

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The London Borough of Havering Council commissioned KKP to produce an Open Space Assessment to provide an up-to-date evidence base and to help inform future decision-making processes.

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

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

Open space is categorised into the following typologies:

Type of open space	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
Allotments	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long-term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds	Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Civic space	Provides a setting for civic buildings, public gatherings and community events.

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Audit summary

Within the London Borough of Havering there are a total of 271 sites equating to 1,446 hectares of open space.

The largest contributor to provision is parks and gardens (639 hectares), accounting for 44% of open space in Havering.

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Allotments	27	34
Amenity greenspace	68	121
Cemeteries/churchyards	12	52
Civic Spaces	6	1
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	33	591
Park and gardens	23	639
Provision for children & young people	102	8
TOTAL	271	1,446

Quality and Value

There is a generally a good quality of open space across assessed typologies. This is reflected in the majority (74%) of assessed sites scoring above their set quality thresholds.

Proportionally there are more (67%) amenity greenspace sites to rate below the quality threshold. This tends to reflect that many of these are small pockets of greenspace with no or few ancillary features/facilities and serve more as visual amenities.

Typology	Quality		Value	
	Low	High	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	67%	33%	9%	91%
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	23%	77%	0	100%
Park and gardens	4%	96%	0	100%
Provision for children and young people	10%	90%	0	100%
Totals	26%	74%	2%	98%

Virtually all sites (98%) 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.

* Rounded to the nearest whole number

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Recommendations

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

Several quantity shortfalls in the open space typologies are highlighted. 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). Often a more realistic approach is to ensure sufficient accessibility and quality of existing provision. Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should be endorsed.

The report summarises the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

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

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

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality and/or value to the applied standards (i.e. high quality and/or value). Across the authority, there are 47 sites highlighted as helping to serve gaps in accessibility catchment mapping.

Recommendation 2

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

There are 56 sites to rate as below quality and/or value thresholds. Of these 56 sites, 11 are identified as helping to potentially serve catchment gaps in other types of open space.

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

Recommendation 3

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

The study identifies 56 sites rated as lower quality and lower value. For an area with a quantity sufficiency in one type of open space, and where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that same type.

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

Recommendation 4

Sites below 0.2 hectares should be considered on a case by case basis as and when required

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

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

Recommendation 5

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

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

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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
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The London Borough of Havering commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an open space assessment. This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, 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.

The document can facilitate the direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable open spaces. It can help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth. 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 follow the methodology to undertake such assessments by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; Assessing Needs and Opportunities² published in September 2002.

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

Under paragraph 102 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.

² [Assessing Needs and Opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17](#)

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

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

1.1 Report structure

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

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

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

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1.2 National and local context

National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC)

The National Planning Policy Framework (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.

The NPPF 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 102 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 103 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 (DLUHC and 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: Fields in Trust (2015) and Beyond the Six Acre Standard³

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

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

Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England

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

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

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

³ [Fields In Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play](#)

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London Plan (2021)

Policy G4 (Open space) states that Development Plans should “undertake an assessment of all open space to inform policy”. Assessments should take into account the quality, quantity and accessibility of provision.

This study can therefore help Development Plans in identifying deficiencies, promoting creation of new publicly accessible open space and ensuring future open space needs are planned for, specially in areas with substantial change.

Summary

Policies set out within the NPPF and the London Plan state that local and development 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.

Encouraging better levels of physical literacy⁴ 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 study makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy can be formulated.

⁴ Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

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

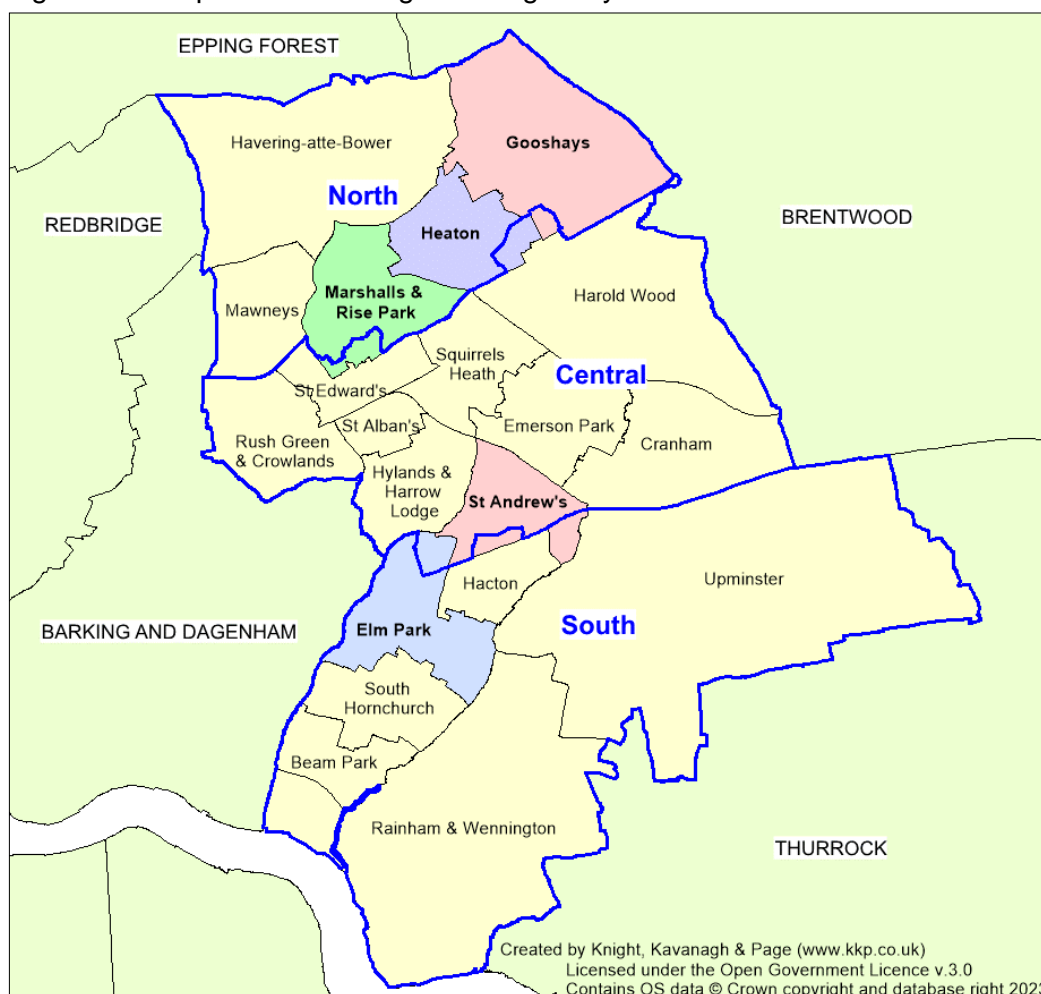
- ◀ 2.1 – Analysis areas
- ◀ 2.2 – Auditing local provision
- ◀ 2.3 – Open space provision standards
- ◀ 2.4 – Quality and value
- ◀ 2.5 – Quality and value thresholds
- ◀ 2.6 – Accessibility standards

2.1 Analysis area

The study area comprises the whole London Borough of Havering. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas (consisting of electoral wards which align with other work streams) have been utilised. These are Central, North and South.

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

Figure 2.1: Map of LB Havering including analysis areas⁵



⁵ Office of National Statistics, 2023

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There are 20 wards within LB Havering. Table 2.1 displays the population for each ward. Analysis areas reflect those used in the previous study. Consequently, due to changes to ward boundaries some wards are across two analysis areas. For example, Gooshays is mostly in the North Analysis Area with a small section located in the Central Analysis Area. In such instances, the ward is allocated to the analysis area it predominantly sits within.

Table 2.1: Analysis area populations

Analysis area	Ward	Population ⁶
Central	Cranham	12,987
	Emerson Park	9,535
	Harold Wood	13,807
	Hylands and Harrow Lodge	13,758
	Rush Green and Crowlands	16,022
	Squirrels Heath	15,514
	St Alban's	8,738
	St Andrew's	14,652
	St Edward's	10,423
North	Gooshays	17,780
	Havering-atte-Bower	16,375
	Heaton	17,211
	Marshalls and Rise Park	12,952
	Mawneys	14,481
South	Beam Park	4,883
	Elm Park	16,646
	Hacton	8,489
	Rainham and Wennington	13,567
	South Hornchurch	10,885
	Upminster	13,347
Havering		262,052

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, which people cannot access, are not included).

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

⁶ Census 2021 Lower Super Output (LSOAs)

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Site size threshold

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

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

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

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.

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2.3 Open space standards

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

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

2.4 Quality and value

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

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

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.

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Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

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

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

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

Analysis of value

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

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

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

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

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The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

Value criteria for open space site visits (score)

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

One of the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic has been recognition of the importance of the 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.

There is no national guidance on the setting of value thresholds, and instead a 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.

A 20% threshold may initially seem low however, 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
Allotments	60%	20%
Amenity greenspace	60%	20%
Cemeteries	60%	20%
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	50%	20%

2.6 Accessibility catchments

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

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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 several factors including height, age, levels of fitness and physical barriers on route. Therefore, there will be an element of 'best fit'.

The accessibility catchments from FIT are used to show how far residents are likely to be willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

Table 2.3: Accessibility catchment times/distances

Open space type		Catchment
Parks & Gardens		9-minute walk time (710m)
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		9-minute walk time (720m)
Amenity Greenspace		6-minute walk time (480m)
Provision for children and young people	LAP	1-minute walk time (100m)
	LEAP	5-minute walk time (400m)
	NEAP	12.5-minute walk time (1,000m)
	Other provision (e.g., MUGA, Skate)	9-minute walk time (700m)
Allotments		No standard set
Cemeteries		No standard set
Civic space		No standard set

Most typologies have an accessibility standard of a 9-minute walk time. No standard is set for the typologies of allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF SITE AUDIT

3.1: Introduction

Within the London Borough of Havering there are a total of 271 sites equating to 1,456 hectares of open space.

The largest contributor to provision is parks and gardens (639 hectares), accounting for 44%.

Table 3.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares) ⁷
Allotments	27	34
Amenity greenspace	68	121
Cemeteries/churchyards	12	52
Civic Spaces	6	1
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	33	591
Park and gardens	23	639
Provision for children & young people	102	8
TOTAL	271	1,446

Note that this only includes accessible open space therefore outdoor sports facilities and school grounds are not included as they have restricted access as they are not open access for members of the public. Outdoor sports facilities (e.g., football clubs, bowling greens), are dedicated marked pitches/sports provision with restricted use through management arrangements. Prospect Road Playing Field (Harold Wood), Squirrels Heath Lane and The Gallows (in Heaton) are excluded from this study as they have no public access.

⁷ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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3.2 Quality

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

Table 3.2: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Below	Above
Amenity greenspace	30%	54%	76%	38	19
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	35%	60%	87%	7	24
Park and gardens	60%	70%	88%	1	22
Provision for children & young people	38%	70%	91%	10	92
				56	157

There is a generally a good quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in the majority (75%) of assessed sites scoring above their set threshold for quality.

3.3 Value

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

Table 3.3: Value scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Scores			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	17%	38%	74%	5	52
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	21%	35%	73%	0	31
Park and gardens	39%	61%	77%	0	23
Provision for children & young people	25%	48%	82%	0	102
				5	208

Nearly all sites (98%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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

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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology often 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 23 sites identified as parks and gardens across Havering, the equivalent of over 496 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Current parks and gardens provision in Havering

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	11	103.65	0.87
North	7	344.88	4.63
South	5	190.69	2.77
LB Havering	23	639.22	2.44

For parks and gardens, there is a total current provision level of 2.44 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to this provision is Hornchurch Country Park (113.86 ha) located in South Analysis Area. The next largest site is Bedfords Park (86.13 ha) in North Analysis Area. The four largest parks (Bedfords Park, Dagnam Park, Havering Country Park and Hornchurch Country Park) are multi-functional with strong semi-natural features. These sites are included as parks in this study but are mentioned in the natural/semi-natural section. Note that Dagnam Park combines the park and nature reserve as one site.

It is important to note that within the category of parks and gardens, there are two distinct types of sites. Some are significant in size and act as destinations offering greater recreational facilities and uses which people will often be willing to travel further to access. Examples of this type include Harrow Lodge Park in Central Analysis Area. Other sites within the typology of parks and gardens are smaller in size. An example of this is Coronation Gardens in Central Analysis Area.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, Havering is above this. This is also the case for all three analysis areas.

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

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4.3 Accessibility

An accessibility catchment of a 9-minute walk time has been set across Havering. Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped with the accessibility catchment. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take account of topography or walking routes.

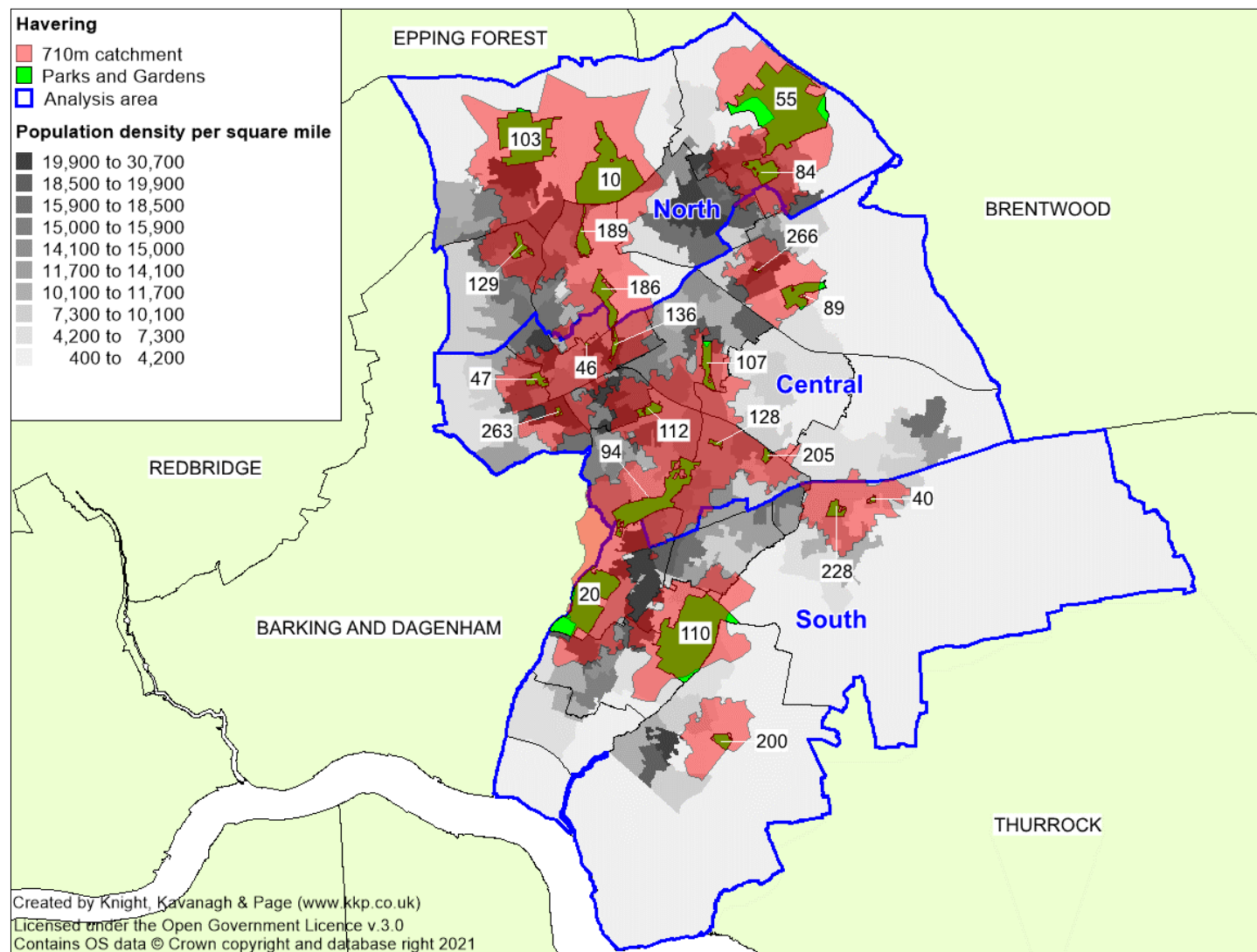
The accessibility catchments utilise data available for site entry points and the road network. This provides catchments more reflective of how people will travel to access such provision (i.e. along these routes). This is as opposed to radial catchments which use 'as the crow flies' distances.

The numbers displayed on the maps are site ID numbers. As part of the study each site has been provided with their own ID number.

Figure 4.2 shows amenity greenspace (above one hectare) and parks combined. This is to demonstrate that some catchment gaps in parks (shown in Figure 4.1) are covered by some amenity greenspace sites.

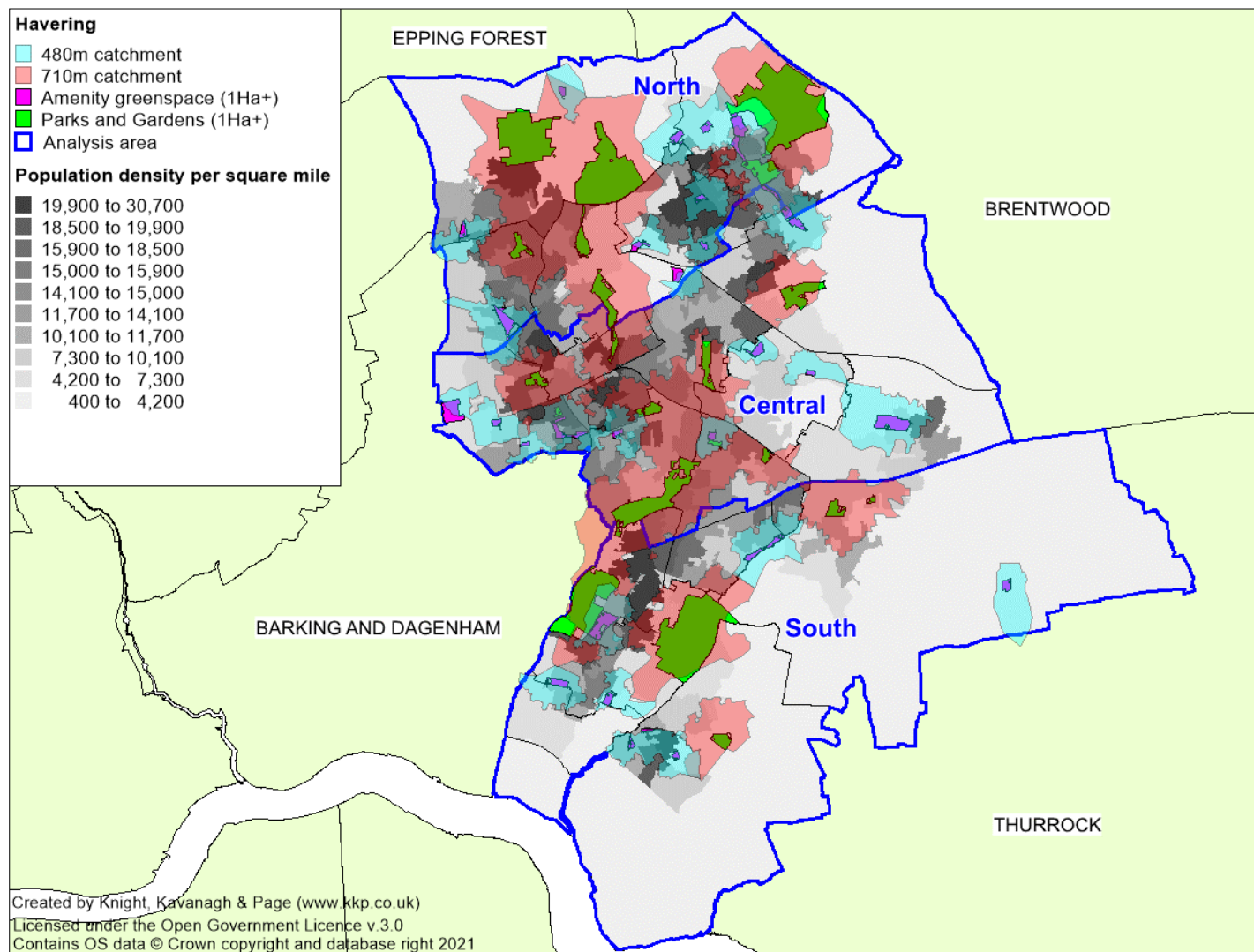
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Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with a 9-minute (710m) walk catchment



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Figure 4.2: Amenity greenspace (1 hectare +) and parks and gardens



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Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
10	Bedfords Park	North	86.13	85.3%	77.3%
20	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre	South	63.56	75.5%	59.1%
40	Clockhouse Gardens	South	1.03	65.8%	64.5%
46	Coronation Gardens	Central	0.42	65.4%	43.6%
47	Cottons Park	Central	5.86	69.2%	68.2%
55	Dagnam Park	North	142.42	66.7%	43.6%
84	Central Park	North	15.54	82.5%	72.7%
89	Harold Wood Park	Central	18.88	70.9%	63.6%
94	Harrow Lodge Park	Central	50.34	88.3%	72.7%
103	Havering Country Park	North	68.53	62.8%	39.1%
107	Haynes Park	Central	11.60	59.7%	54.5%
110	Hornchurch Country Park	South	113.86	68.8%	54.5%
112	Hylands Park	Central	6.24	72.9%	59.1%
128	Langtons Gardens	Central	1.68	61.3%	40.9%
129	Lawns Park	North	6.89	66.5%	63.6%
136	Lodge Farm Park	Central	4.19	68.9%	59.1%
186	Raphael Park	North	16.17	82.0%	72.7%
189	Rise Park	North	9.28	65.4%	63.6%
200	Spring Farm Park	South	5.82	74.5%	68.2%
205	St Andrews Park	Central	2.79	66.0%	68.2%
228	Upminster Park	South	6.46	74.2%	68.2%
263	Jubilee Park	Central	1.12	60.1%	57.3%
266	Kings Park	Central	0.55	60.4%	61.8%

In general, there is a reasonable coverage of parks based on a 9-minute walk time in areas with greater population density. However, gaps are noticeable in all three analysis areas

Gaps in the North Analysis Area include the wards of Havering-atte-Bower and Heaton. In the Central Analysis Area gaps in wards are noticeable in Rush Green & Crowlands, St Alban's, Cranham and Harold Wood. In the South Analysis Area, gaps are noticeable in the wards of Elm Park, Hacton, South Hornchurch and Rainham & Wennington.

Some of these gaps are served by other forms of open space provision such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace as shown in Table 4.3. Such sites may not meet the criteria of parks provision but are likely to offer similar opportunities and access to recreational activities often associated with parks. Exploring the potential to formalise features associated with parks provision at some of these sites could be considered to increase a sites secondary function as a park.

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Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Central	Cranham Brickfields Local Nature Reserve (ID 252) Upminster Hall Playing Field (ID 231) Cranham Playing Fields (ID 52) Oldchurch Park (ID 157)	Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity
North	Noak Sports Complex a (ID 151) Noak Hill Recreation Ground (ID 149) Paines Brook 3 (ID 163) Farrington Avenue flood lagoon (ID 62) Chelmsford Avenue (ID 34) King George's Playing Field (ID 123) Stratton Wood (ID 56)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
South	Ingrebourne Hill (ID 116) The Glen (ID 222) Rainham Recreation Ground (ID 179) Stirling Close (ID 213) Mardyke Adventure Playground (ID 144) Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre (ID 20) Blake Close (ID 13) Maytree Close (ID 147)	Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

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 60% 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 assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Central	60%	68%	88%	1	10
North	63%	73%	85%	0	7
South	66%	72%	76%	0	5
Havering	60%	70%	88%	1	22

Most park and garden sites in the Borough rate above the quality threshold.

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The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Harrow Lodge Park (88%)
- ◀ Bedfords Park (85%)
- ◀ Central Park (83%)
- ◀ Raphael Park (82%)

These parks are all Green Flag Award sites. Harrow Lodge Park (88%) is the largest park in Havering and one that serves the local and wider community. Located in Hornchurch, the site benefits from a variety of play provision including two play areas, two MUGAs, a skate park and half pipe. The site is observed as being very well maintained with plenty of benches and good pathways. It has the additional benefits of three car parks, tennis courts, a popular café, toilets, wildlife, wildflower area and a lake. The site has multiple entrances/access points, interpretive signage about the various plants and wildlife in the park, picnic tables and bins contributing to a welcoming, accessible site for a range of users.

Consultation with LB Havering Council highlights the lake at Harrow Lodge Park has an ongoing issue as it picks up runoff from the road. It is therefore subject to flooding, particularly on the Warren Drive side. Last year, the Council spent over £6,000 on dredging the lake to clean it and for it to be more oxygenated. Despite this, it remains an ongoing problem.

Bedfords Park (85%), which scores very high for quality, is a Green Flag Award site and features trails for walkers and joggers, an adventure trail playground, pond and wetlands. It is a popular, well used site with the additional benefit of Essex Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre on site and an 18th Century walled garden. Consultation with the Council highlight that in 2019, a playground was built, and drainage works were undertaken the following year in 2020 as the site proved to be popular. There is signage around the park, however the Council highlight that it needs updating with it all being timber framed. It is seeking funding to be able to undertake this. There have been pathway improvements leading to the lake to facilitate all year-round access as the area often becomes waterlogged.

Central Park (83%) is another popular, high-quality site. Similarly, it also features play provision to a good standard including a floodlit MUGA, skate park, BMX track, parkour and play area. The site also contains a cricket pitch, outdoor batting cages and a kiosk, further adding to its benefits. There are an abundant supply of benches and picnic tables and overall it has an excellent appearance. Gym equipment was installed in 2022 adding to the site. The Council highlight there is frequent vandalism in the playground, mainly graffiti but also damage to equipment. Previously both bridges in the playground have been broken in two. Fire damage has also been an issue in the past.

Wild fallow deer pose a growing problem at some sites (i.e. Dagnam Park, Central Park). The Council highlights the need to establish a management plan, particularly for the north of the borough, otherwise overgrazing and flora damage will continue to grow.

Raphael Park (82%) is a very visually appealing park featuring a lake, water fountain, bandstand and 12 tennis courts. Furthermore, there are lots of trees, good paths and ornamental gardens. The site contains interpretative signage, carved benches, sculptures, kiosk, bins and wide entrances further adding to its benefits. Consultation with the Council highlights that the FOG is quite active and undertake monthly litter picks. The Council has agreed a Lawns Tennis Association Grant which will involve fence repairs and painting. A booking system/cost for usage has also been introduced.

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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 16 parks that are Green Flag Award Sites.

Upminster Park (74%), a Green Flag Award site, is a highly regarded and high-quality site. It benefits from a range of facilities and features such as a play area, tennis courts, outdoor gym equipment and table tennis tables. The site has the additional benefits of sports pitches, a kiosk selling food and drinks and a wildflower area. Consultation mirrors the positive site observations and identifies it as high quality.

Other high scoring sites include Hornchurch Country Park (69%). The site is visually appealing, well maintained sites with water features, wildlife, trees, interpretative signage, and good paths. The site is a Green Flag Award site and features Essex Wildlife Trust Ingrebourne Nature Discovery Centre and a play area including trim trail equipment and outdoor gym equipment towards the north of the site. There are toilet facilities available in the visitor centre. The Ingrebourne River runs down the eastern side of the park and flows through the part known as the Ingrebourne Marshes. These are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and form the largest freshwater reed bed in the London area.

Dagnam Park (67%) is a Site of Importance to Nature conservation (SINC), with the Council having an aspiration of the whole site to be a Local Nature Reserve LNR (half of the site is currently designated). The site has the largest section of ancient woodland in the Borough and includes fir wood. It features bins, benches and signage and there is a cycle route that runs through the park that was installed using Section 106 money. This is the only hard-standing path in the park. In 2023, the Council received £168,000 from Lower Thames Crossing to improve the site including large woodland restoration, producing a woodland management plan and more deer enclosures.

Consultation with the Council identifies that the play area at St Andrews Park (66%) has been revamped recently due to being quite old. The site benefits from a play area, MUGA, outdoor gym, path, wildflower area and formal planting. It has the additional benefit of a child's marked roadway for cycling which has replaced a former disused tennis court.

Other sites scoring above the quality threshold include Clockhouse Gardens (67%), a small ornamental garden in Upminster. This historic site features a small lake, wildlife, variety of trees, bowling green, sculptures, benches and bins. The clockhouse is a Grade II listed building. There are good footpaths around the site and interpretative signage about its history. The recent addition of a sculptural feature of wooden figures, animals and seats provides a setting for children's play. Consultation with LB Havering Council highlights that the area around the shrubs requires a revamp and is looking tired. The structures and pathways are reasonable however the landscaping needs attention such as tidying the beds. The site also suffers from geese grazing. However, these landscape improvements are subject to funding.

Only Haynes Park rates below the quality threshold. However, it only just scores below the threshold. There are no significant quality issues observed at the site with it scoring well for entrances, access, fencing, litter bins and overall maintenance and cleanliness. It also has the additional benefit of picnic tables, a play area and MUGA. The Council highlights that Haynes Park contains a conservation area in the part of the site where the golf course used to be, further adding to its benefits. The Council would like additional seating in the south grass area of the site behind the bowls club.

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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 how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.5: Value ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Central	41%	59%	73%	0	11
North	39%	62%	77%	0	7
South	55%	63%	68%	0	5
Havering	39%	61%	77%	0	23

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

- ◀ Bedfords Park (77%)
- ◀ Harrow Lodge Park (73%)
- ◀ Central Park (73%)
- ◀ Raphael Park (73%)
- ◀ Upminster Park (68%)

All these parks have high amenity and social value due to containing good recreational and exercise opportunities. The sites also score highly for visual and landscape benefits due to being observed as attractive, well used parks. All five sites have enhanced amenity and health benefits due to featuring a range of sports provision and play equipment. All five have economic value due to featuring a café or kiosk. Upminster Park features outdoor gym equipment, table tennis tables and a play area. Harrow Lodge Park and Central Park both feature a skate park with the former site also featuring a half pipe ramp.

Bedfords Park has an active Friends Group which is mainly based in the walled garden with volunteers harvesting, planting and selling produce. Every October, they host apple days adding to the sites benefits. Consultation with the Council identify that there are there are interesting flower species on site including devils-bit scabious and agrimony. The site is a hot spot for wildflowers. Bedfords Park contains a natural play area further adding to its appeal and benefits.

Consultation with the Council highlights that Harrow Lodge Park hosts Park Run and Junior Park Run. The site is also the Borough's showground where funfairs and fireworks take place adding to the amenity, social and economic benefits of the site. It is central, large and popular therefore an ideal location for events and providing great value to a range of users.

The Council is working to make parks and play equipment more accessible. At Upminster Park the paths to the play areas used to be grass but are now tarmac and more accessible.

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Central Park (73%) has a great range of good quality play provision including a play area, fitness equipment, MUGA, outdoor gym and skate park providing high amenity, social and health benefits. The Council highlight the skate park is the largest in the Borough and features timed lighting. The MUGA also has timed floodlights. The site is attractive, well maintained and provides a good habitat for butterflies. It features long wood, sage wood and bluebells providing high ecological value and landscape benefits. The kiosk adds some economic benefits.

The Council have recently placed a bid in for natural flood management, likely to be funded by Natural England. There is a stream that runs through the site (Carters Brook turns into Paine's Brook) that is enclosed with vegetation. The Council would like to open up the areas to engage visitors, enable access and to install flood alleviation.

To reduce the adverse impact of fallow deer on site, beds that can withstand the impact are required as well as protecting flower beds with appropriate high fencing. The Council are using these initiatives at Central Park and the connecting Dagnam Park.

Raphael Park (73%) is a very visually appealing park featuring Black's Lake with a water fountain, flower beds, great landscaping and mature trees, providing structural and landscape benefits and an arboretum feel. The site has a picnic area in the woodland and there are sculptures of squirrels, hedgehogs and carps further adding to its appeal and landscape benefits. The Council is planning on converting the lodge into an eco-demonstrator home/room providing energy saving technologies to demonstrate to residents what they can accomplish in their own home. Funding is from Department for Levelling Up and includes education regarding grey water recycling, triple glazing, etc.

The site has a playing field designated for cricket and football and a play area including an accessible roundabout and swing, offering high social inclusion and amenity benefits. The Council has an aspiration to add an outdoor gym with a potential space by the play area and top tennis courts for it to be installed. It has previously considered creating a crazy golf area which would provide an additional feature for the public to enjoy plus generate extra revenue.

The Council identify that there is an annual summer concert at Langton Gardens. This site is the most formal of the parks and is part of Langtons Estate, offering high cultural and heritage value. The site has a Friends Group (Friends of Langton Estate) adding to its benefits.

Lodge Farm Park (59%) is a Green Flag Award site and features a play area, circular walk, two bowling greens, bins and benches providing high amenity, health and social benefits. The Council highlight the gym is very old and is likely to be replaced in 2024. The play area is well stocked however some equipment is quite old. The Council would like to replace some kit in order to modernise provision. There is an orienteering trail between Lodge Farm Park and Raphael, enhancing its benefits. Furthermore, there is a conservation area, butterfly bed and numerous wildflowers, providing high ecological and biodiversity benefits.

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

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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

There are 33 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, equating to over 587 hectares.

Table 5.1: Current natural and semi-natural greenspace in Havering

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	12	231.42	1.95
North	5	14.79	0.20
South	16	340.86	4.96
Havering	33	587.07	2.24

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

Note that Mardyke Farm (in South Analysis Area) is noted as being inaccessible (locked gates) and looking like wasteland.

South Analysis Area has the most natural and semi-natural provision with a total of 340.86 hectares. This makes up 58% of natural/semi-natural provision.

The two largest sites are Ingrebourne Hill (78.81 hectares) and Pages Wood (75.94 hectares). The two make up 26% of the natural/semi-natural provision in the Borough.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Within the Borough, there is an overall provision of 2.24 hectares per 1,000 head of population which is above the FIT guidelines. This is also the case for all three analysis areas.

It is important to recognise that other open spaces such as parks and amenity greenspace often provide opportunities associated with natural greenspace. For example, Harrow Lodge Park offers greater biodiversity and habitats due to the presence of a trees, bushes and a lake.

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It is also important to highlight that 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.

The Rainham Marsh is not included within the amount of quantity of natural and seminatural greenspace due to restricted access/opening times. A noticeable part of the site is also located outside of LB Havering. However, it is recognised as being a unique and important form of provision; both locally and nationally. The site, managed by the RSPB, is home to a number of rare species and also forms part of the Inner Thames Marshes SSSI site.

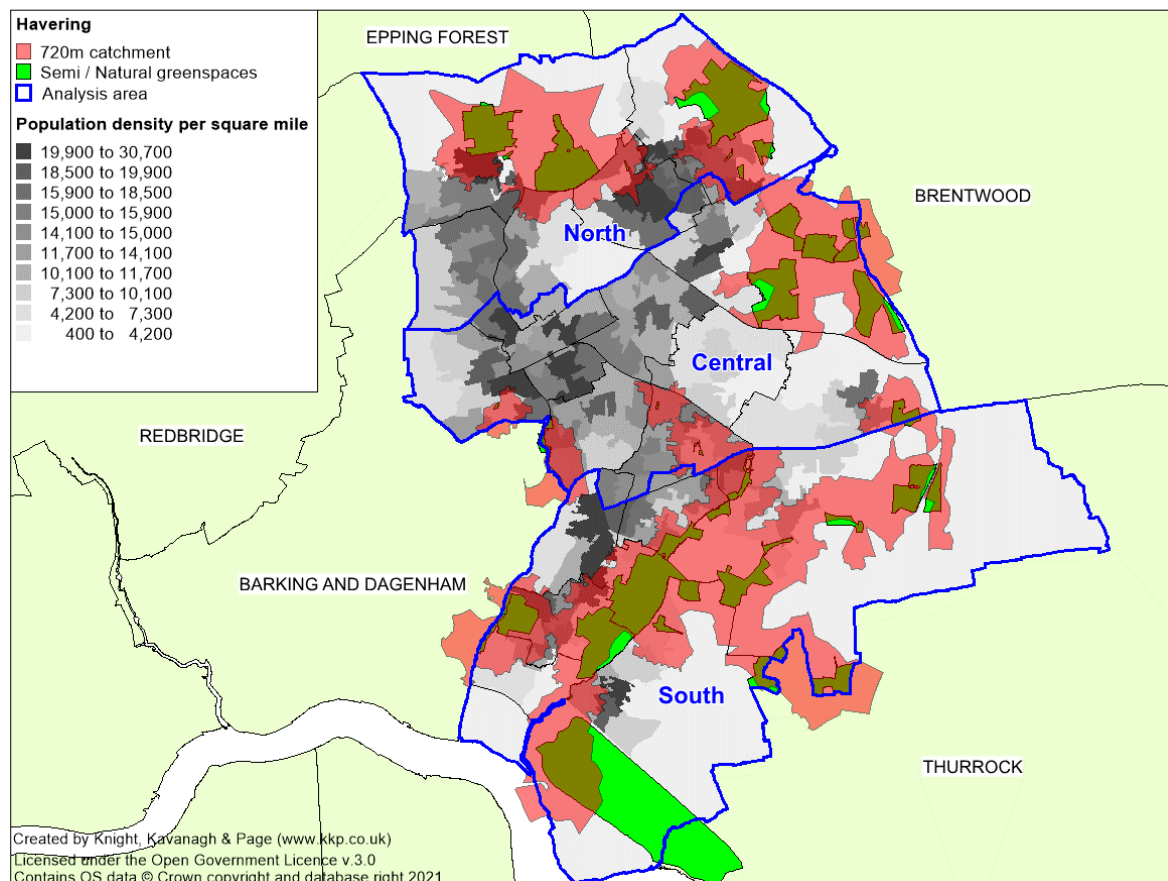
5.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 9-minute walk time has been set across Havering for natural and semi-natural greenspace. This is based on FIT catchments. Figure 5.1 shows natural greenspace mapped against the accessibility catchments. Site IDs are not presented due to the number of sites.

Note that despite Havering Country Park, Hornchurch Country Park, Bedford Park and Dagnam Park being identified as parks, they are also shown on the natural greenspace map below to demonstrate their role for access to natural provision.

The accessibility catchments utilise data available for site entry points and the road network. This provides catchments more reflective of how people will travel to access such provision (i.e. along these routes). This is as opposed to radial catchments which use 'as the crow flies' distances.

Figure 5.1: Natural greenspace mapped with a 9-minute (720m) walk catchment



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Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Abbey Wood Open Space	South	6.24	62.9%	29.1%
11	Belhus Woods Country Park	South	25.58	87.4%	68.2%
12	Berwick Glades	South	12.96	55.6%	29.1%
15	Bonnetts Wood	South	38.23	58.5%	30.0%
31	Cely Woods, Averley Lakes	South	19.46	64.9%	34.5%
59	Duck Wood	North	9.93	64.9%	30.0%
64	Fielders Field Sports Ground	Central	0.37	56.7%	40.0%
67	Folkes Lane woodland	Central	49.40	67.5%	30.0%
70	Gaynes Parkway	South	8.78	59.6%	34.5%
76	Grenfell Park	Central	6.41	49.1%	29.1%
83	Harold Court woods	Central	28.52	65.2%	25.5%
102	Haunted House Woodland	North	1.31	63.5%	30.0%
113	Jackson's Wood	Central	14.22	65.8%	30.0%
116	Ingrebourne Hill	South	78.81	80.1%	45.5%
117	Hacton Lane	South	26.90	83.3%	72.7%
160	Pages Wood	Central	75.94	61.1%	30.0%
172	Parklands	South	4.52	52.0%	30.0%
178	Rainham Creekside Path	South	0.24	44.2%	30.0%
195	Sage Wood	North	0.83	35.1%	20.9%
197	Shoulder of Mutton Wood	North	2.17	47.7%	30.0%
214	Straight Road Woodland	North	0.56	46.5%	30.0%
217	Thames Chase (Eastern section)	South	16.29	63.5%	30.0%
218	Thames Chase (Western section)	South	40.16	86.5%	63.6%
219	The Chase	Central	4.14	50.0%	35.5%
220	The Dell	Central	1.05	40.6%	25.5%
226	Tylers Common	Central	27.26	71.9%	39.1%
227	Tylers Wood	Central	11.51	68.7%	30.0%
235	Warwick Woods	South	5.07	48.2%	30.0%
243	Cranham Marsh Nature Reserve	South	12.09	54.7%	35.5%
252	Cranham Brickfields Local Nature Reserve	Central	16.11	56.1%	31.8%
258	Rush Green Natural Park	Central	0.57	56.4%	29.1%
265	Mardyke Farm	South	35.90		
268	Beam Parklands Country Park	South	9.63	67.0%	30.9%

Note that at the time of visit, Mardye Farm was inaccessible. The entrance gates were padlocked, and the site was observed as appearing like wasteland. Consequently, it does not receive a quality or value score.

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There are several gaps across all three analysis areas against the 9-minute walk time particularly in the Central Analysis Area. Many sites are located away from densely populated areas. This is not unusual for natural greenspace.

Many gaps are potentially generally served, to some extent, by other forms of open space provision. Such sites may offer similar opportunities and access to activities associated with natural greenspace. The potential to increase a sites secondary function as natural greenspace should be explored. Table 5.3 sets out those sites located in catchment gaps with the potential to help provide access to open space.

Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Central	Coronation Gardens (ID 46)	Park
	Cottons Park (ID 47)	Park
	Harold Wood Park (ID 89)	Park
	Harrow Lodge Park (ID 94)	Park
	Haynes Park (ID 107)	Park
	Hylands Park (ID 112)	Park
	Lodge Farm Park (ID 136)	Park
	Jutsums Recreation Ground (ID 118)	Amenity
Oldchurch Park (ID 157)	Amenity	
North	Central Park (ID 84)	Park
	Lawns Park (ID 129)	Park
	Gooshays Gardens (ID 72)	Amenity
	Bosworth Field (ID 16)	Amenity
	Farringdon Avenue flood lagoon (ID 62)	Amenity
Chudleigh Road (ID 37)	Amenity	
South	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre (ID 20)	Amenity

5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 50% 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	<50%	>50%
Central	41%	59%	72%	2	10
North	35%	49%	65%	3	1
South	44%	65%	87%	2	13
Havering	35%	60%	87%	7	24

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Over three quarters (77%) of natural and semi natural greenspace sites in the Borough rate above the quality threshold, indicating a good standard of quality. The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for quality are:

- ◀ Belhus Woods Country Park (87%)
- ◀ Thames Chase Western Section (87%)
- ◀ Hacton Lane (83%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as bins, seating, and boundary fencing. The sites are also observed as having reasonable to good access for all, with well-maintained pathways. All have the additional benefits of a visitor centre, toilets, interpretative signage and car parking.

Belhus Woods Country Park (87%) features a natural play area, café, numerous benches, woodland, lake and lots of wildlife adding to its benefits.

Thames Chase Western Section (87%) features a good network of pathways, a lovely Forest Centre with a café and toilets, interpretative signage, car parking (including disabled and cycle parking), picnic tables and bins. The site is perceived as well used due to its size, great condition and facilities and features it offers for locals and people travelling further afield.

Hacton Lane (83%) is also a very well maintained visually appealing site with an abundant supply of benches, picnic tables and bins. The site features information on its site heritage, further adding to its benefits. Moreover, the site has car parking (including disabled parking) and cycle parking.

Other high scoring sites include Ingrebourne Hill (80%) which connects to Hornchurch Country Park. The site is visually appealing, well maintained with a lake and plenty of trees, wildlife, trees and interpretative signage. The site features good footpaths around the site, a bike park area, car parking, cycle parking, picnic tables and litter bins adding to its benefits. However, the site lacks seating.

The three lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Sage Wood (35%)
- ◀ Rainham Creekside Path (44%)
- ◀ Straight Road Woodland (47%)

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to have a lack of ancillary features such as signage and benches.

Sage Wood (35%) and Rainham Creekside Path (44%) have no signage and the former site scores lower for user security and access. Rainham Creekside Path has no observed quality issues and features a wide path with lighting and a bench. The site also benefits from numerous trees.

Straight Road Woodland (aka Harold's Woodland) also scores just below the quality threshold and benefits from interpretative signage and reasonable main entrance score. However, it scores lower for access within and through the site, user security and pathways.

Shoulder of Mutton Wood (48%) also scores just below the quality threshold. It has no seating or signage, and scores lower for user security and access. However, it has the benefit of bins and scores higher for overall maintenance and landscape design.

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It is important to recognise that in some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation.

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 ratings for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Central	25%	32%	40%	0	12
North	21%	28%	30%	0	4
South	29%	40%	73%	0	15
Havering	21%	35%	73%	0	31

All natural and semi-natural sites across the Borough score above the threshold for value. The majority of sites have high ecological value, contributing to flora and fauna, as well as providing habitats for local wildlife.

As well as ecological value, these sites 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 break up the urban form creating peaceful space to relax and reflect. The high levels of natural features also support with improving air quality, particularly in built up areas.

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

- ◀ Hacton Lane (73%)
- ◀ Belhus Woods Country Park (68%)
- ◀ Thames Chase (Western section) (64%)

These sites offer high amenity and social value due to good recreation and exercise opportunities. All three sites have enhanced educational value due to each site featuring a visitor centre and interpretative signage. The cafes on site provide economic value. All three contain trails and the former two sites feature play provision providing additional amenity, social and health benefits. Hacton Lane (73%) features a play area and outdoor gym. Belhus Woods Country Park (68%) contains a natural play area further adding to its appeal and benefits.

All three sites are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes and enhancing structural and landscape benefits. In addition, each provide high ecological value due to high biodiversity providing habitats for a flora and fauna. Hacton Lane has informative signage about the RAF's history with the site, providing cultural and heritage benefits.

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The lowest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for value is Sage Wood (21%). The site is identified as a small woodland adjacent to Central Park benefitting from ecological value. It features reasonable paths therefore has some amenity and health benefits. However, the site could benefit from signage, bins, and seating.

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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 68 amenity greenspace sites in the London Borough of Havering equating to over 120 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.

Note that four sites (Gay's Field Jubilee Close, Squirrels Heath Lane, Prospect Road Playing Field and The Gallows) are omitted as they are identified as being inaccessible. The latter two sites appear to be sports clubs. Squirrels Heath Lane is part of David Lloyds Gym which has no public access. North Ockendon Playing Fields is noted as being disused and overgrown. In addition, Westlands is an outdoor sports facility, part of St Edward's Church of England Academy, therefore is not included in the audit.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites in Havering

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	24	43.11	0.37
North	23	45.72	0.61
South	21	31.91	0.46
Havering	68	120.74	0.46

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, Wennington Village Green at 0.26 hectares acts as an important visual/communal amenity for local residents. In contrast, Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre at 63.56 hectares is a greenspace 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 below this. This is also the case for Central and South Analysis Area. Note that the North Analysis Area with 0.61 per 1,000 population is just above the FIT guideline.

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.

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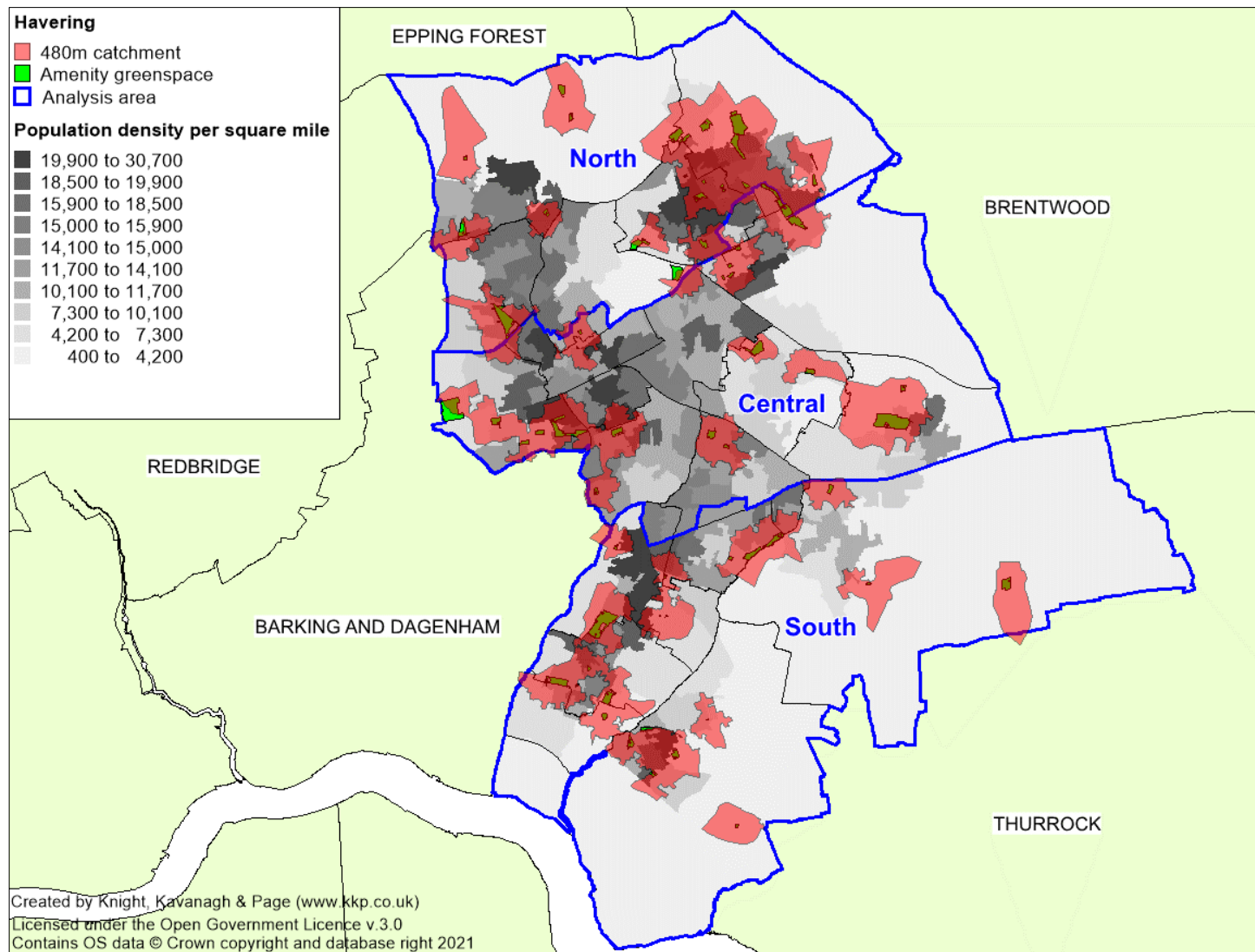
6.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 6-minute walk time has been set across Havering for amenity greenspace. Figure 6.1 shows amenity greenspace mapped against accessibility catchment.

The accessibility catchments utilise data available for site entry points and the road network. This provides catchments more reflective of how people will travel to access such provision (i.e. along these routes). This is as opposed to radial catchments which use 'as the crow flies' distances.

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Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with a 6-minute (480m) walk catchment



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Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score ⁸	Value score
2	Airfield Way	South	0.08		
8	Bancroft Chase	Central	0.54	51.4%	39.0%
13	Blake Close	South	0.33	51.0%	34.0%
16	Myrtle Road Chatteris Avenue Open Space	North	1.49	55.7%	58.0%
21	Briscoe Road Verge	South	0.02		
22	Brittons Playing Field	South	9.83	65.7%	59.0%
27	Brookway	South	0.58	56.7%	45.0%
32	Chadwick Drive Flood Lagoon	Central	0.25	41.9%	28.0%
34	Chelmsford Avenue	North	0.75	48.0%	34.0%
37	Chudleigh Road	North	3.44	47.0%	32.0%
39	Claygate Close	South	0.35	38.5%	18.0%
42	Collier Row Recreation Ground	North	2.38	76.1%	58.0%
45	Cornflower Way	Central	0.47	42.4%	33.0%
56	Stratton Wood	North	0.97	48.5%	39.0%
58	Dickens Way	Central	0.32	39.5%	27.0%
61	Elliot Playing Field	Central	1.26	39.5%	27.0%
62	Faringdon Avenue flood lagoon	North	1.25	47.4%	17.0%
63	Fielders Sports Ground	Central	1.67	75.1%	74.0%
65	Fleet Close	Central	0.67	62.9%	45.0%
72	Land at Gooshays, Harold Hill	North	0.80	46.6%	39.0%
74	Grenfell Park a	Central	2.49	59.7%	13.0%
78	Hacton Parkway	South	5.14	71.3%	54.0%
105	Havering Village Green	North	0.63	52.0%	34.0%
106	Havering Well Garden	Central	0.06		
118	Jutsums Recreation Ground	Central	1.71	61.3%	53.0%
121	Keats Park	North	2.87	45.7%	32.0%
123	King Georges Playing Field	North	8.00	70.0%	64.0%
132	Lessa	South	2.79	64.0%	28.0%
135	Lilliput Road	Central	0.96	27.0%	18.0%
139	Lodge Lane ⁹	North	0.32		
140	Louis Marchasi	South	0.19		
144	Mardyke Adventure Playground	South	3.71	71.6%	58.0%
147	Maytree Close	South	0.12		

⁸ Sites below 0.2 ha are not assessed.

⁹ Could not be accessed

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score ⁸	Value score
149	Noak Hill Recreation Ground	North	2.22	64.2%	53.0%
151	Noak Hill Sports Complex a	North	3.36	61.8%	50.0%
155	North Ockendon Playing Fields ¹⁰	South	2.64		
156	Ockendon Road verge	South	0.20	42.4%	33.0%
157	Oldchurch Park	Central	6.00	55.7%	28.0%
161	Paine's Brook 1	Central	1.80	51.5%	37.0%
162	Paine's Brook 2	Central	0.93	56.3%	40.0%
163	Paine's Brook 3	North	2.70	73.5%	58.0%
165	Paine's Brook 4	Central	3.24	68.2%	58.0%
168	Park Lane Recreation Ground	Central	1.85	66.3%	53.0%
175	Priory Road open space	North	7.27	46.7%	22.0%
177	Queens Theatre Grounds	Central	0.52	67.4%	50.0%
179	Rainham Recreation Ground	South	1.35	73.5%	60.0%
192	Romford Library Gardens	Central	0.05		
193	Rush Green Gardens Open Space	Central	1.05	43.3%	22.0%
196	Sheffield Drive Open Space	North	0.38	42.9%	33.0%
198	South End Road Land	South	0.05		
213	Stirling Close	South	1.08	41.4%	27.0%
216	Sunflower Way Flood Lagoon	Central	0.45	36.6%	23.0%
222	The Glen	South	1.23	44.1%	27.0%
224	Tyle Green Open Space	Central	3.62	67.1%	58.0%
231	Upminster Hall Playing Field	Central	12.02	65.3%	44.0%
239	Whitelands Way Bund	Central	0.67	47.7%	18.0%
240	Windmill Field	South	0.94	53.6%	39.0%
245	New Zealand Way open space	South	0.82	46.7%	23.0%
246	Wennington Village Green	South	0.26	61.0%	28.0%
248	Land West of Taunton Road	North	0.73	51.0%	33.0%
251	Gidea Park Sports Ground	North	3.76	58.1%	25.0%
256	Havering Playing Field	North	1.46	44.6%	38.0%
257	Lister Field	Central	0.51	51.5%	28.0%
260	Kings Lynn Drive	North	0.46	49.1%	22.0%
261	Davertry Gardens	North	0.14	35.6%	17.0%
262	Newbury Close	North	0.22	35.6%	22.0%
267	Finlay Gardens	South	0.34		
270	Hildene Avenue, Romford	North	0.11		

¹⁰ Appears disused/overgrown

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Note that site 267 (Finlay Gardens, St Georges development) does not receive a quality or value score due to currently being a building site and having no access at the time of visit.

Mapping demonstrates a reasonable distribution of amenity greenspace provision across the Borough. However, many areas of higher population density are not being served by a form of amenity greenspace provision within a 480m catchment. It is recognised that these gaps are predominantly covered and served by other forms of open space provision.

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Central	Coronation Gardens (ID 46) Cottons Park (ID 47) Harold Wood Park (ID 89) Harrow Lodge Park (ID 94) Haynes Park (ID 107) Hylands Park (ID 112) Langtons Gardens (ID 128) Lodge Farm Park (ID 136) St Andrews Park (ID 205) Grenfell Park c (ID 76) The Dell (ID 220)	Park Park Park Park Park Park Park Park Park Natural Natural
North	Central Park (ID 84) Lawns Park (ID 129) Rise Park (ID 189) Bedfords Park (ID 10) Havering Country Park (ID 103) Cranham Brickfields Local Nature Reserve (ID 252)	Park Park Park Natural Park Natural
South	Gaynes Parkway (ID 70) Upminster Park (ID 228) Berwick Glades (ID 12) Bonnetts Wood (ID 15) Hornchurch Country Park (ID 110) Ingrebourne Hill (ID 116) Hacton Lane (ID 117)	Park Park Natural Natural Park Natural Natural

6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 60% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 6.4: Quality ratings for assessed amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Central	30%	54%	75%	14	8
North	36%	52%	76%	16	5
South	39%	56%	74%	8	6
Havering	30%	54%	76%	38	19

A third of assessed amenity greenspaces (33%) rate above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- ◀ Collier Row Recreation Ground (76%)
- ◀ Fielders Sports Ground (75%)
- ◀ Paine's Brook 3 (74%)
- ◀ Rainham Recreation Ground (74%)

These sites are observed as having good entrances, user security and signage. Furthermore, all three sites benefit from play provision, benches, litter bins and good footpaths. Rainham Recreation Ground (74%) has the additional benefits of picnic tables, table tennis tables, MUGA and outdoor gym, further adding to the quality of the site.

Collier Row Recreation Ground (76%) also features a play area and MUGA. The site has good signage, entrances, access and reasonable user security. The site also has trees and a wildflower area.

Fielders Field Sports Ground (75%) is another high scoring site for quality. The site is highlighted as being well-maintained featuring good, informative signage, pitches, plenty of benches, trees and bushes. Moreover, it features a tearoom that sells drinks and snacks.

Paine's Brook 3 (74%) contains a play, football goals and good footpaths. Moreover, the site has the additional benefits of lighting and cycle parking. The site is observed as well maintained.

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.

More than half (63%) of assessed amenity greenspaces rate below the quality threshold. Note that many of these are small pockets of greenspace with no or few ancillary features/facilities and serve more as visual amenities and areas for dog walkers and locals.

The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ◀ Lilliput Road (30%)
- ◀ Sunflower Way Flood Lagoon (37%)
- ◀ Claygate Close (39%)

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These are all small, fairly basic greenspaces lacking ancillary features. Each site has reasonable entrance scores, access and user security. However, each site lacks signage, seating and litter bins. Sunflower Way Flood Lagoon (37%) and Claygate Close (39%) have the added benefit of dog bins. Sunflower Way Flood Lagoon (37%) is observed as providing a good space for local dog walkers with a path on one side. However, another access point, planting and bench could help enhance and improve the site. Likewise, planting and seating at Lilliput Road would improve the site and its aesthetics.

Other lower scoring sites include:

- ◀ Elliot Playing Field (40%)
- ◀ Stirling Close (41%)
- ◀ Rush Green (43%)
- ◀ The Glen (44%)

These four sites score lower mainly due to a lack of ancillary features. All four sites lack signage, parking, or picnic tables. Elliot Playing Field (40%) does have a bench and a bin albeit it could benefit from more. This large site is observed as likely being mainly used by dog walkers. However, all four sites score well or reasonably well for entrances, boundary fencing and user security.

Stirling Close (41%) is identified as being poorly maintained and quite overgrown. The site is used as a cut through pathway and contains plenty of bushes and trees.

The Glen (44%) has the additional benefits of a play area and football pitch. The site could benefit from signage and seating as only the play area has these. The site is perceived as well used. Rush Green (43%) is identified as being a reasonably sized open space located behind residential housing and likely used by dog walkers.

6.5 Value

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

Table 6.5: Value ratings for assessed amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Central	18%	38%	74%	2	20
North	17%	37%	64%	2	19
South	18%	39%	60%	1	13
Havering	17%	38%	74%	5	52

The majority of assessed amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for value.

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Faringdon Avenue flood lagoon is one of four sites to score below the threshold. The site lacks seating, pathways and signage lowering amenity benefits and sense of place. It is likely used by local dog walkers and local residents playing ball games.

The highest scoring sites for value are Fielders Sports Ground (74%), Spring Farm Park (70%) and St Andrews Park (69%). These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational and exercise opportunities they offer for a wide range of users. Most feature a good network of pathways and are perceived as well used sites, providing high amenity and health benefits. All three sites feature sports pitches and play provision, further adding to their value. St Andrews Park also features a MUGA and outdoor gym.

All three sites have enhanced ecological value due to featuring numerous trees and wildlife habitat opportunities. This is particularly noticeable at Fielders Sports Ground (74%) which features a woodland and connects to Langton Gardens. The sites provide enhanced educational value due to each featuring interpretational signage about the wildlife and/or history of the site.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites 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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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 102 play locations are identified in Havering as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over seven hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

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

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	43	2.56	0.02
North	27	2.38	0.03
South	32	2.58	0.04
Havering	102	7.53	0.03

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

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

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

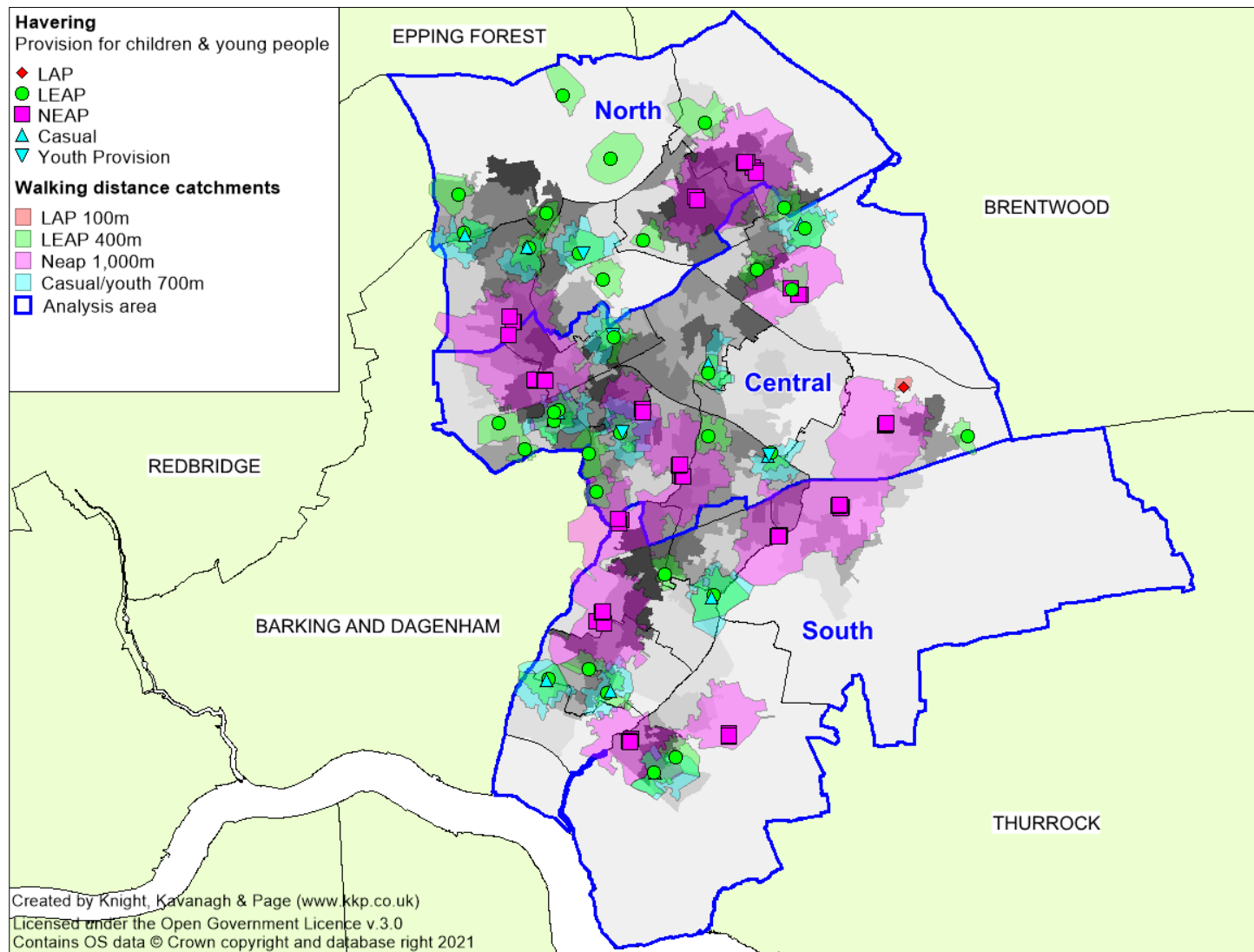
7.3 Accessibility

An accessibility catchment of a 100m, 400m, 1000m and 700m has been set for different types of play provision. Figure 7.1 shows play provision mapped with the catchments.

The accessibility catchments utilise data available for site entry points and the road network. This provides catchments more reflective of how people will travel to access such provision (i.e. along these routes). This is as opposed to radial catchments which use 'as the crow flies' distances.

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Figure 7.1: Play provision with different applied catchments mapped



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Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
8.1	Bancroft Chase play area	Central	0.05	68.4%	25.5%
10.1	Bedfords Park play area	North	0.18	69.1%	50.9%
13.1	Whybridge Close Playsite	South	0.02	43.3%	34.5%
16.1	Bosworth Field play areas	North	0.13	44.7%	43.6%
16.2	Bosworth Field outdoor gym	North	0.01	44.7%	43.6%
16.3	Bosworth Field basketball	North	0.02	44.7%	43.6%
22.1	Brittons Playing Field play area	South	0.05	78.0%	60.0%
22.2	Brittons Playing Field MUGA	South	0.16	78.0%	60.0%
22.3	Brittons Playing Field outdoor gym	South	0.01	78.0%	60.0%
22.4	Brittons Playing Field skate park	South	0.06	78.0%	60.0%
27.1	Brookway play area	South	0.18	71.8%	34.5%
27.2	Brookway basketball	South	0.01	71.8%	34.5%
34.1	Chelmsford Avenue play area	North	0.03	72.5%	43.6%
42.1	Collier Row Recreation Ground play area	North	0.05	72.2%	38.2%
42.2	Collier Row Recreation Ground MUGA	North	0.02	72.2%	38.2%
47.1	Cottons Park play area	Central	0.18	74.9%	41.8%
47.2	Cottons Park MUGA	Central	0.02	74.9%	41.8%
47.3	Cottons Park outdoor gym	Central	0.03	74.9%	41.8%
47.4	Cottons Park skate park	Central	0.18	74.9%	41.8%
52.1	Cranham Playing Fields play area	Central	0.04	54.0%	38.2%
63.1	Fielders woodland play area	Central	0.02	40.9%	38.2%
65.1	Fleet Close play area	Central	0.02	38.1%	25.5%
68	Forest Row Playsite	North	0.23	64.3%	25.5%
74.1	Grenfell Park (a) play area	Central	0.04	72.9%	34.5%
78.1	Hacton Parkway play area	South	0.11	74.2%	38.2%
78.2	Hacton Parkway MUGA	South	0.02	74.2%	38.2%
78.3	Hacton Parkway outdoor gym	South	0.01	74.2%	38.2%
84.1	Central Park play area	North	0.17	90.7%	81.8%
84.2	Central Park ball court	North	0.04	90.7%	81.8%
84.3	Central Park skate park	North	0.10	90.7%	81.8%
84.4	Central Park parkour	North	0.02	90.7%	81.8%
84.5	Central Park outdoor gym	North	0.05	90.7%	81.8%
84.6	Central Park BMX track	North	0.08	78.4%	50.9%
89.1	Harold Wood Park play area	Central	0.21	78.4%	50.9%
89.2	Harold Wood Park basketball	Central	0.02	78.4%	50.9%
89.3	Harold Wood Park outdoor gym	Central	0.01	78.4%	50.9%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
89.4	Harold Wood Park skate park	Central	0.02	78.4%	50.9%
94.1	Harrow Lodge Park play area 1	South	0.13	68.7%	54.5%
94.2	Harrow Lodge Park play area 2	Central	0.16	82.5%	72.7%
94.3	Harrow Lodge Park play area 3	South	0.14	82.8%	45.5%
94.4	Harrow Lodge Park MUGA 1	Central	0.02	68.7%	54.5%
94.5	Harrow Lodge Park MUGA 2	South	0.02	68.7%	54.5%
94.6	Harrow Lodge Park half pipe	South	0.004	68.7%	54.5%
94.7	Harrow Lodge Park skate park	Central	0.02	68.7%	54.5%
94.8	Harrow Lodge Park parkour	Central	0.03	53.6%	50.9%
94.9	Harrow Lodge Park outdoor gym	Central	0.003	68.7%	54.5%
107.1	Haynes Park play area	Central	0.05	77.3%	38.2%
107.2	Haynes Park basketball	Central	0.02	77.3%	38.2%
110.1	Hornchurch Country Park play area	South	0.30	80.1%	72.7%
112.1	Hylands Park play area	Central	0.15	68.0%	50.9%
112.2	Hylands Park MUGA	Central	0.06	68.0%	50.9%
112.3	Hylands Park outdoor gym	Central	0.02	68.0%	50.9%
118.1	Jutsums Recreation play area	Central	0.05	68.0%	34.5%
121.1	Keats Park play area	North	0.04	71.1%	34.5%
123.1	King Georges Playing Field play area 1	North	0.10	80.8%	69.1%
123.3	King Georges Playing Field MUGA	North	0.02	80.8%	69.1%
123.4	King Georges Playing skate park	North	0.05	80.8%	69.1%
123.5	King Georges Playing outdoor gym	North	0.01	80.8%	69.1%
129.1	Lawns Park play area	North	0.11	72.2%	69.1%
129.2	Lawns Park MUGA	North	0.03	72.2%	69.1%
132.1	Lessa play area	South	0.06	73.9%	38.2%
132.2	Lessa MUGA	South	0.06	73.9%	38.2%
136.1	Lodge Farm Park play area	Central	0.13	78.4%	60.0%
136.2	Lodge Farm Park outdoor gym	Central	0.03	78.4%	60.0%
140.1	Louis Marchasi play area	South	0.05	72.5%	25.5%
144.1	Mardyke Adventure play area	South	0.33	77.3%	78.2%
144.2	Mardyke Adventure MUGA	South	0.05	77.3%	78.2%
149.1	Noak Hill Recreation play area	North	0.11	56.0%	56.4%
157.1	Oldchurch Park play area	Central	0.04	69.1%	34.5%
157.2	Oldchurch Park MUGA	Central	0.06	69.1%	34.5%
163.1	St Neots Adventure Playsite	North	0.13	75.3%	38.2%
165.1	Paine's Brook 4 play area	Central	0.02	69.1%	34.5%
165.2	Paine's Brook 4 basketball	Central	0.005	69.1%	34.5%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
168.1	Park Lane Recreation play area	Central	0.12	74.2%	38.2%
168.2	Park Lane Recreation Ground outdoor gym	Central	0.02	74.2%	38.2%
179.1	Rainham Recreation play area	South	0.05	78.4%	54.5%
179.2	Rainham Recreation basketball	South	0.02	78.4%	54.5%
179.3	Rainham Recreation outdoor gym	South	0.02	78.4%	54.5%
186.1	Raphael Park play area	North	0.29	81.4%	72.7%
189.1	Rise Park play area	North	0.29	75.6%	41.8%
189.2	Rise Park outdoor gym	North	0.04	75.6%	41.8%
200.1	Spring Farm Park play area	South	0.24	74.2%	60.0%
200.2	Spring Farm Park MUGA	South	0.07	74.2%	60.0%
200.3	Spring Farm Park outdoor gym	South	0.02	74.2%	60.0%
205.1	St Andrews Park play area	Central	0.19	74.2%	50.9%
205.2	St Andrews Park MUGA	Central	0.02	74.2%	50.9%
205.3	St Andrews Park outdoor gym	Central	0.04	74.2%	50.9%
222.1	The Glen play area	South	0.08	72.9%	38.2%
228.1	Upminster Park play area	South	0.16	79.4%	60.0%
228.2	Upminster Park outdoor gym	South	0.04	79.4%	60.0%
228.3	Upminster Park MUGA	South	0.05	79.4%	60.0%
228.4	Upminster Park table tennis	South	0.02	79.4%	60.0%
231.1	Upminster Playing Fields play area	South	0.15	73.2%	56.4%
231.2	Upminster Playing Fields MUGA	South	0.02	73.2%	56.4%
231.3	Upminster Playing Fields outdoor gym	Central	0.07	73.2%	56.4%
254	Rush Green Gardens Play Area	Central	0.09	60.8%	63.6%
256.1	Havering Playing Field play area	North	0.05	40.9%	34.5%
263.1	Jubilee Park play area	Central	0.06	72.2%	60.0%
263.2	Jubilee Park outdoor gym	Central	0.03	72.2%	60.0%
264	Bournebrook Grove play area	Central	0.008	78.4%	38.2%
266.1	King Park play area	Central	0.03	64.6%	47.3%

Some sites have been assessed under the same assessment form where there are multiple forms of play provision.

There is overall a reasonably good spread of play provision across the borough. Areas with a greater population density are generally within a walking distance catchment for play provision. However, potential gaps in catchments are observed to some areas, particularly in the west of all three analysis areas where it is most densely populated. The following sites may help to serve some of the gaps in catchments if play equipment can look to be introduced and/or the amount and range of play equipment can be expanded.

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Table 7.3: Sites with potential to help serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Central	Fielders Woodland play area (ID 63.1) Paine's Brook 4 play area (ID 165.1)
North	Chelmsford Avenue play area (ID 34.1) Forest Row play area (ID 68) Keats Park play area (ID 121.1) St Neots Adventure Playsite (ID 163.1)
South	Hornchurch Country Park play area (ID 110.1) Louis Marchasi play area (ID 140.1)

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	<60%	>60%
Central	38%	68%	82%	4	39
North	41%	70%	91%	5	22
South	43%	73%	83%	1	31
Havering	38%	70%	91%	10	92

Most (91%) play sites rate above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites are:

- ✦ Central Park play areas (91%) (play area, MUGA, skate park and parlour)
- ✦ Harrow Lodge Park play area 2 (83%) (play area and skate park in the east side of the park assessed as one form)
- ✦ Harrow Lodge Park play area 3 (83%) (west side of park)
- ✦ Raphael Park play area (81%)

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 four score highly for maintenance and drainage with the additional benefits of car parking and sufficient disabled access. Furthermore, all four benefit from good boundary fencing and controls to prevent illegal use.

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Central Park has a variety of play provision including a play area, MUGA, parkour area, BMX track and outdoor gym. These are well maintained with some equipment and surfaces looking new. There are numerous benches and bins with no issues identified. The play area has the additional benefit of an accessible roundabout.

Harrow Lodge Park has extensive play equipment across the site. Harrow Lodge Park play area 2 (83%) consists of a play area and skate park located in the east side the park. The site benefits from good entrance, boundary fencing, controls to prevent illegal use, parking benches bins. Similarly, it also features disabled friendly equipment (a toddler swing). There are also play panels with educational games enhancing its benefits. Note that there were missing basketball hoops in the adjacent MUGA.

Harrow Lodge Park play area 3 (83%) is also in good condition. It features a good supply of benches, signage and scores high for drainage and equipment quality. There is a car park on both ends of the park near to all the play provision. In the North side of the park is an outdoor gym and parkour. Both are noted as having good quality equipment however the parkour has no signage. It looks like it has been removed.

Rapheal Park play area (81%) is observed as a great play area with a variety of very good quality equipment. The site includes a spiderweb climber, climbing unit, educational play panels and an accessible roundabout and accessible swing. The site benefits from signage, fencing, good entrances, benches, bins and car parking (including disabled parking).

Noticeably there are some sites which contain provision catering for older age ranges such as skateparks, MUGAs and/or pump tracks. Brittons Playing Field features a play area, MUGA, outdoor gym and skate park. Upminster Park features a play area, MUGA, outdoor gym and table tennis. As mentioned, Central Park contains three play areas, two MUGAs, a skate park and a half pipe.

Despite Grenfell Park (a) play area (73%) scoring above the quality threshold, it is noted as having a missing swing and not as visually appealing. However, the site does benefit from good boundary fencing, controls to prevent illegal use, user security, signage and litter bins. There are also benches present although some are reasonably maintained.

King Georges Playing Field play area 1 scores above the quality threshold (80%) however it is identified as containing tired gym equipment and an average skate park. The play area and MUGA are noted as being good quality.

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

Some of the lower scoring sites are:

- ◀ Fleet Close play area (38%)
- ◀ Fielders woodland play area (41%)
- ◀ Whybridge Close Playsite (43%)

All three sites lack signage and/or controls to prevent illegal use. Fielders woodland play area is noted as having a tired and worn surface. The site has no fencing or signage however benefits from litter bins, seating, good quality natural equipment and features good entrances. Whybridge Close Playsite and Fleet Close play area are both small local play areas with limited equipment. Both sites are perceived as hardly to reasonably used.

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Cranham Playing Fields play area (54%) scores below the quality threshold due to containing vandalised signage, very rusty bins and graffiti observed on the multi play equipment. The site benefits from a disability friendly junior swing, seating and boundary fencing.

Despite Noak Hill Recreation Ground play area (56%) scoring just below the quality threshold, it is noted as featuring good quality equipment, a number of bins, an accessible roundabout, some signage and controls to prevent illegal use. However, it is identified that there is only one bench and could therefore benefit from additional seating. Furthermore, there was fire damage on the surface at the time of assessment, lowering the quality and visual appeal of the site.

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	<20%	>20%
Central	25%	44%	73%	0	43
North	25%	51%	82%	0	27
South	25%	50%	78%	0	32
Havering	25%	48%	82%	0	102

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

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

- ◀ Central Park play area (82%)
- ◀ Mardyke Adventure Playground play area (78%)
- ◀ Harrow Lodge Park play area 2 (73%)
- ◀ Hornchurch Country Park play area (73%)
- ◀ Raphael Park play area (73%)

The sites are observed as being well maintained with a good 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. All sites have disabled-friendly equipment including swings and roundabouts. The sites are popular and well used providing high amenity and social benefits.

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Mardyke Adventure Playground play area (78%) has additional educational value and structural landscape benefits due to containing an array of equipment including play panels and puzzles. The site is also dinosaur themed, with an accessible roundabout, further adding to its social inclusivity.

Hornchurch Country Park play area (73%) has a disability friendly roundabout providing inclusivity/accessibility value. The site offers cultural/heritage value as the site is RAF themed and features a large static plane in the middle. There is also outdoor gym equipment opposite, further adding to its health 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, Harrow Lodge Park caters for a wide age range of children as it contains two play areas, two MUGAs, skate park, half pipe and additional play equipment on the grass on the west side of the park.

Central Park and Harrow Lodge Park have a MUGA and skate park, with the former site also featuring a BMX track, outdoor gym, and parkour area. These add to the enhanced amenity and physical benefits the sites provide.

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PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

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

8.2 Current provision

There are 27 sites identified as allotments in Havering equating to almost 34 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 allotment provision in Havering

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Central	12	16.80	0.14
North	7	7.03	0.09
South	8	10.05	0.15
Havering	27	33.88	0.13

The largest site in the Borough is Pretoria Road Allotments (6.81 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).

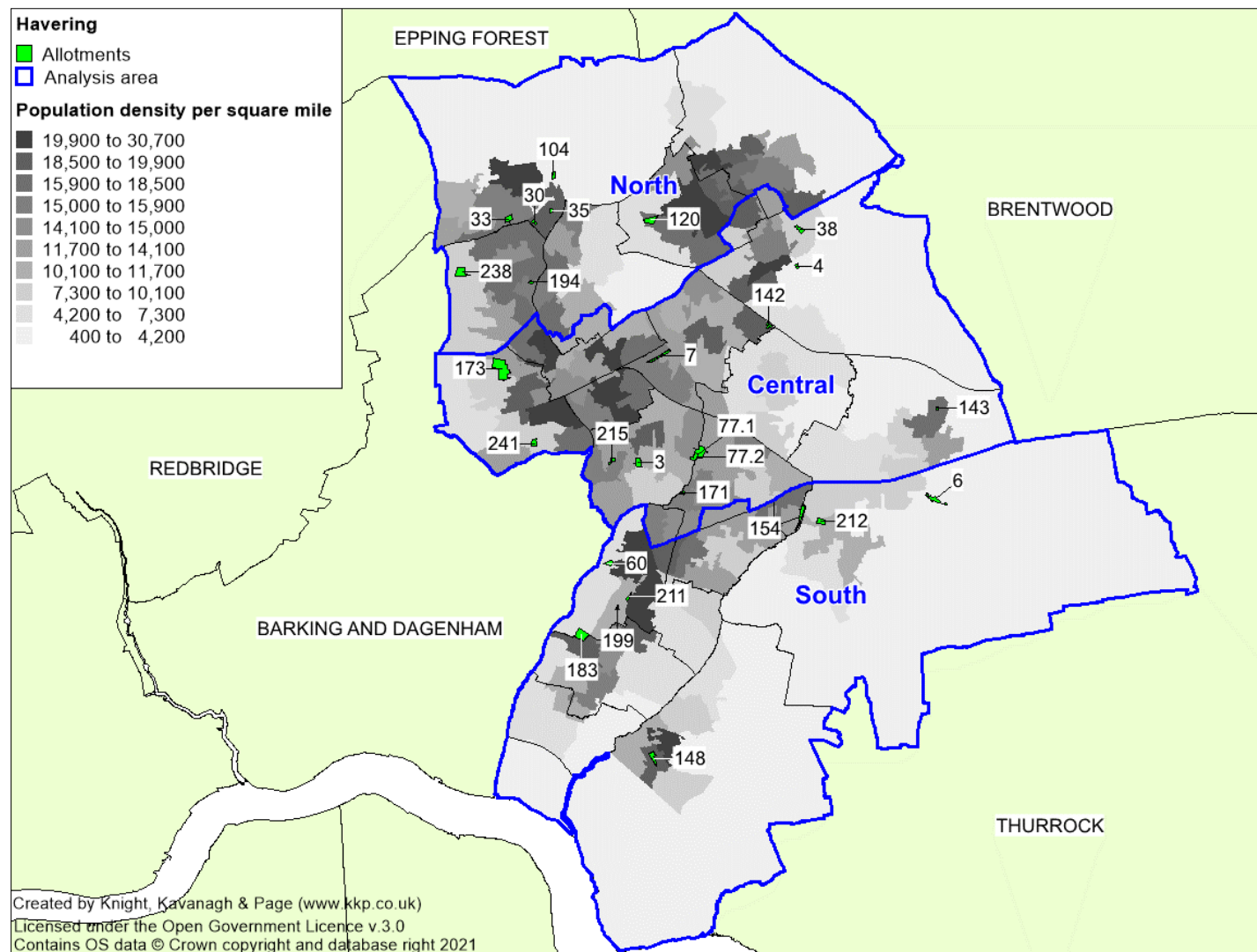
Havering based on its current population (262,066) is below the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision is 65.52 hectares. Existing provision of 34.50 hectares therefore does not meet this guideline.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped across LB Havering.

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Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped across LB Havering



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Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
3	Maylands Allotments	Central	1.38	38.9%	33.3%
4	Archibald Road Allotments	Central	0.34	45.4%	32.4%
6	Ashvale Gardens Allotments	South	1.61	66.7%	47.6%
7	Heath Park Allotments	Central	1.27	44.4%	22.9%
30	Robin Close Allotments	North	0.36	34.3%	19.0%
33	Chase Cross Road Allotments	North	1.13	43.5%	32.4%
35	Chelmsford Avenue Allotments	North	0.33	57.4%	33.3%
38	Church Road Allotments	Central	0.92	58.3%	32.4%
60	Dunningford Allotments	South	0.73	49.1%	32.4%
77.1	Grey Towers (North) Allotments	Central	2.58	59.3%	38.1%
77.2	Grey Towers (South) Allotments	Central	0.92	51.9%	38.1%
104	Havering Road Allotments	North	0.69	56.5%	32.4%
120	Keats Avenue Allotments	North	1.93	58.3%	33.3%
142	MacDonald Avenue Allotments	Central	0.52	37.0%	31.4%
143	Macon Way Allotments	Central	0.18	35.2%	21.9%
148	Melville Road Allotments	South	1.37	40.7%	38.1%
154	Norfolk Road Allotments	South	1.67	49.1%	33.3%
171	Uphavering Terrace Allotments	Central	0.38	57.4%	32.4%
173	Pretoria Road Allotments	Central	6.81	73.1%	47.6%
183	Bretons Farm Allotments	South	2.88	58.3%	33.3%
194	Saffron Road Allotments	North	0.29	42.6%	31.4%
199	Sowrey Avenue Allotments	South	0.25	37.0%	31.4%
211	Mungo Park Allotments	South	0.38	46.3%	28.6%
212	Stewart Avenue Allotments	South	1.17	57.4%	42.9%
215	Strathmore Gardens Allotments	Central	0.51	39.8%	31.4%
238	White Hart Lane Allotments	North	2.31	57.4%	42.9%
241	Wolseley Road Allotments	Central	1.00	55.6%	38.1%

Allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of open space provision. On this basis, it is important to analyse waiting lists which help inform the level of demand and highlights if more provision is required.

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Table 8.3: Allotments Waiting Lists and Known Plot Numbers

Site ID	Site Name	Plots	Waiting Lists	Vacant
7	Heath Park Allotments	82 (8 large, 56 half plots, 18 quarter)	6	4
77.2	Grey Towers (South) Allotments	59 (6 large, 43 half plots, 10 quarter)	15	0
120	Keats Avenue Allotments	82 (17 large, 47 half plots, 18 quarter)	35	3
173	Pretoria Road Allotments	239 (65 large, 59 half plots, 115 quarter)	97	6
211	Mungo Park Allotments	28 (0 large, 27 half plots, 1 quarter)	6	0

Note that waiting lists and vacant plots change and can fluctuate over time.

8.4: 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 allotments. A threshold of 45% 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 8.4: Quality ratings for assessed allotments

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Central	35%	50%	73%	5	7
North	37%	50%	58%	3	4
South	37%	51%	67%	2	6
Havering	34%	50%	73%	10	17

Most assessed allotment sites rate above the threshold for quality.

The highest scoring quality sites are:

- ✦ Pretoria Road Allotments (73%)
- ✦ Ashvale Gardens Allotments (67%)
- ✦ Grey Towers (North) Allotments (59%)

These sites all benefit from good entrances, access, user security and signage. Each site has fresh water supply. Pretoria Road Allotments (73%) is the highest scoring site and is observed as a large well-maintained site with a wide entrance/vehicular access. The site has the additional benefits of signage at the entrance gate and noticeboard within. There are at least two entrances/access points and a car park further adding to the benefits of the site. Due to their size and location, all three sites are well used.

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Other high scoring sites include Church Road Allotments, Keats Avenue Allotments and Bretons Farm Allotments (each score 58%). These sites have good entrances, user security, fencing and signage. All three have the additional benefit of fresh water supply. Keats Avenue Allotments and Bretons Farm Allotments feature a small car park to a reasonable standard.

The lowest scoring quality sites are:

- ◀ Robin Close Allotments (34%)
- ◀ Macon Way Allotments (35%)
- ◀ MacDonald Avenue Allotments (37%)
- ◀ Sowrey Avenue Allotments (37%)

These sites are all quite small and have fewer ancillary features such as signage than higher scoring sites. However, they do score reasonably well for overall maintenance, entrances and pathways. MacDonald Avenue Allotments has the additional benefit of a car park, albeit it is very small.

8.5: 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 8.5: Value ratings for assessed allotments

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Central	22%	33%	48%	0	12
North	22%	33%	43%	0	7
South	29%	36%	48%	0	8
Havering	22%	34%	48%	0	27

All allotment sites rate above the threshold for value. This reflects the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.

Ashvale Gardens Allotments and Pretoria Road Allotments are the highest scoring sites for value (48%). These sites also score high for quality. Both sites have wide entrances enhancing social inclusion and enabling vehicular access for plot holders. The sites are well presented and have good signage and pathways adding to its amenity and health benefits. Pretoria Road Allotments has the additional benefit of Romford Smallholders Society.

Sites scoring lower for value but still above the threshold are generally sites that are smaller, more hidden and have more narrow pathways and/or entrances.

However, allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of provision.

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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 12 sites identified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 51 hectares of provision in Havering. No site size threshold has been applied and as such, all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Current cemeteries provision in Havering

Analysis area	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Central	4	23.25
North	1	0.42
South	7	28.76
Havering	12	52.43

The largest contributor to burial provision is Upminster Cemetery equating to over 13 hectares.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can also offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g., recreational walking, nature trails, wildlife watching).

9.3 Accessibility

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

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped

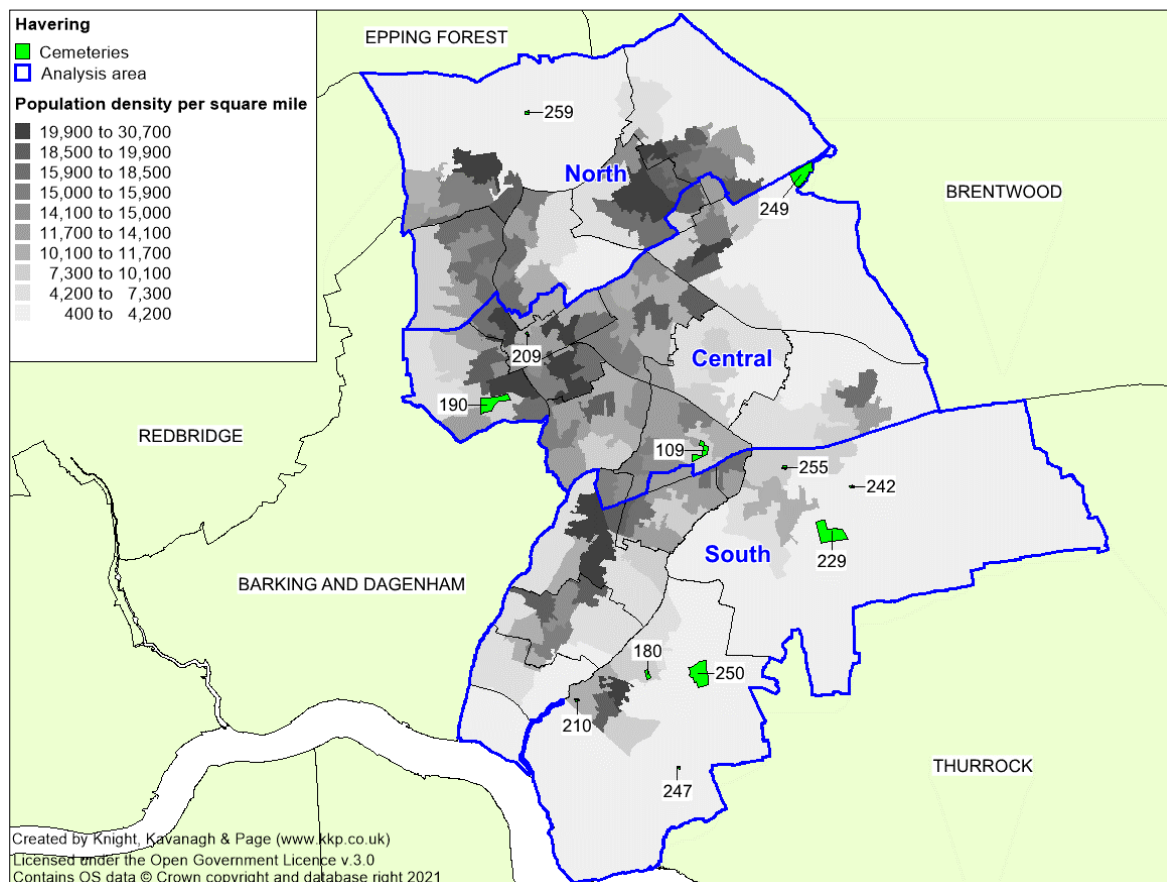


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
109	Hornchurch Cemetery	Central	3.77
180	Rainham Cemetery	South	1.13
190	Romford Cemetery	Central	9.51
209	St Edwards Church	Central	0.24
210	St Helens and St Giles Churchyard	South	0.29
229	Upminster Cemetery	South	13.93
242	All Saints Church	South	0.35
247	St Mary and St Peter's Church, Wennington	South	0.20
249	Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery	Central	9.72
250	Rainham Jewish Cemetery	South	12.37
255	Church of St Lawrence	South	0.50
259	St John the Evangelist	North	0.42

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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.

The London Borough of Havering carry out all grounds maintenance on four cemeteries and one crematorium (Upminster Cemetery, Hornchurch Cemetery, Rainham Cemetery, Romford Cemetery and South Essex Crematorium).

Table 9.3: Summary of burial capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)	Council Information
109	Hornchurch Cemetery	Central	3.77	No new graves available and any burials are only for reopened or pre-purchased graves.
180	Rainham Cemetery	South	1.13	No new graves available and any burials are only for reopened or pre-purchased graves.
190	Romford Cemetery	Central	9.51	Opened in 1871. Burial capacity for Christian faith burials for approximately 12 months. Capacity for Muslim burials for a further 20/25 years. Has a high number of reopened grave burials.
209	St Edwards Church	Central	0.2374	Remaining capacity unknown.
210	St Helens and St Giles Churchyard	South	0.2900	Remaining capacity unknown.
229	Upminster Cemetery	South	13.9336	Opened 1902. Burial capacity for interments of all faiths for approximately a further 25 years. Additional land is available once capacity reached but this is currently leased to farmers for agricultural use.
234	Upminster War Memorial	South	0.006	-
242	All Saints Church	South	0.35	-
247	St Mary and St Peter's Church, Wennington	South	0.19	-
249	Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery	Central	9.72	-
250	Rainham Jewish Cemetery	South	12.37	Not managed by LBH. Private with years of capacity.

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Cemeteries have not been assessed for quality or value due to their distinct role compared to other types of open space included within the audit.

Cemeteries and churchyards are important resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries and churchyards can also offer important low impact recreational benefits e.g. recreational walking, nature trails, wildlife watching.

Upminster Cemetery has received a prestigious Gold Award from London in Bloom judges each year, since 2014 and in 2021 the cemetery earned the title Category Winner.

Since 2019, Romford Cemetery has annually received the prestigious London in Bloom Gold Award and was runner up, receiving a Silver Award in the Large Cemetery of the Year Awards endorsed by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA).

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PART 10: CIVIC SPACE

10.1 Introduction

The civic space typology includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public gatherings, and community events.

10.2 Current provision

There are six civic space sites, equating to just over a hectare of provision, identified across Havering. In addition, there are likely to be other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares which may be viewed as providing similar roles and functions as civic space.

Table 10.1: Current civic spaces in Havering

Analysis area	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Central	3	0.99
North	1	0.002
South	2	0.008
Havering	6	1.00

The largest site is Romford Market Place at 0.95 hectares.

10.3 Accessibility

Figure 10.1 shows civic space mapped across Havering.

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Figure 10.1: Civic space mapped against analysis areas

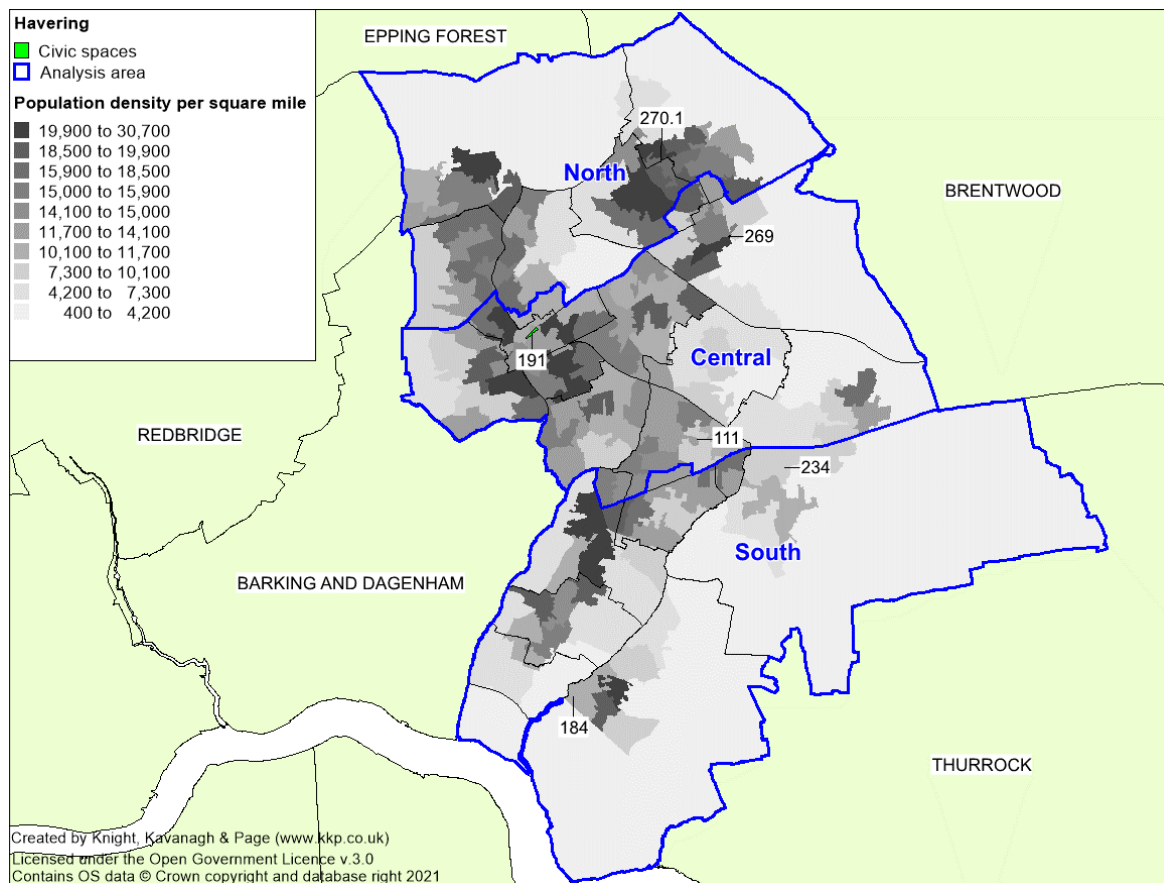


Table 10.2: Summary of sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
111	Hornchurch War Memorial	Central	0.0015
184	Rainham War Memorial	South	0.0021
191	Romford Market Place	Central	0.9494
234	Upminster War Memorial	South	0.056
269	Harold Wood Memorial	Central	0.0435
270.1	Harold Hill Memorial Stone	North	0.0022

Civic spaces have not been assessed for quality or value due to their distinct role compared to other types of open space included within the audit.

When considering the purpose of civic spaces as providing space for public gatherings and community events, they are likely located in areas of higher population density. There are many gaps to the areas of denser population. These are likely, however, to be met by other sites such as park and gardens.

Rather than looking to provide new standalone provision of this type, the focus may be towards providing areas within existing sites, which could be used for community events and gatherings.

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PART 11: PROVISION STANDARDS

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

11.1: Quality and value

Each type of open space receives a separate quality and value score. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help, for example, determine prioritisation of investment and enhancements.

Quality and value matrix

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is used to identify those sites of a high standard, 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 the quantity and/or accessibility of provision in the area (i.e., whether there is a deficiency).

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

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

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

No catchments are suggested for allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, it is better to determine need for provision based on locally known demand. For allotments, waiting list are a more accurate method of informing need.

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	Type
Central	Cranham Brickfields Local Nature Reserve (ID 252) Upminster Hall Playing Field (ID 231) Cranham Playing Fields (ID 52) Oldchurch Park (ID 157)	Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity
North	Noak Sports Complex a (ID 151) Noak Hill Recreation Ground (ID 149) Paines Brook 3 (ID 163) Farrington Avenue flood lagoon (ID 62) Chelmsford Avenue (ID 34) King George's Playing Field (ID 123) Stratton Wood (ID 56)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
South	Ingrebourne Hill (ID 116) The Glen (ID 222) Rainham Recreation Ground (ID 179) Stirling Close (ID 213) Mardyke Adventure Playground (ID 144) Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre (ID 20) Blake Close (ID 13) Maytree Close (ID 147)	Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Type
Central	Coronation Gardens (ID 46) Cottons Park (ID 47) Harold Wood Park (ID 89) Harrow Lodge Park (ID 94) Haynes Park (ID 107) Hylands Park (ID 112) Lodge Farm Park (ID 136) Jutsums Recreation Ground (ID 118) Oldchurch Park (ID 157)	Park Park Park Park Park Park Park Amenity Amenity
North	Central Park (ID 84) Lawns Park (ID 129) Gooshays Gardens (ID 72) Bosworth Field (ID 16) Farrington Avenue flood lagoon (ID 62) Chudleigh Road (ID 37)	Park Park Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
South	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre (ID 20)	Amenity

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Type
Central	Coronation Gardens (ID 46) Cottons Park (ID 47) Harold Wood Park (ID 89) Harrow Lodge Park (ID 94) Haynes Park (ID 107) Hylands Park (ID 112) Langtons Gardens (ID 128) Lodge Farm Park (ID 136) St Andrews Park (ID 205) Grenfell Park c (ID 76) The Dell (ID 220)	Park Park Park Park Park Park Park Park Park Natural Natural
North	Central Park (ID 84) Lawns Park (ID 129) Rise Park (ID 189) Bedfords Park (ID 10) Havering Country Park (ID 103) Cranham Brickfields Local Nature Reserve (ID 252)	Park Park Park Natural Park Natural
South	Gaynes Parkway (ID 70) Upminster Park (ID 228) Berwick Glades (ID 12) Bonnetts Wood (ID 15) Hornchurch Country Park (ID 110) Ingrebourne Hill (ID 116) Hacton Lane (ID 117)	Park Park Natural Natural Park Natural Natural

For play provision, an option could be to explore and encourage opportunities to expand provision at existing play sites or introduce equipment at open spaces nearest to where the gap in play provision is highlighted.

Table 12.2.5: Sites helping to serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Central	Fielders Woodland play area (ID 63.1) Paine's Brook 4 play area (ID 165.1)
North	Chelmsford Avenue play area (ID 34.1) Forest Row play area (ID 68) Keats Park play area (ID 121.1) St Neots Adventure Playsite (ID 163.1)
South	Hornchurch Country Park play area (ID 110.1) Louis Marchasi play area (ID 140.1)

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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. It can also help to establish that 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).

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

Table 11.3.1: Summary of current provision levels

Typology	Quantity level (Hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	2.44
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	2.24
Amenity greenspace	0.46
Provision for children & young people	0.03
Allotment	0.13

Current provision levels are used to inform quantity as opposed to benchmarks such as those suggested by FIT. The national benchmark quantity standards are not deemed as appropriate for use as they do not take into consideration the local circumstances, distribution, and historical trends of the area.

An approach using locally derived quantity standards ensures more reflective standards are set as they are based on and take consideration to current local provision levels and views.

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 (hectares per 1,000 population)

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural greenspace		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Play provision	
	2.44		2.24		0.46		0.13		0.03	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Central	0.87	-1.57	1.95	-0.29	0.45	-0.01	0.14	+0.01	0.02	-0.01
North	4.63	+2.19	0.20	-2.04	0.61	+0.14	0.09	-0.04	0.03	Level
South	2.77	-0.33	4.96	+2.72	0.46	Level	0.15	+0.02	0.04	+0.01

All analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. The South Analysis Area only has one shortfall identified. This is in parks provision.

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11.4: Identifying priorities and recommendations

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). Often a more realistic approach is to ensure sufficient accessibility and quality of existing provision.

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should be endorsed. 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).

Recommendations

The following 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

Table 11.4.1 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision.

Table 11.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve gap in:
10	Bedfords Park	Parks	Amenity
12	Berwick Glades	Natural	Amenity
15	Bonnetts Wood	Natural	Amenity
16	Myrtle Road Chatteris Avenue Open Space	Amenity	Natural
20	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre	Amenity	Parks & natural
34	Chelmsford Avenue	Amenity	Parks
34.1	Chelmsford Avenue play area	Play	Play
37	Chudleigh Road	Amenity	Natural

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve gap in:
46	Coronation Gardens	Parks	Natural & amenity
47	Cottons Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
52	Cranham Playing Fields	Amenity	Parks
62	Faringdon Avenue flood lagoon	Amenity	Parks & natural
63.1	Fielders woodland play area	Play	Play
68	Forest Row Playsite	Play	Play
70	Gaynes Parkway	Parks	Amenity
72	Land at Gooshays, Harold Hill	Amenity	Natural
76	Grenfell Park c	Natural	Amenity
84	Central Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
89	Harold Wood Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
94	Harrow Lodge Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
103	Havering Country Park	Parks	Amenity
107	Haynes Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
110	Hornchurch Country Park	Parks	Amenity
110.1	Hornchurch Country Park play area	Play	Play
112	Hylands Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
116	Ingrebourne Hill	Natural	Parks & amenity
118	Jutsums Recreation Ground	Amenity	Natural
121.1	Keats Park play area	Play	Play
123	King Georges Playing Field	Amenity	Parks
128	Langtons Gardens	Parks	Amenity
129	Lawns Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
136	Lodge Farm Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
140.1	Louis Marchasi play area	Play	Play
149	Noak Hill Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
151	Noak Hill Sports Complex a	Amenity	Parks
157	Oldchurch Park	Amenity	Parks & natural
163	Paine's Brook 3	Amenity	Parks
163.1	St Neots Adventure Playsite	Play	Play
165.1	Paine's Brook 4 play area	Play	Play
179	Rainham Recreation Ground	Amenity	Parks
189	Rise Park	Parks	Amenity
205	St Andrews Park	Parks	Amenity
220	The Dell	Natural	Amenity
222	The Glen	Amenity	Parks
228	Upminster Park	Parks	Amenity

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve gap in:
231	Upminster Hall Playing Field	Amenity	Parks
252	Cranham Brickfields Local Nature Reserve	Natural	Parks & amenity

These sites potentially 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.

Often this is related to parks, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. The Council should explore the potential/possibility to adapt these sites through formalisation and/or greater provision of features linked to other types of open space. This is to provide a stronger secondary role as well as opportunities associated with other open space types. This may, in some instances, also help provide options to minimise the need for creation of new provision to address any gaps in catchment mapping. For play provision, sites could be explored for opportunities to expand the amount and breadth of equipment at existing play sites.

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. A list of low quality and/or value sites currently helping to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 11.4.2 below. This also includes sites without a quality/value rating.

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

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

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve gap in:
16	Myrtle Road Chatteris Avenue Open Space	Amenity	Natural
34	Chelmsford Avenue	Amenity	Parks
37	Chudleigh Road	Amenity	Natural
62	Faringdon Avenue flood lagoon	Amenity	Parks & natural
63.1	Fielders woodland play area	Play	Play
70	Gaynes Parkway	Parks	Amenity

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Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve gap in:
76	Grenfell Park c	Natural	Amenity
107	Haynes Park	Parks	Natural & amenity
157	Oldchurch Park	Amenity	Parks & natural
220	The Dell	Natural	Amenity
222	The Glen	Amenity	Parks

Recommendation 3

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

This study identifies 56 sites currently below their quality thresholds, five of which are also below its value threshold. For an area with a quantity sufficiency in one type of open space, and where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that same type.

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

Recommendation 4

- ◀ Sites below 0.2 hectares should be considered on a case-by-case basis as and when required

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

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

Recommendation 5

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

This study provides a snapshot in time. Whilst significant changes are not as common for open space provision, inevitably over time changes in provision occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to site boundaries and management. Population change and housing growth are also another consideration to review when undertaking any form of update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and standards. It is therefore important, particularly given the growing recognition of open space provision because of Covid-19, for the Council to undertake regular reviews of the data and/or actions informed by it.

