



**WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OPEN SPACE REPORT**

**MARCH 2023**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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### Glossary

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

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions*

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

### 1.1 Report structure

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

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

Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. where it is also available for wider community use as open space) is included in this study. For example a pitch marked within a recreation ground will be included in the hectares of the recreation ground. Provision purely for 'private' sporting use are the focus of other studies (i.e. Playing Pitch Strategy). For example, school playing fields are not included in this study. On dual use sites, the pitch playing surfaces are counted as part of the overall site size as they are considered to contribute to the total open space site and reflect its multifunctionality.

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### 1.2 National context

#### ***National Planning Policy Framework (2021), (MHCLG)***

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

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

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

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

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

#### ***National Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG)***

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England***

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

*Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles*

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Summary of the national context***

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

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

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## PART 2: METHODOLOGY

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

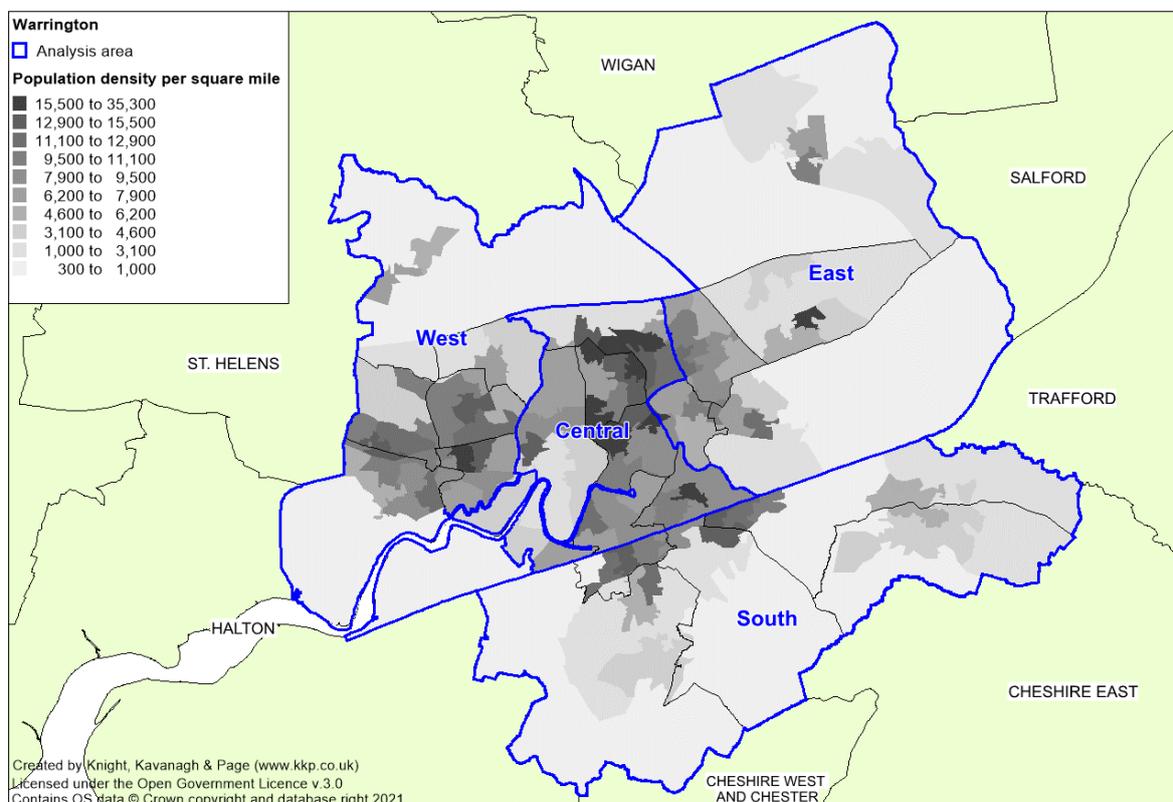
- ◀ 2.1 - Analysis areas
- ◀ 2.2 - Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3 - Open space provision standards
- ◀ 2.4 - Quality and value
- ◀ 2.5 - Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.6 - Accessibility catchments

### 2.1 Analysis areas

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

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

*Figure 2.1: Map of Warrington Borough including analysis areas*



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Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

Analysis area	Population
Central	65,552
East	47,033
South	41,534
West	55,278
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>209,397</b>

### 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. Only sites publicly accessible are included in the quality and value audit (i.e. private sites or land people cannot access are not).

This study is updating the previous 2015 audit therefore includes sites that have been built since 2015 as part of new developments. Sites have been re-assessed to reflect changes since the last study. With this, some sites have had their typology re-classified. It is also important to highlight that there are some sites that are under construction as part of housing schemes but have not been included in the study or the site assessments as they did not exist at the time that assessments were undertaken.

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

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

#### **Site size threshold**

In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. It is recognised 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. Consequently, any site below 0.2 hectares is included without a quality or value score.

If required, they should be assessed on a site-by-site basis (to assess potential community, biodiversity and visual value) if, for example, a request for development be made upon such a site in the future. Spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can often provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife. 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.

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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 all play space for children and young people (regardless of size), are included in the audit process.

### **Database development**

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

#### **Data held on open spaces database (summary)**

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

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

### **2.3 Open space standards**

To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are set and applied later in the document (Part 10).

<b>Quality</b>	Ability to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities. Aimed at identifying high quality provision for benchmarking and low quality provision for targeting as part of an improvement programme. The Quality Standard is based on the audit assessment scores.
<b>Quantity</b>	Are there enough spaces in the right places? Aimed at helping to establish areas of surplus and deficiency (using hectares per 1,000 population) and, where appropriate, to understand the potential for alternative uses and/or key forms of provision.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Distance thresholds aimed at improving accessibility factors (e.g. so people can find and get to open spaces without undue reliance on using a car) and helping to identify potential areas with gaps in provision. Shown via maps.

### **2.4 Quality and value**

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

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

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### ***Analysis of quality***

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

#### **Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)**

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

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

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

### ***Analysis of value***

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

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

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

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

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

### Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

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

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

## 2.5 Quality and value thresholds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology*

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	50%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	45%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%

### 2.6 Accessibility catchments

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

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

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Accessibility catchments are based on those set as part of the previous Warrington Open Space Study and best practice guidance from Fields in Trust and Natural England. These are set out in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Accessibility catchments

Open space type	Applicable site	Catchment
Parks & Gardens	Sites over 15 ha	1,200m
	Sites below 0.5 ha	400m
	All other sites (between 0.5 ha and 15 ha)	710m
Amenity Greenspace	Sites over 0.2 ha	480m
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace*	Sites over 2 ha	300m
	Sites over 20 ha	2,000m
	Sites over 100 ha	5,000m
Play provision	LAP	100m
	LEAP	400m
	NEAP	1,000m
	Casual provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	700m
Allotments	All sites	1,000m
		15-minute drive
Cemeteries		n/a
Green corridors		n/a

FIT do not set accessibility catchments/standards for cemeteries or green corridors. Provision of this type are more unique in their function and design; often new provision occurs in circumstances beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to set an accessibility standard.

\* Sites below 0.2 hectares are mapped but with no catchment applied

## PART 3: SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND SITE AUDIT

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

### 3.1 Community Survey

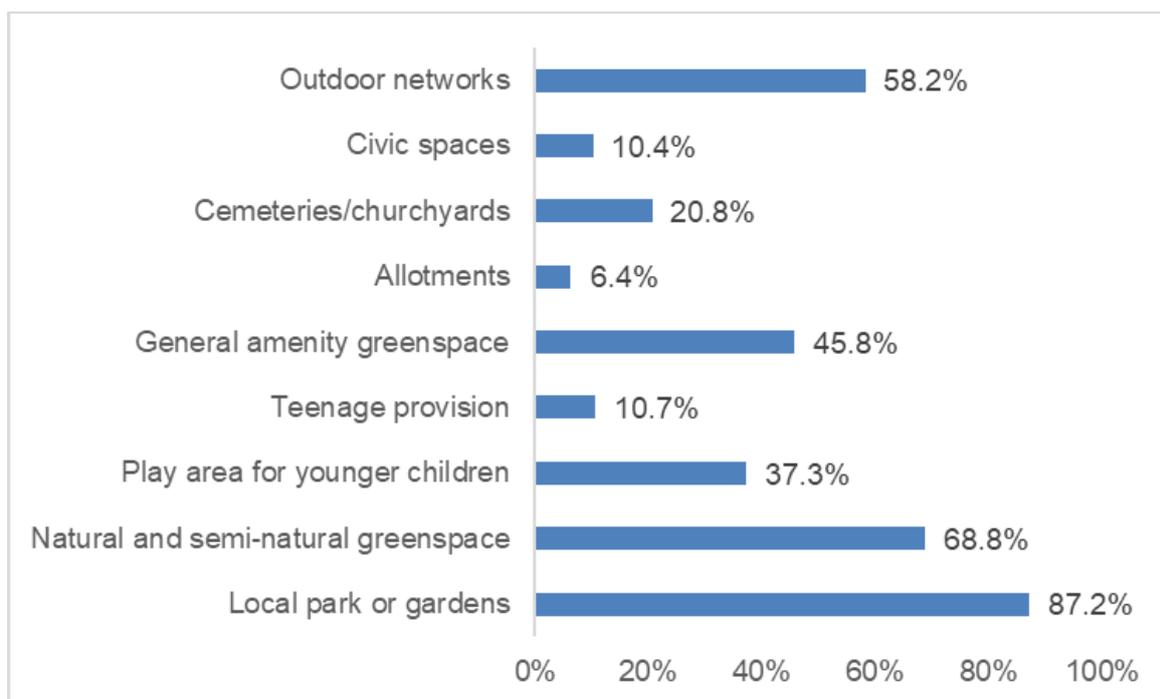
An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media and the Council's communication team. The use of a questionnaire was considered a good approach to providing a widespread opportunity for people to provide their thoughts towards open space provision.

The questionnaire consisted of a series of multiple choice and open-ended questions asking respondents their thoughts on topics such as types of open space visited, frequency and quality etc. A total of 625 responses were received. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

#### Usage

Popular forms of open space provision to visit most often are parks (87%), country parks (69%), civic spaces (58%) and teenage provision (46%).

Figure 3.1.1: Types of open space to visit



The main reasons for visiting open space are to go for a walk or stroll (88%), for fresh air (82%), for peace and quiet/to relax (61%), to experience/see nature (60%) and for time with family/friends (60%).

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The reason ‘to grow fresh fruits and vegetables’ received the lowest percentage with only 5% of respondents. This is a specific reason relating to those respondents stating they visit an allotment (with most people not being an allotment holder). Consequently, it is not a common reason for people visiting open space.

Table 3.1.1: Reasons for visits

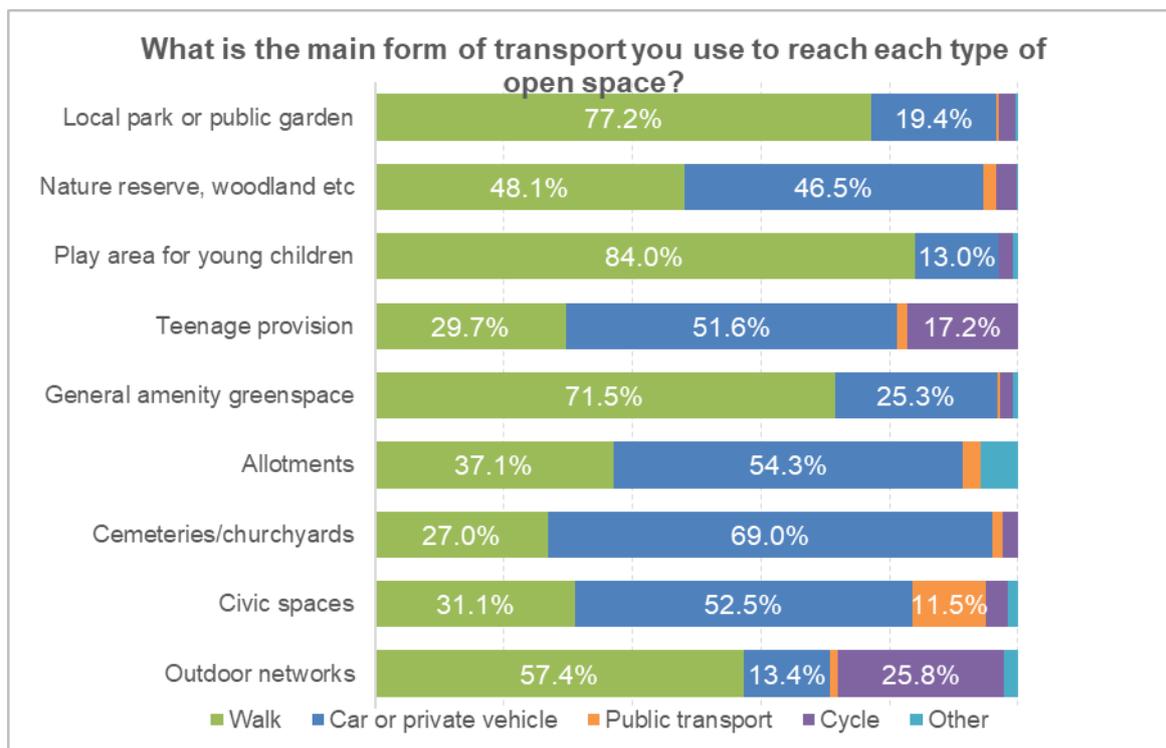
Why do you visit green spaces?	%
Walk/stroll	88%
Fresh air	82%
Peace and quiet/relax	61%
To experience/see nature	60%
Time with family/friends	60%
Exercise/sport	52%
Other (please state)	11%
To grow my own fresh fruits and vegetables	5%

## Accessibility

Results from the survey shows that individuals walk to access provision of play areas for young children (84%), parks (77%), amenity greenspace (72%), outdoor networks (57%) and nature reserves, commons or woodland (48%).

The exception to this is for cemeteries (69%), allotments (54%), civic spaces (53%) and teenage provision (52%) which individuals travel by car to access.

Figure 3.1.2: Mode of travel to open space sites

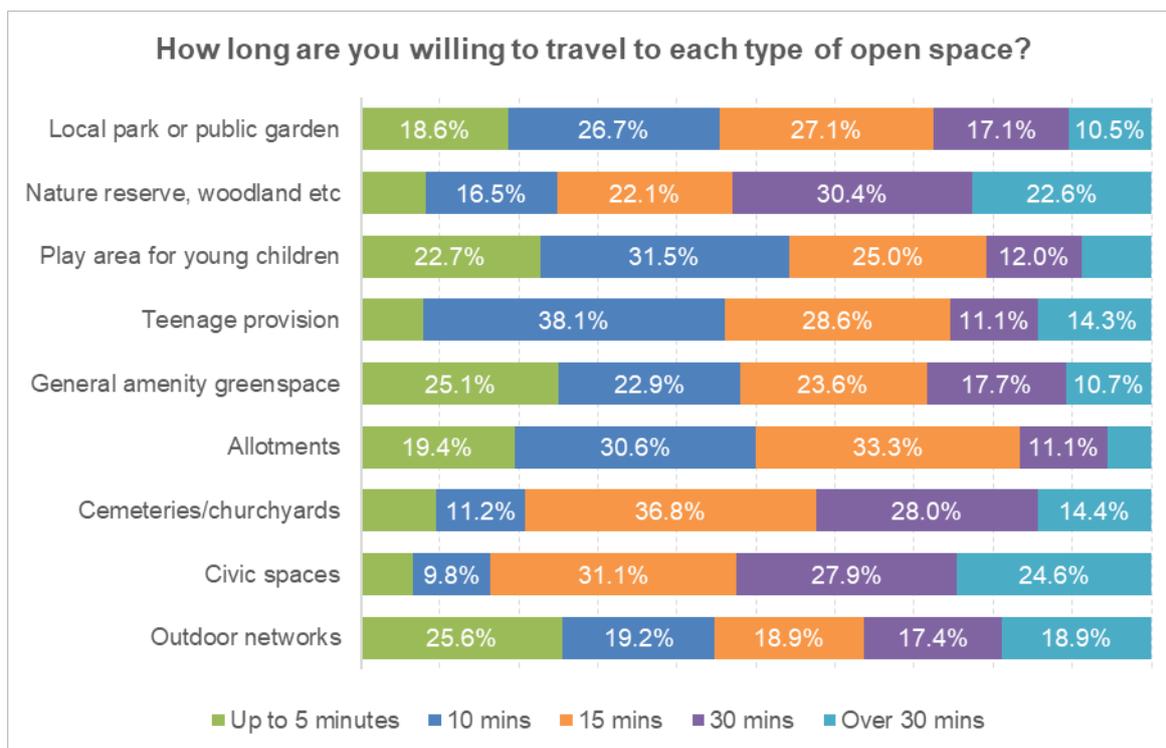


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For some provision such as nature reserves, civic spaces and cemeteries, there is a willingness to travel further distances. Nearly a third of respondents (30%) state they would travel 30 minutes to access a nature site with 28% willing to travel 30 minutes to a civic space or cemetery.

For other forms of provision, respondents show a willingness to travel a shorter amount of time (i.e., 10 to 15 minutes). This is particularly noticeable for parks, allotments, cemeteries and teenage provision. For play provision and amenity greenspace shorter travel times (i.e. 5 to 10 minutes) are observed.

Figure 3.1.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



## Availability and Quality

In general, respondents consider the amount of open space provision where they live to be positive with 42% stating quite satisfactory. A further 17% of respondents rate availability of open space provision as very satisfactory.

Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with availability of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
16.5%	42.2%	18%	14.8%	8.5%

Similarly, over a third of survey respondents (38%) consider the quality of open space provision to be quite satisfactory. A further 12% rate quality as very satisfactory. A smaller proportion of respondents view quality as quite unsatisfactory (19%) or very unsatisfactory (8%).

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Table 3.1.3: Satisfaction with quality of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
11.9%	38.5%	21.6%	19.5%	8.5%

Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve open space provision. The most common answers include better maintenance and care of features (67%), better and wider range of facilities (47%), more wildlife/habitat promotion (46%) and greater attractiveness (45%).

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

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
Better maintenance and care of features	66.5%
Better and wider range of facilities (i.e. play equipment, seating, refreshments)	47.0%
More wildlife/habitat promotion	46.0%
Greater attractiveness (e.g. flowers, trees)	45.2%
Improved access to and within sites	25.4%
Greater community involvement	18.4%
More public events	17.7%
Greater information on sites	13.3%
Other	11.7%

### 3.2 Audit overview

Within Warrington, this audit has captured a total of 799 sites equating to approximately 1,752 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural/semi-natural greenspace (1077 hectares); accounting for 61%.

Table 3.2: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Allotments	16	17
Amenity greenspace	200	179
Cemeteries	29	30
Green corridors	129	152
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	182	1077
Park and gardens	54	285
Provision for children & young people	189	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>1,752</b>

\* Rounded to the nearest whole number

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### 3.3 Quality

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

Table 3.3: Quality scores for all assessed open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest	Average	Highest	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	25%	49%	73%	54	91
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	20%	45%	79%	56	101
Park and gardens	35%	55%	86%	18	36
Provision for children & young people	27%	69%	94%	48	140
				<b>176</b>	<b>368</b>

There is generally a positive quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in 68% of sites scoring above the set thresholds for quality.

Proportionally there are more amenity greenspace sites to rate below the quality threshold. This is likely reflective to some of the smaller and more basic forms of provision without ancillary facilities.

The figures in Table 3.3 differ to 3.2 due to some sites not being assessed. All green corridors and allotments are not assessed. Furthermore, amenity greenspaces and natural greenspaces below 0.2 hectares have not been assessed.

### 3.4 Value

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

Table 3.4: Value scores for all assessed open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest	Average	Highest	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	7%	34%	82%	16	129
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	8%	38%	81%	12	145
Park and gardens	32%	62%	94%	0	54
Provision for children & young people	13%	49%	91%	17	171
				<b>45</b>	<b>499</b>

Most sites (92%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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

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## OPEN SPACE REPORT

### PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

#### 4.2 Current provision

There are 54 sites classified as parks and gardens across Warrington, the equivalent of over 284 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. All analysis areas have parks provision.

Table 4.1: Current parks provision in Warrington

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	20	83.96	1.28
East	8	72.86	1.55
South	10	58.88	1.42
West	16	69.21	1.25
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>284.91</b>	<b>1.36</b>

For parks and gardens, there is a current provision level of 1.36 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to provision is Birchwood Park (29 ha) located in the East Analysis Area. The next largest site is Victoria Park (26 ha) in the Central Analysis Area.

It is important to note that several open space sites across Warrington will help to serve a similar function to parks provision but are primarily classified as a natural/semi-natural greenspace or amenity greenspace. For example, parts of Sankey Valley Park have similar features to a park however are classified as a natural/semi-natural greenspace.

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

#### 4.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping, varying catchments are applied to reflect the different role of certain park sites. For sites over 15 hectares a 1,200m catchment is applied. For sites below 0.5 hectares a 400m catchment is applied, and for all other park sites a 710m catchment is used. Figure 4.1 shows these catchments applied to parks and gardens to help inform where potential deficiencies in provision may be located. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take account of topography or walking routes.

\* Field in Trust: Beyond Six Acre Standard (2015)

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with catchments

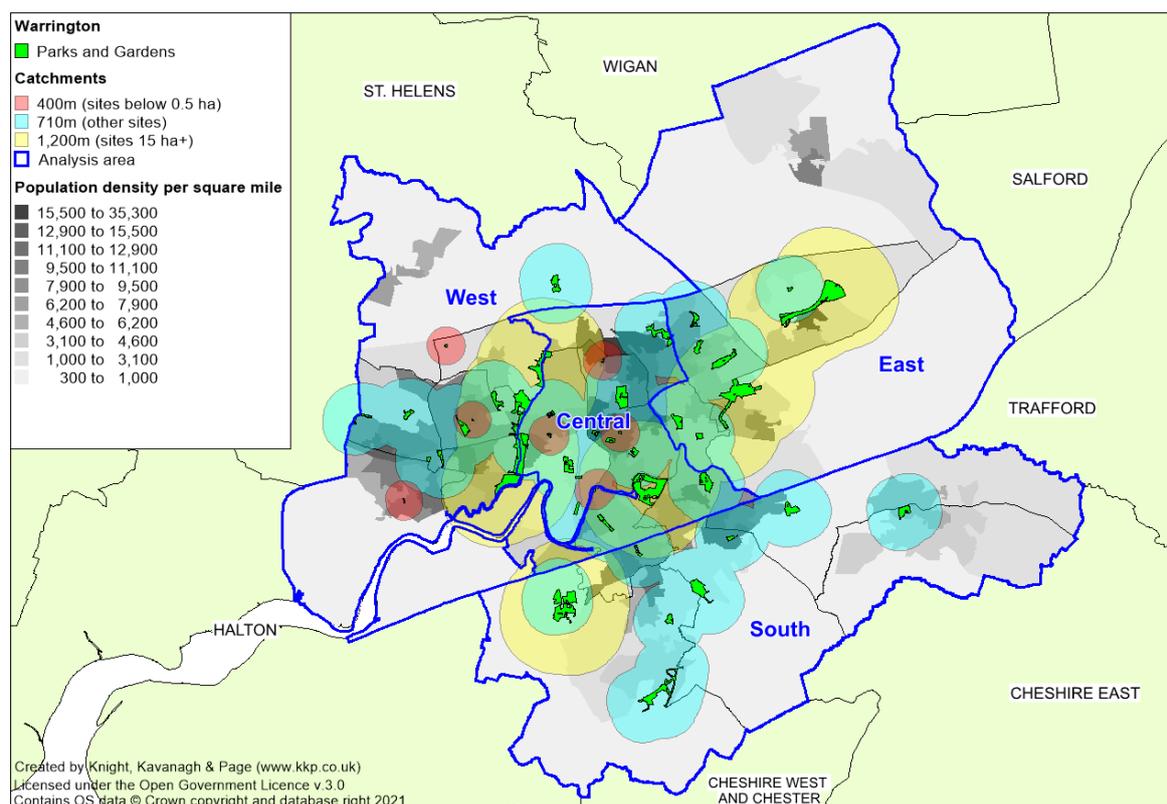


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
12	Alexandra Park	South	0.92	68.9%	83.3%
27	Bank Park	Central	5.28	67.7%	88.9%
37	Bewsey Park	Central	0.72	63.0%	61.1%
49	Birchwood Park	East	28.99	69.9%	72.2%
71	Brickfields Park	Central	1.06	47.6%	50.0%
96	Bruche Park	East	4.63	52.9%	66.7%
105	Butts Green Island	West	0.32	58.5%	58.9%
121	Carrington Wire Square, Monks Place	Central	0.34	40.2%	42.2%
123	Causeway Park	Central	3.03	56.9%	66.7%
132	Centre Park - Central Area	Central	1.70	56.0%	61.1%
145	Walton Lea Crematorium	South	4.01	66.4%	72.2%
146	Clough Avenue	Central	0.23	49.7%	32.2%
176	Dakota Park	West	4.15	56.7%	72.2%
201	Dudlows Green Park	South	2.44	59.4%	64.4%
208	Elizabeth Park	South	5.62	52.2%	61.1%
210	Enfield Hall Park	East	3.05	60.4%	61.1%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
213	Euclid Avenue Playing Field	South	1.30	59.0%	66.7%
257	Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden	South	9.54	60.0%	66.8%
341	Larkfield Avenue Park	East	1.51	43.9%	45.6%
363	Longbarn Park	East	7.26	56.3%	61.1%
403	Marshall Gardens	Central	0.38	63.5%	72.2%
428	Millenium Way (East End)	West	0.09	47.3%	45.6%
467	Orford Park	Central	10.68	67.1%	61.1%
480	Parkfields Park	East	2.90	44.5%	50.0%
483	Parsonage way	West	0.73	50.3%	47.8%
485	Peel Hall Park	Central	8.05	54.3%	61.1%
487	Penketh Gardens	West	0.22	51.1%	40.0%
493	Pewterspear Green Linear Park	South	5.51	61.4%	61.1%
496	Pewterspear Green Road Park	South	8.17	86.5%	88.9%
503	Queens Gardens	Central	0.73	61.9%	66.7%
516	Regency Square	Central	0.42	35.5%	43.3%
517	Ridgway Grundy Memorial Park	South	4.55	50.3%	72.2%
534	Sankey NW Park	West	1.51	46.9%	53.3%
541	Sankey Valley Park Bewsey Old Hall	West	2.79	35.8%	42.2%
542	Sankey Valley Park Callands	West	9.19	40.0%	61.1%
544	Sankey Valley Park Dallam	Central	2.22	46.3%	58.9%
546	Sankey Valley Park Nansen Close	West	4.78	46.9%	61.1%
548	Sankey Valley Park Old Hall Central	West	10.09	68.0%	72.2%
549	Sankey Valley Park Sankey Bridges	West	14.05	42.8%	44.4%
550	Sankey Valley Park Waterways	West	7.72	69.4%	72.2%
552	Sankey Valley Park Wellfield Street	Central	8.96	45.7%	50.0%
581	St Elphin's Park	Central	1.78	54.3%	61.1%
592	St. Peter's Park	Central	1.48	52.1%	61.1%
621	Thorntondale Drive Park	West	2.40	57.1%	66.7%
641	Twenty Acre Park (East)	West	4.09	46.9%	50.0%
648	UKAEA	East	0.65	54.2%	61.1%
652	Victoria Park	Central	25.81	64.4%	72.2%
660	Walton Gardens	South	16.49	68.7%	77.8%
667	Warrington Bridge War Memorial	Central	0.14	47.8%	45.6%
681	Westy Park	Central	7.51	51.4%	66.7%
690	Whitcross Park	Central	3.44	49.6%	72.2%
700	Whittle Brook Linear Park - Railway to Liverpool Road	West	2.18	57.0%	44.4%
713	Winwick Park No 1 (West)	West	4.90	44.9%	77.8%
725	Woolston Park	East	23.87	81.1%	75.6%

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Figure 4.1 highlights some gaps to areas of greater population density to the East Analysis Area (i.e. Culcheth) and West Analysis Area (i.e. Burtonwood). A minor gap is also noted in the south around the Lymn area. However, other types of open space provision are identified (Table 4.3) within these gaps. Such sites may help to serve as an alternative within the accessibility gap for parks.

Exploring the potential to formalise features associated with parks on some of these sites could be considered to increase a sites secondary function as a park.

Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
East	Common Lane/Warrington Road (ID 149) Kaye Avenue South (ID 284) Shaw Street Recreation Ground (ID 557)	Amenity Amenity Amenity
South	May Queen Field (ID 417) Sandy Lane (ID 528)	Amenity Amenity
West	Gorse Lane/Clay Lane (ID 251) Butchers Field (ID 103) Sherbourne Way/Chapel Lane (ID 559) Fir Tree Lane/Alder Lane (ID 224) Burtonwood Nature Park (ID 101)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural

In addition, Wheatacre Woods (ID 686) is just outside the Warrington Borough boundary but potentially may help serve the catchment gap in parks for the West Analysis Area. This site is off Gorse Lane, Burtonwood adjacent to site Gorse Lane/Clay Lane (ID 251). Wheatacre Woods scored below the semi-natural greenspace quality threshold but above the value threshold.

### 4.4 Quality

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

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Central	35%	54%	68%	8	12
East	44%	58%	81%	2	6
South	50%	63%	86%	0	10
West	36%	51%	69%	8	8
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>36</b>

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

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Of the 54 park and garden sites in the Borough, two thirds rate above the quality threshold. There is a significant difference in quality between the highest scoring site (Pewterspear Green Road Park) and the lowest scoring site (Regency Square).

The lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Regency Square (36%)
- ◀ Sankey Valley Park Bewsey Old Hall (36%)
- ◀ Sankey Valley Park Callands (40%)
- ◀ Carrington Wire Square, Monks Place (40%)

No concerning quality issues are noted and all score reasonably well for overall appearance, paths and maintenance. However, none of the sites have signage.

Regency Square (36%) is observed as an attractive greenspace with bushes and small trees in the middle with a path through the site. However, there are no benches or bins. Similarly, Sankey Valley Park Callands (40%) also lacks benches and litter bins, lowering the site quality. The site benefits from a car park and play area.

The criteria used to assess parks and gardens is intended to be high, reflecting the Green Flag Award assessment. As such, not all park and garden sites would be expected to score above the threshold set for such a prestigious award. It is more likely for the flagship 'destination' sites to score highly.

There are two Green Flag Award sites in Warrington (Lumb Brook Millennium Green and Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden). The former site is classified as natural/semi-natural greenspace whilst the latter is a park. However, in 2020, there were seven Green Flag Award sites including Alexandra Park, Bewsey Park, St Elphin's Park, St Peter's Park and Walton Hall Gardens.

Sites assessed as being of particularly high quality and rate well above the threshold are:

- ◀ Pewterspear Green Road Park (87%)
- ◀ Woolston Park (81%)
- ◀ Birchwood Park (70%)
- ◀ Alexandra Park (70%)
- ◀ Sankey Valley Park Waterways (69%)

Pewterspear Green Road Park (87%) is noted as a site with several features including a sports pavilion, pitches, memorial benches, ponds and tree planting. Furthermore, the site has a good network of footpaths and cycle paths within and to adjoining green spaces, adding quality to the site. The site has the additional benefits of lighting, signage and car parking further adding to its quality.

Similarly, Woolston Park (81%) has a variety of features including play provision, numerous benches, picnic tables, litter bins, signage, lighting and semi-natural greenspace areas. The site has good, wide entrances and pathways. In addition, it is well maintained, has a young Friends Group, is well used and attractive with a watercourse running through it and pond areas providing habitats.

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Birchwood Park (70%) contains a variety of play equipment including a play area, skate park, pump track, dirt cycle track and MUGA, adding to its quality. It scores high for overall maintenance and cleanliness, landscape design and paths. There are also football goals, litter bins and picnic tables providing additional benefits to the quality and use of the site.

Sankey Valley Park Waterways (69%) is a well used, popular site featuring signage and information about the site. The site features good paths with lighting and benches. There is a car park however, surface quality is quite poor. The site benefits from good entrances, water features and a play area. There are litter bins however these receive a lower score for maintenance.

Other high scoring sites to note include Walton Gardens (69%) and Bank Park (68%), both scoring well above the quality threshold. The sites benefit from a range of ancillary features and facilities including play equipment, bowling greens, benches, bins and signage. It is observed that some benches and bins are looking tired at Bank Park. It also has the additional benefits of lighting, outdoor gym equipment and a basketball area. Walton Gardens has the additional benefits of a zoo, ornamental gardens, cycle range, outdoor adventure golf and pitch 'n' putt and a café.

### 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 to divide high from low value. Further explanation of value scores can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.5: Value ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Central	32%	60%	89%	0	20
East	46%	62%	76%	0	8
South	61%	71%	89%	0	10
West	40%	57%	78%	0	16
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>

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

- ◀ Pewterspear Green Road Park (94%)
- ◀ Bank Park (89%)
- ◀ Alexandra Park (83%)
- ◀ Woolston Park (81%)
- ◀ Walton Gardens (78%)
- ◀ Winwick Park No 1 (West) (78%)

All these parks have high amenity and social value due to featuring a range of facilities, good paths and recreational/exercise opportunities.

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Also, with the exception of Pewterspear Green Road Park, the sites contain play equipment further enhancing amenity and health benefits. They are observed as attractive parks that are well used and maintained, adding to their high score for visual and landscape benefits.

Several sites including Bank Park provide high cultural value due to its history including the town hall and golden gates. Similarly, Walton Gardens has high cultural and heritage value as it contains the former home and gardens of Lord and Lady Daresbury.

The site hosts various events such as outdoor cinema, weddings, Luminate and Walk an Alpaca. The woodland walks, flower beds and picturesque pond provides high visual amenity and social contributing to being popular destination for a range of users. The site also offers economic value due to containing a café.

Other high scoring sites for value include Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden (60%), a Green Flag Award site. The site features a pleasure garden with three ponds and restored Victorian glasshouses enhancing structural and landscape benefits. There is an active band of garden volunteers who help with a range of events and activities. Furthermore, there are workshops and guided tours/group visits available by prior arrangement enhancing amenity benefits as well as cultural value. Free car parking and toilets enhance amenity benefits and usage of the site however, it is noted that the site would benefit from bins and more benches. There is enhanced economic value due to the café on site.

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

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

Consequently, sites with a greater diverse range of features and ancillary facilities rate higher for value.

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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. quarries) and commons. For the purpose of this study, the focus is on sites providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

#### 5.2 Current provision

In total, there are 180 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites identified, equating to over 1,035 hectares. In addition, there are two sites (East of River Glaze and Wheatacre Woods) located just outside the Borough boundary in St Helens. There is a path from Carlton Way that leads to the East of River Glaze site, Cadishead. The site is also east of Glazebrook Train Station. Wheatacre Woods is off Gorsey Lane, Burtonwood adjacent to Gorsey Lane/Clay Lane (ID 251).

*Table 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace in Warrington*

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	27	119.43	1.82
East	43	571.27	12.15
South	46	118.80	2.86
West	64	225.16	4.07
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>1034.66</b>	<b>4.94</b>

The East Analysis Area has the most natural and semi-natural provision with a total of over 571 hectares. This makes up 55% of identified provision across Warrington.

The largest sites are Woolston Eyes SSSI (269 hectares) and Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve (84 hectares). Both are in the East Analysis Area. Collectively, these make up over a third (39%) of the natural and semi-natural greenspace provision.

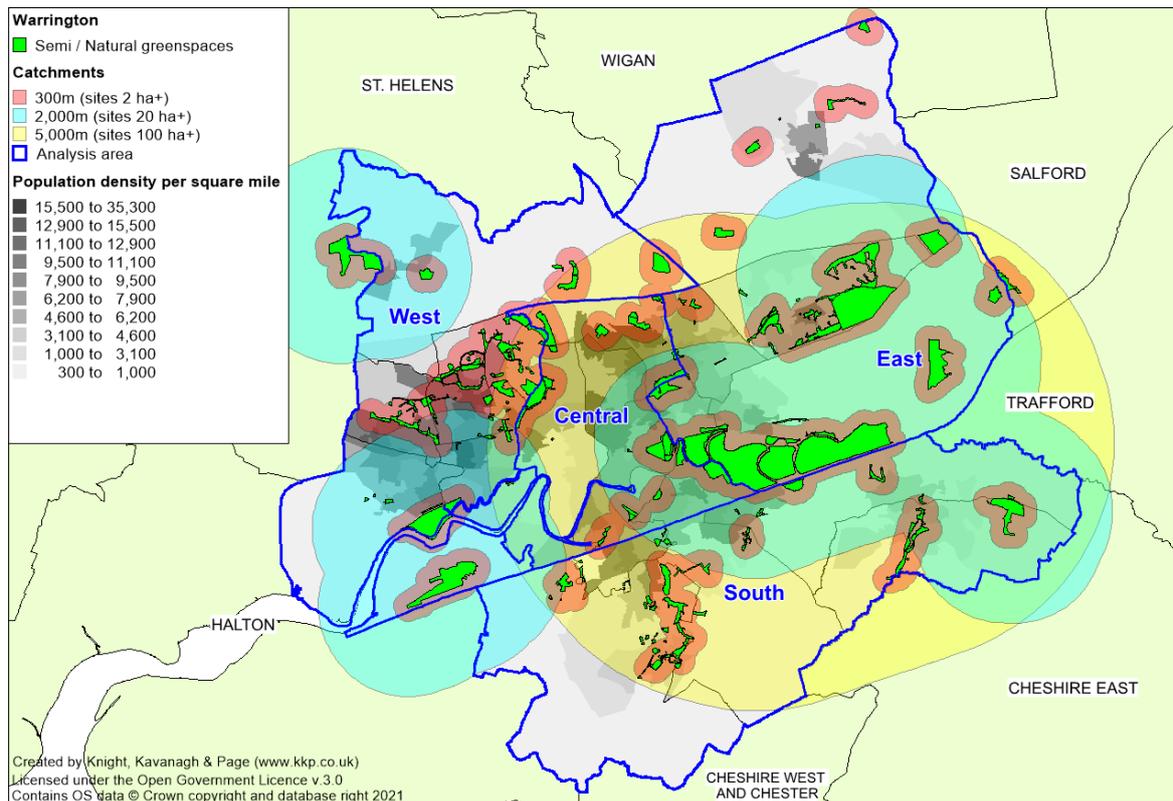
Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Within the borough, there is an overall current provision level of 4.94 hectares per 1,000 head of population which exceeds the FIT guidelines. This is also the case for all four analysis areas.

#### 5.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of catchment mapping, Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) is used. Therefore, for sites over two hectares a 300m catchment is applied. For sites over 20 hectares a 2,000m catchment is used and for sites over 100 hectares, a 5,000m catchment is applied. Figure 5.1 shows catchment mapping to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace with catchments



There are 18 sites that are either less than 0.2 hectares in size and/or appear to be inaccessible. Consequently, these do not receive a quality or value rating.

Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	A57 Manchester Road Corridor	East	1.94	49.8%	35.0%
2	Ackers Pit	South	1.55	78.8%	81.3%
4	Ackers Road/Moss Close	South	0.46	25.1%	20.0%
29	Barbondale Close	West	0.15		
32	Bellhouse Lane/Portola Close	South	2.14	61.9%	50.0%
41	Billington Close / Barrow Hall Lane	West	0.50	46.9%	35.0%
46	Birchwood Boulevard	East	1.31	66.8%	53.8%
47	Birchwood Brook Park	East	13.73	55.6%	48.8%
61	Birchwood Way	East	1.25	27.5%	7.5%
62	Birchwood Way/Warrington Road	East	2.88	39.3%	8.8%
67	Blackbrook Place	Central	2.34		
88	Broom Avenue/Lyons Lane	South	0.97	41.2%	27.5%
90	Brookwood Close	South	1.56		
101	Burtonwood Nature Park	West	5.41	46.8%	52.5%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
102	Burtonwood Road to Whittle Avenue	West	0.72	37.4%	41.3%
106	Blackbrook Avenue & Birchwood Way	East	0.38	30.3%	7.5%
107	c/o Blackbrook Avenue/Hilden Road	Central	1.19	37.9%	22.5%
108	c/o Capesthorpe Road/Orange Grove	Central	0.19		
113	Canons Road	West	0.36	32.7%	15.0%
125	Cavendish Close (a)	West	0.25	30.8%	33.8%
127	Cavendish Close (b)	West	0.51	41.2%	40.0%
129	Caversham Close	South	0.72	50.7%	40.0%
130	Caversham Close/Broom Avenue	South	0.29	31.8%	26.3%
136	Chapel Road	West	1.22	48.8%	36.3%
140	Cheltenham Close	West	0.16		
141	Chester Road	South	0.13		
151	Community Woodland	Central	2.57	56.7%	56.3%
152	Corner of Kingsdale Road/Thorntondale Drive	West	0.43	40.8%	22.5%
153	Corwen Close/Candleston Close	West	0.78	43.6%	47.5%
158	Croft Grasslands	East	6.69	29.4%	16.3%
159	Crompton Drive	West	0.14		
164	Cromwell Avenue/Nansen Close	West	1.53	48.8%	42.5%
166	Cromwell Avenue/Waterways	West	2.11	43.6%	41.3%
169	Culcheth Hall Drive	East	0.58	39.3%	35.0%
182	Darnaway Close	East	0.22	38.9%	16.3%
188	Dewhurst Road Plantation	East	1.09	41.2%	35.0%
189	Dewhurst Road/Brock Road	East	2.36	43.1%	42.5%
190	Dipping Brook	South	5.91	49.3%	55.0%
191	Dipping Brook Avenue 1	South	0.81	38.4%	20.0%
193	Doe Green	West	0.48		
197	Drayton Close	West	0.36	51.7%	30.0%
204	East Of River Glaze	OUTSIDE	5.76	47.4%	55.0%
206	Eddisford Drive	East	0.14		
207	Eleven Acre Common	East	4.60	29.9%	13.8%
216	Evelyn Street/Roughley Avenue	West	0.71	36.5%	33.8%
221	Faraday Street	East	0.32	61.3%	35.0%
223	Farnham Close	South	1.42		
227	Fleming Drive Park	West	1.43	46.9%	47.5%
228	Ford's Rough	South	3.15	48.7%	37.5%
229	Former Avoiding Line, South of Birchwood Way	East	11.07	33.6%	47.5%
230	Former Landfill Site	Central	16.50	24.2%	21.3%
241	Gateworth Landfill Site	West	44.29	71.6%	42.5%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
242	Gemini 16	West	4.63	47.4%	41.3%
243	Gemini Washlands	West	6.58	47.9%	53.8%
245	Glazebrook Naval Camp	East	6.66	28.4%	41.3%
247	Glebe Avenue/Laurel Bank	South	0.62	36.0%	40.0%
249	Goldfinch Lane	East	0.07		
250	Gorse Covert Road/Rockingham Close	East	2.25	46.0%	36.3%
253	Dipping Brook Avenue	South	1.02	35.5%	38.8%
256	Grappenhall Heys Long Woodland	South	3.90	56.7%	62.5%
268	Harpers Road	East	0.45	53.6%	21.3%
269	Hawleys Lane/Longshaw Street	Central	3.68	46.0%	43.8%
274	Hood Lane North	West	0.87	33.2%	21.3%
279	Howley Lock Island	Central	0.53	28.9%	21.3%
280	Hudson Close	West	0.21	46.4%	35.0%
281	Hulme (English Martyr's) Park	Central	4.90	65.6%	55.0%
286	Killingworth Close/Ringwood close	East	7.03	41.7%	53.8%
288	Kingsdale Road, Airedale Close to Wensleydale Road Close	West	0.65	47.9%	47.5%
296	Ladywood Road	West	1.61	60.3%	47.5%
298	Lampeter Close/St. Asaph Drive	West	0.19		
302	Land at College Close	Central	0.31	45.0%	42.5%
308	Land behind Boots / Next	West	3.19	50.7%	28.8%
309	Land Between Kingsway North & River Mersey	Central	0.36	53.1%	21.3%
310	Land Between S.V. park & Gullivers World	West	7.17	42.7%	43.8%
311	Bewsey Meadows	Central	13.20	42.2%	62.5%
312	Land between Sankey Brook & St Helens Canal	West	0.008		
313	Land between St. Albans School & Railway	Central	0.15		
316	Land east of Missouri Drive	West	0.89	53.2%	48.8%
318	Land East of Padgate Brook	Central	7.57	53.7%	43.8%
319	Land east of Washington Drive	West	0.28	45.0%	35.0%
321	Land North of Birchwood way	Central	7.37	30.3%	26.3%
322	Land north of Europa Boulevard	West	1.98	49.3%	40.0%
327	Land Off Coppice Green Road	West	1.20	41.7%	41.3%
334	Lately Common	East	3.45	30.8%	27.5%
335	Land south of Farmleigh Gardens	West	0.46	30.8%	35.0%
338	Land to South of Grappenhall Heys Primary School	South	1.83	45.5%	40.0%
343	Lilford Avenue	Central	0.80	36.0%	41.3%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
346	Lingley Green Avenue (North of Lonsdale Close)	West	0.99	70.0%	43.8%
349	Little Moss Wood	West	10.21	61.1%	68.8%
350	Big Moss Wood	West	1.65	54.5%	35.0%
353	Pewterspear Woods	South	3.86	41.5%	42.5%
357	Livingstone Close	West	0.35	33.2%	41.3%
358	Locking Stumps Common	East	1.12	40.3%	40.0%
362	London Road	South	0.30	26.1%	20.0%
367	Longshaw Street	Central	1.88	54.5%	28.8%
368	Longwood Road	South	0.79	50.7%	42.5%
378	Loushers Lane NSN	Central	1.46	22.3%	13.8%
387	Lymm Dam (upper) - East bank	South	5.66	76.8%	68.8%
388	Lymm Dam (upper) - West Bank North	South	4.06	73.0%	50.0%
390	Lymm Lower Dam (West Bank)	South	2.54	56.1%	62.5%
392	Malham Close	West	0.30	50.7%	41.3%
408	Mary Ann Meadows NSN	West	2.19	35.1%	41.3%
409	Mary Ann Meadows	West	3.45	41.2%	42.5%
410	Mary Ann Pond	West	0.52	44.6%	41.3%
411	Mary Ann's Plantation (East)	West	4.45	33.2%	42.5%
412	Mary Ann's Plantation (west)	West	2.89	51.2%	42.5%
418	McCartney Close	East	0.54	43.4%	35.0%
426	Mill Lane	Central	2.10	27.5%	16.3%
427	Lumb Brook Millennium Green	South	8.71	47.7%	50.0%
436	Morris Brook	South	0.45	46.0%	41.3%
437	Mountclaire Crescent	South	1.30	28.9%	13.8%
442	North Bank of River Mersey, East of Weir Lane	East	3.50	35.1%	36.3%
444	North of Keyes Gardens	East	0.98	36.0%	26.3%
448	Oakways	South	0.25	55.5%	20.0%
451	Oakwood Common	East	3.49	31.8%	47.5%
452	Oakwood Gate Park	East	7.36	46.4%	41.3%
453	Off Blackledge Close	East	0.20	39.3%	36.3%
456	Old Chester Road / Walton Lea Road	South	0.43	28.4%	21.3%
457	Old Fir Wood	East	1.80	36.0%	41.3%
458	Old Hall Road	West	0.25	41.5%	36.3%
460	Old Pewterspear Lane	South	1.39	33.6%	13.8%
476	Paddington Meadows 1	East	3.07	35.1%	42.5%
477	Paddington Meadows 2	East	31.39	55.6%	43.8%
491	Gorse Covert Mounds	East	24.24	72.4%	50.0%
492	Petersham Drive	South	0.19		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
497	Pewterspear Lane	South	0.76	47.9%	22.5%
498	Pineways	South	0.48	45.0%	20.0%
499	Pineways/Beechways	South	0.59	43.6%	26.3%
505	r/o Kingsway North	Central	2.87	55.5%	21.3%
507	r/o Southworth Avenue/Lilford Avenue	Central	1.18		
509	Radley Common	Central	6.46	39.3%	35.0%
510	Radley Plantation	Central	1.68	39.8%	41.3%
512	Railway Sidings	Central	2.23	20.4%	13.8%
518	Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve	East	83.96	77.9%	68.8%
539	Sankey Valley Park Bewsey Lodge Lane to Railway	Central	3.47	40.3%	43.8%
540	Ladies Walk Wood	West	8.43	37.9%	41.3%
545	Sankey Valley Park Gemini	Central	16.62	75.7%	56.3%
561	Shoreham Drive/Hamble Drive	West	1.25		
564	Slitten Brook	South	1.28	52.8%	60.0%
569	Solway Close/Kinross Close	East	0.78	47.9%	47.5%
570	Solway Close/St. Andrews Close	East	2.16	37.4%	28.8%
572	South of Battery Lane	East	0.38	52.3%	36.3%
573	South of M&S Car Park	West	0.66	43.1%	27.5%
580	Spud Wood, Oughtrington	South	17.36	64.1%	61.3%
596	Statham Ox-Bow	South	4.36	29.9%	27.5%
605	Tensing Close	West	0.14		
611	The Bongs and the Gorse	South	6.45	42.2%	58.8%
612	The Dingle	South	8.31	55.0%	68.8%
615	The Longwood	South	1.10	28.0%	20.0%
618	The Twiggeries	Central	11.11	58.0%	60.0%
619	Thelwall Meadow	South	7.15	35.1%	27.5%
645	Twenty Acre Wood (West)	West	2.67	47.9%	42.5%
646	Tynwald Drive	South	0.14		
647	Tynwald Drive/Snaefell Rise	South	0.28	42.7%	35.0%
651	Valiant Close/Blackbrook Avenue	East	1.22	38.4%	21.3%
661	Walton Lea Crematorium, woodland walk	South	6.47	50.6%	48.8%
663	Walton New Road/Hill Cliff Road	South	0.29	52.6%	35.0%
665	Warren Drive/Peveril Close	South	0.35	44.4%	35.0%
673	Webster Court	West	0.38	46.4%	42.5%
685	Westy Point	Central	6.71	46.8%	35.0%
686	Wheatacre Woods	OUTSIDE	36.53	34.6%	50.0%
692	Whittle Ave / Burtonwood Road 2	West	1.45	45.0%	42.5%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
698	Whittle Brook Linear Park - Lingley Green Avenue to Barrowhall Lane	West	3.18	63.5%	43.8%
702	Whittle Brook Linear Park - Whittle Hall Lane to Whittle Avenue	West	3.36	53.1%	48.8%
703	Whittle Brook Linear Park Barrowhall Lane to Whittlehall Lane	West	7.67	60.7%	56.3%
704	Whittle Hall duck pond	West	1.65	51.2%	42.5%
706	Whittle Wood	West	2.08	41.2%	42.5%
707	Widnes Road/Farnworth Road	West	0.24	51.7%	28.8%
708	Wilson Close	South	1.10	30.8%	21.3%
709	Wilson Close/Woodlands Drive	South	0.31	37.0%	21.3%
715	Winwick Park No2 (East)	West	3.23	48.3%	56.3%
717	Winwick Park South East	West	6.35	46.0%	53.8%
721	Woolston Eyes SSSI	East	268.95	33.6%	50.0%
722	Woodlane Between Whittle Hall Avenue & Chapelford	West	2.67	75.7%	48.8%
723	Woolston Ecology Park	East	4.50	72.0%	48.8%
730	Woolston Weir	East	6.14	24.2%	21.3%
732	Wrexham Close	West	1.63	39.3%	41.3%
737	Holcroft Moss		19.23		
742	Rixton Claypits Nature Reserve		33.46		
743	Hitchfield Wood		4.34		
744	Houghton Green Pool		12.50		
745	Moore Nature Reserve		46.93		

Holcroft Moss, Rixton Claypits Nature Reserve, Hitchfield Wood, Houghton Green Pool and Moore Nature Reserve are late inclusions therefore, do not receive a quality or value score.

Figure 5.1 highlights that most areas of greater population are served by provision with only a minor gap identified to the East Analysis Area (i.e. Culcheth). However, other types of open space provision are identified (Table 5.3) within this area. Such sites may help to serve as an alternative within the accessibility gap for natural greenspace.

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
East	Common Lane/Warrington Road (ID 149) Kaye Avenue South (ID 284) Shaw Street Recreation Ground (ID 557)	Amenity Amenity Amenity

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### 5.4 Quality

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

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Central	20%	43%	76%	10	13
East	24%	43%	78%	20	18
South	25%	45%	79%	14	27
West	31%	47%	76%	12	43
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>101</b>

Of natural and semi-natural sites assessed, a total of 101 sites (64%) rate above the quality threshold, indicating a reasonably high standard of quality.

The four lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Railway Sidings (20%)
- ◀ Loushers Lane NSN (22%)
- ◀ Former Landfill Site (24%)
- ◀ Woolston Weir (24%)

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as benches and bins. In some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation.

Most of these sites have difficulties with access and are noted as being overgrown/lacking maintenance. All four sites score very low for paths, entrances and security. The Former Landfill Site (24%) has a faded sign however, there is no information about the site. There are very narrow paths including some that are overgrown and impassable. Furthermore, the site has litter and few controls to prevent illegal use. Likewise, Loushers Lane NSN (22%) and Railway Sidings (20%) also have overgrown paths, limiting usage of the site. Woolston Weir (24%) scores reasonably well for overall maintenance and drainage but scores low for paths, user security and a lack of signage, seating and bins.

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

- ◀ Ackers Pit (79%)
- ◀ Risle Moss Local Nature Reserve (78%)
- ◀ Lymm Dam (upper) - East bank (75%)

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These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage, bins and benches. The sites are also observed as having good access for all, with well-maintained pathways and reasonable levels of personal security. All three have the benefit of water features providing attractive landscapes.

Ackers Pit (79%) scores excellent for overall maintenance and cleanliness, drainage, paths and conversation of natural features. It is well used and features personalised benches along the path around the pond.

Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve (78%) is a large well used site with paths, a visitor centre, dog bins, bird hides, toilets, and woodland walks. Lymm Dam (upper) - East bank (75%) and Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve (78%) have the additional benefits of car parking, toilets and picnic tables further adding to the quality of the sites. Albeit the quality of the car park at Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve scores lower.

Other sites scoring above the quality threshold include Lumb Brook Millennium Green (48%), a Green Flag Award site. The site benefits from a circular route around the whole of the site with seats. Potentially the site could benefit from more bins within the site (there are some bins at the narrow entrances). The site is popular with local people for a range of informal recreation activities, adding to its quality.

Despite Mary Ann Meadows (41%) scoring just above the quality threshold, it is noted as having some missing signs and a lack of bins and seating. The site has good paths and is perceived as well used.

### 5.5 Value

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

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Central	14%	36%	63%	3	20
East	8%	35%	69%	6	32
South	14%	38%	81%	2	39
West	15%	41%	69%	1	54
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>145</b>

Most natural and semi-natural sites score above the threshold for value (92%). Numerous sites have ecological value, contributing to flora and fauna, as well as providing habitats for local wildlife.

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Sites can also provide benefits to the health and wellbeing 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 offer peaceful spaces to reflect.

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

- ◀ Ackers Pit (81%)
- ◀ Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve (69%)
- ◀ Lymm Dam (upper) - East bank (69%)
- ◀ The Dingle (69%)
- ◀ Little Moss Wood (69%)

These sites offer high amenity and social value due to good paths and recreation/exercise opportunities. All are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes which enhances structural and landscape benefits. Furthermore, each has high ecological value due to providing habitats for a flora and fauna.

Ackers Pit (81%) is the highest scoring site for both quality and value as it has added educational value due to its signage explaining the history of the area. Benches featuring personal dedications provide some heritage and cultural value as well amenity benefits. Moreover, the site has high ecological and biodiversity value due to supporting diverse wildlife including fish, birds and terrapins. The site is a popular, local beauty spot and offers accessible fishing for members.

Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve (69%) also scores very high for value. It has biodiversity and ecological value due to being an LNR, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation. The site has a visitor centre, wide paths and car parking providing social and amenity benefits.

Lymm Dam (upper) - East bank (69%) is also a popular walking destination promoting health and well-being. The site features many commemorative plaques on benches and is historically important to the area. In addition, it features good signage providing enhanced educational value.

The Dingle (69%) is a wooded area with a stream and path that is well used by dog walkers and children playing on the rope swings. Consequently, it provides enhanced amenity benefits as well as ecological value.

Little Moss Wood (69%) is observed as a sizeable woodland with a good network of paths. It also features two play areas, providing high amenity and social benefits.

Other high scoring natural and semi-natural greenspaces include the Green Flag Award site Lumb Brook Millennium Green (50%). The site is observed as attractive with an established woodland along the brook enhancing structural and landscape benefits. There are new woodland plantations, mature oak trees in the centre as well as large expanses of mown amenity grass and longer meadow grass areas, providing high ecological value. The site has high amenity and health benefits due to the circular path around the site as well as the installation of over 36 seat/picnic tables and an educational space. The site is held in Trust for the benefit of people living on the Cobb's Estate Appleton and is managed by Lumb Brook Millennium Green Ltd.

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Some of the lowest scoring sites for value include:

- ◀ Blackbrook Avenue & Birchwood Way (8%)
- ◀ Birchwood Way (8%)
- ◀ Birchwood Way/Warrington Road (9%)

The latter two sites are observed as unmanaged areas of grass/trees/scrub between roads/highway verges. Blackbrook Avenue & Birchwood Way is a small area of roadside woodland. These sites are poorly used with no paths or facilities, limiting social and amenity value.

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### PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

#### 6.1 Introduction

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

#### 6.2 Current provision

There are 200 amenity greenspace sites in Warrington equating to nearly 179 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

*Table 6.1: Current amenity greenspace in Warrington*

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	53	47.96	0.73
East	51	51.22	1.09
South	32	27.24	0.66
West	64	52.44	0.95
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>178.87</b>	<b>0.85</b>

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, Hunts Lane/Knutsford Road at 0.28 hectares acts as an important visual amenity. In contrast, Bennett Recreation Ground at over 10 hectares, is a large recreation ground with a range of recreational and sport opportunities.

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

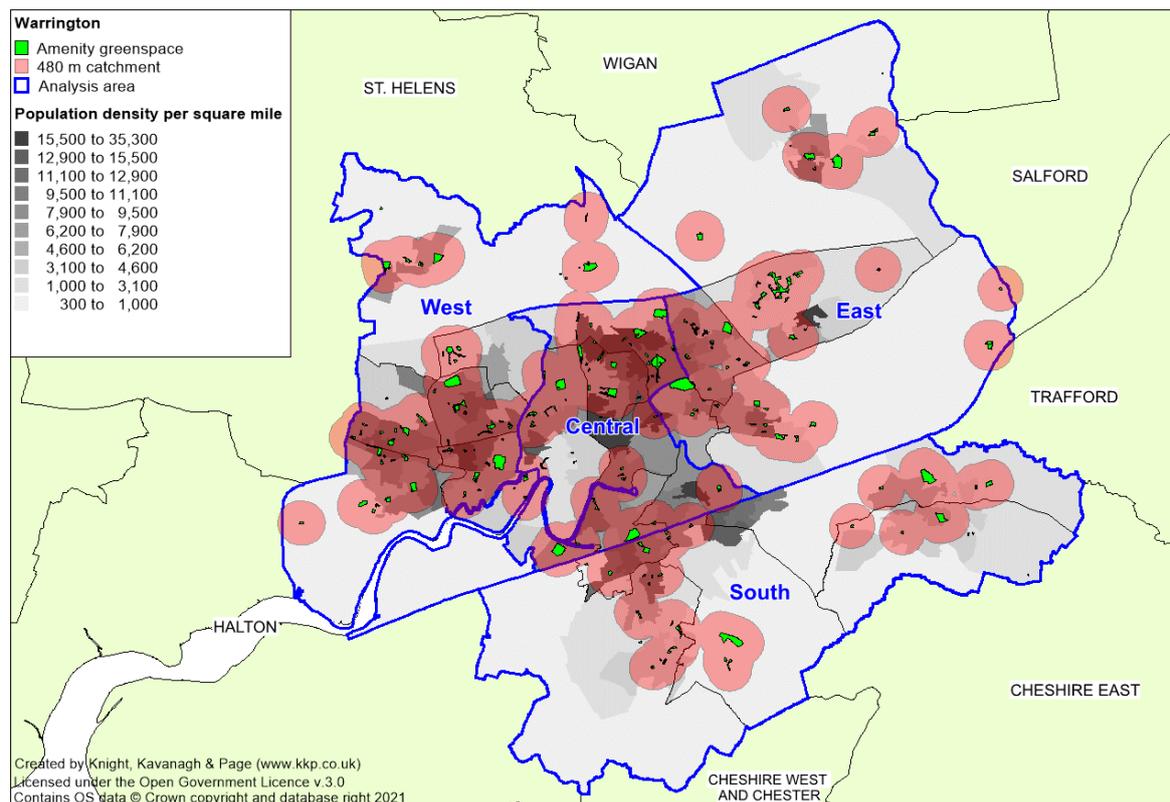
It is important to highlight that it is not always clear to distinguish a site's primary typology. Some sites can bridge the definition of typologies such as natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural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

#### 6.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping, a 480m walk time for sites (based on FIT guidelines) is applied. Figure 6.1 shows the catchments applied to amenity greenspace provision to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with 480m catchment



Sites smaller than 0.2 hectares do not receive a quality or value score.

Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
3	Ackers Road South West	South	0.26	41.4%	15.3%
5	Adj 27 Leonard Street	Central	0.07		
9	Ainscough Road	East	0.88	58.9%	29.4%
10	Alconbury Close	West	0.04		
17	Anderson Close	East	0.19		
20	Appleton Thorn Village Hall	South	0.37	55.9%	82.4%
22	Aspinall Close	East	0.54	38.3%	40.0%
24	Atlanta Gardens	West	0.89	52.3%	38.8%
25	Bagot Avenue	Central	0.23	43.7%	31.8%
26	Ballater Drive Recreation Ground	Central	4.31	39.6%	32.9%
31	Bath Street	Central	0.10		
34	Bennett Recreation Ground	East	10.30	52.3%	47.1%
35	Between 210 & 232 Poplars Avenue	Central	0.17		
36	Between Earl Street/Cowdell Street	Central	0.07		
40	Bewsey Recreation Centre	Central	0.54	48.7%	40.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
42	Birch Road	East	1.70	66.7%	56.5%
50	Birchwood Park - The Centre	East	1.30	50.7%	27.1%
55	Birchwood Park North 1	East	0.88	29.3%	7.1%
56	Birchwood Park North 2	East	0.41	53.0%	32.9%
60	Birchwood Science Park	East	6.68	44.6%	32.9%
75	Bridge Lane	South	0.10		
76	Bridge Road/Manchester Road	East	0.30	43.7%	24.7%
89	Brookside Avenue	South	0.71	62.2%	58.8%
91	Broomedge Park	South	0.05		
93	Browning Drive	West	0.06		
95	Bruche Heath Gardens	East	0.17		
99	Bucklow Gardens South	South	0.21	52.0%	21.2%
100	Burns Grove	Central	1.22	48.2%	20.0%
103	Butchers Field	West	0.80	46.8%	44.7%
104	Buttermere Crescent (South West)	Central	0.24	50.0%	17.6%
109	Calgarth Ave	Central	0.07		
111	Canada Close	East	0.13		
114	Capesthorne Road	Central	3.01	50.0%	38.8%
116	Capesthorne Road/Hilden Road	Central	3.33	52.7%	58.8%
120	Carsington Water	West	0.33	49.2%	38.8%
122	Castle Green	West	0.30	45.9%	32.9%
128	Cavendish Close\Cromwell Avenue	West	0.21	42.3%	38.8%
131	Cedarways	South	0.19		
138	Chelsea Gardens	West	0.07		
147	Clydesdale Road	South	0.14		
148	Codshaw Lane	East	0.30	44.9%	27.1%
149	Common Lane/Warrington Road	East	2.40	55.7%	41.2%
150	Commissioner Square	East	0.82	55.0%	44.7%
154	Cottam Drive (a)	East	0.14		
155	Cottam Drive (b)	East	0.33	45.5%	21.2%
157	Crab Lane	East	3.70	42.0%	20.0%
168	Cuerdley Green	West	0.36	56.6%	20.0%
174	Curlow Grove	East	0.10		
178	Culcheth Village Green	East	0.04	50.6%	31.8%
179	Dallam Recreation Ground	Central	3.84	54.4%	52.9%
183	Delenty Drive/Warrington Road	East	0.34	43.2%	15.3%
184	Delves Avenue Public Open Space	Central	0.27	49.1%	32.9%
185	Densham Avenue	Central	0.14		
194	Doe Green playing fields	West	1.60	38.7%	32.9%

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
195	Dorney Close/Longwood Close	South	0.28	31.5%	24.7%
199	Doeford Close	East	0.62	39.6%	32.9%
215	Evelyn Street/Cannel Street	West	0.06		
217	Fairbrother Crescent	Central	0.35	37.4%	9.4%
218	Fairfield Road	South	0.27		
219	Falconers Green	West	0.55	32.4%	20.0%
220	Fallowfield Grove	East	0.20		
222	Farm Lane/Hayes Lane	South	0.36	45.0%	38.8%
224	Fir Tree Lane/Alder Lane	West	2.81	47.8%	34.1%
225	Firtree Close	East	0.19		
239	Friars Avenue	West	0.50	39.2%	20.0%
240	Gainsborough Road/Chester Road	Central	0.22	42.9%	11.8%
246	Glazebrook Village Green	East	0.26	62.3%	51.8%
251	Gorsey Lane/Clay Lane	West	2.08	63.7%	47.1%
252	Glazebury Gardens	East	0.04	52.0%	44.7%
258	Green Bonk Park	Central	0.33	41.9%	31.8%
261	Greenfields Avenue	South	0.21		
262	Greenway	West	0.28	36.0%	25.9%
264	Greystone Recreational Ground	West	2.25	68.8%	41.2%
265	Hermitage Green	West	0.27	46.8%	27.1%
267	Hadleigh Close (West)	West	0.26	38.7%	24.7%
272	Hodgkinson Avenue/Higham Avenue	Central	0.39	40.1%	32.9%
276	Houston Gardens East	West	0.04		
282	Hunts Field Close	South	0.24	57.5%	38.8%
283	Hunts Lane/Knutsford Road	South	0.28	44.1%	32.9%
284	Kaye Avenue South	East	0.15		
287	Kingsdale Road Linear Park	West	1.30	46.8%	45.9%
291	Kingswood Green	West	1.58	50.0%	44.7%
293	Kingswood Road North	West	0.18		
294	Kingswood Road Verge	West	0.36	44.1%	32.9%
295	Kingswood Road Verge (Eastern)	West	0.28	34.2%	14.1%
299	Land Adjacent to Padgate House	East	0.57	48.2%	32.9%
303	Land at Corner of Lodge Lane & Lockton Lane	Central	0.37	46.4%	32.9%
304	Land at Inrersection of Liverpool Road/LPL-MCR Railway	West	0.35	41.9%	32.9%
305	Land at Manchester Road/Runnymede/Parkways	East	0.35	37.8%	20.0%
306	Land at Wiltshire Close	East	1.72	58.9%	38.8%
323	Land north of Priestley Street 1	Central	0.17		

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## OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
324	Land north of Priestley Street 2	Central	0.15		
325	Land off Bostock Street	Central	0.07		
326	Land Off Calderfield Close	South	0.59	39.6%	36.5%
328	Land off Green Street	Central	0.19		
329	Land Off Hadleigh Close (East)	West	0.21	44.6%	38.8%
331	Land Off Helmsley Close AGS	Central	0.64	45.9%	38.8%
333	Land Off Lincoln Close/Timberscome Gardens	East	0.68	64.9%	38.8%
336	Land south of Liberty Close 1	West	0.64	54.2%	40.0%
339	Land to South of Mere View Gardens, Cann Lane	South	0.35	29.7%	18.8%
340	Langton Green	East	0.15		
342	Laverne Drive	West	0.17	53.2%	38.8%
345	Lingley Green	West	0.33	55.3%	50.6%
348	Lisbon Close	East	0.06		
352	Hatfield Gardens AGS	South	0.83	28.8%	15.3%
355	Liverpool Road	West	0.44	42.3%	25.9%
356	Liverpool Road/Friends Lane	West	1.33	59.6%	34.1%
359	Locking Stumps Park	East	0.80	32.4%	14.1%
360	Locking Stumps Park (New)	East	1.34	40.1%	35.3%
365	Longford Community Centre	Central	2.25	59.5%	38.8%
376	Longwood Road/Rosemoore Gardens	South	0.32	31.5%	18.8%
377	Loushers Lane AGS	Central	5.18	67.6%	58.8%
380	Loushers Lane/Wash Lane	Central	0.24	42.8%	32.9%
381	Lowry Close	West	0.08		
386	Lymm Boat Stage	South	0.13		
397	Manhattan Gardens (East)	West	0.25	45.0%	38.8%
399	Mappleway Crescent	West	0.19		
400	Marina Avenue	West	1.64	61.3%	47.1%
404	Martin Avenue	Central	0.19		
405	Martin Avenue/Derek Avenue	Central	0.18		
406	Martinscroft Green	East	0.85	73.3%	37.6%
407	Mary Ann Meadows AGS	West	6.25	37.8%	35.3%
417	May Queen Field	South	2.80	43.8%	44.7%
419	Mentmore Gardens	South	0.75	45.0%	21.2%
420	Mersey Brook Lane	South	0.21	43.5%	32.9%
423	Mildenhall Close (West)	West	0.12		
425	Mill Lane	South	1.26	45.9%	41.2%
429	Monks Hall	West	0.29	56.5%	40.0%
433	Montrose Close	East	0.27	39.2%	32.9%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
434	Morley Common	Central	5.04	48.9%	52.9%
438	Nansen Close	West	0.54	39.6%	38.8%
440	New Lane	South	6.95	44.1%	56.5%
443	North of Boston Boulevard	West	1.03	48.7%	38.8%
446	Northway/Long Lane	Central	0.13		
447	Northway/Sandy Lane	Central	0.73	68.6%	27.1%
449	Oakwood Avenue Public Park	Central	0.26	53.5%	35.3%
454	Off Hurley Close	West	0.31	47.8%	32.9%
461	Olympia Place	West	0.29	48.7%	32.9%
463	Radley Common Community Centre	Central	3.38	56.3%	44.7%
466	Orford Hub Incidental Space	Central	1.72	58.6%	40.0%
473	Orford Youth Centre	Central	0.61	42.3%	25.9%
475	Padgate Lane Gardens	East	0.07	54.2%	27.1%
478	Park Crescent/Hall Drive	South	0.53	37.8%	27.1%
479	Park Road	West	0.24	50.5%	32.9%
482	Parr Street	Central	0.05		
488	Penny Lane	West	0.20		
490	Penrose Gardens	West	0.42	53.2%	38.8%
501	Queens Crescent	East	0.31	37.4%	25.9%
502	Powder Mill Road	Central	0.87	48.7%	38.8%
506	r/o Lord Nelson/ r/o Parr Street	Central	0.17		
513	Rear of Orford Hub	Central	2.89	65.8%	34.1%
514	Red Bonk Park	Central	0.25	55.3%	40.0%
519	River Road/Manx Road	Central	0.88	68.5%	40.0%
522	Rockingham Close	East	0.22	38.3%	25.9%
523	Rolleston Street	Central	0.12		
528	Sandy Lane	South	1.22	61.4%	38.8%
530	Sandy Lane/St. Stephen's Avenue	Central	0.24	59.9%	15.3%
536	Sankey Recreation Ground	West	1.11	70.0%	47.1%
553	Sankey Valley Sports	West	6.43	66.2%	47.1%
555	Shanklin Close	West	0.20		
557	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	East	4.55	66.2%	35.3%
558	Shawbury Grove	East	0.20	44.1%	20.0%
559	Sherbourne Way/Chapel Lane	West	0.52	61.4%	40.0%
562	Site 90-102 Orford Lane	Central	0.05		
563	Site of 130 - 150 Battersby Lane	Central	0.13		
566	Smith Drive/Withers Avenue	Central	0.17		
567	Croft Parish Field	East	1.58	71.5%	47.1%
571	Sorrel Close	East	0.53	53.2%	20.0%

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
574	Southwold Crescent	West	0.10		
576	Sow Brook Playing Field	South	6.06	25.1%	27.1%
597	Statham Park	South	0.47	68.5%	50.6%
601	Tankersley Grove	West	0.34	53.6%	41.2%
603	Templeton Drive	East	0.54	45.9%	32.9%
613	The Hawthorne Centre	Central	0.43	28.4%	7.1%
614	The Jousting Field	West	0.28	37.8%	32.9%
617	The Park	West	0.30	44.0%	22.4%
639	Troutbeck Avenue	Central	0.17		
640	Tunbridge Close	West	0.17		
649	Ulverston Avenue	Central	0.37	53.6%	27.1%
657	Victoria Road	West	0.49	48.6%	21.2%
658	Walkers Field	South	0.68	52.6%	41.2%
664	Walton New Road/Worsley Road	South	0.19		
666	Warren Lane/Hillock Lane	East	0.33	45.9%	20.0%
668	Warrington Road	East	0.25	45.9%	25.9%
669	Warrington Road/Eden Avenue	East	0.97	60.5%	52.9%
670	Watergrove Crescent	West	0.13	52.4%	38.8%
672	Washington Drive	West	1.44	53.2%	47.1%
674	Waywell Close	East	0.16		
676	Wellcroft Gardens	South	0.13		
678	West View	East	0.30	34.7%	8.2%
688	White Clover Square	South	0.10		
699	Whittle Brook Linear Park - Philips Drive	West	1.74	52.9%	40.0%
710	Winwick Central Square	West	0.15		
711	Winwick Leisure Centre	West	4.17	66.2%	52.9%
712	Winwick Green	West	0.03	45.0%	31.8%
718	Winwick Road/Toll Bar Road	Central	0.27	41.0%	11.8%
719	Winwick Road/Toll Bar Road	Central	0.48	41.9%	11.8%
720	Withenshaw Recreation Ground	West	0.84	64.9%	34.1%
728	Woolston Playing Fields	East	1.30	48.3%	27.1%
733	Wroxham Road Y.A.C. & Cromdale Community Centre	West	1.22	59.2%	41.2%

Figure 6.1 demonstrates a reasonably good distribution of amenity greenspace provision across the borough, with most areas of higher population density being served by a form of amenity greenspace. However, gaps are noted to some areas of greater population density in the South, Central, East and West analysis areas. The gaps are likely to be served by a different type of open space provision (Table 6.3).

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 6.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in amenity catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Central	Woolston Eyes SSSI (ID 721) Orford Park (ID 467) St. Peter's Park (ID 592) Bank Park (ID27)	Natural Park Park Park
East	Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve (ID 518) Birchwood Park (ID 49)	Natural Park
South	Woolston Eyes SSSI (ID 721) Elizabeth Park (ID 208) Euclid Avenue Playing Field (ID 213)	Natural Park Park
West	Gateworth Landfill Site (ID 241) Little Moss Wood (ID 349) Thorntondale Drive Park (ID 621) Sankey Valley Park Callands (ID 542)	Natural Natural Natural Park

In addition, Wheatacre Woods (ID 686) is just outside the Warrington Borough boundary but potentially may help serve part of catchment gap in amenity greenspace for the West Analysis Area.

### 6.4 Quality

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

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Central	28%	50%	69%	11	22
East	29%	49%	73%	16	24
South	25%	45%	68%	12	10
West	32%	50%	70%	15	35
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>91</b>

Nearly two thirds of assessed amenity greenspaces (63%) rate above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Martinscroft Green (73%)
- ◀ Croft Parish Field (72%)
- ◀ Sankey Recreation Ground (70%)
- ◀ Greystone Recreational Ground (69%)

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

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All four sites are observed as having high standards of maintenance and cleanliness, resulting in a good overall appearance. In addition, they benefit from good entrances, signage, seating and litter bins. All have play provision, with the exception of Martinscroft Green, further adding to the quality of the sites.

Martinscroft Green (73%), the highest scoring site for quality, features a remembrance memorial and is observed as an attractive, well maintained amenity greenspace.

Croft Parish Field (72%) has the additional benefit of a small car park. The site also has large football goals (although these are noted as rusty). Overall, the site is very good with welcoming entrances, toilets, and a good quality play equipment.

Sankey Recreation Ground (70%) features a play area, outdoor gym equipment and equipment for older ages. Some equipment was missing from the play area at the time of the visit. The site has good entrances and a wide pathway through the site with appropriate lighting.

Greystone Recreational Ground (69%) features a variety of equipment including a play area and basketball area. There is no path around the site however there is one from the main entrance to the play areas.

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

Note that there are numerous sites (26) that score just below the threshold between 40.1% and 44.9%. With some improvements to these sites, more would meet the quality threshold of 45%.

Just over a third of assessed amenity greenspaces (37%) rate below the quality threshold indicating some sites potentially having a poor general standard of quality. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ◀ Sow Brook Playing Field (25%)
- ◀ The Hawthorne Centre (28%)
- ◀ Hatfield Gardens AGS (29%)
- ◀ Birchwood Park North 1 (29%)
- ◀ Land to South of Mere View Gardens, Cann Lane (29%)

These are noted as having a lack of controls to prevent illegal use, generally low user security and poor or no paths. None have fencing or signage. Only Sow Brook Playing Field features benches, car parking and litter bins. However, the site scores very low for drainage, entrances, paths and landscape design. Despite the site having benches, they score very low for quantity and maintenance. Similarly, the quality of the car is noted as being poor.

The Land to South of Mere View Gardens scores below the quality threshold. However, it scores well for entrances and overall maintenance but lacks facilities and features due to being a roadside greenspace serving more as a break in urban form.

All five sites, excluding Sow Brook Playing Field, rate low for both quality and value.

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## OPEN SPACE REPORT

### 6.5 Value

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

Table 6.5: Value ratings for amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Central	7%	32%	59%	7	26
East	7%	31%	56%	4	36
South	15%	36%	82%	4	18
West	14%	36%	53%	1	49
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>129</b>

Most amenity greenspace sites (89%) rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites for value are

- ◀ Appleton Thorn Village Hall (82%)
- ◀ Loushers Lane AGS (59%)
- ◀ Capesthorpe Road/Hilden Road (59%)
- ◀ Brookside Avenue (59%)

These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational opportunities they offer (such as sports and play provision) for a wide range of users.

Loushers Lane AGS (59%) and Capesthorpe Road/Hilden Road (59%) have enhanced amenity and health benefits due to containing a play area and good paths. Brookside Avenue (59%) hosts a community fair each year proving enhanced cultural and amenity value. Likewise, Appleton Thorn Village Hall (82%) also has enhanced social, cultural and amenity value due to including a historic village hall. The site features picnic tables, benches and toilets (including disabled toilets), encouraging a range of users.

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 as well as more formal activities such as organised sports (i.e. competitive football matches). Many sites in the borough offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing.

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

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## OPEN SPACE REPORT

### PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### 7.1 Introduction

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

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

#### 7.2 Current provision

A total of 188 sites are identified in Warrington 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 provision is identified and included within the audit. East of River Glaze MUGA (ID 204.1) is excluded as it is outside the borough boundary.

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

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	65	4.52	0.07
East	40	2.50	0.05
South	21	1.66	0.04
West	62	2.84	0.05
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>11.52</b>	<b>0.06</b>

In addition, the following sites are excluded from the study due to the reasons below:

- ◀ Grappenhall Heys Community Primary School play area 1 and 2 (ID 254.1 and 254.2) - part of school, not publicly accessible
- ◀ St. Mawgan Ct Play Area (ID 591.1) - chained, shut and neglected

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 categories of play space.

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

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## 7.3 Accessibility

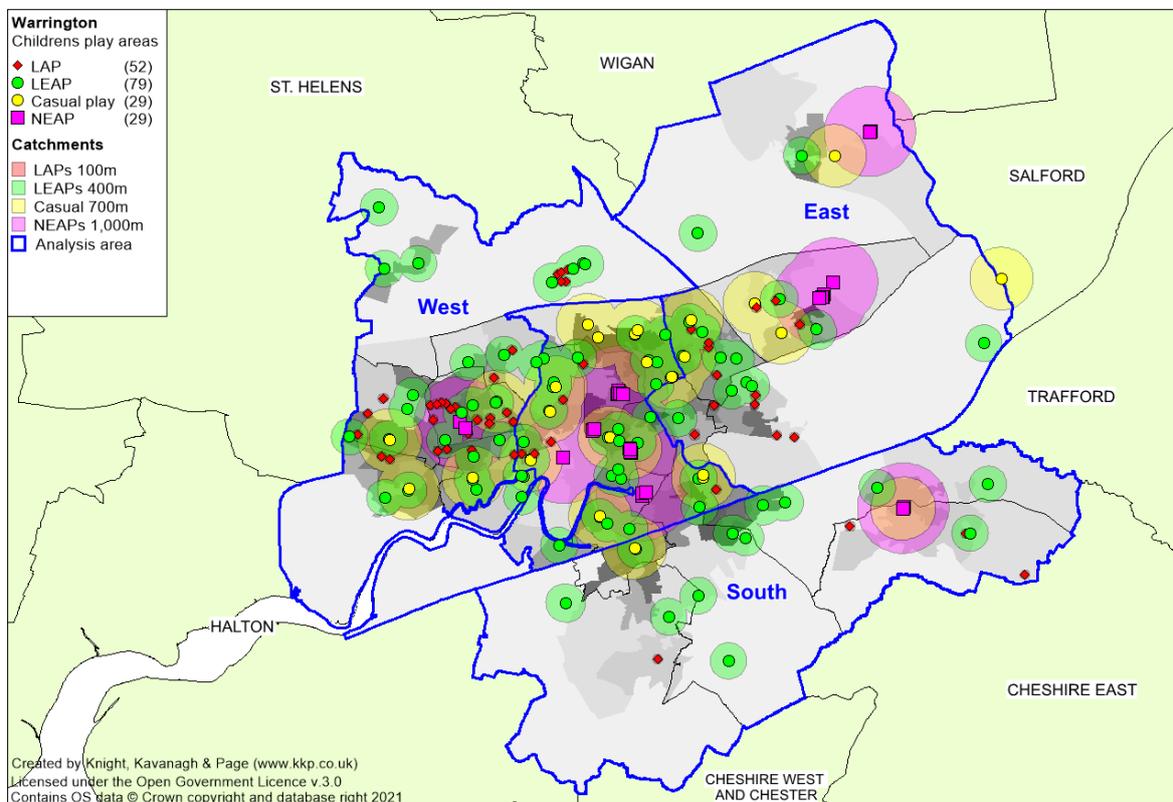
For the purpose of mapping, a range of walk time catchments based on the Fields In Trust play designations (LAP, LEAP, NEAP or Casual provision) are used.

Table 7.2: Catchments for play provision

Form of play provision	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
LAP	100m	1 minutes
LEAP	400m	5 minutes
NEAP	1,000m	12 ½ minutes
Other provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	700m	9 minutes

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

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



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Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
6	Adj. St. Barnabas School, Bostock Street	Central	0.05	41.6%	21.8%
7	Parr Street Play Area	Central	0.07	85.9%	65.5%
10.1	Alconbury Close play area	West	0.007	46.2%	16.4%
12.1	Alexandra Park play area	South	0.08	79.8%	78.2%
12.2	Alexandra Park MUGA	South	0.13	71.5%	87.3%
16	Brentnall Boat Park	West	0.12	78.6%	50.9%
17.1	Anderson Close play areas	East	0.02	75.4%	43.6%
19	Andover Close play area	Central	0.04	76.6%	47.3%
22.1	Aspinall Close play area	East	0.01	61.8%	38.2%
24.1	Atlanta Gardens play area	West	0.01	68.1%	25.5%
27.1	Bank Park play area	Central	0.11	86.1%	81.8%
30	Barley Road Playing Fields play area	South	0.25	76.2%	69.1%
32.1	Morris Brook Park Play Area	South	0.02	67.2%	83.6%
37.1	Bewsey Park play area	Central	0.12	79.3%	81.8%
37.2	Bewsey Park MUGA	Central	0.04		
39	Bewsey & Dallam Community Hub play	Central	0.05	74.7%	47.3%
42.1	Birch Road play area	East	0.05	79.1%	41.8%
47.1	Birchwood Brook Park play area	East	0.17	78.3%	47.3%
49.1	Birchwood Park play area	East	0.05	89.1%	45.5%
49.2	Birchwood Park MUGA	East	0.10	51.1%	38.2%
49.3	Birchwood Park pump track	East	0.06		
49.4	Birchwood Park skate park	East	0.08	66.2%	41.8%
49.5	Birchwood Park dirt cycle track	East	0.26		
69.1	Bretland Drive Play Area	South	0.04	70.3%	63.6%
71.1	Brickfields Park play area 1	Central	0.08		
71.2	Brickfields Park Outdoor Gym	Central	0.01	74.7%	72.7%
71.3	Brickfields Park MUGA	Central	0.04		
91.1	Broomedge Park play area	South	0.005	82.5%	56.4%
93.1	Browning Drive Play Area	West	0.004	68.4%	16.4%
96.1	Bruche Park play area	East	0.08	79.1%	54.5%
109.1	Calgarth Ave play area	Central	0.01	51.1%	12.7%
111.1	Canada Close play area	East	0.02	39.4%	16.4%
114.1	Capesthorne Road play area	Central	0.06	53.5%	20.0%
116.1	Capesthorne Road/Hilden Road play area	Central	0.09	64.5%	50.9%
120.1	Carsington Water play area	West	0.05	60.6%	56.4%
121.1	Carrington Wire Square play area	Central	0.02	78.6%	47.3%
123.1	Causeway Park play area 1	Central	0.04	92.7%	90.9%
123.2	Causeway Park play area 2	Central	0.04	65.9%	60.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
123.3	Causeway Park outdoor gym	Central	0.01	92.7%	90.9%
125.1	Cavendish Close (a) play area	West	0.008	65.2%	56.4%
134	Centurion Close play area	East	0.10	52.6%	16.4%
138.1	Chelsea Gardens play area	West	0.03	71.8%	47.3%
143	Chesterton Drive Play Area (adj No.14)	West	0.01	69.1%	16.4%
144	Chicago Place play area	West	0.04	57.9%	21.8%
149.1	Common Lane/Warrington Road play area	East	0.07	81.5%	72.7%
155.1	Cottam Drive (b) play area	East	0.04	27.0%	12.7%
159.1	Crompton Drive Play Area	West	0.01	69.8%	16.4%
175	Dakota Drive play area	West	0.05	69.1%	34.5%
176.1	Dakota Park play area	West	0.13	89.8%	90.9%
176.2	Dakota Park MUGA	West	0.11	70.1%	72.7%
179.1	Dallam Recreation Ground play area	Central	0.03	70.1%	72.7%
179.2	Dallam Recreation Ground MUGA	Central	0.05		
185.1	Densham Avenue play area	Central	0.03	52.6%	47.3%
189.1	Dewhurst Road/Brock Road MUGA	East	0.04	56.2%	29.1%
196	Dover Road/Denver Road play area	Central	0.07	60.6%	38.2%
198.1	Duckworth Grove play area	East	0.02	60.6%	20.0%
201.1	Dudlows Green Park play areas	South	0.06	80.3%	78.2%
204.1	East Of River Glaze MUGA	OUTSIDE	0.04	56.9%	38.2%
208.1	Elizabeth Park play area	South	0.13	73.5%	90.9%
210.1	Enfield Hall Park play area	East	0.08	83.7%	54.5%
210.2	Enfield Hall Park MUGA	East	0.19	51.1%	25.5%
213.1	Euclid Avenue Playing Field play area	South	0.13	73.7%	69.1%
226	Fleming Drive Equipped Play Area	West	0.01	75.2%	16.4%
251.1	Gorsey Lane/Clay Lane play area	West	0.10	79.3%	72.7%
258.1	Harbord Street play area	Central	0.04	77.4%	65.5%
259	Greenfinch Grove play area	East	0.04	85.9%	38.2%
264.1	Greystone Heath play area	West	0.03	79.8%	63.6%
264.2	Greystone Heath basketball area	West	0.008		
276.1	Houston Gardens East play area	West	0.01	59.9%	21.8%
277	Woodville Place Playground	West	0.04	82.5%	65.5%
278	Houston Gardens West play area	West	0.04	54.0%	21.8%
281.1	Hulme (English Martyr's) Park basketball	Central	0.01	27.3%	12.7%
296.1	Ladywood Road play area	West	0.04	60.6%	34.5%
299.1	Adjacent to Padgate House play area	East	0.05	76.4%	41.8%
299.2	Land Adjacent to Padgate House MUGA	East	0.08	59.1%	41.8%
306.1	Land at Wiltshire Close play area	East	0.03	82.2%	20.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
313.1	Land between St. Albans School & Railway play area	Central	0.04	69.1%	47.3%
316.1	Land east of Missouri Drive trim trail	West	0.02	58.6%	47.3%
321.1	Rudloe Court MUGA	Central	0.07	61.3%	47.3%
321.2	Rudloe Court basketball	Central	0.03		
321.3	Rudloe Court youth shelter	Central	0.03		
329.1	Land Off Hadleigh Close (East) play area	West	0.01	72.0%	50.9%
333.1	Land Off Lincoln Close/Timberscome Gardens play area	East	0.02	81.5%	20.0%
341.1	Larkfield Avenue Park play area	East	0.13	71.8%	16.4%
342.1	Laverne Drive play area	West	0.03	80.8%	47.3%
349.1	Little Moss Wood play area	West	0.08	80.5%	54.5%
349.2	Callands Fields play area	West	0.05	71.0%	38.2%
352.1	Hatfield Gardens play area	South	0.01	86.1%	65.5%
360.1	Locking Stumps Park (New) play area	East	0.03	71.5%	29.1%
360.2	Locking Stumps Park (New) MUGA	East	0.05	74.5%	41.8%
363.1	Longbarn Park play area	East	0.07	88.3%	54.5%
365.1	Longford Community Centre play area	Central	0.13	70.6%	69.1%
377.1	Loushers Lane play area	Central	0.08	84.9%	78.2%
381.1	Lowry Close play area	West	0.04	57.2%	47.3%
397.1	Manhattan Gardens (East) play area	West	0.01	68.9%	30.9%
400.1	Marina Avenue play area	West	0.04	80.0%	60.0%
400.2	Marina Avenue MUGA	West	0.01		
414	Masefield Drive Equipped Play Area	West	0.02	73.0%	16.4%
415	Massey Avenue Playground	Central	0.08	65.0%	65.5%
420.1	Massey Brook Lane play area	South	0.05	53.5%	29.1%
429.1	Monks Hall play area	West	0.04	79.1%	60.0%
432	Montgomery Close play area	West	0.04	55.5%	21.8%
434.1	Morley Common play area	Central	0.06	88.3%	90.9%
439	Nelson Road play area	East	0.02	57.7%	16.4%
441	Norley Close Play Area	Central	0.01	55.2%	21.8%
449.1	Oakwood Avenue Public Park play area	Central	0.09	82.0%	54.5%
458.1	Lander Close Play Area	West	0.01	48.9%	12.7%
462	Olympia Place play area	West	0.07	80.5%	47.3%
463.1	Orford Community Centre play area	Central	0.14	68.4%	38.2%
463.2	Orford Community Centre MUGA	Central	0.04		
463.3	Orford Community Centre basketball & shelters	Central	0.03	35.8%	25.5%
467.1	Orford Park play area 1	Central	0.07	63.7%	50.9%
467.2	Orford Park play area 2	Central	0.03	78.8%	50.9%

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
467.3	Orford Park play area 3	Central	0.16	78.8%	50.9%
467.4	Orford Park MUGA	Central	0.12	64.2%	47.3%
467.5	Orford Park skate park	Central	0.09	70.8%	50.9%
473.1	Orford Youth Centre MUGA	Central	0.07	54.0%	47.3%
485.1	Peel Hall Park play areas	Central	0.19	65.5%	38.2%
488.1	Penny Lane play area	West	0.08	78.3%	65.5%
500	Poulton Crescent Playground	East	0.09	68.9%	16.4%
501.1	Queens Crescent play area	East	0.04	59.6%	16.4%
502.1	Edgewater Park play area	Central	0.01	78.8%	47.3%
514.1	Howley Park Park play area	Central	0.07	80.3%	81.8%
517.1	Ridgway Grundy Memorial Park play area	South	0.13	69.1%	72.7%
517.2	Ridgway Grundy Memorial Park skate	South	0.01	47.7%	50.9%
517.3	Ridgway Grundy Memorial Park gym	South	0.008	69.1%	72.7%
517.4	Ridgway Grundy basketball area	South	0.02		
521	Robson Grove play area	Central	0.09	72.5%	47.3%
526	Rockford Gardens play area	West	0.01	50.9%	21.8%
528.1	Sandy Lane play area	South	0.05	86.6%	38.2%
532.1	Whitecross Play Zone	Central	0.25	67.6%	69.1%
532.2	Sankey Green MUGA	Central	0.02	57.4%	56.4%
534.1	Sankey NW Park play area	West	0.007	73.2%	74.5%
536.1	Liverpool Road Play Area	West	0.04	77.6%	81.8%
536.2	Sankey Recreation Ground play area 2	West	0.07	42.6%	60.0%
542.1	Sankey Valley Park Callands play area	West	0.08	75.4%	65.5%
546.1	Sankey Valley Park Nansen Close	West	0.006	61.8%	43.6%
550.1	Sankey Valley Park Waterways play area	West	0.05	65.2%	56.4%
555.1	Shanklin Close Play Area	West	0.02	65.9%	38.2%
557.1	Shaw Street Recreation Ground skatepark	East	0.03	41.8%	56.4%
559.1	Burtonwood Chapel Lane Play Area	West	0.06	86.9%	69.1%
567.1	Smithy Lane/Lords Street play area	East	0.09	87.1%	81.8%
574.1	Southwold Crescent Play Area	West	0.01	78.3%	41.8%
581.1	St Elphin's Park play area 1	Central	0.03	86.6%	81.8%
581.2	St Elphin's Park play area 2	Central	0.06		
581.3	St Elphin's Park MUGA	Central	0.06	46.7%	72.7%
581.4	St Elphin's Park skate park	Central	0.05		
581.5	St Elphin's Park basketball area	Central	0.05		
581.6	St Elphin's Park outdoor gym	Central	0.01	86.6%	81.8%
592.1	St. Peter's Park play areas	Central	0.11	78.6%	50.9%
592.2	St. Peter's Park MUGA	Central	0.03	58.4%	50.9%
597.1	Statham Park play area	South	0.04	92.0%	78.2%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
601.1	Tankersley Grove play area	West	0.01	64.5%	29.1%
603.1	Templeton Drive play area	East	0.02	81.3%	45.5%
620	Thorneycroft Drive play area	Central	0.08	69.1%	25.5%
621.1	Thorntondale Drive Park play area	West	0.05	75.9%	69.1%
641.1	Twenty Acre Park (East) play area	West	0.05	76.2%	60.0%
641.2	Twenty Acre Park (East) MUGA	West	0.06		
643.1	Nevada Close Play Area	West	0.03	68.6%	47.3%
649.1	Ulverston Avenue basketball area	Central	0.01	46.0%	25.5%
652.1	Victoria Park play area 1	Central	0.21	78.3%	81.8%
652.2	Victoria Park basketball court	Central	0.14	49.4%	56.4%
652.3	Victoria Park skate park	Central	0.23		
658.1	Walkers Field play area	South	0.03	84.4%	65.5%
660.1	Walton Gardens play area	South	0.40	85.6%	81.8%
669.1	Mee Brow Play Area	East	0.06	91.2%	78.2%
669.2	Mee Brow Skate Area	East	0.02	58.6%	65.5%
669.3	Mee Brow basketball area	East	0.01	70.6%	56.4%
670.1	Watergrove Crescent play area	West	0.04	68.1%	38.2%
672.1	Washington Drive Play Area	West	0.02	59.6%	41.8%
673.1	Webster Court play area	West	0.05	80.5%	56.4%
676.1	Wellcroft Gardens play area	South	0.02	76.6%	34.5%
681.1	Westy Park play area	Central	0.14	59.9%	72.7%
681.2	Westy Park MUGA 1	Central	0.08		
681.3	Westy Park MUGA 2	Central	0.05		
688.1	White Clover Square play area	South	0.04	94.2%	41.8%
690.1	Whitcross Park play area	Central	0.05	91.2%	81.8%
700.1	Whittle Brook Linear Park - Railway to Liverpool Road play area	West	0.004	56.0%	29.1%
711.1	Winwick Leisure Centre play area	West	0.10	55.2%	72.7%
711.2	Winwick Leisure Centre toddler play area	West	0.03	75.2%	72.7%
713.1	Winwick Park No 1 (West) play area	West	0.28	68.1%	41.8%
715.1	Winwick Park No2 Play Area (East)	West	0.01	65.0%	74.5%
720.1	Withenshaw Recreation Ground play area	West	0.04	79.3%	50.9%
725.1	Woolston Park play area 1	East	0.10	68.4%	50.9%
725.2	Woolston Park play area 2	East	0.03	63.5%	50.9%
725.3	Woolston Park Kingfisher Playground	East	0.04	71.0%	54.5%
728.1	Woolston Playing Fields play area	East	0.008	30.7%	12.7%
733.1	Wroxham Road Y.A.C. & Cromdale Community Centre play area	West	0.15	76.4%	63.6%
733.2	Wroxham Road Y.A.C. & Cromdale Community Centre MUGA	West	0.13		

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Figure 7.1 highlights some gaps to areas of greater population density. The following sites may help to serve some of the gaps in catchments if the amount and range of play equipment can be expanded.

Table 7.4: Play sites with potential to serve catchment gaps

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap
Central	Dover Road/Denver Road play area (ID 196)
East	Common Lane/Warrington Road play area (ID 149.1) Shaw Street Recreation Ground skatepark (ID 547.1)
South	Euclid Avenue Playing Field play area (ID 213.1) Morris Brook Park Play Area (ID 32.1) Dudlows Green Park play areas (ID 201.1) Walton Gardens play area (ID 660.1) Barley Road Playing Fields play area (ID 30) Elizabeth Park play area (ID 208.1)
West	Gorsey Lane/Clay Lane play area (ID 251.1) Sherbourne Way/Chapel Lane play area (ID 559.1) Thorntondale Drive Park play area (ID 621.1)

### 7.4 Quality

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

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

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Central	27%	68%	93%	20	45
East	27%	68%	91%	12	28
South	48%	77%	94%	2	19
West	43%	69%	90%	13	49
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>141</b>

Three quarters of assessed play sites (75%) rate above the quality threshold.

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Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ White Clover Square play area (94%)
- ◀ Causeway Park play area 1 (93%)
- ◀ Statham Park play area (92%)

These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the sites cleanliness), seating, signage and good quality play equipment. The sites generally offer a variety of equipment to a good condition/quality. All three sites score high for general site appearance, surface quality, equipment quality and drainage. Causeway Park play area 1 (93%) has the additional benefit of car parking albeit this scores lower for quality. The site is observed as being well maintained with good signage. There is also an outdoor gym area adjacent to the play area.

Other high scoring sites include Dakota Park play area (90%), Mee Brow Play Area (91%), Whitecross Park play area (91%), St Elphin's Park play area 1 (87%) and Bank Park play area (86%). These sites have a good variety of play provision for different age ranges. Dakota Park play area and St Elphin's Park play area 1 both feature a MUGA. Dakota Park play area (90%) has great, well used play areas with interesting, colourful, and interactive equipment. The site has benches, bins, good entrances, signage and controls to prevent illegal use. St Elphin's Park play area 1 (87%) has an unfenced play area and adjacent outdoor gym area that are noted as good quality. There is however a poor-quality basketball area, skate park and MUGA on site. These significantly differ in quality therefore are completed under different forms.

Bank Park play area (86%) has a small basketball area and outdoor gym equipment. The bin by the gym area is noted as being very rusty. Mee Brow Play Area (91%) is observed as having good condition equipment and surfaces with a good range and amount of equipment that looks quite new including an accessible roundabout. There is a small basketball area and skate park adjacent, however the quality is significantly lower than the play area, particularly the skate park which scores low for surface quality.

Noticeably there are a number of sites which contain provision catering for older age ranges such as skateparks and MUGAs. St Elphin's Park features a play area, play equipment for older ages, a MUGA, a basketball area, outdoor gym area and skate park. Birchwood Park features a pump track, dirt cycle track, skate park and MUGA. Similarly, Ridgway Grundy Memorial Park also contains a skate park as well as an outdoor gym.

There are 48 sites rating below the threshold. Sites rating lower for quality is often due to maintenance/appearance observations and/or the range and quality of equipment on site.

The lower scoring sites are:

- ◀ Cottam Drive (b) play area (27%)
- ◀ Hulme (English Martyr's) Park basketball (27%)
- ◀ Woolston Playing Fields play area (31%)
- ◀ Orford Community Centre basketball & shelters (36%)

The sites are all noted as having few ancillary features and maintenance issues. Observations all highlight the appearance of the sites as being poor with equipment often dated or damaged. All four sites are devoid of signage and controls to prevent illegal use. Furthermore, they all score low for perceived usage and score very low for site appearance and surface quality.

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Hulme (English Martyr's) Park basketball (27%) is noted as being a half basketball court in poor condition. It does benefit from benches and bins. Orford Community Centre basketball & shelters (36%) also has bins. Woolston Playing Fields play area (31%) has the additional benefit of car parking. Cottam Drive (b) play area (27%) and Woolston Playing Fields play area (31%) both have limited equipment.

Other lower scoring play sites include Sankey Recreation Ground play area 2 (43%), St Elphin's Park MUGA (47%), St Elphin's Park skate park (47%) and St Elphin's Park basketball area (47%). There is glass by the basketball court at St Elphins Park and the surface is poor and uneven. Similarly, the skate park adjacent (St Elphin's Park skate park) also has a poor uneven surface. The bins around these play areas for older ages ranges are very rusty. However, there is good signage by the skate park. The paintwork on the MUGA is observed as peeling. In contrast, the outdoor gym and other play areas at Elphin Park are in much better condition in terms of equipment and surface quality.

Sankey Recreation Ground play area 2 (43%) has surface quality issues with the site noted as having a poor slippery surfaces with gaps. In addition, there is a missing nest swing/basket swing and zip wire (just frames evident).

Numerous play area sites are noted as having maintenance issues including missing equipment, poor surface quality and litter observed. These are shown in Table 7.5.

*Table 7.5: Play area sites noted with issues*

ID	Site Name	Quality issues observed
439	Nelson Road play area	Single piece of equipment, poorly maintained site.
114.1	Capesthorpe Road play area	Much litter at time of visit.
711.1	Winwick Leisure Centre play areas	Benches are very tired and worn away. One is totally damaged. Some equipment looking tired.
581.3	St Elphin's Park MUGA	Paintwork on MUGA coming off. Very rusty bins.
581.4	St Elphin's Park skate park	Poor uneven surface. Very rusty bins.
581.5	St Elphin's Park basketball area	Glass by basketball court Poor uneven surface. Very rusty bins.
652.2	Victoria Park play area 2	Surface quite poor. Post tilted. Not very welcoming and no bins or benches.
532.2	Sankey Green MUGA	MUGA looks tired.
6	Adj. St. Barnabas School, Bostock Street play area	Limited/missing equipment looks very tired and rusty. Uneven surface with weeds.
536.2	Sankey Recreation Ground play area 2	Missing nest/basket swing and zip wire.
441	Norley Close Play Area	Basic/ limited equipment. Tired mossy surfaces with litter.
458.1	Lander Close Play Area	Bin overflowing and lots of litter around.
10.1	Alconbury Close play area	Poor surface.
467.2	Orford Park play area 2	Some equipment missing.
116.1	Capesthorpe Road/Hilden Road play area	Some equipment missing.
114.1	Capesthorpe Road play area	A lot of litter at the time of visit.
501.1	Queens Crescent play area	Swing seats are very dirty due to bird fouling. Some damage to surface near the slide.

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There are several small LAP style sites that contain limited equipment. For example, Adj. St. Barnabas School, Bostock Street play area (42%), is observed as a basic, unappealing LAP with gaps in the surface. There is limited equipment (with some missing) and the kit that is present looks very tired and rusty. Surfaces are also uneven with weeds growing. Perceived usage is very low due to these factors. Similarly, Calgarth Ave play area (51%) is also observed as a basic LAP with only two small springies. The site has no bins or signage.

Note that there are several play sites that score just below the quality threshold with 28 sites scoring between 50.9% and 59.9%. Enhancements to play areas rating slightly below the threshold would boost their quality scoring. Some examples include Winwick Leisure Centre play area (55%) and Westy Park play area (59.9%).

### 7.5 Value

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

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

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Central	13%	54%	91%	2	63
East	13%	40%	82%	8	32
South	29%	65%	91%	0	21
West	13%	47%	91%	7	55
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>171</b>

The majority of assessed play sites in Warrington are rated as being above the threshold for value (91%). 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 however 17 sites to rate low for value. These are mostly LAP sites and play areas with limited equipment. These have limited amenity value and health benefits due to the lack of and limited range of equipment.

Table 7.6: LAPs within Warrington with site observations

ID	Site name	Observations
313.1	Land between St. Albans School & Railway play area	Small basic play area. No signage.
109.1	Calgarth Ave play area	Basic. Locked. Two small springies. No bin.

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ID	Site name	Observations
6	Adj. St. Barnabas School, Bostock Street play area	Limited/missing equipment looks very tired and rusty. Uneven surface with weeds.
441	Norley Close Play Area	Basic. Limited equipment. Bench, bin and good signage. However, tired mossy surface with some litter.
458.1	Lander Close Play Area	Small, unappealing. Overflowing bin and lots of litter.
555.1	Shanklin Close Play Area	Quite basic play area. Good signage. Narrow path to play area entrance.
175	Dakota Drive play area	Small basic, limited equipment. Lacks signage.
397.1	Manhattan Gardens (East) play area	Small, very basic but good surface and entrances. Lack of signage. Just springy and static play equipment.
144	Chicago Place play area	Very small, basic in new housing area. Toddler play area. Limited information on sign. Bench and bin. Just springy and play panel.
276.1	Houston Gardens East play area	Small basic. Limited equipment.
278	Houston Gardens West play area	Small, basic. Limited equipment. No signage.
432	Montgomery Close play area	Small, basic. Just springy and static play equipment. For children up to 12 years old. Limited information on sign.
24.1	Atlanta Gardens play area	Small. In good condition but lack of equipment. Space for more equipment. Bench and bin but no signage.
526	Rockford Gardens play area	Small basic. Just static play equipment and a springy. No signage or bench. Overlooked by housing.
439	Nelson Road play area	Single piece of equipment in poorly maintained site.
676.1	Wellcroft Gardens play area	Limited equipment.
715.1	Winwick Park No2 Play Area (East)	Limited equipment. Within lovely NSN and nice landscape area. Equipment and bench is tired though.
313.1	Land between St. Albans School & Railway play area	Small basic play area with no signage.
341.1	Larkfield Avenue Park play area	Small play area with a lack of equipment variety. Plenty of space for more. Poor surface at basketball area.
501.1	Queens Crescent play area	Limited equipment types and activities.
500	Poulton Crescent Playground	Limited play equipment
502.1	Edgewater Park play area	Small. Limited equipment but good condition.
198.1	Duckworth Grove play area	Limited value, one piece of equipment. Space for more
700.1	Whittle Brook Linear Park - Railway to Liverpool Road play	Single climbing frame, dated.
601.1	Tankersley Grove play area	Single slide.
10.1	Alconbury Close play area	Two pieces of equipment. Poor surfaces.

Most sites rate highly for value. Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect a good range of quality equipment available at sites. The highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Dakota Park play area (91%)
- ◀ Causeway Park play area 1 (91%)
- ◀ Elizabeth Park play area (91%)
- ◀ Morley Common play area (91%)

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These 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. These sites are seen as in attractive landscapes and well located, enhancing structural and landscape benefits.

Dakota Park play area has interesting and interactive equipment providing amenity, social and physical activity benefits. Causeway Park play area 1, Morley Common play area and Dakota Park play area are observed as attractive, colourful play areas providing visually attractive and welcoming play areas with enhanced landscape benefits. Morley Common play area and Causeway Park play area 1 both feature an accessible wheelchair roundabout enhancing social inclusion benefits.

Other high scoring sites for value include Walton Gardens play area, Mee Brow Play Area and Burtonwood Chapel Lane Play Area which all feature an accessible roundabout, enhancing inclusive play. All three sites, particularly, the former two, have a good range and amount of equipment including play panels and exciting equipment providing educational value and social benefits.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play. For example, Victoria Park caters for a wide age range of children as it contains a play area, basketball court and skate park. St Elphin's Park also features a range of play provision featuring a play area, MUGA, basketball area, skate park and outdoor gym equipment, enhancing amenity and health value benefits.

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### PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

#### 8.1 Introduction

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

#### 8.2 Current provision

There are 16 sites classified as allotments in Warrington, equating to over 16 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Current allotments in Warrington

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Central	9	9.00	0.14
East	2	2.42	0.05
South	4	5.12	0.12
West	1	0.04	0.01
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16.57</b>	<b>0.08</b>

The largest site in Warrington is Victoria Park allotments (2.89 hectares).

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

Warrington, based on its current population (209,397), is below the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for Warrington is 52.35 hectares. Existing provision of 16.57 hectares is therefore significantly below this.

#### 8.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping, a 1,000m walk time catchment and a 15-minute drive catchment (based on survey responses) are applied. Figure 8.1 shows the catchments applied to allotment provision to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 8.1: Allotments with catchments

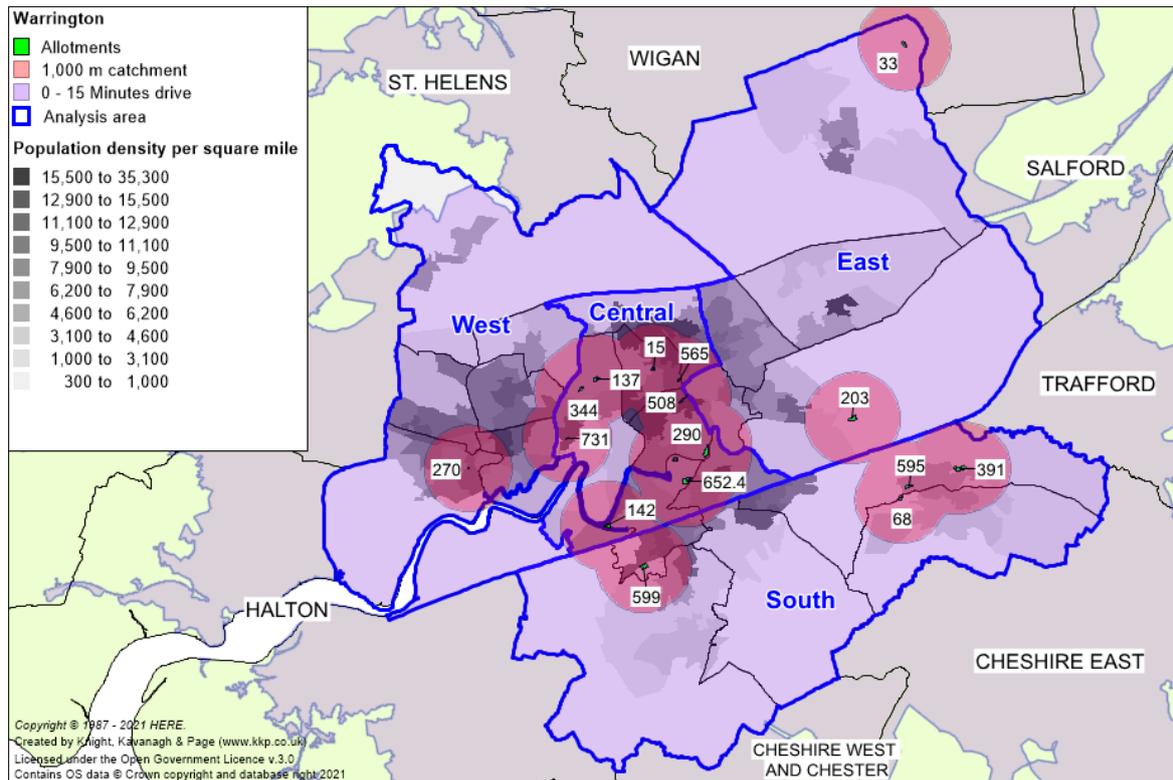


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
15	Orford Park Allotments/ r/o Blackburne Arms, Orford Green	Central	0.55
33	Bent's Allotments	East	0.79
68	Booths Hill Road allotments	South	0.50
137	Charter Avenue Allotments	Central	0.96
142	Chester Road allotments	Central	1.02
203	Battery Lane allotments	East	1.63
270	Heath Field allotments	West	0.04
290	Kingsway North Allotments	Central	1.91
344	Lilford Avenue Allotments	Central	0.54
391	Sow Brook Allotments	South	2.25
508	Steel Street allotments	Central	0.75
565	Smith Drive/Brian Avenue Allotments	Central	0.26
595	Star Lane Allotments	South	0.93
599	Red Lane Allotments Stockton Heath	South	1.44
652.4	Victoria Park allotments (2 locations: North Site & Black Bear Allotments)	Central	2.89
731	Workingmen's Mission Recreation Club allotments	Central	0.11

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

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Figure 8.1 demonstrates that the borough is served by allotment provision. Gaps in the walk time catchment are noted. This is however served by the drive time catchment.

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

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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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 29 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to nearly 30 hectares of provision in Warrington. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

*Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries in Warrington*

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Central	5	15.53
East	9	3.07
South	10	8.80
West	5	2.55
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29.95</b>

The largest contributor to burial provision is Manchester Road Cemetery (14 hectares). The site features a chapel with seating, many memorials and burials for various religions. There are also small plots available for cremated remains. Furthermore, the site benefits from car parking. In 2019, the site had a Green Flag Award.

#### 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.

# WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis areas

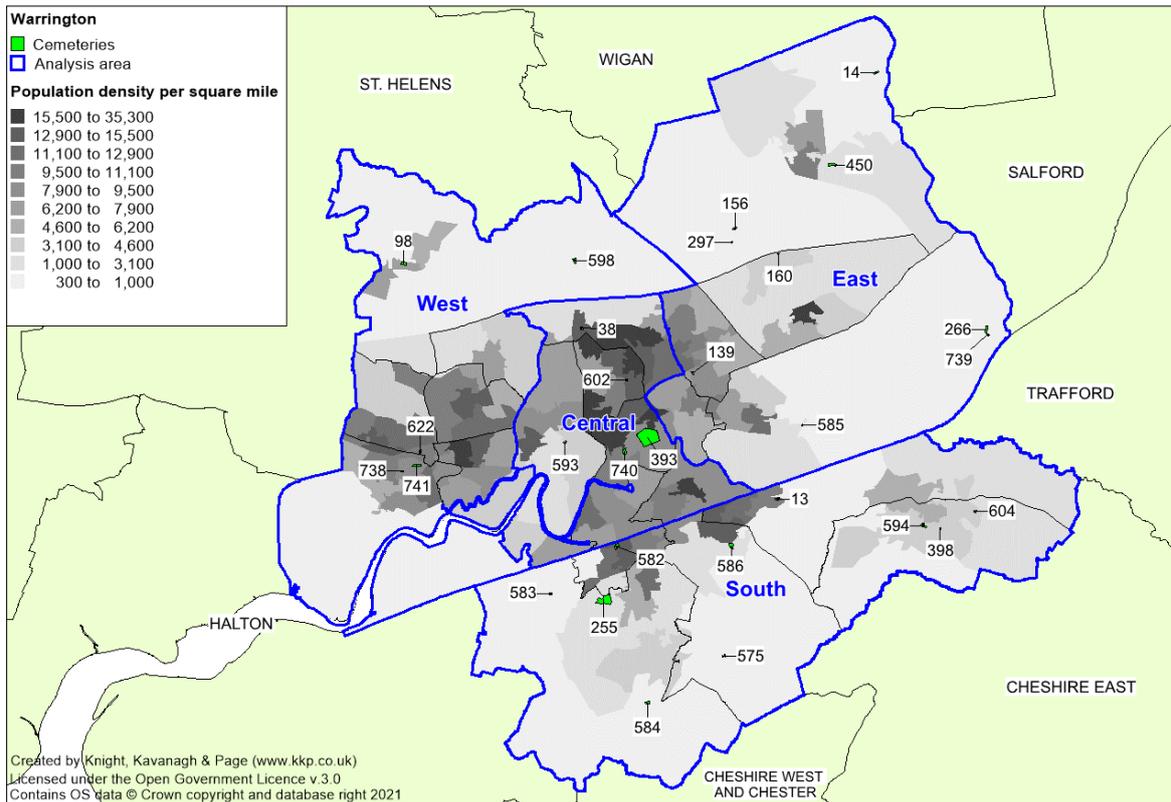


Table 9.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
13	All Saint's, Thelwall	South	0.39
14	All Saints Church, Glazebury	East	0.39
38	Bethel Free Church	Central	0.17
98	Burtonwood Cemetery	West	0.75
139	Christ Church, Padgate	East	0.25
156	Christ Church, Croft	East	0.41
160	Cross Lane South Graveyard	East	0.05
255	Fox Covert Cemetery	South	5.08
266	Hollinfare Cemetery	East	0.83
297	Lady Lane Graveyard	East	0.07
393	Manchester Road Cemetery	Central	14.17
398	Lymm Higher Lane Baptist Chapelyard	South	0.06
450	Newchurch Parish Church	East	0.87
575	St Cross Church	South	0.24
582	St Thomas	South	0.69
583	St John the Evangelist	South	0.19

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
584	St Matthew's Church, Stretton	South	0.46
585	Ss Peter & Michael RC Church	East	0.05
586	St Wilfrid's, Grappenhall	South	0.85
593	St Paul's Court	Central	0.27
594	St Mary's Church	South	0.58
598	St Oswald, Winwick	West	0.55
602	St Margaret & All Hallows	Central	0.14
604	St Peter's, Oughtrington	South	0.26
622	St Mary's C of E Church	West	0.20
738	Meeting Lane Community Centre	West	0.10
739	Hollinfare St Helen	East	0.16
740	St Elphin's Parish Church	Central	0.77
741	St Mary's Cemetery	West	0.97

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.

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## PART 10: GREEN CORRIDORS

### 10.1 Introduction

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

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

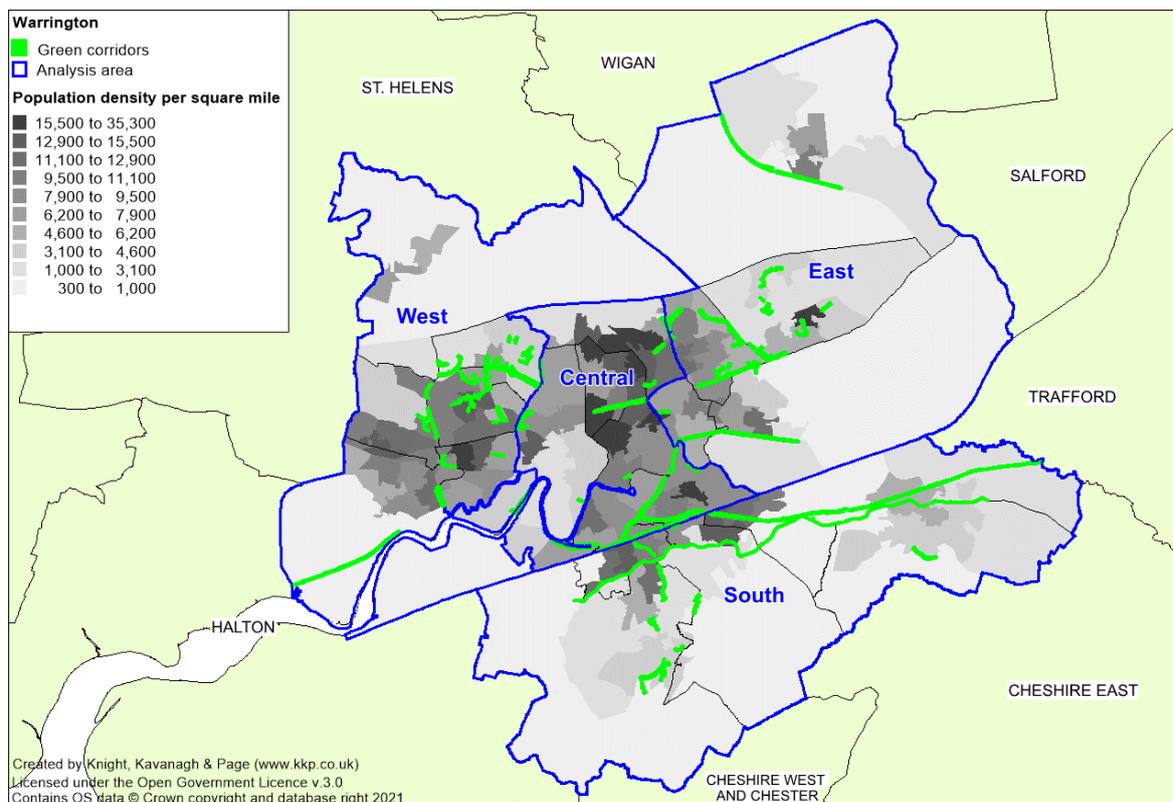
### 10.2 Current provision

There are 129 forms of green corridor provision identified across Warrington equating to over 152 hectares. In addition, Sankey Valley, which is included within the study as other forms of provision, will also contribute to the role of green corridors.

### 10.3 Accessibility

It is difficult to assess green corridors against catchment areas due to their linear nature and usage. Figure 11.1 shows green corridors mapped across the area. No labels are presented as there are too many to show.

Figure 10.1: Green corridors mapped



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Table 10.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
8	Admirals Road	East	0.53
21	Armstrong Close	East	0.26
45	Birchwood Boulevard	East	5.75
51	Birchwood Park Avenue 1	East	0.78
52	Birchwood Park Avenue 2	East	1.33
63	Black Bear Park GC	Central	7.27
64	Black Brook 1	Central	0.09
65	Black Brook 2	East	1.82
66	Blackbrook Avenue North (West Side)	Central	0.45
69	Bretland Drive Linkway	South	0.69
77	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 1	South	0.26
78	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 10	South	0.07
79	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 11	South	0.48
80	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 2	South	0.15
81	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 3	South	0.89
82	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 4	South	0.40
83	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 5	South	0.25
84	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 6	South	0.29
85	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 7	South	0.42
86	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 8	South	0.21
87	Bridgewater Canal Tow Path 9	South	0.25
97	Bruche Park Link	East	0.23
118	Capesthorne Road/Trossach Close	Central	1.14
119	Cardigan Close/Pendine Close	West	6.05
133	Centre Park - East	Central	0.35
135	Chalfont Close/Pangbourne Close	South	0.50
161	Cromwell Avenue	West	0.35
162	Cromwell Avenue/Cabot Close	West	1.38
163	Cromwell Avenue/Dendine Close	West	1.14
165	Cromwell Avenue/Ross Close/Lander Close	West	1.89
167	Cromwell Avenue/Willoughby Close	West	0.89
170	Culcheth Linear Park (Eastern Section)	East	0.96
171	Culcheth Linear Park (Western Section)	East	1.75
172	Culcheth Linear Park 1	East	1.12
173	Culcheth Linear Park 2	East	5.78
187	Derek Avenue Open Space	Central	0.71
192	Dipping Brook Avenue 1	South	0.27

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
198	Duckworth Grove	East	0.36
200	Duckworth Grove/Harpers Road	East	0.68
231	Former Railway - Black Bear Park to Bluckley Close	Central	0.66
232	Former Railway - Blackley Close to Wash Lane	Central	0.54
233	Former Railway - Grammar School Road to Knutsford Road	Central	0.34
234	Former Railway - Grammar School to Knutsford Road	Central	0.36
235	Former Railway - Knutsford Road to Selkirk Avenue	Central	2.43
236	Former Railway - Thelwall Newroad to Bradshaw Lane	South	1.26
237	Former Railway - Thelwall NewRoad to Bradshaw Lane	South	1.01
238	Former Railway - Wash Lane to Grammar School Road	Central	1.32
248	Glover Road/Warrington Road	East	0.67
260	Greenbank Road	South	0.22
271	Heather Close	East	0.11
285	Keyes Close	East	0.73
289	Kingsdale Road/Airedale Close	West	0.12
292	Kingswood Road	West	0.65
315	Land Between Westbrook Way/Kingswood	West	1.44
320	Land north of Birchwood Way	East	0.73
332	Land Off Helmsley Close GC	Central	1.55
347	Linkway to the north of North Brook Road	West	1.62
369	Longwood Road 1	South	0.14
370	Longwood Road 2	South	0.85
371	Longwood Road 3	South	0.22
372	Longwood Road 4	South	0.007
373	Longwood Road 6	South	0.008
374	Longwood Road 7	South	0.40
375	Longwood Road 8	South	0.18
383	Lumb Brook	South	2.30
384	Lumb Brook	South	0.52
385	Lumb Brook Road - Stansfield Drive Linkway	South	0.94
389	Lymm Dam South	South	2.12
394	Manchester Ship Canal North Bank	Central	1.18
395	Manchester Ship Canal North Bank	Central	0.82
396	Manchester Ship Canal North Bank	Central	2.72
421	Mersey River Walk - Howley	Central	0.76
422	Mersey walk	Central	0.57
424	Mill Brook	East	1.75
430	Monks Hall - Riverside	West	2.49
445	Northern Expressway Corridor (southern side)	West	6.00

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
455	Off Pasture Lane	East	0.40
484	Payne Close	West	0.53
494	Pewterspear Green Road 1	South	0.20
495	Pewterspear Green Road 2	South	0.25
504	r/o 2-28 Livingstone Close	West	0.17
511	Railway Corridor	East	1.50
520	Riverside Close / Howley Foot Bridge Link	Central	0.17
524	Roman Road	South	0.63
525	Rosemoor Gardens	South	0.43
527	Runcorn Latchford Canal	Central	1.98
531	Sankey Brook Link - Dallam	Central	0.45
554	Sankey Way Corridor 10	West	0.28
577	Spittle Brook	East	2.09
578	Spittle Brook	East	1.88
579	Spittle Brook, Freshfields Drive/Burnett Drive	East	3.30
587	St Helens Canal (West)	West	7.75
588	St. Andrews Close	East	0.91
589	St. Asaph Drive/Cromwell Avenue Link (east)	West	0.29
590	St. Asaph Drive/Cromwell Avenue Link (west)	West	0.29
600	Stoneacre Gardens	South	0.03
606	The Avoiding Line - Central Avenue to Orford Avenue	Central	0.62
607	The Avoiding line - North of Ryfields	Central	1.52
608	The Avoiding Line - O'Leary Street to Arena Gardens	Central	0.42
609	The Avoiding Line - Orford Avenue to O'Leary Street	Central	0.57
610	The Avoiding Line - South Avenue to Central Avenue	Central	0.91
623	Trans Pennine Trail - Whitbarrow Road to Slitten Brook	South	0.36
624	Trans-Pennine Trail - All Saints Drive to Halfacre Lane	South	0.72
625	Trans-Pennine Trail - Birch Brook Road to Mill Lane	South	0.37
626	Trans-Pennine Trail - Bradshaw Lane to Stockport Road	South	0.88
627	Trans-Pennine Trail - Bradshaw Lane to Stockport Road	South	1.15
628	Trans-Pennine Trail - Camsley Lane to Yeald Brow	South	0.78
629	Trans-Pennine Trail - Deans Lane to Massey Brook	South	0.71
630	Trans-Pennine Trail - Halfacre Lane to Deans Lane	South	0.75
631	Trans-Pennine Trail - Lymmhay Lane to Reddish Lane	South	1.31
632	Trans-Pennine Trail - Massey Brook to Camsley Lane	South	0.84
633	Trans-Pennine Trail - Mill Lane to Borough Boundary	South	1.11
634	Trans-Pennine Trail - Redish Lane to Birch Brook Road	South	1.26
635	Trans-Pennine Trail - Slitten Brook to Lymmhay Lane	South	0.39
636	Trans-Pennine Trail - Star Lane to Whitbarrow Road	South	1.17

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
637	Trans-Pennine Trail - Stockport Road to All saints	South	1.24
638	Trans-Pennine Trail - Yeald Brow to Star Lane	South	0.67
643	Twenty Acre Road/Burtonwood Road	West	3.31
662	Walton Lock	Central	3.41
679	Westbrook Crescent	West	1.07
680	Westbrook Crescent Corridor	West	0.55
687	Whinchat Drive	East	0.80
693	Whittle Avenue	West	0.59
694	Whittle Avenue	West	0.41
695	Whittle Avenue & Kingsdale Road North	West	0.68
696	Whittle Avenue/Kingsdale Road Roadside Verge	West	1.40
697	Whittle Brook	West	3.25
705	Whittle Hall Lane	West	0.28
724	Woolston New Cut Canal	East	7.19

### PART 11: PROVISION STANDARDS

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

#### 11.1: Quality and value

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

##### *Quality and value matrix*

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

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

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

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

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### 11.2: Accessibility

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

Table 11.2.1: Accessibility catchments

Open space type	Applicable site	Catchment
Parks & Gardens	Sites over 15 ha	1,200m
	Sites below 0.5 ha	400m
	All other sites	710m
Amenity Greenspace	Sites over 0.2 ha	480m
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	Sites over 2 ha	300m
	Sites over 20 ha	2,000m
	Sites over 100 ha	5,000m
Play provision	LAP	100m
	LEAP	400m
	NEAP	1,000m
	Casual provision (e.g. MUGA, Skate park)	700m
Allotments	All sites	1,000m
		15-minute drive

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

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

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

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

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Table 11.2.2: Sites helping to serve gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
East	Common Lane/Warrington Road (ID 149) Kaye Avenue South (ID 284) Shaw Street Recreation Ground (ID 557)	Amenity Amenity Amenity
South	May Queen Field (ID 417) Sandy Lane (ID 528)	Amenity Amenity
West	Gorse Lane/Clay Lane (ID 251) Butchers Field (ID 103) Sherbourne Way/Chapel Lane (ID 559) Fir Tree Lane/Alder Lane (ID 224) Burtonwood Nature Park (ID 101)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural

Table 11.2.3: Sites helping to serve gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
East	Common Lane/Warrington Road (ID 149) Kaye Avenue South (ID 284) Shaw Street Recreation Ground (ID 557)	Amenity Amenity Amenity

Table 11.2.4: Sites helping to serve gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Central	Woolston Eyes SSSI (ID 721) Orford Park (ID 467) St. Peter's Park (ID 592) Bank Park (ID 27)	Natural Park Park Park
East	Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve (ID 518) Birchwood Park (ID 49)	Natural Park
South	Woolston Eyes SSSI (ID 721) Elizabeth Park (ID 208) Euclid Avenue Playing Field (ID 213)	Natural Park Park
West	Gateworth Landfill Site (ID 241) Little Moss Wood (ID 349) Thorntondale Drive Park (ID 621) Sankey Valley Park Callands (ID 542)	Natural Natural Natural Park

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Table 11.2.5: Play sites with potential to serve catchment gaps

Analysis area	Play sites
Central	Dover Road/Denver Road play area (ID 196)
East	Common Lane/Warrington Road play area (ID 149.1) Shaw Street Recreation Ground skatepark (ID 557.1)
South	Euclid Avenue Playing Field play area (ID 213.1) Morris Brook Park Play Area (ID 32.1) Dudlows Green Park play areas (ID 201.1) Walton Gardens play area (ID 660.1) Barley Road Playing Fields play area (ID 30) Elizabeth Park play area (ID 208.1)
West	Gorsey Lane/Clay Lane play area (ID 251.1) Sherbourne Way/Chapel Lane play area (ID 559.1) Thorntondale Drive Park play area (ID 621.1)

### 11.3: Quantity

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

#### Setting quantity standards

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

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

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

Table 11.3.1: Summary of current provision levels

Typology	Quantity level (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	1.36
Amenity greenspace	0.85
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	4.94
Provision for children & young people	0.06
Allotment	0.08

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

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Table 11.3.2: Current provision shortfalls by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Play provision	
	(Hectares per 1000 population)									
	1.36		4.36		0.85		0.08		0.06	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Central	1.28	-0.08	1.82	-2.54	0.73	-0.12	0.14	+0.06	0.07	+0.01
East	1.55	+0.19	12.15	+7.79	1.09	+0.24	0.05	-0.01	0.05	-0.01
South	1.42	+0.06	2.86	-1.50	0.66	-0.19	0.12	+0.04	0.04	-0.02
West	1.25	-0.11	4.07	-0.29	0.95	+0.10	0.01	-0.07	0.05	-0.01

Shortfalls are noted however, no analysis area is highlighted as having shortfalls across all open space types.

The table also shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall in terms of provision for children and young people. Most areas are shown as having a slight shortfall.

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### *Identifying priorities*

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

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

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

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

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

### **11.4: Recommendations**

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

#### ***Recommendation 1***

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

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

*Table 11.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps*

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
27	Bank Park	Parks	Amenity
30	Barley Road Playing Fields play area	Play	Play
32.1	Morris Brook Park Play Area	Play	Play
49	Birchwood Park	Parks	Amenity
101	Burtonwood Nature Park	Natural	Parks
103	Butchers Field	Amenity	Parks
149	Common Lane/Warrington Road	Amenity	Parks / Natural
149.1	Common Lane/Warrington Road play area	Play	Play
196	Dover Road/Denver Road play area	Play	Play
201.1	Dudlows Green Park play areas	Play	Play

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
208	Elizabeth Park	Parks	Amenity
208.1	Elizabeth Park play area	Play	Play
213	Euclid Avenue Playing Field	Parks	Amenity
213.1	Euclid Avenue Playing Field play area	Play	Play
224	Fir Tree Lane/Alder Lane	Amenity	Parks
241	Gateworth Landfill Site	Natural	Amenity
251	Gorsey Lane/Clay Lane	Amenity	Parks
251.1	Gorsey Lane/Clay Lane play area	Play	Play
284	Kaye Avenue South	Amenity	Parks / Natural
349	Little Moss Wood	Natural	Amenity
417	May Queen Field	Amenity	Parks
467	Orford Park	Parks	Amenity
518	Risley Moss Local Nature Reserve	Natural	Amenity
528	Sandy Lane	Amenity	Parks
542	Sankey Valley Park Callands	Parks	Amenity
557	Shaw Street Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks / Natural
557.1	Shaw Street Recreation Ground skatepark	Play	Play
559	Sherbourne Way/Chapel Lane	Amenity	Parks
559.1	Burtonwood Chapel Lane Play Area	Play	Play
592	St. Peter's Park	Parks	Amenity
621	Thorntondale Drive Park	Parks	Amenity
621.1	Thorntondale Drive Park play area	Play	Play
660.1	Walton Gardens play area	Play	Play
721	Woolston Eyes SSSI	Natural	Amenity

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

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

### **Recommendation 2**

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

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

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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.

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

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
284	Kaye Avenue South	Amenity	Parks / Natural
417	May Queen Field	Amenity	Parks
542	Sankey Valley Park Callands	Parks	Amenity
557.1	Shaw Street Recreation Ground skatepark	Play	Play
721	Woolston Eyes SSSI	Natural	Amenity

### **Recommendation 3**

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

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

For instance, the West Analysis Area has a potential sufficiency in amenity greenspace but a potential shortfall in natural greenspace. Consequently, the function of some amenity greenspace could look to be strengthened to act as natural greenspace provision.

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

### **Next steps**

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

The following topics may wish to be considered:

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

