ones enhanced. It is important that the many opportunities for the enhancement of the historic environment are realized and that adverse impacts associated with development are minimized so as to avoid unnecessary degradation.

1.5.46 The historic environment lends character to places and provides a positive template for new development. It can play a key role in creating a 'sense of place' and identities as new communities are created and existing ones enhanced.

1.5.47 The Historic Environment Characterisation project is designed along similar lines to that of the Thames Gateway Characterisation report produced by Chris Blandford Associates (2004) on behalf of English Heritage, Essex County Council, and Kent County Council. The Characterisation work is intended to inform the creation of the Local Development Framework, but should also be useful for a range of other purposes. The Historic Environment has been assessed using character assessments of the urban, landscape and archaeological resource. The Historic Environment Character Areas are broken down into more specific and more detailed Historic Environment Character Zones which are more suitable for informing strategic planning, and master planning activity within the District. They can also be used to inform enhancement programmes for landscape management, greenspace creation and enhancement, access links and interpretation.

#### **Tendring District Council, Local Wildlife Sites Review (draft); EECOS, 2009**

1.5.48 This study comprises the results of a review of existing and potential new Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) intended to contribute to the Local Development Framework evidence base. A previous survey report, produced in 1991, incorporated a basic land use survey with an exercise to identify the most important wildlife habitats present within the district. These important wildlife habitats were identified as "Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation" (SINC), but in Essex the term Local Wildlife Sites has now been adopted.

1.5.49 The report identifies where the LoWS have been amended from those identified in the report in 1991 for the following reasons:

- Some sites have been de-selected on account of their decreased nature conservation value or failure to satisfactorily meet the revised and now more stringent selection criteria.
- A few new, modified or previously overlooked sites have been identified and added to the register. In most instances, such changes involve alterations to the boundaries of existing sites, but a number of completely new areas have also been identified
- SSSIs have been removed from the system
- Some sites have been amalgamated where they lie next to each other or are otherwise sufficiently connected. Previously, even immediately adjacent sites were identified separately if

their selection criteria were different, but it is felt that this present amalgamation of sites makes for a more simplified system.

- 1.5.50 More detail of the current LoWs is given in the relevant discussion on standards and recommendations for the appropriate typologies (mainly Natural and Semi-natural areas, Parks and Gardens and Green Corridors). The map of LoWs sites has been included in **Figure 8, Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace accessibility deficiencies** in this report so that their potential role in the greenspace network can inform the recommendations.

## 2 Approach to the Study

### 2.1 Needs Assessments

2.1.1 An important element in assessing the needs for open space was consultation with the community. The approach to consultation was designed to allow for a community survey based on a Citizen's Panel or similar being available within the District Council with whom an e-survey could be conducted. As such a panel did not exist within Tendring District Council, the approach was adapted as follows:

- The Community Questionnaire was made available on the Tendring District Website for four weeks from October 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 to November 14<sup>th</sup> 2008.
- A version for children and young people was also made available.
- An Email/mail alert was sent to all schools, parish councils, and allotment holders to inform them of the purpose of the study and the presence of the questionnaire before the web-link went live.
- A press release was sent out on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 to Clacton Gazette, Frinton and Walton Gazette, Harwich and Manningtree Standard, East Anglian Daily Times, Essex County Standard and Dream 100 and SGR Colchester Radio Stations to promote the Community Survey.

2.1.2 The Community Questionnaire was particularly important in identifying:

- The types of open space people use and how frequently.
- Whether there is enough of each type of open space in people's local areas. This helps to inform the **quantity** standards for open space.
- How far people travel to access open space and what form of transport they use. This helps to inform the **accessibility** standards for open space.
- Why people use open space and why not?
- The satisfaction levels people have with facilities in open space and what features they would most like to see there. This helps to inform the **quality** standards.
- What makes people feel safe in open spaces, what they think about the accessibility and what are the problems?

2.1.3 We have also asked people what qualities they look for in an open space to help inform the **vision** for Tendring Open Spaces strategy.

### 2.2 Hard to Reach Groups

2.2.1 The tender submission allowed for key group consultation with hard to reach groups in the form of two small facilitated workshops. Approaches were made to four organisations but it was hard to gain responses or find appropriate times for meetings.

2.2.2 The same organisations and some additional groups have been emailed directly at the draft strategy consultation stage in order to encourage a direct response but allow the study to stay on track time-wise.

## **2.3 Site audit**

2.3.1 To establish the Tendring District's baseline position with regard to open space, a comprehensive site audit was undertaken. An initial desktop exercise identified a potential 605 sites that could form part of the audit including parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities, amenity greenspace, provision for children and teenagers, allotments, community gardens and city farms, cemeteries and churchyards and others, including the seafront. The desktop survey included:

- Previous site audits undertaken by consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) in 2002.
- Play area audits, largely < 0.2ha in size
- Local Plan GIS datasets for natural and semi-natural greenspace, including Ancient Woodland, County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves, now known as LoWs.

2.3.2 The previously audited Open Space sites were not recorded on a GIS database. In addition, the Stage One review identified some typologies such as green corridors, civic spaces and school sites, brownfield land/development sites, mineral/waste sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMS) and private sports pitches, as well as additional natural and semi-natural typologies, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), that may not have access, have not been previously audited, but do form a valuable part of the Open Space resource.

2.3.3 The tender included for 225 No site visits to be made as part of the audit process. In order to make best use of that audit time, a revised definitive list of existing Open Space sites, was drawn up with Tendring District Council that included a representative sample of sites that were then visited and assessed.

2.3.4 The approach to site selection for the audit is detailed below:

<b>Tendring Open Spaces Strategy: Approach to site audit</b>		
<b>Datasets received</b>	<b>No of sites</b>	<b>Audit approach</b>
<b>Existing recreational open space</b>	265	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit all sites over 0.2ha</li> </ul>
<b>New recreational open space</b>	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not visit but note locations in relation to deficiency mapping</li> </ul>
<b>Country Parks</b>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit all</li> <li>Identify role in OS Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Historic parks and Gardens</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit all</li> </ul>
<b>Cemeteries and crematoriums</b>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit all unless TDC advises crematorium does not have associated greenspace</li> </ul>
<b>Local Nature reserves</b>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit all</li> <li>Identify role in OS Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>New community facilities</b>	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not visit but note locations in relation to deficiency mapping</li> </ul>
<b>National Nature Reserves</b>	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not visit unless also a Country Park, Existing Open Space etc.</li> <li>Identify role in OS Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Ramsar sites</b>	Unknown	
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>	Unknown	
<b>Special Protection Area</b>	Unknown	
<b>Site of Special Scientific Interest</b>	Unknown	
<b>Ancient woodlands</b>	63	
<b>County<sup>2</sup> Wildlife Sites</b>	94	
<b>PRoW</b>	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not visit</li> <li>Identify role in OS strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Protected lanes</b>	17	

<sup>2</sup> Now known as Local Wildlife Sites (LoWs)

- 2.3.5 Generally, the site audits were carried out by one of two named assessors, with both attending site visits together for a half day to ensure consistency of approach, and then visiting each site within a designated sub-area individually. The majority of sites were visited in late July or August 2008 and a survey form completed providing details of the assessment. Some additional sites were visited in November 2008 following a review of sites with Tendring District Council.
- 2.3.6 The sites audited included all public open spaces (over 0.2ha) ranging from accessible natural areas, to playgrounds and designated outdoor sports facilities, plus some Natural and Semi-natural greenspaces and sports facilities that were in private ownership and did not necessarily have full public access.
- 2.3.7 There were few sites greater than 0.2ha whose primary purpose was for provision for children and young people, so the analysis of these site audits could give a skewed impression of the provision in this typology. All play areas in local authority ownership or care are inspected regularly, and the relevant results from that work have also been used to inform the analysis in this current study.
- 2.3.8 Sites owned or managed by Parish and Town Councils, such as allotments, were reported on separately by the appropriate town and parish councils and have been analysed separately, with results used to generate the appropriate standards.
- 2.3.9 The sites audit was carried out across the full range of PPG17 typologies, listed below, but also included Beach/seafront as a special category of Green Corridor as this is such an important resource in a coastal area such as Tendring. The one site originally identified as an Urban/Civic Space was reclassified as Parks and Gardens after a review.
- Park and Gardens
  - Amenity Greenspace
  - Natural and Semi-natural greenspace
  - Seafront/Green Corridors
  - Pitches/Outdoor sports facilities
  - Children and young people's provision
  - Allotments
  - Cemeteries and Churchyards
- 2.3.10 The site audit included identification of key features and facilities at the site including car parks, toilets, dog bins, litter bins, signage sculpture and water features.
- 2.3.11 **Audit Checklist:** The audit checklist forms were completed by hand in the field and the data then inputted into a comprehensive Excel database for ease of analysis and review by the client.

2.3.12 **Sub – areas:** The site audits were carried out in tranches based on seven sub-areas agreed with Tendring Council. These are identified as:

<b>Sub-area</b>	<b>Core Strategy Discussion Paper sub-area</b>
<b>Clacton with Little Clacton</b>	<b>Clacton</b> - contains the un-parished area of Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick and the adjoining parishes of Little Clacton, St. Osyth and Weeley.
<b>Frinton and Walton/Kirby cross</b>	<b>Frinton</b> - contains the Frinton and Walton Town Council area (including Kirby Cross, Kirby-le-Soken and Great Holland) and the adjoining parishes of Beaumont and Thorpe-le-Soken.
<b>Brightlingsea</b>	<b>Brightlingsea</b> - contains the Brightlingsea Town Council area and the adjoining parishes of Alresford and Thorrington.
<b>Harwich and Dovercourt</b>	<b>Harwich</b> - contains the Harwich Town Council area and the adjoining parishes of Great Oakley, Little Oakley, Ramsey & Parkeston and Wrabness.
<b>Mistley and Manningtree</b>	<b>Manningtree</b> - contains the Manningtree Town Council area and the adjoining parishes of Bradfield, Lawford, Little Bromley and Mistley.
<b>Great Bentley, Little Bentley, Tendring</b>	<b>Mid-Tendring</b> - contains the parishes of Great Bentley, Little Bentley, Tendring and Wix.
<b>Elmstead Market and Ardleigh</b>	<b>West Tendring</b> - contains the parishes of Ardleigh, Elmstead, Frating and Great Bromley.

2.3.13 The seven sub-areas are based on the consideration of a number of factors which are documented in the Council’s 2008 technical document entitled ‘Defining District Sub-Areas.’ The sub-areas are shown on **Figure 5**.

***Parish/Town Councils and Allotment Holders***

2.3.14 Allotment Associations, parish and town councils were invited to self-audit sites within their ownership or management. A letter was sent out to the chairman/clerk of each of these 31 No. community-based organisations at the end of July 2008 outlining the programme and purpose of the audit, with a hard copy of the audit form attached. Further hard copies or digital versions were also made available.

2.3.15 A follow up letter was sent at the beginning of September 2008 as the initial response rate was poor and some confusion arose as to whether the form was designed for allotment-holders only.

## 2.4 Stakeholder Consultation

2.4.1 PPG 17 encourages involvement of stakeholders across a wide range of disciplines to ensure the Open Spaces Strategy takes account of policy and strategy across a broad range of District Council activity. Stakeholders targeted within Tendring District Council included Planning, Recreation, Sustainability, Neighbourhood Services, Community Safety, Arboriculture, Tourism and marketing and Highways. Contact was also made with the Jaywick Green Team.

2.4.2 For services provided by Essex County Council, contact was made with Education, Waste management, Heritage Services and Landscape and Ecology.

2.4.3 In addition to this, a wide range of external stakeholders was contacted including Natural England, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Essex Wildlife Trust and RSPB. Stakeholders were contacted by email with an e-letter giving them an outline of the purpose and programme of the Open Spaces Strategy. This was followed up with a phone call or additional emails as necessary until contact was made.

## 2.5 Setting Standards

2.5.1 The 'Companion Guide to PPG 17: Assessing needs and Opportunities' identifies five key attributes of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities, these being:

- Accessibility
- Quality
- Multi-functionality
- Primary purpose and
- Quantity

2.5.2 The PPG 17 Companion Guide identifies the following:

2.5.3 **Accessibility** normally comes first in importance for the simple reason that if a particular open space or facility is inaccessible it will be irrelevant to those who may want to use it. At the same time, however, inaccessible open spaces can nonetheless contribute to the appearance, environmental quality and amenity of an area and contribute to biodiversity.

2.5.4 **Quality** depends on two things: the needs and expectations of users, on the one hand, and design, management and maintenance on the other - in other words fitness for purpose. In this context, 'users' means people of all ages, all social or ethnic groups and abilities or disabilities, and also

wildlife. Ensuring that something is fit for purpose requires clarity as to what that purpose is. Many open spaces, however, are in practice.

2.5.5 **Multi-functional.** Most grass pitches, for example, are probably used for purposes such as children's play, kite flying, exercising dogs (in spite of the potential problem of fouling) or jogging as well as sport. This can create problems when analysing an audit of provision and determining whether local needs are satisfied.

2.5.6 **-'Primary purpose'** so that each open space, or sport and recreation facility, is counted only once in an audit of provision. 'Primary' infers that there is at least one secondary purpose; this both reflects the multi-functional nature of many open spaces and brings clarity and consistency to planning, design and management policies. It therefore helps to promote fitness for purpose.

2.5.7 **Quantity** is the final key attribute. It is usually measured in terms of the amount of provision (for example, area, the number of pitches or allotments or pieces of play equipment). However, this can be over-simplistic for pitches and some other outdoor sports facilities. For example, a pitch can accommodate only one match starting at 1400 hours on a Saturday afternoon. However, the capacity, or maximum number of matches per week, of any given pitch varies with its specification. This means that it is sometimes possible to address an identified quantitative deficiency in provision by improving the specification, or quality, of existing facilities.

2.5.8 Standards have been identified locally for accessibility, quality and quantity through identifying shortfalls in these attributes via analysis of the site audits and Community Survey responses and comparing them to both existing standards, and those of comparator authorities.

2.5.9 Standards have been identified across the District authority for each typology of open space where appropriate.

2.5.10 Standards were discussed with District Councillors through a workshop in January 2009. A list of District Councillors who attended and general comments received is appended.

### ***Comparator authorities***

2.5.11 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) provides a Nearest Neighbours Model, to enable local authorities to undertake comparative and benchmarking exercises, by identifying the councils that are most closely related in terms of their demography and economic profile.

2.5.12 In terms of comparing open space provision with the most comparable local authorities, an exercise was undertaken to identify Tendring's 'Nearest Neighbours', and establish which of these authorities have undertaken similar open space studies, to provide benchmarking data.

2.5.13 The results of the exercise identified **Teignbridge** in Devon, **Canterbury** and **Dover**, as the most compatible authorities with an Open spaces/PPG17 assessment/Green spaces strategy. Where the

'nearest neighbour' authorities had not set greenspace standards for a particular typology, we also consulted near spatial neighbours with Open Spaces Strategies, such as Colchester Borough Council to see what standard they had set.

### ***Role of comparator authorities in standard setting***

2.5.14 Whilst the primary method of establishing local standards has been through use of the audit and the community consultation, the comparator standards allow proposed local standards to be compared with local authorities with similar economic, social and demographic profile as a further bench-mark exercise, helping to test the validity of the choice of standard.

### ***Definitions of urban settlements***

2.5.15 Some standards have been set that differentiate between urban and rural areas of the borough. The following is a list of those settlements that are defined as urban, by Tendring District Council. Rural settlements are listed in the appendices.

#### *Urban Settlements:*

- Clacton-on-Sea & Jaywick (including Holland-on-Sea)
- Frinton & Walton (including Kirby Cross)
- Harwich & Dovercourt (including Parkeston and Little Oakley)
- Lawford, Manningtree & Mistley;
- Brightlingsea; and
- The eastern fringe of Colchester lying within the parish of Ardleigh.

### 3 The vision

3.1.1 **Our vision for Tendring open spaces is a dynamic network at the heart of the community that is safe and well-maintained, accessible to all, good for wildlife and fun for all ages, whilst conserving peace and quiet wherever possible.**

3.1.2 As part of the community consultation, Tendring residents were asked to choose the five qualities that best described what they looked for in an open space. Qualities looked for in a park or open space were dominated by the need for them to be clean and well-maintained (74%), good for nature (57%), peaceful and quiet (51%), safe and secure (43%) and fun for all ages (40%).

3.1.3 Specific comments received in response to this question included:

- *'open space for ALL non motorised users, including runners, horse-riders and walkers.'*
- *'more safety for all none motorised users to keep us off of the roads as much as possible'*
- *'accessible'*

3.1.4 Respondents were given the opportunity to give any other comments in relation to open space. Generally, these fell broadly into the following categories:

**Links between path networks** – there was a recognised need to link up the different path networks, for walkers, cyclists and horse riders alike in order to improve access for all to public open spaces.

**Horse users** – horse riders were concerned about the lack of bridleways and those that were available didn't link easily to other ones, making road use necessary.

**Protection of open space** – there was concern that public open spaces would be built on and that the Local Planning Authority was likely to encourage new developments rather than safeguarding and improving existing facilities.

**Safety** – there was some concern that the public open spaces were not safe and that the behaviour of some users discouraged others from coming.

**Child play facilities** – there were a couple of comments about the lack of local facilities and the associated needs.

3.1.5 Some specific comments given in relation to open space generally included:

- *'My preferred "open space" would be a natural green space but the nearest is an even longer drive away so we tend to go to the nearest green corridor instead. I would love to have*

*somewhere we could walk to but my husband can't walk very far so we have to drive and save our walking for when we get there.'*

- *'I would use open spaces more if they were available to horse riders. There is a distinct lack of a bridleway network in Tendring and off road routes for walkers and cyclists which mean many people are missing out on the wonderful open spaces in our area'*
- *'My view is that access to quality areas of public open space is the single most significant factor that impacts on the quality of life of individuals and to a large extent determines the success or otherwise of local communities.'*

3.1.6 The vision statement has been informed by a response to the initial community consultation that was quite low. A summary of all the responses can be found in a separate appendix.

## 4 The Strategy

### 4.1 Parks and Gardens:



*Clacton Seafront Gardens*

- 4.1.1 Parks and gardens are generally areas of land normally enclosed, designed, managed and maintained spaces, usually but not exclusively for public use, and including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens<sup>3</sup>. Traditional parks often include areas of evergreen shrubberies and flower gardens, sometimes derived from a Victorian or Edwardian design; meandering walks or drives depending on scale, water bodies at appropriate scales, or areas of active recreation. They will often contain features such as seating, shelters or kiosks.
- 4.1.2 These traditional sorts of parks often provide for quiet enjoyment, dog-walking, if appropriate, meeting friends, and children's play, as well as providing for more active recreation. They are also critical in providing a green lung within the built environment, providing a valuable green infrastructure function in terms of pollution control, micro-climate mitigation, a setting for residential development as well as a visual amenity for both users and those who just pass by or overlook them.

<sup>3</sup> Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

- 4.1.3 Other greenspaces in this category – many derived from the 1930s - can include large recreation grounds with smaller flower gardens located at a main entrance, for instance. It becomes a difficult process of categorisation to decide into which typology a site should fall and to determine strategic principles for pitch and outdoor sports usage which could be at odds with their other greenspace functions.
- 4.1.4 Parks and gardens are often identified largely as urban greenspace types, but can fulfil a primary function in some rural areas. This includes historic Parks and Gardens that originated as the grounds of private houses within historic rural estates. Such parks, some of which are on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens<sup>4</sup>, may not have open access to the public, or may be substantially controlled by a private landowner. The latter is the case with St. Osyth Priory in Tendring. Nevertheless, they can still have a role defining and separating urban areas or providing a linkage between town and country or have potential 'to be corridors or stepping stones from one habitat to another and may contribute towards achieving objectives set out in local biodiversity action plans'<sup>1</sup>.

### ***Result of audit***

- 4.1.5 The large majority of parks and gardens are in public ownership and are publicly accessible, the exceptions being Mistley Place Park in Manningtree, Michael Stowe Hall in Harwich and St. Osyth Priory.
- 4.1.6 The majority of parks and gardens are in the urban parts of the Clacton sub-area, which includes Holland Haven, the urban areas of Frinton/Walton or Harwich. There is one site in Manningtree, at Mistley Place Park; one in Brightlingsea, Promenade Park; one in Elmstead Market and Ardleigh.
- 4.1.7 The single largest green space in this typology is St. Osyth Priory at 94ha, which is an historic park in private ownership, and on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens<sup>2</sup>. Thorpe Hall is another substantial Grade 2 historic park on the register, in private ownership, and with limited public access. Thorpe Hall gardens are early 20th century shrub and water gardens developed by the owner, Lady Byng, from 1913 onwards.
- 4.1.8 The character of the Parks and Gardens varied from the large historic parks mentioned above, to smaller formal gardens with mown grass and ornamental planting and trees. Facilities on sites varied, with some having extensive features such as children's play areas, kiosks, car-parks etc. Most of the smaller sites did not provide these facilities. The quality of this provision varied, generally being fair or good. The car-parking at Knox Road recreation ground in Clacton was thought to be poor, however.
- 4.1.9 Several of the larger sites, including St. Osyth Priory form key gateway sites to towns or other urban settlements. Many of the seafront sites, such as Promenade Way Brightlingsea, Mistley Place Park,

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<sup>4</sup> English Heritage; The Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

and small gardens in Holland-on-Sea and Clacton, also provide expansive or framed views out to sea or to the Stour or Colne Estuaries.

4.1.10 Most parks and gardens are identified nodes within the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study.<sup>5</sup> This includes many of the larger seafront sites and the two historic parks. Other sites form one of the key opportunity projects including Cliff Park, Dovercourt; the Mayor's Garden Harwich, which has potential to form part of an area-wide project; Harwich Green, Mistley Place Park and the smaller site of Cox's Pond in Harwich.

4.1.11 The overall quality of the parks and gardens is as follows:

Site Name	Overall quality
Brighton Road Open Space, Holland-on-Sea	Average
Haven Avenue Open Space, Holland Haven	Average
Mistley Place Park	Average
Thorpe Hall	Average
Tower Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea	Good
Lancaster Gardens	Good
Lancaster Gardens	Good
Connaught Gardens	Good
London Road Recreation Ground, Clacton	Good
Cox's Pond	Good
Promenade Way, Brightlingsea	Good
Hereford Road Open Space, Holland Haven	Good
Knox Road Recreation Ground, Clacton	Poor
St. Osyth Priory	Unknown
Albany Gardens	Very Good
Albany Gardens	Very Good
Connaught Gardens	Very Good
Seafront Gardens/West Green wood, Clacton	Very Good
Michael Stowe Hall	Very Good
Mayor's Garden, Harwich	Very Good
Harwich Green, St Helens Green	Very Good
[Cliff] Park Open Space, Dovercourt	Very Good

4.1.12 All the sites are visually attractive, and provide either relief from the built up area, have clearly definable townscape value, or are visible from surrounding areas, thereby contributing to amenity value of nearby residents or neighbouring land-users.

4.1.13 West Green Wood in Clacton is a SSSI and part of St. Osyth Priory is a County Wildlife site, now known as Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS). Many other sites have some limited biodiversity value though plantings of ornamental trees and shrubs, or limited areas of longer grass or scrub. There remains an opportunity to improve the biodiversity value of many parks and gardens through suitable planting and changes to mowing patterns.

- 4.1.14 Many sites have the potential to provide a further role in cultural or educational activity including London Road Recreation ground, which adjoins a school, so could contribute to learning outcomes. Mistley Place Park, which includes an animal rescue centre and so could contribute to learning in this area; and both St. Osyth Priory and Thorpe Hall provide multiple opportunities for cultural and educational opportunities linked to heritage.
- 4.1.15 All of the sites are generally welcoming, with many having entrances in good repair. Quality of access to the site varied, with access by public transport thought to be generally good (maybe reflecting the general urban location of the sites). Pedestrian and cycle access was also thought to be generally good, although details of cycleways or cycle facilities was not recorded. Disabled access varied, with some sites being of good/very good, whilst others had only average provision. Interpretation at the sites was often poor, however, with signage either lacking or being of poor quality.
- 4.1.16 Problems identified in all typologies included litter, followed by anti-social behaviour and dog-fouling, and vandalism. However, none of these issues was thought to be significant, with a majority saying these were minor problems or no problem at all. Where dog fouling remains an issue, a phased programme of local education with dog walkers should be progressed.
- 4.1.17 The quality of site layouts was generally good. Several sites had distinctive features, including the historic structures at St. Osyth Priory, the Martello Tower at Tower Gardens at Clacton, historic features at Mistley Place Park and Cliff Park Open Space at Dovercourt, and lakes or water features at the Mayor's Garden, Harwich and Promenade Way, Brightlingsea.
- 4.1.18 The quality of access within sites was poorer, however, reflecting poor path surfaces or networks. Not all sites had hard-surfaced paths. Barriers to access include, broken path surfaces at Tower Gardens at Clacton, steep slopes at Haven Avenue Open Space at Holland Haven, and low fencing around the site at Hereford Road Open Space.
- 4.1.19 Links to other sites were often good, but a small minority of rural sites, such as St. Osyth Priory and Michael Stowe Hall, were generally isolated. Others, such as Coxes Pond in Harwich, and Promenade Way in Brightlingsea, had few connections. The latter could be a particular issue, as this is a relatively large linear site, where links back into the town would be beneficial.
- 4.1.20 Pitches are available at Cliff Park Open Space, Dovercourt, but not at other sites, and an outdoor swimming pool at Promenade Way in Brightlingsea. Most sites have some site furniture such as benches, dog bins, litter bins, picnic tables or occasionally signage. Provision is generally in good condition.
- 4.1.21 There were a variety of indicators of informal use including dog-walking or pedestrian routes along informal desire lines at approximately half the sites. There was also limited evidence of cycle use and

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<sup>5</sup> Haven Gateway Partnership, 2008, A Green Infrastructure Study for the Haven Gateway

use of some grassed areas for informal ball games. Model boating is also an activity in some greenspaces with water features.

4.1.22 There were few indications of vandalism and many of the sites had natural surveillance. A small minority had potential ambush areas which may include areas of dense bushes or trees, structures such as pavilions and kiosks providing areas hidden from view or enclosed spaces with few access or egress points. The sense of security at sites is generally good, therefore, with only Lancaster Gardens, Albany and Connaught Gardens in Clacton, and Thorpe Hall in Frinton/Walton having a poor sense of security. Thorpe Hall has a CCTV camera at the entrance which tends to heighten, not reduce the sense of 'danger'.

4.1.23 Most of the sites presented opportunities for improvement or enhancement for the site alone or for the greenspace network as a whole. Particular comment has been made by the community of a general need for updating or refreshing the facilities with Clacton's parks. This potential is summarised below.

Site Name	Potential
Brighton Road Open Space, Holland-on-Sea	Existing Picnic tables and small informal kickabout area being well used. Conserve and enhance with tree planting and seating.
Haven Avenue Open Space, Holland Haven	Conserve good views to sea, and links along seafront towards Clacton.
Mistley Place Park	Well signposted, popular destination, with modest entrance fee. Potential for green space trail involving Mistley waterfront and towers.
Thorpe Hall	Parkland needing management and enhanced public access to fulfil greenspace and heritage potential
Tower Gardens, Clacton on Sea	Footpaths need some work.
Lancaster Gardens	More seating needed.
Lancaster Gardens (2)	Formal area, appears to be under-used, could be due to close proximity of beach and cliff top green space.
Connaught Gardens	More seating is needed, possibly a threatening area to be at night.
London Road Recreation Ground, Clacton	Existing BMX track, seating and litter bins needed.
Cox's Pond	Small site with attractive pond and planted surround providing a valuable amenity space. Conserve.
Promenade Way, Brightlingsea	No potential noted
Hereford Road Open Space, Holland Haven	Possible improvement to boundary treatment.
Knox Road Recreation Ground, Clacton	Play equipment would bring more people into the park. Tree needed for shade.
St. Osyth Priory	Huge potential for green space, heritage attraction, major tourism, link to Clacton seaside holidays
Albany Gardens	More seating could be provided.
Albany Gardens	More seating could be provided.

Connaught Gardens	More seating is needed, possibly a threatening area to be at night.
Seafront Gardens/West Green wood, Clacton	Investigate similar treatment along the whole of the seafront.
Michael Stowe Hall	Grounds of care home could be used as local green space.
Mayor's Garden, Harwich	A well maintained site with the potential to link to the adjacent park.
Harwich Green, St Helens Green	An attractive park with potential to link to green spaces along the seafront.
[Cliff] Park Open Space, Dovercourt	A well maintained site with range of amenities. Potential link to other adjacent green spaces to form a green corridor along the sea front.

### ***Parks and Gardens: standards***

#### ***Role of Green Flag award in standard setting***

4.1.24 The Green Flag Award is the national standard for quality parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme began over ten years ago as a way of recognising the best green spaces in the country. It was also seen as a way to create a benchmark of excellence within recreational areas.

4.1.25 The key criteria against which the awards are given are:

**A welcoming place** – such as good and safe access, good signage, and equal access for all members of the community.

**Healthy, Safe and Secure** – particularly important are that equipment and facilities must be safe to use, the park or greenspace must be secure for all members of the community, dog fouling must be addressed, health and safety policies should be in place and toilets, drinking water etc should be available or close by.

**Clean and well-maintained** – Litter and other waste management issues must be addressed, grounds, buildings and features must be well maintained and a policy on litter, vandalism etc must be in place.

**Sustainability** – An environmental policy or charter should be in place, pesticide use should be minimised, horticultural peat use should be eliminated, waster [plant materials should be recycled, high horticultural and arboricultural standards should be used, energy conservation measures etc. should be used.

**Conservation and heritage** – including natural features, wildlife and fauna, landscape features, buildings and structural features.

**Community Involvement** – knowledge of user community, evidence of community involvement, and recreational facilities for all sectors of the community.

**Marketing – marketing** strategy in place, good provision of information to users, promotion of the park.

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**Management** – a management plan should be in place.

- 4.1.26 Some Local Authorities use the Green Flag as the quality standard for their parks and other greenspaces. It is not known how achievable this is as a proposal, however, and thought preferable for Tendring to use it as a standard to aspire to, and to set a target within the action plan to achieve the Green Flag standard for key greenspaces over time.
- 4.1.27 Greenspace managers can also aspire to 'Green Heritage site' status or a 'Green Pennant' award for their sites which recognise heritage value and community or voluntary group management.

**Quantity**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.02 – 2.02ha/1000 population	<p><b>Proposed standard: 1ha per 1000 of population.</b></p> <p><i>This is equal to average sub-area provision</i></p>
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to a range of 0.02 – 2.02ha/1000 of population across the 7 sub-areas. This ranges from very low provision of 0.02ha/1000 in Elmstead Market and Ardleigh, better provision at Great Bentley and Little Bentley of 0.88ha/1000 to very generous provision at Brightlingsea of 1.79ha/1000 population and at Frinton of 2.02ha/1000 population. An identification of a deficit in one typology may mask the provision of enough or over-provision of another typology.</p> <p>The proposed standard has been set at an average across all the sub-areas i.e. 1ha per 1000 of population. Deficiencies in rural areas will need to be accommodated through multi-functional usage of other typologies such as amenity greens, or natural and semi-natural areas. This standard is more than that adopted by the comparator authorities that were studied which have set the following standards;</p> <p><b>Canterbury, 0.31ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Teignbridge 0.75ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Dover at 1 park per 8500 residents</b></p> <p>District Councillors had some desire to set quantitative standards based on the highest per capita sub-area level of provision i.e. 2.02ha/1000 population at Frinton. This level of provision is thought not to be deliverable across the whole of the district, however, hence the average figure is selected as the standard.</p>	

**Accessibility**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
Not defined	<p><b>Proposed standard: Within 15 minutes walk (1km) for urban populations.</b></p> <p><i>Similar to comparator authorities whilst reflecting local need</i></p>
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision shows a cluster of sites in the Clacton sub-area focussed largely on the urban areas of Clacton and Holland-on-Sea, Frinton and Walton, including The Naze Country Park, and Harwich. There is also substantial provision at St. Osyth Priory park, although access is severely restricted at the moment due to the property being in private ownership, and sites at Weeley, and Thorpe. The main urban areas deficient in Parks and Gardens are the southern part of Frinton, north-west and north-east Clacton, and parts of Dovercourt.</p> <p>The audit shows that the large majority of parks and gardens are in public ownership and are publicly accessible. All of the sites are generally welcoming, with many having entrances in good repair. The quality of access to sites varies, with access by public transport thought to be generally good. Pedestrian and cycle access is also generally good, although details of cycleways or cycle facilities was not recorded. Disabled access varies, with some sites providing good/very good access, whilst others are of only average provision. Interpretation at the sites is often poor with signage either lacking or being of poor quality.</p> <p>The community consultation identified that respondents would prefer access within 10 minutes of home.</p>	

Members think generally that a 10 min walk time would be quite difficult to achieve, and maybe a 10-15 min drive-time would be sufficient for this typology. Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:

**Canterbury – within 2km of all urban residents**

**Teignbridge – Within 15 minutes walk**

**Dover – at least one public park/garden within 15 mins walking time of urban population**

The proposed standard has been set as a balance between local need and deliverability. It may be possible to mitigate some deficiencies through adding park-like facilities to existing amenity greens, especially in rural areas, and by creating more pocket parks and high quality civic spaces in urban areas.

**Quality**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
N/A	<p><b>Proposed standard: Essential:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites should be clean and litter-free</li> <li>• Sites should be managed to give natural surveillance to minimise fear of crime.</li> <li>• All parks should provide a range of horticultural or natural features appropriate to their size and character.</li> <li>• All parks should have a range of facilities, including those for young and older people, appropriate to their size and character.</li> <li>• All parks should have appropriate signage particular to that place</li> <li>• All greenspace features and facilities should be well-maintained, including play equipment, footpaths, site furniture and soft landscaping</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed standard: Desirable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tendring District Council should work towards achieving 1 No. Park or Garden of Green Flag standard in the next three years.</li> <li>• All Parks and Gardens should work towards achieving the qualities described within the Green Flag standard in the longer term.</li> <li>• Major Parks and Gardens should have an active Management Plan in place</li> <li>• Access to parks and gardens should be part of an integrated network of footpaths and cycleways, should be of high quality design and use materials appropriate to the setting.</li> </ul>

**Justification**

The current audit shows that most Parks and Gardens are of good or very good quality. All sites are visually attractive, with many providing amenity value, relief in the built up areas, or townscape value. A few have some biodiversity value. Most sites have the ability to provide a cultural or educational role, with the historic parks having the biggest unmet potential. There are some problems in litter, dog-fouling and vandalism.

The proposed standard responds to the results of the community consultation by incorporating essential standards around cleanliness and maintenance, biodiversity and natural qualities, peace and quiet, security and fun. It seeks to promote higher standards over time by seeking to use the qualities in the 'Green Flag' award as a desirable target, encouraging Tendring to achieve one Green Flag in the next three years.

Canterbury was the only comparator authority to set a quality standard, and has set 'Green Flag' as the standard. This was thought to be not deliverable over the lifetime of the strategy for Tendring, and hence a focus on delivering the qualities of 'Green Flag' standards without having to achieve 'Green Flag' status.

**Deficiencies in local standards**

4.1.28 Deficiencies in **quantity** occur in the following sub-areas:

**Great Bentley and Little Bentley sub-area**

- Elmstead Market and Ardleigh
- Harwich and Dovercourt: Funding is being sought, however, for a country park site between Parkeston and Ramsey. The aim is to open up a 22-hectare area of green space to the community, including farmland, reed beds and Ramsey Creek with footpaths, stiles, and new bridges so that it can be enjoyed by everyone. The bid for the Harwich Linear Park has been made by Tendring District Council (TDC), as the bidding partner in the scheme, and it is hoped that it will know if the application has been successful in April. The site under consideration is bordered by Ramsey Creek to the west and extends up to Church Hill and Main Road by Ramsey Bridge to the south. The site is bisected by the A120, but the two sections of park are connected by an underpass below the road, suitable horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians. The area will still be able to be farmed but it will open it up to the community providing public access to the countryside within walking distance. Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council is involved in developing proposals for a community orchard and native woodland on the site.
- Mistley and Manningtree

4.1.29 Deficiencies in **accessibility** in urban settlements occur in the following areas and are shown in **Figure 6**:

- the southern part of urban Frinton: however this part of Frinton is well supplied by the Seafront greensward and beach
- north-west and north-east Clacton, and
- parts of Dovercourt

4.1.30 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur at the following sites:

- Brighton Road Open Space, Holland-on-Sea
- Haven Avenue Open Space, Holland Haven
- Mistley Place Park
- Thorpe Hall
- Knox Road Recreation Ground, Clacton

***Draft Recommendations***

**RPG1 Seek additional provision in Mistley and Manningtree to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.**

**RPG2 Seek additional provision in Dovercourt to mitigate for existing and prospective deficiencies in both quantity and accessibility**

**RPG3 Seek enhanced provision in the south of Frinton by seeking to enhance existing facilities at the seafront.**

**RPG4 Seek additional provision in north-west and north-east Clacton to mitigate for existing, and prospective accessibility deficiencies through prospective new development; seek enhancements to existing amenity greens, or creation of pocket parks.**

**RPG5 Review role and identify enhancement plans as appropriate for Brighton Road Open Space, Haven Avenue Open Space and Knox Road Recreation Grounds.**

**RPG6 Seek opportunities to work with private owners to deliver further enhancements in quality and access to St Osyth Priory, Michael Stowe Hall, Thorpe Hall and Mistley Park Place.**

## 4.2 Amenity Greenspace:



### *Hazel Close Openspace*

- 4.2.1 PPG 17 identifies amenity greenspace as being 'most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas - including informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens<sup>6</sup>.
- 4.2.2 These sorts of greenspace tend to consist largely of mown grass which can be of a scale to provide an informal kickabout area, and perhaps with some boundary tree-planting or sometimes incorporating play facilities. Generally, they do not include formal flower gardens or shrub beds or laid out seating areas. Nor do they tend to incorporate areas of high nature conservation value.

### ***Result of audit***

- 4.2.3 Altogether 40 No. Amenity Greenspace sites were identified in Tendring, many of which are at the lower end of the size limit for this study, such as Colchester Road Open Space, at 0.26ha; Gerard Road in Clacton, at 0.22ha; and Lime Avenue/Highfield Avenue in Harwich, at 0.22ha. There are several sites that were identified as part of the initial scoping of the study that are below the 0.2ha threshold that were not audited.

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<sup>6</sup> Planning Policy 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

- 4.2.4 The single largest green space in this typology is Great Bentley Green at 15.68ha which is a large green with sports pitches. With the exception of the Coronation Recreation Ground and Primary School, in Frinton/Walton, at 5.71ha and the Alresford Recreation Ground at 3.16ha most sites are less than 1ha in size.
- 4.2.5 The large majority of Amenity Greenspaces in Tendring, by their nature, are in public ownership and therefore allow general public access. There appear to be a couple of exceptions to this namely West Road Open Space, Clacton, and Lime Avenue/Highfield Avenue, Harwich.
- 4.2.6 The current level of provision shows clusters of Amenity Greenspace provision along the coast, especially in central Harwich and Clacton-on-Sea, a small cluster in Manningtree and a large group centred around the Thorpe-le-Soken area. The main urban areas deficient in Amenity greenspace are southern Mistley and Manningtree and eastern Harwich and Dovercourt.
- 4.2.7 The character of the Amenity Greenspaces varied greatly but with most consisting of mown grass, a few trees or shrubs, perhaps children's play facilities, or an occasional multi-use area. Provision of some form of active recreation facility or sport was often accompanied by a car-parking facility. Approximately 50% of sites contain provision for children's or teenage play. The quality of this provision varied, but on average was fair.
- 4.2.8 Few of the sites form key gateways to towns or other urban settlements, perhaps due to their general location within residential areas. Only 25% of the sites provide significant views, again due to this type of space being often contained within a residential area.
- 4.2.9 Perhaps surprisingly, considering the small size of the sites, over 50% of the sites have the potential to fulfil a strategic green infrastructure role, to form part of an area wide project/initiative, or could contribute to a green corridor or access project. This demonstrates how collections of smaller sites have value over and above the provision they give to the immediate locality. It would be appropriate to look at collections of these sites in relation to the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Plan to see how they could contribute overall to the delivery of more sub-regional greenspace objectives.
- 4.2.10 The overall quality of the Amenity Greenspaces is as follows:

Site Name	Overall Quality
Lime Avenue - Highfield Avenue	Very Poor
Jaywick Community Centre/Resource Centre	Very Poor
New Memorial Gardens - Walton Cemetery	Very Poor
St. Christophers Way Car Park, Jaywick	Very Poor
West Road Open Space Clacton	Very Poor
Ipswich Road Paddock, Holland-on-Sea	Poor
Lady Nelson Playing Field, Thorpe-le-Soken	Poor
St. Osyth Priory Green	Poor
South Green Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea	Poor

Lawford Parish playing Field	Average
Great Bromley Open Space	Average
The Spendalls open space	Average
Lower Park Road Sports Facilities, Brightlingsea	Average
Dovercourt Green	Average
York Road Open Space, Holland-on-Sea	Average
Garden road, Jaywick Open Space	Average
Hazelmere Road Open Space	Average
Welfare Park and Garland Road Open Space	Average
Hazel Close Open Space, Thorrington	Average
Gerard Road	Average
Holly Way open space	Average
Hurst green	Good
Woodrows Lane, Clacton-on-Sea	Good
Ray Avenue, Dovercourt - Mace Park	Good
Mine Sweepers Memorial, Marine Parade Greenspace	Good
Louvin Road Open Space	Good
The Retreat	Good
Hampstead Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea	Good
Ardleigh Recreation Ground/Millennium Green	Good
Beaumont Village Hall	Good
Green Thorpe	Good
Alresford Recreation Ground	Good
Thorrington Recreation Ground	Good
Coronation Recreation Ground	Good
Colchester Road Open Space	Good
Valley Walk open Space	Good
Naze park road, Walton	Good
Great Bentley Green	Good
Midway, Jaywick Brooklands	Very Good
Mistley Riverfront	Very Good

- 4.2.11 The current resource audit shows that most Amenity Greenspaces are of average or above quality. Occasionally communities disagreed with our assessment, e.g. Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council believed Welfare Park/Garland Road Open Space (aka Jubilee Park) should be classified as poor, not average quality. Five sites are of Very Poor overall quality, however. These are:

Lime Avenue - Highfield Avenue	Very Poor
Jaywick Community Centre/Resource Centre	Very Poor
New Memorial Gardens - Walton Cemetery	Very Poor
St Christophers Way Car Park, Jaywick	Very Poor
West Road Open Space Clacton	Very Poor

- 4.2.12 Around 75% of the sites were considered to have significant amenity value. They are also often visible from surrounding areas, visually attractive and many provide relief from built up areas contributing to the amenity value of nearby residents or neighbouring land-users.

- 4.2.13 Mistley Riverfront adjoins the Stour Estuary which is a Ramsar Site, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and so has significant biodiversity value. Most of the remaining sites have little or only average biodiversity value, consisting largely of mown grass but a few sites have more through the presence of hedgerows, trees or other vegetation including Jaywick Open space, Garden Road, and West Road Open space, Clacton.
- 4.2.14 Many sites have the potential to provide a further role in their community, including Mistley Riverfront which could provide a more educational role such as nature study, and could exploit further the wide views across the tidal foreshore. A couple of sites could add to the sustainable transport network, such as Coronation recreation Ground, and Woodrows Lane, Clacton, with many able to have a more cultural/educational role, such as New Memorial Gardens and Hazel Close Open Space which could provide more of a cultural role, Ardleigh Recreation Ground/Millennium Green which could have more of an educational and wildlife role, and West Road, Clacton, which could have more of a cultural role or provide fairs.
- 4.2.15 All of the sites are generally welcoming, with many having multiple entrances in good repair. Quality of access to the sites varied greatly from very poor to very good across all means of transport. For instance, Great Bentley Green has varied quality access for walking, cycling and motor vehicles.
- 4.2.16 Litter and vandalism were ranked as low or none for the vast majority of sites with only two incidence of higher vandalism noted at Ardleigh Recreation Ground and Jaywick Community Centre.
- 4.2.17 The quality of site layouts was generally good or very good. Features within the sites were limited with only three sites containing historic structures – New Memorial Gardens, Walton; St. Osyth Priory car-park; Mine-sweepers memorial greenspace. The quality (condition) of access within sites was quite mixed, and only 25% of sites had provision for disabled access through having paved surfaces. 85% of sites had no particular physical barriers to hinder access for pedestrians or cyclists yet virtually no positive provision has been made for cycling or horseriding.
- 4.2.18 Over 70% of sites were either isolated or had few connections to neighbouring areas. The remainder were well connected.
- 4.2.19 Many sites have some sports facilities, with designated pitches were available at half of the sites audited. These were mainly full size football pitches in good to fair condition. Most sites are very well provided for in terms of seating, dog bins and litter bins which were generally in good condition. There were a variety of indicators of informal use including dog-walking, cycling and informal pitches.
- 4.2.20 Most of the sites had natural surveillance, although some, such as Midway at Jaywick and Coronation Recreation Ground, also had potential ambush areas. These are assumed to be due to dense planting of shrubs or trees, structures such as pavilions and kiosks providing areas hidden from view or enclosed spaces. The sense of security at sites is generally good, however. Only Ipswich Road Paddock (Poor overall quality), had a poor sense of security.

4.2.21 Most of the sites presented opportunities for improvement which would either enhance the site itself or provide improvement to the overall greenspace network. This potential is summarised below:

Site Name	Potential
Alresford Recreation Ground	Children's play equipment needs updating.
Ardleigh Recreation Ground/Millennium Green	Attractive site with mix of uses. Provision for bike parking would improve access.
Beaumont Village Hall	Valuable resource for local community.
Colchester Road Open Space	Attractive linear greenspace with limited potential for further use.
Coronation Recreation Ground/Primary School	Needs more seating and lighting in skate park area.
Dovercourt Green	A pleasant linear green space but with little potential for enhanced use.
Garden road, Jaywick Open space	Benches and a children's play area would encourage more use.
Gerard Road	Benches and children's play facilities will encourage greater use.
Great Bentley Green	Focal point of village.
Great Bromley Open Space	Limited potential for further use.
Green, Thorpe	Small green space at road intersection.
Hampstead Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea	No potential noted
Hazel Close Open Space, Thorrington	New site well maintained.
Hazelmere Road Open Space	Shade would be beneficial e.g. tree-planting plus seating and wildflower meadows.
Holly Way open space	A pleasant site for walking but with limited potential for other activities.
Hurst green	Could act as town focal point.
Ipswich Road Paddock, Holland-on-Sea	Looks slightly neglected with some areas overgrown. Addition of seating would provide enhanced amenity.
Jaywick Community/Resource Centre, Brooklands -	Needs to be maintained to be useable. Could be kickabout area.
Lady Nelson Playing Field, Thorpe-le-Soken	Needs more children's play facilities.
Lawford Parish playing Field	Improve entrance; scattered play equipment could be given more cohesive design.
Lime Avenue - Highfield Avenue	No evidence of public access. Has potential to provide a useful amenity space amongst housing.
Louvin Road Open Space	Access to sea could be more widely promoted and views opened up.
Lower Park Road Sports Facilities, Brightlingsea	Seating will encourage more people to stay in the park.
Midway, Jaywick Brooklands	Attractive area, well maintained.
Mine Sweepers Memorial - Marine Parade Greenspace, Harwich	A pleasant linear green space linking other key seafront sites.
Mistley - Riverfront	Attractive site providing link. Consider

	segregated path for cyclists and bike parking.
Naze park road - Walton	Good facility, well used. Link along seafront between Frinton & Walton.
New Memorial Gardens - Walton Cemetery	Attractive and well-maintained.
Ray Avenue, Dovercourt - Mace Park	A valuable greenspace in the midst of housing. Poorly signposted.
South Green Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea	Seating to encourage people into underused area. Explore use as community garden for planting etc.
St. Christopher's Way Car Park, Jaywick	Define separate spaces for cars and play; add tree-planting and seating.
St.Osyth Priory - Car park	Benches to encourage further use in agreement with the owner
The Retreat	Pocket park with good views of sea, with potential for more use from flats.
The Spendalls open space	Needs seating.
Thorrington Recreation Ground	Play equipment in need of updating.
Valley Walk open Space	Needs seating and play facilities.
Welfare Park and Garland Road Open Space	Well maintained site. Enhance entrance and signage to improve use.
West Road Open Space, Clacton	Construction work in progress.
Woodrows Lane, Clacton-on-Sea	Well used by children on sunny days.
York Road Open Space	Needs shade for picnic tables, more seating and wildflower meadows.

**Amenity Greenspace: standards**

**Quantity**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>0.13 - 0.63ha/1000 population</b>	<b>Proposed standard: 0.75ha per 1000 population</b>
Justification	
<p>The low level of existing provision could reflect the fact that many sites are below the 0.2ha threshold and therefore not covered by this study. However a proposed standard has been set that is similar to comparator authorities' provision, with a view to raising the standard above the current apparent low level. Some sub-area deficiencies may be made up with existing smaller spaces.</p> <p>The current level of provision is equivalent to a range of 0.13 – 0.63ha/1000 of population across the 7 sub-areas. This ranges from very low provision of 0.13ha/1000 in Harwich and Dovercourt and 0.14ha/1000 in Great Bentley and Little Bentley to 0.63ha/1000 in Frinton and Walton/ Kirby Cross.</p> <p>The community consultation concluded that 91% of respondents thought that Amenity Greenspace was very important even though this was the least used type of space. There could be an issue with community understanding of the term 'Amenity Greenspace'. 47% of respondents thought there was not enough provision.</p> <p>The proposed standard has been set at the lowest level of the comparator authorities i.e. 0.75ha per 1000 of population. The three comparator authority results were:</p> <p><b>Canterbury - 1.3ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Teignbridge - 0.75ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Dover - 0.85ha/1000 population</b></p>	

**Accessibility**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>Not defined</b>	<p><b>Proposed standard: Within 10-15 minutes walk (600m -1km) of whole population.</b></p> <p><i>Similar to comparator authorities whilst reflecting local need</i></p>
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision shows clusters of Amenity Greenspace along the coast, especially in central Harwich and Clacton-on-Sea, with an additional large group centred on the Thorpe-le-Soken area. The main areas deficient in Amenity Greenspace are Great and Little Bentley, southern Mistley and Manningtree and eastern Harwich and Dovercourt.</p> <p>The audit shows that the large majority of Amenity Greenspace is in public ownership and is publicly accessible. All of the sites are generally welcoming, with many having entrances in good repair. The quality of access within sites is greatly mixed. Only 25% of sites had provision for disabled access through hard surfaces yet 85% of sites had no physical barriers to access for pedestrians and cyclists of particular high impact. Interpretation at the sites is often poor with signage either lacking or being of poor quality.</p>	

The community consultation identified that the majority of the community want access to an Amenity Greenspace within 5-10 minutes walk of their home. Some Tendring District Councillors agree with this.

Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:

**Canterbury – within 1km of all urban residents**  
**Teignbridge – within 15 minutes walk (1km)**  
**Dover – within 10 minutes walk/420m of the whole population**

The proposed standard has been set as a balance between local need and deliverability, and is similar to comparator authorities. Some deficiencies may be covered by existing smaller spaces, below 0.2ha. Others could be delivered through proposed residential development.

**Quality**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Proposed Standard:</b></p> <p><b>Essential:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites should be clean and litter-free.</li> <li>• Sites should be managed to give natural surveillance to minimise fear of crime.</li> <li>• All greenspace features and facilities where provided should be well-maintained, including play equipment, footpaths, site furniture and soft landscaping.</li> </ul> <p><b>Desirable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to amenity greens should be part of an integrated network of footpaths and cycleways, should be of high quality and appropriate materials for the setting.</li> <li>• Site design should take advantage of any existing natural features including trees, shrubs or wildlife areas or these should be introduced where not existing, as appropriate to the size of the site.</li> <li>• Should aim to deliver Parks and Gardens benefits in rural areas.</li> <li>• Site boundaries should be appropriately defined.</li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The current resource audit shows that most Amenity Greenspaces are of average or above quality. Only five sites are of poor or very poor quality. Whilst 25% of the sites were considered to have no significant amenity value, the remainder is mostly visible from surrounding areas, visually attractive and many provide relief from built up areas contributing to the amenity value of nearby residents or neighbouring land-users. Many sites have the potential to provide a further role in cultural or educational activity.</p> <p>The proposed standard responds to the results of the community consultation by incorporating essential standards around cleanliness and maintenance, biodiversity and natural qualities, peace and quiet, and security. It seeks to use Amenity Greenspace as a tool to mitigate deficiencies in Parks and Gardens and Natural and Semi-natural greenspace in rural areas by including more features and facilities associated with these typologies than would normally be found in Amenity Greens.</p>	

**Deficiencies in local standards**

4.2.22 Deficiencies in **quantity** occur in the following sub-areas:

- Very low provision of 0.13ha/1000 in Harwich and Dovercourt.
- Very low provision of 0.14ha/1000 in Great Bentley and Little Bentley

4.2.23 Deficiencies in **accessibility** in urban settlements occur in the following areas and are shown in **Figure 7:**

- Great and Little Bentley
- Southern Mistley and Manningtree
- Eastern Harwich and Dovercourt.

4.2.24 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur at the following sites:

Lime Avenue - Highfield Avenue	Very Poor
Jaywick Community Centre/Resource Centre	Very Poor
New Memorial Gardens - Walton Cemetery	Very Poor
St Christopher’s Way Car Park, Jaywick	Very Poor
West Road Open Space Clacton	Very Poor

**Draft recommendations**

- RAG1 Seek additional provision in Harwich and Dovercourt e.g. through prospective development to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.**
- RAG2 Seek additional provision in Mistley and Manningtree to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative and accessibility deficiencies.**
- RAG3 Undertake a review of disabled access with appropriate user-groups across the amenity green provision and identify priorities for improvement.**
- RAG4 Undertake a review of signage and interpretation across the amenity green provision and identify priorities for improvement.**
- RAG5 Identify where existing smaller sites < 0.2ha could mitigate for existing deficiencies in quantity and accessibility**
- RAG6 Investigate role of churchyards, especially those that are closed to burials, to provide an amenity green role in areas of deficiency.**
- RAG7 Review role and identify enhancement needs as appropriate for Very Poor quality sites namely, Lime/Highfield Avenue greenspace, Jaywick Community/Resource Centre, New Memorial Gardens, Walton; St. Christopher’s Way Car Park, Jaywick and West Road Open Space, Clacton with user groups and stakeholders.**

### 4.3 Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces:



*Pedlars Wood*

- 4.3.1 PPG17 identifies that this typology can include woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (e.g. cliffs, quarries and pits)<sup>7</sup>.
- 4.3.2 Natural or semi-natural greenspace is vital for giving people contact with wildlife, especially within towns, or for communities living in rural areas but who work in urban areas. Natural England (NE) has identified that everyday contact with nature is important for personal well-being and quality of life. They also believe that this contact should be close to where people live and accessible to all, including the most vulnerable in society.

#### ***Role of ANGST***

- 4.3.3 With this in mind, Natural England promotes Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt). These standards encourage provision of:

<sup>7</sup> Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

- an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size within 300metres, or 5 minutes walk from home.
- statutory Local Nature Reserves at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.

4.3.4 **Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy<sup>8</sup>:** The Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy (HaGGIS) used the ANGSt standards to generate specific standards at a sub-regional level for Green Infrastructure. The standards for Haven Gateway vary from those proposed by Natural England as follows:

- Neighbourhood level – 2ha+ of ANG within 300m of home
- District level – 20ha + of ANG within 1.2km of home (higher standard than Natural England)
- Sub-regional level – 60ha+ of ANG within 3.2km of home (higher standard than Natural England)
- Regional level – 500ha+ of ANG within 10km of home

***Result of audit:***

4.3.5 There are 20 sites within this typology that have been identified as being in public ownership. The large majority of these sites allow general public access, although the accessibility of Martin's Farm is hard to determine on site in the first instance. Most of these sites are already identified as recreational open space or country parks within the Local Plan. Those apparently in public ownership but not identified on the Local Plan are Manor House Meadow, Wrabness Nature Reserve and Moverons Woodlands, Brightlingsea.

4.3.6 In addition, there are 23 sites identified in private ownership and 3 sites where it is hard to determine the nature of ownership. These latter sites include Millgrove Wood, Bradfield; Simon's Wood, Tendring and Aldercarr in Manningtree. The private sites are largely woodlands that make a significant contribution to landscape character and visual amenity, even though the public may have little or no access.

4.3.7 The single largest greenspace in public ownership in this typology is The Naze County Park at 104.73ha, which is part wild meadow and part mown fields. Other sites vary greatly in size. The smallest is Holland Haven, Holland Country Park at only 0.29ha with the remaining sites averaging 7.67ha. Their generally large size makes these sites of great significance in Tendring.

<sup>8</sup> Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2008; Haven Gateway Partnership

- 4.3.8 The character of the natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces varies and includes woodlands, fields, grasslands, meadows, grassland and scrub, old gravel pits and a small wetland/stream. 40% of sites contain no facilities at all. Where present the quality of this provision varied, but on average was good.
- 4.3.9 Key gateway sites include Martin's Farm on the outskirts of St. Osyth; Churn Wood in Elmstead Market; and Bullock Wood in Ardleigh. Enhancements to gateway sites should seek to enhance their gateway role at the entrance to main urban areas or smaller rural communities.
- 4.3.10 Several public sites have good views including Little Holland Marshes Nature Reserve; Martin's Farm Country Park; Holland Haven Country Park; Wrabness Nature Reserve and the Naze Country Park. Of the private sites, significant views can be had from the Stour Estuary Nature Reserve; West and East Groves, Wrabness (another key site on the Stour Estuary with the Essex Way running along the boundary) and Ardleigh Reservoir Wood, with views across the reservoir. Key views should be conserved or enhanced wherever possible.
- 4.3.11 Most sites understandably offer key opportunities to fulfil a strategic green infrastructure role. About 25% are part of the existing ANG network with other sites offering opportunities for river corridor or green corridor projects (Little Holland Marshes); forms part of an area-wide project (The Hangings, Dovercourt or Little Bentley Hall woodlands) or provides a key Node on the Green infrastructure network e.g. Mistley Woodlands.
- 4.3.12 Most sites also have wildlife designation of some sort with three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) namely part of The Naze Country Park, the Stour Estuary Nature Reserve and Wrabness Nature Reserve; four Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) namely Holland Haven Country Park, Wrabness Nature Reserve, part of The Naze Country Park and Bullock Wood, Ardleigh; 24 County Wildlife Sites - now Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) - and several Local Nature Reserves. Not included are nationally and internationally important sites such as Hamford Water, at Walton Backwater, as it is known locally, north of Walton. The backwaters are home to a colony of seals, large numbers of little terns and other wildfowl and waders. Whilst not wholly accessible there are lanes that lead down to the sea wall from Walton, Kirby, Landermere, Beaumont and the Oakleys.
- 4.3.13 Most of the public sites have been identified as having the potential to provide an extended role as a cultural or educational resource, for instance at Coppins Hall Wood, Clacton. This potential has not generally been identified for the private sites because of the current lack of public access but could be explored with individual landowners, especially where sites have good public transport, vehicular or sustainable transport links.

#### **Impact of Ecological and Environmental Consultancy Services (EECOS) study**

- 4.3.14 The 1991 Sites of Interest for nature Conservation (SINC) report identified 97 No. SINCs totalling 1624.2 hectares of terrestrial and freshwater habitat. This included a considerable extent of Sites of



It will be the role of future reviews of the Open Spaces strategy to look more closely at the revised site list.

4.3.21 Most of the public sites have been identified as having the potential to provide an extended role as a cultural or educational resource, for instance at Coppins Hall Wood, Clacton. This potential has not generally been identified for the private sites because of the current lack of public access but could be explored with individual landowners, especially where sites have good public transport, vehicular or sustainable transport links.

4.3.22 Most of the publically accessible sites are welcoming to the visitor. As already noted, Martins Farm Country Park requires some effort for a visitor to realise it is a publicly accessible site. Other sites that could be more welcoming include the extension to The Hangings and Coppins Hall Wood (partly due to the quality of their entrances) and Owl’s Flight Dale. Several of the public sites could also do more to improve their entrances, including Pell’s Farm, Great Clacton; Station Road Woodlands, Frinton and Mistley Woodlands. Many of the same sites also have poor access.

4.3.23 Most of the private sites are understandably deemed not welcoming, largely because they are either fenced off or explicitly state ‘Keep Out’. The Forestry Commission in the East of England is working in partnership with the East of England Development Agency, East of England Tourist Board and Sport England to promote greater access to and financial benefits for woodland owners in a programme called ‘Naturally Active’.<sup>9</sup>

4.3.24 In addition, Natural England, promotes effective environmental management through the ‘Environmental Stewardship’<sup>10</sup> scheme, including:

- Conservation of wildlife
- Maintenance and enhancement of landscape character and quality
- Protection of the historic environment
- Promotion of public access and understanding of the countryside
- Protection of natural resources

4.3.25 The Environmental Stewardship scheme can provide funding against the above criteria to landowners and land managers.

4.3.26 The overall quality of the natural and semi-natural greenspace is as follows with private sites highlighted:

Site	Overall Quality
Tendring Lodge Woodland	Average

<sup>9</sup> [www.naturallyactive.org](http://www.naturallyactive.org)

<sup>10</sup> [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

Captains and Fratinghall, Frating	Average
Coppins Hall Wood (Pudney Wood) Clacton	Average
The Hangings, Dovercourt	Average
Walls Wood, Crockleford	Average
Pells Farm, Great Clacton	Average
Wrabness nature reserve	Average
West and East Grove, Wrabness	Average
Cockayne's Wood	Average
Little Bentley Hall Wood	Average
Churn Wood	Average
Ardleigh Reservoir Wood	Average
Manor House Meadow	Average
Alder Carr	Average
The Naze Country Park	Good
Moverons Gravel Pit, Brightlingsea	Good
Millgrove Wood, Bradfield - Woodland	Good
Pond Hall Farm County Park	Good
Brook Farm Country Park	Good
Sacketts Grove, Jaywick - Seymour Road	Good
Bullock Wood Ardleigh	Poor
Boude Hill Wood	Poor
Brook Farm Woodlands	Poor
Holland Haven Country Park	Poor
Owls flight Dale - Lawford Dale	Poor
Money Wood, Elmstead Market - Lodge Farm Woodlands	Poor
Extension of the Hangings and Nonway Crescent	Poor
Mistley Woodland	Poor
Martins Farm Country Park/ St. Osyth Parklands	Poor
Brakley Woods	Poor
Mill Wood, Great Bromley	Poor
Killgrove Wood, Great Oakley	Poor
Broad Meadow Wood	Poor
Dengewell Hall Wood	Poor
Brook Farm	Poor
Manning Grove	Poor
Bobbit's Hole	Very Good
Burrsville Nature Reserve, Great Clacton	Very good
Little Holland Marshes, Nature Reserve	Very Good
Simon's Wood, Tendring	Very Good
Moverons Woodlands, Brightlingsea	Very Good
Pedlers Woods, Frinton-on-Sea	Very Good
Stour Estuary Nature Reserve	Very Good
Station Road Woodlands	Very Poor
Home Wood	Very Poor

4.3.27 As can be seen, a substantial minority of sites ranked as poor or very poor quality. When this is analysed, however, a substantial number of the poorer quality sites are those in private ownership

- and are assigned this rank because of poor accessibility at the current time. Sites in private ownership are highlighted in pink.
- 4.3.28 Most sites have significant amenity value, being visually attractive with many of the public sites offering clearly definable townscape value and/or providing relief from the built up areas.
- 4.3.29 Quality of access to the sites and interpretation varied greatly from very poor to very good. Burrsville Nature Reserve and Stour Estuary Nature Reserve were the only sites that stood out as being good/very good across all categories (access for disabled, by foot, cycle or public transport and interpretation). In contrast, the extension to The Hangings; Martins Farm Country Park/ St. Osyth Parklands; Coppins Hall Wood and Owls Flight Dale were considered largely poor/very poor across most categories. Few private sites achieved a good rating for access being woodlands in rural areas.
- 4.3.30 Litter and vandalism were ranked as low or none for the vast majority of sites with only two incidences of 'medium' vandalism recorded at Coppins Hall Wood, Clacton (litter and broken glass), and Station Road Woodlands in Frinton, which adjoins a main road.
- 4.3.31 The quality of site layouts was generally average and above with 25% of sites very good, mainly among the public sites. Martins Farm Country Park; the extension to The Hangings; Owl's Flight Dale; Mistley Wood and Holland Haven Country Park were the public sites with the poorest layout rating. Although the private sites were rated, this is not really a category that is relevant to private sites with no public access. The vast majority of sites had no features but Brook Farm Woodlands, Little Holland Marshes Nature Reserve and Holland Haven Country Park contain lakes/water features.
- 4.3.32 The quality (condition) of access within sites was varied but over 75% of the sites were rated average or poor, including several of the sites in public ownership or management. Only 10% of sites had provision for disabled access through hard surfaces, half this number provided for cycling and no sites provided for horseriding. Many of the private sites have physical barriers to access such as fences and gates.
- 4.3.33 The vast majority of sites had few connections to neighbouring areas with many of the rural woodland sites being isolated. Burrsville Nature Reserve and Stour Estuary Nature Reserve were the only well connected sites.
- 4.3.34 Few natural/semi-natural sites had features such as historic structures or water features on site or facilities (car-parks, toilets etc.). Those that did included Pond Hall Farm Country Park; Holland Haven Country Park; the Naze Country Park, that has refreshment kiosk, car-parking and toilets; Stour Estuary Nature Reserve that has spectator shelter, a medium sized car-park, bicycle parking, and bird watching facilities; Wrabness Nature Reserve and Simon's Wood, Tendring.
- 4.3.35 Some sites provide seating or picnic tables, dog bins and litter bins (which were generally in good condition) generally on the publicly owned sites.

- 4.3.36 There were a variety of indicators of informal use including dog-walking and informal desire lines by walkers. Only 20% of sites showed no sign of informal use, mainly in the private sites.
- 4.3.37 A number of the public sites had natural surveillance, but by their nature most also had potential ambush areas because of the vegetation cover. Despite this the sense of security at sites is generally good or fair. Sites with a poor sense of security included Holland Haven Country Park; Pells Farm Great Clacton; Burrsville Nature Reserve, the extension to The Hangings; Station Woodlands, Frinton, and Coppins Hall Wood.
- 4.3.38 Most of the sites present opportunities for improvement or enhancement to the site or for the greenspace network as a whole. Opportunity within the privately-owned sites are far fewer than those in public ownership, however especially in relation to access. This potential is summarised below, with known privately-owned sites highlighted:

Site	Potential
Bobbit's Hole	Conserve small historic pocket of woodland with a stream which once provided water for the local area
Captains and Fratinghall Woodlands, Frating	Public access is limited to single PRoW. No potential to extend access
Burrsville Nature Reserve, Great Clacton	Access to the stream a good addition; possibly use for pond dipping. Good link to other sites
Boudge Hill Wood	Limited public access confined to short lengths of footpath. No realistic potential for expanding use.
Little Holland Marshes, Nature Reserve	Large nature reserve. Improve connections to surrounding area.
Holland Haven Country Park	'Left over space', No particular use.
Coppins Hall Wood (Pudney Wood) Clacton	Removal of litter would improve the site.
The Naze County Park	Potential for seating around site, and surfaced path for disabled access.
Moverons Gravel Pit, Brightlingsea	Potential country park, currently no public access.
Owls flight Dale - Lawford Dale	Limited access. No evidence of management, limited biodiversity value but used by walkers and cyclists.
The Hangings, Dovercourt	Few access points due to railway boundary but potential to develop into green corridor overlooking Stour.
Walls Wood, Crockleford	A single footpath is the only public access. Limited potential to expand site. Noise intrusion from the A120.
Manor House Meadow	The site is close to Ardleigh and accessed via public rights of way so has some potential for educational use
Simon's Wood, Tendring	Very well-maintained and attractive.

Station Road Woodlands	Needs better network pathways, woodland management, seating and sign at entrance to show public use.
Extension of the Hangings and Nonway Crescent	Rather scruffy extension to a linear greenspace that could be improved to provide better gateway.
Millgrove Wood, Bradfield - Woodland	Attractive woodland but remote from other sites. Would benefit from signage and interpretation. Limited car parking.
Pond Hall Farm County Park	Enhance signage.
Pedlers Woods, Frinton-on-Sea	Pocket of woodland providing access to nature and relief from built up area.
Pells Farm, Great Clacton	Good semi natural site, part of green link creating a variety of green spaces.
Wrabness nature reserve	Looks quite recent and needs time to establish.
Stour Estuary Nature Reserve	An extensive site owned/managed by RSPB and EWT. The site provides example of accessible woods with trails and leaflet. The site could be linked to river corridor along the Essex Way
Mistley Woodland	Small very confined site largely planted for allotments. Very limited access via concealed gate for informal use.
Brook Farm County Park	Good semi-natural open space; enhance accessibility from nearby communities.
Moverons Woodlands, Brightlingsea	Small woodland used by dog walkers.
Martins Farm County Park/ St. Osyth Parklands	Provide signage and interpretation and enhance main access to improve amenity and encourage usage.
Sacketts Grove, Jaywick - Seymour Road	Pocket of woodland provides link with nature for nearby community. Litter.
West and East Grove, Wrabness	Limited public access, but potential to link the site to the nearby Stour Estuary Nature Reserve via the Essex Way.

4.3.39 The following sites offer little or no opportunity for enhancement at the current time, largely due to ownership issues:

Cockayne's Wood, Alresford	Private woodland with a central right of way only. Low potential for enhancing access.
Little Bentley Hall Woods	Central footpath facilitates some public access but limited potential for extending this laterally.
Brakley Woodland	No public access within the site and limited potential to develop this.
Churn Wood	Attractive area of woodland on fringe of Colchester but with public access limited to short length of footpath. Limited potential for expanding access.
Home Wood, Tendring	No public access to this site, with the road to the south east corner of the wood being the only adjacent right of way. No potential for public use.

Ardleigh Reservoir Wood	Attractive site alongside water body. Public access depends upon Essex and Suffolk Water Company.
Bullock Wood, Ardleigh	No public access, despite proximity to the urban fringe of Colchester.
Kilgrove Wood, Great Oakley	Isolated site with no public access.
Broadmeadow Wood, Great Oakley	Small woodland area with no potential for public access.
Dengewood Hall Wood	Isolated area of woodland with no public access.
Brook Farm Woodlands	Small site with no public access.
Manning Grove, Great Bromley	No public access and no potential for such.
Tendring Lodge Woodland	Little potential for developing area.
Money Wood, Elmstead Market - Lodge Farm Woodlands	No public access and no potential for such.
Mill Wood, Great Bromley – Lodge Farm Woodlands	No public access and no potential for such.

**Natural and semi-natural greenspaces: standards**

**Quantity**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<p><b>Current provision of 0.21-4.41ha/1000 publicly accessible</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed standard: a minimum of 2.1ha publicly accessible sites/1000 population</b></p> <p><i>No standard is set for private sites as the quantity is subject to market forces.</i></p>
Justification	
<p>The community consultation concluded that 94% of respondents thought natural and semi-natural sites were very important. Just under 20% visit daily and 30% use this type of greenspace most frequently. 58% thought that there was not enough provision.</p> <p>The current level of publicly-accessible provision is equivalent to a range of 0 - 4.41ha/1000 of population across the 7 sub-areas. Applying the proposed standard, there is no deficiency of public sites in Frinton and Walton/Kirby Cross; limited deficiency in Clacton and Little Clacton (1.74ha/1000); greater deficiency in Harwich and Dovercourt (0.92ha/1000), Mistley and Manningtree (0.45ha/1000) and Brightlingsea (1.15ha/1000) areas; and significant deficiency or no supply of public sites in Great Bentley and Little Bentley and Elmstead Market and Arleigh areas. The latter are well-served by private sites and a network of Public Rights of Way, however. The sites with the most potential for enhancement have been noted. There is also a proposal by the Woodland Trust to create a significant area of new accessible woodland adjoining Elmstead Market.</p> <p>Comparator authorities that were studied have set the following standards;</p> <p><b>Canterbury – 4ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Teignbridge - 0.75ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Dover – At least 4ha/1000 population</b></p> <p>The proposed standard represents the existing average across the district and is approximately equivalent an average of the comparator authorities provision.</p>	

**Accessibility**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<p><b>Not defined</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed standard: At least one publicly-accessible site of a minimum of 2ha in size within 20 minutes walk time (1.6km) of whole population</b></p>
Justification	
<p>The audit shows that many of the larger natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces are in public ownership and are publicly accessible. Of the private sites, all bar two are greater than 2ha.</p> <p>Over 75% of the sites were generally welcoming, but quality of access to the sites and interpretation varied greatly, and is often poor with signage lacking in most instances. The quality (condition) of access within sites was varied but over 75% of the sites were rated average or poor. Only 10% of sites had provision for disabled access through hard surfaces, only 5% provided for cycling and no sites for horse-riding. The vast majority of sites had few connections to neighbouring areas with</p>	

many of the rural woodland sites being naturally isolated. Burrsville Nature Reserve and Stour Estuary Nature Reserve were the only well connected sites.

The community consultation identified that the majority of the community want access to a natural/semi-natural greenspace within 10 mins of home. This would be hard to achieve across the district, and the standard proposed suggests a walk time of double that would be more realistic. In some area of deficiency, however, it should be encouraged to allow some 'naturalisation' of other typologies e.g. amenity greens, or boundary areas of sports pitches to fulfil some of this demand.

Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:  
**Canterbury – within 1km of all urban residents**  
**Teignbridge – within 15 minutes walk (1km)**  
**Dover – at least one site of min size of 2ha. within 15 minutes walk/600m of whole population**

**Quality**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Proposed Standards:</b></p> <p><b>Essential:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sites should be clean and litter free</li> <li>Sites should be of ecological value with appropriate amenity facilities</li> <li>Footpaths should be well-maintained and designed to minimise impact on the natural features and to maximise natural surveillance</li> <li>Site management processes should be maintained</li> <li>Signage should be provided at every site with contact details of managing organisation</li> </ul> <p><b>Desirable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All major sites should have an active Management Plan in place</li> <li>All sites should seek to have interpretative facilities in place</li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>Natural and semi-natural greenspace is the most frequently used typology after the Seafront, and natural features are one of the top five features wanted in greenspace by the community. Seven of the publically owned or managed sites are currently ranked as poor or very poor quality with a range of issues around accessibility, litter, signage, quality of welcome or of facilities, and sense of security.</p> <p>Over 75% of all the sites were considered to have significant amenity value, however, with 25% percentage offering clearly definable townscape value. Of the remainder almost all are visually attractive, visible from the surrounding area and providing relief from built up areas. Around a third of sites were deemed to have no potential to provide a further role in cultural or educational activity, all of which are in private ownership, and where that ownership is thought to restrict potential at the current time. The other sites offer a range of cultural or education opportunities or to contribute more to the pedestrian or cycling network.</p> <p>Comparator authorities hadn't identified particular standards for quality aside from Colchester which has set the following standard: <b>Sites should be clean, litter free; natural features; well maintained footpaths; maintain site management processes.</b></p>	

**Deficiencies in local standards**

4.3.40 The deficiencies in **quantity** are found in the following sub-areas:

- Limited deficiencies in Clacton and Little Clacton (1.74ha/1000);
- Greater deficiency in Harwich and Dovercourt (0.92ha/1000), Mistley and Manningtree (0.45ha/1000) and Brightlingsea (1.15ha/1000) areas; and
- Significant deficiency or no supply of public sites in Great Bentley and Little Bentley and Elmstead Market and Ardleigh areas. The latter are well-served by private sites and a network of Public Rights of Way, however. There is also a proposal by the Woodland Trust to create a significant area of new accessible woodland adjoining Elmstead Market.

4.3.41 Deficiencies in **accessibility** occur in the following areas and are shown in **Figure 8**:

- In the urban settlements of South-west Clacton and Jaywick and a large part of Brightlingsea.
- In most of the rural settlements if the private sites and PRoW are not taken into account.

4.3.42 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur at the following sites:

- |                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| • Station Road Woodlands       | Very Poor |
| • Brook Farm Woodlands         | Poor      |
| • Holland Haven Country Park   | Poor      |
| • Owl Flight Dale/Lawford Dale | Poor      |
| • Extension of the Hangings    | Poor      |
| • Mistley Woodland             | Poor      |
| • Martins Farm Country Park    | Poor      |

***Draft recommendations*****Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace**

**RN1 Seek additional publically-accessible provision in Harwich, in the southern part of Clacton, in Jaywick, and in Brightlingsea e.g. through prospective development, to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.**

**RN2 Seek opportunities to work with private owners to seek enhancements in quality and access to privately owned sites, especially those with deficiencies of access in rural areas**

**RN3 Review quality of access and interpretation within publically-owned Natural and Semi-Natural sites and identify priorities for enhancement**

**RN4 Review role and identify enhancement needs as appropriate for Very Poor and Poor quality publically accessible sites, namely Station Road Woodlands, Brook Farm Woodlands, Holland Haven Country Park, Owls Flight/Lawford Dale, the Extension to the Hangings, Mistley Woodland and Martin's Farm Country Park**

**RN5 Support the Woodland Trust to create a significant area of new accessible woodland adjoining Elmstead Market to mitigate deficiencies in rural Tendring.**

**RN6 Seek improvements to PRoW network and bridleways in rural areas and the urban fringe to maximise amenity benefits of private sites even where these not accessible.**

**RN7 Identify areas for 'naturalisation' within other typologies e.g. amenity greens or boundary areas of sports pitches, to mitigate deficiencies where new sites cannot be created.**

**RN8 Seek further opportunities to involve local communities and Members in Community Biodiversity Schemes in public open space.**

**RN9 Seek closer working on greenspace between Tendring District Council Departments, and local PCT and Mental Health Trusts.**

**RN10 Ensure all major sites have an active Management Plan in place.**

## 4.4 Green corridors/Seafront:



*Clacton Seafront Greensward*

- 4.4.1 PPG 17 defines Green Corridors as including river and canal banks, cycleways and rights of way<sup>11</sup>. In Tendring, the most essential existing component of the network is of course the seafront. Bridleways could also be significant especially in the countryside.
- 4.4.2 Green Corridors have a dual purpose, to provide areas of habitat through an area of intensive land use, which can be urban or agricultural, and to provide access routes for people. These two functions can be incompatible. Increased human access and disturbance will limit the numbers of species using a Green Corridor and its value as part of an ecological network, therefore their design needs to be carefully considered.
- 4.4.3 Green corridors for wildlife can provide essential links between the town and neighbouring countryside and form an essential component of the ecological network. They help to provide links between habitats for some more mobile species and they act as valuable habitats in their own right. Green Corridors can therefore be viewed as part of the overall network of habitats throughout urban areas. Their main role should be seen as providing high quality habitats in which wildlife can nest, shelter

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<sup>11</sup> Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

and feed, though this role will be enhanced if there is a high degree of interconnectivity between them and other areas of habitat.

4.4.4 The Seafront sites provide a very particular provision, focussed on community access one that is predominantly used during the summer months. Many additional visitors come to the seaside in Tendring every year, providing important economic benefits but also putting enormous pressure on the beaches and seaside facilities. Some visitor facilities that are provided at peak times are not available in the winter months.

***Role of linear greenspace<sup>12</sup>***

4.4.5 A report produced by the South East AONBs (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Woodland Programme, for the Forestry Commission and Natural England in 2007, identified linear elements such as disused railway lines and other promoted routes, canals and accessible areas of the coast as being the key elements of linear greenspace. All such linear greenspace over two hectares was treated as providing an experience equivalent to a 20 hectare site in the ANGSt model. Follow up analysis showed that some households were highly dependent on linear forms of greenspace, such as accessible coastal sites.

4.4.6 It is also important to note that within the South East study, sites were excluded which were only accessible by PRoW, i.e. where a visitor does not perceive the whole site as 'welcoming'. This has implications for the extent that privately owned Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace sites can play in an accessible greenspace network, although their landscape and biodiversity role remains critical.

***Role of green links and opportunities identified in the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy (HaGGIS)***

4.4.7 This study identified a whole range of opportunities at a sub-regional level including access projects and other green links. Some of the most significant ones in the Tendring district include:

- Ramsey/Parkeston Country Park
- Hamford Water Biodiversity Buffer
- Picker's Ditch/Clacton orbital Green Corridor
- Manningtree to Harwich cycle way

4.4.8 The full list of Tendring projects and map extract from the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy can be seen at Figures **3 and 4**. Enhancements to the Tendring Green Corridors and Seafront network should pay heed to the opportunities identified in the HaGGIS so that the local network is supporting the development of the sub-regional vision.

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<sup>12</sup> 'An analysis of accessible natural greenspace provision in the South East': a study produced for the South East AONB's Woodlands Programme, the Forestry Commission, and Natural England, February 2007.

**Result of audit**

- 4.4.9 All Green corridors/seafront areas audited are in public ownership and allow general public access.
- 4.4.10 The largest space in this typology is Holland Haven Greensward at a substantial 141.41ha, more than the rest of the sites surveyed combined. Several of the seafront sites are quite formal in character but provide an accessible green route separate from traffic. The largest site away from the seafront is Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve, Great Clacton, at 5.27ha. Other sites were on average 1ha in size providing relatively narrow grassed routes through housing estates, alongside streams or roads.
- 4.4.11 Generally these sites do not have an impact at key 'gateways' to the town. The seafront sites provide fine views over the coast though, which gives them high amenity value.
- 4.4.12 Over 60% of sites offer the opportunity to contribute to one of the Haven Gateway green corridor or access projects, or form part of an area wide project/initiative or a node on the proposed green infrastructure network.
- 4.4.13 The overall quality of the Green corridors/seafront areas is as follows:

Site	Overall Quality
Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve, Great Clacton	Good
Crescent Gardens, Frinton-on-Sea	Good
Clacton Sea Front	Good
London Rd - Thorpe Rd Open Space, Clacton	Good
Holland Haven Greensward	Good
Edenside, Frinton-on-Sea	Good
Butchers Lane Open Space	Good
Garden Road Open Space	Good
Dovedale Gardens, Holland-on-Sea	Average
Aylesbury Drive, Holland-on-Sea	Average
Ladbroke Road Open Space	Very poor

- 4.4.14 All of the sites except for Ladbroke Road Open Space were considered to offer significant amenity value. All were considered visually attractive with most being visible from the surrounding area, offering a distinct townscape value and some offering relief from the built up area.
- 4.4.15 The Holland Haven Greensward and the Clacton Sea Front are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Picker's Ditch is a County Wildlife Site now known as Local Wildlife Site (LoWS)
- 4.4.16 Around 50% of the sites offer an opportunity for further community activity, particularly sustainable transport links, but also cultural activities.
- 4.4.17 All of the sites except Ladbroke Road Open Space are welcoming, with entrances mainly in a good or average state of repair. Quality of access to the sites varied from very poor to very good with Ladbroke Road Open Space and Picker's Ditch having the worst access, and Thorpe Road Open

Space and Clacton Sea Front being the best. Few sites had specific access for disabled visitors but the Clacton Seafront had dropped kerbs, and surfaced footpaths and Thorpe Road Open Space had wide entrances. However, sites were thought to be generally accessible to the disabled with only Ladbrooke Road Open Space and Picker's Ditch being ranked poor.

- 4.4.18 Ladbrooke Road Open Space has broken, hazardous path surfaces. There was little sign of litter or vandalism at any of the sites.
- 4.4.19 The quality of most site layouts was good or very good, but Ladbrooke Road Open Space has a poor quality rating. There are three sites where water features in some way, these being Dovedale Gardens where greenspace follows a small stream; Thorpe Road Open Space, where a cycleway and footpath follow a stream, and Picker's Ditch.
- 4.4.20 Many of the general green corridor sites offer few facilities, but the Seafront sites – Holland Haven Greensward, Clacton Seafront Gardens and Crescent Gardens Frinton – make more provision for visitors. All of the sites provide some basic facilities such as seating and bins, dog bins and lighting and where these are provided they are generally in good repair.
- 4.4.21 The quality of access within the sites was mostly good, but Aylesbury Drive, Holland-on-Sea, and Picker's Ditch have poor access. Most sites show signs of informal recreational use such as worn pedestrian desire lines, cycle use, or dog-walking.
- 4.4.22 Most sites were physically well connected into their neighbourhoods, but Ladbrooke Road Open Space and Dovedale Gardens, Holland on Sea, were either isolated or had few connections to neighbouring areas.
- 4.4.23 Most of the sites had natural surveillance, with the exception of Ladbrooke Road Open Space and Picker's Ditch. Some other sites also had potential ambush areas. Despite this, the sense of security is fair to good throughout most of the sites. However, Ladbrooke Road Open Space, Thorpe Road Open Space and Picker's Ditch all had a poor rating, partly because of the ambush areas.

4.4.24 Most of the sites presented opportunities for improvement or enhancement for the site alone or for the Green corridors/seafront areas as a whole. This potential is summarised below:

Site	Proposal
Aylesbury Drive, Holland-on-Sea	Provides informal play space in existing vegetation. Enhance with seating and limited equipment if required.
Butchers Lane Open Space	Good link through housing estate although lacking destinations.
Clacton sea front	Potential for art/sculpture to add interest to railings – could be community led. More attractive visually barrier between parked cars and site would be beneficial. Opportunities to enhance access to beach through extension of boulder groynes.
Crescent Gardens, Frinton-on-Sea	Beach front garden.
Dovedale Gardens, Holland-on-Sea	Opportunity to create a linking pathway/cycle path following stream.
Edenside, Frinton-on-Sea	Good links through housing estates could provide seating.
Garden Road Open Space	Good linkage through estate though no particular destinations.
Holland Haven Greensward	Provides a good buffer between housing and beach allowing for views of the sea.
Ladbrooke Road Open Space	Footpaths in need of repair. Potentially dangerous area to be in. Potential for children's play area to create use not just cut through.
London Rd - Thorpe Rd Open Space, Castle Hill, Clacton	Fencing beside stream falling apart, could open up links to stream.
Pickers Ditch Nature Reserve, Clacton-on-Sea	Open up views to stream. Walkers along Pickers Ditch. Potential for Country Park including small lakes for water voles.

**Green corridors/seafront: standards**

**Quantity**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>0 - 0.16ha/1000</b>	<b>Proposed standard: a minimum of 0.75ha/1000</b>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to a range of 0– 0.16ha/1000 of population across the 7 sub-areas. Only Harwich and Dovercourt (0.06ha/1000), Clacton and Little Clacton (0.16ha/1000) and Frinton and Walton/ Kirby Cross (0.19ha/1000) have any recorded provision. The other four sub-areas register no provision. It is acknowledged that the Green Corridors typology overlaps in some instances with the natural and Semi Natural greenspace typology. The Seafront is treated within this study as a special case of a Green Corridor, but one that is under great pressure during the summer months.</p> <p>The community consultation concluded that 94% of respondents thought that Green Corridors were very important, and 58% thought there was not enough provision.</p> <p>The standard has been derived from the one comparator authority that has set a standard, and aims to enhance the low existing levels of provision. Public Rights of Way could be analysed as part of the existing level of provision in future studies, and as opportunity to mitigate existing deficiencies. For instance, the role of the Tendring Way in the Harwich area is seen as important by local District Councillors as part of the provision.</p> <p>Comparator authorities with standards are as follows;</p> <p><b>Canterbury – No standard set</b>  <b>Teignbridge - 0.75ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Dover - No standard set</b></p>	

**Accessibility**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>Not defined</b>	<b>Proposed standard: One publically accessible green corridor/promenade within 1km/15mins walk of the entire urban population.</b>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The audit shows that all the green corridor/seafront sites audited are in public ownership and allow general public access. All of the sites with one exception are generally welcoming. The quality of access within the sites was mostly good, but with quality of access to the sites varying from very poor to very good. Few sites had specific access provision for disabled visitors but most are thought to provide reasonable access. Interpretation at the sites is often poor with few sites having good quality signage.</p> <p>The community consultation identified that the majority want to be able to access Green corridors/Seafront within 10 minutes of home. People want Green Corridors to be close to where they live and accessible by foot. District Councillors thought that a district-wide cyclepath network should be developed using Green Corridors where appropriate, to promote non-vehicular access to open spaces. There were also concerns that accessibility by public transport should be considered when identifying sites for future provision.</p> <p>Green Corridors should be seen as an integral part of the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy. In urban areas traffic-calmed streets, boulevards, Homezones and Civic Spaces should all be seen as opportunities to provide links in the network. A Natural England/Forestry Commission report from the South East of England in 2007 equated all linear greenspace over two hectares as providing an experience equivalent to a 20ha natural greenspace site in the ANGSt model, i.e. having an influence extending to 2kms. Only four of the Green Corridor sites are greater than 2ha.</p> <p>Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:</p> <p><b>Canterbury – a Green Corridor within 1km of all residents</b>  <b>Teignbridge – a Green Corridor within 15 minutes walk (1km)</b>  <b>Dover – one publically accessible green corridor/promenade within 600m/15minutes walk of the entire urban population.</b></p>	

**Quality**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Proposed Standards:</b>  <b>Essential</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Corridors should be clean and litter-free.</li> <li>• Green corridors should respect and enhance local habitats and heritage.</li> <li>• Green Corridors should be designed and managed to give natural surveillance wherever possible to minimise fear of crime.</li> <li>• Green corridors should be well-signed.</li> <li>• All access-ways should be appropriately surfaced and well-maintained.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Desirable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Green Corridors should form part of an integrated network of green links, footpaths and cycleways.</li> <li>• Route design should minimise interaction with vehicular traffic wherever possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The seafront is seen as a special element of the Green Corridor network and is the single most used typology. 20% of respondents use the seafront daily.</p> <p>The quality is generally good with only Ladbroke Road Open Space being rated as very poor. This is a piece of rough land with a cycle path behind a housing estate in Clacton. The perception of its safety and security is poor due to the potential for ambush areas. Some of its footpaths are in a dangerous state of repair, it lacks facilities or features that would draw people in and is a potentially dangerous area to be in as a result.</p> <p>All but one of the sites has significant amenity value and of these all were considered visually attractive and most were visible from the surrounding area, offered townscape value and relief from a built up area. Picker's Ditch is a Local Wildlife Site. Around half the sites have the potential to form part of sustainable transport network or additional cultural or educational activities. Many of the sites offer opportunities for enhancement such as opening up of views, provision of seating or facilities e.g. for play, or to have a 'destination' i.e. to be part of a linked network.</p> <p>Comparator authorities have not identified particular standards for quality, therefore a standard based on that of the Parks and Gardens quality standard has been used.</p>	

**Deficiencies in local standards**

- 4.4.25 The deficiencies in **quantity** are found in the following sub-areas:  
  
Brightlingsea, Mistley/Manningtree, Great Bentley/Little Bentley/Tendring, Elmstead Market/Ardleigh have no formal provision of Green Corridors at the present time. Much of the provision in the other sub-areas is provided by the seafront. It is acknowledged that the Green Corridors typology overlaps in some instances with the Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace typology, and that Public Rights of Way (PRoW) can provide some of the benefits in areas of deficiency but are not a substitute for an accessible, welcoming site.
- 4.4.26 Deficiencies in **accessibility** occur in the following urban areas and are shown in **Figure 9**:
- 4.4.27 The western part of Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick (including Holland-on-Sea), Brightlingsea, parts of Dovercourt and Parkeston, and Lawford, Mistley and Manningtree: it is anticipated that the proposed Ramsey Country Park will be able to mitigate against some of these deficiencies.
- 4.4.28 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur at the following site:
  - Ladbroke Road Open Space Very poor

***Draft recommendations*****Green Corridors/Seafront**

**RGC1 Seek additional provision in the west of Clacton and Jaywick, in Dovercourt and Parkeston, in Brightlingsea and Lawford/Mistley/Manningtree e.g. through prospective development, to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.**

**RGC2 Prioritise delivery of sub-regional green link opportunities identified in the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study when seeking to mitigate existing district deficiencies.**

**RGC3 Review quality of interpretation within all existing Green Corridors sites and identify priorities for enhancement**

**RGC4 Review role and identify enhancement needs with local user groups for Ladbroke Road Open Space which has been identified as Very Poor overall quality**

**RGC5 Seek improvements to PRoW network and bridleways in rural areas and the urban fringe to mitigate deficiencies of Green Corridors in these areas.**

**RGC6 Review role of seafront as a key element of the greenspace network to seek extension of its use outside the summer season.**

## 4.5 Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Facilities:



*Frinton tennis club*

4.5.1 Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities comprise areas providing for participation in the following sports.

- Football (adult, junior and mini-soccer).
- Cricket.
- Rugby (adult and mini-rugby).
- Hockey.
- Tennis.
- Bowls.
- Golf.
- Athletics.

4.5.2 In addition to their primary function, they often provide a valuable resource for informal sport and physical activity and amenity greenspace.

4.5.3 **Playing pitches:** For the purposes of the study, playing pitches were defined in terms of their compliance with the following governing body of sport minimum dimensions.

<b>Pitch Type</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>
Senior football	Max. 120m/Min. 90m	Max. 90m/Min. 45m
Junior football	Max. 91m/Min. 73m	Max. 59m/Min. 40m
Mini-soccer	73m	40m
Cricket pitch	20m	3m
Full-sized rugby	100m	69m
Mini-rugby	75m	46m
STP full-sized	100m	69m

4.5.4 **Other outdoor sports facilities:** The other types of outdoor sports facilities assessed comprised:

- Tennis courts.
- Bowling greens.
- Golf courses.
- Synthetic athletics tracks.

4.5.5 Multi-use Games Areas (MUGAs) defined in the Tending Play Strategy as 'fenced, non-turf surfaced areas marked out and adequate for at least two of the following sports; tennis, netball, basketball and five-a-side football'.

4.5.6 **Ancillary facilities:** The ancillary provision supporting the above pitches and facilities, including changing rooms, toilets, floodlighting and car parking was also assessed, since it is integral to the usage of the green space.

4.5.7 **Playing pitch assessment:** As a prelude to developing local standards for paying pitches, an assessment of supply and demand was undertaken using Sport England's Playing Pitch Model (PPM). This involved the following stages:

- The number of teams/team equivalents was identified for each pitch sport.
- The number of home games per team per week was calculated for each sport.
- The total number of home games per week was calculated for each sport.
- The temporal (peak) demand for games was calculated for each sport.
- The number of pitches required for each sport on each day was defined.
- The number of pitches available for each sport was established.
- The findings were assessed, to identify the balance between pitch supply and demand.
- Policy options and solutions were identified.

4.5.8 The outputs from the PPM were then used to inform local standards for pitches, whilst local per capita standards for the other forms of outdoor sports facility were developed using the same methodology as for the other forms of open space.

**Result of audit**

- 4.5.9 Outdoor sports facilities in Tendring were audited through a series of site visits. 78% of greenspace sites with outdoor sports facilities were audited as 'average' or better by the sites audit with 58% rated as 'good' or 'very good'. Many sites, particularly in the rural parts of the district, form part of a wider greenspace such as a recreation ground, also comprising play provision and amenity greenspace. Most sites have evidence of additional informal usage, underlining the supplementary role that they play in providing for casual play and exercise such as dog walking. The latter activity can cause hygiene problems for the primary site users due to dog mess, although the general standard of cleanliness at the majority of sites in the district was good.
- 4.5.10 **Playing pitches:** There are 50 adult football, 7 junior football, 6 mini-soccer, 16 cricket, 6 rugby and 2 synthetic turf hockey pitches in the district. The majority of pitches are owned and managed by the district council, parish councils or clubs, although some school pitches have community use on a dual use basis. The quality of pitches is generally good, although the changing and ancillary facilities that serve them are of more variable quality. There are football and cricket pitches in all sub-areas of the district, but rugby and hockey are more specialist and consequently pitch provision for these sports is mainly concentrated in the urban centres in the district.
- 4.5.11 **Tennis courts:** There are a total of 74 tennis courts in the district, with provision in all sub-areas. Five tennis clubs provide member only access, but there are also publicly available courts that can be accessed on a casual basis. The quality of courts is generally adequate.
- 4.5.12 **Bowling greens:** There are 14 bowling greens in the district, with at least one in each sub-area. Most facilities are owned and managed by clubs, but provide some 'pay and play' access for the general public. The quality of greens is generally good.
- 4.5.13 **Golf courses:** There are four golf courses in the district, with two in Clacton, St. Osyth and district, one in Walton, Frinton and district and one in Harwich, Parkeston and district. This provision is supplemented by six courses in neighbouring Colchester. The quality of local courses is generally good.
- 4.5.14 **Athletics tracks:** There are no athletics tracks in the district, with Tendring residents using the synthetic track at the Garrison Stadium in Colchester.
- 4.5.15 **Multi-Use Games Areas:** There are 11 Multi-Use Games Areas in the district, with seven in Clacton, St. Osyth and district, one in Walton, Frinton and district, two in Harwich, Parkeston and district and one in Elmstead Market, Ardleigh and district. This means that there is no provision in Manningtree, Mistley and district, Great Bentley, Wix and district and Brightlingsea and district.

**Result of community consultation and Member’s feedback**

- 4.5.16 **Quantity of provision:** Local consultation suggests that the quantity of pitches and outdoor sports facilities is generally about right, although there are acknowledged shortfalls in junior football and mini-soccer pitches.
- 4.5.17 **Accessibility of provision:** Consultees felt that for the most part there is a good geographical distribution of pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the district, with no significant shortfalls identified. Driving times are regarded as the most pragmatic medium for defining accessibility standards, since most local users travel by car. However, where possible new provision should be in locations that are accessible by public transport and a districtwide cyclepath network should be developed to promote non-vehicular access to sports facilities. Improving physical access to sites is important, including developing community access to pitches on school sites.
- 4.5.18 **Quality of provision:** Local consultation indicated that in the first instance achieving an ‘average’ quality standard for pitches and outdoor facilities was an appropriate aspiration. The main quality issues at present relate to the maintenance of grass playing surfaces, which often relies on the goodwill of volunteers in the club sector. Also, changing facilities are frequently of poor quality and are inadequate to cope with simultaneous use by adults and juniors, men and women and to cater for the needs of disabled people. Dog mess causes a hazard to players at some sites and provision of additional dedicated dog bins should be a priority in such cases.

**Proposed Standards**

4.5.19 **Adult football pitches**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>1.39ha all pitch types/1000 population</b>	<b>One adult football pitch (2.0ha) per 500 males aged 16 - 45.</b>
<b>Justification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local Team Generation Rate (TGR) of 1: 241 males aged 16 - 45, is multiplied by two for home/away play and includes a factor for pitch carrying capacity and women’s play, to equate to 1 pitch per 500.</li> <li>• The space allocated for each pitch exceeds the Football Association’s recommended dimensions of 1.4ha (including ‘run-offs’), to allow for them to be moved laterally or rotated, to spread the wear on playing surfaces.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<b>At least one pitch within 10 minutes travel time of the whole population.</b>
<b>Justification</b>	

Players typically live within 10 minutes driving time of their 'home' pitch, but where possible pitches will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an 'average' quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fairly full grass cover, with limited bare patches, some weed growth and stones.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pitch has a slope of around one metre or less within the playing area.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pitch drains reasonably well but some evidence of puddling in areas of highest wear.</b></li> <li>• <b>Changing rooms conform to Sport England minimum space standards and are adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li>• <b>Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an 'average' standard in the first instance.</li> <li>• The above definitions of what constitutes 'average' in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.20 **Junior football pitches**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>1.39 ha all pitch types/1000 population</b>	<b>One junior football pitch (1.0ha) per 120 males aged 10 - 15.</b>
<b>Justification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local TGR of 1: 68 males aged 10 - 15, is multiplied by two for home/away play and includes a factor for pitch carrying capacity and girl's play, to equate to 1 pitch per 120.</li> <li>• The space allocated for each pitch exceeds the Football Association's recommended dimensions of 0.5ha (including 'run-offs'), to allow for them to be moved laterally or rotated, to spread the wear on playing surfaces.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<b>At least one pitch within 10 minutes travel time of the whole population.</b>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>Players typically live within 10 minutes driving time of their 'home' pitch, but where possible pitches will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.</p>	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>None</b></p>	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an 'average' quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fairly full grass cover, with limited bare patches, some weed growth and stones.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pitch has a slope of around one metre or less within the playing area.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pitch drains reasonably well but some evidence of puddling in areas of highest wear.</b></li> <li>• <b>Changing rooms conform to Sport England minimum space standards and are adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li>• <b>Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an 'average' standard in the first instance.</li> <li>• The above definitions of what constitutes 'average' in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.21 **Mini-soccer pitches**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>1.39 ha all pitch types/1000 population</b>	<b>One mini-soccer pitch (0.6ha) per 375 6 - 9 year olds.</b>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The local TGR of 1: 374 6 - 9 year olds is multiplied by two for home/away play and includes a factor for pitch carrying capacity, to equate to 1 pitch per 375.</li> <li>The space allocated for each pitch exceeds the Football Association’s recommended dimensions of 0.3ha (including ‘run-offs’), to allow for them to be moved laterally or rotated, to spread the wear on playing surfaces.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<b>At least one pitch within 10 minutes travel time of the whole population.</b>
Justification	
<p>Players typically live within 10 minutes driving time of their ‘home’ pitch, but where possible pitches will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.</p>	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an ‘average’ quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fairly full grass cover, with limited bare patches, some weed growth and stones.</b></li> <li><b>Pitch has a slope of around one metre or less within the playing area.</b></li> <li><b>Pitch drains reasonably well but some evidence of puddling in areas of highest wear.</b></li> <li><b>Changing rooms conform to Sport England minimum space standards and are adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li><b>Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an ‘average’ standard in the first instance.</li> <li>The above definitions of what constitutes ‘average’ in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.22 **Cricket pitches**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>1.39 ha all pitch types/1000 population</b>	<b>One cricket pitch (2.0ha) per 1,500 males aged 11 - 55.</b>
Justification	
The combined adult and junior male TGR of 1: 741 males aged 11 - 55, is multiplied by two for home/away play and includes a factor for the diffuse demand peak and women’s play, to equate to 1 pitch per 1,500.	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<b>At least one pitch within 10 minutes travel time of the whole population.</b>
Justification	
Players typically live within 10 minutes driving time of their ‘home’ pitch, but where possible pitches will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an ‘average’ quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fairly full grass cover, with limited bare patches, some weed growth and stones.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pitch has a slope of around one metre or less within the playing area.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pitch drains reasonably well but some evidence of puddling in areas of highest wear.</b></li> <li>• <b>Changing rooms conform to Sport England minimum space standards and are adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li>• <b>Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an ‘average’ standard in the first instance.</li> <li>• The above definitions of what constitutes ‘average’ in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.23 **Rugby pitches**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>1.39 ha all pitch types/1000 population</b>	<b>One rugby pitch (2.0ha) per 3,500 males aged 13 - 45.</b>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The combined adult and junior male TGR of 1: 1,708 males aged 13 - 45, is multiplied by two for home/away play and includes a factor for pitch carrying capacity and women’s play, to equate to 1 pitch per 3,500.</li> <li>The space allocated for each pitch exceeds the Rugby Football Union’s recommended dimensions of 1.2ha (including ‘run-offs’), to allow for them to be moved laterally or rotated, to spread the wear on playing surfaces.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<b>At least one pitch within 10 minutes travel time of the whole population.</b>
Justification	
<p>Players typically live within 10 minutes driving time of their ‘home’ pitch, but where possible pitches will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.</p>	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an ‘average’ quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fairly full grass cover, with limited bare patches, some weed growth and stones.</b></li> <li><b>Pitch has a slope of around one metre or less within the playing area.</b></li> <li><b>Pitch drains reasonably well but some evidence of puddling in areas of highest wear.</b></li> <li><b>Changing rooms conform to Sport England minimum space standards and are adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li><b>Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an ‘average’ standard in the first instance.</li> <li>The above definitions of what constitutes ‘average’ in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.24 **Hockey (synthetic turf pitches)**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>1.39ha all pitch types/1000 population</b>	<b>One synthetic turf pitch (0.6ha) per 20,000 11 - 45 year olds.</b>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hockey TGR of 1: 20,737 people aged 11 - 45, is multiplied by two for home/away play and includes a factor for peak demand and the ability of pitches to accommodate four games per day, to equate to 1 pitch per 40,000 people.</li> <li>However, football usage, particularly for training, accounts for about half of the demand for synthetic pitches, making a standard of 1 per 20,000 11 - 45 year olds appropriate.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<b>At least one pitch within 20 minutes travel time of the whole population.</b>
Justification	
<p>Players typically live within 20 minutes driving time of their 'home' pitch, but where possible pitches will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.</p>	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an 'average' quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A reasonably flat playing surface with limited evidence of carpet wear and accurate line markings for all appropriate pitch sports.</b></li> <li><b>Adequate lighting levels over the entire pitch, with glare, shadows or reflection to distract players.</b></li> <li><b>Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair.</b></li> <li><b>On-site facilities with social area and changing facilities conforming to Sport England minimum space standards adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li><b>Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an 'average' standard in the first instance.</li> <li>The above definitions of what constitutes 'average' in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.25 **Tennis**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None specific	One tennis court per 1,750 people.
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current levels of provision equate to one court per 1,872 people in the district.</li> <li>• Tennis participation rates are increasing, so it is appropriate to set a standard above current per capita levels of provision.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None	At least one court within 10 minutes travel time of the whole population.
Justification	
<p>Players typically live within 10 minutes driving time of their nearest court, but where possible courts will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.</p>	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an 'average' quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reasonably flat court surface, non-slip with appropriate footwear with line markings for tennis and adequate run-offs.</li> <li>• Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair.</li> <li>• On-site changing facilities conforming to Sport England minimum space standards adequately maintained and cleaned.</li> <li>• Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</li> </ul>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an 'average' standard in the first instance.</li> <li>• The above definitions of what constitutes 'average' in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.26 **Outdoor bowls**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None specific	One bowling green per 10,000 people.
<b>Justification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current levels of provision equate to one bowling green per 9,896 people in the district.</li> <li>• Bowls club membership is static or falling locally, so it is appropriate to set a standard just below current per capita levels of provision.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None	At least one green within 20 minutes travel time of the whole population.
<b>Justification</b>	
Players typically live within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest green, but where possible greens will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an 'average' quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An effectively flat green with almost uniform grass cover and regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter.</b></li> <li>• <b>On-site changing and social facilities conforming to Sport England minimum space standards adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li>• <b>Disabled access to most of the site, including a ramp to the green, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an 'average' standard in the first instance.</li> <li>• The above definitions of what constitutes 'average' in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.27 **Golf courses**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None specific	One golf course per 30,000 people.
<b>Justification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current levels of provision equate to one golf course per 34,635 people in the district.</li> <li>• Demand for golf in the west of the district is largely catered for by courses in Colchester, so it is appropriate to set a standard above current per capita levels of provision to reflect the displaced demand.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None	At least one course within 20 minutes travel time of the whole population.
<b>Justification</b>	
Players typically live within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest course, but where possible courses will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
None	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an 'average' quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A course, with reasonable quality greens and fairways.</b></li> <li>• <b>On-site changing and social facilities conforming to Sport England minimum space standards adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li>• <b>Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an 'average' standard in the first instance.</li> <li>• The above definitions of what constitutes 'average' in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.28 **Athletics tracks**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None specific</b>	<b>One synthetic track per 250,000 people.</b>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UK Athletics recommends one 6-lane 400m synthetic athletics track per 250,000 people.</li> <li>Demand for athletics in the district is catered for by the track in Colchester, so it is appropriate to set a standard of provision that reflects the population of both districts, as well as taking account the standard in UK Athletics' national facilities strategy.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<b>At least one track within 30 minutes travel time of the whole population.</b>
Justification	
UK Athletics recommends one 6-lane 400m synthetic athletics track within 30 minutes drive time.	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<p><b>All facilities to achieve at least an 'average' quality standard, defined as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A 400m track with an all-weather, synthetic surface, six lanes and an effectively flat surface. Most field event facilities within the track.</b></li> <li><b>On-site changing and social facilities conforming to Sport England minimum space standards adequately maintained and cleaned.</b></li> <li><b>Disabled access to most of the site, with dedicated disabled toilet and changing facilities.</b></li> </ul>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an 'average' standard in the first instance.</li> <li>The above definitions of what constitutes 'average' in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

4.5.29 **Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA)**

**Quantitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>One MUGA for all communities over 1,000 population without access to an existing sports hall or synthetic turf pitch.</b>	<b>One MUGA for all communities over 1,000 population that are outside the 15 minute drivetime catchment of an existing sports hall or the 20 minute drivetime of a synthetic turf pitch.</b>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing quantitative standard relates to Sport England guidance and reflects the ability of a MUGA to meet a range of the needs met by sports halls and synthetic pitches, but at a more localised level. A community of 1,000 people is likely to be the minimum size required to sustain the use of a MUGA.</li> </ul>	

**Accessibility standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>10 minutes drive</b>	<b>At least MUGA within 10 minutes travel time of the whole population.</b>
Justification	
The existing accessibility standard is 10 minutes driving time, but where possible MUGAs will be located to maximise their accessibility by non-vehicular forms of transport.	

**Qualitative standard:**

Existing standard	Recommended standard
<b>None</b>	<b>All facilities to achieve at least an 'average' quality standard, defined as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A reasonably flat surface, non-slip with appropriate footwear with line markings for at least two outdoor sports.</b></li> <li><b>Playing area mostly enclosed by a surrounding fence in reasonable repair, with perimeter rebound boards.</b></li> <li><b>Disabled access to the whole facility.</b></li> </ul>
Justification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tendring District Councillors agreed at the consultative workshop that all facilities should seek to achieve an 'average' standard in the first instance.</li> <li>The above definitions of what constitutes 'average' in the district context were determined by undertaking a qualitative audit of all sites in Tendring.</li> </ul>	

**Deficiencies based upon local standards**

4.5.30 **Playing pitches:** The results of applying the Playing Pitch Model (PPM) in tandem with the local standards identified the following position:

Pitch type	Effective position	Explanation
Adult football pitches	Supply and demand balanced	The notional surplus of pitches calculated by the PPM for adult play is eliminated the need to accommodate junior games on adult pitches.
Junior football pitches	Shortfall of 8 pitches	Despite the use of adult pitches for junior games, there is still a shortfall of 8 pitches.
Mini-soccer pitches	Shortfall of 11 pitches	Although the current shortfall is mitigated by back-to-back fixture scheduling, this is not sustainable in the long term.
Cricket pitches	Supply and demand balanced	The diffuse demand profile of cricket, with many midweek fixtures, helps to reduce peak demand.
Rugby pitches	Notional surplus of 2 pitches	The current notional surplus allows pitch use to be rotated to reduce the heavy wear associated with Rugby play.
Hockey pitches	Notional surplus of 1 pitch	The ability of synthetic pitches to accommodate several games per day creates a small surplus for hockey use, but this takes no account of demand from football users.

4.5.31 Analysis at sub-area level revealed the following:

- **Adult football:** There are small notional surpluses in all sub-areas, although the magnitude of these closely matches the shortfall in junior pitches in each area.
- **Junior football:** There are deficiencies in five of the seven sub-areas, including in the Harwich and Dovercourt sub-area, but with a particularly large shortfall in Clacton, St. Osyth and district.
- **Mini-soccer:** There are deficiencies in four of the seven sub-areas, with a particularly large shortfall in Clacton, St. Osyth and district.
- **Cricket:** There are small notional shortfalls in six of the seven sub-areas, although in all cases these are met by spreading fixtures across different midweek evenings.
- **Rugby:** There are no shortfalls in any sub-area.
- **Hockey:** There are no shortfalls in any sub-area.

4.5.32 **Tennis courts:** The results of applying the local standard to each sub-area of the district revealed the following. Given the 20 minute travel time standard, the notional surplus/deficit in the Clacton and Walton areas amalgamates into a balance between supply and demand, but there are small deficits in the more rural sub-areas in the district:

<b>Sub-area</b>	<b>Existing courts</b>	<b>Courts required</b>	<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>
Clacton, St. Osyth and district	21	38	(17)
Walton, Frinton and district	31	13	18
Harwich, Parkeston and district	13	13	0
Manningtree, Mistley & district	2	4	(2)
Brightlingsea and district	6	6	0
Great Bentley, Wix and district	1	4	(3)
Elmstead Market, Ardleigh & district	0	4	(4)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>(8)</b>

4.5.33 **Bowling greens:** The results of applying the local standard to each sub-area of the district revealed the following. Given the 20 minute travel time standard, the deficit in the Clacton and area is partially offset by provision in the Walton area, but there is still a small shortfall in Walton:

<b>Sub-area</b>	<b>Existing green</b>	<b>Greens required</b>	<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>
Clacton, St. Osyth and district	4	7	(3)
Walton, Frinton and district	3	2	1
Harwich, Parkeston and district	2	2	0
Manningtree, Mistley & district	1	1	0
Brightlingsea and district	1	1	0
Great Bentley, Wix and district	1	1	0
Elmstead Market, Ardleigh & district	2	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>(1)</b>

4.5.34 **Golf courses:** The results of applying the local standard to each sub-area of the district revealed the following. With supplementary provision in Colchester, there is no current deficiency:

<b>Sub-area</b>	<b>Existing course</b>	<b>Courses required</b>	<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>
Clacton, St. Osyth and district	2	2	0
Walton, Frinton and district	1	1	0
Harwich, Parkeston and district	1	1	0
Manningtree, Mistley & district	0	0	0
Brightlingsea and district	0	0	0
Great Bentley, Wix and district	0	0	0
Elmstead Market, Ardleigh & district	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

4.5.35 **Athletics tracks:** Provision in Colchester meets all needs in Tendring at present.

4.5.36 **MUGAs:** The results of applying the local standard to each sub-area of the district revealed the following. The only sub-area with a deficiency is the Great Bentley, Wix and District.

Sub-area	Existing MUGAs	MUGAs required	Surplus/(deficit)
Clacton, St. Osyth and district	7	7	0
Walton, Frinton and district	1	1	0
Harwich, Parkeston and district	2	2	0
Manningtree, Mistley & district	0	0	0
Brightlingsea and district	0	0	0
Great Bentley, Wix and district	0	1	(1)
Elmstead Market, Ardleigh & district	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>(1)</b>

### ***Policy options for meeting identified shortfalls***

4.5.37 **Patterns of pitch and outdoor facility provision:** A number of options are available for providing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the district, the suitability of which will depend upon:

- The overall size and geographical distribution of the population.
- The hierarchy and standard of competitive activities.
- Sports development initiatives.

4.5.38 **Centralised provision:** This model involves concentrating pitches at a limited number of sites. It has the following advantages and disadvantages:

#### **Advantages:**

- Financial and other resources can be concentrated, enabling larger and better quality support facilities to be provided.
- Provision can be made at the 'Multi-Sport Hubs' currently favoured by Sport England.
- Grounds maintenance can be undertaken on a more cost-effective basis.
- A number of sports development initiatives, including the FA's Community Clubs programme, depend upon a cluster of pitches to create a 'critical mass' of activity.

#### **Disadvantages:**

- Pitch provision in the district is made by many different organisations in addition to the Council, most notably town and parish councils, schools and clubs. This would make concentrating pitches at fewer sites difficult to co-ordinate.
- Concentrating pitches in a limited number of locations creates the need for more users to travel further and at present, ten minutes driving time is the maximum catchment tolerated by most players.
- The scope for extending most existing sites in urban parts of the district is limited, since they are often surrounded by built up areas.

- The concept of centralising sports development activity is not universally embraced by most pitch sport governing bodies. Cricket and rugby in particular concentrate most development activity via their network of existing clubs.

4.5.39 **Dispersed provision:** This model most **closely** reflects the current situation in the district, with small numbers of pitches at relatively large numbers of sites. It has the following advantages and disadvantages:

**Advantages:**

- Opportunities to play pitch sports are accessible and local, maximising the potential for participation.
- Playing sport at a local level reinforces a sense of community.
- Singly provided facilities can be simpler to maintain.

**Disadvantages**

- Single pitch sites may limit the potential for club development and expansion, particularly for junior and women's teams.
- Changing accommodation is often sub-optimal and less cost effective than larger pavilions serving multi-pitch sites.

4.5.40 **Hierarchical provision:** This model involves the best of both the above approaches, with a limited number of 'development centres', involving a complex of pitches at central or nodal points and defined by sports development needs, underpinned by a network of geographically dispersed pitch sites, offering local participation opportunities. Such an approach in Tendring might involve development centres in Clacton-on-Sea, Walton-on-the-Naze, Harwich, Mistley and Manningtree.

4.5.41 **'Surplus' provision:** As outlined above, the application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Model, based upon the concept of peak demand identified a number of notional 'surpluses' in some types of pitches in the district. However, there is a strong case for regarding such 'surpluses' with caution because:

4.5.42 The peak demand calculation ignores the effect of factors like match postponements that inflate demand for rescheduled fixtures.

4.5.43 A number of teams play on their local pitch at non-peak times. Were their pitch to be regarded as surplus merely because it does not cater for demand at the peak period, then they would have to travel elsewhere to play. This would almost certainly deter recreational level participants, for whom involvement on a local basis is one of the prime motivations to play.

4.5.44 The primary pitch usage is often supplemented by additional use to mitigate shortfalls in other pitch types. Examples include junior football teams playing on adult pitches and football teams of all ages playing on synthetic turf pitches where Hockey is the principal user.

- 4.5.45 One policy option for meeting deficiencies in one type of pitch provision is conversion of another type for which there is a notional 'surplus' at present. The most obvious example is the conversion of adult football pitches to junior or mini pitches, to help meet current shortfalls in the latter.
- 4.5.46 Population and participation increases will inflate demand significantly over the next few years and even if pitches are underused currently, they are likely to be needed to meet increased demand in the near future.
- 4.5.47 Playing fields serve a number of other important greenspace functions, providing space for informal recreation and exercise and constitute an important visual amenity.
- 4.5.48 Taking **account** of all the above factors, therefore, notional 'surpluses' in some types of pitch should not be interpreted as evidence that the facilities concerned could be disposed of, without detriment to sports provision in the district.

***Dealing with deficiencies:***

- 4.5.49 A number of options are available for meeting the identified deficiencies in pitch provision, including:
- 4.5.50 **New provision:** Constructing entirely new pitches and outdoor sports facilities may be the only means of securing additional pitches in the right location. This can be achieved by:
- Identifying entirely new sites for pitches in appropriate locations.
  - Extending existing pitch sites where feasible.
  - Incorporating pitch provision into new housing developments.
- 4.5.51 **Conversion:** Where there is clear evidence that an existing pitch is surplus to requirements now and for the foreseeable future, conversion to a type of pitch for which deficiencies have been identified would be a cost-effective means of making provision. Given the overlap between the minimum size of adult football pitches (90m x 45m) and the maximum size of junior pitches (91m x 59m), conversion between these pitch types would be relatively straightforward.
- 4.5.52 **Improved capacity:** Improvements to the playing surface and drainage of a pitch will enable it to accommodate more play and may therefore be more effective (and cheaper) than providing an entirely new pitch. The provision of floodlighting can have a similarly beneficial effect on usage capacity. However:
- Improved pitch capacity often only provides additional use at non-peak periods and therefore has little impact on increasing usage during peak demand periods.
  - There are often planning sensitivities over the installation of floodlights.
  - Floodlights only improve capacity where playing surfaces are of good enough quality to accommodate the additional play.

- 4.5.53 **Staggered starting times:** Peak demand periods are often created by individual league stipulations on match starting times. A more flexible approach by local league secretaries could spread the peak demand period (particularly for junior matches where local pitch deficiencies are greatest and wear and tear on pitches is more limited) although it pre-supposes that pitches are capable of accommodating up to three games in two days.
- 4.5.54 **Dual use of education facilities:** A number of schools in Tendring already allow external community use of their pitches. The main factors inhibiting such use at present are generally access problems to the school grounds out of hours, additional wear and tear on the pitches that might compromise school use and costs exceeding income. Assuming that such problems can be overcome, negotiating community access to education pitches offers an attractive means of securing additional capacity, particularly if use is regulated by a formal Community Use Agreement.
- 4.5.55 **Changing and related facilities:** The qualitative audit revealed that the quality of many changing facilities locally is below average for most aspects of provision. The quality of provision for women and girls is particularly poor and may be inhibiting the growth of their participation in pitch sports. To rectify this:
- All new facilities should comply fully with Sport England and governing body design standards.
  - A long-term replacement programme should be devised for older facilities, with priority given to those serving the larger pitch sites.
- 4.5.56 **Meeting assessed deficiencies:** The table below summarises assessed deficiencies in playing pitch and outdoor facility provision in 2009 and contains recommendations for meeting shortfalls.

Type of provision	Current assessed deficiency	Recommendations for meeting deficiency
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No quantitative shortfall.</li> <li>• Quality improvements to changing provision at all existing facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites, with priority given to those serving multiple pitches.</li> </ul>
Junior football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 8 pitches in the Clacton (6 pitches), Harwich (1 pitch) and Manningtree (1 pitch) sub-areas.</li> <li>• Quality improvements to changing provision at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convert existing surplus adult pitches into junior pitches.</li> <li>• Negotiate community access to six junior pitches at schools in the Clacton area.</li> <li>• One new junior pitch at Low Road Recreation Ground or Ramsey War Memorial Field</li> <li>• One new junior pitch at Lawford Recreation Ground.</li> <li>• Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites, with priority given to those serving multiple pitches.</li> </ul>
Mini-soccer pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 11 pitches in Clacton (8 pitches) and Manningtree (3 pitches)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four new mini-soccer pitches at Vista Road Recreation Ground.</li> </ul>

	<p>sub-areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality improvements to changing provision at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiate community access to four mini-soccer pitches at schools in the Clacton area.</li> <li>Negotiate community access to three mini-soccer pitches at schools in the Manningtree/Mistley area.</li> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites, with priority given to those serving multiple pitches.</li> </ul>
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quantitative shortfall.</li> <li>Qualitative improvements to changing provision at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites.</li> </ul>
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quantitative shortfall.</li> <li>Qualitative improvements to changing provision at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites.</li> </ul>
Hockey pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quantitative shortfall.</li> <li>Qualitative improvements to changing provision at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites.</li> </ul>
Tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 8 courts in the Manningtree (2 courts), Great Bentley (3 courts) and Elmstead Market (3 courts) sub-areas.</li> <li>Quality improvements to changing provision at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 new courts at Lawford Recreation Ground.</li> <li>3 new courts at Great Bentley Primary School</li> <li>3 new courts at Ardleigh Recreation Ground.</li> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites, with priority given to those serving multiple courts.</li> </ul>
Bowling greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One bowling green in the Clacton sub-area.</li> <li>Qualitative improvements at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New green in Clacton (subject to the formation of a local club to manage the facility).</li> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing provision and other qualitative deficiencies at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>

Type of provision	Current assessed deficiency	Recommendations for meeting deficiency
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quantitative shortfall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>
MUGAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 MUGA in the Great Bentley sub-area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 new MUGA at Great Bentley Primary School.</li> </ul>

## 4.6 Provision for children and Young People:



*Clacton Seafront*

- 4.6.1 PPG 17 identifies that this provision can include play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops and other more informal areas (e.g. 'hanging out' areas or teenage shelters for instance)<sup>13</sup>.
- 4.6.2 The current ***Strategy for Equipped Play Areas in Tendring, 2002-2005***, contains a ***Charter for Children's Play*** that identifies a set of principles to underpin the development of play provision within the district. This states:
- 4.6.3 Children of all ages should be able to play freely, confidently on their own or with other children and adults.
- 4.6.4 Parents/Guardians and other carers can help children by respecting and valuing their play needs and trying to maximise their opportunities for safe and stimulating play inside and outside the home. Children also need opportunities to interact and play with their parents/guardians and carers.
- 4.6.5 Play for all – all children should have access to good quality, safe and affordable play opportunities, with supervision provided where appropriate, in accordance with age and need.

<sup>13</sup> Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

- 4.6.6 Safety – play opportunities should be creative, stimulating, adventurous and safe and appropriate to the child’s stage of development and physical capabilities. Play opportunities should challenge children’s abilities but not their survival or well-being.
- 4.6.7 Services – all play services should respect the right of the child to play freely and safely. The role of play services should be to resource and facilitate the play process.
- 4.6.8 Neighbourhood Play – all neighbourhoods should have a range of play provision and play services. Children should be able to play safely near their homes with friends.
- 4.6.9 It is important to emphasise that children play in spaces other than those that are equipped for play. In particular, the role of more natural environment in play and learning is being increasingly rediscovered.
- 4.6.10 Play England identifies that children value and make good use of a varied natural landscape<sup>14</sup>. Benefits include: exploring and investigating the natural world; exploring their sensory abilities, exploring wildlife, building, digging and demolishing; climbing, jumping and balancing; playing around, behind, over, through and under things; using places to enrich all sorts of play from social to fantasy play. Elements of play that encourage this sort of exploration should be incorporated into the widest range of play spaces and other types of greenspace.
- 4.6.11 Natural England’s recent Childhood and Nature Survey<sup>15</sup> has identified how fewer than 10% of children play in woodlands, countryside and parks.
- 4.6.12 **Summary of Play Area and Sports Pitch Need:** Most of the provision for children and young people is on sites less than 0.2ha in size so has not been covered by the site audit process as such. However, all play sites in Tendring area inspected on a regular basis by the local authority and the results from the 2009 summary report have been incorporated into this document<sup>16</sup>.
- 4.6.13 **Definition of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs:** The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), now known as Fields in Trust<sup>17</sup>, has defined three categories of play areas, known as Local Areas for Play (LAPs), Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs), and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). A brief definition of each type is given below:
- Local Areas for Play (LAPs):** These are small landscaped areas of open space specifically designated for young children (under 6 years old) and their parents or carers for play activities and socialisation close to where they live. A LAP should be a safe, attractive and stimulating environment which will give young children the opportunity to play and interact with their peers

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<sup>14</sup> Play Naturally: Play England [www.playengland.org.uk/resources](http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources)

<sup>15</sup> Natural England; Childhood and Nature Survey [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

<sup>16</sup> Summary of Play Area and Sports Pitch Needs by Parish Area

<sup>17</sup> [www.npfa.co.uk](http://www.npfa.co.uk)

away from their own back garden, thus encouraging the development of a range of social and educational skills.

**Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs):** A LEAP is an unsupervised play area mainly for children of early school age (4-12 years) but with consideration for other ages. Unlike a LAP a LEAP is equipped **with** formal play equipment and it should provide a focal point for children when they are responsible enough to move away from the immediate control of parents. A LEAP will need to be provided on a development of more than 30 houses, although where there is an identified lack of play areas in the vicinity, smaller developments may be required to include such provision in order to ensure that the situation is not exacerbated. Each LEAP will normally serve between 30 and 100 dwellings and new residential developments of over 100 houses may need to include more than 1 LEAP.

**Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs):** A NEAP will serve a substantial residential **development** and as such should cater for a wide range of children including those with special needs. Play equipment should be aimed primarily at those aged between 4 and 14 and should aim to stimulate physical, creative, intellectual, social and solitary play. Teenage provision should be in the form of kickabout/basketball areas, opportunities for wheeled play (skateboarding, roller-skating, etc.) and meeting areas.

4.6.14 The Play Area and Sports Pitch Need assessment identifies the following provision by parish:

Parish	Site name
Ardleigh	Millennium Green, Ardleigh Primary School, Ardleigh Recreation Ground
Alresford	St Andrews Close
Beaumont c. Moze	Harwich Road
Bradfield	The Street
Brightlingsea	Promenade Way, Bayard Recreation Ground, Colne Community School
Clacton	Seymour Road, Crossways Open Space, Bockings Elm/Flatford Drive, Rush Green Recreation ground, Windsor Avenue, Marine Parade West, Burrs Road, Fooks Farm, Hereford Road, Vista Road Recreation Ground and Leisure centre, Brooklands Community Centre, Eastcliff Recreation Ground
Elmstead M.	Old School Lane
Frating	Tokely Road
Frinton, Walton/Kirby	Frinton Park, Bathhouse Meadow (Walton), Grove Avenue (Walton) Main Rd Great Holland (Frinton), Halstead Rd. (Kirby Cross), Jubilee Field (Walton)
Great Bentley	Great Bentley Green
Great Bromley	Hare Green
Great Oakley	School Corner/Beaumont Road recreation Field
Harwich and Dovercourt	Dovercourt Swimming Pool, Ray Avenue, Bathside, Harwich Green, Cliff Park, Churchill Court, Dove Crescent, Willow Way, Abdy Avenue,
Lawford	Waldegrave Way, Lawford Recreation Ground, Foxash, Riverview/ Colchester Road
Little Clacton	Little Clacton Play Area
Little Oakley	Harwich Road
Mistley	Stourview Close, Furze Hill, Welcome Home Field
Ramsey/Parkeston	Clayton road, Welfare Park, War memorial
St. Osyth	Cowley park, Cowley Park, Dumont avenue (Point clear).
Thorpe-le-Soken	Lady Nelson playing Field
Thorrington	Chapel Lane, Hazel Close
Weeley	Hilltop Crescent, Clacton Road
Wix	Harwich Road
Wrabness	Rectory Road

***Result of site audit:***

4.6.15 Of the sites actually covered by the site audit, all are in public ownership and allow general public access. The single largest green space in this typology is London Road Recreation

Ground, BMX Track, Clacton at 3.19ha, which also contains a field with a football pitch. The other sites audited varied in size from 0.28-2.55ha in size.

- 4.6.16 The quality of this provision varied, but on average was good. Two sites had a poor – Burrsville Park – or very poor rating – Windsor Road - mainly because the facilities are in need of updating. The overall quality of the sites was:

Site name	Overall quality
Carisbrooke Avenue	Good
Crossways Open Space	Good
Great Holland Play Area	Good
London Road Recreation Ground BMX track	Good
Seymour road, Jaywick Open Space	Good
Burrsville Park, Picker's Ditch	Poor
Windsor Road Play Area	Very poor

- 4.6.17 The character of the provision for children and young people is generally of a grassed area, mainly in a housing estate, with equipped areas for play or other activity. There is an overlap between this sort of provision and that of amenity greens, many of which also contain play equipment. Seymour Road has a wilder meadow area as well as mown grass. Great Holland Play Area is within a Conservation Area and Local Green Gap, and also adjoins Ancient Woodland.
- 4.6.18 Most of the sites audited contained facilities for play with two sites also containing sports facilities. Crossways Open space in Jaywick also contains water as a feature. Only one of the sites audited (Great Holland Play area) forms a gateway to a town or other urban settlement. This is also the only site offering significant views.
- 4.6.19 Only one site, Burrsville Park, offers an opportunity to fulfil a strategic green infrastructure or Haven Gateway strategic role, due to its co-location as part of the Picker's Ditch Green Corridor.
- 4.6.20 All the sites were considered to have significant amenity value and were visually attractive. 40% of sites also provide relief from built up areas contributing to the amenity value of nearby residents or neighbouring land-users.
- 4.6.21 Burrsville Park is part of the designated Local Nature Reserve of Picker's Ditch and so has significant biodiversity value close to the play facilities.
- 4.6.22 All of the sites are generally welcoming, with most having multiple entrances in average/good repair. For most sites access to the site by foot, cycle and for the disabled was generally good, except for Seymour Road, Jaywick which was ranked poor. Access by public transport seems to be generally poor. Access within the sites for those with mobility difficulties was generally low,

however. There appear to be no specific physical barriers to impede access into the sites such as locked gates or barriers.

- 4.6.23 Within the sites, the quality of access was generally ranked as average or above, but was poor at Carisbrooke Avenue and Seymour Road, Jaywick. There appear to be no specific facilities for the disabled at the sites and less than 30% have specific provision for bicycles. Crossways Open space in Jaywick, had a specific trip hazard of a raised man-hole cover at the time of the audit.
- 4.6.24 For the majority of sites the quality of layouts was very good. The sites were split approximately 50-50 between being well connected and having few connections to neighbouring areas.
- 4.6.25 Junior football pitches were provided at three of the sites audited. These sites also provided a hard surface multi-use games area (MUGA). Most sites are very well provided for in terms of seating, dog bins and litter bins which were generally in good condition but London Road Recreation Ground BMX track had no such facilities. There were a variety of indicators of other informal uses at all sites including desire lines, informal pitches, dog walking and cycling.
- 4.6.26 Many of the sites had natural surveillance but three - Carisbrooke Avenue, Great Holland and Windsor Play Areas - had potential ambush areas. The sense of security at sites is good at the sites with natural surveillance but fair or poor where there are ambush areas. Litter and vandalism were ranked as low or none for all sites, except Burrsville Park and? Pickers Ditch.

### ***Opportunities for enhancement***

- 4.6.27 Most of the audited sites presented opportunities for improvement or enhancement for the site as a whole or for the provision for children and young people in particular. This potential is summarised below:

<b>Site</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
Crossways Openspace, Jaywick	Needs maintenance in plant beds.
London Road Recreation Ground, BMX Track	Seating and litter bins needed.
Carisbrooke Avenue	Good facilities for children's play and provides varied features such as a meadow and woodland.
Burrsville Park, Pickers Ditch,	Facilities need updating.
Great Holland Play area	Good provision and appears to be well used.
Seymour Road, Jaywick Openspace	Looks partly neglected, No particular attraction to the site, although community provided for in park 20m down road.
Windsor Road play Area	Needs updating.

4.6.28 Of the sites inspected through the **Play Area and Sports Pitch Needs** assessment carried out by Tendring District Council, the following range of enhancements were identified:

<b>Enhancement type</b>	<b>Site</b>
Increase to LEAP standard	Ardleigh Millennium Green; Harwich Road, Beaumont; The Street, Bradfield; Burrs Road; Hereford Road; Grove Avenue, Walton; Halstead Road, Kirby Cross; Jubilee Field, Walton; Hare Green, Great Bromley; School Corner/Beaumont Road, Great Oakley; Harwich Road, Little Oakley; Lady Nelson Playing Field.
Increase to NEAP standard	Promenade Way, Brightlingsea; Bockings Elm/Flatford Drive; Rush Green Recreation Ground; Foots Farm; Vista Road Recreation Ground; Eastcliff Recreation Ground; Bathhouse Meadow, Walton; Dovercourt Swimming Pool; Ray avenue, Harwich and Dovercourt; Welfare Park, Ramsey/Parkeston; Cowley Park, St. Osyth; Dumont Avenue, Point clear.
	St Andrews Close, Alresford; Marine Parade West; Main Road, Great Holland; Churchill Court; Waldegrave Way; Cowley Park MUGA; Clacton Road, Weeley.
Facilities provided for over 12's	Brooklands Community Centre; Frinton Park; Lawford Recreation Ground.
Play Area for Under 5's	Hazel Close, Thorrington.
Provide enclosure/fencing or signage	Windsor Avenue, Clacton; Old School Lane, Elmstead Market; Bathside; Cliff park; Little Clacton; Welcome Home Field, Mistle; Hilltop Crescent, Weeley.
Maintain to standard	Ardleigh Primary School; Bayard Recreation Ground, Brightlingsea; Seymour Road, Clacton; Crossways, Clacton; Tokely Road, Frating; Great Bentley Green; Bathside; Harwich Green; Cliff Park; Dove Crescent; Willow Way; Foxash; Riverview/Colchester Road, Lawford; Stourview Close; Furze Hill, Manningtree; Clayton Road; War Memorial, Ramsey/Parkeston; Chapel Lane, Thorrington; Rectory Road, Wrabness.
Decommission play area/No play equipment	Ardleigh Recreation Ground; Abdy Avenue.

4.6.29 Each proposed enhancement has been assigned a priority from high to low depending on need. It is recognised that the proposed enhancements and their priority will need regular review by the local authority to accommodate changes in demography. The community consultation identified, for instance, an identified need for play provision for older children in the Ramsey area.

**Provision for children and young people: standards**

**Quantity**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Proposed standard:</b>  <b>Younger children: 0.15ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Older children: 0.1ha/1000</b></p> <p><i>Younger children are defined as up to 8 years old</i>  <i>Older children are defined as over 8 years old</i></p>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The community consultation showed that 97% of respondents thought that provision for children and young people was very important. 50% thought there was not enough provision but 42% thought there was enough or nearly enough. Specific problems of provision were identified in Point Clear for older children who do not have their own facilities.</p> <p>The report on Play Area and Sports Pitch Need, 2009, identified that the following additional play areas were currently needed:</p> <p><b>Provision of a LEAP - Bockings Elm; Old Road, Clacton; Area West of Manningtree; Little Oakley; Colne Community School</b>  <b>Provision of a LAP – Abdy Avenue; Little Bentley; Little Bromley; Manningtree; Tendring Ramsey War Memorial Hall Playing Field</b>  <b>Provision of a play area for under 5’s - Hazel Close, Thorrington</b></p> <p>The standard has been drawn from the comparator authorities in lieu of known existing quantities. Comparator authorities that were studied have set the following standards;</p> <p><b>Canterbury – 0.3ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Teignbridge – Younger children; 0.15ha/1000 population, Older children; 0.1ha/1000 population</b>  <b>Dover – Urban wards; 1 neighbourhood and 1 local play space per ward, Rural wards; 2 local play spaces per ward</b></p>	

**Accessibility**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Proposed standard:</b>  <b>Younger children, within 400m from home</b>  <b>Older children, within 1000m from home</b></p> <p><i>Younger children are defined as up to 8 years old</i>  <i>Older children are defined as over 8 years old</i></p>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>All of the audited sites are generally welcoming, with access to the site by foot, cycle and for the disabled being generally good. Seymour Road, Jaywick was ranked poor on access issues, however. Access by public transport seems to be generally poor for most sites. There appear to be no specific physical barriers to impede access into the sites.</p> <p>Within the sites, the quality of access was generally ranked as average or above, but was poor at Carisbrooke Avenue and Seymour Road, Jaywick. Access within the sites for those with mobility difficulties was generally low and there appear to be no specific facilities for the disabled at the sites. Crossways Open space in Jaywick, had a specific trip hazard of a raised man-hole cover at the time of the audit. Less than 30% have specific provision for bicycles.</p> <p>The community consultation identified that the majority of the community want to be able to access play areas within 5-10 minutes of home. Members agree with this. The standard that has been set meets the need for the younger age group but is slightly higher for the older age group to accord with the NEAP standard.<sup>18</sup> There are particular problems in villages with accessibility along roads without footpaths.</p> <p>Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:</p> <p><b>Canterbury – none</b>  <b>Teignbridge – Younger children; within 5mins walk (400m),</b>  <b>Older children; within 10mins walk (800m).</b>  <b>Dover – none</b></p>	

**Quality**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>Proposed standards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All play areas must adhere to the Fields in Trust LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) and NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play) national standards.</li> <li>• All play spaces should have natural surveillance and be within sight of walking or cycling routes or desire lines</li> <li>• Facilities must be designed in consultation with local children and young people, be clean and litter free, have no vandalism and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities.</li> <li>• Facilities for youth should seek to provide skate/BMX features, or other appropriate facilities, alongside youth shelter areas</li> </ul>

<sup>18</sup> Fields in Trust; [www.npfa.co.uk](http://www.npfa.co.uk)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All play spaces should be designed to maximise experience of natural features.</li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>97% of respondents to the community survey thought that play space was important, and that play areas should be close to home. Dog-fouling is still one of the top five reasons cited for non-use of greenspace but problems of anti-social behaviour, litter and vandalism and graffiti are generally perceived as minor.</p> <p>The current resource audit shows that the provision for children and young people &gt; 0.2ha is generally good quality with two sites identified of poor quality. All the sites were considered to have significant amenity value and were visually attractive. 40% of sites also provide relief from built up areas contributing to the amenity value of nearby residents or neighbouring land-users. Burrsville Park is part of the designated Local Nature Reserve of Picker's Ditch and so has significant biodiversity value close to the play facilities. Approximately 40% of sites have the potential to provide a further role in cultural or educational activity or as a sustainable transport link.</p> <p>The <b>Play Area and Sports Pitch Needs</b> Assessment found that 23 No sites should be improved to LEAP or NEAP standards; 7 No. needed extension or refurbishment of the play area or replace/increase of equipment; 2 No. needed over 12's facilities added; 1 No under 5's area was to be created; 7 No. needed fencing or signage; 19 are of good quality and their quality is to be maintained; and that 2 No. should be decommissioned or have play equipment removed.</p> <p>Standards for quality were not set by the comparator authorities but a standard has been set by neighbouring authority Colchester, which has been used, along with the LEAP and NEAP standards, to inform the proposed standards in Tendring:</p> <p><b>Colchester - all play areas must adhere to Leap (Local) and Neap (Neighbourhood) national standards. Young People - Facilities must be designed in consultation with local young people, be clean and litter free, have no vandalism and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities. Facilities should attempt to provide skate/BMX features alongside youth shelter areas</b></p>	

### *Deficiencies in local standards*

#### **Quantity:**

4.6.30 The report on Play Area and Sports Pitch Need, 2009, identified that the following additional play areas were currently needed:

- Provision of a LEAP: Bockings Elm; Old Road, Clacton; Area West of Manningtree; Little Oakley; Colne Community School
- Provision of a LAP: Abdy Avenue; Little Bentley; Little Bromley; Manningtree; Tendring, Ramsey War Memorial Hall Playing Field
- Provision of a play area for under 5's: Hazel Close, Thorrington

#### **Quality:**

4.6.31 The **Play Area and Sports Pitch Needs** Assessment found that:

- 23 No sites should be improved to LEAP or NEAP standards

- 7 No. needed extension or refurbishment of the play area or replace/increase of equipment
- 2 No. needed over 12's facilities added
- 1 No under 5's area was to be created
- 7 No. needed fencing or signage
- 19 are of good quality and their quality is to be maintained
- 2 No. should be decommissioned or have play equipment removed.

***Draft recommendations***

**RCYP1 Seek additional provision in line with the recommendations of Tendring's Play Area and Sports Pitch Needs assessment currently provision of 5 LEAPs, Provision of 6 LAPs and provision of a play area for under 5's at Hazel Close, Thorrington**

**RCYP2 Seek additional provision in line with the above standards in areas of proposed growth.**

**RCYP3 Seek quality improvements to sites identified in the Play Area and Sports Pitch Needs Assessment**

**RCYP4 Identify priority sites where natural play elements can be incorporated within planned new or enhanced facilities.**

## 4.7 Allotments:



4.7.1 By definition, an 'allotment garden' is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of fruit or vegetables for consumption by himself and his family<sup>19</sup>. Allotments are an important component of open space which provide recreational value, support biodiversity, and contribute towards healthy lifestyles through physical exercise and the chance to grow fresh produce.

4.7.2 The Government recognises the health benefits of allotment gardening.<sup>20</sup> Increasing people's awareness about food and how it is made and grown can encourage people to eat more fresh vegetables and fruit. Allotment gardening can also:

- bring people together from all age groups around a common interest.
- there is considerable scope for schools to link up with local allotments societies to use allotments and the skills of plot holders to participate in school education projects.
- allotments are a potential resource for bio-diversity.

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<sup>19</sup> Government's response to the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee's report 'The Future for Allotments', 1998

<sup>20</sup> Government's response to the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee's report 'The Future for Allotments', 1998

- the potential exists for allotments and other forms of community gardens to become important recreational assets and open space amenities for people living in dwellings without gardens.
- allotments can also perform a valuable function as a productive temporary use of open land which may be allocated to some other future open use<sup>21</sup>

4.7.3 Allotment sites owned by local authorities can be designated as 'statutory' or 'temporary' where 'statutory' sites are subject to some protection under the Allotments Act 1925. 'Temporary' sites have no security beyond the usual planning system requirements<sup>22</sup>.

4.7.4 A debate in parliament in July last year concluded that there was no reliable national current data on the unmet need of communities for allotment gardens.<sup>23</sup> The Local Government Association has also revised its advice for allotment officers and associations, to provide an update on the policy framework, legislation and practice affecting allotment gardening<sup>24</sup>.

### ***Result of audit:***

4.7.5 Parish Councils and allotment societies were invited to self-audit the resource and copies of the standard audit form were sent out by post. Audit forms were returned by four parishes/allotment societies. A response was also received by Great Oakley, Manningtree, Harwich and Frinton and Walton Parish Councils. The results identified were as follows:

#### **Lawford - Hangerdown lane allotments**

This was one of six sites audited by Lawford Parish council. Hangerdown allotment is not well-connected to the rest of the greenspace network. Disabled access is poor to average on all the sites. The sites were given a broad spectrum of overall quality from poor to good. Hangerdown lane allotments are not owned by the public sector, but are generally accessible to all. There are some indications from the community that there could be a shortfall of allotments in this area.

#### **Mistley**

Both of the allotment sites are private sector owned but have general public access. Both sites provide relief from the built up area and have an average biodiversity value. General access to the site by foot or bicycle is good but disabled access is thought to be poor. The sites are well connected to the surrounding area and have no physical barriers. They have no facilities other than a water supply.

<sup>21</sup> [www.wirralfedallotments.org.uk](http://www.wirralfedallotments.org.uk)

<sup>22</sup> Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee's report 'The Future for Allotments', 1998.

<sup>23</sup> [www.publications.parliament.uk](http://www.publications.parliament.uk)

<sup>24</sup> Local Government Association; Growing in the community: a good practice guide for the management of allotments; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 2008

## **Thorrington**

One allotment site was identified which is voluntary sector owned with restricted access. It is thought to have average biodiversity value and creates a relief from the built up area. The site is welcoming with good general access but only average quality disabled access. The site has no physical barriers to access but few connections to the surrounding area. The site doesn't have any other facilities other than a water supply.

## **Clacton: Rush Green Allotment Trust**

This is a series of voluntary sector owned sites with access only for members. The site creates a relief from the built environment and has a very good biodiversity value. The Trust suggests a school allotment is developed so the site can play an educational role. The site is welcoming with average quality boundary treatment, although the sense of security is poor. The general condition of the entrances is average with poor quality grass and soil paths within the site. Disabled access is thought to be very poor although general access is of average quality. However, the quality of access varies across the sites – some have good access and some have none. The site has better facilities than some, having a medium sized car park and bicycle parking. There is a waiting list for the allotments.

## **Harwich town**

Harwich provided detailed information on the size of their sites totalling 8.76 acres over seven sites: Adby Avenue, Boatswains Call, Dunns Meadow, Long Meadow, King George Avenue, The Redoubt and Tower Hill. A possible need for more allotment sites in Harwich and Dovercourt was identified by the community.

## **Frinton and Walton**

Walton and District Allotment Association identified two sites in their management; Grove Avenue Allotment and Walton Road. Both sites provide 60 plots each and provide both relief from the built up area and good views. They are welcoming sites with low vandalism and a good sense of security. The quality of access by foot and cycle is very good but there is no particular provision for the disabled. The paths within the site are mown grass which can impose restrictions. The site at Walton Road has a small car-park but this is judged to be in poor condition. Despite this the overall quality of the sites is very good.

## **Manningtree**

Manningtree suggested their sites were too small to audit. There is some indication from the community that there could be a shortfall of sites in the Manningtree area that warrants further investigation.

**Allotments: standards**

**Quantity**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>28.21 ha</b>	<b>Proposed standard: 0.25ha/1000</b>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The community consultation showed that 60% thought allotments were important and 45% thought there was enough or nearly enough provision. There appears to be no provision in Elmstead Market and Ardleigh. The District Councillors workshop identified a demand for allotments in Great Bentley and Brightlingsea. There is a waiting list for the allotments at Rush Green in Clacton.</p> <p>Comparator authorities that were studied have set the following standards;</p> <p><b>Teignbridge 0.25ha/1000</b> <b>Dover 0.21ha/1000.</b></p>	

**Accessibility**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Proposed standard:</b> <b>At least one site within 15 minutes walking time/1000m of the urban population.</b> <b>At least one site within 20 minute drive time/5km of the rural population</b>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The community consultation identified that the majority of the community want to be able to access allotments within 10 -20 minutes of home. Members agreed to a split standard between urban and rural areas, with the urban standard being a 15 minute walk time and the rural standard being a 20 minute drive time. Deficiencies occur in north and east Clacton and parts of Dovercourt in the urban communities, whilst St.Osyth, Jaywick and large parts of Mistley/Manningtree and Elmstead Market/Ardleigh are also not supplied.</p> <p>Generally allotment sites are welcoming facilities, although access is usually restricted to allotment-holders. The quality of the sites connectedness within their communities varies, with some being relatively isolated, such as Hangerdown Lane allotment in Lawford, whilst others, such as those at Mistley, are well-connected to the surrounding area. Whilst foot and pedestrian access is generally good, disabled access is poor to average on most sites. This is due in large part to the character of allotments having grass paths which helps provide an attractive setting but can impose restrictions.</p> <p>Comparator standards at other local authorities of similar profile were:</p> <p><b><i>Dover – At least one site within 15 minutes walking time/600m of the whole population</i></b></p>	

**Quality**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Proposed standards:</b> <b>Essential</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allotments should have secure fencing, a watering point, water storage facilities, containers for equipment, good quality soils, vehicle access to the allotment entrance and parking facilities.</li> <li>• Management of vacant plots</li> <li>• Provision for clearance/removal of rubbish and composting</li> </ul> <b>Desirable</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways through the site.</li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>The sites were given a broad spectrum of overall quality from poor to good. Many sites provide relief from the built up area and have an average biodiversity value because of boundary hedgerows, scrubby areas or mature trees. Many have limited facilities other than a water supply, although Rush Green has better facilities than some, having a medium sized car park and bicycle parking. The site at Walton Road also has a small car-park but this is judged to be in poor condition. Despite this the overall quality of the Frinton/Walton sites is very good.</p> <p>Rush Green Allotment Trust suggests a school allotment is developed on their site so that it can play an educational role.</p>	

**Deficiencies in local standards**

4.7.6 The deficiencies in **quantity** are found in the following sub-areas:

- There appears to be no provision in Elmstead Market and Ardleigh.
- There is an identified demand for allotments in Great Bentley and Brightlingsea.
- There is a waiting list for the allotments at Rush Green in Clacton.

4.7.7 Deficiencies in **accessibility** occur in the following urban areas and are shown in **Figure 10**:

- Deficiencies occur in north and east Clacton and Jaywick, and parts of Harwich/Dovercourt in the urban communities
- Parts of St.Osyth, and large parts of rural areas of Mistley/Manningtree and Elmstead Market/Ardleigh are also not supplied.

4.7.8 Deficiencies in overall **quality** occur at the following sites:

- Some sites at Lawford - Hangerdown lane allotments were identified as poor.
- Few sites have facilities other than a watering point and disabled access can be poor

**Recommendations****Allotments**

**A1 Seek further information on community need for allotment gardens.**

**A2 Seek additional provision in Elmstead Market and Ardleigh e.g. through prospective development, to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.**

**A3 Work with Allotment Associations or Trusts to seek enhancements in quantity, quality and access to sites, especially where demand or deficiencies have been identified locally.**

**A4 Seek improvements to access from local communities to allotment sites where these have been identified as below average quality**

**A5 Identify areas in existing sites within other typologies, especially amenity greens, but including formal parks or school grounds, where new sites could be created that cannot be delivered through development.**

## 4.8 Cemeteries and Churchyards:



*All Saint's Churchyard, Harwich*

- 4.8.1 Churchyards can be defined as within the walled boundary of a church while cemeteries are burial grounds outside the church confines. The PPG17 guidance<sup>25</sup> identifies that this typology includes private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards.
- 4.8.2 The primary purpose of this type of open space is for burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, but the amenity and visual benefits are also important, as well as the opportunities to promote wildlife conservation and biodiversity, especially in older or disused churchyards. Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant open space provider in some areas particularly in rural areas. In other areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land, but are able to provide areas of nature conservation importance. Some churchyards retain areas of unimproved grasslands and other various habitats, thus providing a sanctuary for wildlife in urban settlements and or heritage value within more rural landscapes.
- 4.8.3 There is increasing demand nowadays for 'natural' or 'green' burials. This is both for environmental reasons – people want to reduce their impact on the environment caused by cremation, for instance, and don't like the 'conveyor-belt' type atmosphere of modern burial grounds and crematoria.

4.8.4 Such burials involve simple natural, earth-friendly materials, which make the minimum impact on wildlife habitats and the landscape in the future. This type of burial ground can provide a wide range of greenspace benefits to the community and should be considered as one of the choices if additional burial sites are needed in Tendring.

### **Result of audit**

4.8.5 Ten sites above the size criteria have been identified within Tendring. Sites are found in all sub-areas except Brightlingsea and Tendring. All of the Cemeteries and Churchyards audited are in public ownership and it is assumed allow general public access.

4.8.6 The sites range in size from Burrs Road Cemetery, Clacton-on-Sea at 7.20ha, to the Rectory Road site in Great Holland, at 0.31ha. Three sites are in Conservation Areas.

4.8.7 The character of the Cemeteries and Churchyards varies but most areas contained a grassed area, some with mature trees, such as Walton Cemetery, or even deciduous woodland. Most sites don't have facilities, although they do tend to have seating of some sort, two have small car-parks and about a third have historic features, including the graves themselves, walls or other structures.

4.8.8 Kirby, Walton and Mistley Cemeteries form key gateways to towns or other urban settlements. Burrs Road Cemetery offers significant views from within the site.

4.8.9 50% of sites audited offer an opportunity to fulfil a strategic green infrastructure or Haven Gateway strategic role. All Saints Church Yard, Dovercourt, provides a node on a strategic promoted walk, whilst Burrs Road cemetery contributes to a key existing Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG).

4.8.10 The overall quality of the Cemeteries and Churchyards is generally average or above with only one site, All Saints Churchyard in Dovercourt, identified as poor. Overall quality is as follows:

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Overall Quality</b>
All Saints Church Yard, Dovercourt	Poor
St. Johns Church Yard, Gt Clacton	Average
Mistley Cemetery	Average
Kirby Cemetery	Average
Ardleigh Cemetery	Average
St. Osyth Cemetery	Average
Walton Cemetery	Good
Ardleigh Church Yard	Good
Dovercourt Cemetery	Good
Burrs Road Cemetery, Clacton-on-Sea	Very Good

<sup>25</sup> Planning Policy 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

- 4.8.11 All but one of the sites is considered to be visually attractive and provide relief from the surrounding built-up area. The exception is Mistley Cemetery.
- 4.8.12 Burrs Road Cemetery in Clacton is a Local Nature Reserve; others have a degree of biodiversity of value provided by grassy margins and hedgerows. St. Osyth Cemetery was considered to have very good biodiversity value, with St. John's Churchyard, Clacton, and All Saint's Churchyard, Dovercourt, having good value and the remaining sites being of average to poor value.
- 4.8.13 Three sites have the potential to provide a further role in cultural or educational activity. These are Walton Cemetery (with an opportunity for cultural and heritage education), St. John's Churchyard, Clacton, and Rectory Road, Great Holland having the potential for a more cultural role.
- 4.8.14 All the sites are welcoming. Most have entrances in good condition, but boundaries are of more average condition. For those arriving by public transport, the ability was rated generally average or poor, but the quality of access to those arriving on foot or cycle generally varied between good or average, but access to St. Osyth Cemetery was very poor. Disabled access was generally good or average, but interpretation and signage is average or poor.
- 4.8.15 Only St. Johns Church Yard, Clacton indicated an issue with vandalism (medium) with other sites having either little or none.
- 4.8.16 The quality of site layouts was at least average and often good or very good. The quality (condition) of access within sites was very mixed. Ardleigh Churchyard, Ardleigh Cemetery and Dovercourt Cemetery have good quality hard-surfaced paths, with St. John's Churchyard, Clacton, also having good quality access, but apart from these there was no provision for disabled, cyclists or equestrian access. Cycle access appears to be restricted at Walton Cemetery. Four of the sites have barriers preventing access for pedestrians and cyclists such as steep slopes, low fencing and lack of public right of way.
- 4.8.17 Walton Cemetery, St. Johns Church Yard, Burrs Road Cemetery, Mistley Cemetery and All Saints Church Yard, Dovercourt are all well connected to neighbouring areas. Remaining sites were either isolated or had few connections to neighbouring areas.
- 4.8.18 Most of the sites had natural surveillance yet three sites (St. John's Churchyard, Burrs Road Cemetery, and All Saints Churchyard) had potential ambush areas as well. The reasons for this were not given but may include areas of dense bushes or trees, or enclosed spaces with few access or egress points. Signage was only provided at 25% of sites. The sense of security at all sites is either good or fair.
- 4.8.19 Most of the sites presented opportunities for improvement or enhancement for the site alone or for the Cemeteries and Churchyards network as a whole. This potential is summarised below:

<b>Site</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
Kirby Cemetery	Well maintained.
Dovercourt Cemetery	A well maintained site with extensive views across the River Stour. It would benefit from the provision of benches to facilitate greater recreational use.
Ardleigh Church Yard	A well maintained site offering opportunities for quiet contemplation but little potential for other uses.
Ardleigh Cemetery	A standard cemetery site with little potential for expanded use or habitat enhancement.
Walton Cemetery	Prominent space in town centre where trees are important feature.
Burrs Road Cemetery, Clacton-on-Sea	Very well maintained.
St. Osyth Cemetery	Footpaths suitable for people with mobility difficulties are needed.
St. Johns Church Yard, Gt. Clacton	Peaceful spot within busy junction, used as a cut through.
Mistley Cemetery	Standard churchyard with few additional amenities like seating / litter bins.
All Saints Church Yard, Dovercourt	Looks under maintained.

***Cemeteries and Churchyards: standards***

4.8.20 It is not applicable to set standards for either quantity or accessibility for cemeteries and churchyards. PPG 17 Annex states: "many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one."

**Quality**

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
N/A	<p><b>Cemeteries and churchyards should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have well-kept grass or natural areas, with appropriate flowers, trees and shrubs</li> <li>• offer a clean and litter free environment with clear pathways</li> <li>• have appropriate and good quality ancillary facilities such as seating, signage and car-parking where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>	
<p>67% of respondents to the survey thought cemeteries and churchyards were important. Generally people who responded to the community survey wanted to see well-kept, litter free greenspaces with clear footpaths, seating and flowers, trees and shrubs, or natural features. Most respondents expect to travel to the cemetery or churchyard by car which could reflect the age of the expected user group. Car-parking should be provided, therefore, where appropriate space can be found and local character maintained.</p>	

***Deficiencies in local standards***

**Quality**

4.8.21 All Saints Church Yard, Dovercourt - Poor

***Recommendations***

**Cemeteries and churchyards**

**A1 Seek enhancements in quality and accessibility to sites where these have been identified as being below average quality**

**A2 Review greenspace design and management of All Saint’s Churchyard, Dovercourt, and put in place a plan for enhancements.**

## 5 Summary of Recommendations

- 5.1.1 The recommendations within this strategy are summarised below.
- 5.1.2 Whilst the Local Authority may be the lead organisation for many of the actions, it is important to note that delivery of the recommendations will depend on partnership working between Tendring District Council, private sector developers, Government Agencies and NGOs such as Sport England, the charitable and voluntary sector in the form of Parish Councils, local wildlife trust, Rambler's Association, Woodland Trust etc. and the community.
- 5.1.3 This strategy sets out the evidence to support the need for action in key areas and gives recommendations for change as a basis for seeking funding and support from key stakeholders and funders.
- 5.1.4 The recommendations need to be taken forward in a clearly prioritised action plan which identifies lead players, priorities and a timescale for delivery that can be reviewed at regular intervals with key partners.

### ***Parks and Gardens***

Number	Recommendation
<b>RPG1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in Mistley and Manningtree to mitigate for existing, and prospective quantitative deficiencies.</li> </ul>
<b>RPG2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in Dovercourt to mitigate for existing and prospective deficiencies in both quantity and accessibility</li> </ul>
<b>RPG3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek enhanced provision in the south of Frinton by seeking to enhance existing facilities at the seafront.</li> </ul>
<b>RPG4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in north-west and north-east Clacton to mitigate for existing, and prospective accessibility deficiencies through prospective new development; seek enhancements to existing amenity greens, or creation of pocket parks.</li> </ul>
<b>RPG5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review role and identify enhancement plans as appropriate for Brighton Road Open Space, Haven Avenue Open Space and Knox Road Recreation Grounds.</li> </ul>
<b>RPG6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with private owners to seek enhancements in quality and access to St Osyth Priory, Michael Stowe Hall Thorpe Hall and Mistley Park Place.</li> </ul>

### ***Amenity Greenspace***

Number	Recommendation
<b>RAG1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in Harwich and Dovercourt e.g. through prospective development, to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.</li> </ul>
<b>RAG2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in Mistley and Manningtree to mitigate for existing, and prospective quantitative and accessibility deficiencies.</li> </ul>
<b>RAG3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a review of disabled access with appropriate user-groups across the amenity green provision and identify priorities for improvement.</li> </ul>
<b>RAG4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a review of signage and interpretation across the amenity green provision and identify priorities for improvement.</li> </ul>

<b>RAG5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify where existing smaller sites &lt; 0.2ha could mitigate for existing deficiencies in quantity and accessibility for larger Amenity Greens, Parks and Gardens and natural/semi-natural space.</li> </ul>
<b>RAG6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate role of churchyards, especially those that are closed to burials, to provide an amenity green role in areas of deficiency.</li> </ul>
<b>RAG7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review role and identify enhancement needs as appropriate for Very Poor quality sites namely, Lime/Highfield Avenue greenspace, Jaywick Community/Resource Centre, New Memorial Gardens, Walton; St Christopher's Way Car Park, Jaywick and West Road Open Space, Clacton with user groups and stakeholders.</li> </ul>

***Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace***

<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>RN1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional publically-accessible provision in Harwich, in the southern part of Clacton, in Jaywick, and in Brightlingsea e.g. through prospective residential development, to mitigate for existing, and prospective quantitative deficiencies.</li> </ul>
<b>RN2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek opportunities to work with private owners to seek enhancements in quality and access to privately owned sites, especially those with deficiencies of access in rural areas</li> </ul>
<b>RN3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review quality of access and interpretation within publically-owned Natural and Semi-natural sites and identify priorities for enhancement.</li> </ul>
<b>RN4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review role and identify enhancement needs as appropriate for Very Poor and Poor quality publically accessible sites namely, Station Road Woodlands, Brook Farm Woodlands, Holland Haven Country Park, Owls Flight/Lawford Dale, the Extension to the Hangings, Mistley Woodland and Martin's Farm Country Park</li> </ul>
<b>RN5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Woodland Trust to create a significant area of new accessible woodland adjoining Elmstead Market to mitigate deficiencies in rural Tendring.</li> </ul>
<b>RN6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek improvements to PRow network and bridleways in rural areas and the urban fringe to maximise amenity benefits of private sites even where these not accessible.</li> </ul>
<b>RN7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas for 'naturalisation' within other typologies e.g. amenity greens, or boundary areas of sports pitches, to mitigate deficiencies where new sites cannot be created.</li> </ul>
<b>RN8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek further opportunities to involve local communities and Members in Community Biodiversity Schemes in public open space.</li> </ul>
<b>RN9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek closer working on greenspace between Tendring District Council Departments, and local PCT and Mental Health Trusts.</li> </ul>
<b>RN10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all major sites have an active Management Plan in place.</li> </ul>

***Green Corridors/Seafront***

<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>RGC1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in the west of Clacton and Jaywick, in Brightlingsea and Mistley/Manningtree e.g. through prospective residential development, to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.</li> </ul>
<b>RGC2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise delivery of sub-regional green link opportunities identified in the</li> </ul>

	Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study when seeking to mitigate existing district deficiencies.
<b>RGC3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review quality of interpretation within all existing Green Corridors sites and identify priorities for enhancement.</li> </ul>
<b>RGC4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review role and identify enhancement needs with local user groups for Ladbroke Road Open Space which has been identified as Very Poor overall quality.</li> </ul>
<b>RGC5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek improvements to PRow network and bridleways in rural areas and the urban fringe to mitigate deficiencies of Green Corridors in these areas.</li> </ul>
<b>RGC6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review role of seafront as a key element of the greenspace network to seek extension of its use outside the summer season.</li> </ul>

### ***Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities***

<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>SP1 Adult football pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites, with priority given to those serving multiple pitches.</li> </ul>
<b>SP2 Junior football pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert existing surplus adult pitches into junior pitches.</li> <li>Negotiate community access to six junior pitches at schools in the Clacton area.</li> <li>One new junior pitch at Low Road Recreation Ground.</li> <li>One new junior pitch at Lawford Recreation Ground.</li> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites, with priority given to those serving multiple pitches.</li> </ul>
<b>SP3 Mini-soccer pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four new mini-soccer pitches at Vista Road Recreation Ground.</li> <li>Negotiate community access to four mini-soccer pitches at schools in the Clacton area.</li> <li>Negotiate community access to three mini-soccer pitches at schools in the Manningtree/Mistley area.</li> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites, with priority given to those serving multiple pitches.</li> </ul>
<b>SP4 Cricket pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites.</li> </ul>
<b>SP5 Rugby pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites.</li> </ul>
<b>SP6 Hockey pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites.</li> </ul>
<b>SP7 Tennis courts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>new courts at Lawford Recreation Ground.</li> <li>new courts at Great Bentley Primary School.</li> <li>new courts at Ardleigh Recreation Ground.</li> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing facilities at all existing sites, with priority given to those serving multiple courts.</li> </ul>
<b>SP8 Bowling greens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New green in Clacton (subject to the formation of a local club to manage the facility).</li> <li>Phased refurbishment programme of changing provision and other qualitative deficiencies at all existing facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>SP9 Golf courses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>
<b>PP10 MUGAs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 new MUGA in Frinton Park.</li> <li>1 new MUGA at Lawford Recreation Ground.</li> <li>1 new MUGA at Colne Community School.</li> <li>1 new MUGA at Great Bentley Primary School.</li> </ul>

***Children and Young People's Provision***

<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>RCYP1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in line with the recommendations of Tendring's Play Area and Sports Pitch Needs assessment currently provision of 5 LEAPs, 6 LAPs, a Play area for under 5's at Hazel Close, Thorrington</li> </ul>
<b>RCYP2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in line with the proposed standards in areas of proposed growth.</li> </ul>
<b>RCYP3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek improvements to sites identified in the Play Area and Sports Pitch Needs Assessment, namely 23 No sites improved to LEAP or NEAP standards; 7 No. extended or refurbished; 2 No. over 12's facilities added; 1 No under 5's area to be created; 7 No. needing fencing or signage; 19 are of good quality and their quality is to be maintained; 2 No. should be decommissioned or have play equipment removed</li> </ul>
<b>RCYP4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify priority sites where natural play elements can be incorporated within planned new or enhanced facilities.</li> </ul>

***Allotments***

<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>A1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek further information on community need for allotment gardens.</li> </ul>
<b>A2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional provision in Elmstead Market and Arleigh e.g. through prospective development, to mitigate for existing and prospective quantitative deficiencies.</li> </ul>
<b>A3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Allotment Associations or Trusts to seek enhancements in quality and access to sites, especially where deficiencies have been identified locally</li> </ul>
<b>A4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek improvements to access from local communities to allotment sites where these have been identified as below average quality</li> </ul>
<b>A5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas in existing sites within other typologies, especially amenity greens, but could include more formal parks or school grounds, where new sites could be created that cannot be delivered through development.</li> </ul>

***Cemeteries and churchyards***

<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>A1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek enhancements in quality and accessibility to sites where these have been identified as being below average quality</li> </ul>
<b>A2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review greenspace design and management of All Saint's Churchyard, Dovercourt, and put in place a plan for enhancements.</li> </ul>

## **6 Making it happen**

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 The Tendring Open Spaces Strategy sets the framework for delivery of high quality green space to 2021. In order to make that strategy happen on the ground, this section sets out some pointers for 'making it happen' based on success achieved elsewhere.

### **6.2 Delivery through the Planning System**

6.2.1 The development of the Open Spaces Strategy sets the framework for delivery of greenspace across the district. This is just a starting point for delivery, however, and the task now is to get the vision, standards and relevant recommendations adopted into local policy within the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) - including development control policies, Area Action Plans and site masterplans - and adopted as SPD.

### **6.3 Funding**

6.3.1 All enhancements cannot be delivered through the development control process, however. To successfully deliver the wide range of improvements identified in the Open Spaces Strategy, a well-thought out funding strategy needs to be developed as well. To plan, implement and manage open spaces effectively in the future a range of funding sources need to be harnessed through co-ordinated action. The Open Spaces Strategy has identified the enhancements to green space that are needed in the future, but individual projects, need to be planned to ensure long term sustainability is achieved. Funding needs to be integral to all project development.

6.3.2 Developing enhancement plans and management plans for the priority projects within each typology will enable Tendring District Council to identify clear priorities for each site, and to seek funding from a variety of sources. This includes revenue funding, as good quality improvements to open spaces cannot be achieved if revenue funding is not properly addressed.

6.3.3 Alternative management mechanisms should be investigated as part of the funding programme to determine if there are alternative ways of managing open spaces in the future. This could include exploring potential partnerships and income generating activities that can invest money into open space management enabling delivery in a more effective and integrated way, as well as engaging the local community in the process. The Friends of Castle Park<sup>26</sup> were established in 2005 and have gone on to organise events such as 'Celebrating Colchester's Park Life', tree-planting, 'plug' planting in the wildflower meadow and other activities in collaboration with the local authority.

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.friendsofcastlepark.ik.com>

- 6.3.4 Dulwich Park Friends<sup>27</sup>, in London, was initiated around a campaign to raise money for a new children's playground in 1998. Fundraising by the Friends produced £20,000. The Friends raised a further £35,000 from applications to grant trusts and Phase 2 was completed in July 2000.

## **6.4 Stakeholder Engagement and Promotion**

- 6.4.1 A key part of the success of the Open Spaces Strategy will be in promoting the concept and principles to a wider audience both within the district authority and with appropriate partners. Promotion is needed to build support for the vision, develop community capacity and generate project and funding partnerships across a broad community of interest and place.
- 6.4.2 Key external partners in delivery, such as Essex Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust, Sustrans and developers need to be engaged early on in order to ensure buy-in and for the action-plan to keep evolving.
- 6.4.3 The success of the strategy over time will depend in part in support at the highest level. Support could be focussed through encouraging a key local government Member to be the Open Spaces 'Champion' to promote the enhancement of the network at every opportunity. This could be the Member who holds the Environment, Leisure or Regeneration portfolio.
- 6.4.4 Many sub-regional green infrastructure strategies have been promoted through using their own branding to develop distinctive web-sites that are accessible to both stakeholders and community alike. Thurrock Council in South Essex has maintained the local authority brand, but hosts some distinctive pages on its own website dedicated to the local green infrastructure strategy, the Greengrid, of which the Open Spaces strategy is a part<sup>28</sup>.
- 6.4.5 In order to build support for the Open Spaces enhancement programme with the community local businesses, and potential visitors, participatory events such as walks, talks, fun-days and greenspace management days should be encouraged by the local authority and its key greenspace managing partners. The events programmes can be managed locally by individual partners but brought together and promoted through joint web-pages, newsletters etc. The difficulty in finding events through which the Open Spaces community consultation could be promoted has exposed a lack of activity in greenspace events locally.

## **6.5 Management and Maintenance**

- 6.5.1 In order to sustain the momentum generated by the local authority in developing the Open Spaces Strategy to date, it is important that a key officer or officer team is responsible for driving forward delivery of the strategy.

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.dulwichparkfriends.org.uk>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/countryside/greengrid>

6.5.2 One way the responsibility for the activity can be spread is if a cross-departmental action-group is set up, that also engages in some way with external partners across all sectors, so that the recommendations can be taken forward into an action plan and reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The action group would need to report to a senior manager and preferably be supported by the Open Spaces 'Champion'.

6.5.3 The responsibility of the group would be to:

- Oversee the overall delivery of the strategy
- To set outputs or targets for the strategy e.g. hectares of land improved, kms of footpaths created etc. and the monitoring of the benefits of the priority projects i.e. the benefits in social, environmental and economic terms. These benefits could be linked to Local Area Agreement indicators or Best Value Performance Indicators.
- co-ordinate project development and bidding to funding bodies for both project and funding and potentially for a dedicated staff member to oversee delivery of the strategy
- Co-ordinate promotion and community engagement
- Seek engagement from the environmental organisations, the private sector and community groups
- Ensure buy-in with Local Authority Members
- Develop a broader Network/Forum to disseminate best practice and gather feedback among stakeholder groups and engage community in project development, skills development and promotion.
- Review issues such as landscape management contracts for instance by incorporating wildlife friendly clauses into relevant site specifications.

## **6.6 Monitoring and Review**

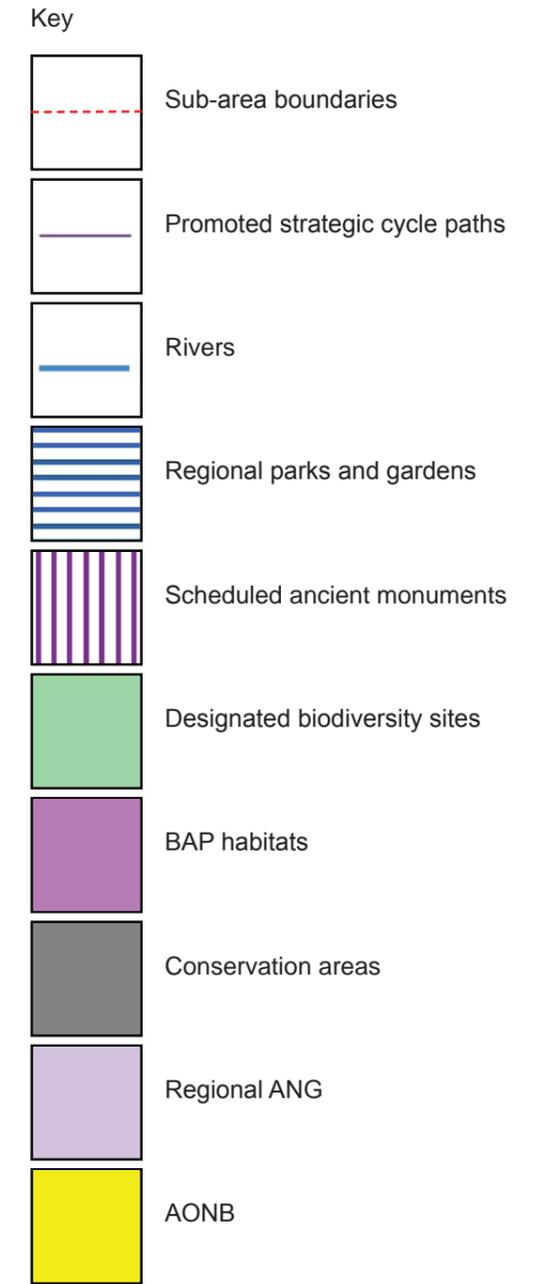
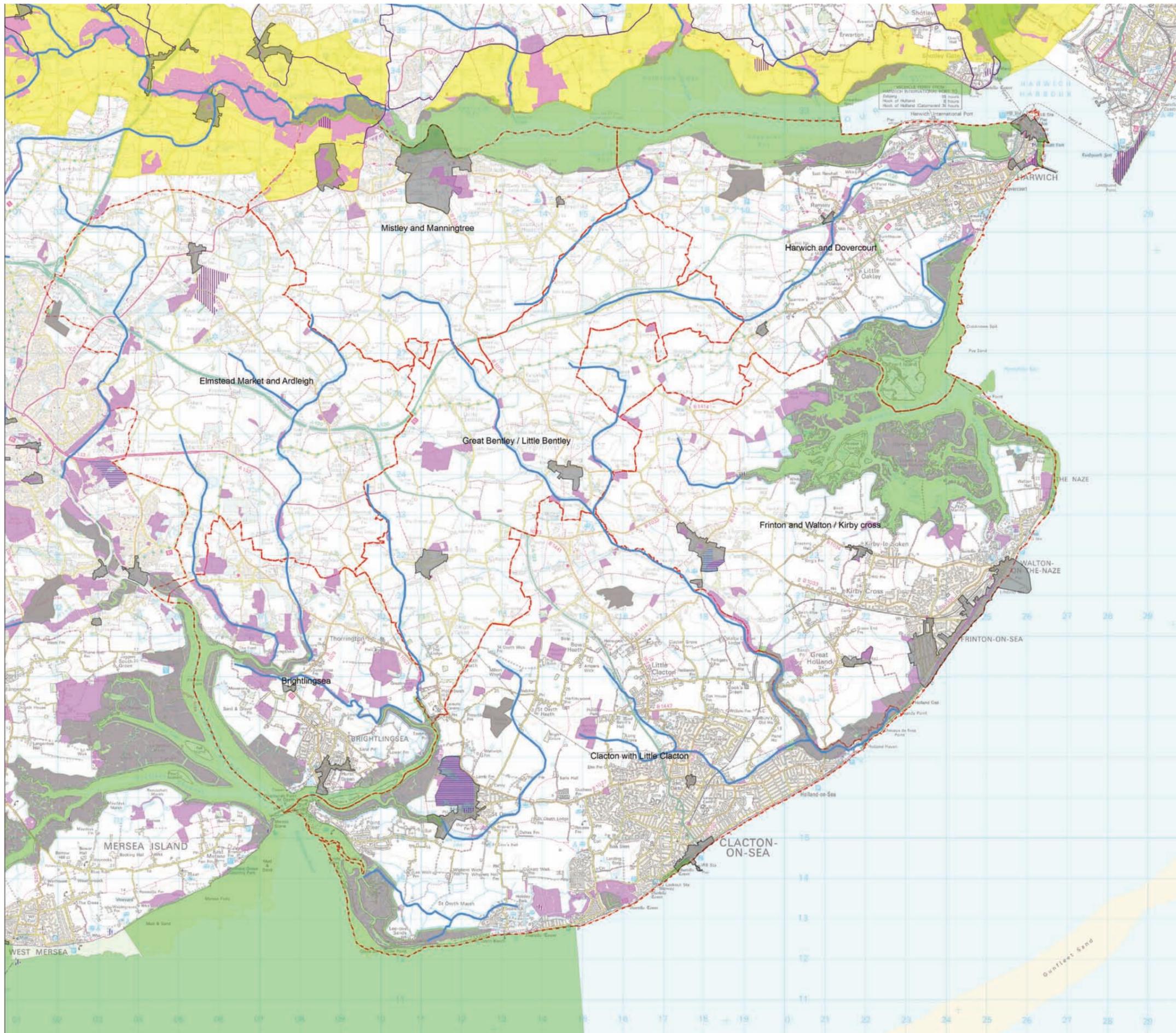
6.6.1 The Local Authority needs to establish a clear monitoring framework for delivery of the strategy by developing an action plan with delivery partners, identifying lead organisations, priorities and timescales for delivery. This should be reviewed on an annual basis with the funding strategy to ensure it is still relevant to local and national priorities and targets.



# ***Part 2: Figures***

*See accompanying figures*





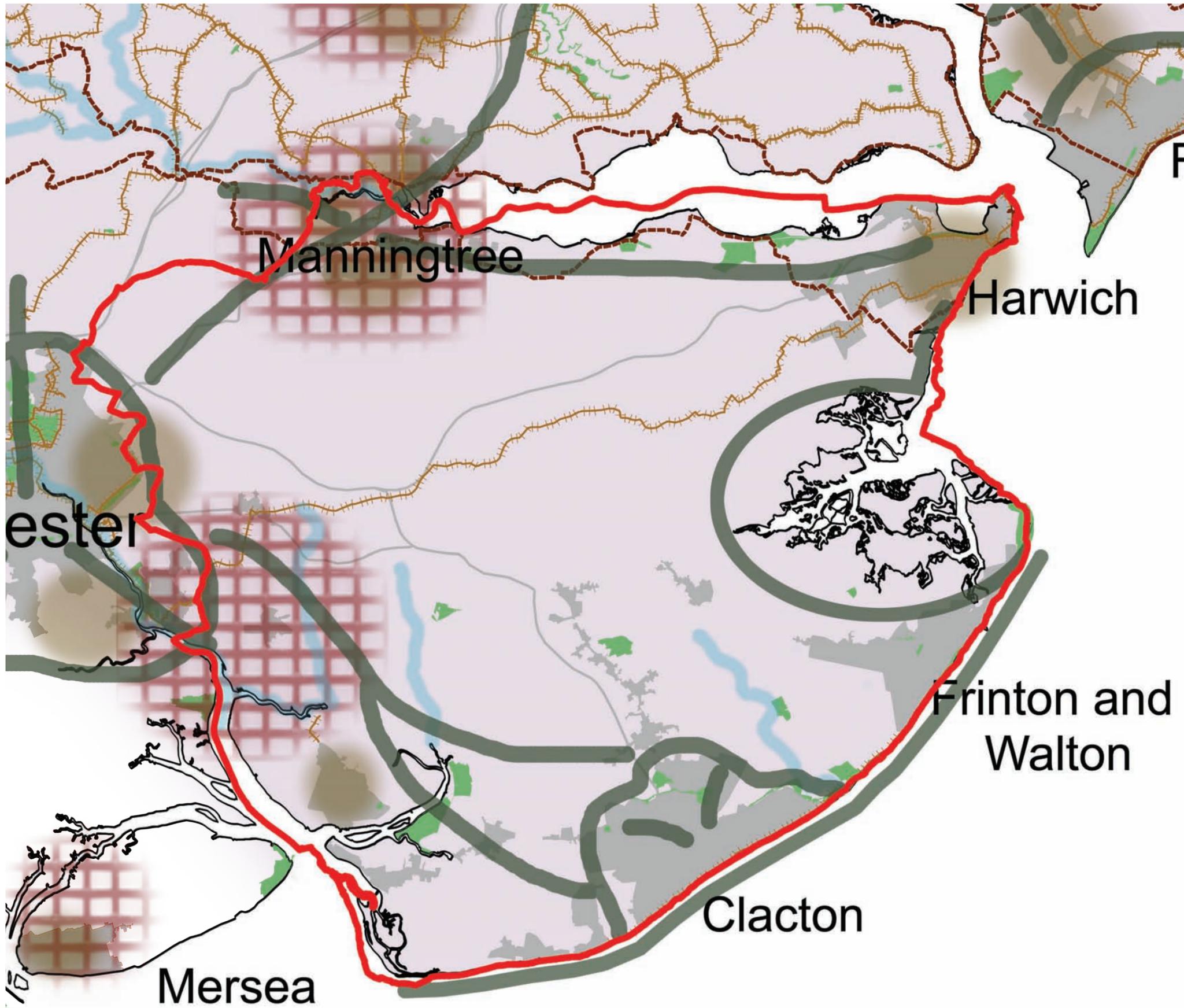
**08 224 Tendring Open Space Strategy**

Environmental Context

**Figure 01**  
Scale 1:25,000  
July 2009



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**Key**

**Existing**

- Urban areas
- Key existing ANG
- Strategic promoted walks
- Strategic promoted cycle routes
- Rivers

**Potential**

- Key potential Access corridors

Areas where searches for opportunities to create new ANG should be focussed, in order to address current and predicted deficiencies.

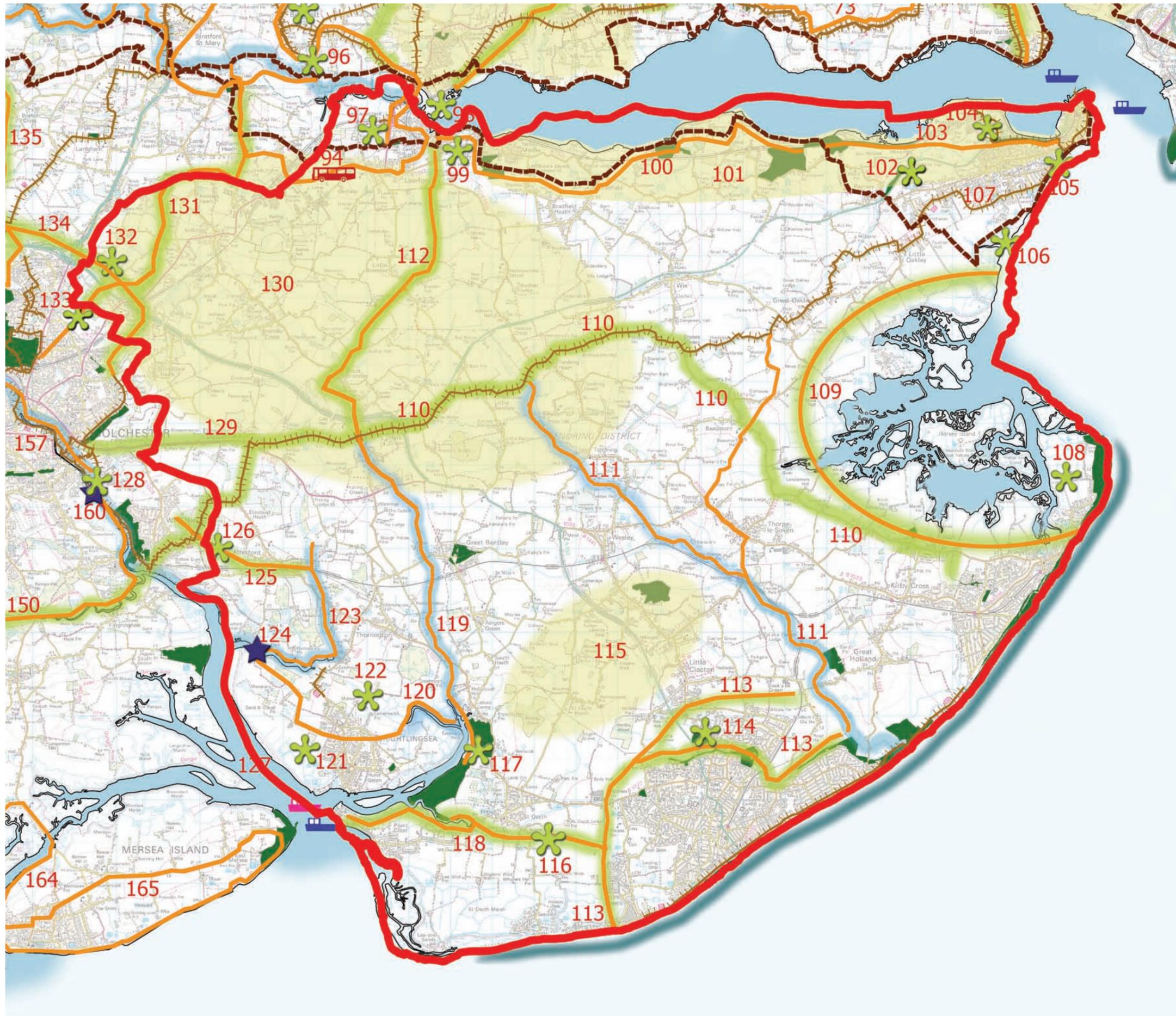
- Regional level (500ha+)
- Sub-regional level (60ha+)
- District level (20ha+)

08 224 Tendring Open Space Strategy

Haven Gateway GIS concept Map

**Figure 02**  
Scale NTRS  
April 2009





**Key**

-  The two shades indicate ANG above and below other map layers
-  Indicates extent of thin linear ANG that is difficult to see along the coast
-  Promoted strategic walks
-  Promoted strategic cycle routes
-  Existing ferry link
-  Project numbers (refer to schedule)
-  Potential river corridor enhancement projects
-  Potential green corridor projects without access
-  Potential green corridor projects with access
-  Other potential access routes
-  Potential site based Green Infrastructure projects
-  Potential green bridges
-  Potential area wide projects/ initiatives
-  Potential ferry link
-  Potential shuttle bus projects

**08 224 Tendring Open Space Strategy**

Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure opportunities map

**Figure 03**

Scale 1:25,000

April 2009



**Figure 23 - Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy - Schedule of Opportunities**  
To be read in conjunction with Opportunities Map

Reference Number	Key to graphics on opportunities map		Benefit to delivery of GI Concept
94		Dedham Vale Hopper Bus	Links existing and proposed ANG
97		Lawford- ANG deficiency	Sub-regional and District Level ANG deficiency
98		Brantham Redevelopment of Industrial Land Including ANG	Opportunity to address Sub-regional and District Level ANG deficiency
99		Manningtree - ANG deficiency	Sub-regional and District Level ANG deficiency
100		Manningtree to Harwich Cycle Route Enhancement	Opportunity to create key potential green corridor
101		Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Extension	Opportunity to promote and protect existing sensitive GI
102		St Michaels Country Park	Opportunity to create significant area of ANG
103		Copperas Wood to Harwich Access Link	Links existing and proposed ANG
104		Parkeston Country Park	Opportunity to address District level ANG deficiency
105		Beacon Hill Restoration	Opportunity to address District Level ANG deficiency
106		Little Oakley Coastal Realignment	Opportunity to enhance existing GI
107		Little Oakley to Harwich Sustrans	Links existing access
108		The Naze Open Space, Walton	Opportunity to address District level ANG deficiency
109		Hamford Water Biodiversity Buffer	Opportunity to create key potential green corridor
110		Elmstead Market to Walton-on-the-Naze Green Corridor	Links access
111		Holland Brook Corridor Enhancement	River corridor enhancement
112		Hare Green to Lawford Green Corridor	Links existing GI and access
113		Pickers Ditch/Clacton Orbital Green Corridor	Opportunity to create key potential green corridor
114		North Clacton Country Park	Opportunity to create new ANG
115		Weeley Woodland Complex	Area-wide opportunity to promote existing GI
116		St Osyth - ANG deficiency	Opportunity to address District Level ANG deficiency

117		St Martin's Country Park	Opportunity to create significant area of new ANG and address District Level ANG deficiency
118		Clacton to Point Clear Green Corridor	Links existing and proposed ANG
119		Bentley Brook Corridor Enhancement	River corridor enhancement
120		North Brightlingsea Corridor Enhancement	Links existing and proposed ANG
121		Brightlingsea Salt Marshes	Opportunity to enhance and extend existing GI
122		Brightlingsea - ANG deficiency	Opportunity to address District Level ANG deficiency
123		Arlesford Creek/Tenpenny Brook Corridor Enhancement	River corridor enhancement
124		Brightlingsea /Arlesford Bridge	Opportunity to contribute to key potential green corridor and link existing and proposed access by providing new bridge
125		Arlesford to Wivenhoe Green Corridor	Opportunity to contribute to key potential green corridor
126		Arlesford Quarry Complex	Opportunity to address Sub-regional Level ANG deficiency
128		Hythe Lagoons Country Park/LNR	Opportunity to address Sub-regional and District Level ANG deficiency
129		A133 Highways upgrade	Links access
130		Fabric of Historic Countryside	Area-wide opportunity to conserve and enhance existing GI
131		Colchester to Dedham Green Corridor	Opportunity to contribute to key potential green corridor
132		Ardleigh Reservoir	Opportunity to address District Level ANG deficiency
133		Bullock Wood Open Space	Opportunity to address District Level ANG deficiency
134		Colchester North Orbital Green Corridor	Opportunity to create key potential green corridor

**08 224 Tendring Open Space Strategy**

Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy - Schedule of Opportunities

**Figure 04**

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April 2009





Key



Sub-area boundaries

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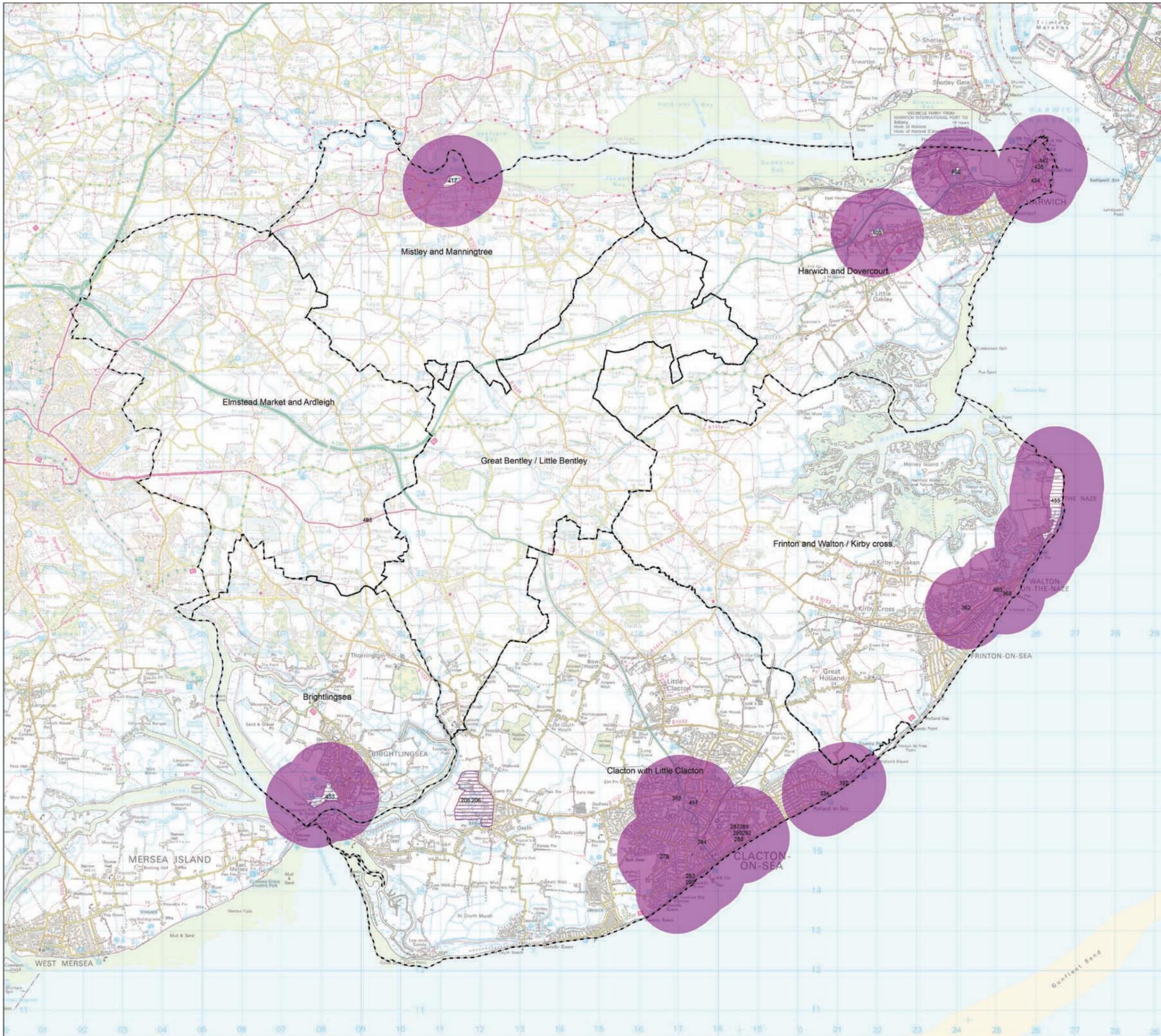
Tendring Sub-areas

Figure 05

Scale NTRS

April 2009

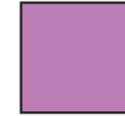




Key



Parks and gardens



1 km buffer of urban parks and gardens

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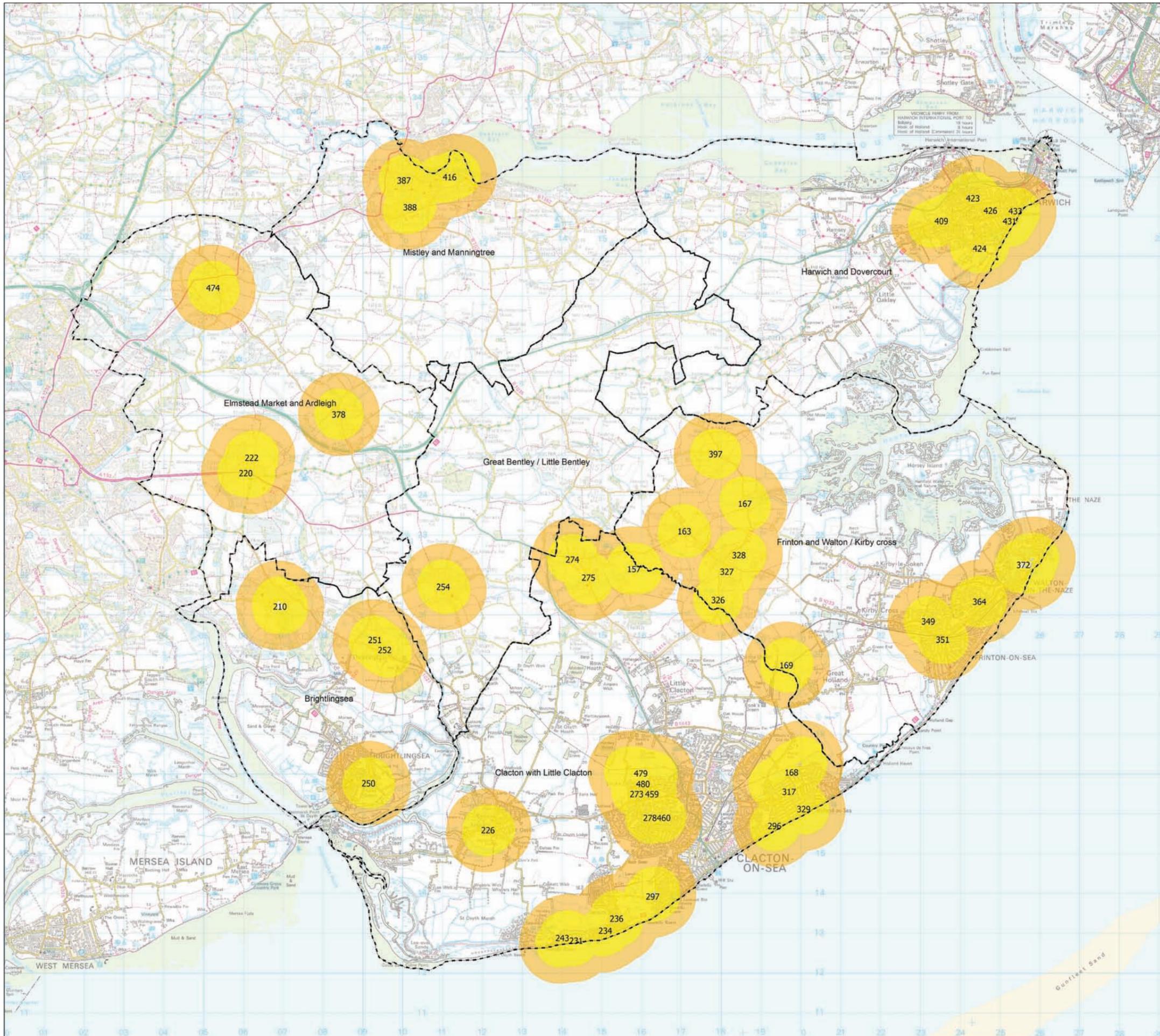
Parks and gardens greenspace accessibility deficiencies

Figure 06

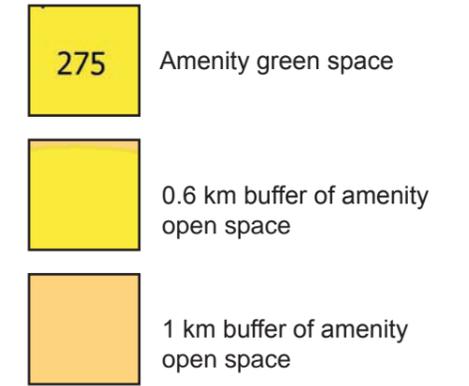
Scale NTRS

April 2009





Key



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Amenity greenspace accessibility deficiencies

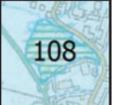
Figure 07  
Scale NTRS  
April 2009



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Key

-  Private natural and semi natural typology
-  Public natural and semi natural typology
-  1.6 Km buffer of public natural and semi natural typology
-  Sites of Interest of nature conservation

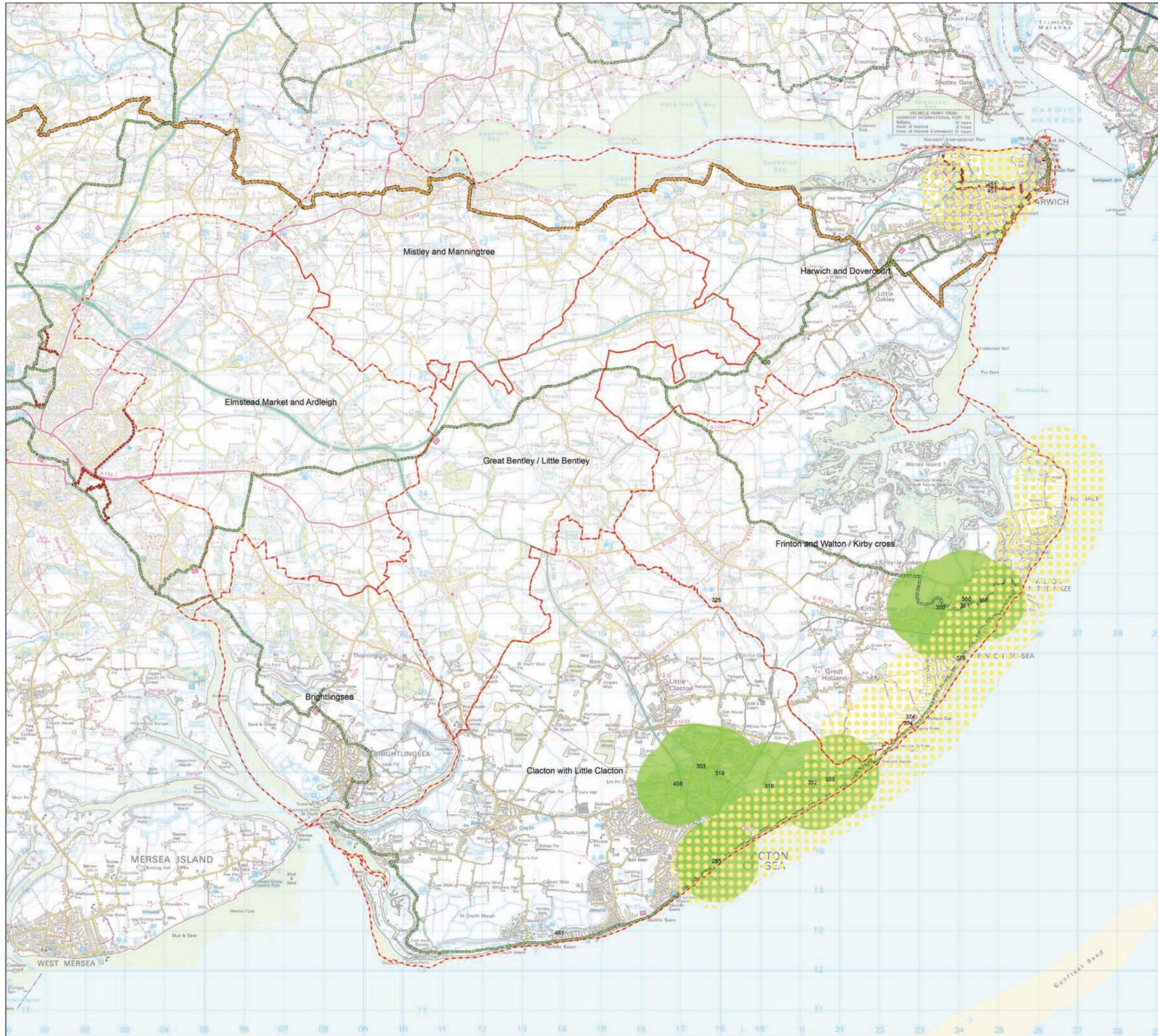
08 224 Tendring Open Space Strategy

Natural and semi-natural greenspace accessibility deficiencies

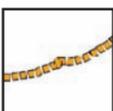
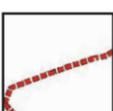
Figure 08  
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Key

-  Green corridors and seafronts
-  1 km buffer of urban green corridors
-  1 km buffer of Seafronts
-  Essex way line
-  Sustrans route
-  National cycle network

08 224 Tendring Open Space Strategy

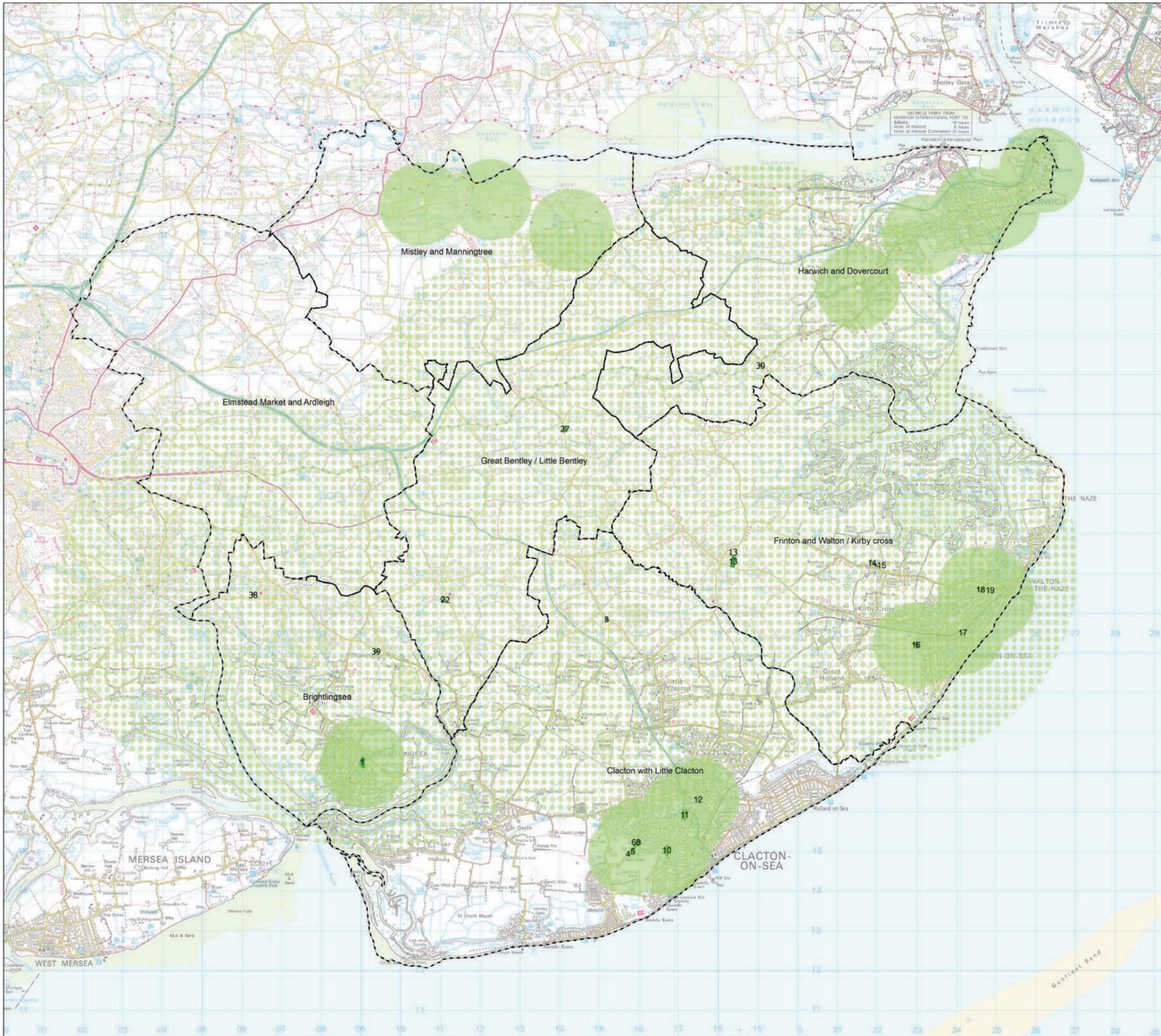
Green Corridor and Seafront accessibility deficiencies

Figure 09

Scale NTRS

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Key

-  Allotments
-  1 km buffer of urban allotments
-  5 km buffer of rural allotments

08 224 Tendring Open Space Strategy

Allotments accessibility deficiencies

Figure 10  
Scale NTRS  
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