



SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2016

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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GLOSSARY

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

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

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

The Assessment Report provides detail with regard to what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It considers the demand for provision based upon population distribution and consultation findings. The Recommendation Paper (to follow the assessment report) will give direction on the future requirements for provision of accessible, high quality and sustainable open spaces.

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

Although PPG17 has now been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance as it remains the only national advice on the conduct of an open space assessment. It also still reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17. The long-term outcomes aim to deliver:

- ◀ Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors that are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable
- ◀ An appropriate balance between new, and the enhancement of existing, provision
- ◀ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision

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

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Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

	Typology	Primary purpose
Greenspaces	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Includes urban woodland and beaches, where appropriate.
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Civic spaces	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

1.1 Report structure

Open spaces

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across Surrey Heath. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces originally defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'; it is structured as follows:

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

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Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy (ISF) and Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) also undertaken by KKP (provided in separate reports). The open space typology of formal outdoor sports is covered within the associated PPS. The PPS is undertaken in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's guidance.

1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

As a prerequisite paragraph 74 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

1.3 Local context

Surrey Heath's Community Strategy

The vision for the Surrey Heath Partnership is to:

- ◀ Sustain and constantly improve Surrey Heath as a desirable place to live, learn, work and play
- ◀ Support individuals to achieve their full potential as a part of the local community

The Surrey Heath Sustainable Community Strategy is built around five themes with actions developed for each.

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The themes are:

- ◀ *Children and Young People* – improve learning, health and employment outcomes for children and young people, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged
- ◀ *Health and Wellbeing* – promote healthy lifestyles, particularly targeting groups and communities at most risk
- ◀ *Housing, Infrastructure and Environment* – achieve better standards of development to deliver more social, environmental, and economically sustainable benefits
- ◀ *Safer and Stronger Communities* – improve public confidence in the ability of public services to keep residents safe, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, strengthen local communities through targeted public and voluntary sector activity, active citizenship and work to tackle inequalities
- ◀ *Economic Development* – improve the economic sustainability of the area and ensure an inclusive approach to working with business

Health and Wellbeing in Surrey Heath - Preventing avoidable illness and death 2014/15 – 2015/16

This prevention plans describes services, programmes and activities taking place (or planned) within Surrey Heath that contribute to the prevention of avoidable illness and death. It is a multi-agency plan, contributed to by Surrey County Council (SCC), SHBC, Surrey Heath Clinical Commissioning Group and wider partners. It reports to the Surrey Heath Health and Wellbeing Group.

The priorities within the plan have been chosen based on assessment of the health and wellbeing needs of the Surrey Heath population. All the prevention activities described consider the inequalities within Surrey Heath, whether socio-economically based or related to inequalities between particular population groups. Activities are linked to other plans that aim to address inequalities such as the Old Dean priority group.

Open spaces are recognised as a key asset in helping to work towards the health and well-being agenda.

Local Planning Policy

The Councils strategic approach to open space is set out in The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (CS&DMP DPD). The overall strategy, which is established in policies CP12, CP13, DM15 and DM16, is to ensure that the local community can be more active with improved access to leisure and recreation facilities and a network of green infrastructure. This will be achieved by:

- ◀ Ensuring sufficient physical, social and community infrastructure is provided to support the level of development set out within the CS&DMP DPD
- ◀ Planning for a network of accessible and integrated green infrastructure
- ◀ Resisting the loss of green spaces and existing formal recreational facilities
- ◀ Encouraging the provision of new opportunities for formal and informal recreation
- ◀ The Councils current standards for providing open space and outdoor sports facilities for new housing developments are set out in policy DM16 of the CS&DMP DPD

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PART 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Analysis areas

For mapping purposes and audit analysis, Surrey Heath is divided into two analysis areas (reflecting the geographic and demographic nature of the area).

These allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of open space surplus and deficiencies at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The area is therefore, broken down as follows:

Table 2.1: Population by analysis area

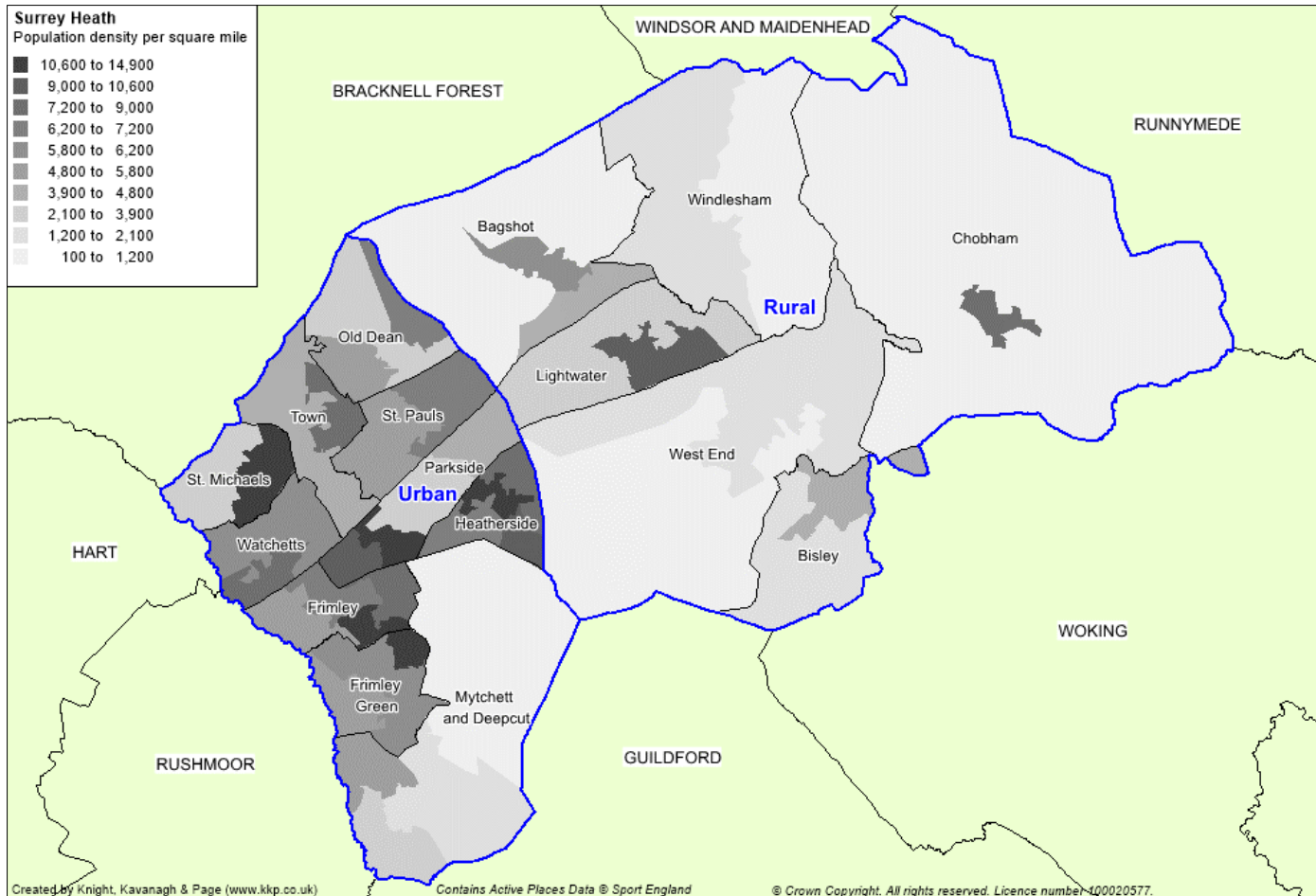
Analysis area	Population (2014)*
Rural	29,704
Urban	57,829
SURREY HEATH	87,533

Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the map of analysis areas with population density.

* Source: ONS 2014 Ward population estimates for England, mid-2014

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Figure 2.1 Analysis Areas in Surrey Heath



Source: Annual 2014 Mid-Year Population Estimates for the UK, ONS

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2.2 Auditing local provision (supply)

The site audit for this study was undertaken by the KKP Field Research Team. In total, 195 open spaces (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Further to this, there are 20 sites which are recognised but not accessed within the audit due to accessibility issues or size (explained later in the document). For example, Chobham Common which spans over 557 hectares.

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

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

The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated PPS. The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space (as a different methodology is prescribed).

In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. This means that, in general, sites that fall below this threshold are not audited. However, any sites below the threshold (i.e. those that are identified through consultation as being of significance) are included. The table below details the threshold for each typology:

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

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 on it. The database details for each site are as follows:

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Data held on open spaces database (summary)

- ◀ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◀ Site name
- ◀ Ownership
- ◀ Management
- ◀ Typology
- ◀ Size (hectares)
- ◀ Site visit data

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

2.3 Quality and value

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

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

Analysis of quality

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

Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)

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

Criteria for assessing the provision for children and young people are also built around Green Flag. It is a non technical visual assessment of the site, including general equipment and surface quality/appearance plus an assessment of, for example, bench and bin provision. This differs, for example, from an independent RosPA review, which is a more technical assessment of equipment in terms of play and risk assessment grade.

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Analysis of value

Site visit data plus desk based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in the Companion Guide 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

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

<p>Value criteria for open space site visits (score)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility◀ Context of site in relation to other open spaces◀ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area◀ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats◀ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes◀ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being◀ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues)◀ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks◀ Economic benefits, e.g., promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far
<p>Value - non site visit criteria (score)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◀ Designated site such as Local Wildlife Sites or SSSI◀ Educational programme in place◀ Historic site◀ Listed building or scheduled monument on site◀ Registered 'friends of' group to the site

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

2.4 Quality and value thresholds

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

The baseline threshold for assessing quality can be set around 66%; based on the pass rate for Green Flag criteria (site visit criteria also being based on Green Flag). This is the only national benchmark available for quality of parks and open spaces. However, the site visit criteria used for Green Flag is designed to identify the highest performing sites and for this reason, the criteria are set exceptionally high.

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Therefore, whilst some open space typologies may perform less well against the criteria, it does not mean these sites are poor quality. Quality thresholds are, thus, worked out so as to better reflect average scores for each typology.

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

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	60%	20%
Amenity greenspace	60%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%
Allotments	45%	20%
Cemeteries/churchyards	60%	20%

2.5 Identifying local need (demand)

Consultation to identify local need for open space provision has been carried out via a combination of face-to-face meetings, surveys and telephone interviews. It has also been conducted with key local authority officers (in respect of each typology). An online Parks and Open Spaces Survey (see appendix 1) was created and used to gather the wider views of local people; a total of 185 responses were returned. In addition, an online survey aimed at primary school aged children (see appendix 2) was also published; of which a total of 50 responses were returned. The findings of the consultation and survey carried out are used, reviewed and interpreted to further support the results of the quality and value assessment. A summary of the survey findings are set out in Part 3.

2.6 Accessibility standards

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

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

Table 2.3: FIT walking guidelines

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

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However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to Surrey Heath, we propose to use data from the survey consultation to set appropriate catchments. The following distances are recorded from the survey in relation to how far individuals are willing to travel to access different types of open space provision.

Table 2.4: Accessibility standards to travel to open space provision

Typology	Applied standard
Parks and gardens	15 minute walk time (1,200m)
Natural and semi-natural	30 minute walk time (2,400m)
	30 minute drive time
Amenity greenspace	5 minute (400m) walk time
Provision for children and young people	15 minute walk time (1,200m)
Provision for teenagers	15 minute walk time (1,200m)
Allotments	15 minute drive time
Cemeteries	No standard set

Most typologies are set as having a walk time accessibility standard. For certain typologies, such as amenity greenspace, accessibility is deemed to be more locally based. Subsequently a shorter accessibility standard has been applied.

For other forms of provision such as parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspace a willingness to travel further is highlighted. This is particularly the case for natural and semi natural greenspace, therefore a drive time catchment has also been applied.

No standard is set for the typology of cemeteries. It is difficult to assess this typology against catchment areas due to its nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

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PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

This section describes generic trends and findings from the quality and value ratings for each typology in Surrey Heath. It also includes a summary of the 185 responses from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in the report.

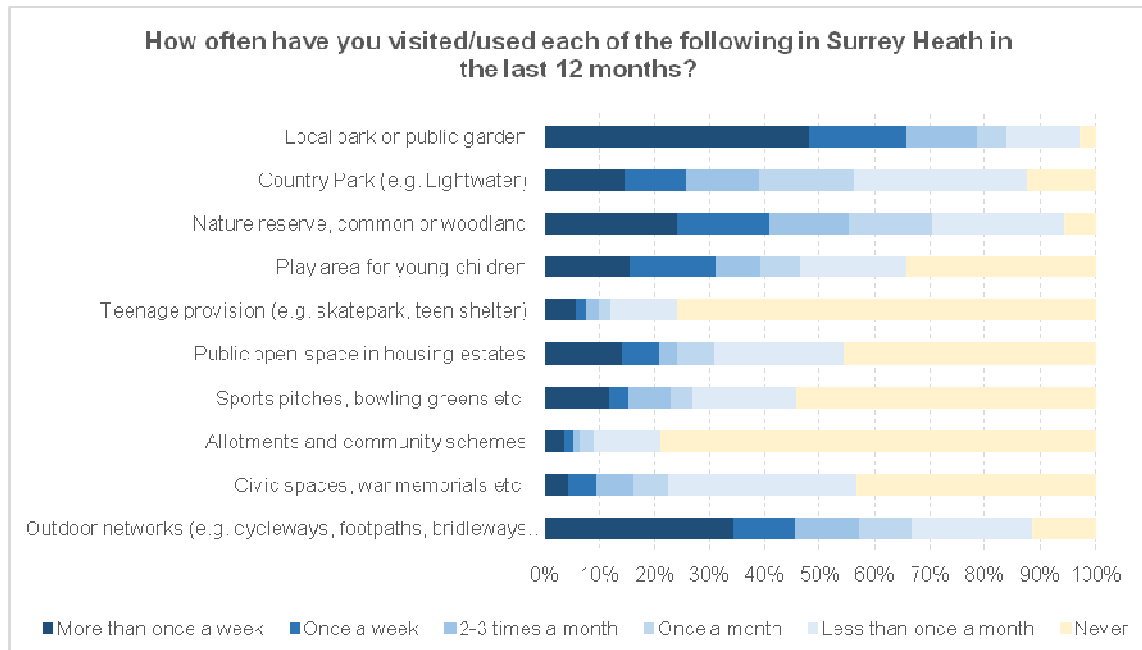
3.1 Usage

The Parks and Open Spaces Survey participants were asked how often they visit each type of open space. Most respondents identify visiting typologies such as parks (48.1%) and outdoor networks (34.3%) more than once a week; an indication to their popularity.

Other popular open spaces include nature reserves, common or woodland. Provision such as country parks and public open space in housing estates are visited on a less frequent basis with more respondents 17.1% and 6.7% respectively stating they visit these types of sites less than once a month. This is relatively typical of these types of open space.

Other typologies have a more mixed rate of usage. For the typologies such as allotments (79.0%) and teenage provision, for example skate parks and youth shelters (75.9%), the majority of respondents indicate they never access such sites. For the latter this may represent lack of awareness or interest in provision of this type. It is not uncommon for allotments to receive percentages of this kind as they are a niche form of open space provision; only attracting use from those with a specific interest.

Figure 3.1; Frequency of visits to open space in the previous 12 months



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3.2 Accessibility

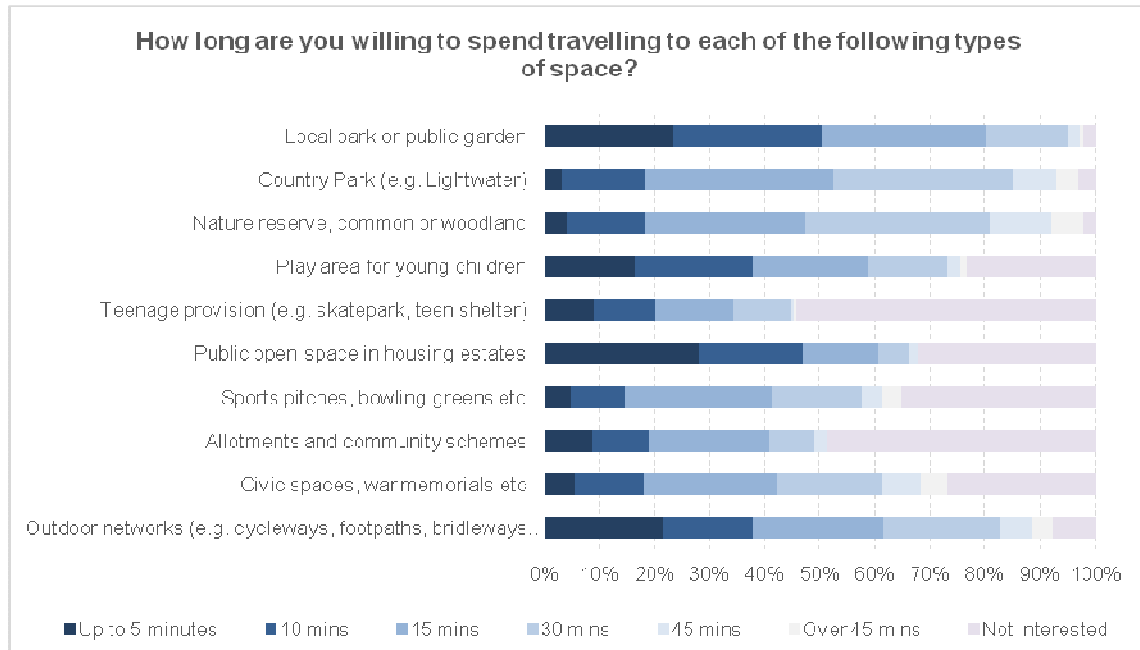
Results from the Parks and Open Space Survey shows that most individuals prefer to travel by walking in order to access different types of open space provision.

A preference can be seen to walk in order to access provision particularly for local parks and public gardens. The majority of respondents (90.2%) indicate willing to walk to provision of this type; with a less than five minute walk (26.5%) and 5-10 minute walk (30.3%) most common.

There is however for some typologies a clear willingness to travel a greater distance by transport. For instance, respondents indicate more of a willingness to also travel up to 45 minutes by transport in order to access local parks or public gardens (33.7%) and country parks (32.6%).

A higher proportion of 'not interested' responses are received for the typologies of teenage provision and allotments. This is not unusual as both forms of open space provision have a niche user attraction. Therefore it can be expected, to some extent, for the general public to not have a strong opinion.

Figure 3.2: Time willing to travel to open space sites (%)



3.3 Availability

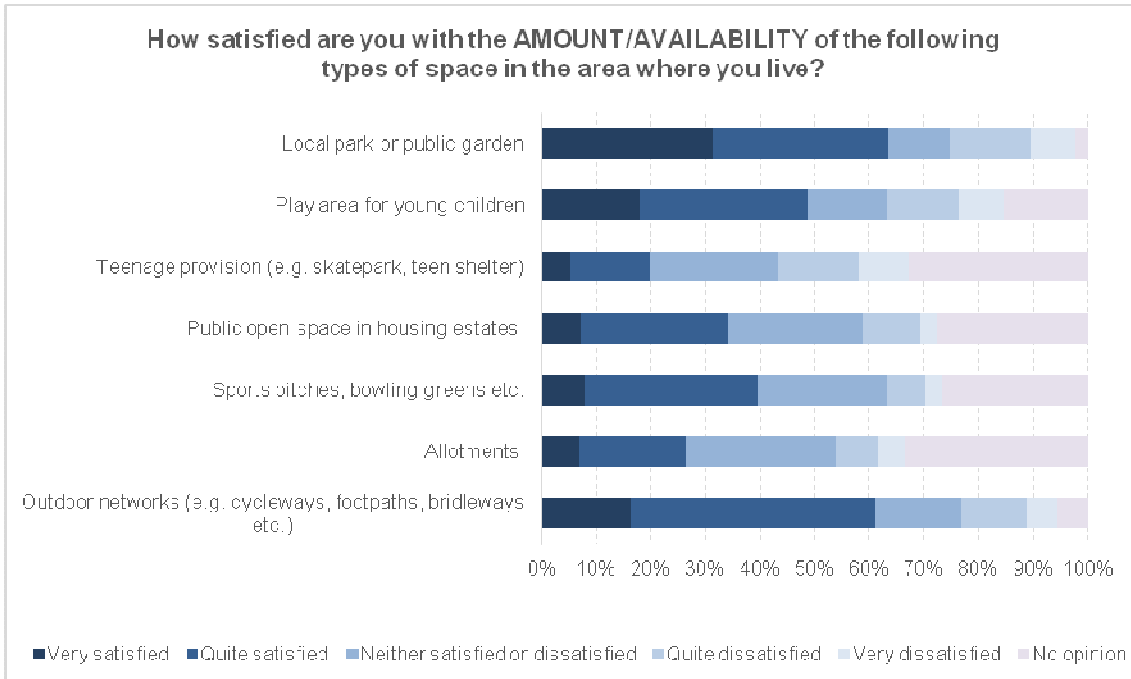
For most typologies respondents generally consider the availability i.e. the amount of provision, to be either quite or very satisfactory.

Typologies such as parks, play areas and outdoor networks are viewed as predominantly being to a satisfactory level in terms of availability. All three receive a higher proportion of responses for being quite satisfactory; parks (32.2%), outdoor networks (44.9%) and sports pitches (31.8%).

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A high proportion of respondents have no opinion on the availability of allotments. As noted earlier this is a niche form of provision and tends to not stimulate much consideration in the wider public eye other than for its specific users.

Figure 3.3: Satisfaction with availability of open spaces (%)



3.4 Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2. Table 3.2 summarises the results of all the quality assessments for open spaces across Surrey Heath.

A total of 175 sites are allocated a quality and value score out of the 195 sites identified in Surrey Heath. Significantly large sites (i.e. hundreds of hectares) or sites not able to be accessed are reasons for sites not receiving a rating. Such sites are set out in the individual typology sections.

Just over half (58%) of open space provision in Surrey Heath scores above the threshold for quality. However, this does not necessarily mean that the other 42% are poor or have quality issues. Sites can score below the threshold due to a lack of ancillary facilities such as toilets, which may not be necessary at smaller sites.

Proportionally provision for children and young people and allotments provision score higher, with these typologies having 73% and 69% of sites scoring above the quality threshold respectively. In contrast, the typology of natural and semi natural greenspace has more sites scoring below the threshold with 55%. However, natural and semi natural provision can lack features due to their purpose of conserving plant species and providing habitats for animals.

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Table 3.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores				No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Spread	Low	High
Allotments	45%	36%	50%	65%	28%	4	9
Amenity greenspace	45%	18%	47%	79%	60%	28	29
Churchyards and cemeteries	60%	49%	63%	71%	22%	1	3
Provision for children & young people	55%	36%	62%	89%	53%	12	33
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	16%	40%	89%	73%	25	20
Park and gardens	60%	48%	62%	76%	29%	4	7
TOTAL		16%	53%	89%	73%	74	101

Observations from the site visit audit, supported from the consultation, highlights that provision for children and young people is in some instances regarded as being tired and containing dated equipment. The Council uses s106 and CIL monies where available to repair and replace play equipment, however in many cases Council budget availability means that repairs and replacement to play equipment cannot always be proactive. Instead a general approach of retaining the current stock of provision with removal of any unusable pieces is currently implemented.

Proportionally there are a higher percentage of parks and gardens (23.2%) and outdoor networks (13.7%) that rate in the very satisfied category. This is a reflection of their excellent appearance and high standard.

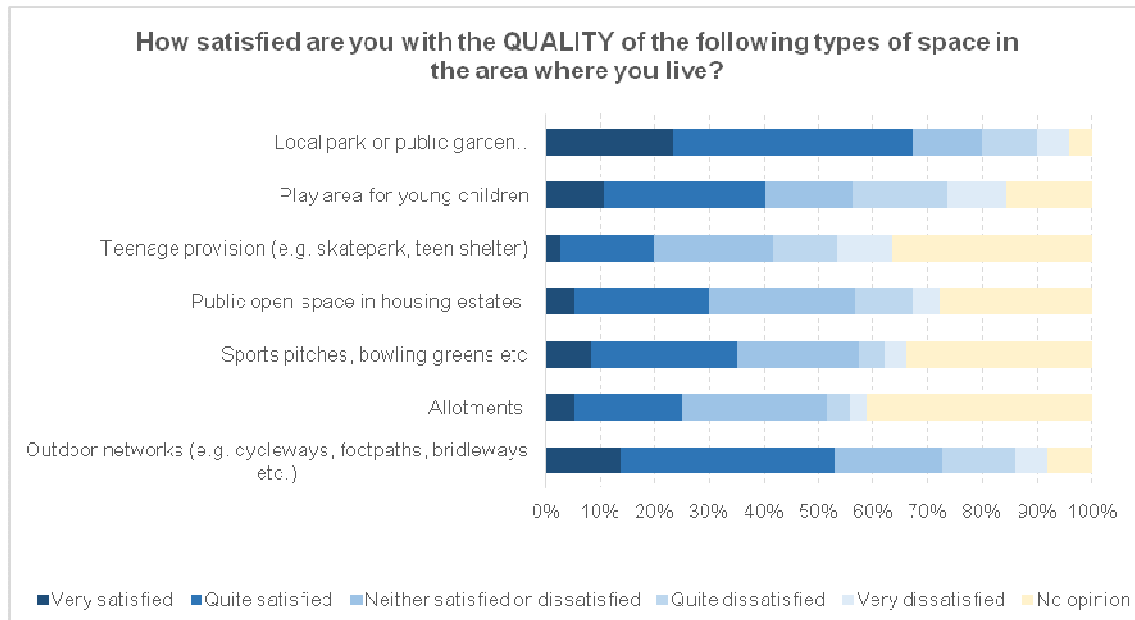
Quality of other open space typologies is good with a greater proportion of sites rating above the satisfaction threshold. This is thought to reflect the difference in the wide range of ancillary facilities and general quality of such sites. Any site specific quality issues are highlighted in the typology specific sections later in the report.

Nearly all typologies are viewed by respondents as being quite satisfactory in terms of quality; with the exception of allotments and teenage provision. Both typologies receive a higher percentage for respondents being neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (41.4% and 39.8% respectively). However, results overall are still generally positive.

Open space types viewed as being very and quite satisfactory includes nature areas, parks and civic space; a reflection to their popularity and frequency of use.

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Figure 3.4: Quality scores for all open space typologies



3.5 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 Surrey Heath.

A total of 175 sites are allocated a quality and value score out of the 195 sites identified in Surrey Heath. Significantly large sites (i.e. hundreds of hectares) or sites not able to be accessed are reasons for sites not receiving a rating. Such sites are set out in the individual typology sections.

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

The majority of sites (82%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. The fact that all typologies have a high number of sites rating high for value reflects their role in and importance to local communities and environments.

Natural and semi natural greenspaces have a slightly higher proportion of low value provision. This reflects a lack of ancillary features at some sites leading to a lack of recreational use in comparison to other sites, although it is noted that provision of ancillary features may not always be appropriate within these sites. The typology also contains a number of smaller sized sites. However, the value these provide in conserving trees and other plant species as well as providing habitats for animals and visual amenity can still be important.

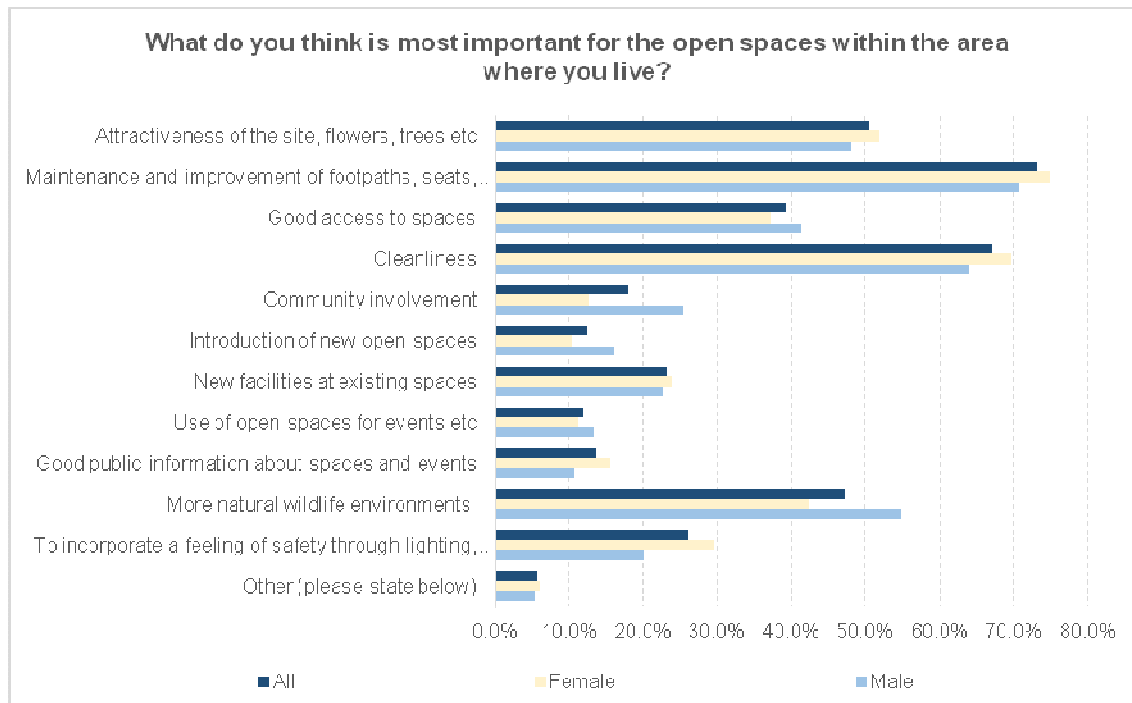
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Table 3.3: Value scores for all open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores				No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Spread	Low	High
Allotments	20%	24%	39%	59%	35%	0	13
Amenity greenspace		5%	31%	62%	57%	10	47
Churchyards and cemeteries		24%	32%	35%	11%	0	4
Provision for children & young people		13%	42%	76%	64%	4	41
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		6%	28%	61%	55%	17	28
Park and gardens		35%	49%	75%	40%	0	11
TOTAL	20%	5%	36%	76%	71%	31	144

The survey also asked, what is the most important aspect for open space within the area that they live. Over half of respondents stated they found attractiveness of the site, cleanliness and improvements to footpaths and seats important to their open space.

Figure 3.5: Importance of open spaces (%)



3.6 Summary

General summary

- ◀ In total 195 sites in Surrey Heath are identified as open space provision. This is equivalent to over 2,031 hectares.
- ◀ The accessibility standard set for most typologies is a 15 minute walk time catchment. For certain typologies, such as amenity greenspace, a lower walk time (5 minutes) is applied. For others, like natural greenspace respondents show a willingness to travel further.
- ◀ Most open spaces (58%) rate above the thresholds set for quality. Most noticeably, more play provision and allotments score above the thresholds for quality than others.
- ◀ Natural and semi-natural greenspace has more sites rating below the threshold. Often this is due to a lack of features or access. It also reflects the wide range in variety of sites for this typology; evidenced by the spread in the scores.
- ◀ The majority of all open spaces (82%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of open space provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

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PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1 Introduction

This typology covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events. The provision of country parks is included within the typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace due to their greater role in conservation and environmental education.

4.2 Current provision

There are eleven sites classified as parks and gardens in Surrey Heath, the equivalent of over 50.11 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology.

Table 4.1: Distribution of parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectares	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Rural	-	-	-
Urban	11	50.11	1.68
SURREY HEATH	11	50.11	0.57

All sites classified as parks and gardens are located in the Urban Analysis Area. Subsequently it has a current standard of 1.68 hectares of parks provision per 1,000 head of population. No park sites are identified in the Rural Analysis Area. This is not unusual given the population density and characteristics of the two analysis areas.

Frimley Lodge Park is the largest Park within Surrey Heath at 24 hectares. Other sites such as Watchetts Recreation Ground (9.12 ha), Frimley Green Recreation Ground (8.07 ha), Crabtree Park (6.24ha) and Heatherside Recreation Ground (5.67ha) are also of a reasonable size. The smallest site is Camberley Park at 0.60 ha.

Provision of other types of open space such as natural and semi natural greenspace or amenity greenspace can also contribute to the people's perception of parks and gardens. For example, Lightwater Country Park (classified as natural and semi natural greenspace), which is of a significant size (59 ha) provides an important contribution and secondary function to the provision of parks as well as general open space particularly given its location it is of special importance to the more rural parts of the Borough.

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4.3 Accessibility

Consultation and findings from the Surrey Heath Parks and Open Spaces Survey found that most respondents (30%) signal they are willing to walk for up to 15 minutes access a park.

For mapping, a 15 minute walk time has been applied. This is greater than the nine minute walk time equivalent recommended by FIT guidance. Figure 4.1 shows the standard applied to parks and gardens to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens with 15 minute walk time mapped against analysis area

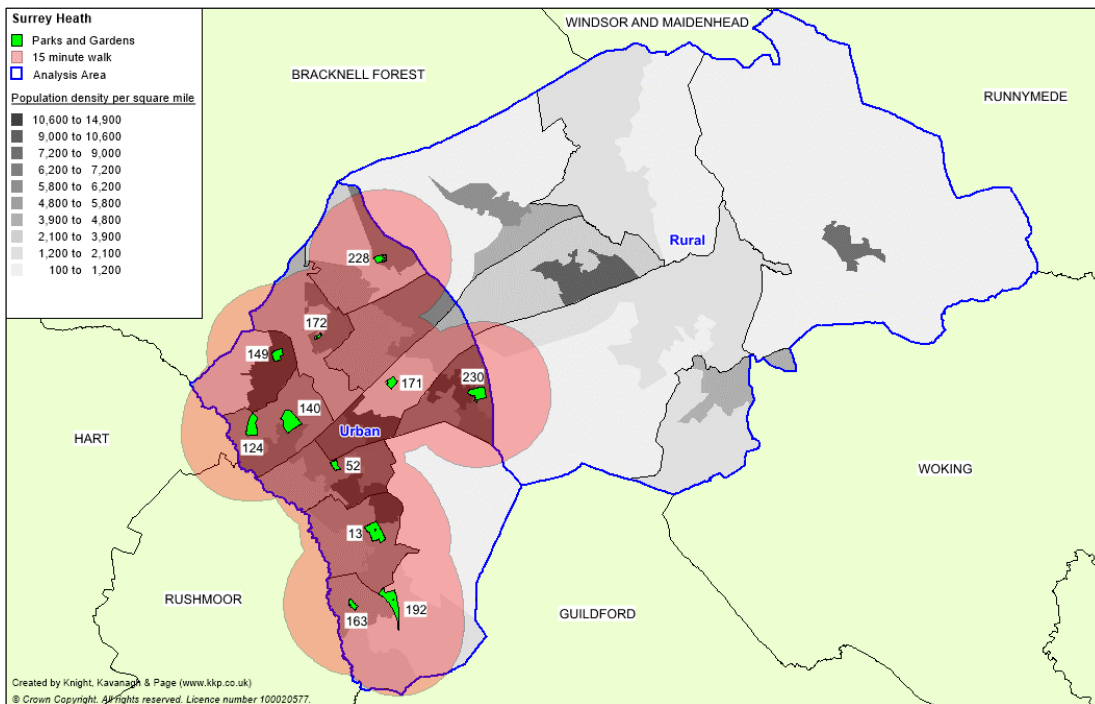


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
13	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	Urban	66.7%	34.5%
52	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	Urban	54.0%	34.5%
124	Crabtree Park	Urban	62.1%	41.8%
140	Watchetts Recreation Ground	Urban	66.5%	61.8%
149	London Road Recreation Ground	Urban	64.2%	53.6%
163	Mytchett Recreation Ground	Urban	59.1%	40.9%
171	Southcote Park	Urban	63.1%	50.0%
172	Camberley Park	Urban	55.5%	42.7%
192	Frimley Lodge Park	Urban	76.3%	74.5%
228	Old Dean Recreation Ground	Urban	47.8%	53.6%
230	Heatherside Recreation Ground	Urban	69.0%	48.2%

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The Urban Analysis Area is well served by parks provision and all densely populated areas are covered by the 15 minute walk time catchment. Despite this, most survey respondents (24%), which are dissatisfied with park provision are from Camberley, located in the Urban Analysis Area.

There is a catchment gap covering nearly the whole of the Rural Analysis Area, as no parks are located in this area. However, the Rural Analysis Area is well served by natural and semi natural greenspace and amenity greenspace provision. For example, Lightwater Country Park, which is situated in close proximity to the most densely populated settlement within the Rural Analysis Area. New parks provision may therefore not necessarily be required to meet such a catchment gap. However, it is important for other similar types of open space in the Area to continue to offer features and activities like parks, where it is appropriate.

Furthermore, no issue with regard to a deficiency in the amount of parks and gardens is highlighted either through consultation or via the results of the Parks and Open Spaces Survey. Indeed, over half of all respondents (63%), rate being either very satisfied or quite satisfied with the amount of parks in the Borough. Further to this, is the small percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (15%) or very dissatisfied (8%) with parks provision.

Ownership and management

Glendale Managed Services are contracted by the Council to carry out grounds maintenance within SHBC park sites. Maintenance includes hedge cutting, edging of paths, weekly grass cutting, weed killing, removal of moss and leaves, pruning, litter picks, planting, path sweeping and graffiti removal.

4.4 Quality

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

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban	159	48%	62%	76%	28%	4	7
SURREY HEATH	159	48%	62%	76%	28%	4	7

Over half (64%) of park and garden sites rate above the quality threshold in Surrey Heath. A point to note, although 36% of sites do score below the threshold, none of these sites are highlighted as having specific quality issues and score as such due to a lack of ancillary facilities such as toilets, picnic benches and in some cases seating.

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These include, for example, Mytchett Recreation Ground (59%), Chobham Road Recreation Ground (54%) and Camberley Park (56%) which only score marginally below the 60% threshold.

Frimley Lodge Park is the highest rating site with a score of 76% for quality. It is observed as having an excellent level of maintenance and general appearance. As well as this, it has good ancillary facilities including parking, toilets, informative signage, lighting and picnic tables. The design and landscaping of the site is complemented in site assessment comments, as is the quality of the paths and conservation of natural features. Further to this, the site contains a number of additional features including a miniature railway, pitch and putt, play area, community garden and cafe.

The second highest scoring site for value is Heatherside Recreation Ground (69%). Similar to Frimley Lodge Park, this site has a high standard of overall maintenance and appearance and has a number of ancillary features including parking, picnic tables, informative signage and lighting, as well as offering a number of additional attractions including a skate park, play area and outdoor gym equipment.

Consultation with Deepcut Neighbourhood Forum identifies a desire for outdoor gym equipment to be located at more outdoor recreation sites. It also, along with other groups and parish councils highlights a perceived need for additional provision for young people, in particular for teenagers. Further to this, a number of parish councils suggest a need for more advertisement of existing open space provision and facilities within open space sites as it is suggested that residents are unaware of what is available to them within the area.

The four other sites scoring above the quality threshold are Frimley Green Recreation Ground (67%), Watchetts Recreation Ground (67%), London Road Recreation Ground (64%) and Crabtree Park (62%).

Crabtree Park has a particularly active Friends of Group (FOG) who are currently campaigning to preserve the park. Consultation with this group highlights some concern regarding a neighbouring football club's aspiration to develop a new stadium pitch and additional car parking provision and the impact on Crabtree Park.

Out of the four sites scoring below the quality threshold, Old Dean Recreation Ground scores the lowest with 48%. In comparison to the higher scoring sites, Old Dean Recreation Ground is assessed as having a lower standard of landscape design and maintenance as well as having fewer ancillary facilities including toilets, lighting and picnic tables. In addition, specific quality issues such as graffiti and broken glass are identified through the site assessment. The Council also reports the site has few features or facilities as well as problems with anti-social behaviour; which may explain the observations regarding graffiti and broken glass.

Site observations did highlight a quality issue at Camberley Park with noticeably higher levels of litter than expected.

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Most respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey are generally satisfied with the quality of parks provision. Just under half view quality as quite satisfactory (44%) with a further 23% rating provision as very satisfactory. There is a small percentage of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (10%) or very dissatisfied (6%) with provision. Related comments generally reflect a desire from respondents for all park sites to reach their full potential as high quality community facilities.

Green Flag

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

A recent survey by improvement charity GreenSpace highlights that parks with a Green Flag Award provide more satisfaction to members of the public compared to those sites without it. The survey of 16,000 park users found that more than 90% of Green Flag Award park visitors were very satisfied or satisfied with their chosen site, compared to 65% of visitors to non-Green Flag parks.

Frimley Lodge Park is currently the only Green Flag Award site in Surrey Heath. However, should the Council wish to increase its number of Green Flag Award sites in the future, certain sites should be considered based on scoring near or above the Green Flag Award pass rate of 66% during the site assessment. These sites include Heatherside Recreation Ground (69%), Frimley Green Recreation Ground (67%), Watchetts Recreation Ground (67%) and London Road Recreation Ground (64%).

4.5 Value

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

Table 4.4: Value scores for parks by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban	110	35%	49%	75%	40%	0	11
SURREY HEATH	110	35%	49%	75%	40%	0	11

All parks are assessed as being of high value within the site visit assessments. The sites that score slightly higher for value are those that also score higher for quality.

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This could be attributed to the range of features and facilities at these sites, making them more attractive to visitors resulting in higher levels of use. The highest scoring site for value is Frimley Lodge Park scoring 75%. Watchetts Recreation Ground follows this with 62%. Both are observed as containing a wide variety of facilities to accommodate a diverse range of activities.

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is that they can provide opportunities for local communities and people to socialise. Consultation with Friends of Crabtree Park supports this, with it describing Crabtree Park as an important place for social exchange. It reports, for example, that the local Nepalese community use the park daily as a place to meet, play and spend time.

The importance of Crabtree Park to local people is further highlighted in responses to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey. A number of respondents make comments on their regular use of the site, describing it as place that is enjoyable to spend time.

Parks are often locations for annual, monthly and weekly events. For example, 'Teas on the Rec' is held every three months throughout the summer at London Road Recreation Ground. Parkrun also takes place at Frimley Lodge Park every week. A point to note, the Council has highlighted that parkrun can cause some conflict with other park users. However, such events are important within communities and promote healthy, active lifestyles.

The ability for people to undertake a range of different activities including exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area also results in parks being of high value in most areas. This is fully supported from the findings of the consultation. Several comments cite the importance and role parks provide to the area and to peoples everyday lives. All sites demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks and gardens in Surrey Heath offer.

4.6 Summary

Parks and gardens

- ◀ Eleven sites are classified as parks and gardens totalling over 50.11 hectares.
- ◀ All densely populated areas of the Urban Analysis Area are covered by the 15 minute walk time catchment. Almost all of the Rural Analysis Area is deficient in park provision and is not served by the 15 minute walk time catchment. However, this is thought to be sufficiently serviced by other forms of open space which provide opportunities for recreation; ensuring these sites are to a sufficient quality is recommended.
- ◀ Nearly two thirds of parks (64%) score above the threshold for quality. The parks that score higher have good ancillary facilities and additional features for example, Frimley Lodge Park. Although 36% of parks score below the threshold, none are reported as having concerning quality issues.
- ◀ All park provision scores high for value; a reflection to the social interaction, health benefits and sense of place sites offer.
- ◀ It is considered that new parks provision is not required and that the focus should be on continuing to improve the quality and facilities at existing sites where feasible, as well as maintaining natural and semi natural greenspace and amenity greenspace sites that meet identified catchment gaps, to a high standard.

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PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

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

5.2 Current provision

In total, 61 sites are identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, totalling over 1,852 hectares of provision. One site; St Catherine's Wood has been discounted based on it falling below the site size threshold of 0.2 hectares. Sites smaller than 0.2 hectares, are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. Further to this, 17 sites have not been accessed due to them being large or having limited access. Therefore, these sites do not have a quality or value scores.

Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Rural	35	1262.59	42.50
Urban	26	590.07	10.20
SURREY HEATH	61	1852.66	21.16

The majority of provision both in terms of the number of sites and in terms of the amount of hectareage is located in the Rural Analysis Area. Subsequently the current standard is significantly higher than the Urban Analysis Area. The location and distribution of sites is not surprising given the strong distinguishing characteristics of the urban and rural areas of the Borough.

A significant proportion of the total amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace in the Borough (65%) can be attributed to five particularly large sites with Chobham Common alone making up almost a third (31%) of provision at 577 hectares. The four other large sites are:

- ◀ Bagshot Heath (184.44 hectares)
- ◀ Land off Mytchett Place Road (140.15 hectares)
- ◀ MOD Blackdown Hill (120.90 hectares)
- ◀ Old Dean Common (104.15 hectares)

Surrey Heath as a whole currently has 21 hectares per 1,000 population of natural and semi natural greenspace. It is also important to recognise that in addition to this, other open spaces such as parks and amenity greenspace may provide some opportunities and activities associated with natural and semi-natural greenspace.

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Designations

Surrey Heath has a number of areas recognised at a national and international level for their conservation interest, including the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Special Area of Conservation (SAC). These incorporate land at Chobham Common (which is also a National Nature Reserve) and Lightwater Country Park. These areas are recognised for their importance as habitats for ground nesting birds.

Research conducted on behalf of Natural England in 2005 indicated that the existing level of recreational pressure is having a detrimental impact on the three species of Annex I birds (Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler) for which the SPA was designated. Breeding success of these ground-nesting birds is being affected by disturbance from people and their pets using the SPA for recreational purposes. As a result, within Surrey Heath there is conflict between recreational use of some designated natural and semi natural greenspace sites and environmental protection.

In 2012, the Council adopted the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy Supplementary Planning Document. This document sets out the approach taken by Surrey Heath Borough Council to avoid harm to the Special Protection Areas as a result of new housing development. This has resulted in the creation of several Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGS) within the Borough, with the purpose of encouraging new residents to recreate on areas away from the SPA:

- ◄ Clewborough
- ◄ Bisley Common
- ◄ Notcutts
- ◄ Diamond Ridge Wood
- ◄ Chobham Place Woods
- ◄ Chobham Meadows

Three additional SANGS sites (Hawley Meadows / Blackwater Park, Swan Lakes and Shepherds Meadow) sit outside the Borough. However, the catchment areas of these sites cover parts of Surrey Heath. SANGS are required to meet prescribed criteria that are set out within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy Supplementary Planning Document. These criteria are specific to SANGS and are different from the criteria considered in this Assessment. The SANGS-specific criteria are not considered here as they do not form part of the normal methodology for conducting an Open Space Assessment and the Council ensures that candidate SANGS meet the prescribed SANGS criteria through the planning process, in consultation with Natural England.

More information surrounding Surrey Heaths SPA and SANGS, as well as ways in which the Council work to protect such sites can be found within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy Supplementary Planning Document*.

* <http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/thames-basin-heaths-special>

5.3 Accessibility

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. They recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

- ◀ An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (five minutes walk) from home
- ◀ At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- ◀ One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home
- ◀ One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home
- ◀ One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population

On this basis, the population of Surrey Heath (87,533) is recommended to have approximately 85.50 hectares of NNR. With both to Chobham Common (577 hectares) and Lightwater Country Park (56.56 hectares) Surrey Heath currently meets this standard.

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

Findings from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access a natural space was up to 30 minutes by car. This is followed by 20% of respondents willing to walk up to 30 minutes to access natural and semi natural greenspace provision.

This is significantly greater than the recently published guidance by Fields in Trust (FIT), which suggests an approximate catchment guideline of a 10 minute walk time for natural greenspace. However, in order to meet views of Surrey Heath residents, for mapping a 30 minute walk time and a 30 minute drive time catchment have been applied.

Figure 5.1 and 5.2 show the standards applied to natural and semi-natural greenspace to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace with 30 minute walk time mapped against analysis areas

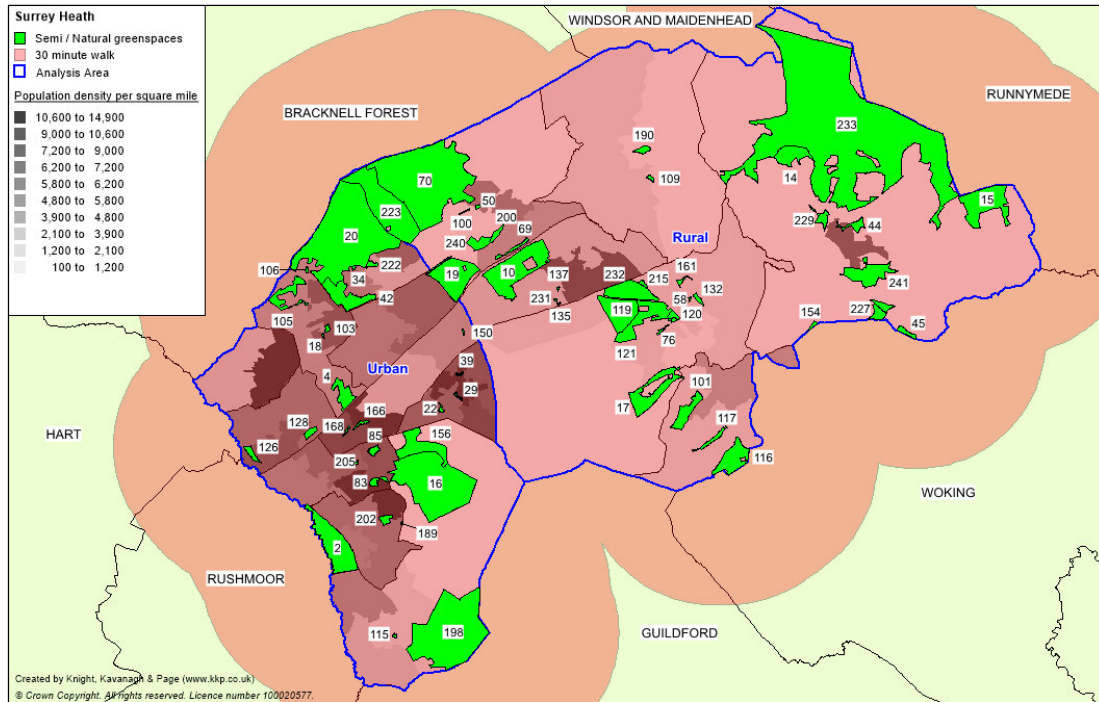
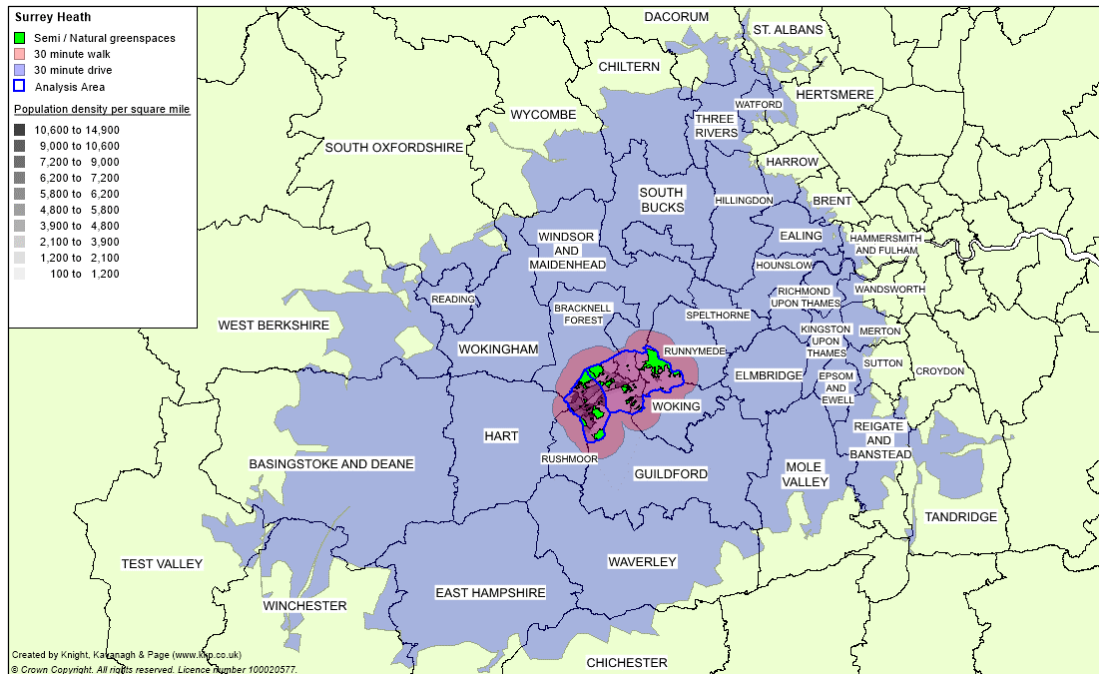


Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace with 30 minute drive time mapped against analysis area



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Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
2	Blackwater River Valley Route	Urban	59.6%	50.0%
4	Tekels Park	Urban		
16	Mod Blackdown Hill	Urban	26.3%	13.7%
18	Camberley Park Woodland	Urban	16.3%	13.7%
20	Old Dean Common	Urban	40.0%	52.9%
22	Wendover Drive Wood	Urban	40.0%	32.4%
29	Roxburgh Close Open Space	Urban	25.0%	9.8%
34	Land Rear Of Birch Close	Urban	21.3%	15.7%
39	Norton Road Open Space	Urban	25.0%	22.5%
42	Diamond Ridge Woods (SANGS)	Urban	51.7%	43.1%
83	Clewborough House School At Burrows Hill (SANGS)	Urban	50.0%	41.2%
85	Tomlins Pond	Urban	48.8%	31.4%
103	The Obelisk	Urban	58.3%	38.2%
105	Barossa Common	Urban	21.3%	14.7%
106	Kings Crescent	Urban	30.0%	14.7%
115	Open Space, Nightingale Drive	Urban	50.0%	16.7%
126	Watchmoor Reserve	Urban	81.2%	36.3%
128	Watchetts Lakes	Urban	60.0%	24.5%
150	Green Hill Road	Urban	26.3%	44.1%
156	Frimley Fuel Allotments	Urban	49.6%	52.0%
166	Warren Wood	Urban	37.5%	21.6%
168	Hollyhedge Woodland	Urban	17.5%	8.8%
189	St Catherine's Wood	Urban	27.5%	12.7%
198	Land Off Mytchett Place Road	Urban	31.3%	24.5%
202	Frimley Recreation Ground Open Space	Urban	39.2%	31.4%
205	Alphington Pond	Urban	66.7%	48.0%
222	Land Rear Of Horseshoe Crescent	Urban	25.0%	17.6%
10	Lightwater Country Park	Rural	89.2%	60.8%
14	Chobham Place Woods (SANGS)	Rural	45.0%	25.5%
15	Stanners Hill	Rural		
17	Surrey Heath Common Land, Lucas Green Road	Rural	27.5%	25.5%
19	Land East Of The Maultway (north section)	Rural		
44	Surrey Heath Common Land Little Heath	Rural		
45	Surrey Heath Common Land Coxhill Green	Rural		
50	St Annes Glade Pond	Rural		
58	Natural Space Between Church Road And Bagshot Road	Rural	26.3%	5.9%
69	Land South Of Whitmoor Road	Rural	43.8%	20.0%
70	Bagshot Heath	Rural		
76	Surrey Heath Common Land, Brentmoor Road	Rural	42.9%	10.8%
100	Heywood Drive Natural Space	Rural	53.8%	41.2%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
101	Surrey Heath Common Land, off Shaftesbury Road	Rural	38.8%	20.6%
109	Pine Grove, Windlesham	Rural	33.8%	21.6%
116	Bisley Common (SANGS)	Rural		
117	Queens Road natural space	Rural	38.8%	44.1%
119	Land South Of Red Road	Rural	50.8%	39.2%
120	Land Off Brentmoor Road	Rural	36.3%	14.7%
121	Brentmoor Heath	Rural	47.1%	46.1%
132	Surrey Heath Common Land, Benner Lane	Rural	35.0%	15.7%
135	Spruce Drive Open Space	Rural	35.0%	22.5%
137	Briar Avenue Woodland	Rural	30.0%	12.7%
154	Surrey Heath Common Land Castle Green	Rural	17.5%	13.7%
161	Surrey Heath Common Land, Hookstone Green	Rural	27.5%	16.7%
190	Admirals Field	Rural		
200	Woodland, Woodside Cottage	Rural		
215	Wooded Open Space Lightwater Bypass	Rural		
223	Bagshot Fuel Allotments	Rural		
227	Surrey Heath Common Land Milford Green	Rural		
229	Surrey Heath Common Land Burrow Hill Green	Rural		
231	Ivy Drive Pond	Rural	48.8%	32.4%
232	Turf Hill Park	Rural	55.8%	46.1%
233	Chobham Common	Rural		
240	Notcutts	Rural		
241	Chobham Meadows (SANGS)	Rural		

Figure 5.1 and 5.2 shows both analysis areas are covered by the 30 minute walk time and 30 minute drive time catchments. Many surrounding neighbouring local authorities are also served by provision; particularly given the large size of some sites leading to them acting as destination sites.

Ownership and management

There is a mix of responsibility in terms of the management and maintenance of the identified natural and semi-natural sites across Surrey Heath. The Council is responsible for the maintenance of a number of sites, including:

- ◀ Warren Wood
- ◀ Lightwater Country Park
- ◀ Tomlins Pond
- ◀ Alphington Pond
- ◀ Chobham Place Woods
- ◀ Watchmoor Reserve
- ◀ Watchetts Lake
- ◀ Blackwater River Valley Route

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The Council forms part of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP). BVCP is a group made up of paid rangers and volunteers, which work to promote ecologically important sites within the Blackwater Valley such as Blackwater Park and the Blackwater Valley footpath.

The role of the BVCP is to coordinate projects and actions of all involved parties and stakeholders in the Blackwater Valley for mutual benefit, as well as increasing sustainable usage and ensuring the protection of wildlife and landscapes. BVCP volunteers help full time rangers carry out management and maintenance tasks such as woodland management, pond clearing, path improvement, shrub clearance and hedgelaying.

Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) also plays an important role in managing and maintaining natural and semi natural greenspace in the area. SWT looks after large protected sites including Chobham Common and Brentmoor Heath, as well as being contracted to maintain a number of the Ministry of Defence sites (MoD). SWT carries out shrub management, create different habitats and manage grazing. It also offers land, and planning advice surrounding natural sites.

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 in Surrey Heath. A threshold of 40% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Natural and semi-natural greenspace has a slightly lower quality threshold than other open space typologies. This reflects the characteristic of this kind of provision. For instance, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation and promotion of flora and fauna activity.

Table 5.3: Quality rating for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <40%	High >40%
Rural	80	16%	39%	81%	65%	14	12
Urban	80	18%	41%	89%	72%	11	8
SURREY HEATH	80	16%	40%	89%	73%	25	20

Approximately 56% of natural and semi-natural sites in Surrey Heath score below the threshold set for quality. The lowest scoring site in Surrey Heath is Camberley Park Woodland with a rating of just 16% for quality. At the time of the site audit, it was noted as containing litter, contributing to the site's overall poor maintenance and cleanliness. There is also a lack of appropriate paths and ancillary features.

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A number of other low scoring sites such as; Briar Avenue Woodland (30%), Land off Mytchett Place Road (31%), Roxburgh Close Open Space (25%), Land Rear Of Birch Close (21%), Land Rear Of Horseshoe Crescent (25%), Hollyhedge Woodland (18%) and Barossa Common (21%) are noted as having issues with litter, including glass and dog fouling bags. Some of these sites also have limited access and the majority lack features and paths. However, most are recognised as providing opportunities for increased biodiversity.

A point to note, some natural and semi natural greenspace sites do only score marginally below the threshold; Frimley Green Recreation Ground Open Space (39%), Surrey Heath Common Land (39%), Surrey Heath Common Land, off Shaftesbury Road (39%) and Warren Wood (38%). These sites score well for overall maintenance and cleanliness and are therefore more attractive. However, similarly to the lowest scoring sites they do lack ancillary features. A number of sites also receive a low rating for footpaths.

Sites scoring above the threshold are generally observed as being attractive and well maintained; offering plenty of good quality ancillary features such as signage, bins, pathways and benches where appropriate. They are considered to be well used by people for recreational purposes whilst also offering significant opportunities for wildlife promotion. Sites scoring particularly high include:

- ◀ Lightwater Country Park (89%)
- ◀ Watchmoor Reserve (81%)

These sites are observed as having excellent features and facilities. For instance, each has the added benefit of car parking, whilst the other features on site (e.g. pathways, ramps and guardrails, signage, educational information, seating, picnic tables etc) are of good quality. Lightwater Country Park also has the added benefits of toilets, a play areas and a visitor centre. Such features and opportunities increase attractiveness to visitors and as a result have increased usage.

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 in Surrey Heath. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.4: Value scores for natural and semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Rural	102	9%	28%	53%	44%	10	16
Urban	102	6%	27%	61%	55%	7	12
SURREY HEATH	102	6%	28%	61%	55%	17	28

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Most natural and semi natural greenspaces (62%) rate above the threshold for value with most sites that score low for value also scoring low for quality. Quality often has a direct impact on a site's value. The lower a site's quality the less likely people are to visit the site. Further to this, some of these sites have restricted or hidden access.

Only two sites that score high for quality score low for value; Surrey Heath Common Land, Brentmoor Road (11%) and Open Space and Nightingale Drive (17%). This is mainly due to size, with both sites being below one hectare. As a result, there is little recreational opportunity. However, due to having shrubs and trees, it is recognised that they do offer some visual and ecological value.

The highest scoring sites for value are Lightwater Country Park (61%) and Old Dean Common (53%). Both sites have educational value for differing reasons. Lightwater Country Park has informative signage and a visitor centre, educating visitors about wildlife, habitats and plant species. In contrast, Old Dean Common has historical links and has a high education value.

Both sites have good ecological value, providing habitats for a variety of wildlife and plant life. Lightwater Country Park also offers various recreational opportunities to a range of people (e.g. nature enthusiasts, tourists, families). Moreover, both sites but in particular Lightwater Country Park, promote health and wellbeing with footpaths and waymarked trails.

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 61 natural and semi natural greenspace sites totalling over 1852 hectares. However, only 44 of these sites, equating to 746.20 hectares have been audited due to size and accessibility restrictions.
- ◀ Both analysis areas are covered by the 30 minute walk time and 30 minute drive time catchments.
- ◀ Surrey Heath has a number of areas recognised at a national and international level for their conservation interest, including the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Special Area of Conservation (SAC). These include land at Chobham Common and Lightwater Country Park.
- ◀ The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy Supplementary Planning Document sets out the approach taken by Surrey Heath Borough Council to avoid harm to the Special Protection Areas as a result of new housing development, resulting in the provision of SANGS.
- ◀ With both Chobham Common (577.48 hectares) and Lightwater Country Park (56.65 hectares) Surrey Heath currently meets the ANGST standard, but the designation of these areas as SPA leads to a conflict between recreational use and conservation needs.
- ◀ Quality of natural greenspace sites is variable with 56% of sites rating below the threshold and 44% rating above.
- ◀ Seven sites rating below the threshold have issues with litter and overall site maintenance and cleanliness; Briar Avenue Woodland, Land Off Mytchett Place Road, Roxburgh Close Open Space, Land Rear of Birch Close, Land Rear of Horseshoe Crescent, Hollyhedge Woodland and Barossa Common.
- ◀ The majority of sites (62%) rate above the threshold for value. Most sites that rate low for value also score low for quality. A sites quality can have a direct impact on its value, as people are less likely to visit a lower quality site.
- ◀ Higher scoring sites for value, such as Lightwater Country Park and Old Dean Common, provide a good range of opportunities and uses for residents and visitors.

SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

Amenity greenspace is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space. For the purposes of this study, recreation grounds have been included within this typology.

6.2 Current provision

There are 57 amenity greenspaces in Surrey Heath, an equivalent of over 104 hectares of provision. A site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied to this typology and as such any sites below 0.2 hectares have been discounted, as they are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents and their quality will be a reflection of their size. It is, however, worth noting, that of the 46 sites discounted, two sites; West End War Memorial and Memorial Garden, both situated in the Rural Analysis Area were highlighted as important forms of open space. Therefore, both have been assessed for quality and value.

Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or open space along highways that provide a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Rural	23	32.52	1.09
Urban	34	71.88	1.24
SURREY HEATH	57	104.40	1.19

Only two sites are identified as potentially having restricted or limited access; Field to North of War Memorial and Barossa Common Playing Fields. Field to North of War Memorial is reported as being private field, whilst Barossa Common Playing Fields is Ministry of Defence (MoD) land.

There is a wider variation in site sizes within this typology compared to others. The size of amenity greenspaces varies from the smallest incidental greenspace amongst houses, such as Bain Avenue Amenity Space (0.22 hectares), to larger sites such as Surrey Heath Common Land (5.50 hectares).

Larger sites, such as the five sites identified as recreation grounds (Briar Avenue Recreation Ground, Blackdown Road Recreation Ground, Bisley Recreation Ground, Barossa Common Recreation Ground and Chobham Recreation Ground), serve a different purpose to smaller grassed areas and verges; often providing an extended range of opportunities for recreational activities due to their size and facilities.

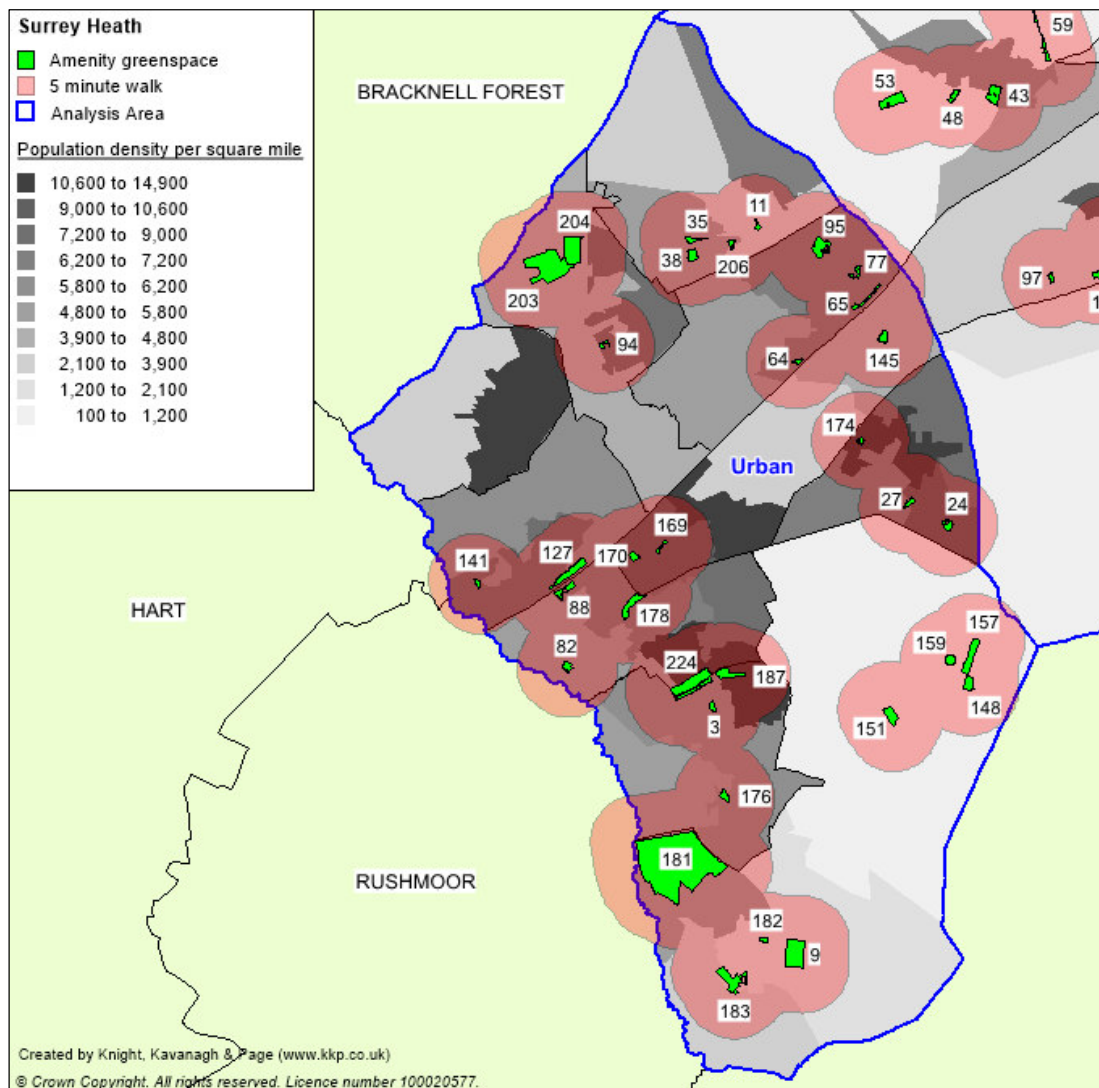
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6.3 Accessibility

Findings from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access amenity greenspace is a five minute walk (28%). This is in line with the catchment guideline of a five minute walk time suggested by guidance published by FIT.

Therefore, for mapping a five minute walk time catchment is applied. Figure 6.1 and 6.2 show the standard applied to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspace with five minute walk time mapped against Urban Analysis Area



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Figure 6.2: Amenity greenspace with five minute walk time mapped against Rural Analysis Area

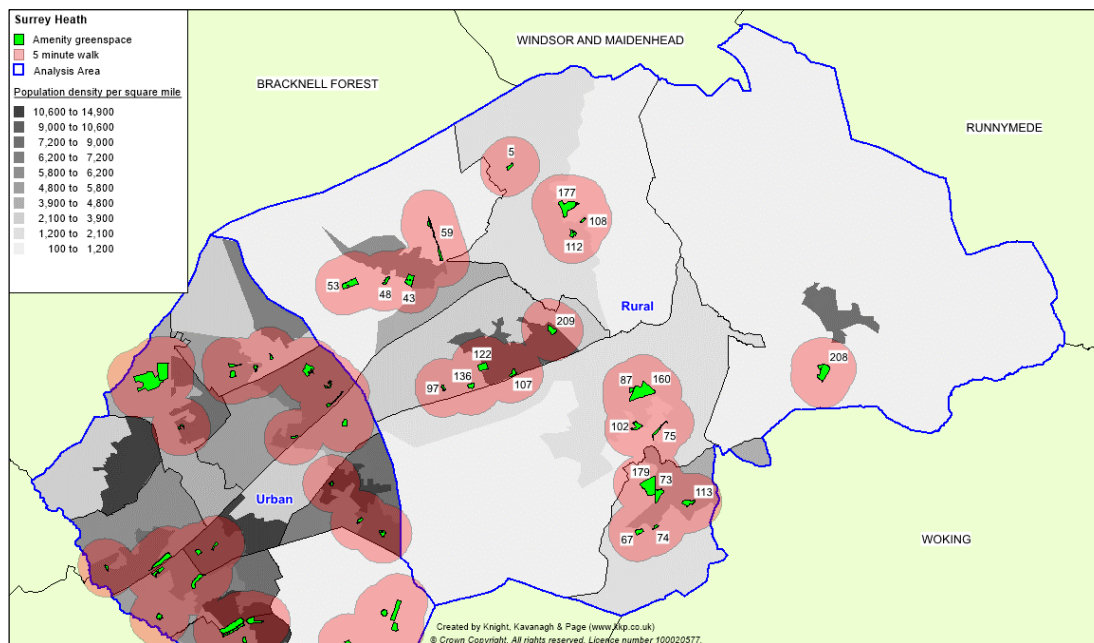


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
3	Hillside Crescent	Urban	29.6%	20.0%
5	Mill Pond Road Open Space	Rural	39.8%	38.9%
9	Canal Centre	Urban	40.8%	46.3%
11	Ballard Road Open Space	Urban	35.2%	11.6%
24	Cheylesmore Open Space	Urban	49.7%	41.1%
27	Maguire Open Space	Urban	37.8%	44.2%
35	Highland Road Open Space	Urban	34.4%	23.2%
38	Poppyhills Open Space	Urban	28.2%	15.8%
43	School Lane Open Space	Rural	70.7%	49.5%
48	Higgs Lane Amenity Space	Rural	44.4%	16.8%
53	Bagshot Playing Field Association	Rural	32.7%	24.2%
59	Land East Of Freemantle Road	Rural	50.3%	27.4%
64	Chestnut Avenue	Urban	33.7%	25.3%
65	Martel Close Open Space	Urban	29.6%	12.6%
67	Mainstone Road	Rural	60.7%	23.2%
73	Church Lane Open Space	Rural	67.3%	26.3%
74	Arethusa Way	Rural	63.3%	13.7%
75	Fellow Green Open Space	Rural	57.5%	21.1%
77	Clarence Drive AGS	Urban	50.0%	40.0%
82	Burrell Road Open Space	Urban	51.0%	44.2%
87	Field To North Of War Memorial	Rural	20.4%	11.6%
88	Open Space, Greenbank Way	Urban	50.0%	20.0%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
94	Library Amenity Greenspace	Urban	77.6%	46.3%
95	Seymour Drive	Urban	46.1%	31.6%
97	Open Space, Barnett Lane	Rural	32.7%	40.0%
102	Open Space, Rosewood Way	Rural	56.5%	45.3%
107	Open Space, opposite The Folly	Rural	50.7%	34.7%
108	Windle Close Open Space	Rural	30.6%	21.1%
112	Windmill Field Open Space	Rural	74.8%	33.7%
113	Angelica Road Open Space	Rural	56.6%	32.6%
122	Briar Avenue Recreation Ground	Rural	60.9%	32.6%
127	Kings College Amenity Open Space	Urban	18.4%	21.1%
136	Ivy Drive Open Space	Rural	35.2%	20.0%
141	Bain Avenue Amenity Space	Urban	38.1%	5.3%
145	Copped Hall Way Open Space	Urban	45.2%	38.9%
148	Canada Road Open Space	Urban	36.2%	22.1%
151	Blackdown Road Recreation Ground	Urban	33.7%	24.2%
157	Alma Dettingen Playing Fields	Urban	44.6%	22.1%
159	Dettingen Crescent Open Space	Urban	51.0%	34.7%
160	Benner Lane Amenity	Rural	78.6%	50.5%
169	Holly Hedge Play Space	Urban	43.0%	11.6%
170	Badgerwood Drive Open Space	Urban	43.5%	12.6%
174	Knights Way Open Space	Urban	36.2%	28.4%
176	The Green	Urban	60.0%	27.4%
177	Windlesham Field Of Remembrance	Rural	77.2%	51.6%
178	The Grove	Urban	66.7%	40.0%
179	Bisley Recreation Ground	Rural	60.9%	62.1%
181	Coleford Bridge Road Lake	Urban	24.5%	45.3%
182	Lynwood Drive Open Space	Urban	41.5%	23.2%
183	Mytchett Community Centre	Urban	42.9%	35.8%
187	Amenity Space South Of Balmoral Drive	Urban	55.6%	33.7%
203	Barossa Common Playing Fields	Urban	23.5%	12.6%
204	Barossa Common Recreation Ground	Urban	28.6%	29.5%
206	Deanside AGS	Urban	65.3%	54.7%
208	Chobham Parish Recreation Ground	Rural	65.7%	49.5%
209	Lightwater Recreation Ground	Rural	54.1%	50.5%
224	Balmoral Drive - (west)	Urban	64.6%	22.1%

Catchment mapping with a five minute walk time applied identifies gaps in both analysis areas. These gaps are also noted to be within more densely populated areas, in particular within the Urban Analysis Area.

The gaps in catchment mapping within the Urban Analysis Area are however well served by both parks and natural and semi natural greenspace provision. For example, Watchetts Recreation Ground and Southcote Park. Furthermore, the gaps identified in the Rural Analysis Area are met by natural and semi natural greenspace provision. Because of these gaps being served by other forms of open space provision, it is unlikely that new provision is required.

SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey are generally satisfied with the amount of amenity greenspace in the Borough. The highest proportion rate being quite satisfied (27%) followed by a further 7% that are very satisfied. Further to this, a quarter (25%) state being neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with quantity.

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 in Surrey Heath. A threshold of 45% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Rural	98	20%	54%	79%	58%	7	16
Urban	98	18%	43%	78%	59%	20	14
SURREY HEATH	98	18%	47%	79%	60%	27	30

Just over half of amenity greenspace in Surrey Heath (53%) rates above the threshold for quality. The highest rating sites for quality in the Borough are Surrey Heath Common Land (79%), and Windlesham Field of Remembrance (77%) in the Rural Analysis Area and Library Amenity Greenspace (78%) in the Urban Analysis Area.

The highest scoring sites, such as the ones above, have a good range of ancillary facilities available (including parking signage, pathways, seats and picnic tables), as well as a good standard of appearance and maintenance. The highest scoring site, Surrey Heath Common Land, also provides toilets. These sites also have additional features such as ponds, plants and shrubs, which add to the sites attractiveness and encourages increased usage.

Good ancillary facilities and high standards of site maintenance and cleanliness is a theme running through all sites scoring above the threshold. Most of the higher scoring sites also have well maintained pathways and sufficient controls to prevent illegal use.

Of the six sites identified as recreation grounds in Surrey Heath, four score above the threshold for quality. The two sites to score below the threshold (Barossa Common Recreation Ground and Blackdown Road Recreation Ground) score 29% and 34% respectively. Barossa Common Recreation Ground is in fact one of the lowest scoring amenity greenspaces in the Borough.

Both of these sites are located in the Urban Analysis Area and recorded as having restrictions to access, as well as lacking ancillary facilities and scoring lower on path quality than other sites. Barossa Common Recreation Ground is also highlighted as being particularly boggy. However, it is important to recognise that despite scoring below the threshold for quality, they still have an important role to the local community.

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Some of the lowest scoring amenity greenspaces in Surrey Heath are:

- ◀ Kings College Amenity Open Space (18%)
- ◀ Field to North of War Memorial (20%)
- ◀ Barossa Common Playing Fields (25%)
- ◀ Coleford Bridge Road Lake (25%)
- ◀ Poppyhills Open Space (28%)

An observation from the audit assessment again highlights some issues with access to all of these sites, except Poppyhills Open Space.

With the exception of Coleford Bridge Road Lake, which is the largest amenity greenspace in the Borough, these lower scoring sites all lack basic ancillary features such as benches and bins. Further to this, the majority of these sites also have lower standards of maintenance and cleanliness, including maintenance of pathways.

A number of sites are recorded as having specific quality issues such as litter/glass and horse/ vehicle tracks. These sites are:

- ◀ The Hatches, Open Space
- ◀ Barossa Common Playing Fields
- ◀ Barossa Common Recreation Ground
- ◀ Badgerwood Drive Open Space
- ◀ Highlands Road Open Space
- ◀ Amenity Space South of Balmoral Drive
- ◀ Open Space, Greenbank Way

Further to the sites mentioned above, consultation with Chobham Parish Council did bring to light some issues with anti-social behaviour at Chobham Parish Recreation Ground. As a result, there are plans to install CCTV at the site.

Despite these few specific quality issues, most sites scoring below the quality threshold are generally basic pockets of green space. These tend to be small grassed areas lacking ancillary facilities intended to encourage extensive recreational use or provide residents with visual amenity.

Most respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey are generally satisfied with the quality of amenity greenspace. A quarter of respondents are quite satisfied (25%) in terms of quality with a further 5% being very satisfied. Furthermore, there is only a small proportion of respondents that are either quite dissatisfied (10%) or very dissatisfied (5%) albeit that 28% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the quality of amenity greenspace; a possible reflection of the typology's role as visual amenity (without any great attraction for physical use).

6.5 Value

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

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Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Rural	95	12%	34%	62%	51%	3	20
Urban	95	5%	28%	55%	49%	7	27
SURREY HEATH	95	5%	31%	62%	57%	10	47

The majority of amenity greenspaces (82%) score above the threshold for value. Overall, a greater proportion of sites are rated high for value compared to quality. Nine sites score low for quality and value as follows:

- ◀ Ballard Road Open Space
- ◀ Poppyhills Open Space
- ◀ Open Space
- ◀ Amenity Open Space
- ◀ Field To North Of War Memorial
- ◀ Bain Avenue Amenity Space
- ◀ Holly Hedge Play Space
- ◀ Badgerwood Drive Open Space
- ◀ Barossa Common Playing Fields

Similar to quality, sites rating below the value threshold tend to be smaller grassed areas with no noticeable features. They are generally recognised as providing some visual amenity to their locality and it is important to note that the main role of certain sites is to simply act as a grassed area, providing breaks in the urban form. Subsequently this is likely to partly account for the greater proportion (80%) of sites to rate below the threshold in the Urban Analysis Area.

The only anomaly to the above theory is Barossa Common Playing Fields at 7.55 hectares. This sites low value score is most likely a result of restrictions to access, meaning members of the public are less likely to visit the site.

Only one site (Arethusa Way), scores high for quality (63%) but low for value (14%). This could be attributed to the position of the site within a housing area. Although it is a well maintained site with some attractive features such as trees and shrubs, residents would not necessarily choose to use it and is evidenced by observed low levels of use.

The lowest scoring sites for value are Bain Avenue Amenity Space (5%), Field to North of War Memorial (12%), Holly Hedge Play Space (12%) and Open Space (12%). This is a reflection on their appearance and lower levels of maintenance. For instance, Bain Avenue is only accessible via a small grassed path between houses which is overgrown with trees and brambles, as well as having high levels of litter and was noted as an unsafe location due to its hidden location.

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Some of the highest scoring sites for value in Surrey Heath are:

- ◀ Bisley Recreation Ground (62%)
- ◀ Deanside AGS (55%)
- ◀ Windlesham Field of Remembrance (51%)
- ◀ Lightwater Recreation Ground (50%)
- ◀ Surrey Heath Common Land (50%)

These sites are recognised for the level of accessible recreational opportunities they offer to a high standard of quality intended for a wide range of users. Lightwater Recreation Ground and Bisley Recreation Ground provide an extensive range of social and health benefits due to the facilities found on site; such as sports provision and play facilities which meet the needs of a variety of people.

Lightwater Recreation Ground and Windlesham Field of Remembrance also offer cultural and heritage value, giving individuals the opportunity to remember people and events from the past. Furthermore, Bisley Recreation Ground has an attractive pond which provides important ecological value.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. They can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites in Surrey Heath 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 ancillary facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping and trees), it is therefore more likely that the better quality sites are more respected and valued by the local community.

6.6 Summary

Amenity greenspace summary

- ◀ There are 57 amenity sites in Surrey Heath; over 104 hectares of amenity greenspaces.
- ◀ Provision is relatively evenly spread across Surrey Heath. Although the Rural Analysis Area has a slightly lower amount per 1,000 population (1.09) compared to 1.24 hectares per 1,000 population for the Urban Analysis Area.
- ◀ The five minute walk time catchment identifies gaps in provision within both analysis areas. However, gaps in both analysis areas are met by other forms of open space provision.
- ◀ There is a mixture of quality for amenity greenspace sites, with 53% scoring above the threshold and 47% scoring below. However, only a small proportion are identified as having specific quality issues. Low quality scores can mainly be attributed to size, lack of ancillary facilities and/or appearance.
- ◀ In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence most sites rate above the threshold for value.
- ◀ Nine sites score low for both quality and value. If a site cannot be improved, changing its purpose to that of a different form of open space provision could be considered.

SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1 Introduction

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

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

7.2 Current provision

A total of 45 sites are identified in Surrey Heath as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over three hectares. The table below shows the distribution. 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 by analysis area

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people		
	Number	Size (ha)	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Rural	18	1.08	0.03
Urban	28	2.19	0.03
SURREY HEATH	46	3.27	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 a MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large open space sites

Play provision in Surrey Heath is summarised using the FIT classifications. Most is identified as being of LAP (44%) classification; small landscaped areas designed for young children, with age specific equipment.

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

Analysis area	Provision for children and young people				
	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Youth/ casual	TOTAL
Rural	9	2	3	3	17
Urban	11	12	3	2	28
SURREY HEATH	20	14	6	5	45

For youth provision, only standalone forms of provision are specifically identified. Where equipment catering for older age groups is found on a play area as part of a wider range of provision it has been included within the wider site classification (LAP, LEAP or NEAP). Two sites (Old Dean Rec Play Area and Mytchett Rec Play Area, Hamesmoor Road) within Surrey Heath, which are classified as a NEAP's, feature youth provision (BMX track or Skate Park).

7.3 Accessibility

Findings from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents in order to access children's play areas is a 10-15 minute walk (45%). In addition, out of the respondents with an opinion, the majority state they are willing to walk to 15 minutes to access youth provision (skate parks).

Recently published guidance by FIT suggests an approximate catchment guideline of a 5-10 minute walk. However, in order to make the catchment mapping area specific, a 15 minute walk time catchment has been applied to both children's play areas and teenage provision. This will help to identify deficiencies in provision.

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

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Figure 7.1: Children's play provision with 15-minute walk time mapped against Analysis Areas

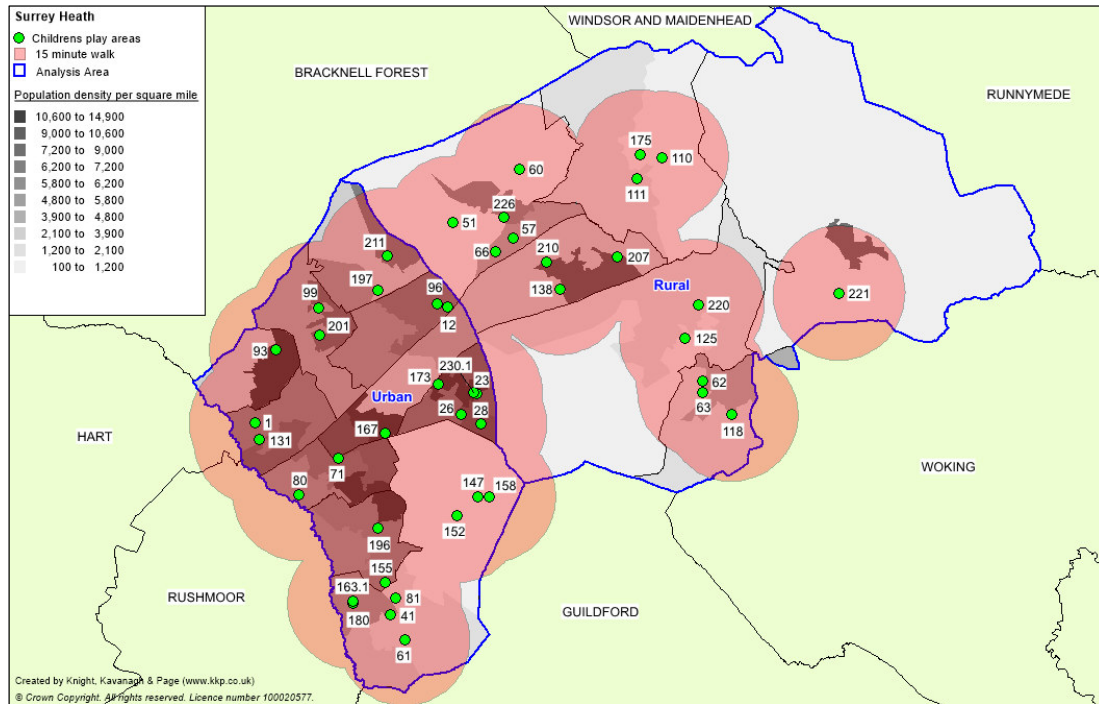
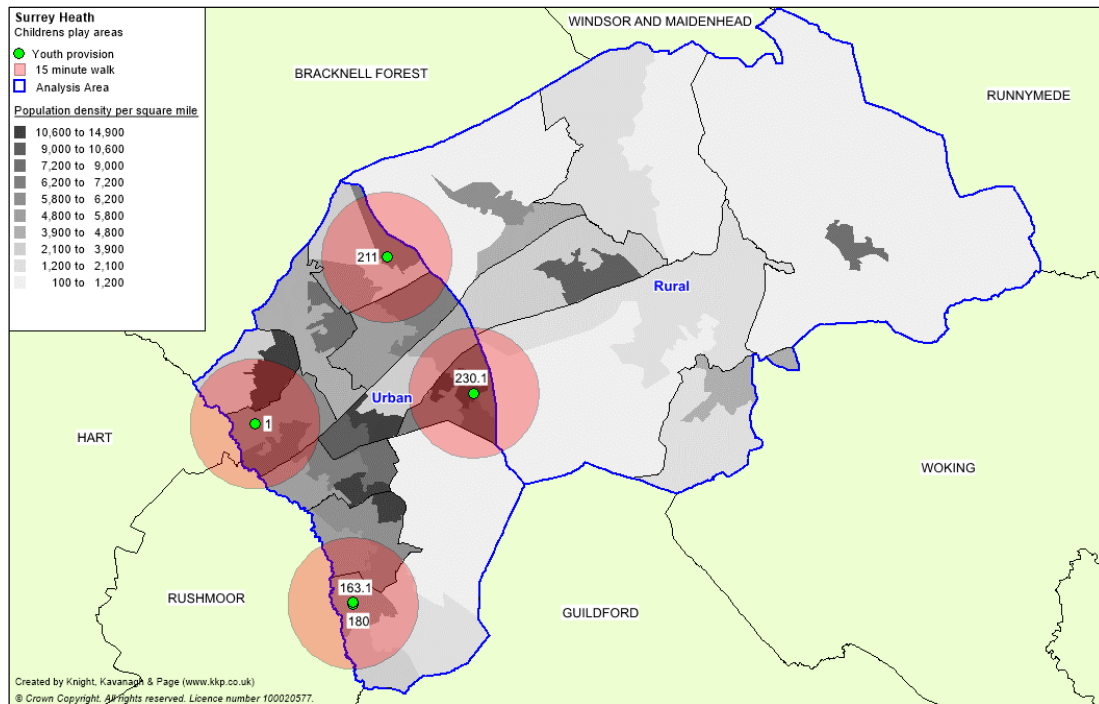


Figure 7.2: Youth Provision (BMX tracks and skate parks) with 15-minute walk time mapped against Analysis Areas



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Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	FIT Category	Quality score	Value score
1	Crabtree Park Skate Area	Urban	Youth	41.6%	50.9%
12	Martell Close Play Area	Urban	LAP	70.1%	45.5%
23	Heatherside Recreation Ground Play Area	Urban	LEAP	55.7%	49.1%
26	Maguire Open Space Play Area	Urban	LAP	51.2%	20.0%
28	Cheylesmore Park Play Area	Urban	LEAP	63.9%	45.5%
41	Loman Road Play Area	Urban	LEAP	72.5%	27.3%
51	Bagshot Playing Fields Play Area	Rural	LAP	35.7%	16.4%
57	Whitmoor Road Play Area	Rural	LAP	39.2%	38.2%
60	Freemantle Road Play Area	Rural	LAP	39.2%	25.5%
61	Basingstoke Canal Central Play Area	Urban	LAP	44.3%	41.8%
62	Bisley Multi Use Games Area	Rural	Casual	70.8%	29.1%
63	Bisley Green Teen Shelter	Rural	Casual	36.4%	12.7%
66	Albert Road Play Area	Rural	NEAP	63.9%	52.7%
71	Chobham Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Urban	LEAP	61.5%	14.5%
80	Burrell Road Play Area	Urban	LAP	60.5%	47.3%
81	Frimley Lodge Park Play Area 2	Urban	LAP	43.3%	16.4%
93	Play Space, London Road	Urban	LEAP	66.3%	54.5%
96	Clarence Drive	Urban	LAP	69.1%	40.0%
99	Upland Road Play Area	Urban	LEAP	78.4%	52.7%
110	Kings Lane Play Area	Rural	LAP	56.0%	25.5%
111	Windmill Field Play Area	Rural	LAP	79.4%	30.9%
118	Clews Lane Play Area	Rural	NEAP	65.3%	36.4%
125	Rosewood Way Play Area	Rural	LAP	79.0%	60.0%
131	Orchard Way Playspace	Urban	LEAP	71.5%	50.9%
138	Briar Avenue Play Area	Rural	LAP	56.0%	45.5%
133	Heathside Park Play Space Area	Urban	LEAP	61.2%	36.4%
147	Suffolk Court Play Area	Urban	NEAP	46.7%	36.4%
152	Woodend Road Play Area	Urban	LEAP	64.3%	43.6%
155	Frimley Lodge Park Play Area	Urban	LEAP	72.2%	61.8%
158	Cyprus Road Play Area	Urban	LEAP	76.3%	27.3%
167	Evergreen Road Play Space	Urban	SEAP	76.3%	58.2%
173	Bentley Copse Play Area	Urban	LAP	58.1%	56.4%
175	Windlesham Field Of Remembrance Play	Rural	LAP	78.4%	49.1%
180	Mytchett Rec Play Area, Hamesmoor Road	Urban	NEAP*	77.0%	49.1%
196	Frimley Green Recreation Ground Play Area	Urban	LAP	58.8%	58.2%
197	Deanside Play Space	Urban	LAP	65.3%	47.3%
201	Camberley Park Play Area	Urban	LEAP	58.4%	47.3%
207	Lightwater Recreation Ground Play Area	Rural	LEAP	69.8%	36.4%

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	FIT Category	Quality score	Value score
210	Lightwater Country Park Play Area	Rural	LEAP	83.8%	76.4%
211	Old Dean Rec Play Area	Urban	SEAP*	45.0%	45.5%
220	Benner Lane Playground	Rural	LAP	82.1%	45.5%
221	Chobham Recreation Ground	Rural	SEAP	65.3%	49.1%
226	School Lane Play Area	Rural	LAP	88.7%	45.5%
230.1	Heatherside Recreation Ground Skate Park	Urban	Youth provision	45.4%	41.8%
163.1	Mytchett Recreation Ground Skate Park	Urban	Youth provision	36.8%	45.5%

There is generally a good spread of play provision across Surrey Heath. Areas with a greater population density are within walking distance of a children's play area. The Urban Analysis Area in particular appears to be well served.

Satisfaction towards the amount of children's play areas from respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey finds a greater proportion are either quite satisfied (27%) or very satisfied (11%) compared to those either quite dissatisfied (17%) or very dissatisfied (11%). In addition, no comments regarding a lack of equipment are highlighted.

The Urban Analysis Area has a reasonably balanced distribution of teenage provision sites, however, there are some gaps in catchment mapping observed. There are currently no BMX tracks or skate parks identified in the Rural Analysis Area. Although a point to note, other forms of equipment, which are suited to older children are identified in the Urban Analysis Area. For example, there is a MUGA and youth shelter at Bisley Recreation Ground and a basketball hoop at Rosewood Way Play Area.

Of respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey who have an opinion, a higher percentage state being either quite dissatisfied (15%) or very dissatisfied (9%) in relation to those who state being quite satisfied (15%) and very satisfied (5%). This is in line with some comments suggesting a need for more teenage provision in the area.

This opinion was mirrored during consultation with the Windle Valley Youth Project, who express there is a need within Surrey Heath for more youth provision, in particular for teenagers. It is thought more informal forms of play provision such as skate parks, BMX tracks and MUGA's would be welcomed by young people in the area. This is further supported through consultation carried out by the Windle Valley Youth Project with young people. Findings from this consultation suggested local young people would like to see more MUGA's, basketball hoops and better quality skate parks.

Ownership and management

Surrey Heath Borough Council owns and maintains many of the play sites for children and young people in the Borough. This is with the exception of Chobham Recreation Ground which is owned by the Chobham Recreation Ground Charitable Trust and is managed by Chobham Parish Council. West End Parish Council is also responsible for maintaining Benner Lane Playground.

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Glendale Managed Services are contracted by the Council to maintain its play areas. Maintenance regimes include cleaning equipment, cutting of grass and hedges, edging of paths, killing weeds, removing moss, and pruning. Daily litter picks are also carried out alongside visual inspections.

In addition to daily visual inspections, bi-weekly operational inspections are conducted at all play provision sites. Glendale Managed Services, also carry out any repairs that are needed.

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people in Surrey Heath. A threshold of 55% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Quality assessments of play sites do not include a detailed technical risk assessment of equipment. For an informed report on the condition of play equipment the Council's own inspection reports should be sought. These are undertaken on an annual basis by an independent inspector.

Table 7.4: Quality ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <55%	High >55%
Rural	97	36%	64%	89%	53%	5	13
Urban	97	42%	62%	78%	37%	7	20
SURREY HEATH	97	36%	62%	89%	53%	12	33

Quality of play provision across Surrey Heath is reasonably high, with 73% of provision scoring above the threshold for quality. Both analysis areas are in keeping with this trend with 74% of sites in the Urban Analysis Area and 72% of sites in the Rural Analysis Area being above the threshold for quality.

There are, however, still twelve sites to rate below the threshold for quality. It is worth noting that out of these twelve sites, four are either standalone youth provision, or sites containing youth provision. This means 80% of the youth provision in Surrey Heath scores below the quality threshold. Some of the lowest scoring play provision sites are:

- ◀ College Ride Play Area (36%)
- ◀ Bisley Green Teen Shelter (36%)
- ◀ Mytchett Recreation Ground Play Area (37%)
- ◀ Freemantle Road Play Area (39%)
- ◀ Whitmoor Road (39%)

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The quality of equipment provision and general appearance of these sites is observed as being of lower standard than other sites. Observations from assessment describe these sites as looking tired, appearing to be infrequently used and in some cases showing signs of vandalism.

The observed low levels of use at these sites could be attributed to the fact they contain fewer pieces of play equipment. For example, Freemantle Road Play Area only has 5 pieces of play equipment and College Ride Play Area consists of toddler junior swings. The lowest scoring sites tend to also rate low for elements such as adequate fencing/controls to prevent illegal use and disabled access.

Observations from the site visit audit noted a number of play provision sites that need improvements to play equipment and surfaces:

- ◀ Briar Avenue Play Area
- ◀ Woodend Road Play Area
- ◀ Connaught Play Area
- ◀ Old Dean Rec Play Area
- ◀ Frimley Green Recreation Ground Play Area
- ◀ Chobham Road Recreation Ground Play Area
- ◀ Clews Lane Play Area

In addition to these observations, a number of respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey made comments regarding children's play areas suggesting some sites are in need of an update.

The highest rated site in Surrey Heath is School Lane Play Area with a score of 89%. It rates highly due to its range and excellent condition of play equipment. It also benefits from additional features such as seating, bins and fencing. Further to this, the site has disabled access, good signage, and sufficient controls to prevent illegal use and is situated within a larger pleasant amenity greenspace site. Other sites to receive particularly high ratings for quality include:

- ◀ Lightwater Country Park Play Area (84%)
- ◀ Windmill Field Play Area (70%)
- ◀ Benner Lane Playground (82%)
- ◀ Rosewood Way Play Area (79%)

These sites are all noted as having a range and good standard of equipment catering for different ages. In particular, Benner Lane Playground is reported to have an excellent range of equipment consisting of 16 pieces of equipment. The sites also contain other ancillary features such as benches and bins, which are assessed as being of a generally excellent condition.

Surrey Heath Borough Council has invested quite considerably in new play areas over the last 4-5 years via Planning Infrastructure Contributions and Capital funding. Play provision sites that have been improved or refurbished include:

- ◀ Camberley Park (2015)
- ◀ Bentley Copse (2014)
- ◀ Old Dean Recreation Play Area (2011 and 2013)
- ◀ Albert Road Play Area (2013)
- ◀ Frimley Green Recreation Ground (2013)
- ◀ Frimley Lodge Park Play Area (2011)
- ◀ Watchetts Rec Play Area (2016)

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Further to this, consultation with parish councils and community groups highlight four play provision sites, which have also recently undergone refurbishment. These sites are Benner Lane Playground, Rosewood Way Play Area, Chobham Recreation Ground and Crabtree Park Skate Area.

The improvements to both Benner Lane Playground and Chobham Recreation Ground were funded by Surrey County Council grants. West End Parish Council funded renovation of Rosewood Way Play Area and both the Youth Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council funded refurbishment of Crabtree Park Skate Park.

The views of respondents to the Parks and Open Spaces Survey reflect the generally high quality of provision throughout Surrey Heath. Most respondents' rate quality as quite satisfactory (30%) or very satisfactory (11%) compared to those that view it as quite dissatisfactory (17%) or very dissatisfactory (11%).

7.5 Value

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

Table 7.6: Value ratings for provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <55%	High >55%
Rural	55	13%	40%	76%	63%	2	17
Urban	55	15%	43%	62%	47%	2	24
SURREY HEATH	55	13%	42%	76%	64%	4	41

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

Only four sites rate below the threshold for value; Bisley Green Teen Shelter (13%), Chobham Road Recreation Ground Play Area (15%), College Ride Play Area (16%) and Frimley Lodge Park Play Area 2 (16%).

These sites are observed as having a limited range of equipment and fewer features as well as having lower standards of overall maintenance. Subsequently, level of use and value is deemed low.

Responses to a children's version of the Parks and Open Spaces Survey highlights the importance of sites overall maintenance, with 89% of respondents highlighting the importance of a site being clean and tidy.

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Sites scoring particularly high for value tend to reflect the size and amount/range as well as standard of equipment present on site. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- ◀ Rosewood Way Play Area (60%)
- ◀ Frimley Lodge Park Play Area (62%)
- ◀ Evergreen Road Play Space (58%)
- ◀ Frimley Recreation Ground Play Area (58%)
- ◀ Lightwater Country Park Play Area (76%)

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages is important and can contribute to a sites value. More specifically, provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play; helping to cater for older age ranges. Diverse forms of equipment are supported by responses to a children's version of the Parks and Open Spaces Survey, with 69% of respondents stating it is important for a site to have lots of things to do.

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

7.6 Summary

Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ There are 45 play provision sites in Surrey Heath; a total of just over three hectares.
- ◀ Most play provision is identified as being of LAP (42%) classification; small landscaped areas designed for young children, with age specific equipment.
- ◀ There is an even distribution of play provision sites across Surrey Heath with both analysis areas having 0.03 hectares per 1,000 population. However, only the Urban Analysis Area has youth provision sites.
- ◀ The Urban Analysis Area has a balanced distribution of teenage provision sites, however, there are gaps in catchment mapping. There is no youth provision identified in the Rural Analysis Area. The Urban Analysis Area also shows gaps in youth provision in more densely populated areas.
- ◀ There is a generally high standard of play provision within Surrey Heath, with (73%) of sites scoring above the threshold for quality. Lower scoring sites tend to have fewer pieces of equipment lower standards of overall quality and maintenance.
- ◀ 80% of youth provision in the area is rated as low quality.
- ◀ All play provision (with the exception of four sites) is rated above the threshold for value; reflecting the important role such sites provide.
- ◀ Quantity of provision is viewed as being sufficient. However, quality of equipment and surfaces at a number of sites requires attention.

SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1 Introduction

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

8.2 Current provision

There are 13 sites classified as allotments in Surrey Heath, equating to nearly 13 hectares. The Camberley and District Horticultural Society manage and maintain most of the active allotment provision in the area (seven sites, consisting of 300 plots). Although Chobham Poor Allotments Society own and manage eight sites, only five of these currently hold plots. The remaining three sites are being used as grazing land, due to low levels of demand within the Windlesham and West End parishes.

No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Size (ha)	Current standard (Ha per 1,000 population)
Rural	7	6.07	0.20
Urban	6	6.47	0.11
SURREY HEATH	13	12.54	0.14

There is a fairly even split of allotment sites in Surrey Heath, with seven in the Rural Analysis Area and six in the Urban Analysis Area. Similarly, the amount of hectares of provision is evenly split between the analysis areas.

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

Surrey Heath, as a whole, based on its current population (87,533) does not meet the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision required for Surrey Heath is 21.88 hectares. Therefore, there is a shortfall of 9.34 hectares. Both analysis areas have a shortfall in allotment provision, with the Urban Analysis Area having a current standard (0.11 hectares per 1,000 population) much lower than the NSLAG standard of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population.

Despite these shortfalls, there does not appear to be excessive waiting lists in the area. Camberley and District Horticultural Society reports having the largest waiting list, with approximately 35 people waiting for a plot. In contrast, Windlesham Parish Council identifies four people on the waiting list for Hook Mill Lane Allotments.

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Chobham Poor Allotment Charity also has a waiting list, with 22 people waiting for a plot. However, only two people on the list are from within the parishes of Chobham or West End. Individuals within the parishes have priority over anyone from outside of the Area, regardless of when they joined the waiting list.

Chobham Allotments (owned by Chobham Parish Council) has recently been converted to burial space in order to meet demand for additional burial capacity. Subsequently, the site is not included in the audit. Plot holders from Chobham Allotments have been relocated to other sites owned by Chobham Poor Allotment Charity.

Although the total number of individuals on allotment waiting lists in Surrey Heath is reasonably low, should demand increase, Chobham Poor Allotments Charity owns three unused sites, which could be re-established as allotment provision with investment.

Further to this, consultation highlights that there are proposals for additional allotment provision to be provided as part of a new housing development in Deepcut.

8.3 Accessibility

The Parks and Open Spaces Survey found the most common travel time expected by respondents is 15 minute by car (22%). Therefore, for the purposes of mapping a 15-minute drive time has been applied.

Figure 8.1 shows the standard applied to allotments to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

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Figure 8.1: Allotments with 15 minute drive time mapped against analysis areas

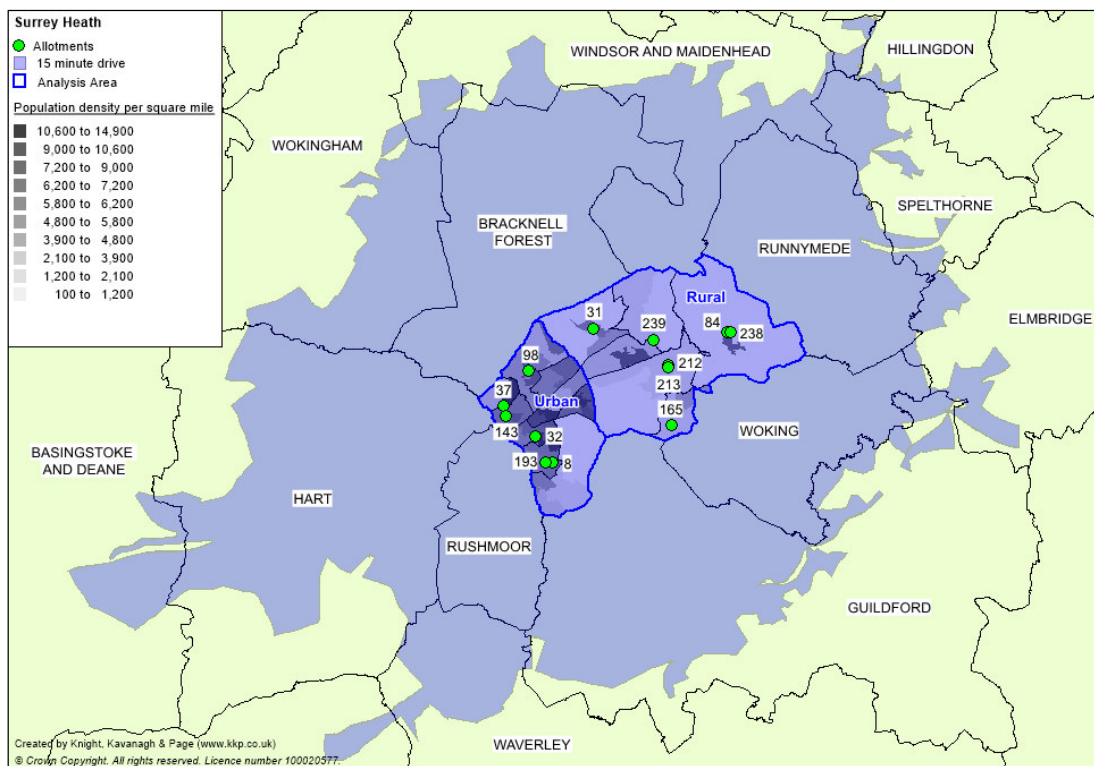


Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
8	Wharf Road Allotments	Urban	48.9%	38.0%
32	Allotments, Parsonage Way	Urban	36.4%	31.0%
37	Brook Farm Allotments	Urban	52.3%	52.0%
98	Barossa Road Allotments	Urban	47.7%	59.0%
143	Crabtree Road Allotments	Urban	58.0%	53.0%
193	The Hatches Allotments	Urban	55.7%	39.0%
31	Bagshot Allotment Gardens	Rural	54.5%	41.0%
84	Broom Lane Allotments	Rural	53.4%	33.0%
165	Queens Road Allotments	Rural	37.5%	33.0%
212	West End Allotments Bagshot Road	Rural	39.8%	24.0%
213	West End Allotments Windlesham Road	Rural	42.0%	29.0%
238	Red Lion Road Allotments	Rural	64.8%	30.0%
239	Hook Mill Lane Allotments	Rural	58.0%	30.0%

Both the rural and urban analysis areas are served by allotment provision based on a 15 minute drive time catchment. Therefore, no catchment gaps are identified.

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Of the Parks and Open Spaces Survey a higher proportion of respondents (27%) state being either quite satisfied or very satisfied. However, the same percentage also states they have no opinion regarding the availability of provision. This response could reflect the fact the allotments are a fairly niche open space provision. The individuals concerned with access to such provision are likely to be plot holders or interested individuals.

Ownership management and maintenance

As mentioned in section 8.2, seven allotment sites are managed and maintained by the Camberley and District Horticultural Society. These are:

- ◀ Wharf Road Allotments
- ◀ Allotment Gardens
- ◀ Allotments, Parsonage Way
- ◀ Brook Farm Allotments
- ◀ Barossa Road Allotments
- ◀ Crabtree Road Allotments
- ◀ The Hatches Allotments

Each site maintained by the Society has a voluntary site team which carries out maintenance jobs on a regular basis, such as grass cutting and path clearing. Through the rental of plots and fund raising events, the Society builds up funds to tackle bigger jobs on sites such as the replacement of old water pipes. However, the volunteers themselves do not undertake work of this scale, instead contractors are employed.

Each of the seven sites has its own representative. The role of representatives is to regularly speak with other site users and other site representatives to obtain feedback, share best practice and ensure smooth running of the site.

The Camberley and District Horticultural Society management team monitor plots to ensure they are being used and well kept throughout the year. Should a plot begin to show signs of not being used, the owner is contacted. If the owner no longer wants the plot, or continues to leave it unattended without good reason, the Society will reallocate the plot to someone on the waiting list.

Chobham Poors Allotment Charity manages and maintains two sites in the area; Broom Lane Allotments and Chobham Allotments, whilst Chobham Parish Council is currently responsible for the West End Allotments Bagshot Road and West End Allotments Windlesham Road.

Bisley Consolidated Charities own Queens Road Allotments, however, it is managed and maintained by Bisley Parish Council. The remaining allotment site, Hook Mill Lane, is owned and managed by Windlesham Parish Council which maintains all aspects of the site apart from the plots, which are the responsibility of individual plot holders.

Demand

Consultation highlights a steady demand for the continuing provision of allotment sites and plots across the area. Demand would appear to outweigh supply; demonstrated by waiting lists at sites (61 individuals). However, Chobham Poor Allotments Charity owns three unused sites (not included in the audit), which could be re-established as allotment provision with investment if demand required. This would suggest that supply is coping to some extent with demand.

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8.4 Quality

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

Table 8.5: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <45%	High >45%
Rural	88	38%	50%	65%	27%	3	4
Urban	88	36%	50%	58%	22%	1	5
SURREY HEATH	88	36%	50%	65%	29%	4	9

Most (69%) of allotment sites in Surrey Heath score above the threshold for quality. Proportionally more sites in the Urban Analysis Area (83%) score high for quality than those in the Rural Analysis Area (57%).

The highest scoring sites are Red Lion Road Allotments (65%), Crabtree Road Allotments (58%) and Hook Mill Lane Allotments (58%). These sites score well due to generally good maintenance and cleanliness, good fencing, clear signage, well-maintained pathways and adequate controls to prevent illegal use. Furthermore, these sites all have a fresh water supply.

Crabtree Road Allotments is the largest allotment site in the Borough at 2.28 hectares, with approximately 100 plots. This site has the added benefit of good links to public transport, a car park and noticeable disabled access.

The majority of high scoring sites (67%) are managed and maintained by the Camberley and District Horticultural Society. This is reflective of the regular positive feedback the Society receives about its sites.

The sites in the Borough that score below the quality threshold are:

- ◀ Allotments, Parsonage Way (36%)
- ◀ Queens Road Allotments (38%)
- ◀ West End Allotments Bagshot Road (40%)
- ◀ West End Allotments Windlesham Road (42%)

With the exception of Queens Road Allotments, which has a lower overall standard of maintenance and cleanliness, the sites scoring below the threshold do not have any specific quality issues. The main reasons for their lower scores are a lack of links to public transport, no signage and insufficient disabled access.

It is worth noting that two of these sites; West End Allotments Windlesham Road and West End Allotments Bagshot Road, which are both managed and maintained by the Chobham Pools Allotment Charity, are only marginally under the quality threshold.

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Most respondents from the Parks and Open Spaces Survey, of which have an opinion, state being either quite satisfied or very satisfied (25%). A total of 67% of respondents state they either have no opinion or are neither satisfied or dissatisfied.

8.5 Value

In order to determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores have been 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 identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 8.6: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Rural	100	24%	32%	41%	17%	0	5
Urban	100	31%	45%	59%	28%	0	6
SURREY HEATH	100	24%	38%	59%	35%	0	13

All allotments in Surrey Heath are assessed as high value. This is a reflection of the associated social inclusion and health benefits, amenity value and the sense of place offered by such forms of provision.

This is supported through consultation with Camberley and District Horticultural Society and Bisley Parish Council, which complement the social aspects of allotment sites. Both suggest allotments are no longer simply seen as a form of open space provision for many users (i.e. the older generation, young professionals and families without their own gardens). It is thought that there is a wide variety of users now owning allotment plots at sites across the area.

The highest scoring sites for value are those identified as being well used (often as a result of being of a higher quality). The highest scoring sites for value are the Barossa Road Allotments, Crabtree Road Allotments and Brook Farm Allotments, scoring 59%, 53% and 52% respectively.

The value of allotments is further demonstrated by the existence of waiting lists identified at the majority of sites, signalling demand for provision.

8.6 Summary

Allotments summary

- ◀ There are 13 allotments sites in Surrey Heath: equating to over 12 hectares. Of these, seven are managed by the Camberley and District Horticultural Society, three are managed by Chobham Pools Allotment Charity and two are assumed to be privately owned.
- ◀ Current provision for Surrey Heath is below the NSALG recommended amount.
- ◀ Both the Rural and Urban analysis areas are served by allotment provision based on a 15 minute drive time catchment. Therefore, no catchment gaps are identified.
- ◀ There are waiting lists for allotments across Surrey Heath suggesting that demand for allotments is not currently being met by supply. Although there are believed to be three currently unused sites able to be brought back into use if demand required.
- ◀ Over two thirds of sites (69%) score above the quality threshold. The majority of these are managed by the Camberley and District Horticultural Society. Most sites scoring below the threshold lack links to public transport, signage and sufficient disabled access. Queens Road Allotments has a lower overall standard of maintenance and cleanliness.
- ◀ All allotment sites are assessed as high value reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits, their amenity value and the sense of place offered by provision.
- ◀ With waiting lists, and two sites being considered for repurposing (Allotments, Parsonage Way and West End Allotments Windlesham Road), continuing measures should be explored to provide additional plots in the future.

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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 four main cemeteries in Surrey Heath acting as burial provision. In addition, there are a high number of closed churchyards, which fall under the responsibility of the Diocese of Chichester. Closed churchyards have not been identified as they no longer provide forms of burial capacity. The focus of this study is on the active cemetery sites.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Size (ha)
Rural	4	3.75
Urban	-	-
SURREY HEATH	4	3.75

The four main cemeteries in Surrey Heath are situated in the Rural Analysis Area. The largest contributor to burial provision in the area is Windlesham Cemetery at 1.68 hectares.

Burial capacity at each cemetery is monitored by the parish or borough council responsible for managing the site.

9.3 Accessibility

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

Figure 9.1 shows cemeteries mapped against analysis areas.

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Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis area

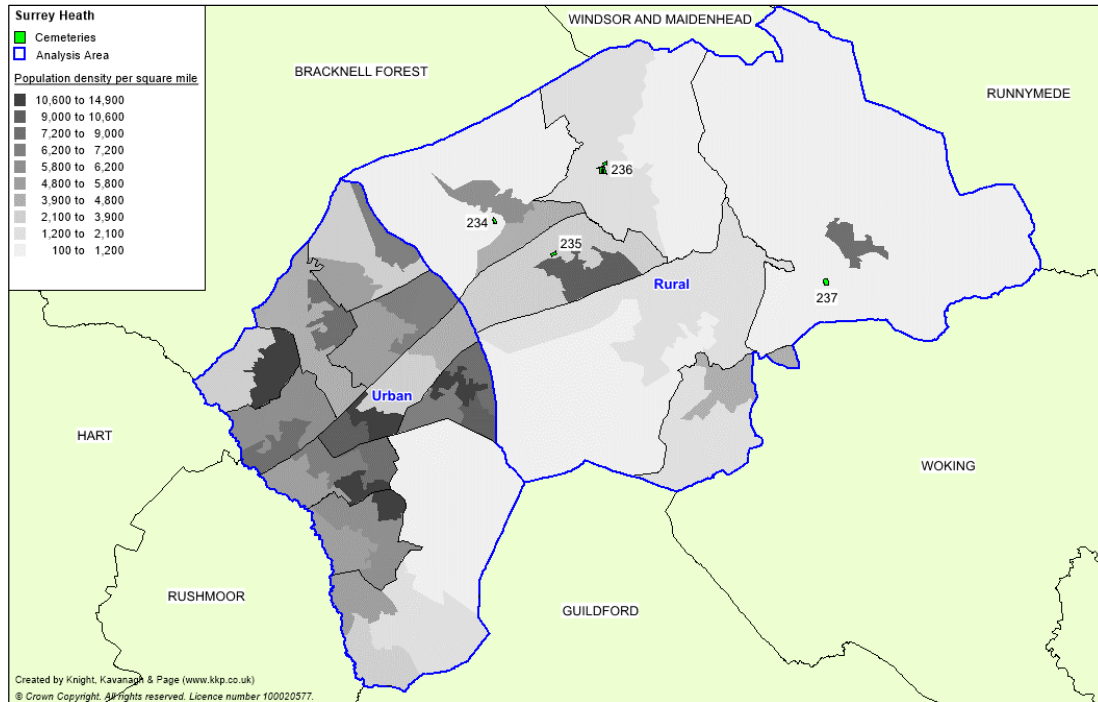


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
234	Bagshot Cemetery	Rural	49.1%	34.1%
235	Lightwater Cemetery	Rural	64.6%	35.3%
236	Windlesham Cemetery	Rural	71.2%	35.3%
237	Chobham Cemetery	Rural	65.2%	23.5%

All cemetery provision is situated in the Rural Analysis Area. However, there are a high number of closed churchyards within Surrey Heath, which have not been included in the audit.

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9.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (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 of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Surrey Heath. A threshold of 60% is applied in order to identify high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 9.4: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <60%	High >60%
Rural	4	49%	63%	71%	22%	1	3
Urban	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SURREY HEATH	4	49%	63%	71%	22%	1	3

The majority of cemeteries in Surrey Heath (75%) score above the threshold set for quality.

The highest scoring site for quality is Windlesham Cemetery, with a score of 71%. The other sites that rate above the threshold score similarly to each other, suggesting a generally high level of quality across the board. The high scores are predominantly due to high maintenance, as well as having a variation of ancillary facilities such as benches, parking and bins. These sites are also observed as having conservation of natural features.

There is only one site which scores below the threshold for quality, Bagshot Cemetery, scoring 49%. This site scores lower, in comparison to other sites, due to a lack signage and links to public transport. Further to this, there are fewer natural features such as trees and flora within the site. However, these deficiencies could be attributed to the fact that Bagshot Cemetery is the smallest of the cemeteries in Surrey Heath. It is important to note that despite scoring below the threshold, this site is noted as being well cared for with high standards of maintenance and cleanliness.

9.5 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 below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in Surrey Heath. A threshold of 20% is applied in order to identify high and low value. Further explanation of how the value scores and threshold are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

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Table 9.5: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area

Analysis area	Maximum score	Scores			Spread	No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score		Low <20%	High >20%
Rural	85	24%	32%	35%	11%	-	4
Urban	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SURREY HEATH	85	24%	32%	35%	11%	-	4

All cemeteries are assessed as being of high value, reflecting their role in communities. This is evidenced by all sites being noted as having high levels of use. In addition, the cultural/heritage value of sites and the sense of place they provide to and for the local community are acknowledged in the site assessment data. Sites also often receive a score for value from their contribution to wildlife/habitats or sense of place to the local environment.

Even Bagshot Cemetery that scores below the threshold for quality, scores above the threshold for value. The site obviously still provides a role to the community it serves.

Cemeteries are important natural resources, offering both recreational and conservation benefits. As well as providing burial space, cemeteries can offer important low impact recreational benefits (e.g. habitat provision, wildlife watching).

9.6 Summary

Cemeteries summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are four main cemeteries in Surrey Heath, equating to over 3.75 hectares. In addition, there are a high number of closed churchyards, which fall under the responsibility of the Diocese of Chichester. ◀ All cemeteries within Surrey Heath are situated in the Rural Analysis Area. However, there are a high number of churchyards, which have not been included in the audit. ◀ The majority of cemeteries rate as high for quality. Only one site, Bagshot Cemetery, scores below the threshold. This site has fewer ancillary facilities and natural features. However, this could be attributed to it being the smallest cemetery site at 0.44 hectares. ◀ All cemeteries are assessed as high value in Surrey Heath, reflecting that generally provision has a cultural/heritage role and provide a sense of place to the local community. ◀ Burial provision is driven by the demand for burials and capacity.