

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT

APRIL 2026

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

East Hertfordshire District Council commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to produce an Open Space Assessment to provide an up-to-date evidence base and to help inform future decision-making processes.

The purpose of an open space assessment is to recognise the role of open space provision as a resource to East Herts. The report helps understand the distribution, amount and quality/value of open space across the authority, if there are any shortfalls/surpluses and where there may be opportunities for improvements to ensure that residents can benefit from accessible and high-quality open space facilities.

Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

Open space is categorised into the following typologies:

Type of open space	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. Sites typically include facilities such as play areas, cafes, car parks, flower beds, formal signage, as well as seating and picnic tables.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Sites are often woodlands, grasslands, riverbanks, and other specifically managed areas with a focus on nature.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. Often a more informal design compared to parks, can include play areas and other ancillary features (e.g. seating, signage) but not always.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
Allotments	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long-term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

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Audit summary

There are a total of 569 sites equating to 1,680 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to hectares of provision is natural/semi-natural greenspace (1,328 hectares), accounting for 79% of open space.

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Allotments	50	40
Amenity greenspace	179	193
Cemeteries/churchyards	65	57
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	89	1,328
Park and gardens	10	50
Provision for children & young people	176	12
TOTAL	569	1,680

Quantity

The table below shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall in quantity for each type of open space. This utilises recommended quantity standards however the assessment report also presents it against current provision levels.

Provision shortfalls against recommended quantity standards by analysis area (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Natural	Parks/Amenity	Allotments	Play
EH recommended standard	3.20	1.40	0.30	0.25
Bishop's Stortford - existing	2.76	1.31	0.25	0.08
Bishop's Stortford - balance	-0.44	-0.09	-0.05	-0.17
Braughing - existing	0.27	2.61	0.36	0.05
Braughing - balance	-2.93	+1.21	+0.06	-0.20
Buntingford - existing	0.15	1.02	0.28	0.11
Buntingford - balance	-3.05	-0.38	-0.02	-0.14
Hertford - existing	6.70	1.70	0.35	0.06
Hertford - balance	+3.50	+0.30	+0.05	-0.19
Hertford Heath - existing	73.99	2.31	0.44	0.07
Hertford Heath - balance	+70.79	+0.91	+0.14	-0.18
Hunsdon - existing	-	0.86	0.15	0.03
Hunsdon - balance	-3.20	-0.54	-0.15	-0.22
Much Hadham - existing	12.86	1.68	0.44	0.05
Much Hadham - balance	+9.66	+0.28	+0.14	-0.20

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

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Typology	Natural	Parks/Amenity	Allotments	Play
EH recommended standard	3.20	1.40	0.30	0.25
North Western Rural - existing	2.77	3.69	0.22	0.11
North Western Rural - balance	-0.43	+2.29	-0.08	-0.14
Eastern Rural - existing	1.51	2.61	0.14	0.05
Eastern Rural - balance	-1.69	+1.21	-0.16	-0.20
South Western Rural - existing	67.87	2.71	0.33	0.09
South Western Rural - balance	+64.67	+1.31	+0.03	-0.16
Sawbridgeworth - existing	7.06	1.19	0.37	0.08
Sawbridgeworth - balance	+3.86	-0.21	+0.07	-0.17
Standon and Puckeridge - existing	0.05	1.00	0.49	0.08
Standon and Puckeridge - balance	-3.15	-0.40	+0.19	-0.17
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets - existing	20.65	1.06	0.33	0.02
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets - balance	+17.45	-0.34	+0.03	-0.23
Walkern - existing	-	1.04	0.19	0.06
Walkern - balance	-3.20	-0.36	-0.11	-0.19
Ware – existing	0.86	0.90	0.17	0.07
Ware - balance	-2.34	-0.50	-0.13	-0.18
Watton-at-Stone - existing	7.04	1.08	0.50	0.10
Watton-at-Stone - balance	+3.84	-0.32	+0.20	-0.15

It is important quantity levels are considered alongside accessibility and quality. For example, an area may have a quantity deficit but access to open space could be sufficient. Conversely, an area could have sufficient quantity, but access could be limited (i.e. catchment distances do not cover the whole area).

Quality and Value

There is a generally a good quality of open space across assessed typologies. This is reflected in most assessed sites (67%) scoring above their set quality thresholds.

Proportionally there are more (54%) park sites to rate below the quality threshold. This is a reflection to the high standard for parks with lower scoring sites often due to a lack of signage and/or ancillary features.

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Typology	Quality		Value	
	Low	High	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	32%	68%	0	100%
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	21%	79%	0	100%
Park and gardens	54%	46%	0	100%
Provision for children and young people	32%	58%	9%	91%
Totals	33%	67%	6%	94%

Virtually all sites (94%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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

Accessibility

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

If an area does not have access to provision (consistent with the catchments), the report identifies instances where new sites may be needed, or potential opportunities could be explored in order to provide comprehensive access (i.e., a gap in one form of provision may exist, but the area in question may be served by another form of open space).

It is important accessibility is considered alongside quantity and quality. For example, an area may have good access to provision, but quality of such sites could be low.

Recommendations

The following provides a summary on the key findings from the application of the quantity, quality, and accessibility standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to address the issues highlighted.

Several quantity shortfalls in the open space typologies are highlighted. Creating new provision to address these existing shortfalls (particularly any quantity shortfalls) is often challenging (as significant amounts of new forms of provision would need to be created). Often a more realistic approach is to ensure sufficient accessibility and quality of existing provision. Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should be endorsed. However, it highlights the need for new housing developments to provide new open space provision to ensure shortfalls are not exacerbated.

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The report summarises the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

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

These sites potentially help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Their existence is crucial in terms of access to open space provision. They should therefore be viewed as open space provision that are likely to provide multiple social and value benefits.

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality and/or value to the applied standards (i.e. high quality and/or value). Across the authority, there are 95 sites highlighted as helping to serve gaps in accessibility catchment mapping.

Recommendation 2

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

There are 74 sites to rate as below quality and/or value thresholds. Of these 74 sites, 67 are identified as helping to potentially serve catchment gaps in other types of open space.

These sites should first look to be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should be given to changing the primary typology or strengthening the secondary function of these sites, to one which they currently help to serve a gap in provision, even if their quality cannot currently be enhanced. For some sites, such as natural and semi-natural greenspace, the ability to adapt or strengthen secondary roles may be limited due to the features and characteristics of the site.

Recommendation 3

Review areas with sufficient provision in open space and consider how they may be able to meet other areas of need

The study identifies 74 sites rated as lower quality and/or lower value. For an area with a quantity sufficiency in one type of open space, and where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that same type.

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

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Recommendation 4

Keeping data, report and supporting evidence base up to date to reflect changes

This study provides a snapshot in time. Whilst significant changes are not as common for open space provision, inevitably over time changes in provision occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to site boundaries and management. Population change and housing growth are also another consideration to review when undertaking any form of update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and standards. It is therefore important for the Council to undertake regular reviews of the data and/or actions informed by it.

Recommendation 5

Recommended standards to inform future growth requirements

Work on the New Local Plan is underway and whilst the location of growth has not yet been determined, the Local Plan needs to take account of the Government's new standard method figure, which is 1,223 per year for East Hertfordshire.

On this basis and using the recommended quantity standards* open space requirements are calculated. These open space requirements should be updated as required over the Plan period to reflect changes in population projections and dwelling numbers.

Recommendation 6

Ensure the approach to developer contributions is reviewed regularly

The East Hertfordshire Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out detailed guidance on the type and scale of open space, playing pitch and built facilities that developer contributions are sought to support new development.

The SPD also sets out the cost contributions for different open space types. The approach used is in keeping with common practices. It is, however, important to regularly review the costs as these can become obsolete over time. Cost figures could be linked to Bank of England inflation rates or similar as part of a regular review. This will ensure the council is receiving contributions which reflect, as best possible, real-time costs.

Supplementary planning documents are not permitted under the new plan-making system, so it will be important that appropriate all open space policies, standards and requirements are incorporated into the New Local Plan.

* recommended quantity standard (ha per 1,000 population) x population increase / 1000 = estimated requirement

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Glossary

DPD	Development Plan Document
EHDC	East Hertfordshire District Council
FIT	Fields in Trust
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC) to produce an Open Space Study. The Study forms one part of an inter-related project that also includes a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) and an Indoor Built Facilities Strategy (IBF).

The studies will provide a robust evidence base to inform future strategic planning policy and decisions, and possible investment priorities for open spaces, indoor and outdoor sports facilities across the area.

The Open Space Assessment Report assesses the existing provision of open space in East Herts, building on and updating the previous study, published in 2017. Since then, a number of strategic developments, predominantly sites allocated in the adopted District Plan (2018), have been built in East Herts, delivering some new open spaces. Therefore, there has been a change in provision as a result of the significant housing growth that has taken place.

The findings and recommendations of this assessment will:

- Detail existing open space, its condition, distribution and overall quality. This document sets out the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping undertaken as part of this study.
- Facilitate the direction on the future provision of accessible, high-quality, sustainable open spaces.
- Help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth, including policy and strategy decisions in the new Local Plan and planning application determination.
- Help to prioritise investment, including S106.

Open spaces are defined, by the Town and Country Planning Act (1990), as areas of land laid out as public gardens, or used for public recreation, or classified as disused burial grounds. Open spaces are therefore considered to relate specifically to land that is publicly accessible, meaning the public can enter freely at any time without charge or membership. This report does not include areas such as agricultural fields or general countryside land. Nevertheless, the importance and value of such land are acknowledged and appreciated. Additionally, Public Rights of Way and permissive footpaths are not included, as they are primarily routes for movement and access through a site and do not generally provide space for recreation, amenity, or wider public use.

Consequently, a clear distinction exists between green space and open space. Green space may include any vegetated or natural area, whereas open space typically refers to land that is accessible to the public and provides recreational, amenity, or environmental benefits.

Open space provision supports health and wellbeing, cultural heritage, landscape quality, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and physical activity. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provisions currently exist and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

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

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

Under paragraph 103 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Parks and formal gardens are open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. They typically include facilities such as play areas, cafes, car parks, flower beds, formal signage, as well as seating and picnic tables.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. They are often woodlands, grasslands, riverbanks, and other specifically managed areas with a focus on nature.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. Often a more informal design compared to parks, can include play areas and other ancillary features (e.g. seating, signage) but not always.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
Allotments	Opportunities to grow one's own produce. Added benefits include the long-term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries and churchyards	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Any site initially recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role, where it is also available for wider community use as open space (i.e. not locked and available to access at all times) is included in this study. Provision purely for sporting use are the focus of other studies (i.e., Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy). On dual-use sites, the playing pitch surfaces are counted as part of the overall site size as they are considered to contribute to the total open space site and reflect its multifunctionality.

* [Assessing Needs and Opportunities](#)

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1.1 Report structure

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

- ◀ Part 2: Methodology
- ◀ Part 3: Summary of audit
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Provision for children/young people
- ◀ Part 8: Allotments
- ◀ Part 9: Cemeteries

1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) and Draft National Planning Policy Framework (2025) set out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

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

Paragraph 103 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite, paragraph 104 of the NPPF states that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

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

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National Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG)

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

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

Creating great spaces for all: Fields in Trust (2024)

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

Creating great spaces for all sets out a range of benchmark guidelines on quantity, quality and accessibility for open space and equipped play. It also offers some recommendations for minimum site sizes.

Making Space for Girls

A national charity Make Space for Girls (MSfG), founded in 2021, provides wide-ranging guidance to ensure that parks and public spaces are designed for girls and young women, not just boys and young men. This includes resources for councils, developers and design professionals.

Key factors to consider include listening to teenage girls to understand their perception and use of local spaces, the barriers they face to enjoyment of those spaces, involving them in the design process and developing new policies to support inclusive spaces.

Principles for Councils:

- ◀ Create parks which are more inclusive for all: Better spaces can promote healthier lifestyles and add social value. Spaces that work better for teenage girls can work better for many other groups.
- ◀ Understand what teenage girls want from parks and social spaces: Skate parks and MUGAs only work for a small proportion of young people – a wider range of facilities is much more inclusive.
- ◀ Recognise the barriers to change: Lack of information and policies that don't recognise the issues both embed unequal treatment for teenage girls into practice. Engagement, research and equality law provide tools to overcome this.
- ◀ Make Sure Teenage Girls are heard: Reaching girls and minority groups can be difficult, but their voices are essential for change.

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Figure 1: Key principles to consider for enabling girls to use outdoor spaces

Eyes on the Park	Awareness	Inclusion
The presence of other people can make the park feel safer; either through activation which brings in other users or making the most of park staff and other officials.	The design of parks can make women and girls feel more secure in a space, helping them to see and be seen, ensuring they don't feel trapped and giving them the ability to navigate their surroundings.	How to create parks where all women and girls feel they belong by identifying and addressing the barriers which exist for different groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUSINESS • • STAFFING • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VISIBILITY • • ESCAPE • • LIGHTING • • WAYFINDING • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BELONGING • • IMAGE • • ACCESS • • ENGAGEMENT •

Example design features in MSfGs' 'What Does Better Look Like' resource, include:

- ✦ Playful mixed-height spaces that allow people to sit, climb, or lie around.
- ✦ Dividing up MUGAs and other spaces, so no group can dominate the space.
- ✦ Social exercise spaces; arranging equipment so people can exercise and chat.
- ✦ Social seating; allowing people to face each other while they chat.
- ✦ Swings; suited to the age-group, including accessible swings.
- ✦ Lower, mixed-height gym bars; to hang from, swing round, lean against.
- ✦ Stages and seating space; for performances, exercise classes and informal fun.
- ✦ Shelters and shade, for all weathers.

1.3 Local context

East Herts District Plan 2011-2033

The East Herts District Plan was adopted in 2018 and sets out how the district will develop in the future. The plan seeks to provide a minimum of 18,458 new homes up to 2033, alongside new jobs, community facilities and infrastructure.

It sets out the importance of implementing growth sustainably, to protect the natural and historic environment and the quality of life of people who live, work and visit the district.

The District Plan directs development across the district, including urban extensions to the main towns and strategic development to the east of Stevenage, east of Welwyn Garden City and in the Gilston Area. These developments are at various stages of implementation, with a number of the larger sites coming forward in phases. The Council's latest Annual Report (2024-25) outlines that 10,299 dwellings have been completed in the plan period to date.

The Gilston Area is a key component of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT), a large-scale development initiative designated as a Garden Town. Located north of Harlow and across the River Stort in East Hertfordshire, the Gilston area of the Garden Town will feature 10,000 homes and associated infrastructure for seven new villages. Gilston will also be connected to Harlow town centre by a new public travel route known as a Sustainable Transport Corridor, prioritising walking, cycling and high-quality public transport routes.

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The District Plan has outlined the following objectives for the Authority to achieve:

- ◀ Reduce carbon dioxide emissions and promote greener energy options.
- ◀ Support mixed communities which provide the needs for old, young and vulnerable people.
- ◀ Provide a balanced housing market.
- ◀ Protect the district's landscape from inappropriate developments.
- ◀ Encourage entrepreneurialism and maximise existing employment opportunities.
- ◀ Improve the travel network to ease road congestion and reduce carbon footprint.
- ◀ Provide good quality facilities for arts, culture, community, leisure, entertainment, recreation, faith and health.
- ◀ Reduce health inequalities and improve the health and well-being of all residents.

To support the improvement of the health and well-being of the whole community, District Plan policies require the provision of open space, sport and recreation and new community facilities in conjunction with new development. Policy CFLR1- Open Space, Sport and Recreation expects provision on-site, or if appropriate, financial contributions towards new or enhanced off-site provision. Facilities should be provided in accordance with the Council's latest evidence and in consultation with Sport England and the Council's Leisure and Environment team.

New Local Plan

In October 2023, East Herts Council agreed to update the adopted District Plan (2018). Now the Government has published the Local Planning Regulations (2026), the Council will commence formal work on the New Local Plan this year.

Currently, the Council is updating the evidence base and undertaking other preparatory work needed to support the New Local Plan. The Open Space Assessment is a key part of this evidence base to help understand if existing facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location and to inform policy decisions about how best to meet the additional open space needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document

The Council adopted an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in 2020, following the publication of an open space and sports assessment in 2017. The SPD supplements policies in the District Plan, providing guidance on the type and scale of open space, sport and recreation required on-site, or funded by, new development.

Vision and Corporate Priorities

On 28th February 2024, the Council approved its "LEAF" corporate priorities. These set out the strategic priorities of the Council and are grouped under the following four headings: -

- Listening, Open and Transparent
- Environmentally Focused
- Acting with the Community
- Fair and Inclusive

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Under each heading are a series of sub-objectives and actions which officers are tasked with delivering. These LEAF priorities are kept under review, and in July 2025, the Council approved some updates to priorities.

Housing Strategy 2022-2027

Homelessness, poor condition homes or low levels of energy efficiency and an insufficient supply of affordable homes are all challenges in East Herts. The Housing Strategy 2022-2027 looks to address these issues by delivering more affordable homes, enabling a wider range of high-quality accommodation for vulnerable residents and improving the sustainability of existing properties.

Thriving Together Health and Wellbeing Plan 2024-2027

The plan promotes an integrated approach to tackling health and wellbeing, working alongside national and regional health agencies, the Herts and Essex Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), the Integrated Care System (ICS) and the Integrated care Board (ICB), as well as Hertfordshire County Council and Parish Councils and the voluntary sector. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Public Health has a key role to play in supporting good health and wellbeing and is tasked with the overall responsibility for achieving this across Hertfordshire.

The main priorities are to:

- ◀ Ensure that every child has the best start to life.
- ◀ Support communities to be healthy and sustainable.
- ◀ Support residents to maintain healthy lifestyles.
- ◀ Support people living with dementia.
- ◀ Improve support for people living with life-long conditions, long-term health conditions, physical disabilities and their families.
- ◀ Improve residents' mental health.
- ◀ Supporting individuals to improve their health and wellbeing
- ◀ Enabling groups in the community to support themselves and each other
- ◀ Using partnership co-operation and clear actions to improve community health and wellbeing.

An action plan has been developed to address these aims, with a range of actions including supporting and engaging with the voluntary sector and tackling inactivity and improving physical wellbeing by supporting residents to access sport, leisure and recreation opportunities.

East Herts Cultural Strategy 2021-2025

The East Herts Cultural Strategy 2021-2025 outlines how strategic partners can contribute to highlighting the great physical and human assets of the District. The vision is that: "East Herts will lead the way in demonstrating that when residents, community organisations and the creative industries come together, extraordinary, surprising and delightful things can happen that enrich and enhance everyone's health, wellbeing and sense of inclusion".

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For the purposes of this Strategy, which places inclusion at its heart, arts and culture are considered to encompass the performing and visual arts, festivals, tourism and leisure, heritage and historical buildings, sports and physical activity, parks and open spaces, children's play, and common interest voluntary groups. The Strategy recognises that culture can be a key driver for prosperity in East Herts.

Population projections estimate that the number of people in all age groups is growing in the District. Housing developments in new neighbourhoods and garden villages will bring new cultural opportunities to East Herts through unlocking developer contributions. Ensuring that all residents have access to activities is a challenge, particularly those living in more deprived areas. Providing cultural activities is also seen to tackle wider societal issues, such as crime and loneliness and improve educational attainment in young people. Residents need to be able to access these events in sustainable ways.

East Herts Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022- 2027

The strategy sets out a comprehensive vision for the future management and enhancement of the district's parks and green spaces. It recognises the vital role these spaces play in community wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and recreation. The strategy aims to ensure that parks remain attractive, accessible, and resilient as the district grows and faces new challenges, including increased usage, climate change, and funding pressures. The Council's approach is encapsulated in the ACE framework: making parks Attractive & Accessible, managed with a Commercial influence, and Engaged with both users and the environment.

The strategy focuses on maintaining high standards of cleanliness, safety, and inclusivity, while also promoting biodiversity and sustainable practices. It outlines plans to improve infrastructure, enhance access for all users, and support community involvement through Friends Groups and volunteer initiatives. Financial sustainability is addressed by exploring commercial opportunities such as event hosting and vending, securing external funding, and encouraging community crowdfunding for specific projects. Environmental stewardship is a core priority, with actions such as tree planting, wildflower initiatives, and habitat improvements, all guided by independent audits.

The strategy is closely aligned with the Council's broader objectives in environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing, and cultural enrichment. It builds on past achievements, such as major park refurbishments and successful community partnerships, and sets out clear actions to ensure parks continue to thrive. By fostering strong community engagement, supporting volunteerism, and prioritising both environmental and financial resilience, the Council aims to keep parks at the heart of local life, offering spaces that are welcoming, sustainable, and beneficial for all residents.

Neighbourhood Plans

All Neighbourhood Plans have been reviewed, and relevant designated Local Green Spaces (LGS) are included in the study. It is important to note; not all Local Green Spaces identified within the Neighbourhood Plans are included in this study. Some sites, such as agricultural fields and similar areas, are designated as LGS for reasons such as offering visual/vista, landscape purposes. These are not necessarily considered publicly accessible open spaces, as they are not freely available for public use. Such LGS are therefore excluded from the assessment.

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

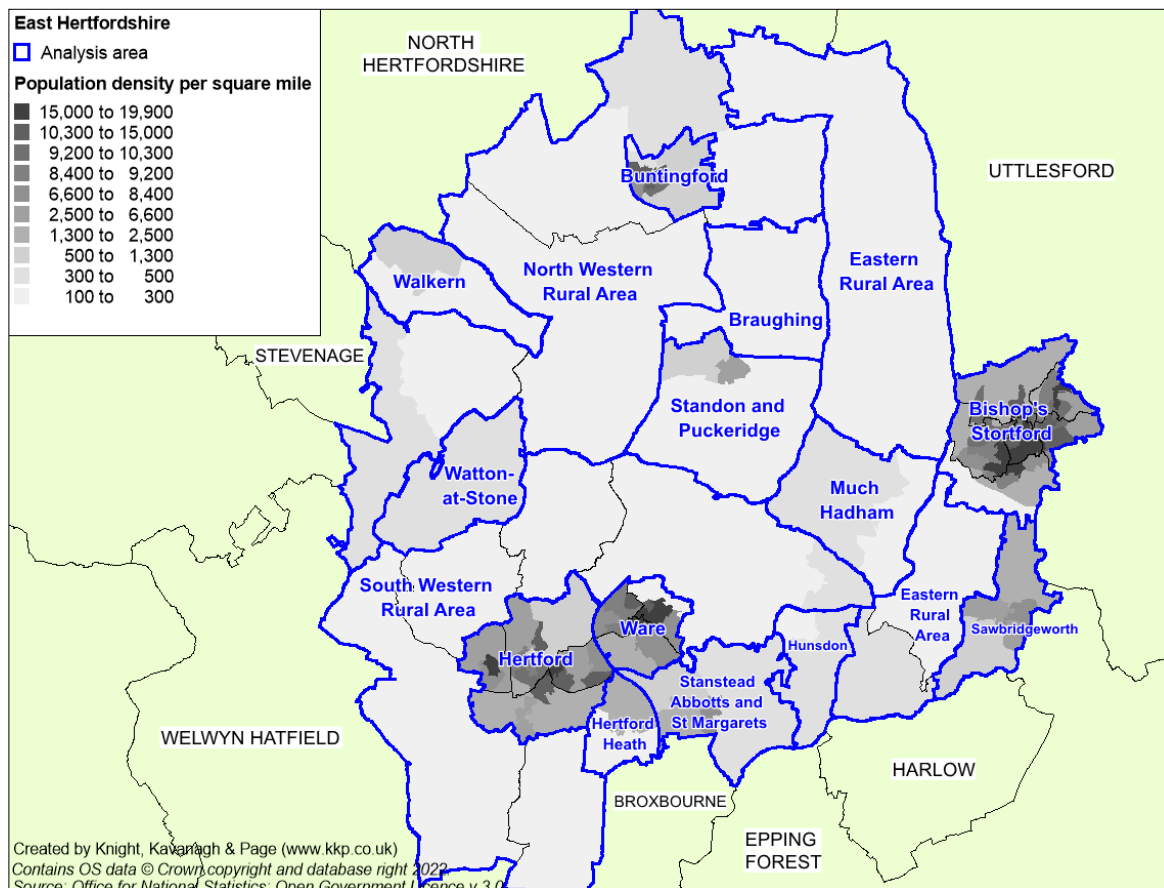
This section details the methodology undertaken as part of the study. The key stages are:

- ◀ 2.1: Population and analysis areas
- ◀ 2.2: Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3: Open space provision levels
- ◀ 2.4: Quality and value
- ◀ 2.5: Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.6: Accessibility catchments

2.1 Population and analysis areas

To allow for a more localised analysis of open space provision, the local area has been sub divided into 16 analysis areas. This is intended to reflect the role and population distribution of settlements. Ward boundaries have been used to define the largest settlements in the district: the five market towns and the eight villages identified as Group 1 villages in the adopted District Plan (Policy Vill 1). The rest of the district has been separated into three rural areas.

Figure 2.1a: East Hertfordshire analysis areas



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The Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Analysis Area includes Stanstead Abbots Parish and Stanstead St Margarets Parish. It also includes Great Amwell Parish as some of the parish forms part of the built-up area of Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets. Therefore, to ensure the whole of the settlement and population is treated as one, the parish of Great Amwell is included.

Figure 2.1b shows the towns and largest villages (District Plan Group 1 and 2 villages) across East Hertfordshire.

Figure 2.1b: East Hertfordshire settlement areas



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Table 2.1: Population by analysis area

Analysis area	Population*
Bishop's Stortford	42,270
Braughing	1,318
Buntingford	6,453
Hertford	29,588
Hertford Heath	1,648
Hunsdon	1,700
Much Hadham	1,711
North Western Rural Area	8,279
Eastern Rural Area	5,568
South Western Rural Area	8,546
Sawbridgeworth	8,857
Standon and Puckeridge	4,647
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	5,875
Walkern	2,869
Ware	19,697
Watton-at-Stone	2,609
East Hertfordshire	151,635

The population figures are used to help determine the current provision levels for different types of open space. This is used to inform and set a quantity provision standard.

2.2 Auditing local provision

Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Sites are initially identified through the data held by the council. This has been reviewed by KKP via desktop analysis and examining local strategies and plans. After the comprehensive review and investigation of data, the relevant open space sites are included within the audit/report. Only sites considered to relate specifically to land that is publicly accessible, meaning the public can enter freely at any time without charge or membership, are included. Areas such as agricultural fields, private land or general countryside land are not included. Permissive footpaths are also excluded as they are primarily routes for movement and access through a site. They do not generally provide space for wider public use (other than access through).

Engagement with local authorities, community representatives and key stakeholders formed an important part of the audit. KKP engaged with all local parish and town councils throughout the process (34 responded) and also liaised with a range of other key organisations, including Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Countryside Management Service. In addition, KKP responded to queries and comments raised by stakeholders to clarify issues and provide information where required. This engagement helped ensure that the work was informed by local knowledge and perspectives.

* ONS 2021 Census Population for Lower Super Output Areas

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

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

Site size threshold

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

If required, sites below 0.2 hectares should be assessed on a site-by-site basis (to assess potential community, biodiversity and visual value), for example, a request for development could be made upon such a site in the future. Planning policies relating to the consideration of the loss of open space could still apply to such sites, even if they are not specifically included in the audit.

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

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

2.3 Open space provision levels

To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision levels/standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are used.

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

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2.4 Quality and value

Approximately 229 sites have been visited and assessed. Due to the large number of sites identified as part of the audit (circa 570), it was not feasible to visit and assess every site across the district. Instead, a sample of sites was selected for visiting to provide a quality and value assessment. The focus for selecting sites was on the core provision types of parks, play, natural/semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For some provision types, a size threshold was also applied. No allotments or cemeteries have been assessed. More information about outdoor sports facilities can be found in the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Study.

All parks and play provision sites are visited and assessed. For natural/semi-natural greenspace, only sites larger than 10 hectares have received a site visit. For amenity greenspace, sites larger than two hectares are audited. The site visits occurred during winter 2024/2025 to provide a consistent snapshot of the condition.

Sites that fall below these size thresholds do not receive a visit or score but are recorded in the database and contribute to the wider evidence base.

To further inform quantity, quality and accessibility levels of provision, all town councils were engaged via Teams meetings/telephone calls, and a questionnaire was sent to all other parish councils. The findings of this have been used to help highlight any concerns regarding types of provision locally.

Sites receiving a quality and value score can help determine sites for continued protection, as a priority for investment, and to identify sites that may be surplus. Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high-quality site may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value, whereas a rundown (poor quality) site may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

Analysis of quality

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon criteria derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each assessed site. Scores are presented as percentage figures.

The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

Table 2.4.1: Quality Criteria

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts.▶ Personal security, e.g., site is overlooked, natural surveillance.▶ Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths.▶ Parking, e.g., availability, specific, disabled parking.▶ Information signage, e.g., presence of up-to-date site information, notice boards.▶ Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets.▶ Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace.▶ Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti.

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Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

- ▶ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., fencing, gates, staff on site.
- ▶ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of general landscape & features.
- ▶ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people.
- ▶ Site potential e.g., possible enhancements to improve a site.

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

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

Analysis of value

Site visit data is also used to provide value scores for each assessed site. Value is defined in Companion Guidance to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:

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

In addition, the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 107) makes reference to attributes to value such as the beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquility and richness of wildlife.

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

The value criteria used as part of the audit assessment is derived from:

Table 2.4.1: Value Criteria

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

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

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2.5 Quality and value thresholds

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

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

The most recognised national benchmark for measuring the quality of parks and open spaces is the 66% pass rate for the Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well-managed parks and open spaces. Although this Open Space Study uses similar assessment criteria to those of the Green Flag Award scheme, it is inappropriate to use the Green Flag benchmark pass for every open space, as they are not all designed or expected to perform to the same exceptionally high standard. For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater variety of ancillary facilities (e.g., seating, bins, play equipment) and manicured landscaping and planting, etc., in contrast to an amenity greenspace providing a different role.

Furthermore, a different scoring mechanism is used in this study than that of the Green Flag scheme (albeit the criteria for this study are derived from the Green Flag scheme). For each assessed open space typology, a different set and/or weighting for each criterion of quality is used. This is to better reflect the different roles, uses and functions of each open space type. Consequently, a different quality threshold level is set for each open space typology.

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

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

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

A high value site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and/or mental health benefits. Value is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, if a site is deemed to provide one of the value criteria benefits, it will pass the high/low threshold used.

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Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Allotments	-	-
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%
Cemeteries	-	-
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Provision for children and young people	55%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	55%	20%

The quality threshold for each typology varies as they are intended to better reflect the average quality scores across all sites in that typology. This helps to distinguish between higher and lower quality sites.

2.6 Accessibility catchments

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

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

The accessibility catchments from the Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance "Creating great spaces for all" (2024) are used to show how far residents are likely to be willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

Table 2.3: Accessibility catchment times/distances

Open space type	Catchment
Parks & Gardens	9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace	6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people (LAP)	1-minute walk time (100m)
Provision for children and young people (LEAP)	5-minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people (NEAP)	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
Provision for children and young people (Other provision e.g., MUGA, Skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments	No standard set
Cemeteries	No standard set

No standard is set for the typologies of allotments or cemeteries. Both forms of provision are unique in that they have quantifiable levels of demand. For allotments, the site can have waiting lists. For cemeteries, the provision need can often be determined by demand for burial space.

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF AUDIT

This section provides a summary of the trends from the quality and value audit for each typology.

3.1 Audit overview

Within East Hertfordshire, there are a total of 569 sites equating to over 1,679 hectares of open space. Both amenity greenspace (178) and provision for children and young people (176) have the most sites. The largest contributor to provision in hectares is natural/semi-natural greenspace (1,328 hectares), accounting for 79%.

Table 3.1.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Allotments	50	40
Amenity greenspace	179	193
Cemeteries/churchyards	65	57
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	89	1,328
Park and gardens	10	50
Provision for children & young people	176	12
TOTAL	569	1,679

3.2 Quality

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

Table 3.2.1: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Sites below typology threshold	Sites above typology threshold
Amenity greenspace	39%	55%	75%	10	21
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	26%	63%	96%	4	15
Park and gardens	37%	54%	79%	6	4
Provision for children & young people	16%	59%	84%	54	113
Total	-	-	-	74	153

There is a generally positive quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in nearly two-thirds (68%) of assessed sites scoring above their set threshold for quality.

For allotments, no quality/value assessments have taken place. Allotments are often difficult to assess due to being accessible to plot members only. However, allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of open space provision.

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

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For cemeteries, no quality/value assessments have taken place. The role of cemeteries is unique in comparison to other types of open space; one that is often difficult to assess in terms of quality and value in a study like this.

3.3 Value

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

Table 3.3.1: Value scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Sites below typology threshold	Sites above typology threshold
Amenity greenspace	22%	46%	64%	0	31
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	24%	44%	55%	0	19
Park and gardens	25%	47%	64%	0	10
Provision for children & young people	13%	45%	91%	15	152
Total	-	-	-	15	212

Nearly all sites (93%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments. Only the play provision contains any sites to rate below the value threshold. This is often due to featuring limited equipment and/or ancillary features, such as signage, seating, benches, picnic tables, and litter bins.

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

There are a handful of sites that score especially high for quality and value. These sites tend to feature a variety of supporting facilities providing a wide range of opportunities and benefits. Table 3.3.2 shows their quality and value scores.

Table 3.3.2: Highest quality and value sites in East Hertfordshire

KKP Ref	Site Name	Analysis area	Typology	Quality Score	Value Score
84	Castle Park	Bishop's Stortford	Parks	78.5%	63.6%
147	Hare Street Playing Fields	Buntingford	Amenity	75.0%	34.0%
280	Pishiobury Park	Sawbridgeworth	Natural	74.9%	40.9%
293	Red, White and Blue Country Park	Bishop's Stortford	Natural	77.4%	45.5%
306	Rye Mead Nature Reserve	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	Natural	96.2%	54.5%
328	Southern Country Park	Bishop's Stortford	Natural	86.4%	54.5%

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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. These typically encompass ancillary facilities such as play areas, cafés, landscaped flower beds/features, car parks, formal signage, and the provision of seating and picnic tables.

4.2 Current provision

There are 10 sites classified as parks and gardens in East Hertfordshire, the equivalent of over 50 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all known sites are included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks

Analysis area	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Bishop's Stortford	3	11.73	0.28
Braughing	0	-	-
Buntingford	1	0.90	0.14
Hertford	4	31.97	1.08
Hertford Heath	0	-	-
Hunsdon	0	-	-
Much Hadham	0	-	-
North Western Rural Area	0	-	-
Eastern Rural Area	1	4.50	0.80
South Western Rural Area	0	-	-
Sawbridgeworth	0	-	-
Standon and Puckeridge	0	-	-
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	0	-	-
Walkern	0	-	-
Ware	1	0.96	0.05
Watton-at-Stone	0	-	-
East Hertfordshire	10	50.06	0.33

East Hertfordshire has a current provision level of 0.33 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and the biggest contributor to provision is Balls Park (22 ha) in the Hertford Analysis Area. This is followed by Hartham Common (8 ha), also in the same analysis area.

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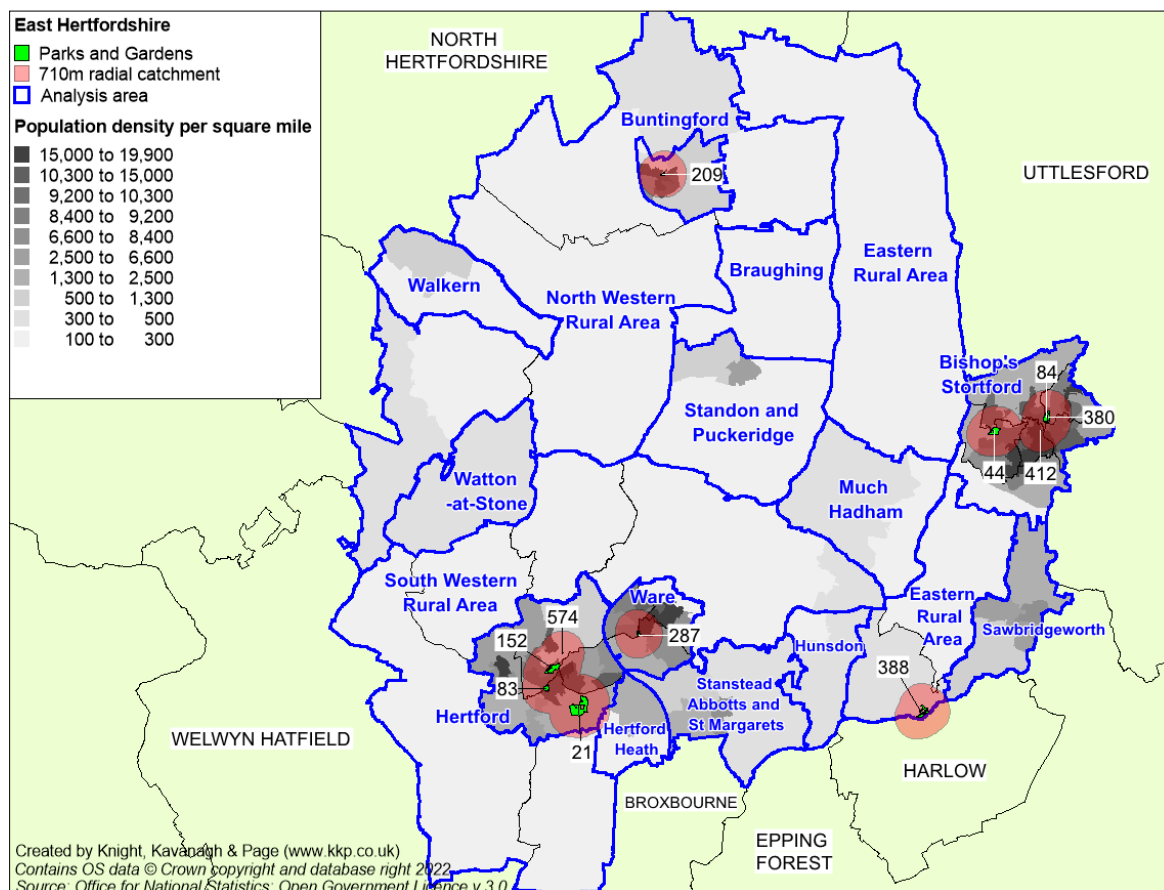
Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, East Hertfordshire is below this. However, it is a predominantly rural district comprising many villages, each with its own recreation ground, which serves a similar function to parks and gardens for local communities. These should therefore be considered in a comparable context. It is also considered that access to open countryside and Public Rights of Way provides important roles in people's way of life and could therefore mitigate any deficiencies against the suggested standard.

It is also important to recognise that sites classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, such as Panshanger Park, Pishiobury Park and Southern Country Park, may also provide opportunities for activities often associated with parks and gardens.

4.3 Accessibility

Figure 4.1 shows the location of park provision across East Hertfordshire with a 710m catchment applied. This is based on FIT's recommended accessibility standards. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take into account topography or walking routes.

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with a 710m catchment applied



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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
21	Balls Park	Hertford	60.1%	43.6%
44	Bishops Park	Bishop's Stortford	37.1%	32.7%
83	Castle Gardens	Hertford	61.3%	54.5%
84	Castle Park	Bishop's Stortford	78.5%	63.6%
152	Hartham Common	Hertford	50.2%	50.0%
209	Layston Court Gardens	Buntingford	45.7%	43.6%
287	Priory Gardens	Ware	69.8%	59.1%
388	Terlings Park	Eastern Rural Area	46.1%	48.2%
412	The Garden Sanctuary	Bishop's Stortford	46.2%	39.1%
574	St Leonards Garden	Hertford	38.5%	25.5%

Parks and gardens provision is predominantly focused on more built-up areas and provides strategic forms of recreational space within urban areas. It would not be reasonable to expect such a provision to be located within areas of a rural nature. It is accepted that access to open countryside and Public Rights of Way provides important roles in people's way of rural life and is therefore likely to mitigate any deficiencies

Consequently, catchment mapping analysis focuses on larger settlements such as market towns. Mapping demonstrates that most of the larger settlements have access to park provision. However, Sawbridgeworth is observed as having no provision. This position may change once Sawbridgeworth Town Council's Jubilee Garden project has progressed.

Many of the gaps are served by other forms of open space provision, such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. Such sites may not meet the criteria of park provision but are likely to offer similar opportunities and access to recreational activities often associated with parks. Exploring opportunities to enhance the quality and the potential to formalise features associated with park provision at such sites could be considered. For example, amenity greenspaces could look to provide secure/clearly defined boundaries, clear and consistent signage, as well as quality ancillary facilities such as seating, picnic tables, play for children and young people. This would be to increase a site's secondary function as a park, but also to highlight its important role in access to open space locally.

Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Bishop's Stortford (North)	Bat Willow Hurst Country Park (ID 25)	Natural
	Birchanger Wood (ID 40)	Natural
	Cole Way/Stephenson Drive (ID 87)	Amenity
	Cricketfield Lane (ID 102)	Amenity
	Dane O'Coys (ID 109)	Natural
	Hoggate's Wood (ID 183)	Natural
	Morbury Avenue (ID 246)	Amenity
	Newland Avenue (ID 259)	Amenity
	Northolt Avenue (ID 265)	Amenity
	Red, White and Blue Country Park (ID 293)	Natural

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Bishop's Stortford (South)	Great Hadham Park Woodland (ID 132) Northern Parkland (ID 264) Southern Country Park (ID 328) Thorley Cricket Club (ID 418) Thorley Wedge (ID 422) Cox's Garden (ID 511)	Natural Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural
Braughing (North)	Braughing Community Orchard (ID 55) Braughing Playing Fields (ID 56) Church End AGS (ID 91)	Natural Amenity Amenity
Buntingford (North)	Norfolk Road Playing Field (ID 261)	Amenity
Buntingford (South)	Hare Street Road Playing Field (ID149) Hare Street Road Wildlife Area (ID 151) Monks Walk, Buntingford (ID 247) Seth Ward Playing Field (ID 321) The Watermill (ID 416)	Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural
Hertford (North)	Foxholes (ID 125) Millmead (ID 245) Vixen Drive (ID 450) Willowmead Nature Reserve (ID 485)	Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Natural
Hertford (South)	Morgan's Walk Woodland (ID 249) Bullocks Lane Cricket Ground (ID 65)	Natural Amenity
Hertford Heath (North)	Hertford Heath Nature Reserve (ID 164) Mount Pleasant AGS (ID 250) Much Wood (ID 256)	Natural Amenity Natural
Hertford Heath (South)	Balls Wood (ID 22) Hobby Horse Wood (ID 583)	Natural Natural
Hunsdon (North)	Hunsdon Playing Fields (ID 189) The Dell (ID 402) Acorn Street Memorial (ID 578)	Amenity Amenity Amenity
Hunsdon (South)	Hunsdon Mead Nature Reserve	Natural
Much Hadham (North)	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Woodland (ID 254)	Natural
Much Hadham (South)	Mill Wood (ID 243)	Natural
Sawbridgeworth (North)	Bullfields Rec Ground (ID 63) Giffin Way (ID 141) River Stort Marshes (ID 299) Slater Lane, Sawbridgeworth (ID 325) Truswell Crescent (ID 434) West Road (ID 477)	Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity
Sawbridgeworth (South)	Pishiobury Park (ID 280)	Natural
Standon and Puckeridge (South)	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields (ID 332) Burrs Meadow, Standon (ID 373)	Amenity Amenity
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (North)	Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve (ID 7)	Natural

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (South)	Rye House Gatehouse (ID 304) Rye Mead Nature Reserve (ID 306)	Amenity Natural
Walkern (North)	High Street (ID 170) Wallace Green Way (ID 589)	Amenity Amenity
Walkern (South)	Walkern Playing Fields (ID 454)	Amenity
Ware (North)	Beacon Road (ID 29) Buryfield Recreation Ground (ID 76) Heath Drive (ID 159) High Oak Road (ID 169) Kibes Lane Park (ID 195) King George (ID 196) Lady Margaret Gardens AGS (ID 205) Lower Bourne Gardens (ID 228) Maplewood (ID 234) The Bourne (ID 395) The Pastures (ID 579)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Amenity
Ware (South)	Peter's Wood, Ware (ID 276) Plaxton Way AGS (ID 281) Post Wood (ID 283) Presdales Drive (ID 284) Presdales Recreation Ground (ID 286)	Natural Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity
Watton-at-Stone (North)	Great Innings (ID 134) Mill Lane (ID 242)	Natural Natural
Watton-at-Stone (South)	Watton at Stone Playing Fields (ID 469) Gatekeepers Way (ID 586)	Amenity Amenity

4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table overleaf summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 4.4: Quality ratings for parks

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Bishop's Stortford	37%	54%	79%	2	1
Braughing	-	-	-	-	-
Buntingford	46%	46%	46%	1	0
Hertford	38%	52%	61%	2	2
Hertford Heath	-	-	-	-	-
Hunsdon	-	-	-	-	-
Much Hadham	-	-	-	-	-
North Western Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Rural Area	46%	46%	46%	1	0
South Western Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-
Sawbridgeworth	-	-	-	-	-
Standon and Puckeridge	-	-	-	-	-
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	-	-	-	-	-
Walkern	-	-	-	-	-
Ware	70%	70%	70%	0	1
Watton-at-Stone	-	-	-	-	-
East Hertfordshire	37%	53%	78%	6	4

The highest scoring site for quality is Castle Gardens / Park (78%). Located in Bishop's Stortford, it is highlighted as being a very well-maintained park in the centre of town. It includes a variety of features that cater to a diverse range of users. It is also noted as a Green Flag Award-winning site, reflecting its excellent quality.

The other site currently with a Green Flag Award is Southern Country Park, which is included in the study as natural/semi-natural greenspace.

Some of the lower scoring sites are Bishops Park (37%), in Bishop's Stortford, and St Leonards Garden (38%) in Hertford. No significant issues are noted; however, both lack signage and could benefit from additional ancillary features (e.g. seating, bins, signage, wildlife areas, etc.) in comparison to other similar sites.

4.5 Value

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

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Table 4.5: Value scores for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Bishop's Stortford	33%	45%	64%	0	3
Braughing	-	-	-	-	-
Buntingford	44%	44%	44%	0	1
Hertford	26%	43%	55%	0	4
Hertford Heath	-	-	-	-	-
Hunsdon	-	-	-	-	-
Much Hadham	-	-	-	-	-
North Western Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Rural Area	48%	48%	48%	0	1
South Western Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-
Sawbridgeworth	-	-	-	-	-
Standon and Puckeridge	-	-	-	-	-
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	-	-	-	-	-
Walkern	-	-	-	-	-
Ware	59%	59%	59%	0	1
Watton-at-Stone	-	-	-	-	-
East Hertfordshire	26%	47%	64%	0	10

All assessed park and garden sites rate above the value threshold. Sites have high amenity and social value due to containing good recreational and exercise opportunities. Most sites also score highly for visual and landscape benefits due to being observed as being attractive and well used.

The highest scoring sites are Castle Park (64%) in Bishop's Stortford, and Priory Gardens (59%), in Ware. Both offer strong social, health and educational benefits to a variety of users. Both sites have an array of features such as site-specific parking, security, public toilets, picnic tables, litter bins, and easy accessibility within and through the site. Moreover, they appear to be popular, well used, providing a range of benefits (social, educational, ecological); a reflection of the important role they provide to the local community.

All park and garden sites provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer. One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their function as multipurpose provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area. Consequently, sites with a greater diverse range of features and ancillary facilities rate higher for value.

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4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- ◀ There are 10 sites classified as parks and gardens, totalling over 50 hectares. This is equivalent to 0.33 ha per 1,000 population.
- ◀ Other forms of open space also contribute to the perception and role of parks, such as sites like Bat Willow Hurst Country Park, Pishiobury Park and the Red, White, and Blue Country Park sites. These sites are classified and included as natural and semi-natural greenspace provision.
- ◀ Proportionally, a greater level of provision is located in the Hertford Analysis Area (1.08 ha per 1,000 population) compared to the Ware Analysis Area (0.05 ha per 1,000 population), Buntingford (0.14 ha per 1,000 population), Bishop's Stortford (0.47 ha per 1,000 population), and Eastern Rural Area (0.80 ha per 1,000 population).
- ◀ FIT suggests a standard of 0.80 ha per 1,000 population. Hertford (1.08) and Eastern Rural Area (0.80) meet this. East Hertfordshire as a whole is below this standard, having 0.33 ha per 1,000 population. However, as a rural district, access to open countryside and Public Rights of Way, play an important role in people's way of life and could therefore mitigate any deficiencies against the suggested standard. Furthermore, many villages have access to a recreation ground providing a similar function to parks for local communities.
- ◀ Only four sites score above the quality threshold. Sites scoring low for quality tend to lack ancillary features and are perceived as having lower maintenance levels.
- ◀ All assessed sites score highly for value, with the important social interaction, health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being recognised.

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PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

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

5.2 Current provision

In total, 89 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 1,328 hectares of provision. These totals do not include all provisions in the area, as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas in relation to quality of life, health and wellbeing.

The audit includes a wide range of publicly accessible sites across the district. These vary in size, type and designation. Provision includes sites of international, national and local importance such as Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve (ID 64), designated as a Special Area of Conservation, as well as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) including Danemead Wildlife Trust (ID 110) and Patmore Heath Nature Reserve (ID 227). Local Nature Reserves include Pishiobury Park (ID 280) and Waterford Heath (ID 463). The audit also captures other significant sites like the historical Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard (ID 300), alongside larger strategic sites such as Panshanger Park (ID 271). The latter is approximately 316 hectares. Together, these sites demonstrate the breadth and importance of the district's publicly accessible natural greenspace.

Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Bishop's Stortford	21	111.19	2.63
Braughing	1	0.36	0.27
Buntingford	2	0.95	0.15
Hertford	15	198.24	6.70
Hertford Heath	7	128.12	77.74
Hunsdon	1	35.98	20.93
Much Hadham	3	22	12.86
North Western Rural Area	3	22.94	2.77
Eastern Rural Area	2	8.40	1.51
South Western Rural Area	12	580.04	67.87
Sawbridgeworth	5	62.52	7.06
Standon and Puckeridge	1	0.23	0.05
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	5	121.30	20.65
Walkern	0	-	-

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Analysis area	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ware	5	18.05	0.92
Watton-at-Stone	6	18.37	7.04
East Hertfordshire	89	1,328.74	8.76

The largest of the natural and semi-natural greenspace sites is Panshanger Park at 316 hectares. On the site of a former sand and gravel quarry, it is located on the western edge of Hertford, between the town and Welwyn Garden City, within the South Western Rural Analysis Area. Due to its scale, the site accounts for 24% of the total provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 5.1 shows that East Hertfordshire is above this suggested standard. This is also the case for nine of the analysis areas. Braughing, Buntingford, Eastern Rural Area, Standon and Puckeridge, and Ware are all below the standard.

Furthermore, Natural England's Accessible Greenspace Standards (2023) cite a benchmark of three hectares of accessible greenspace per 1,000 population. Table 5.1 shows that East Hertfordshire is also above this suggested standard.

For the purposes of this study, the focus is primarily on the Fields in Trust (FIT) standards, as these cover the quantity, accessibility and quality for the different typologies of open space.

5.3 Accessibility

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of natural and semi-natural provision across East Hertfordshire with a 720m catchment applied. This is based on FIT's recommended accessibility standards. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take into account topography or walking routes.

In addition, in keeping with Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) and wider Green Infrastructure framework, it is recognised that larger, more strategic sites serve a broader catchment and that individuals are likely to travel further to access them.

In this context, the role of significant natural greenspaces, including those beyond the district boundary such as Hatfield Forest, play an important role in terms of access. Parts of East Hertfordshire, such as Sawbridgeworth and Bishop Stortford, are covered by a zone of influence for Hatfield Forest meaning developments need to pay a contribution

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural sites mapped with a 720m catchment

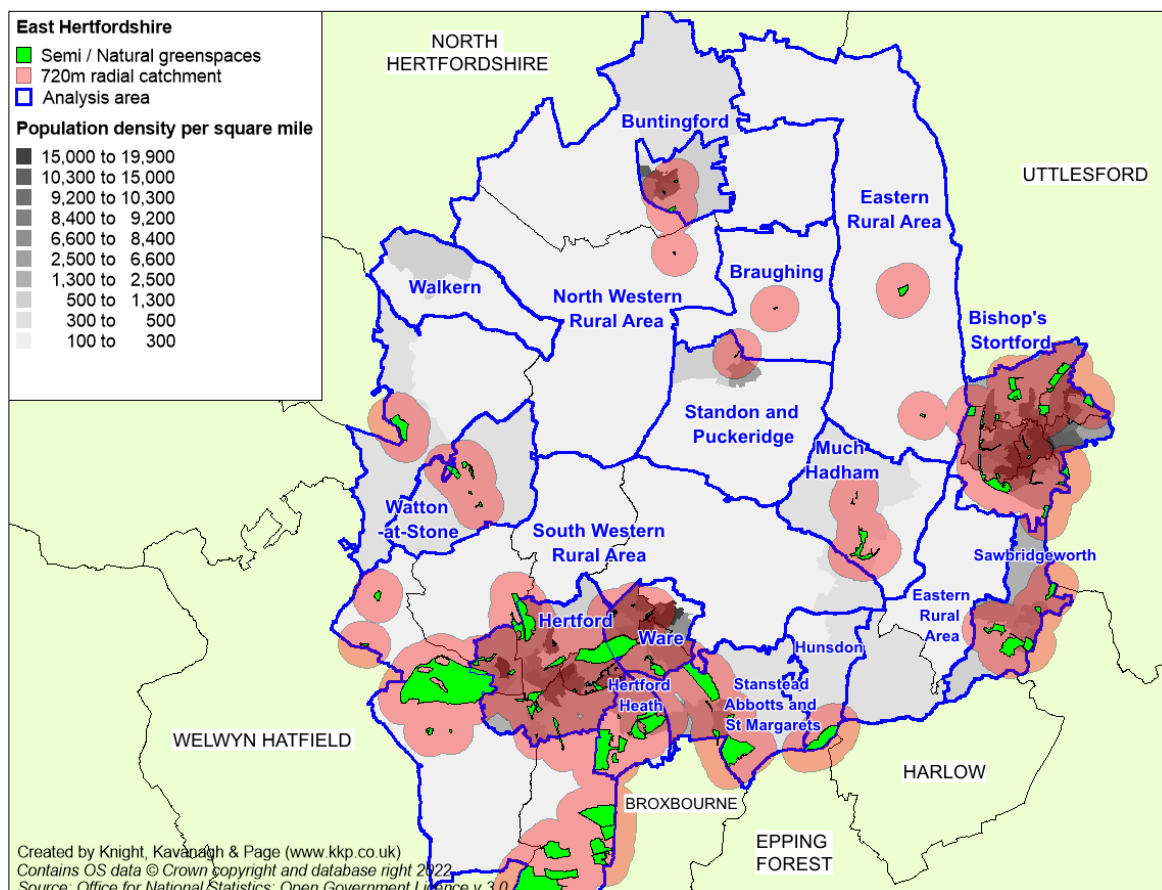


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
7	Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
16	Astonbury Wood	North Western Rural Area
22	Balls Wood	Hertford Heath
25	Bat Willow Hurst Country Park	Bishop's Stortford
32	Bencroft Wood	South Western Rural Area
40	Birchanger Wood	Bishop's Stortford
43	Bishops Avenue NSN	Bishop's Stortford
48	Bishops Park Way NSN	Bishop's Stortford
49	Bishops Park Way NSN 2	Bishop's Stortford
55	Braughing Community Orchard	Braughing
59	Broad Riding Wood, Broxbourne	South Western Rural Area
62	Broxbourne Wood Nature Reserve	South Western Rural Area
64	Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve	South Western Rural Area
88	Cecil Road Woodland	Hertford
95	Cole Green Way Picnic Site	South Western Rural Area
109	Dane O'Coys	Bishop's Stortford

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
110	Danemead Wildlife Trust	South Western Rural Area
120	Elbow Lane Wood	Hertford Heath
124	Folly View	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
125	Foxholes	Hertford
131	Goldings Wood	Hertford Heath
132	Great Hadham Road Woodland	Bishop's Stortford
134	Great Innings	Watton-at-Stone
143	Hadham Road	Bishop's Stortford
151	Hare Street Road Wildlife Area	Buntingford
164	Hertford Heath Nature Reserve	Hertford Heath
181	Highfield Wood	South Western Rural Area
183	Hoggate's Wood	Bishop's Stortford
193	Jackson's Meadow	North Western Rural Area
203	The Meads	Hertford
214	Lilbourne Drive Woodland	Hertford
218	Little Hadham Millenium Wood	Eastern Rural Area
226	London Road Wood	Hertford
227	Long Wood	Hertford
233	Lower White Stubbs	South Western Rural Area
234	Maplewood	Ware
237	Maze Green Woodland	Bishop's Stortford
242	Mill Lane	Watton-at-Stone
243	Mill Wood	Much Hadham
244	Millenium Walk	Watton-at-Stone
249	Morgan's Walk Woodland	Hertford
251	Much Hadham Allotments Woodland	Much Hadham
254	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Woodland	Much Hadham
256	Much Wood	Hertford Heath
257	Navigation Mill NSN	Bishop's Stortford
271	Panshanger Park	South Western Rural Area
272	Park Avenue	Bishop's Stortford
276	Peter's Wood, Ware	Ware
277	Patmore Heath Nature Reserve	Eastern Rural Area
280	Pishiobury Park	Sawbridgeworth
283	Post Wood	Ware
292	Rear of Beane Valley Family Centre	Watton-at-Stone
293	Red, White and Blue Country Park	Bishop's Stortford
299	River Stort Marshes	Sawbridgeworth
300	Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard	Sawbridgeworth
302	Rivers Nursery Land	Sawbridgeworth

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
306	Rye Mead Nature Reserve	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
311	Saddlers Way	Hertford
328	Southern Country Park	Bishop's Stortford
347	St James Way Open Space	Bishop's Stortford
352	St Margarets Community Wood	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
376	Stanstead Innings	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
386	Temple Fields	Hertford
391	Tewin Orchard	South Western Rural Area
393	Tewinbury	South Western Rural Area
395	The Bourne	Ware
403	The Firs	Bishop's Stortford
414	The Twitchell	North Western Rural Area
415	The Warren	Hertford
416	The Watermill	Buntingford
417	Thorley Avenue Woodland	Bishop's Stortford
421	Thorley Wash Nature Reserve	Bishop's Stortford
428	Town Meads	Bishop's Stortford
463	Waterford Marsh	Hertford
464	Waterford Heath	Hertford
471	Watton Green	Watton-at-Stone
483	White Hart Old Braughing Road	Standon and Puckeridge
484	Wildflower meadow and pond	Hertford Heath
485	Willowmead Nature Reserve	Hertford
492	Woodland	Bishop's Stortford
493	Sawbridgeworth Marsh	Sawbridgeworth
511	Cox's Gardens	Bishop's Stortford
531	Links Avenue/Eagle Court	Hertford
536	Mill lane NSN	Watton-at-Stone
560	The Hyde	Ware
572	Maitland Wood	South Western Rural Area
577	Welwyn Road	Hertford
581	Hunsdon Mead Nature Reserve	Hunsdon
583	Hobby Horse Wood	Hertford Heath

Mapping demonstrates that most larger settlements have access to natural greenspace provision. However, minor gaps in provision are observed across analysis areas.

The gaps are potentially served by other forms of open space. These may offer similar opportunities and access to activities associated with natural greenspace. Any potential to increase a site's secondary function as natural greenspace should be explored.

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It is important to note that while the map may suggest a gap exists within an analysis area, it may be identified as having 'no significant gap' in Table 5.3. These 'gaps' are areas of sparse population. For example, in the Watton-at-Stone Analysis Area, gaps in catchment areas occur only in the peripheral parts of the analysis area (where population density is extremely low). The main concentration of population is focused on the centre of the analysis area, where the actual settlement is positioned. Consequently, this area is well served by existing provision with catchment areas covering the denser population.

Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Bishop's Stortford (North)	Bishops Park (ID 44) Castle Park (ID 84) The Garden Sanctuary (ID 412)	Amenity Parks Parks
Bishop's Stortford (South)	No significant gap	-
Braughing (North)	Braughing Playing Fields (ID 56) Church End AGS (ID 91)	Amenity Amenity
Braughing (South)	The Green (ID 407)	Amenity
Buntingford (North)	Norfolk Road Playing Field Close (ID 261)	Amenity
Buntingford (South)	No significant gap	-
Hertford (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Hertford Heath (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Hunsdon (North)	No significant gap	-
Hunsdon (South)	Hunsdon Playing Fields (ID 189) The Dell (ID 402)	Amenity Amenity
Much Hadham (North)	Green Tye Village Green (ID 139) Much Hadham Recreation Ground (ID 252)	Amenity Amenity
Much Hadham (South)	Perrys Green Village Green (ID 278)	Amenity
Sawbridgeworth (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Standon and Puckeridge (North)	Sadlier Road Open Space (ID 312) Puckeridge & Standon playing fields (ID 332)	Amenity Amenity
Standon and Puckeridge (South)	Burrs Meadow, Standon (ID 373)	Amenity
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Walkern (North)	High Street (ID 170) Wallace Green Way (ID 589)	Amenity Amenity
Walkern (South)	Walkern Playing Fields (ID 454)	Amenity
Ware (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Watton-at-Stone (North & South)	No significant gap	-

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It is also important to recognise the role of access to the wider countryside in supporting residents' access to natural/semi-natural greenspace, particularly given the largely rural character of much of East Hertfordshire. In many areas, opportunities to access the countryside, including public rights of way, farmland landscapes and informal natural areas, complement the provision of formal green spaces and help enhance overall access to the health, wellbeing and environmental benefits associated with natural greenspace.

Strategic sites, such as Hatfield Forest, just outside East Herts, play an important role in access, as its significant size increases both its attractiveness and the distance people are willing to travel to access provision.

5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 55% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scoring is derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Due to the large number of sites identified as part of the audit, it was not feasible to visit and assess all natural sites. Consequently, sites generally over 10 hectares in size were visited and assessed for quality and value. These are listed in Appendix Two.

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

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<55%	>55%
Bishop's Stortford	77%	82%	86%	0	2
Braughing	-	-	-	-	-
Buntingford	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford	59%	62%	64%	0	3
Hertford Heath	33%	49%	67%	2	2
Hunsdon	-	-	-	-	-
Much Hadham	26%	26%	26%	1	0
North Western Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-
South Western Rural Area	53%	65%	72%	1	4
Sawbridgeworth	75%	75%	75%	0	1
Standon and Puckeridge	-	-	-	-	-
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	71%	84%	96%	0	2
Walkern	-	-	-	-	-
Ware	60%	60%	60%	0	1
Watton-at-Stone	-	-	-	-	-
East Hertfordshire	26%	63%	96%	4	15

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Over three-quarters (79%) of assessed natural greenspace sites rate above the quality threshold, indicating a good standard of quality*. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Rye Mead Nature Reserve (96%)
- ◀ Southern Country Park (86%)
- ◀ Red, White and Blue Country Park (77%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as seating and signage. The sites are also observed as having reasonable to good access for all, with well-maintained pathways. They also have car parking.

Rye Mead Nature Reserve (96%), the highest scoring semi-natural greenspace for quality, is noted as an excellent RSPB reserve with accessible walking trails and a range of supporting ancillary facilities. Southern Country Park (86%) is a Green Flag Award winning site. It features paths, play provision, a dog agility area and a good number of benches, bins and signage. Likewise, Red, White and Blue Country Park (77%) also benefits from benches, litter bins, signage, numerous trees, paths and a small car park. Entrances are wide, and the site scores high for access, catering to a range of users.

Of assessed natural and semi-natural provision, a total of four sites (21%) rate below the threshold set for quality. These are:

- ◀ Mill Wood (26%)
- ◀ Goldings Wood (33%)
- ◀ Much Wood (33%)
- ◀ Danemead (53%)

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as bins, benches and signage. They also tend to score low for user security, access, and other entrances. However, this can be due to their purpose as a place for habitats. The exception is Danemead (53%), which only just rates below the threshold. No significant issues are highlighted, although the site rates lower for personal security and car parking quality in comparison to other similar sites.

Hertingfordbury Parish Council note that Maitland Wood no longer has benches. These have been removed due to rotting over time.

5.5 Value

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

* A copy of the assessment form is provided in Appendix Four.

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

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Bishop's Stortford	46%	50%	55%	0	2
Braughing	-	-	-	-	-
Buntingford	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford	39%	40%	41%	0	3
Hunsdon	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford Heath	41%	44%	49%	0	4
Much Hadham	24%	24%	24%	0	1
North Western Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-
South Western Rural Area	41%	45%	55%	0	5
Sawbridgeworth	41%	41%	41%	0	1
Standon and Puckeridge	-	-	-	-	-
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	41%	48%	55%	0	2
Walkern	-	-	-	-	-
Ware	50%	50%	50%	0	1
Watton-at-Stone	-	-	-	-	-
East Hertfordshire	24%	44%	55%	0	19

All natural and semi-natural greenspace sites rate above the threshold for value. Natural sites tend to provide multiple benefits to local communities. These benefits often include a combination of structural and landscape, ecological and wider environmental benefits, meaning sites typically meet more than one form of value criteria.

The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve (55%)
- ◀ Rye Mead Nature Reserve (55%)
- ◀ Southern Country Park (55%)
- ◀ Post Wood (50%)

Each site scores highly for ecological value as it provides a variety of well-managed habitats. All are observed as generally attractive forms of provision and appear well used. They provide a good network of pathways for walking opportunities and other features such as interpretation boards, seating, etc., providing additional educational and amenity benefits.

Sites provide benefits to the health and well-being of residents and those visiting from further afield. This is a result of the exercise opportunities they provide, for example, through walking and biking trails. Furthermore, they create peaceful spaces to relax and reflect. The high levels of natural features also help improve air quality, particularly in more built-up areas.

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5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 89 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites covering 1,328 hectares. This does not include all provisions in the area, as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied.
- ◀ FIT suggests a standard of 1.80 ha per 1,000 population. Natural England suggests 3 ha per 1,000 population. Across East Hertfordshire, there is 8.76 ha per 1,000 population.
- ◀ There is proportionally more provision located in the South Western Analysis Area (67.87 ha per 1,000 population) and the Hertford Analysis Area (73.99 ha per 1,000 population). This is due to large sites such as Panshanger Park and The Meads being located within these areas.
- ◀ Of sites assessed, a total of 79% rate above the threshold set for quality. There are 4 sites that rate below the quality threshold. All assessed sites also rate above the value threshold.
- ◀ The high proportion of sites to rate above the threshold for value demonstrates the added benefit natural and semi-natural greenspaces can provide, especially in terms of contributing to flora and fauna. Larger sites may also provide a good level of recreational offer.

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PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

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

Amenity greenspaces are often informally designed spaces with a lesser range of ancillary facilities. They may include play provision and other features, but often not to the scale/quality associated with parks. Amenities greenspaces make up a large amount of open space sites in the district, likely reflecting the settlement pattern in East Hertfordshire. While these sites are numerous, they are generally smaller in size compared with parks or natural/semi-natural greenspaces, meaning they provide important local access but on a more limited scale in terms of overall functions.

6.2 Current provision

There are 179 amenity greenspace sites equivalent to over 195 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation spaces or open spaces along highways, providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace, particularly in the smaller towns and villages.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Bishop's Stortford	28	46.41	1.09
Braughing	3	3.44	2.61
Buntingford	5	5.66	0.88
Hertford	17	18.41	0.62
Hertford Heath	5	3.81	2.31
Hunsdon	3	1.47	0.86
Much Hadham	3	2.87	1.68
North Western Rural Area	24	30.56	3.69
Eastern Rural Area	13	10.06	1.81
South Western Rural Area	24	24.58	2.88
Sawbridgeworth	13	10.47	1.18
Standon and Puckeridge	8	4.67	1.00
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	9	6.22	1.06
Walkern	3	4.36	1.52
Ware	16	19.32	0.98
Watton-at-Stone	5	3.32	1.27
East Hertfordshire	179	195.67	1.29

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As part of the parish and town council survey, it is highlighted that The Ridgeway has a draft plan for further development, but due to a lack of funding, it is currently on hold. East Herts Council has developed a management plan and is awaiting S106 funding from a nearby development to enhance the site.

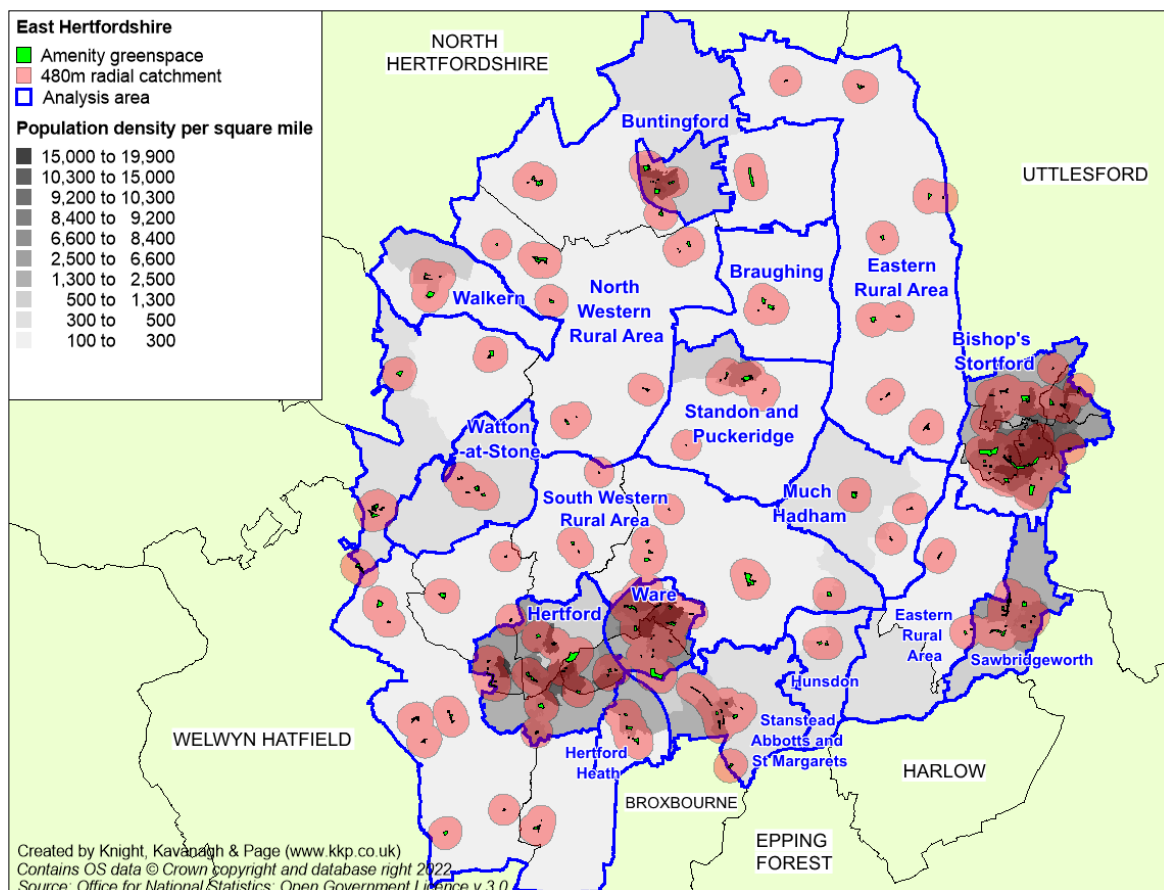
It is important to note that there is some variation of sites within this typology. Larger recreation grounds and playing fields serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational and sporting activities due to their size.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests a guideline quantity standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population. Table 6.1 shows that overall, East Hertfordshire is above this suggested standard. This is also the case for all analysis areas.

6.3 Accessibility

Figure 6.1 overleaf shows the location of amenity greenspace provision across East Hertfordshire with a 480m catchment applied. This is based on FIT's recommended accessibility standards. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take into account topography or walking routes.

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace sites mapped with a 480m catchment



Due to the large number of sites, ID reference numbers are not shown on Figure 6.1.

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Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
1	Albury Football Club	Eastern Rural Area
6	Allens Green Village Green	Eastern Rural Area
9	Anstey Recreation Ground	Eastern Rural Area
11	Ardley Village Hall Grounds	North Western Rural Area
12	Aspenden Recreation Ground	North Western Rural Area
18	Aston Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area
20	Barley Croft, Tonwell	South Western Rural Area
26	Barreldown Road	Bishop's Stortford
28	Bayford Village Green	South Western Rural Area
29	Beacon Road	Ware
31	Bell Lane Playing Fields	South Western Rural Area
34	Bennington Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area
36	Birch Green	South Western Rural Area
37	Birch Green Village Green	South Western Rural Area
38	Birch Green greenspaces/village greens	South Western Rural Area
56	Braughing Playing Fields	Braughing
57	Brickendon Green	South Western Rural Area
60	Brookside	Eastern Rural Area
61	Brookside	Hertford
63	Bullfields Rec Ground	Sawbridgeworth
65	Bullocks Lane Cricket Ground	Hertford
67	Bull Lane/A507 Village Greens, Cottered	North Western Rural Area
69	Burley Road	Bishop's Stortford
71	Burnham Green	North Western Rural Area
72	Burnham Green	North Western Rural Area
74	Bury Green	Eastern Rural Area
75	Bury Lane	South Western Rural Area
76	Buryfield Recreation Ground	Ware
77	Cambridge Road/The Chestnuts	Standon and Puckeridge
80	Cannons Close	Bishop's Stortford
85	Cecil Road	Hertford
87	Cole Way/Stephenson Drive	Bishop's Stortford
89	Church Balk Field, including war memorial	Watton-at-Stone
91	Church End AGS	Braughing
93	Norman Wodson Sports Field	South Western Rural Area
94	Cole Green Village Green	South Western Rural Area
96	College Road	Hertford Heath
97	Colliers End, Mansfield	Standon and Puckeridge
98	Cottered Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area
99	Cottered Recreation Ground	North Western Rural Area

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
100	Cottered Village Green	North Western Rural Area
102	Cricketfield Lane	Bishop's Stortford
104	Cricketfield Lane Open Space	Bishop's Stortford
111	Datchworth Green, adj to Datchworth Sports Club	North Western Rural Area
113	Datchworth Green	North Western Rural Area
115	Dimsdale Crescent	Bishop's Stortford
116	Dawkins Close	Standon and Puckeridge
126	Gage Gardens/Taplow Avenue	Hertford
129	Ginns Road Playing Field	Eastern Rural Area
135	Great Innings	Watton-at-Stone
136	Great Innings Amenity space	Watton-at-Stone
139	Green Tye Village Green	Much Hadham
140	Greenhill Park	Bishop's Stortford
141	Giffin Way	Sawbridgeworth
147	Hare Street Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area
149	Hare Street Road Playing Field	Buntingford
159	Heath Drive	Ware
160	Heron Close Open Space	Sawbridgeworth
169	High Oak Road	Ware
170	High Street	Walkern
178	High Wych Recreation Ground	Eastern Rural Area
188	Horses Meadow, Munden Road, Dane End	North Western Rural Area
189	Hunsdon Playing Fields	Hunsdon
192	Pinehurst Recreation Ground	Hertford
195	Kibes Lane Park	Ware
196	King George	Ware
200	Kingham Road	South Western Rural Area
202	Kings Mead	Hertford
205	Lady Margaret Gardens AGS	Ware
206	Land South of Welwyn Road and West of Thieves Lane	Hertford
208	Lawrence Avenue/The Moorings	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
211	Letty Green Village Green	South Western Rural Area
212	Levens Green Village Green	North Western Rural Area
216	Little Berkhamstead Recreation Ground	South Western Rural Area
220	Little Hadham Playing Fields	Eastern Rural Area
221	Little Hadham Recreation Ground	Eastern Rural Area
228	Lower Bourne Gardens	Ware
230	Lower Green	South Western Rural Area
235	Marshgate Drive AGS	Hertford
236	Mary Park Gardens	Bishop's Stortford
238	Mead Lane AGS	Hertford

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
239	Meesdon Village Green	South Western Rural Area
240	Mercers Avenue	Bishop's Stortford
245	Millmead	Hertford
246	Morbury Avenue	Bishop's Stortford
247	Monks Walk, Buntingford	Buntingford
248	Moor Green Village Green	North Western Rural Area
250	Mount Pleasant AGS	Hertford Heath
252	Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Much Hadham
258	New River Open Space	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
259	Newland Avenue	Bishop's Stortford
261	Norfolk Road Playing Field	Buntingford
264	Northern Parkland	Bishop's Stortford
265	Northolt Avenue	Bishop's Stortford
267	Nutcroft Open Space	North Western Rural Area
274	Parsonage Lane Open Space	Bishop's Stortford
278	Perrys Green Village Green	Much Hadham
279.1	Pilgrims amenity	North Western Rural Area
281	Plaxton Way AGS	Ware
282	Pindar Green	Hertford Heath
284	Presdales Drive	Ware
286	Presdales Recreation Ground	Ware
288	Pudding Stone Green	Standon and Puckeridge
297	Ridgeway/NNW/Bentley	Hertford
301	Rivers Hospital Open Space	Sawbridgeworth
304	Rye House Gatehouse	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
307	Sacombe Green green	South Western Rural Area
309	Sacombe Road	Hertford
312	Sadlier Road Open Space	Standon and Puckeridge
316	Salmon Road	Sawbridgeworth
317	Sanville Gardens	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
321	Seth Ward Playing Field	Buntingford
323	Sheering Mill Lane	Sawbridgeworth
324	South of Hadham Road, adjacent Patmore Close	Bishop's Stortford
325	Slater Lane, Sawbridgeworth	Sawbridgeworth
332	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields	Standon and Puckeridge
373	Burrs Meadow, Standon	Standon and Puckeridge
374	Stanstead Abbots Moorings	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
375	Stanstead Abbots Village Meadow	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
378	Standon Village Green	Standon and Puckeridge
379	Stapleford Playing Field	South Western Rural Area
381	Stocking Pelham Village Green	Eastern Rural Area
387	Temple Lane Playing Fields	South Western Rural Area
396	Albury Playing Fields	Eastern Rural Area
400	The Carpenters	Bishop's Stortford
402	The Dell	Hunsdon
404	The Granary AGS	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
407	The Green	Braughing
408	The Maltings Scout Field	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
411	The Ridgeway	Hertford
418	Thorley Cricket Club	Bishop's Stortford
422	Thorley Wedge	Bishop's Stortford
431	Trinity Road Playing Field, Hertford Heath	Hertford Heath
432	Trinity Street	Bishop's Stortford
434	Truswell Crescent	Sawbridgeworth
439	Turkey Farm Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area
440	Turners Crescent	Bishop's Stortford
442	Upper Green	South Western Rural Area
444	Vantorts Close	Sawbridgeworth
445	Village greens A507/east of Cottered village hall	North Western Rural Area
449	Villiers sur Marne Avenue	Bishop's Stortford
450	Vixen Drive	Hertford
454	Walkern Playing Fields	Walkern
458	War Memorial Green	Hertford Heath
466	Waterford Village Hall Grounds	South Western Rural Area
467	Watermill Lane	Hertford
469	Watton at Stone Playing Fields	Watton-at-Stone
476	Waytemore Road AGS	Bishop's Stortford
477	West Road	Sawbridgeworth
478	Whiteley Close, Dane End	North Western Rural Area
481	Westmill Recreation Ground	North Western Rural Area
486	Wilson Close	Bishop's Stortford
487	Westmill Village Green	North Western Rural Area
491	Wood End Village Green	North Western Rural Area
496	Mill Close, Buntingford	Buntingford
498	Amberley Green	Ware
499	Amwell End	Ware
502	Birchall Lane	South Western Rural Area
509	Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
514	Dukes Rise, Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford
515	Fanshaws Lane	South Western Rural Area
517	Grange Gardens/Presdales Drive	Ware
522	Pinehurst Community Garden, Hamels Drive	Hertford
533	Mabey's Walk	Eastern Rural Area
537	Pewterers Avenue/Milliners Way	Bishop's Stortford
558	The Crest/Burnside, Sawbridgeworth	Sawbridgeworth
559	The Forebury	Sawbridgeworth
561	The Knoll	Hertford
570	Windmill Field	Ware
578	Acorn Street Memorial	Hunsdon
579	The Pastures	Ware
586	Gatekeepers Way	Watton-at-Stone
587	The Pit	South Western Rural Area
588	The Green	South Western Rural Area
589	Wallace Green Way	Walkern
590	Cambridge Road, Thundridge	South Western Rural Area
591	St James Park	Bishop's Stortford
592	Jubilee Gardens	Sawbridgeworth
593	Farnham Bourne Park	Bishop's Stortford

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision. Most of the larger settlements are observed as having access to amenity greenspace provision within the 480m FIT catchment. However, gaps in provision are noted in the settlements of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware. It is recognised that these gaps are potentially served by other forms of open space provision.

Table 6.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in amenity catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Bishop's Stortford (North)	Bat Willow Hurst Country Park (ID 25) Birchanger Wood (ID 40) Castle Park (ID 84) Red, White and Blue Country Park (ID 293)	Natural Natural Parks Natural
Bishop's Stortford (South)	Bishops Park (ID 44) Northern Parkland (ID 264)	Parks Amenity
Braughing (North)	Braughing Community Orchard (ID 55)	Natural
Braughing (South)	No significant gap	-
Buntingford (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Hertford (North)	The Meads (ID 203) Waterford Marsh (ID 463) Waterford Heath (ID 464)	Natural Natural Natural
Hertford (South)	Balls Park (ID 21) Morgan's Walk Woodland (ID 249)	Parks Natural

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Hertford Heath (North)	Goldings Wood (ID 131) Hertford Heath Nature Reserve (ID 164) Much Wood (ID 256)	Natural Natural Natural
Hertford Heath (South)	Balls Wood (ID 22) Hobby Horse Wood (ID 583)	Natural Natural
Hunsdon (North)	No significant gap	-
Hunsdon (South)	Hunsdon Mead Nature Reserve (ID 581)	Natural
Much Hadham (North)	No significant gap	-
Much Hadham (South)	Mill Wood (ID 243)	Natural
Sawbridgeworth (North)	River Stort Marshes (ID 299) Sawbridgeworth Marsh (ID 493)	Natural Natural
Sawbridgeworth (South)	Pishiobury Park (ID 280)	Natural
Standon and Puckeridge (North)	White Hart Old Braughing Road (ID 483)	Natural
Standon and Puckeridge (South)	No significant gap	-
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (North)	Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve (ID 7)	Natural
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (South)	Rye Mead Nature Reserve (ID 306) St Margarets Community Wood (ID 352)	Natural Natural
Walkern (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Ware (North)	Post Wood (ID 283) Priory Gardens (ID 287)	Natural Parks
Ware (South)	No significant gap	-
Watton-at-Stone (North)	Great Innings (ID 134) Mill Lane (ID 242) Millenium Walk (ID 244) Mill lane NSN (ID 536)	Natural Natural Natural Natural
Watton-at-Stone (South)	No significant gap	-

6.4 Quality

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

Due to the large number of sites identified as part of the audit, it was not feasible to visit and assess all amenity sites. Consequently, amenity sites over two hectares in size were visited and assessed. This means 31 sites receive a rating. These are listed in Appendix Two.

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Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Bishop's Stortford	48%	57%	67%	1	1
Braughing	67%	67%	67%	0	1
Buntingford	48%	53%	58%	1	1
Hertford	45%	52%	56%	1	4
Hertford Heath	-	-	-	-	-
Hunsdon	-	-	-	-	-
Much Hadham	51%	51%	51%	0	1
North Western Rural Area	39%	56%	75%	4	5
Eastern Rural Area	49%	49%	49%	1	0
South Western Rural Area	39%	62%	74%	1	3
Sawbridgeworth					
Standon and Puckeridge					
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	58%	58%	58%	0	1
Walkern	60%	60%	60%	0	1
Ware	45%	49%	53%	1	2
Watton-at-Stone	52%	52%	52%	0	1
East Hertfordshire	39%	55%	75%	10	21

A total of 68% of amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for quality. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Hare Street Playing Fields (75%), North Western Rural Analysis Area
- ◀ Upper Green (74%), South Western Rural Analysis Area
- ◀ Brickendon Green (67%), South Western Rural Analysis Area

The three sites are observed as having good levels of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a positive overall appearance. In addition, they provide user security as well as recreational opportunities.

The sites all have bins to prevent excessive littering as well as seating. These add to the quality and use of the sites. In addition, Hare Street Playing Fields and Upper Green also feature sports provision. Each site has good signage as well as car parking.

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

Sites scoring below the threshold are generally observed as lacking ancillary facilities such as seating, bins and signage. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites are:

- ◀ Kingham Road (39%), South Western Rural Analysis Area
- ◀ Moor Green Village Green (43%), North Western Rural Analysis Area
- ◀ Kingsmead (44%), Hertford Analysis Area

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No quality concerns are noted. The site's score low due to a lack of ancillary features (e.g. seating, bins, signage) and pathways. They also score an average for access within/through the site and for boundary fencing.

It is important to recognise that, despite some sites rating below the threshold for quality, they may still have the potential to be important to the community. For instance, if a site is the only form of open space in that local area, it may be of higher value, given it is the only provision of its type. It may also provide a visual function. These kinds of open spaces can have a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing.

Responses from the Parish and Town Councils suggest that the majority of amenity greenspaces are of adequate to good quality and do not suffer from major issues such as vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Additionally, Sawbridgeworth Town Council states that their amenity greenspaces have been recommended for environmental enhancement to increase biodiversity. Little Munden Parish Council state it is looking to improve Horses Meadow by installing pathways, benches, and upgrading play equipment to make it more accessible for disabled residents.

6.5 Value

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

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Bishop's Stortford	53%	54%	54%	0	2
Braughing	44%	44%	44%	0	1
Buntingford	44%	47%	49%	0	2
Hertford	29%	43%	54%	0	5
Hertford Heath	-	-	-	-	-
Hunsdon	-	-	-	-	-
Much Hadham	50%	50%	50%	0	1
North Western Rural Area	34%	51%	64%	0	9
Eastern Rural Area	52%	52%	52%	0	1
South Western Rural Area	22%	42%	53%	0	4
Sawbridgeworth	-	-	-	-	-
Standon and Puckeridge	-	-	-	-	-
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	43%	43%	43%	0	1
Walkern	53%	53%	53%	0	1
Ware	32%	38%	49%	0	3

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Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Watton-at-Stone	44%	44%	44%	0	1
East Hertfordshire	22%	47%	64%	0	31

All amenity greenspaces rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites for value are:

- ◀ Datchworth Green (64%)
- ◀ Aston Playing Fields (58%)
- ◀ Millmead (54%)
- ◀ Thorley Wedge (54%)

These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational and exercise opportunities they offer for a wide range of users. All feature good pathways and are perceived as well-used sites, providing high amenity and health benefits. They also feature a play area, further adding to their value. All are identified as being attractive and well-maintained greenspaces providing visual and landscape benefits. Millmead features numerous trees and is adjacent to a river, further adding to its appeal and value.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Some sites offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents, as well as being visually pleasing. These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. seating, landscaping and trees), this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 179 amenity greenspace sites equating to over 195 hectares of provision.
- ◀ FIT suggests a standard of 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population. Overall, East Hertfordshire (1.29 ha per 1,000 population) meets the FIT standard. Individually, all Analysis Areas meet the FIT standard.
- ◀ Proportionally, more provision is located in the North Western Rural Analysis Area (3.69 ha per 1,000 population) compared to other areas. However, the highest number of amenity greenspaces are located in Bishop's Stortford Analysis Area (28).
- ◀ Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace across the area. However, gaps in provision are noted within Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, and Ware Analysis Areas. These are, however, likely served by other forms of open space.
- ◀ 67% of amenity sites assessed rate above the threshold for quality.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence all sites rate above the value threshold.

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PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

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

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

7.2 Current provision

A total of 176 sites are identified as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over 11 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied, and as such, all known provisions are identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Bishop's Stortford	41	3.46	0.08
Braughing	2	0.06	0.05
Buntingford	11	0.69	0.11
Hertford	28	1.78	0.06
Hertford Heath	2	0.12	0.07
Hunsdon	3	0.07	0.03
Much Hadham	2	0.09	0.05
North Western Rural Area	16	0.93	0.11
Eastern Rural Area	10	0.31	0.05
South Western Rural Area	18	0.89	0.10
Sawbridgeworth	9	0.73	0.08
Standon and Puckeridge	2	0.35	0.08
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	6	0.11	0.02
Walkern	3	0.16	0.06
Ware	19	1.32	0.06
Watton-at-Stone	4	0.25	0.10
East Hertfordshire	176	11.56	0.08

Goods Yard Play Area, Bishop Stortford, is not assessed within the study as it was identified late in the process. However, the site is acknowledged as part of the wider network of provision for children and young people within Bishop's Stortford.

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Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard for equipped play areas and 0.30 hectares per 1,000 population for other outdoor provision (i.e. MUGAs and skate parks). Overall, East Hertfordshire has a current provision level of 0.08 hectares per 1,000 population, which is below the benchmarks.

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

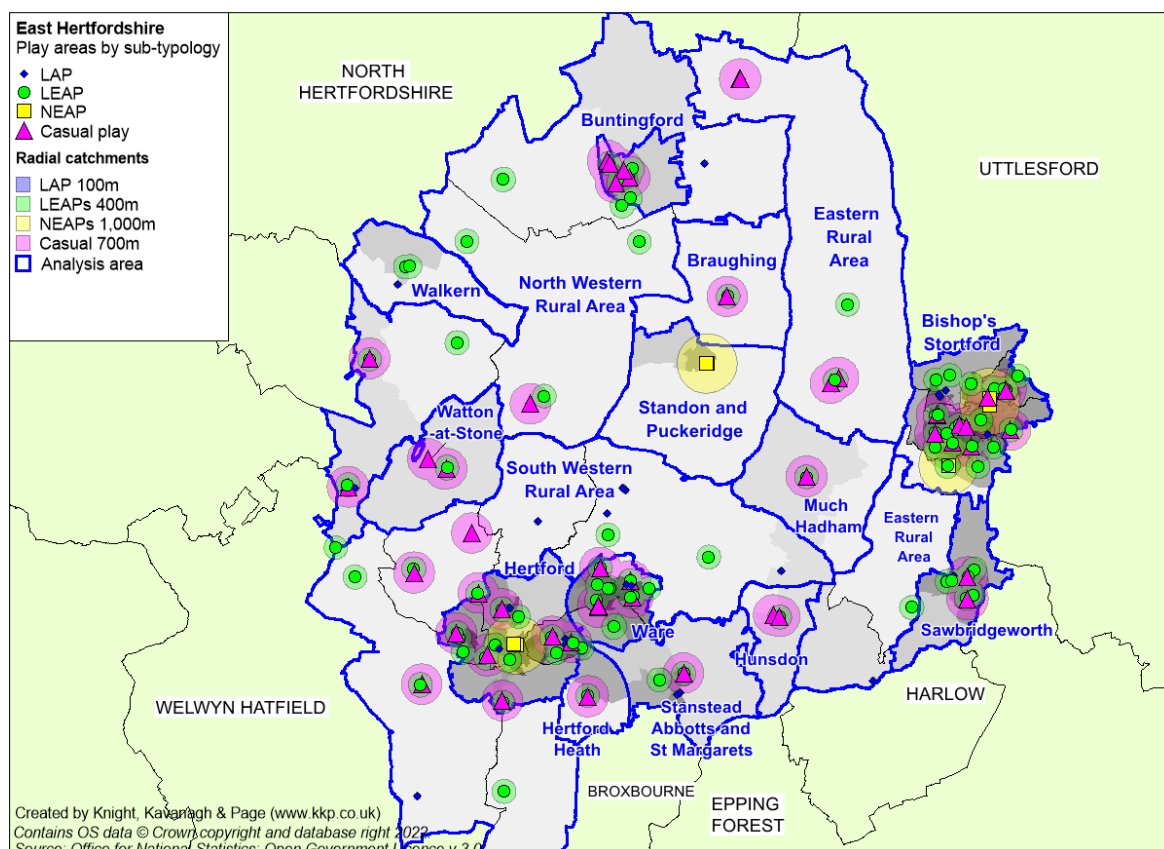
FIT provides widely endorsed guidance on the minimum standards for play space.

- ◀ LAP - a Local Area of Play. Usually, small areas are designed for very young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.
- ◀ LEAP - a Local Equipped Area of Play. Designed for children who are beginning to play independently, often catering for different play types and experiences.
- ◀ NEAP - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater mainly for older, more independent children, but potentially with opportunities for younger children or siblings, providing a wider range of play experiences. Such sites may contain space to play larger group games and seating/shelter.
- ◀ Informal play for all (referred to as casual provision in this study) - facilities specifically designed for informal recreation, such as pump tracks, parkour, social areas, ball courts, MUGAs or skateboard areas. This type of provision is more likely to appeal to older ages (i.e., teenagers) than formal play provision.

7.3 Accessibility

Figure 7.1 shows the location of provision for children and young people with the FIT accessibility standards; LAP (100m), LEAP (400m), NEAP (1,000m), and Casual (700m).

Figure 7.1: Provision and children for young people mapped with FIT standard



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Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area
9.1	Anstey Recreation Play Area	LAP	Eastern Rural Area
9.2	Anstey Recreation Basketball	Casual play	Eastern Rural Area
9.3	Anstey Recreation Ground skate park	Casual play	Eastern Rural Area
12.1	Aspenden Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
17	Athenian Drive Play Area	LAP	Bishop's Stortford
18.1	Aston Playing Field Play Area	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
18.2	Aston Playing Field Youth Area	Casual play	North Western Rural Area
19	Aubries Playground	LEAP	Walkern
23	Barons Play Area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
26.1	Barreldown Play Area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
29.1	Beacon Road Play Area	LEAP	Ware
31.1	Widford Playground	LAP	South Western Rural Area
34.1	Bennington Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
36.1	Birch Green Village Playground	LEAP	South Western Rural Area
36.2	Birch Green Youth Area	Casual play	South Western Rural Area
44.1	Bishops Park Play Area 1	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
44.2	Bishops Park Play Area 2	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
44.3	Bishops Park outdoor gym	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
44.4	Bishops Park Youth Area	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
56.1	Braughing Play Area	LEAP	Braughing
56.2	Braughing Youth Area	Casual play	Braughing
57.1	Brickendon Green Play Area	LEAP	South Western Rural Area
63.1	Bullfields Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	Sawbridgeworth
63.2	Bullfields Rec Ground half MUGA	Casual play	Sawbridgeworth
68	Burleigh Road play area	LAP	Hertford
69.1	Burley Road Play Area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
73	Burnham Green Playground	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
75.1	Bramfield Playground	LEAP	South Western Rural Area
75.2	Bramfield MUGA	Casual play	South Western Rural Area
76.1	Buryfield Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	Ware
78.1	Campfield Road play area 1	LEAP	Hertford
79.2	Campfield Road play area 2	Casual play	Hertford

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Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area
80.1	Cannons Close Play Area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
83.1	Hertford Castle Play Area	LEAP	Hertford
84.1	Sworders Field Adventure Playground	NEAP	Bishop's Stortford
84.2	Sworders Field Half MUGA	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
84.3	Sworders Field Playground	NEAP	Bishop's Stortford
84.4	Sworders Field, Castle Skate Park	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
85.1	Cecil Road play area 1	LAP	Hertford
85.2	Cecil Road Youth Area	Casual play	Hertford
85.3	Cecil Road play area 2	LEAP	Hertford
87.1	Cole Way/Stephenson Drive play area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
93.1	Norman Wodson Sports Field Playground	LEAP	South Western Rural Area
99.1	Cottered Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
106	Crouch Gardens Play Area	LEAP	Buntingford
113.1	Datchworth Green Playground, adj to Datchworth Sports Club	LAP	North Western Rural Area
114	Dellfields Play Area	LAP	South Western Rural Area
115.1	Dimsdale Crescent play area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
115.2	Dimsdale Crescent basketball area	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
119	Edens Mount play area	LEAP	Sawbridgeworth
125.1	Foxholes play area	LEAP	Hertford
125.2	Foxholes Avenue play area	LEAP	Hertford
126.1	Gage Gardens/Taplow Avenue play area	LEAP	Hertford
130	Gladstone Road play area	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
136.1	Great Innings Play Area	LAP	Watton-at-Stone
136.2	Great Innings Youth Area	Casual play	Watton-at-Stone
141.1	Giffin Way play area	LEAP	Sawbridgeworth
147.1	Hare Street Playground	LAP	North Western Rural Area
149.1	Hare Street Road Play Area	LEAP	Buntingford
149.2	Hare Street Road Playing Field outdoor gym	Casual play	Buntingford
152.1	Hartham Playground	NEAP	Hertford
152.2	Hartham Common Skate Park	NEAP	Hertford
152.3	Hartham Common Play Area (Older Children)	NEAP	Hertford
159.1	Wodson Park Playground	LEAP	Ware
159.2	Wodson Park Youth Area	Casual play	Ware
170.1	Walkern Play Area	LEAP	Walkern
180.1	High Wych Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	Eastern Rural Area
182	Hillside Crescent play area	LEAP	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets

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Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area
188.1	Dane End Recreation Play Area	LAP	North Western Rural Area
188.2	Dane End Recreation Basketball	Casual play	North Western Rural Area
189.1	Hunsdon Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	Hunsdon
189.2	Hunsdon Recreation Youth shelter	Casual play	Hunsdon
192.1	Pinehurst Recreation Ground play area 1	LEAP	Hertford
192.2	Pinehurst Recreation Ground play Area 2	LEAP	Hertford
192.3	Pinehurst Recreation Ground Half MUGA	Casual play	Hertford
196.1	King George Playground 1	LEAP	Ware
196.2	King George Playground 2	LEAP	Ware
196.3	King George MUGA	Casual play	Ware
200.1	Kingham Road play area	LEAP	South Western Rural Area
204	Knebworth Court play area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
205.1	Lady Margaret Gardens older children's play area	LEAP	Ware
205.2	Lady Margaret Gardens MUGA	Casual play	Ware
205.3	Lady Margaret Gardens play area 2	LAP	Ware
208.1	Lawrence Avenue Play Area	LAP	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
209.1	Layston Court Gardens Shelter	Casual play	Buntingford
213	Lilbourne Drive Play Area	LAP	Hertford
216.1	Little Berkhamstead Rec Ground Play Area	LAP	South Western Rural Area
220.1	Little Hadham Playground	LAP	Eastern Rural Area
220.2	Little Hadham Basketball	Casual play	Eastern Rural Area
221.1	Village Hall Playground	LEAP	Eastern Rural Area
221.2	Village Hall Half MUGA	Casual play	Eastern Rural Area
228.1	Lower Bourne Playground	LEAP	Ware
241	Miles Way play area	LEAP	Buntingford
245.1	Millmead play area 1	LEAP	Hertford
245.2	Millmead play area 2	LAP	Hertford
252.1	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Play Area	LEAP	Much Hadham
252.2	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Youth Area	Casual play	Much Hadham
259.1	Newland Avenue play area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
261.1	Buntingford Skate Park	Casual play	Buntingford
261.2	Norfolk Road interactive football wall	Casual play	Buntingford
261.3	Norfolk Road Play Area	LEAP	Buntingford
261.4	Norfolk Road Pump Track	Casual play	Buntingford
262	North Drive LAP	LAP	South Western Rural Area
264.1	St Michaels Mead play area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford

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Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area
264.2	St Michaels Mead Youth Area	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
265.1	Northolt Avenue Play Area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
267.1	Nutcroft Open Space play area	LAP	North Western Rural Area
274.1	Parsonage Lane play area 1	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
274.2	Parsonage Lane play area 2	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
274.3	Parsonage Lane football goals	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
274.4	Parsonage Lane basketball	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
279.2	The Pilgrams play area	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
284.1	Presdales Drive Play Area	LEAP	Ware
287.1	Priory Gardens MUGA	Casual play	Ware
287.2	Priory Gardens outdoor gym	Casual play	Ware
287.3	Priory Gardens youth shelter	Casual play	Ware
287.5	Ware Skate Park	Casual play	Ware
298	Ridgeway/NNW/Bentley play area	LEAP	Hertford
309.1	Sacombe Road play area	LEAP	Hertford
309.2	Sacombe Road Basketball	Casual play	Hertford
319	School Lane Play Area	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
321.1	Seth Ward Playing Field Play Area	LEAP	Buntingford
321.2	Seth Ward Playing Field outdoor gym	Casual play	Buntingford
323.1	Sheering Mill Lane Play Area	LEAP	Sawbridgeworth
324.1	South of Hadham Road (northern play area)	LAP	Bishop's Stortford
326	South of Hadham Road (southern play area)	LAP	Bishop's Stortford
328.1	Southern Country Park Play Area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
328.2	Southern Country Park Youth Area	NEAP	Bishop's Stortford
332.1	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields Play Area	NEAP	Standon and Puckeridge
332.2	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields Skate Park	Casual play	Standon and Puckeridge
375.1	High Street Playground	LEAP	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
375.2	High Street Youth Area	Casual play	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
379.1	Stapleford Playground	LAP	South Western Rural Area
379.2	Stapleford Basketball area	Casual play	South Western Rural Area
387.1	Tonwell Playing Fields Playground	LAP	South Western Rural Area
388.1	Terlings Park play area	LAP	Eastern Rural Area
395.1	The Bourne Play Area	LEAP	Ware
395.2	The Bourne Play Area (older Children)	LEAP	Ware

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Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area
396.1	Albury Playing Fields Play Area	LEAP	Eastern Rural Area
402.1	Tanners Way Play Area	Casual play	Hunsdon
404.1	The Granary Play Area	LAP	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
411.1	Ridgeway play area	LEAP	Hertford
411.2	Ridgeway MUGA	Casual play	Hertford
413.1	The Springs/Rowley Road play area	LEAP	Hertford
413.2	Rowleys Road Youth Area	Casual play	Hertford
422.1	Lower Park Crescent Play Area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
422.2	Lower Park Crescent Youth Area	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
422.3	Thorley Park Playground	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
422.4	Thorley Park Youth Area	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
431.1	Trinity Road Playground	LEAP	Hertford Heath
431.2	Trinity Road Youth Area	Casual play	Hertford Heath
432.1	Trinity Street play area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
434.1	Truswell Crescent play area	LAP	Sawbridgeworth
439.1	Turkey Farm Play Area	LEAP	North Western Rural Area
439.2	Turkey Farm MUGA	Casual play	North Western Rural Area
440.1	Turners Crescent Play Area	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
442.1	Tewin Upper Green Play Area	LEAP	South Western Rural Area
444.1	Vantorts Close Play Area	LEAP	Sawbridgeworth
444.2	Vantorts Close Skate park and basketball area	Casual play	Sawbridgeworth
454.1	High Street Playing Fields Playground	LAP	Walkern
457.1	Ward Crescent Playground	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
457.2	Ward Crescent Youth Area	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
466.1	Waterford Playground	LEAP	South Western Rural Area
466.2	Waterford Basketball	Casual play	South Western Rural Area
467.1	Watermill Lane Play Area	LEAP	Hertford
469.1	Watton at Stone Playing Fields Play Area	Casual play	Watton-at-Stone
469.2	Watton-at Stone Play area	LEAP	Watton-at-Stone
476.1	Waytemore Road play area 1	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford
476.2	Waytemore Road play area 2	Casual play	Bishop's Stortford
477.1	West Road play area	LEAP	Sawbridgeworth
486.1	Wilson Close play area	LAP	Bishop's Stortford
490	Woodhouse Lane play area	LAP	Hertford
494	Yearling Close Playground	LAP	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
495	St James Park Playground	LEAP	Bishop's Stortford

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Site ID	Site name	Sub-typology	Analysis area
571	Farm Close play area	LAP	Ware
582	Arthur Martin-Leake Way play area	LAP	South Western Rural Area

Mapping identifies that there is generally a good distribution of play provision. The focus should therefore be on continuing to ensure access to good quality and diverse play provision.

It is important to note that while the map may suggest a gap exists within an analysis area, these 'gaps' are in areas of low population density. For example, a gap in catchment mapping is observed to the north of the Sawbridgeworth Analysis Area. However, this part of the analysis area is sparsely populated and outside of the Sawbridgeworth settlement. The main concentration of population is focused on the centre of the analysis area, where the actual settlement is positioned. Consequently, this area is well served by existing provision with catchment areas covering the denser population.

However, the distribution in subtypes of play suggests some types of provision may be lacking in certain areas. For example, there are eight play areas classified as NEAPs, which predominantly cater for older children. These are mainly concentrated within the main settlements of Hertford and Bishop's Stortford (each accommodating three sites). The more rural settlement of Standon and Puckeridge also provides two NEAPs.

This distribution indicates that provision for older children is more strongly focused within the larger towns, with comparatively limited access in smaller villages, which may highlight a gap in provision across more rural parts of the area.

Table 7.3: Play provision in each analysis area

Analysis area	LAP	LEAP	CASUAL PLAY	NEAP	TOTAL
Bishop's Stortford	4	22	12	3	41
Braughing	-	1	1	-	2
Buntingford	-	5	6	-	11
Eastern Rural Area	3	3	4	-	10
Hertford	5	14	6	3	28
Hertford Heath	-	1	1	-	2
Hunsdon	-	1	2	-	3
Much Hadham	-	1	1	-	2
North Western Rural Area	4	9	3	-	16
Sawbridgeworth	1	6	2	-	9
South Western Rural Area	7	7	4	-	18
Standon and Puckeridge	-	-	-	2	2
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	3	2	1	-	6
Walkern	1	2	-	-	3

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Analysis area	LAP	LEAP	CASUAL PLAY	NEAP	TOTAL
Ware	2	10	7	-	19
Watton-at-Stone	1	1	2	-	4
	31	85	52	8	176

The table highlights some spatial variation in play provision across the district, particularly between the main market towns, villages, and rural areas. Larger settlements such as Bishop's Stortford and Hertford have the most amount and comprehensive range in provision. They have the highest overall totals for provision, with 41 and 28, respectively. Both also contain all forms of sub play types including three NEAPs. Furthermore, a new play area classified as a LEAP has opened in the north of Bishop's Stortford.

Of the five main towns, only Bishop's Stortford and Hertford have NEAPs; suggesting NEAP provision is limited geographically.

Buntingford is noted as having no LAPs or NEAPs but has LEAP and Casual Play provision. Ware is noted as having two LAP play areas; however, it has a good amount of LEAP and Casual Play provision. Sawbridgeworth also has no NEAP level provision. The town also has a noticeably smaller number of play sites in comparison to other market towns. An option in Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth could be to upgrade a form of LEAP provision to a NEAP.

At the village level, provision is generally more limited with less variety. Villages such as Braughing, Hertford Heath, Hunsdon, Much Hadham, Standon and Puckeridge, and Walkern, and Watton-at-Stone all have less than five play sites. Although lower in number of sites, the villages still tend to have access to LEAP and Casual Play provision.

Overall, the analysis shows that while there are disparities in play provision between the market towns, villages, and rural areas; this is understandable and reflective of population distribution. All market towns and villages typically have access to a form of provision, with access to NEAPs mostly found only in market towns. There is generally a good distribution of LEAPs and Casual Play provision across settlements. The lower number of NEAPs could suggest an opportunity to explore expanding some LEAP sites.

7.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by best practice); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision. A threshold of 55% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

There are eight play sites which do not receive a quality rating due to being identified and included late in the audit.

Table 7.3: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Bishop's Stortford	17%	52%	76%	16	20
Braughing	70%	70%	70%	0	2
Buntingford	74%	74%	83%	1	10

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Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Hertford	29%	68%	84%	3	24
Hertford Heath	42%	59%	76%	1	1
Hunsdon	47%	62%	76%	1	2
Much Hadham	55%	55%	55%	0	2
North Western Rural Area	23%	47%	75%	9	7
Eastern Rural Area	40%	60%	76%	5	5
South Western Rural Area	21%	51%	77%	9	8
Sawbridgeworth	53%	62%	70%	2	7
Standon and Puckeridge	49%	64%	80%	1	1
Stanstead Abbotts and St Margarets	70%	74%	79%	0	6
Walkern	32%	53%	74%	2	1
Ware	29%	60%	82%	4	14
Watton-at-Stone	27%	59%	74%	1	3
East Hertfordshire	17%	59%	84%	55	113

Nearly two-thirds (67%) of assessed play sites rate above the quality threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Hartham Playground (84%)
- ◀ Seth Ward Playing Field Play Area (82%)
- ◀ Ridgeway/Bentley Play Area (82%)
- ◀ Buryfield Recreation Ground Play Area (82%)
- ◀ Puckeridge & Standon playing fields Play Area (80%)

These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the site's cleanliness), seating, signage and good quality play equipment. The sites generally offer a variety of equipment in good condition/quality. All score highly for maintenance, drainage and sufficient disabled access. Hartham Playground, Seth Ward Playing Field, Play Area and Puckeridge & Standon playing fields Play Area have the additional benefit of car parking.

There are 55 (33%) assessed sites rating below the threshold. Sites rated lower for quality are often due to maintenance/appearance observations and/or the range and quality of equipment on site. Some of the lower-scoring sites are:

- ◀ Lower Park Crescent Youth Area (20%)
- ◀ Waterford Basketball (21%)
- ◀ Knebworth Court Play Area (22%)

All three sites score low for general site appearance, surface quality, and equipment quality. Moreover, they lack signage and/or seating and score low for controls to prevent illegal use (i.e. fencing, natural surveillance). Lower Park Crescent Youth Area and Knebworth Court Play Area are observed as uninviting with missing equipment. All are noted as scoring lower for overall appearance, surface and equipment quality.

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Parish and Town Council responses highlight a few instances of tired equipment. Albury Parish Council states plans to install new equipment within their play area as the existing provision is tired. Anstey Parish Council mention local play equipment will need refurbishing within the next five years. Aspenden Parish Council note a lack of play equipment to cater for older children. Bengeo Parish Council also suggest play equipment is tired. Datchworth Parish Council cite that Nutcroft Play Area is planned to be developed as it is currently derelict. Stanstead St Margarets Parish Council state there was an unofficial skate ramp under the flyover of the A414 in the St Margaret's Community Woods but that this was removed by the authorities.

7.5 Value

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

There are eight play sites that do not receive a value rating due to being identified and included late in the audit.

Table 7.4: Value ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Bishop's Stortford	13%	45%	91%	3	33
Braughing	47%	47%	47%	0	2
Buntingford	38%	54%	60%	0	11
Hertford	20%	47%	60%	0	27
Hertford Heath	38%	46%	51%	0	2
Hunsdon	20%	39%	51%	0	3
Much Hadham	47%	47%	47%	0	2
North Western Rural Area	13%	34%	47%	5	11
Eastern Rural Area	35%	45%	51%	0	10
South Western Rural Area	13%	36%	51%	4	13
Sawbridgeworth	47%	52%	60%	0	9
Standon and Puckeridge	51%	60%	69%	0	2
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	47%	50%	51%	0	6
Walkern	16%	29%	51%	1	2
Ware	16%	49%	63%	1	17
Watton-at-Stone	16%	51%	69%	1	3
East Hertfordshire	13%	45%	91%	15	153

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Nearly all assessed play provision (91%) is rated as being above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the role play provision provides in allowing children to play, but also the contribution sites make in terms of giving children and young people safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

There are 15 sites to rate below the value threshold. This is often due to featuring limited equipment and/or ancillary features and is therefore potentially of lower value and use. Of the 15 sites to rate below the value threshold, 14 also rate below the quality threshold.

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

- ◀ Sworders Field Playground (91%)
- ◀ St James Park Playground (91%)
- ◀ Southern Country Park Play Area (78%)
- ◀ Sworders Field Adventure Playground (78%)

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

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact the value. Provisions such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play. It should be noted that there are plans to develop a pump track in Castle Park, which will further increase the value of the site.

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

Play provision should be designed to ensure it is inclusive and welcoming to all children, including girls and children with disabilities, who may experience barriers to participation. Emerging research on "spaces for girls" suggests that traditional playgrounds can unintentionally prioritise competitive or sport-focused equipment, which may not reflect the diverse play preferences of all children. Facilities such as multi-user swings, social seating areas, performance spaces, and flexible, open-ended equipment can better support cooperative, imaginative and social play.

Inclusive design must also consider accessible surfacing, step-free routes, wheelchair-accessible equipment, sensory features, and ground-level play elements. Design should therefore form a key part of new play offers. Truly high-quality play spaces enable children of different genders and abilities to play together equitably rather than in isolation.

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are 176 play sites identified, a total of over 11 hectares.
- ◀ Overall, East Hertfordshire has a current provision level of 0.08 hectares per 1000 population, which falls below the 0.25 and 0.30 benchmarks.
- ◀ Mapping identifies that there is a generally good distribution of play provision with access to at least a form of provision observed across settlements. There are 52 casual play areas, 31 LAPs, 85 LEAPs, and eight NEAPs across East Herts. The low number of NEAP sites could suggest an opportunity to explore expanding some forms of LEAP provision.
- ◀ A greater proportion of play sites (67%) rate above the threshold for quality. Lower-quality scoring sites tend to reflect a lack of and/or a limited range of equipment and/or its general condition.
- ◀ Nearly all (91%) of play provision is above the threshold for value; reflecting the social, healthy and developmental benefits provision can provide.

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PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

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

8.2 Current provision

There are 50 sites classified as allotments, equating to 40 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments, and as such, all known provisions are identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotments

Analysis area	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Bishop's Stortford	10	9.39	0.22
Braughing	1	0.48	0.36
Buntingford	2	1.79	0.28
Hertford	11	10.25	0.35
Hertford Heath	1	0.72	0.44
Hunsdon	1	0.32	0.15
Much Hadham	1	0.75	0.44
North Western Rural Area	4	1.18	0.14
Eastern Rural Area	3	0.76	0.14
South Western Rural Area	4	2.80	0.33
Sawbridgeworth	5	3.30	0.37
Standon and Puckeridge	1	2.26	0.49
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	2	1.03	0.33
Walkern	1	0.54	0.19
Ware	2	3.30	0.17
Watton-at-Stone	1	1.30	0.50
East Hertfordshire	50	40.20	0.27

Aston Allotment (ID 14) closed at the end of 2025. The land was allowed to be used as allotments by the private landowner. However, notice was given to tenants to vacate, and the land has returned to private use. Aston Parish Council confirmed in early 2026 that there is currently no demand for allotments in the parish.

Hallingbury Road East allotment is technically outside the boundaries of East Hertfordshire. However, it is managed by Bishop's Stortford Town Council and therefore included in the figures.

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

Based on East Hertfordshire's current population (151,635), it does meet the NSALG standard. This is also the case for the nine analysis areas. Noticeably, the market town of Ware is below this.

Allotments have not been assessed via site visits in this study. They can be difficult to assess due to being accessible by plot holders only, can be hidden and often feature fencing and locked gates. Known quality information derived from parish/town council feedback is displayed in Table 8.3.

Allotments are generally considered valuable and reflect the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.

Although no quality assessment of allotment sites has been undertaken, comments from the Parish and Town Councils should be taken into consideration to help inform future needs. For example, secure fencing around all sites, secure and stable sheds, a fresh water supply, and maintenance of plots are common requirements.

Specific parish/town council responses include Albury Parish Council stating that a fresh water supply is needed. Braughing Parish Council note overgrown plots, wildlife eating crops, children having access to the allotments, dog fouling, and no fencing as issues. Standon Parish Council note many of its allotments are now abandoned. Ware Town Council highlight a few issues, including petty theft from tool sheds.

Jean's Orchard, in Ware, is not included within the study or analysis. Although the site contributes to local food-growing activities, such as planting fruit trees, it is only open on certain days/times of the year. Nevertheless, the site is acknowledged as part of the wider network of spaces and is recognised for its local significance.

A new allotment in Bishop's Stortford, on the corner of Cricketfield Lane and Dane O'Coys, is currently under construction. This new allotment site will increase the provision within the Bishop's Stortford Analysis Area. It is understood the site will include 18 private plots and three community plots.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1, overleaf, shows the locations of allotment sites. No accessibility standard is applied to allotment provision.

The supply and location of allotment provision within an area are best determined by demand, for example, the number of plots in use and waiting lists. Such information can be seen in Table 8.3.

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Figure 8.1: Location of allotment provision

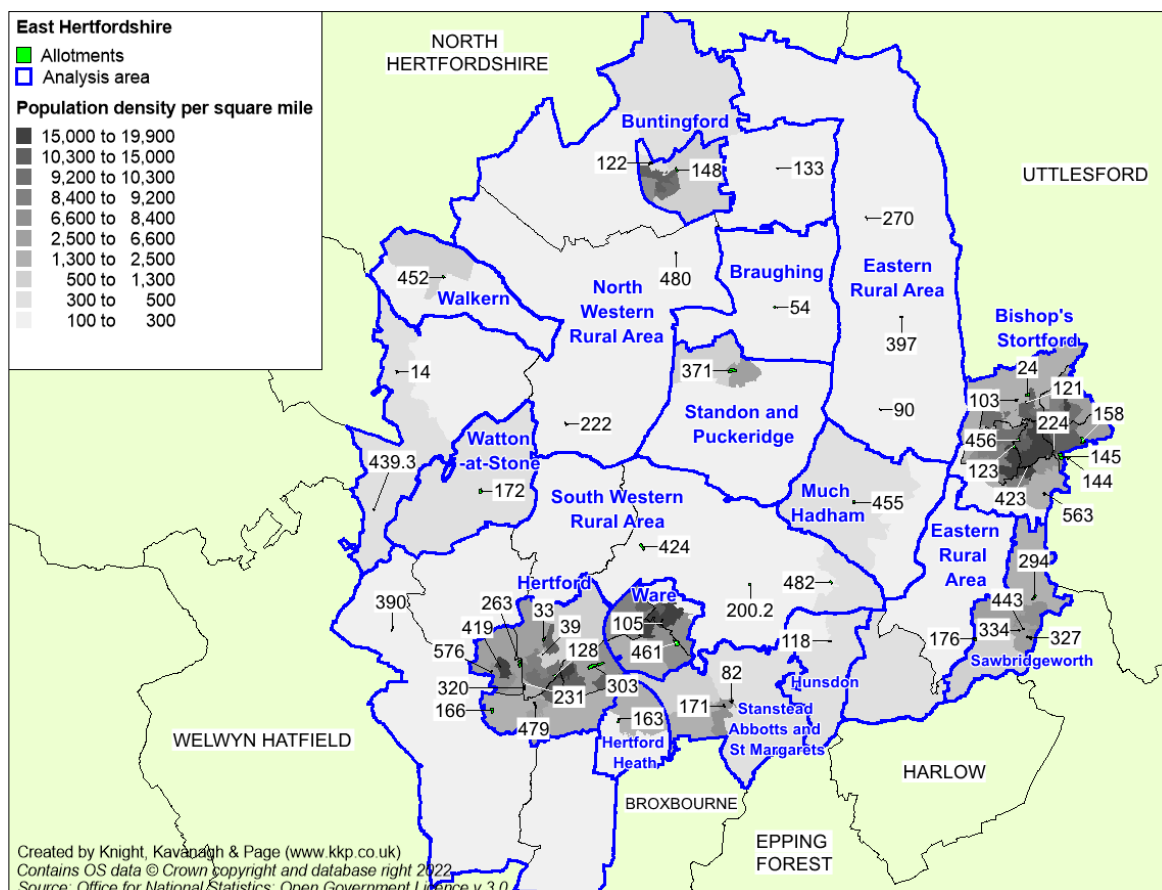


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
14	Aston Allotments*	North Western Rural Area
24	Barrells Down Road Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
33	Bengeo Allotments, Wadesmill Road	Hertford
39	Bengeo Community Garden	Hertford
54	Braughing Allotments	Braughing
82	Cappel Lane Allotments	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
90	Chapel Lane Allotments	Eastern Rural Area
103	Cricketfield Lane Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
105	Crosspath Field Allotments	Ware
118	Drury Lane	Hunsdon
121	Elm Road Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
122	Ermine Street Allotments	Buntingford
123	Ward Crescent Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
128	Frampton Street Allotments	Hertford
133	Great Hormead Allotments	North Western Rural Area

* Closed at end of 2025

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
145	Hallingbury Road West Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
148	Hare Street Road Allotments	Buntingford
158	Haymeads Lane Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
163	Hertford Heath Allotments	Hertford Heath
166	Hertfordbury Allotments	Hertford
171	High Street Allotments	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
172	Glebe Court Allotments, Watton-at-Stone	Watton-at-Stone
176	High Wych Allotments	Sawbridgeworth
200.2	Babbs Green Allotments	South Western Rural Area
222	Little Munden Allotments	North Western Rural Area
224	London Road Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
231	Lovely Grub Garden	Hertford
263	North Road Allotments	Hertford
270	Off the Street Allotments, Furneux Pelham	Eastern Rural Area
294	Reedings Way Allotments	Sawbridgeworth
303	Cromwell Road Allotments	Hertford
320	Sele Road Allotments	Hertford
327	Southbrook Allotments	Sawbridgeworth
334	Bellmead Allotments	Sawbridgeworth
371	Standon Allotments	Standon and Puckeridge
390	Tewin Allotments	South Western Rural Area
397	The Bourne Allotments	Eastern Rural Area
419	Thieves Lane Community Garden	Hertford
423	Thornbera Road Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
424	Thundridge Allotments	South Western Rural Area
439.3	Turkey Farm Allotments	North Western Rural Area
443	Vantorts Close Allotments	Sawbridgeworth
452	Walkern Allotments	Walkern
455	Walnut Close Allotments	Much Hadham
456	The Firs Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
461	Warehouse Field Allotments	Ware
479	West Street Allotments	Hertford
480	Westmill Allotments	North Western Rural Area
482	Widford Allotments	South Western Rural Area
563	Thorley Street Allotments	Bishop's Stortford
576	Norwood Close Allotments	Hertford

The known waiting lists, plot numbers and other related information are provided by parish and town councils through consultation (Table 8.3). It is also important to note that information can change, and the figures are correct at the time of consultation (between September 2024 and March 2025).

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In total, there are circa 1,897 plots identified across sites. There are also approximately 157 people on waiting lists. This suggests that demand, particularly in larger settlements, continues to exist.

Table 8.3 shows that there is more of a demand for plots within the main settlements of East Hertfordshire. This demand results in the presence of waiting lists. As the main settlements have greater levels of population, it makes sense that they have greater levels of demand compared to those more rural settlements.

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Table 8.3: Allotment plot numbers, waiting lists and other information (where known)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of plots	Waiting lists	Water Supply	Comments
-	Aston Allotments	-	-	-	-	The site is now closed.
24	Barrells Down Road Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	71	0	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
33	Bengeo Allotments, Wadesmill Road	Hertford	78	32	Yes	Hertford Town Council own. Note as good quality.
54	Braughing Allotments	Braughing	31	0	?	Braughing Parish Council has some issues due to lack of fencing.
90	Chapel Lane Allotments	Eastern Rural Area	?	?	?	Little Hadham Parish Council note as good quality.
103	Cricketfield Lane Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	46	0	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
105	Crosspath Field Allotments	Ware	80	0	Yes	Ware Town Council notes as good quality.
121	Elm Road Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	7	1	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
123	Ward Crescent Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	93	9	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
128	Frampton Street Allotments	Hertford	53	23	Yes	Hertford Town Council own. Also known as The Folly.
145	Hallingbury Road West Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	136	7	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
148	Hare Street Road Allotments	Buntingford	50	10	Yes	Buntingford Town Council note as good quality.
158	Haymeads Lane Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	131	8	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
163	Hertford Heath Allotments	Hertford Heath	44	0	Yes	Hertford Heath Parish Council note as good quality.
166	Hertinfordbury Allotments	Hertford	103	14	Yes	Hertford Town Council note as good quality.
172	Glebe Court Allotments	Watton-at-Stone	42	0	Yes	Watton-at-Stone Parish Council note as adequate quality.
222	Little Munden Allotments	North Western Rural Area	12	0	Yes	Little Munden Parish Council site.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of plots	Waiting lists	Water Supply	Comments
224	London Road Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	7	8	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
263	North Road Allotments	Hertford	100	7	Yes	Hertford Town Council note as good quality. Includes raised beds.
294	Reedings Way Allotments	Sawbridgeworth	?	?	Yes	Sawbridgeworth Town Council site.
303	Cromwell Road Allotments	Hertford	271	10	Yes	Hertford Town Council notes as good quality. Includes raised beds which are also used by local charity for young people with additional needs.
320	Sele Road Allotments	Hertford	18	4	Yes	Hertford Town Council notes as good quality.
327	Southbrook Allotments	Sawbridgeworth	40	0	Yes	Sawbridgeworth Town Council notes as good quality. Regular events.
334	Bellmead Allotments	Sawbridgeworth	12	0	Yes	Sawbridgeworth Town Council notes as good quality. All half plots.
371	Standon Allotments	Standon and Puckeridge	80	0	Yes	Standon Parish Council rents from Standon Charities. Notes it needs improvement as some plots not in use.
397	The Bourne Allotments	Eastern Rural Area	10	0	No	Albury Parish Council notes lack of water supply for tenants to use.
423	Thornbera Road Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	66	6	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
439.3	Turkey Farm Allotments	North Western Rural Area	21	0	Yes	Datchworth Parish Council site.
443	Vantorts Close Allotments	Sawbridgeworth	10	?	Yes	Sawbridgeworth Town Council notes as good quality.
456	The Firs Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	55	7	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.
461	Warehouse Field Allotments	Ware	120	?	No	Ware Town Council site. Community orchard and 3 beehives. Some issues of petty theft
480	Westmill Allotments	North Western Rural Area	?	?	?	Westmill Parish Council notes as good quality.
563	Thorley Street Allotments	Bishop's Stortford	42	5	Yes	Bishop's Stortford Town Council site.

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8.4 Summary

Allotment summary

- ◀ There are 50 allotment sites, equating to more than 40 hectares.
- ◀ Current overall provision of 0.27 ha per 1,000 population is above NSALG (0.25 ha per 1000 people).
- ◀ There are circa 1,897 plots identified across sites. There are also approximately 157 people on waiting lists. This suggests that demand is high, particularly in larger settlements.
- ◀ The value of allotments is widely recognised due to the associated social inclusion, health benefits and the sense of place they offer.

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PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

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

9.2 Current provision

There are 65 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 54 hectares of provision. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries and churchyards

Analysis area	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Bishop's Stortford	5	7.40
Braughing	1	0.89
Buntingford	2	2.24
Hertford	6	8.76
Hertford Heath	1	0.39
Hunsdon	2	0.54
Much Hadham	2	0.90
North Western Rural Area	13	14.60
Eastern Rural Area	10	4.25
South Western Rural Area	10	4.63
Sawbridgeworth	2	2.59
Standon and Puckeridge	2	1.30
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	3	0.65
Walkern	2	0.77
Ware	3	5.04
Watton-at-Stone	1	0.69
East Hertfordshire	65	55.62

The largest contributor to burial provision is Harwood Park Crematorium (9.2 hectares) north of Datchworth in the North Western Rural Analysis Area. Followed by Hertford Cemetery (4.6 hectares) and Ware Cemetery (4.5 hectares) in the Hertford and Ware analysis areas respectively.

9.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should be based on burial demand. Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries and churchyards mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 9.1: Location of cemetery/churchyard sites

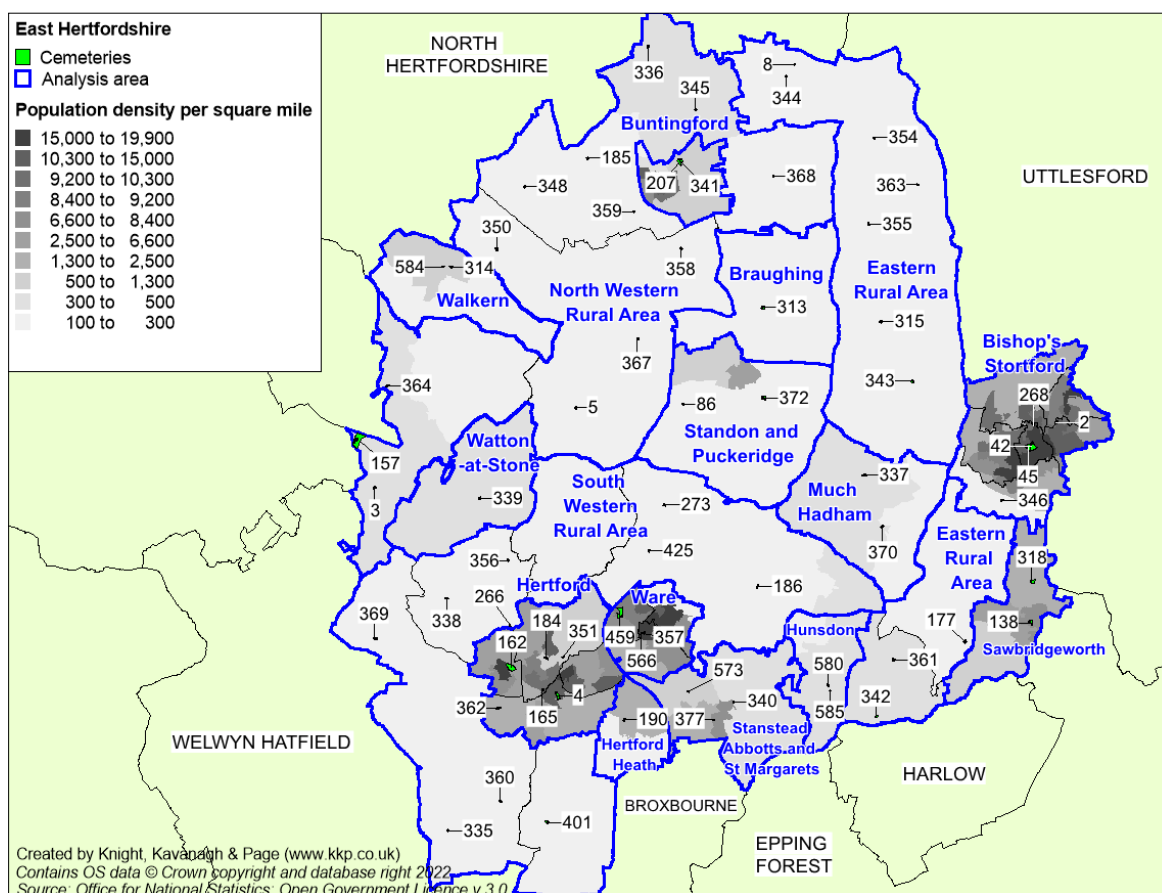


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
2	All Saints Church, Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford
3	All Saints Church, Datchworth	North Western Rural Area
4	All Saints Church, Hertford	Hertford
5	All Saints Church, Little Munden	North Western Rural Area
8	Anstey Chapel	Eastern Rural Area
42	Bishop's Stortford Old Cemetery	Bishop's Stortford
45	Bishop's Stortford New Cemetery	Bishop's Stortford
86	Catholic Church of St Edmund of Canterbury and the English Martyrs	Standon and Puckeridge
138	Great St Mary's Church, Sawbridgeworth	Sawbridgeworth
157	Harwood Park Crematorium	North Western Rural Area
162	Hertford Cemetery	Hertford
165	Hertford St Andrew's Church	Hertford
177	High Wych Church	Eastern Rural Area
184	Holy Trinity, Bengoe	Hertford

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
185	Holy Trinity, Throcking	North Western Rural Area
186	Holy Trinity, Wareside	South Western Rural Area
190	Holy Trinity Church, Hertford Heath	Hertford Heath
207	Layston Cemetery	Buntingford
266	St Michael & All Angels, Waterford	South Western Rural Area
268	St Michael's Church Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford
273	Parish Church of Saint John's High Cross	South Western Rural Area
313	Saint Mary The Virgin, Braughing	Braughing
314	Saint Mary's Church, Walkern	Walkern
315	Saint Mary's, Albury	Eastern Rural Area
318	Three Mile Pond Cemetery	Sawbridgeworth
335	St Andrew C of E Church, Little Berkhamstead	South Western Rural Area
336	St Andrew's Church, Buckland	North Western Rural Area
337	St Andrew's Church, Much Hadham	Much Hadham
338	St Andrew, Bramfield	South Western Rural Area
339	St Andrews and St Marys Church	Watton-at-Stone
340	St Andrews Church	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
341	St Bartholmew's Layston Church	Buntingford
342	St Botolph Church	Eastern Rural Area
343	St Cecilia's Church	Eastern Rural Area
344	St George's Church Anstey	Eastern Rural Area
345	St Giles Church	North Western Rural Area
346	St James and Barnabas Cemetery	Bishop's Stortford
348	St John the Baptist Church	North Western Rural Area
350	St Lawrence, Ardeley	North Western Rural Area
351	St Leonard's Church, Bengoe	Hertford
354	St Mary the Virgin Church, Brent Pelham	Eastern Rural Area
355	St Mary the Virgin, Furneux Pelham	Eastern Rural Area
356	St Mary the Virgin, Stapleford	South Western Rural Area
357	St Mary the Virgin, Ware	Ware
358	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill	North Western Rural Area
359	St Mary's Church, Aspenden	North Western Rural Area
360	St Mary's Church, Bayford	South Western Rural Area
361	St Mary's Church, Gilston	Eastern Rural Area
362	St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury	Hertford
363	St Mary's Church, Stocking Pelham	Eastern Rural Area
364	St Mary's, Aston	North Western Rural Area
367	St Nicholas Church, Great Munden	North Western Rural Area
368	St Nicholas Church, Hormead	North Western Rural Area

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area
369	St Peters Church, Tewin	South Western Rural Area
370	St Thomas' Cemetery	Much Hadham
372	St Mary's Church Standon	Standon and Puckeridge
377	Stanstead St Margaret's Parish Church	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
401	The Chapel of the Holy Cross & St Alban	South Western Rural Area
425	Thundridge Church	South Western Rural Area
459	Ware Cemetery	Ware
566	Ware War Memorial	Ware
573	St John the Baptist, Great Amwell	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets
580	Hunsdon St. Dunstan Churchyard	Hunsdon
584	Walkern United Free Church	Walkern
585	St Dunstans Cemetery	Hunsdon

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

There are five cemetery sites identified as active and serving the area. A summary of their burial capacity is set out below. No other burial capacity issues are highlighted as part of the consultation with parish and town councils.

Table 9.3: Burial capacity information

ID	Site name	Burial capacity
45	Bishop's Stortford New Cemetery	Bishop's Stortford Town Council cite 20 years remaining burial capacity.
162	Hertford Cemetery	Hertford Town Council cite 1,380 out of 4,400 burial spaces remain.
207	Layston Cemetery	Buntingford Town Council cite circa 1,000 burial spaces remain.
318	Three Mile Pond Cemetery	Sawbridgeworth Town Council cite 20-25 years remaining burial capacity.
459	Ware Cemetery	Ware Town Council cite 40 years remaining burial capacity. Need to create a new child burial area as existing is getting full.

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

9.4 Summary

Cemeteries summary

- ◀ There are 65 cemetery sites, equating to more than 55 hectares.
- ◀ The largest site is Harwood Park Crematorium (9.2 hectares), followed by Hertford Cemetery (4.6 hectares).
- ◀ Cemeteries and churchyards can often offer important low-impact recreational benefits to the local area, such as habitat provision, wildlife watching, and contemplation.
- ◀ No standards are set for cemeteries. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 10: PROVISION STANDARDS

Building on the assessment work, provision standards used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space are set in terms of quality, accessibility, and quantity. This will help inform future planning policy and decision-making for the provision of open space in East Herts.

10.1: Quality and value

Most types of open space receive a separate quality and value rating. This allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to inform prioritisation of investment and, if needed, to help determine if sites may be surplus as a particular open space type.

Quality and value matrix

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces can be used to identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which require enhancement and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose.

When analysing the quality/value of a site, it should be done in conjunction with regard to the quantity and/or accessibility of provision in the area (i.e., whether there is a deficiency).

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

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

There is a need for flexibility in the enhancement of low-quality sites. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance sites where it is not appropriate or cost-effective to do so.

Please refer to Appendix Two for the list of assessed sites by typology.

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10.2: Accessibility

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

Table 10.2.1: Accessibility catchments

Open space type	Catchment
Parks & gardens	9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity greenspace	6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people (LAP)	1-minute walk time (100m)
Provision for children and young people (LEAP)	5-minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people (NEAP)	12.5-minute walk time (1000m)
Provision for children and young people (Casual e.g., MUGA, skate park)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments	No standard set
Cemeteries	No standard set

No catchments are suggested for allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, it is better to determine the need for provision based on locally known demand. For allotments, there has historically been no catchment recommended. Travel behaviour can vary significantly depending on individual circumstances and site availability. Waiting list data provides a more reliable indicator of demand, as it offers quantifiable evidence of interest in allotment provision.

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

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

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

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

It is important to note that while a map may suggest a gap exists within an analysis area, these 'gaps' are in areas of low population density. For example, a gap in catchment mapping may be observed to the north of the Sawbridgeworth Analysis Area. However, this part of the analysis area is sparsely populated and outside of the Sawbridgeworth settlement. The main concentration of population is focused on the centre of the analysis area, where the actual settlement is positioned. Consequently, this area is well served by existing provision with catchment areas covering the denser population. In such situations, no significant gap is noted against the analysis area.

Table 10.1.2: Sites helping to serve gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Bishop's Stortford (North)	Bat Willow Hurst Country Park (ID 25) Birchanger Wood (ID 40) Cole Way/Stephenson Drive (ID 87) Cricketfield Lane (ID 102) Dane O'Coys (ID 109) Hoggate's Wood (ID 183) Morbury Avenue (ID 246) Newland Avenue (ID 259) Northolt Avenue (ID 265) Red, White and Blue Country Park (ID 293)	Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural
Bishop's Stortford (South)	Great Hadham Park Woodland (ID 132) Northern Parkland (ID 264) Southern Country Park (ID 328) Thorley Cricket Club (ID 418) Thorley Wedge (ID 422) Cox's Garden (ID 511)	Natural Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural
Braughing (North)	Braughing Community Orchard (ID 55) Braughing Playing Fields (ID 56) Church End AGS (ID 91)	Natural Amenity Amenity
Buntingford (North)	Norfolk Road Playing Field (ID 261)	Amenity
Buntingford (South)	Hare Street Road Playing Field (ID149) Hare Street Road Wildlife Area (ID 151) Monks Walk, Buntingford (ID 247) Seth Ward Playing Field (ID 321) The Watermill (ID 416)	Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural
Hertford (North)	Foxholes (ID 125) Millmead (ID 245) Vixen Drive (ID 450) Willowmead Nature Reserve (ID 485)	Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Natural
Hertford (South)	Morgan's Walk Woodland (ID 249) Bullocks Lane Cricket Ground (ID 65)	Natural Amenity

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Hertford Heath (North)	Hertford Heath Nature Reserve (ID 164) Mount Pleasant AGS (ID 250) Much Wood (ID 256)	Natural Amenity Natural
Hertford Heath (South)	Balls Wood (ID 22) Hobby Horse Wood (ID 583)	Natural Natural
Hunsdon (North)	Hunsdon Playing Fields (ID 189) The Dell (ID 402) Acorn Street Memorial (ID 578)	Amenity Amenity Amenity
Hunsdon (South)	Hunsdon Mead Nature Reserve	Natural
Much Hadham (North)	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Woodland (ID 254)	Natural
Much Hadham (South)	Mill Wood (ID 243)	Natural
Sawbridgeworth (North)	Bullfields Rec Ground (ID 63) Giffin Way (ID 141) River Stort Marshes (ID 299) Slater Lane, Sawbridgeworth (ID 325) Truswell Crescent (ID 434) West Road (ID 477)	Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity
Sawbridgeworth (South)	Pishiobury Park (ID 280)	Natural
Standon and Puckeridge (South)	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields (ID 332) Burr's Meadow, Standon (ID 373)	Amenity Amenity
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (North)	Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve (ID 7)	Natural
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (South)	Rye House Gatehouse (ID 304) Rye Mead Nature Reserve (ID 306)	Amenity Natural
Walkern (North)	High Street (ID 170) Wallace Green Way (ID 589)	Amenity Amenity
Walkern (South)	Walkern Playing Fields (ID 454)	Amenity
Ware (North)	Beacon Road (ID 29) Buryfield Recreation Ground (ID 76) Heath Drive (ID 159) High Oak Road (ID 169) Kibes Lane Park (ID 195) King George (ID 196) Lady Margaret Gardens AGS (ID 205) Lower Bourne Gardens (ID 228) Maplewood (ID 234) The Bourne (ID 395) The Pastures (ID 579)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Amenity
Ware (South)	Peter's Wood, Ware (ID 276) Plaxton Way AGS (ID 281) Post Wood (ID 283) Presdales Drive (ID 284) Presdales Recreation Ground (ID 286)	Natural Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Watton-at-Stone (North)	Great Innings (ID 134) Mill Lane (ID 242)	Natural Natural
Watton-at-Stone (South)	Watton at Stone Playing Fields (ID 469) Gatekeepers Way (ID 586)	Amenity Amenity

Table 10.1.3: Sites helping to serve gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Bishop's Stortford (North)	Bishops Park (ID 44) Castle Park (ID 84) The Garden Sanctuary (ID 412)	Amenity Parks Parks
Bishop's Stortford (South)	No significant gap	-
Braughing (North)	Braughing Playing Fields (ID 56) Church End AGS (ID 91)	Amenity Amenity
Braughing (South)	The Green (ID 407)	Amenity
Buntingford (North)	Norfolk Road Playing Field Close (ID 261)	Amenity
Buntingford (South)	No significant gap	-
Hertford (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Hertford Heath (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Hunsdon (North)	No significant gap	-
Hunsdon (South)	Hunsdon Playing Fields (ID 189) The Dell (ID 402)	Amenity Amenity
Much Hadham (North)	Green Tye Village Green (ID 139) Much Hadham Recreation Ground (ID 252)	Amenity Amenity
Much Hadham (South)	Perrys Green Village Green (ID 278)	Amenity
Sawbridgeworth (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Standon and Puckeridge (North)	Sadlier Road Open Space (ID 312) Puckeridge & Standon playing fields (ID 332)	Amenity Amenity
Standon and Puckeridge (South)	Burrs Meadow, Standon (ID 373)	Amenity
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Walkern (North)	High Street (ID 170) Wallace Green Way (ID 589)	Amenity Amenity
Walkern (South)	Walkern Playing Fields (ID 454)	Amenity
Ware (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Watton-at-Stone (North & South)	No significant gap	-

Table 10.1.4: Sites helping to serve gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Bishop's Stortford (North)	Bat Willow Hurst Country Park (ID 25) Birchanger Wood (ID 40) Castle Park (ID 84) Red, White and Blue Country Park (ID 293)	Natural Natural Parks Natural
Bishop's Stortford (South)	Bishops Park (ID 44) Northern Parkland (ID 264)	Parks Amenity
Braughing (North)	Braughing Community Orchard (ID 55)	Natural
Braughing (South)	No significant gap	-
Buntingford (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Hertford (North)	The Meads (ID 203) Waterford Marsh (ID 463) Waterford Heath (ID 464)	Natural Natural Natural
Hertford (South)	Balls Park (ID 21) Morgan's Walk Woodland (ID 249)	Parks Natural
Hertford Heath (North)	Goldings Wood (ID 131) Hertford Heath Nature Reserve (ID 164) Much Wood (ID 256)	Natural Natural Natural
Hertford Heath (South)	Balls Wood (ID 22) Hobby Horse Wood (ID 583)	Natural Natural
Hunsdon (North)	No significant gap	-
Hunsdon (South)	Hunsdon Mead Nature Reserve (ID 581)	Natural
Much Hadham (North)	No significant gap	-
Much Hadham (South)	Mill Wood (ID 243)	Natural
Sawbridgeworth (North)	River Stort Marshes (ID 299) Sawbridgeworth Marsh (ID 493)	Natural Natural
Sawbridgeworth (South)	Pishiobury Park (ID 280)	Natural
Standon and Puckeridge (North)	White Hart Old Braughing Road (ID 483)	Natural
Standon and Puckeridge (South)	No significant gap	-
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (North)	Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve (ID 7)	Natural
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets (South)	Rye Mead Nature Reserve (ID 306) St Margarets Community Wood (ID 352)	Natural Natural
Walkern (North & South)	No significant gap	-
Ware (North)	Post Wood (ID 283) Priory Gardens (ID 287)	Natural Parks
Ware (South)	No significant gap	-
Watton-at-Stone (North)	Great Innings (ID 134) Mill Lane (ID 242)	Natural Natural

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Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Millenium Walk (ID 244) Mill lane NSN (ID 536)	Natural Natural
Watton-at-Stone (South)	No significant gap	-

10.3: Quantity

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

Setting quantity standards

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

It is useful to compare current levels of provision against existing provision standards and suggested national benchmarks.

The Council has existing adopted standards set out as part of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD (2020).

Guidance on quantity levels is published by FIT in its document “Creating great spaces for all” (2024). The guidance provides standards for three types of open space provision: parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. FIT also suggests a guideline quantity standard for equipped/designated playing space.

For allotments, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households, an equivalent of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 10.3.1 sets out the figures for current provision levels, existing provision standards and national benchmarks.

Table 10.3.1: Comparison of quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Current provision	Existing standards	National benchmarks
Parks & gardens	0.33	Includes amenity greenspace. 1.40	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	8.65	3.20	1.80
Amenity greenspace	1.10	Included in parks	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.08	0.25	0.25
Allotment	0.27	0.30	0.25

Retention of the existing adopted provision standards is recommended. For parks and amenity greenspace (combined as part of existing adopted standards) and allotments, the existing adopted standards are in line with current provision levels. For provision for

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children and young people, the existing adopted standards are the same as national benchmarks. For natural greenspace, the existing adopted standard is greater than the national benchmark but also noticeably less than current provision levels. It is recommended that the existing adopted provision standard be retained, as this was based on the average amount of natural greenspace provision across town areas as part of the previous open space study.

For provision for children and young people, the current provision level is noticeably less than the national benchmark/existing standard. This is not unusual and is common amongst many local authorities*. In many cases, benchmark figures, such as those prepared by Fields in Trust, calculate provision by incorporating a wider definition of space, including surrounding land, which can result in higher overall figures.

In summary, the following quantity standards are recommended.

Table 10.3.2: Recommended quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Recommended quantity standards
Parks & gardens	1.40
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.20
Amenity greenspace	Included as part of parks standard figure
Provision for children & young people	0.25
Allotment	0.30

The recommended standards can be used to help inform the contributions from new developments to the provision of open space across the area. Whilst the current provision levels can be used to help identify the priorities for provision in an area.

Table 10.3.3a shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space against current provision levels.

Table 10.3.3b shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space against existing quantity standards.

The tables demonstrate that all analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space.

* For example, neighbouring Uttlesford has a current provision level of 0.11.

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Table 10.3.3a: Current provision shortfalls against current provision levels by analysis area (hectares per 1,000 population)

	Parks and gardens		Natural greenspace		Amenity greenspace		Allotments*		Play provision	
Current provision in East Herts	0.33		8.70		1.11		0.27		0.08	
Analysis area	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Bishop's Stortford	0.28	-0.05	2.76	-5.94	1.09	-0.02	0.25	-0.02	0.08	Level
Braughing	-	-	0.27	-8.43	2.61	+1.50	0.36	+0.09	0.05	-0.03
Buntingford	0.14	-0.19	0.15	-8.55	0.88	-0.23	0.28	+0.01	0.11	+0.03
Hertford	1.08	+0.75	6.70	-2.00	0.62	-0.49	0.35	+0.08	0.06	-0.02
Hertford Heath	-	-0.33	73.99	+65.29	2.31	+1.20	0.44	+0.17	0.07	-0.01
Hunsdon	-	-0.33	-	-8.70	0.86	-0.25	0.15	-0.12	0.03	-0.05
Much Hadham	-	-0.33	12.86	+4.16	1.68	+0.57	0.44	+0.17	0.05	-0.03
North Western Rural Area	-	-0.33	2.77	-5.93	3.69	+2.58	0.14	-0.13	0.11	+0.03
Eastern Rural Area	0.80	+0.47	1.51	-7.19	1.81	+0.70	0.14	-0.13	0.05	-0.03
South Western Rural Area	-	-0.33	67.87	+59.17	2.71	+1.60	0.33	+0.06	0.09	+0.01
Sawbridgeworth	-	-0.33	7.06	-1.64	1.18	+0.07	0.37	+0.10	0.08	Level
Standon and Puckeridge	-	-0.33	0.05	-8.65	1.00	-0.11	0.49	+0.22	0.08	Level
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	-	-0.33	20.65	+11.95	1.06	-0.05	0.33	+0.06	0.02	-0.06
Walkern	-	-0.33	-	-8.70	1.04	-0.07	0.19	-0.08	0.06	-0.02
Ware	0.05	-0.28	0.86	-7.84	0.85	-0.26	0.17	-0.10	0.07	-0.01
Watton-at-Stone	-	-0.33	7.04	-1.66	1.08	-0.03	0.50	+0.23	0.10	+0.02

* Aston Allotment is excluded

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Table 10.3.3b: Current provision shortfalls against recommended quantity standards by analysis area

	Natural greenspace		Parks & Amenity greenspace		Allotments*		Play provision	
Recommended standards	3.20		1.40		0.30		0.25	
Analysis area	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Bishop's Stortford	2.76	-0.44	1.37	-0.03	0.25	-0.05	0.08	-0.17
Braughing	0.27	-2.93	2.61	+1.21	0.36	+0.06	0.05	-0.20
Buntingford	0.15	-3.05	1.02	-0.38	0.28	-0.02	0.11	-0.14
Hertford	6.70	+3.50	1.70	+0.30	0.35	+0.05	0.06	-0.19
Hertford Heath	73.99	+70.79	2.31	+0.91	0.44	+0.14	0.07	-0.18
Hunsdon	-	-3.20	0.86	-0.54	0.15	-0.15	0.03	-0.22
Much Hadham	12.86	+9.66	1.68	+0.28	0.44	+0.14	0.05	-0.20
North Western Rural Area	2.77	-0.43	3.69	+2.29	0.22	-0.08	0.11	-0.14
Eastern Rural Area	1.51	-1.69	2.61	+1.21	0.14	-0.16	0.05	-0.20
South Western Rural Area	67.87	+64.67	2.71	+1.31	0.33	+0.03	0.09	-0.16
Sawbridgeworth	7.06	+3.86	1.18	-0.22	0.37	+0.07	0.08	-0.17
Standon and Puckeridge	0.05	-3.15	1.00	-0.40	0.49	+0.19	0.08	-0.17
Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	20.65	+17.45	1.06	-0.34	0.33	+0.03	0.02	-0.23
Walkern	-	-3.20	1.04	-0.36	0.19	-0.11	0.06	-0.19
Ware	0.86	-2.34	0.90	-0.50	0.17	-0.13	0.07	-0.18
Watton-at-Stone	7.04	+3.84	1.08	-0.32	0.50	+0.20	0.10	-0.15

* Aston Allotment is excluded

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10.4: Identifying priorities and recommendations

Several quantity shortfalls in the open space typologies are highlighted. Creating new provisions to address these existing shortfalls (particularly any quantity shortfalls) is often challenging (as significant amounts of new forms of provision would need to be created). Often, a more realistic approach is to ensure sufficient accessibility and quality of existing provision. However, it highlights the need for new housing developments to provide new open space provision to ensure shortfalls are not exacerbated.

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to sites should be endorsed. Further insight into the shortfalls is provided within each provision standard summary (Parts 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3).

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

The recommended quantity standards can be used to determine the open space requirements as part of new housing developments. In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments.

If this is not considered viable, the comparison of current provision levels (Table 10.3.3) signalling whether an area is sufficient or has a quantity shortfall could be used to help inform the priorities for each type of open space within each area (i.e., the priorities may be where a shortfall has been identified).

Recommendations

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

Recommendation 1

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

Part 10.2 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision.

Table 10.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
7	Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve	Natural	Amenity, Parks
12	Aspenden Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
21	Balls Park	Parks	Amenity
22	Balls Wood	Natural	Amenity, Parks
25	Bat Willow Hurst Country Park	Natural	Parks, Amenity
29	Beacon Road	Amenity	Parks
40	Birchanger Wood	Natural	Amenity, Parks
44	Bishops Park	Parks	Amenity, Natural

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
55	Braughing Community Orchard	Natural	Amenity, Parks
56	Braughing Playing Fields	Amenity	Amenity, Natural
63	Bullfields Rec Ground	Amenity	Parks
65	Bullocks Lane Cricket Ground	Amenity	Parks
83	Castle Gardens	Parks	Amenity
84	Castle Park	Parks	Amenity, Natural
87	Cole Way/Stephenson Drive	Amenity	Parks
91	Church End AGS	Amenity	Parks, Natural
102	Cricketfield Lane	Amenity	Parks
109	Dane O'Coys	Natural	Parks
125	Foxholes	Natural	Parks
131	Goldings Wood	Natural	Amenity
132	Great Hadham Road Woodland	Natural	Parks
134	Great Innings	Natural	Amenity, Parks
136	Great Innings Amenity space	Amenity	Parks
139	Green Tye Village Green	Amenity	Natural
141	Giffin Way	Amenity	Parks
149	Hare Street Road Playing Field	Amenity	Parks
151	Hare Street Road Wildlife Area	Natural	Parks
152	Hartham Common	Parks	Amenity
159	Heath Drive	Amenity	Parks
164	Hertford Heath Nature Reserve	Natural	Amenity
169	High Oak Road	Amenity	Parks
170	High Street	Amenity	Amenity, Parks
183	Hoggate's Wood	Natural	Parks
189	Hunsdon Playing Fields	Amenity	Parks, Natural
195	Kibes Lane Park	Amenity	Parks
196	King George	Amenity	Parks
203	The Meads	Natural	Parks, Amenity
205	Lady Margaret Gardens AGS	Amenity	Parks
228	Lower Bourne Gardens	Amenity	Parks
234	Maplewood	Natural	Parks
242	Mill Lane	Natural	Parks, Amenity
243	Mill Wood	Natural	Parks, Amenity
244	Millenium Walk	Natural	Amenity
245	Millmead	Amenity	Parks
246	Morbury Avenue	Amenity	Parks
249	Morgan's Walk Woodland	Natural	Parks, Amenity
250	Mount Pleasant AGS	Amenity	Parks
252	Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Amenity	Natural

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
254	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Woodland	Natural	Parks
256	Much Wood	Natural	Parks, Amenity
259	Newland Avenue	Amenity	Parks
261	Norfolk Road Playing Field	Amenity	Parks, Natural
264	Northern Parkland	Amenity	Parks, Natural
265	Northolt Avenue	Amenity	Parks
271	Panshanger Park	Natural	Amenity
276	Peter's Wood, Ware	Natural	Parks
278	Perrys Green Village Green	Amenity	Natural
280	Pishiobury Park	Natural	Parks, Amenity
281	Plaxton Way AGS	Amenity	Parks
283	Post Wood	Natural	Parks, Amenity
284	Presdales Drive	Amenity	Parks, Amenity
286	Presdales Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
287	Priory Gardens	Parks	Amenity
293	Red, White and Blue Country Park	Natural	Parks, Amenity
299	River Stort Marshes	Natural	Parks
304	Rye House Gatehouse	Amenity	Parks
306	Rye Mead Nature Reserve	Natural	Parks
309	Sacombe Road	Amenity	Parks
312	Sadlier Road Open Space	Amenity	Natural
321	Seth Ward Playing Field	Amenity	Parks
325	Slater Lane, Sawbridgeworth	Amenity	Parks
328	Southern Country Park	Natural	Parks
332	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields	Amenity	Parks, Natural
373	Burrs Meadow, Standon	Amenity	Parks, Natural
395	The Bourne	Natural	Parks
402	The Dell	Amenity	Parks, Natural
407	The Green	Amenity	Natural
412	The Garden Sanctuary	Parks	Natural
416	The Watermill	Natural	Parks
418	Thorley Cricket Club	Amenity	Parks
422	Thorley Wedge	Amenity	Parks
434	Truswell Crescent	Amenity	Parks
450	Vixen Drive	Amenity	Parks
454	Walkern Playing Fields	Amenity	Parks, Natural
463	Waterford Marsh	Natural	Amenity
464	Waterford Heath	Natural	Parks
469	Watton at Stone Playing Fields	Amenity	Parks
477	West Road	Amenity	Parks

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
483	White Hart Old Braughing Road	Natural	Amenity
485	Willowmead Nature Reserve	Natural	Parks
493	Sawbridgeworth Marsh	Natural	Amenity
511	Cox's Gardens	Natural	Parks
536	Mill lane NSN	Natural	Amenity
578	Acorn Street Memorial	Amenity	Parks

These sites potentially help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Where possible, adapting these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to help meet the gaps highlighted should be explored.

Often this is related to parks, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. The Council should explore the potential/possibility to adapt these sites through formalisation and/or greater provision of features linked to other types of open space. This is to provide a stronger secondary role as well as opportunities associated with other open space types. This may, in some instances, also help provide options to minimise the need for the creation of new provision to address any gaps in catchment mapping. This can be achieved by incorporating features and provisions typically associated with other typologies. For example, an amenity greenspace may integrate elements such as formal signage, defined/secure boundaries, landscaping, play facilities, and seating. Introducing these features can help reduce the need for the delivery of additional parks and garden provision.

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

Recommendation 2

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

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards. A list of low quality and/or value sites currently helping to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 10.4.2 below. This also includes sites without a quality/value rating.

These sites should first look to be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should be given to changing the primary typology or strengthening the secondary function of these sites, to one which they currently help to serve a gap in provision, even if their quality cannot currently be enhanced. For some sites, such as natural and semi-natural greenspace, the ability to adapt or strengthen secondary roles may be limited due to the features and characteristics of the site.

Appendix Five sets out some initial design considerations that could look to be implemented to help in enhancing the quality/design of different typologies.

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Table 10.4.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:	Rating
12	Aspenden Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks	Low quality
25	Bat Willow Hurst Country Park	Natural	Parks, Amenity	Not scored
29	Beacon Road	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
40	Birchanger Wood	Natural	Amenity, Parks	Not scored
44	Bishops Park	Parks	Amenity, Natural	Low quality
55	Braughing Community Orchard	Natural	Amenity, Parks	Not scored
63	Bullfields Rec Ground	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
65	Bullocks Lane Cricket Ground	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
87	Cole Way/Stephenson Drive	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
91	Church End AGS	Amenity	Parks, Natural	Not scored
102	Cricketfield Lane	Amenity	Parks	Low quality
109	Dane O'Coys	Natural	Parks	Not scored
125	Foxholes	Natural	Parks	Low quality
131	Goldings Wood	Natural	Amenity	Low quality
132	Great Hadham Road Woodland	Natural	Parks	Not scored
134	Great Innings	Natural	Amenity, Parks	Not scored
136	Great Innings Amenity space	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
139	Green Tye Village Green	Amenity	Natural	Not scored
141	Giffin Way	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
149	Hare Street Road Playing Field	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
151	Hare Street Road Wildlife Area	Natural	Parks	Not scored
152	Hartham Common	Parks	Amenity	Low quality
159	Heath Drive	Amenity	Parks	Low quality

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:	Rating
169	High Oak Road	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
170	High Street	Amenity	Amenity, Parks	Not scored
183	Hoggate's Wood	Natural	Parks	Not scored
189	Hunsdon Playing Fields	Amenity	Parks, Natural	Not scored
195	Kibes Lane Park	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
196	King George	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
205	Lady Margaret Gardens AGS	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
234	Maplewood	Natural	Parks	Not scored
242	Mill Lane	Natural	Parks, Amenity	Not scored
243	Mill Wood	Natural	Parks, Amenity	Low quality
244	Millenium Walk	Natural	Amenity	Not scored
246	Morbury Avenue	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
249	Morgan's Walk Woodland	Natural	Parks, Amenity	Not scored
250	Mount Pleasant AGS	Amenity	Parks	
254	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Woodland	Natural	Parks	Not scored
256	Much Wood	Natural	Parks, Amenity	Not scored
259	Newland Avenue	Amenity	Parks	Low quality
261	Norfolk Road Playing Field	Amenity	Parks, Natural	Not scored
264	Northern Parkland	Natural	Parks, Natural	Low quality
265	Northolt Avenue	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
276	Peter's Wood, Ware	Natural	Parks	Not scored
278	Perrys Green Village Green	Amenity	Natural	Not scored
281	Plaxton Way AGS	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
284	Presdales Drive	Amenity	Parks, Amenity	Not scored

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:	Rating
299	River Stort Marshes	Natural	Parks	Not scored
312	Sadlier Road Open Space	Amenity	Natural	Not scored
325	Slater Lane, Sawbridgeworth	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
332	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields	Amenity	Parks, Natural	Not scored
373	Burrs Meadow, Standon	Amenity	Parks, Natural	Not scored
395	The Bourne	Natural	Parks	Not scored
402	The Dell	Amenity	Parks, Natural	Not scored
407	The Green	Amenity	Natural	Not scored
412	The Garden Sanctuary	Parks	Natural	Not scored
416	The Watermill	Natural	Parks	Low quality
418	Thorley Cricket Club	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
434	Truswell Crescent	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
450	Vixen Drive	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
477	West Road	Amenity	Parks	Not scored
483	White Hart Old Braughing Road	Natural	Amenity	Not scored
485	Willowmead Nature Reserve	Natural	Parks	Not scored
493	Sawbridgeworth Marsh	Natural	Amenity	Not scored
511	Cox's Gardens	Natural	Parks	Not scored
536	Mill lane NSN	Natural	Amenity	Not scored
578	Acorn Street Memorial	Amenity	Parks	Not scored

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Recommendation 3

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

This study identifies 79 sites currently below their quality and/or value thresholds. For an area with a quantity sufficiency in one type of open space, and where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that same type.

For instance, the Sawbridgeworth Analysis Area has a potential sufficiency in natural greenspace but a potential shortfall in parks and amenity greenspace*. Consequently, the role of some natural greenspace could be strengthened to serve as parks and amenity greenspace provision. This could be achieved by adding seating, litter bins, spaces to relax, and provisions such as play areas.

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

Recommendation 4

- ◀ Keep data, reports and supporting evidence base up to date to reflect changes

This study provides a snapshot in time. Whilst significant changes are not as common for open space provision, inevitably over time changes in provision occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to site boundaries and management. Population change and housing growth are also another consideration to review when undertaking any form of update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and standards. A number of new housing developments are underway or committed in East Herts, including both District Plan housing allocations and windfall development with planning permission. It is therefore important for the Council to undertake regular reviews of the data and/or actions informed by it.

Recommendation 5

- ◀ Recommended standards to inform future growth requirements

Future need for open space will arise from the population increases from potential housing growth developments. The requirements for open space provision can be informed by the recommended standards.

Work on the New Local Plan is now starting and whilst the location of growth has not yet been determined, the Local Plan needs to take account of the Government's new standard method figure, which is 1,223 per year for East Hertfordshire.

Using the 1,223 households per annum, gives an increase of 22,014 households from 2025 to 2043.

The 2.36 persons per household figure is the ONS rate for East Hertfordshire in 2025 from the 2018-based projections.

* Taken from Table 10.3.3b

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Applying this occupancy rate, the population increase from 2025 to 2043 will be 51,953 (a 34% increase). This will give a population in 2043 of 203,588 for East Hertfordshire.

Using the recommended quantity standards* and the identified population increase (51,953), the following open space requirements are calculated.

Table 10.4.3: Example estimated open space requirements

Typology	Recommended quantity standard (ha per 1,000 pop)	Estimated requirement (hectares)
Parks & gardens / Amenity greenspace	1.40	72.73
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.20	165.25
Provision for children & young people	0.25	12.99
Allotment	0.30	15.58

The scenario can be updated as required over the Local Plan period to reflect changes in housing requirements and / or growth set out in the Council's emerging New Local Plan. Average household sizes or the plan period can also be adjusted as relevant.

Recommendation 6

- ◀ Ensure the approach to developer contributions is reviewed regularly

The East Hertfordshire Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out detailed guidance on the type and scale of open space, playing pitch and built facilities that developer contributions are sought to support new development.

For open spaces, the SPD cites quantity and accessibility standards which are generally based on those suggested by FIT. The exception is for natural/semi natural greenspace where the existing adopted provision standard is based on the average amount of natural greenspace provision across town areas as part of the previous open space study. These are acceptable and represent a common practice of local authorities (it also dovetails with the analysis of this report).

Table 2 of the SPD details the play provision requirements per size of development. This is a useful table as it sets out the requirements and triggers for different play levels based on the number of dwellings being proposed.

The SPD also sets out the cost contributions for different open space types. The approach used is in keeping with common practices. It is, however, important to regularly review the costs as these can become obsolete over time. Cost figures could be linked to Bank of England inflation rates or similar as part of a regular review. This will ensure the council is receiving contributions which reflect, as best possible, real-time costs.

However, supplementary planning documents are not permitted under the new plan-making system, so it will be important that appropriate all open space policies, standards and requirements are incorporated into the New Local Plan.

* recommended quantity standard (ha per 1,000 population) x population increase / 1000 = estimated requirement

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX ONE: TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSES

If a parish or town council is not listed in the table it either did not highlight any concerns or did not provide a response.

Albury Parish Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play area has some tired equipment • our allotments need a water supply for tenants to use • all open space sites suffer from dog fouling • all open space sites suffer from littering
Bengeo Rural Parish Council
Tried play equipment and a few low level incidents of vandalism.
Bishop Stortford Town Council
Waiting lists at several allotment sites. BMX Pump Track planned for Castle Park
Bramfield Parish Council
Some dog fouling and litter on the playing field/recreational ground
Braughing
Everything from playground, allotments and orchard all on leased land, council don't own land. Four more years. PC lease off private owners. Land is worth a lot of money. PC may not have land - concerns as they would want to keep it. Would be a shortfall in provision if lost.
Brickendon Liberty Parish Council
Litter a general problem – we hold parish wide litter picks twice a year which mitigates problem
Buckland and Chipping Parish Council
There are plenty of places to walk dogs but there are no spaces safe for children to play
Buntingford Town Council
All sites suffer from dog fouling, despite the Town Council giving away dog bags and providing dog bag dispensers and many dog waste bins. Litter a problem at all sites. Play equipment is kept up to date. Cite open space as good quality but insufficient amount
Cottered & Throcking Parish Council
Some dog foul issues and littering on football pitch, occasional loitering and drug using here in the past. Conservation report suggested friends burial ground should be used as a local amenity. Perhaps East Herts could identify this is a site for LNRS, I don't know who the land belongs to?
Datchworth Parish Council
Nutcroft Play area: Derelict to be replaced subject to funding
Hertford Heath Parish Council
Dog fouling can be an issue, as many people come to the heath to walk their dogs. We currently employ two litter pickers who do regular litter picking in the village. We also have a community group run by Sustainable Hertford Heath, who do a monthly litter pick. We have issues with flooding throughout the village. Much of this is due to drainage issues. We are currently working on a crucial project to install an accessible pathway across the village green, where no pathway currently exists. This initiative is made possible through funding from the UK Prosperity Fund.
Hertford Town Council
Dog fouling evident in open spaces (Pinehurst and Castle grounds). Some litter occurs in these areas too but is removed by the Town Council. No current concerns with vandalism.
Hertingfordbury Parish Council

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<p>The playground equipment is tired and the fencing needs replacing. The sports field on the back half of the play area only has a basketball hoop, no other sports equipment. The matting under the play equipment is not adequate.</p> <p>The village greens are all in good condition and well maintained. Maitland wood no longer has its benches as these have rotted and since been removed from the land.</p> <p>The Cole Green Way and its carpark can become littered and vandalised on occasion and are often found to have dog fouling. It is, however, a well maintained surface.</p> <p>There are a number of footpaths that all are in a well self-maintained condition, Some have dog foul on occasion but generally don't pose a problem.</p>
<p>Little Munden Parish Council</p>
<p>Horses Meadow tired play equipment that needs replacing, little litter. It is currently leased, and we are currently in the process of purchasing the field. We are looking to gain funding to replace and move the current play equipment in Horses Meadow and install pathways and benches for better access</p> <p>We are also looking to purchase a number of benches again to assist parishioners who are less able when moving around the village and in our green areas. We would have to apply for any grants out there to do this. Help would be appreciated.</p>
<p>Sawbridgeworth Town Council</p>
<p>Residents close to Sheering Mill Lane have stated they would like better facilities as there is very limited play equipment. Another issue that has been brought up is that there is no pavement alongside the park. Also, the wildflower section has been complained about as residents have stated it does not look nice.</p> <p>Bullfields Recreation Ground has been flagged as having no inclusive play equipment.</p> <p>West Road Playground suffers from anti-social behaviour, such as small fires on benches and benches being removed.</p> <p>Hallingbury Road, natural site, is quite boggy and floodplain.</p> <p>Springhall Road Allotments has issues with security as the site is quite open, has low level fencing and no security gates.</p> <p>Southbrook Allotments has flooding issues.</p>
<p>Standon Parish Council</p>
<p>Dog fouling: general problem with all green spaces including roadside verges; litter – bins are provided but people just drop or throw from cars; antisocial behaviour (drug taking in any area which is screened from public view;</p> <p>Standon Parish is a rural agricultural Parish. Intensive house building is changing the character of the Parish which is unacceptable to the residents who want to live a rural lifestyle. Agricultural fields need to be left with footpaths and bridleways open to all. Access to more rural landscapes would be beneficial. Lack of woodland close to housing development for carbon off-setting/ improved mental health.</p> <p>Many major planning applications plan that SUDs and play areas to be simultaneously used. This is completely unacceptable and must be stopped. This is simply a ruse by developers to tick a box for play provision. SUDs should be used for that purpose only, unless they are to be wildlife ponds or refuges. Separate dedicated play areas should only be used for that purpose. Too many examples of swampy areas of land which children are expected to play in.</p>
<p>Stanstead St Margaret's Parish Council</p>
<p>Tired play equipment on the Lawrence Avenue playground – residents/the Parish Council have requested for this to be maintained by EHDC.</p> <p>Litter regularly thrown/blown from the A414 into St Margaret's Community Wood, Hoddesdon Road by the pillars of the flyover.</p> <p>Graffiti regularly appears on the concrete areas under the A414 flyover.</p>
<p>Stapleford Parish Council</p>
<p>Some of the footpaths become overgrown and the footpath on the High Road, Stapleford has a lot of litter. Parish Council no longer has funding for litter picking and so it is down to volunteers to pick up the litter.</p>

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Ware Town Council
Improving towpaths as an aspiration. Good quality provision, some could be upgraded, availability is good. TC want to improve biodiversity. Some further provision in town centre for tree planting at well end to create green corridor.
Watton-at-Stone Parish Council
Occasional acts of vandalism to Community Centre on The Meadow despite CCTV coverage of the building.
Westmill Parish Council
Residents have commented on the lack of rights of way/ footpaths directly from the village into open countryside, which would be expected from a rural setting such as this. A large proportion of village walks are via public highway

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX TWO: LIST OF ASSESSED SITES BY TYPOLOGY

Natural/semi-natural greenspace

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
7	Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve	Stanstead Abbotts and St Margarets	71.4%	40.9%
22	Balls Wood	Hertford Heath	66.6%	49.1%
32	Bencroft Wood	South Western Rural Area	65.2%	45.5%
62	Broxbourne Wood Nature Reserve	South Western Rural Area	67.2%	40.9%
64	Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve	South Western Rural Area	69.3%	54.5%
110	Danemead Wildlife Trust	South Western Rural Area	53.3%	43.6%
131	Goldings Wood	Hertford Heath	33.4%	40.9%
164	Hertford Heath Nature Reserve	Hertford Heath	64.1%	45.5%
203	The Meads	Hertford	58.5%	39.1%
243	Mill Wood	Much Hadham	26.1%	23.6%
256	Much Wood	Hertford Heath	33.4%	40.9%
271	Panshanger Park	South Western Rural Area	71.8%	40.9%
280	Pishiobury Park	Sawbridgeworth	74.9%	40.9%
283	Post Wood	Ware	59.9%	50.0%
293	Red, White and Blue Country Park	Bishop's Stortford	77.4%	45.5%
306	Rye Mead Nature Reserve	Stanstead Abbotts and St Margarets	96.2%	54.5%
328	Southern Country Park	Bishop's Stortford	86.4%	54.5%
463	Waterford Marsh	Hertford	63.4%	40.0%
464	Waterford Heath	Hertford	63.8%	40.9%

Amenity greenspace

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
1	Albury Football Club	Eastern Rural Area	49.4%	52.0%
12	Aspenden Recreation Ground	North Western Rural Area	47.9%	48.0%
18	Aston Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area	61.0%	58.0%
34	Bennington Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area	46.2%	53.0%
56	Braughing Playing Fields	Braughing	66.9%	44.0%
57	Brickendon Green	South Western Rural Area	67.3%	53.0%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
75	Bury Lane	South Western Rural Area	67.1%	45.0%
99	Cottered Recreation Ground	North Western Rural Area	65.5%	53.0%
102	Cricketfield Lane	Bishop's Stortford	47.6%	53.0%
111	Datchworth Green, adj to Datchworth Sports Club	North Western Rural Area	54.4%	64.0%
147	Hare Street Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area	75.0%	34.0%
159	Heath Drive	Ware	45.1%	32.0%
188	Horses Meadow, Munden Road, Dane End	North Western Rural Area	50.4%	53.0%
200	Kingham Road	South Western Rural Area	39.2%	22.0%
202	Kings Mead	Hertford	44.5%	40.0%
228	Lower Bourne Gardens	Ware	50.1%	49.0%
245	Millmead	Hertford	56.2%	54.0%
248	Moor Green Village Green	North Western Rural Area	42.9%	42.0%
252	Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Much Hadham	51.2%	50.0%
261	Norfolk Road Playing Field	Buntingford	47.8%	44.0%
286	Presdales Recreation Ground	Ware	53.1%	33.0%
304	Rye House Gatehouse	Stanstead Abbots	57.6%	43.0%
309	Sacombe Road	Hertford	53.0%	49.0%
321	Seth Ward Playing Field	Buntingford	58.0%	49.0%
411	The Ridgeway	Hertford	55.1%	29.0%
422	Thorley Wedge	Bishop's Stortford	66.5%	54.0%
439	Turkey Farm Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area	47.6%	53.0%
442	Upper Green	South Western Rural Area	73.9%	48.0%
454	Walkern Playing Fields	Walkern	59.7%	53.0%
467	Watermill Lane	Hertford	53.0%	43.0%
469	Watton at Stone Playing Fields	Watton-at-Stone	51.5%	44.0%

Children and young people provision

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
9.1	Anstey Recreation Play Area	Eastern Rural Area	40.2%	47.3%
9.2	Anstey Recreation Basketball	Eastern Rural Area	44.3%	43.6%
9.3	Anstey Recreation Ground skate park	Eastern Rural Area	44.3%	43.6%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
12.1	Aspenden Recreation Ground Play Area	North Western Rural Area	45.7%	43.6%
18.1	Aston Playing Field Play Area	North Western Rural Area	65.6%	47.3%
18.2	Aston Playing Field Youth Area	North Western Rural Area	40.6%	16.4%
19	Aubries Playground	Walkern	51.9%	20.0%
23	Barons Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	39.5%	29.1%
26.1	Barreldown Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	75.6%	50.9%
29.1	Beacon Road Play Area	Ware	57.7%	47.3%
31.1	Widford Playground	South Western Rural Area	25.8%	16.4%
34.1	Bennington Recreation Ground Play Area	North Western Rural Area	65.6%	47.3%
36.1	Birch Green Village Playground	South Western Rural Area	63.9%	50.9%
36.2	Birch Green Youth Area	South Western Rural Area	34.0%	20.0%
44.1	Bishops Park Play Area 1	Bishop's Stortford	62.9%	65.5%
44.2	Bishops Park Play Area 2	Bishop's Stortford	63.9%	65.5%
44.3	Bishops Park outdoor gym	Bishop's Stortford	52.2%	29.1%
44.4	Bishops Park Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	55.3%	47.3%
56.1	Braughing Play Area	Braughing	70.1%	47.3%
56.2	Braughing Youth Area	Braughing	70.1%	47.3%
57.1	Brickendon Green Play Area	South Western Rural Area	48.5%	56.4%
63.1	Bullfields Recreation Ground Play Area	Sawbridgeworth	53.3%	50.9%
63.2	Bullfields Rec Ground half MUGA	Sawbridgeworth	53.3%	50.9%
68	Burleigh Road play area	Hertford	58.4%	38.2%
69.1	Burley Road Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	16.5%	12.7%
73	Burnham Green Playground	North Western Rural Area	35.4%	43.6%
75.1	Bramfield Playground	South Western Rural Area	77.0%	50.9%
75.2	Bramfield MUGA	South Western Rural Area	77.0%	50.9%
76.1	Buryfield Recreation Ground Play Area	Ware	81.8%	54.5%
78.1	Campfield Road play area 1	Hertford	71.8%	47.3%
79.2	Campfield Road play area 2	Hertford	62.5%	47.3%
80.1	Cannons Close Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	39.2%	29.1%
83.1	Hertford Castle Play Area	Hertford	74.6%	47.3%
84.1	Sworders Field Adventure Playground	Bishop's Stortford	47.8%	78.2%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
84.2	Sworders Field Half MUGA	Bishop's Stortford	31.6%	25.5%
84.3	Sworders Field Playground	Bishop's Stortford	66.7%	90.9%
84.4	Sworders Field, Castle Skate Park	Bishop's Stortford	55.3%	38.2%
85.1	Cecil Road play area 1	Hertford	79.7%	47.3%
85.2	Cecil Road Youth Area	Hertford	28.5%	47.3%
85.3	Cecil Road play area 2	Hertford	71.8%	47.3%
93.1	Norman Wodson Sports Field Playground	South Western Rural Area	49.5%	47.3%
99.1	Cottered Recreation Ground Play Area	North Western Rural Area	57.4%	47.3%
106	Crouch Gardens Play Area	Buntingford	73.9%	47.3%
113.1	Datchworth Green Playground, adj to Datchworth Sports Club	North Western Rural Area	35.4%	16.4%
114	Dellfields Play Area	South Western Rural Area	63.9%	16.4%
115.1	Dimsdale Crescent play area	Bishop's Stortford	36.1%	25.5%
115.2	Dimsdale Crescent basketball area	Bishop's Stortford	28.9%	25.5%
119	Edens Mount play area	Sawbridgeworth	66.0%	47.3%
125.1	Foxholes play area	Hertford	73.5%	50.9%
125.2	Foxholes Avenue play area	Hertford	75.9%	47.3%
126.1	Gage Gardens/Taplow Avenue play area	Hertford	78.4%	41.8%
130	Gladstone Road play area	North Western Rural Area	73.2%	41.8%
136.1	Great Innings Play Area	Watton-at-Stone	74.2%	69.1%
136.2	Great Innings Youth Area	Watton-at-Stone	74.2%	69.1%
141.1	Giffin Way play area	Sawbridgeworth	69.1%	60.0%
147.1	Hare Street Playground	North Western Rural Area	74.6%	29.1%
149.1	Hare Street Road Play Area	Buntingford	73.5%	60.0%
149.2	Hare Street Road Playing Field outdoor gym	Buntingford	73.5%	60.0%
152.1	Hartham Playground	Hertford	84.2%	60.0%
152.2	Hartham Common Skate Park	Hertford	68.4%	47.3%
152.3	Hartham Common Play Area (Older Children)	Hertford	68.0%	47.3%
159.1	Wodson Park Playground	Ware	75.9%	50.9%
159.2	Wodson Park Youth Area	Ware	75.9%	50.9%
170.1	Walkern Play Area	Walkern	73.9%	50.9%
180.1	High Wych Recreation Ground Play Area	Eastern Rural Area	73.9%	50.9%
182	Hillside Crescent play area	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	77.3%	54.5%

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ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
188.1	Dane End Recreation Play Area	North Western Rural Area	23.4%	16.4%
188.2	Dane End Recreation Basketball	North Western Rural Area	23.4%	16.4%
189.1	Hunsdon Recreation Ground Play Area	Hunsdon	75.6%	50.9%
189.2	Hunsdon Recreation Youth shelter	Hunsdon	62.2%	47.3%
192.1	Pinehurst Recreation Ground play area 1	Hertford	56.0%	50.9%
192.2	Pinehurst Recreation Ground play area 2	Hertford	72.2%	50.9%
192.3	Pinehurst Recreation Ground Half MUGA	Hertford	45.7%	47.3%
196.1	King George Playground 1	Ware	73.5%	54.5%
196.2	King George Playground 2	Ware	28.9%	16.4%
196.3	King George MUGA	Ware	48.1%	47.3%
200.1	Kingham Road play area	South Western Rural Area	65.3%	47.3%
204	Knebworth Court play area	Bishop's Stortford	21.6%	12.7%
205.1	Lady Margaret Gardens older children's play area	Ware	61.9%	50.9%
205.2	Lady Margaret Gardens MUGA	Ware	42.3%	50.9%
208.1	Lawrence Avenue Play Area	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	70.4%	47.3%
209.1	Layston Court Gardens Shelter	Buntingford	70.4%	47.3%
213	Lilbourne Drive Play Area	Hertford	76.3%	47.3%
216.1	Little Berkhamstead Rec Ground Play Area	South Western Rural Area	71.1%	47.3%
220.1	Little Hadham Playground	Eastern Rural Area	52.9%	34.5%
220.2	Little Hadham Basketball	Eastern Rural Area	52.9%	34.5%
221.1	Village Hall Playground	Eastern Rural Area	73.2%	50.9%
221.2	Village Hall Half MUGA	Eastern Rural Area	73.2%	50.9%
228.1	Lower Bourne Playground	Ware	77.3%	50.9%
241	Miles Way play area	Buntingford	77.7%	38.2%
245.1	Millmead play area 1	Hertford	74.2%	47.3%
245.2	Millmead play area 2	Hertford	77.7%	20.0%
252.1	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Play Area	Much Hadham	55.3%	47.3%
252.2	Much Hadham Rec Ground Youth Area	Much Hadham	55.3%	47.3%
261.1	Buntingford Skate Park	Buntingford	77.3%	60.0%
261.2	Norfolk Road interactive football wall	Buntingford	77.3%	60.0%
261.3	Norfolk Road Play Area	Buntingford	77.3%	60.0%
261.4	Norfolk Road Pump Track	Buntingford	77.3%	60.0%
262	North Drive LAP	South Western Rural Area	62.9%	34.5%
264.1	St Michaels Mead play area	Bishop's Stortford	73.9%	50.9%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
264.2	St Michaels Mead Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	73.9%	50.9%
265.1	Northolt Avenue Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	59.8%	38.2%
267.1	Nutcroft Open Space play area	North Western Rural Area	25.8%	12.7%
274.1	Parsonage Lane play area 1	Bishop's Stortford	56.7%	60.0%
274.2	Parsonage Lane play area 2	Bishop's Stortford	29.2%	25.5%
274.3	Parsonage Lane football goals	Bishop's Stortford	26.1%	25.5%
274.4	Parsonage Lane basketball	Bishop's Stortford	26.1%	25.5%
279.2	The Pilgrams play area	North Western Rural Area	67.0%	47.3%
284.1	Presdales Drive Play Area	Ware	64.3%	47.3%
287.1	Priory Gardens MUGA	Ware	56.7%	50.9%
287.2	Priory Gardens outdoor gym	Ware	56.7%	50.9%
287.3	Priory Gardens youth shelter	Ware		
287.4	Priory Street play area	Ware	63.9%	63.6%
287.5	Ware Skate Park	Ware	63.2%	50.9%
298	Ridgeway/NNW/Bentley play area	Hertford	81.8%	50.9%
309.1	Sacombe Road play area	Hertford	71.1%	50.9%
309.2	Sacombe Road Basketball	Hertford	38.5%	38.2%
319	School Lane Play Area	North Western Rural Area	64.9%	47.3%
321.1	Seth Ward Playing Field Play Area	Buntingford	82.5%	50.9%
321.2	Seth Ward Playing Field outdoor gym	Buntingford	82.5%	50.9%
323.1	Sheering Mill Lane Play Area	Sawbridgeworth	66.0%	50.9%
328.1	Southern Country Park Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	67.4%	78.2%
328.2	Southern Country Park Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	64.3%	41.8%
332.1	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields Play	Standon and Puckeridge	80.1%	69.1%
332.2	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields Skate	Standon and Puckeridge	48.5%	50.9%
375.1	High Street Playground	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	79.0%	50.9%
375.2	High Street Youth Area	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	79.0%	50.9%
379.1	Stapleford Playground	South Western Rural Area	41.9%	34.5%
379.2	Stapleford Basketball area	South Western Rural Area	41.9%	34.5%
387.1	Tonwell Playing Fields Playground	South Western Rural Area	28.5%	16.4%
388.1	Terlings Park play area	Eastern Rural Area	66.7%	47.3%

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ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
395.1	The Bourne Play Area	Ware	66.3%	47.3%
395.2	The Bourne Play Area (older Children)	Ware	34.7%	47.3%
396.1	Albury Playing Fields Play Area	Eastern Rural Area	75.9%	41.8%
402.1	Tanners Way Play Area	Hunsdon	47.1%	20.0%
404.1	The Granary Play Area	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	64.9%	47.3%
411.1	Ridgeway play area	Hertford	79.4%	41.8%
411.2	Ridgeway MUGA	Hertford	56.7%	50.9%
413.1	The Springs/Rowley Road play area	Hertford	75.6%	47.3%
413.2	Rowleys Road Youth Area	Hertford	61.9%	47.3%
422.1	Lower Park Crescent Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	43.0%	47.3%
422.2	Lower Park Crescent Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	19.6%	16.4%
422.3	Thorley Park Playground	Bishop's Stortford	60.8%	60.0%
422.4	Thorley Park Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	32.0%	38.2%
431.1	Trinity Road Playground	Hertford Heath	75.9%	50.9%
431.2	Trinity Road Youth Area	Hertford Heath	42.3%	38.2%
432.1	Trinity Street play area	Bishop's Stortford	43.3%	69.1%
434.1	Truswell Crescent play area	Sawbridgeworth	63.6%	50.9%
439.1	Turkey Farm Play Area	North Western Rural Area	31.6%	47.3%
439.2	Turkey Farm MUGA	North Western Rural Area	24.7%	25.5%
440.1	Turners Crescent Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	75.3%	50.9%
442.1	Tewin Upper Green Play Area	South Western Rural Area	72.9%	29.1%
444.1	Vantorts Close Play Area	Sawbridgeworth	70.4%	50.9%
444.2	Vantorts Close Skate park and basketball	Sawbridgeworth	58.4%	47.3%
454.1	High Street Playing Fields Playground	Walkern	31.6%	16.4%
457.1	Ward Crescent Playground	Bishop's Stortford	74.2%	41.8%
457.2	Ward Crescent Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	74.2%	41.8%
466.1	Waterford Playground	South Western Rural Area	26.1%	43.6%
466.2	Waterford Basketball	South Western Rural Area	20.6%	12.7%
467.1	Watermill Lane Play Area	Hertford	70.4%	50.9%
469.1	Watton at Stone Playing Fields Play Area	Watton-at-Stone	26.5%	16.4%
469.2	Watton-at Stone Play area	Watton-at-Stone	59.8%	50.9%
476.1	Waytemore Road play area 1	Bishop's Stortford	67.4%	50.9%
476.2	Waytemore Road play area 2	Bishop's Stortford	67.4%	50.9%
477.1	West Road play area	Sawbridgeworth	61.2%	60.0%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
486.1	Wilson Close play area	Bishop's Stortford	69.4%	25.5%
494	Yearling Close Playground	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	70.1%	47.3%
495	St James Park Playground	Bishop's Stortford	64.9%	90.9%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX THREE: FULL LIST OF ASSESSED SITES

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
1	Albury Football Club	Eastern Rural Area	49.4%	52.0%
7	Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	71.4%	40.9%
9.1	Anstey Recreation Play Area	Eastern Rural Area	40.2%	47.3%
9.2	Anstey Recreation Basketball	Eastern Rural Area	44.3%	43.6%
9.3	Anstey Recreation Ground skate park	Eastern Rural Area	44.3%	43.6%
12	Aspenden Recreation Ground	North Western Rural Area	47.9%	48.0%
12.1	Aspenden Recreation Ground Play Area	North Western Rural Area	45.7%	43.6%
18	Aston Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area	61.0%	58.0%
18.1	Aston Playing Field Play Area	North Western Rural Area	65.6%	47.3%
18.2	Aston Playing Field Youth Area	North Western Rural Area	40.6%	16.4%
19	Aubries Playground	Walkern	51.9%	20.0%
21	Balls Park	Hertford	60.1%	43.6%
22	Balls Wood	Hertford Heath	66.6%	49.1%
23	Barons Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	39.5%	29.1%
26.1	Barreldown Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	75.6%	50.9%
29.1	Beacon Road Play Area	Ware	57.7%	47.3%
31.1	Widford Playground	South Western Rural Area	25.8%	16.4%
32	Bencroft Wood	South Western Rural Area	65.2%	45.5%
34	Bennington Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area	46.2%	53.0%
34.1	Bennington Recreation Ground Play Area	North Western Rural Area	65.6%	47.3%
36.1	Birch Green Village Playground	South Western Rural Area	63.9%	50.9%
36.2	Birch Green Youth Area	South Western Rural Area	34.0%	20.0%
44	Bishops Park	Bishop's Stortford	37.1%	32.7%
44.1	Bishops Park Play Area 1	Bishop's Stortford	62.9%	65.5%
44.2	Bishops Park Play Area 2	Bishop's Stortford	63.9%	65.5%
44.3	Bishops Park outdoor gym	Bishop's Stortford	52.2%	29.1%
44.4	Bishops Park Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	55.3%	47.3%
56	Braughing Playing Fields	Braughing	66.9%	44.0%
56.1	Braughing Play Area	Braughing	70.1%	47.3%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
56.2	Braughing Youth Area	Braughing	70.1%	47.3%
57	Brickendon Green	South Western Rural Area	67.3%	53.0%
57.1	Brickendon Green Play Area	South Western Rural Area	48.5%	56.4%
62	Broxbourne Wood Nature Reserve	South Western Rural Area	67.2%	40.9%
63.1	Bullfields Recreation Ground Play Area	Sawbridgeworth	53.3%	50.9%
63.2	Bullfields Rec Ground half MUGA	Sawbridgeworth	53.3%	50.9%
64	Broxbourne Woods National Nature Reserve	South Western Rural Area	69.3%	54.5%
68	Burleigh Road play area	Hertford	58.4%	38.2%
69.1	Burley Road Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	16.5%	12.7%
73	Burnham Green Playground	North Western Rural Area	35.4%	43.6%
75	Bury Lane	South Western Rural Area	67.1%	45.0%
75.1	Bramfield Playground	South Western Rural Area	77.0%	50.9%
75.2	Bramfield MUGA	South Western Rural Area	77.0%	50.9%
76.1	Buryfield Recreation Ground Play Area	Ware	81.8%	54.5%
78.1	Campfield Road play area 1	Hertford	71.8%	47.3%
79.2	Campfield Road play area 2	Hertford	62.5%	47.3%
80.1	Cannons Close Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	39.2%	29.1%
83	Castle Gardens	Hertford	61.3%	54.5%
83.1	Hertford Castle Play Area	Hertford	74.6%	47.3%
84	Castle Park	Bishop's Stortford	78.5%	63.6%
84.1	Sworders Field Adventure Playground	Bishop's Stortford	47.8%	78.2%
84.2	Sworders Field Half MUGA	Bishop's Stortford	31.6%	25.5%
84.3	Sworders Field Playground	Bishop's Stortford	66.7%	90.9%
84.4	Sworders Field, Castle Skate Park	Bishop's Stortford	55.3%	38.2%
85.1	Cecil Road play area 1	Hertford	79.7%	47.3%
85.2	Cecil Road Youth Area	Hertford	28.5%	47.3%
85.3	Cecil Road play area 2	Hertford	71.8%	47.3%
93.1	Norman Wodson Sports Field Playground	South Western Rural Area	49.5%	47.3%
99	Cottered Recreation Ground	North Western Rural Area	65.5%	53.0%
99.1	Cottered Recreation Ground Play Area	North Western Rural Area	57.4%	47.3%
102	Cricketfield Lane	Bishop's Stortford	47.6%	53.0%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
106	Crouch Gardens Play Area	Buntingford	73.9%	47.3%
110	Danemead Wildlife Trust	South Western Rural Area	53.3%	43.6%
111	Datchworth Green, adj to Datchworth Sports Club	North Western Rural Area	54.4%	64.0%
113.1	Datchworth Green Playground, adj to Datchworth Sports Club	North Western Rural Area	35.4%	16.4%
114	Dellfields Play Area	South Western Rural Area	63.9%	16.4%
115.1	Dimsdale Crescent play area	Bishop's Stortford	36.1%	25.5%
115.2	Dimsdale Crescent basketball area	Bishop's Stortford	28.9%	25.5%
119	Edens Mount play area	Sawbridgeworth	66.0%	47.3%
125.1	Foxholes play area	Hertford	73.5%	50.9%
125.2	Foxholes Avenue play area	Hertford	75.9%	47.3%
126.1	Gage Gardens/Taplow Avenue play area	Hertford	78.4%	41.8%
130	Gladstone Road play area	North Western Rural Area	73.2%	41.8%
131	Goldings Wood	Hertford Heath	33.4%	40.9%
136.1	Great Innings Play Area	Watton-at-Stone	74.2%	69.1%
136.2	Great Innings Youth Area	Watton-at-Stone	74.2%	69.1%
141.1	Giffin Way play area	Sawbridgeworth	69.1%	60.0%
147	Hare Street Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area	75.0%	34.0%
147.1	Hare Street Playground	North Western Rural Area	74.6%	29.1%
149.1	Hare Street Road Play Area	Buntingford	73.5%	60.0%
149.2	Hare Street Road Playing Field outdoor gym	Buntingford	73.5%	60.0%
152	Hartham Common	Hertford	50.2%	50.0%
152.1	Hartham Playground	Hertford	84.2%	60.0%
152.2	Hartham Common Skate Park	Hertford	68.4%	47.3%
152.3	Hartham Common Play Area (Older Children)	Hertford	68.0%	47.3%
159	Heath Drive	Ware	45.1%	32.0%
159.1	Wodson Park Playground	Ware	75.9%	50.9%
159.2	Wodson Park Youth Area	Ware	75.9%	50.9%
164	Hertford Heath Nature Reserve	Hertford Heath	64.1%	45.5%
170.1	Walkern Play Area	Walkern	73.9%	50.9%
180.1	High Wych Recreation Ground Play Area	Eastern Rural Area	73.9%	50.9%
182	Hillside Crescent play area	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	77.3%	54.5%
188	Horses Meadow, Munden Road, Dane End	North Western Rural Area	50.4%	53.0%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
188.1	Dane End Recreation Play Area	North Western Rural Area	23.4%	16.4%
188.2	Dane End Recreation Basketball	North Western Rural Area	23.4%	16.4%
189.1	Hunsdon Recreation Ground Play Area	Hunsdon	75.6%	50.9%
189.2	Hunsdon Recreation Youth shelter	Hunsdon	62.2%	47.3%
192.1	Pinehurst Recreation Ground play area 1	Hertford	56.0%	50.9%
192.2	Pinehurst Recreation Ground play area 2	Hertford	72.2%	50.9%
192.3	Pinehurst Recreation Ground Half MUGA	Hertford	45.7%	47.3%
196.1	King George Playground 1	Ware	73.5%	54.5%
196.2	King George Playground 2	Ware	28.9%	16.4%
196.3	King George MUGA	Ware	48.1%	47.3%
200	Kingham Road	South Western Rural Area	39.2%	22.0%
200.1	Kingham Road play area	South Western Rural Area	65.3%	47.3%
202	Kings Mead	Hertford	44.5%	40.0%
203	The Meads	Hertford	58.5%	39.1%
204	Knebworth Court play area	Bishop's Stortford	21.6%	12.7%
205.1	Lady Margaret Gardens older children's play area	Ware	61.9%	50.9%
205.2	Lady Margaret Gardens MUGA	Ware	42.3%	50.9%
208.1	Lawrence Avenue Play Area	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	70.4%	47.3%
209	Layston Court Gardens	Buntingford	45.7%	43.6%
209.1	Layston Court Gardens Shelter	Buntingford	45.7%	43.6%
213	Lilbourne Drive Play Area	Hertford	76.3%	47.3%
216.1	Little Berkhamstead Rec Ground Play Area	South Western Rural Area	71.1%	47.3%
220.1	Little Hadham Playground	Eastern Rural Area	52.9%	34.5%
220.2	Little Hadham Basketball	Eastern Rural Area	52.9%	34.5%
221.1	Village Hall Playground	Eastern Rural Area	73.2%	50.9%
221.2	Village Hall Half MUGA	Eastern Rural Area	73.2%	50.9%
228	Lower Bourne Gardens	Ware	50.1%	49.0%
228.1	Lower Bourne Playground	Ware	77.3%	50.9%
241	Miles Way play area	Buntingford	77.7%	38.2%
243	Mill Wood	Much Hadham	26.1%	23.6%
245	Millmead	Hertford	56.2%	54.0%
245.1	Millmead play area 1	Hertford	74.2%	47.3%
245.2	Millmead play area 2	Hertford	77.7%	20.0%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
248	Moor Green Village Green	North Western Rural Area	42.9%	42.0%
252	Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Much Hadham	51.2%	50.0%
252.1	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Play Area	Much Hadham	55.3%	47.3%
252.2	Much Hadham Recreation Ground Youth Area	Much Hadham	55.3%	47.3%
256	Much Wood	Hertford Heath	33.4%	40.9%
261	Norfolk Road Playing Field	Buntingford	47.8%	44.0%
261.1	Buntingford Skate Park	Buntingford	77.3%	60.0%
261.2	Norfolk Road interactive football wall	Buntingford	77.3%	60.0%
261.3	Norfolk Road Play Area	Buntingford	77.3%	60.0%
261.4	Norfolk Road Pump Track	Buntingford	77.3%	60.0%
262	North Drive LAP	South Western Rural Area	62.9%	34.5%
264.1	St Michaels Mead play area	Bishop's Stortford	73.9%	50.9%
264.2	St Michaels Mead Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	73.9%	50.9%
265.1	Northolt Avenue Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	59.8%	38.2%
267.1	Nutcroft Open Space play area	North Western Rural Area	25.8%	12.7%
271	Panshanger Park	South Western Rural Area	71.8%	40.9%
274.1	Parsonage Lane play area 1	Bishop's Stortford	56.7%	60.0%
274.2	Parsonage Lane play area 2	Bishop's Stortford	29.2%	25.5%
274.3	Parsonage Lane football goals	Bishop's Stortford	26.1%	25.5%
274.4	Parsonage Lane basketball	Bishop's Stortford	29.2%	25.5%
279.2	The Pilgrams play area	North Western Rural Area	67.0%	47.3%
280	Pishiobury Park	Sawbridgeworth	74.9%	40.9%
283	Post Wood	Ware	59.9%	50.0%
284.1	Presdales Drive Play Area	Ware	64.3%	47.3%
286	Presdales Recreation Ground	Ware	53.1%	33.0%
287	Priory Gardens	Ware	69.8%	59.1%
287.1	Priory Gardens MUGA	Ware	56.7%	50.9%
287.2	Priory Gardens outdoor gym	Ware	56.7%	50.9%
287.3	Priory Gardens youth shelter	Ware		
287.5	Ware Skate Park	Ware	63.2%	50.9%
293	Red, White and Blue Country Park	Bishop's Stortford	77.4%	45.5%
298	Ridgeway/NNW/Bentley play area	Hertford	81.8%	50.9%
304	Rye House Gatehouse	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	57.6%	43.0%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
306	Rye Mead Nature Reserve	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	96.2%	54.5%
309	Sacombe Road	Hertford	53.0%	49.0%
309.1	Sacombe Road play area	Hertford	71.1%	50.9%
309.2	Sacombe Road Basketball	Hertford	38.5%	38.2%
319	School Lane Play Area	North Western Rural Area	64.9%	47.3%
321	Seth Ward Playing Field	Buntingford	58.0%	49.0%
321.1	Seth Ward Playing Field Play Area	Buntingford	82.5%	50.9%
321.2	Seth Ward Playing Field outdoor gym	Buntingford	82.5%	50.9%
323.1	Sheering Mill Lane Play Area	Sawbridgeworth	66.0%	50.9%
328	Southern Country Park	Bishop's Stortford	86.4%	54.5%
328.1	Southern Country Park Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	67.4%	78.2%
328.2	Southern Country Park Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	64.3%	41.8%
332.1	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields Play Area	Standon and Puckeridge	80.1%	69.1%
332.2	Puckeridge & Standon playing fields Skate Park	Standon and Puckeridge	48.5%	50.9%
375.1	High Street Playground	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	79.0%	50.9%
375.2	High Street Youth Area	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	79.0%	50.9%
379.1	Stapleford Playground	South Western Rural Area	41.9%	34.5%
379.2	Stapleford Basketball area	South Western Rural Area	41.9%	34.5%
387.1	Tonwell Playing Fields Playground	South Western Rural Area	28.5%	16.4%
388	Terlings Park AGS	Eastern Rural Area	46.1%	48.2%
388.1	Terlings Park play area	Eastern Rural Area	66.7%	47.3%
395.1	The Bourne Play Area	Ware	66.3%	47.3%
395.2	The Bourne Play Area (older Children)	Ware	34.7%	47.3%
396.1	Albury Playing Fields Play Area	Eastern Rural Area	75.9%	41.8%
402.1	Tanners Way Play Area	Hunsdon	47.1%	20.0%
404.1	The Granary Play Area	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	64.9%	47.3%
411	The Ridgeway	Hertford	55.1%	29.0%
411.1	Ridgeway play area	Hertford	79.4%	41.8%
411.2	Ridgeway MUGA	Hertford	56.7%	50.9%
412	The Garden Sanctuary	Bishop's Stortford	46.2%	39.1%
413.1	The Springs/Rowley Road play area	Hertford	75.6%	47.3%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
413.2	Rowleys Road Youth Area	Hertford	61.9%	47.3%
422	Thorley Wedge	Bishop's Stortford	66.5%	54.0%
422.1	Lower Park Crescent Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	43.0%	47.3%
422.2	Lower Park Crescent Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	19.6%	16.4%
422.3	Thorley Park Playground	Bishop's Stortford	60.8%	60.0%
422.4	Thorley Park Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	32.0%	38.2%
431.1	Trinity Road Playground	Hertford Heath	75.9%	50.9%
431.2	Trinity Road Youth Area	Hertford Heath	42.3%	38.2%
432.1	Trinity Street play area	Bishop's Stortford	43.3%	69.1%
434.1	Truswell Crescent play area	Sawbridgeworth	63.6%	50.9%
439	Turkey Farm Playing Fields	North Western Rural Area	47.6%	53.0%
439.1	Turkey Farm Play Area	North Western Rural Area	31.6%	47.3%
439.2	Turkey Farm MUGA	North Western Rural Area	24.7%	25.5%
440.1	Turners Crescent Play Area	Bishop's Stortford	75.3%	50.9%
442	Upper Green	South Western Rural Area	73.9%	48.0%
442.1	Tewin Upper Green Play Area	South Western Rural Area	72.9%	29.1%
444.1	Vantorts Close Play Area	Sawbridgeworth	70.4%	50.9%
444.2	Vantorts Close Skate park and basketball area	Sawbridgeworth	58.4%	47.3%
454	Walkern Playing Fields	Walkern	59.7%	53.0%
454.1	High Street Playing Fields Playground	Walkern	31.6%	16.4%
457.1	Ward Crescent Playground	Bishop's Stortford	74.2%	41.8%
457.2	Ward Crescent Youth Area	Bishop's Stortford	74.2%	41.8%
463	Waterford Marsh	Hertford	63.4%	40.0%
464	Waterford Heath	Hertford	63.8%	40.9%
466.1	Waterford Playground	South Western Rural Area	26.1%	43.6%
466.2	Waterford Basketball	South Western Rural Area	20.6%	12.7%
467	Watermill Lane	Hertford	53.0%	43.0%
467.1	Watermill Lane Play Area	Hertford	70.4%	50.9%
469	Watton at Stone Playing Fields	Watton-at-Stone	51.5%	44.0%
469.1	Watton at Stone Playing Fields Play Area	Watton-at-Stone	26.5%	16.4%
469.2	Watton-at Stone Play area	Watton-at-Stone	59.8%	50.9%
476.1	Waytemore Road play area 1	Bishop's Stortford	67.4%	50.9%
476.2	Waytemore Road play area 2	Bishop's Stortford	67.4%	50.9%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality	Value
477.1	West Road play area	Sawbridgeworth	61.2%	60.0%
486.1	Wilson Close play area	Bishop's Stortford	69.4%	25.5%
494	Yearling Close Playground	Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets	70.1%	47.3%
495	St James Park Playground	Bishop's Stortford	64.9%	90.9%
574	St Leonards Garden	Hertford	38.5%	25.5%

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX FOUR: ASSESSMENT FORM

OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENT				KKP ref:	
Name of site					
Road name					
Primary typology of open space		Sub typology			
Land owner					
Date		Time	Weather		
Physical access		(Yes if present)	Access – social		(Yes if present)
Public transport links/stops			Minimum entrance widths of 1.5m and suitable surface to allow for		
Safe crossing places			Directional signposts		
Main entrance					
Entrance does not open onto safe/busy areas and no natural surveillance from public spaces, roads, footpaths		Entrance opens onto reasonably safe/busy area with some natural surveillance from public spaces, roads and		Entrance opens onto safe/busy areas with natural surveillance from public spaces, roads, footpaths	
1	2	3	4	5	
Other entrances					
Entrances do not open onto safe/busy areas and no natural surveillance from public spaces, roads, footpaths		Entrance opens onto reasonably safe/busy area with some natural surveillance from public spaces, roads and		Entrance opens onto safe/busy areas with natural surveillance from public spaces, roads, footpaths	
1	2	3	4	5	
Access within and through site					
Restrictive for all		Restrictive for most		Mixed access	
Accessible for most		Accessible for most		Accessible for all	
1	2	3	4	5	
Personal security					
Not overlooked		Overlooked by other land use		Overlooked on one side	
Overlooked on most sides		Overlooked on every side			
1	2	3	4	5	
Ramps and guard rails					
Are ramps and guard rails installed within the site?				Yes	No
If No, would it be of benefit / appropriate to the site?					
Adequacy					
Some ramps/guard rails, but noticeable gaps that require attention.		Adequate number of ramps/guard rails within the site but could be improved.		Appropriate number and location of ramps/guards rails within the site to improve access. No	
1	2	3	4	5	
Boundary fencing / controls to prevent misuse					
Is boundary fencing installed around the site?				Yes	No
If No, would it be of benefit / appropriate to the site?					
Adequacy					
Noticeable gaps that require attention. Poor quality		Adequate but could be improved. Variable quality		Appropriate for the site. No improvements required. Good condition.	
1	2	3	4	5	
Parking					
Is specific car parking available for the site?				Yes	No
Is there parking for disabled users?					
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?					
EV charging available?					
Cycle parking/storage available?					
Amount					
Inadequately meets the needs of the site in terms of size and type.		Reasonable number of spaces but may be at capacity during peak		Adequately meets the needs of the site in terms of size and type.	
1	2	3	4	5	

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Quality				
Poor quality i.e. pot holes, poorly marked, uneven, weeds present, secluded, poor lighting.		Reasonable quality		Good quality i.e. level surface, well marked, free from pot holes, feels safe.
1	2	3	4	5
Information/signage		(Yes if appropriate)	Information/signage	
		(Yes if appropriate)		
Parking well signed			Signs situated at entrance and strategic points	
Easy to read/clear messages (including warning of potential hazards)			(Where appropriate) maps and graphics used	
Well maintained and free from graffiti/vandalism			Evidence of site marketing (e.g., noticeboard)	
Basic up to date information given			Signs at accessible height	
Site would benefit from interpretive signage				
Toilets			Yes	No
Toilets provided within/adjacent to the site				
Disabled toilet available				
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?				
Changing facility?				
Accessibility and appearance				
No signage, poor access, poorly maintained and graffiti/vandalism		Toilets reasonably signed, reasonable access, reasonably maintained, some evidence of		Toilets well signed, easy access, well maintained and free
1	2	3	4	5
Seats/benches			Yes	No
Are seats/benches provided at the site				
How many seats/benches are provided				
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?				
Number and location				
Small number of seats/benches, none of which are located at strategic places		Reasonable number of seats/benches, some of which are placed at strategic places		Adequate number of benches, all located at appropriate strategic
1	2	3	4	5
Quality / Condition				
Seats/benches poorly maintained with graffiti/vandalism		Some seats/benches poorly maintained with graffiti/vandalism		All seats/benches well maintained with no graffiti/vandalism
1	2	3	4	5
Picnic tables			Yes	No
Are picnic tables provided at the site				
How many are provided				
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?				
Number and location of tables				
Small number of picnic tables, none of which are located at strategic places		Reasonable number of picnic tables, some of which are placed at strategic places		Adequate number of tables, all located at appropriate strategic
1	2	3	4	5
Quality / Condition				
Picnic tables poorly maintained with graffiti/vandalism		Some picnic tables poorly maintained with graffiti/vandalism		All picnic tables well maintained with no graffiti/vandalism
1	2	3	4	5
Litter bins			Yes	No
Are litter bins provided at the site				
If No, would it be of benefit/appropriate to the site?				
Number and location				
Inadequate number of bins and/or not situated appropriately		Some bins visible, but more required		Adequate number of bins and/or situated appropriately
1	2	3	4	5

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

SITE QUALITY				
Overall maintenance and cleanliness				
General appearance is very poor. Litter, graffiti is considered a large problem	Poor appearance with evidence of dog foul, graffiti and/or litter	Adequate	Good appearance with little evidence of litter, graffiti and/or dog	Excellent appearance with no litter/dog foul
1	2	3	4	5
Drainage				
The site is poorly drained (evidence of significant water pools)		Some evidence of water pools		The site is well drained (no evidence of water pools)
1	2	3	4	5
Landscaping				
Landscape, shrub, grassed areas and/or flowerbeds are not attractive in design		Half of landscape, shrub, grassed areas and/or flowerbeds are attractive in design		Landscape, shrub, grassed areas and/or flowerbeds are attractive in design
1	2	3	4	5
Paths				
Poor surface quality with potholes and/or uneven paving. Unsuitable surface material. Unsuitable for all users.		Reasonable quality with some evidence of damage to surface and suitable for some users.		Good surface quality free from pot holes and even. Appropriate surface material. Suitable for a range of users including
1	2	3	4	5
Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora				
Very poor - evidence of vandalism	Poor condition - little observation of areas managed to provide habitats	Adequate - some evidence of conservation, e.g., meadow or bird/bat	Good condition - environmental education facilities, maintained to attract	Very good - Priority conservation site (SSSI or LNR)
1	2	3	4	5
SITE VALUE				
Connectivity		Yes		No
Does this site connect to any other type of open space that you are aware of? i.e. via a cyclepath or footpath				
If so, what type of site or sites (please detail)				
Level of use				
Poorly used		Reasonabl		Well used
1	2	3	4	5
Benefits			High value	Low value
Structural				
If high, please provide example				
Ecological				
If high, please provide example				
Educational				
If high, please provide example				
Social				
If high, please provide example				
Cultural and				
If high, please provide example				
Amenity				
If high, please provide example				
Economic				
If high, please				

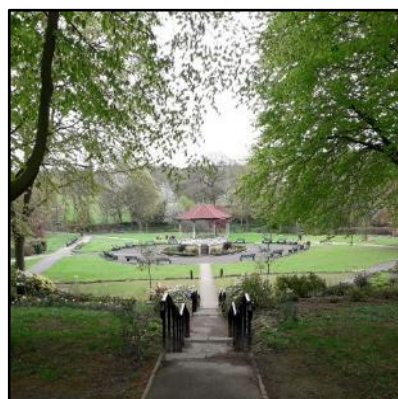
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX FIVE: DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

To expand and enhance the sites within East Hertfordshire, the following key considerations for the design/quality of different types of open spaces are recommended.

Parks and gardens - Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

- Appropriate design and layout of interest, including suitable planting, seating, bins, etc
- Larger sites may host other provision types (i.e. formal sport pitches, play and youth facilities) and features. Sites large enough to accommodate pitch sports should be, in part, of a level gradient to accommodate such activities
- Larger facilities should offer secure bicycle parking, toilets, café, EV charging, etc
- Access for passive recreation is encouraged through especially generous provision of seating and hard-surfaced paths. Particular attention should also be given to surveillance
- Sites should be accessible and inclusive for all users
- Fencing must integrate aesthetically into the surroundings and be of durable materials.
- Signage to welcome users, contact details, and set out any constraints of use
- These features are indicative of good practice and may inform discussions around contributions where appropriate, but specific requirements should be determined through site context and planning negotiations.



EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Amenity greenspace - Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.

- Closely integrated with any development to provide a greening effect to the environment
- Open space provision should be meaningful and at the “heart” of new developments. ‘Meaningful’ in this context refers to spaces that are usable, accessible, and contribute positively to the character and function of the development, rather than being residual or leftover land.
- Close positioning of multiple spaces can contribute to connectivity and landscape quality
- Focus for such provision is for informal recreational activities such as ‘kickabout’ football, sitting, and dog walking, etc. Consider appropriate provision of seating, bins, etc
- Ideally, incorporate shade from existing mature trees or planting of new trees
- Sites should be accessible and inclusive for all users
- Open views for natural surveillance
- Signage to welcome users, contact details, and set out any constraints of use
- Grass species to be hard-wearing but not rich species for biodiversity, which can be provided with a 1m biodiversity edge
- To be located adjacent to an equipped area of open space
- All required sqm of this typology to be provided in one area (not to be made up of small, inadequate parcels of leftover areas of land which are undevelopable)



Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace - Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

- Expected to contribute to green infrastructure by reinforcing existing and creating new corridors to link and close gaps on the existing networks
- Minimise the severance impact of road networks on wider green infrastructure
- Existing wildlife value protected & enhanced through restoration and creation of new habitats. This should recognise Biodiversity Net Gain requirements and not look to double-count land use
- Variations in vegetation structure and topography to ensure habitat diversity/landscape effect
- SUDS may count towards semi-natural provision only if they are publicly accessible and without restriction
- Appropriate footpaths and materials. Main paths should be hard surfaced with tarmac or gravel loose fill material, with pathways within grassed areas simply marked by mowing where natural drainage is adequate. For wet areas, timber boardwalks should be installed as appropriate
- Sites should be accessible and inclusive for all users
- Fencing and gates/stiles installed as appropriate to reduce user pressure on zones of conservation importance
- Appropriate inclusion of ancillary facilities, e.g., seating, bins, etc
- Entrance/Interpretation signage installed as appropriate



EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Equipped Play Space / Provision for Young People - Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

- To be located adjacent to or within amenity greenspaces or parks, and close enough to pedestrian routes or dwellings to enable natural surveillance
- Incorporate necessary buffer zones (20-30m, subject to the type of play) from dwellings
- Away from exposure to prevailing winds
- Linked to pedestrian and vehicular routes by hard-surfaced paths, accessible for all.
- Larger facilities should offer secure bicycle parking
- Attractive and stimulating environment for both active and passive play; designed for aesthetic cohesion to a unified theme. Active play involves physical movement (e.g. climbing, running), while passive play supports quieter or imaginative activities (e.g. sensory panels, role play, seating areas). Developers can demonstrate this through layout plans and equipment specifications.
- Equipment designed and installed in accordance with EN1176 and EN1177 (or subsequent updates). Equipment selected and positioned to avoid the possibility of views into neighbouring properties. All play features must be continuous with a shared common surface (not grass)
- Features to encourage inclusive play, e.g. wide transfer platforms on multi-play units, roundabouts flush with ground level, back supports on equipment, play panels, handrails, sound chimes and textured surfaces
- Sites should be accessible and inclusive for all users including genders and abilities
- Separate zones for younger and older children, possibly within the same activity area, or by means of two distinct activity areas in proximity at the same location
- Maximise opportunities for physical/mental wellbeing, such as outdoor gym provision
- Equipped areas of open space to be appropriately fenced. Fencing should be durable, safe, and visually appropriate to the setting. It should support safety without creating a hostile or overly enclosed environment.
- Signage to name the site and welcome users, also to indicate constraints on use and provide contact details. It is essential that dogs are discouraged, at least through the signage, but sometimes also through fencing



EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Equipped Play Space / Provision for Young People - Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

- Creatively designed and suitably located seating. This refers to seating that is visually engaging, well-integrated into the play environment, and encourages social interaction or imaginative use.
- Any trees and shrubs should be strategically placed to provide areas of shade and play opportunities without obstructing informal surveillance
- All plants selected are tough and resistant to damage with low maintenance requirements and not poisonous, thorny or otherwise hazardous
- Play features must be sustainable and robust to achieve the longest possible life. Sustainability can be demonstrated through material choice (e.g. recycled or low-maintenance materials), durability, and lifecycle considerations.
- Post installation inspection of the play items must be carried out by an accredited company on completion of the installation



EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Allotments - Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

- Linked to pedestrian and cycle paths
- Plots should ideally be situated away from the shade of trees
- Adhere to the National Allotment Society Guidance – 21st Century Allotments in New Developments
- Minimum of one water point
- Secure perimeter fencing with rabbit netting and a lockable gate (including vehicular access for larger sites)
- Sites should be accessible and inclusive for all users
- Sign/noticeboard detailing any applicable ownership, rules, emergency contact, etc
- Parking on site. On-site parking is considered an ancillary feature that supports the accessibility and functionality of allotment sites, particularly for users transporting tools or produce. However, it does not contribute to the quantitative provision area required for allotments. The provision area should be calculated based on usable plot space and associated communal areas, excluding infrastructure such as parking.

