



HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

JULY 2026

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@knp.co.uk www.knp.co.uk



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HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Contents

PART 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1: Report structure	2
1.2: National context	2
1.3: Local context	4
PART 2: METHODOLOGY	6
2.1: Analysis area	6
2.2: Auditing local provision	7
2.3: Open space standards	8
2.4: Quality and value	8
2.5: Accessibility catchments	11
PART 3: SUMMARY OF SITE AUDIT	13
3.1: Audit overview	13
3.2: Quality	13
3.3: Value	14
PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS	15
4.1: Introduction	15
4.2: Current provision	15
4.3: Accessibility	16
4.4: Quality	18
4.5: Value	20
PART 5: NATURAL / SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE	22
5.1: Introduction	22
5.2: Current provision	22
5.3: Accessibility	23
5.4: Quality	25
5.5: Value	26
PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE	29
6.1: Introduction	29
6.2: Current provision	29
6.3: Accessibility	29
6.4: Quality	35
6.5: Value	36
PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	38
7.1: Introduction	38
7.2: Current provision	38
7.3: Accessibility	39
7.4: Quality	44
7.5: Value	45

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS	47
8.1: Introduction	47
8.2: Current provision	47
8.3: Accessibility	47
8.4: Quality	49
8.5: Value	50
 PART 9: CEMETERIES / CHURCHYARDS	 51
9.1: Introduction	51
9.2: Current provision	51
9.3: Accessibility	51
9.4: Quality	53
9.5: Value	54
9.6: Future burial demand	54
 PART 10: PROVISION STANDARDS	 55
10.1: Quality and value	55
10.2: Accessibility	56
10.3: Quantity	60
10.4: Identifying priorities and recommendations	62
 APPENDIX ONE: APPLICATION OF STANDARDS	 70

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Glossary

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

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

The study will help inform direction on the future delivery of accessible, high quality, sustainable provision for open spaces. It can help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and movement for people and wildlife. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

In order for planning policies relating to open space to be 'sound', local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. KKP has undertaken assessments of open space sites across Hertsmere.

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

Under paragraph 103 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative 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.

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definition

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

1.1: Report structure

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

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

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

1.2: National context

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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

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

National Planning Practice Guidance

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

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

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

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

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

Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

Overarching	1. Recognise and give weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity
	2. Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessment of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them
	3. Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles
Protect	4. Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use
	5. Ensure long-term viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision
Enhance	6. Support improvements to existing sport and physical activity provision where they are needed
	7. Encourage and secure wider community use of existing and new sport and physical activity provision
Provide	8. Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified needs
	9. Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision
	10. Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed
	11. Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the green belt
	12. Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments

1.3: Local context

Hertsmere New Local Plan

Hertsmere Borough Council is developing a new Local Plan to guide the borough's long-term strategy for housing, economic growth, infrastructure, and environmental protection up to 2041. This will replace the current local plan (2012-2027) and consolidate a number of existing documents, including the Core Strategy (2013), Elstree Way Corridor Area Action Plan (2015) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (2015). The aim is to produce a coherent plan which sets out how and where new homes, jobs and essential investment can be delivered, along with schools, health facilities and green sustainable transport measures. It will contain the policies upon which the council will base decisions on planning applications.

The Open Space Assessment forms part of the evidence base for the emerging New Local Plan. It can help to inform Local Plan policies in relation to identifying existing shortfalls, future priorities for new sites/enhancements, and needs linked to growth areas and future developments.

As part of the Local Plan process several other evidence-based studies relate and crossover with open spaces. These include the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, Green Infrastructure Strategy, Biodiversity Net Gain, and Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Each follows a specific methodology but collectively help to inform policy and decision-making processes. It is therefore important for the findings and priorities to be considered together.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Green infrastructure includes established green/open space sites. This needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local/neighbourhood levels, accommodating both accessible green/open spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the wider area. Consequently, the audit of sites and identified shortfalls in this study can help to inform other strategies such as a Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Summary of the national and local context

Having good quality and provision of open space encourages better levels of physical literacy¹ and activity is a high priority for national government. For many people, sport and recreational activities have a key role to play in facilitating physical activity. Therefore, ensuring that open space creates an active environment with opportunities and good accessibility is important. In line with national policy recommendations, this study makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy can be formulated.

Policies set out within the NPPF state that local and neighbourhood plans should both reflect needs and priorities within a local community and be based on robust and current assessments of open space, sport and recreational facilities.

Having a robust open space assessment helps inform Local Plan policies. This is pertinent for Hertsmere Borough Council, as findings in this document can help inform the emerging Local Plan. This is important particularly around developing policies focusing on the protection of open space and in setting standards for future developer contributions, to inform the provision requirements for future housing growth.

¹ Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 2: METHODOLOGY

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

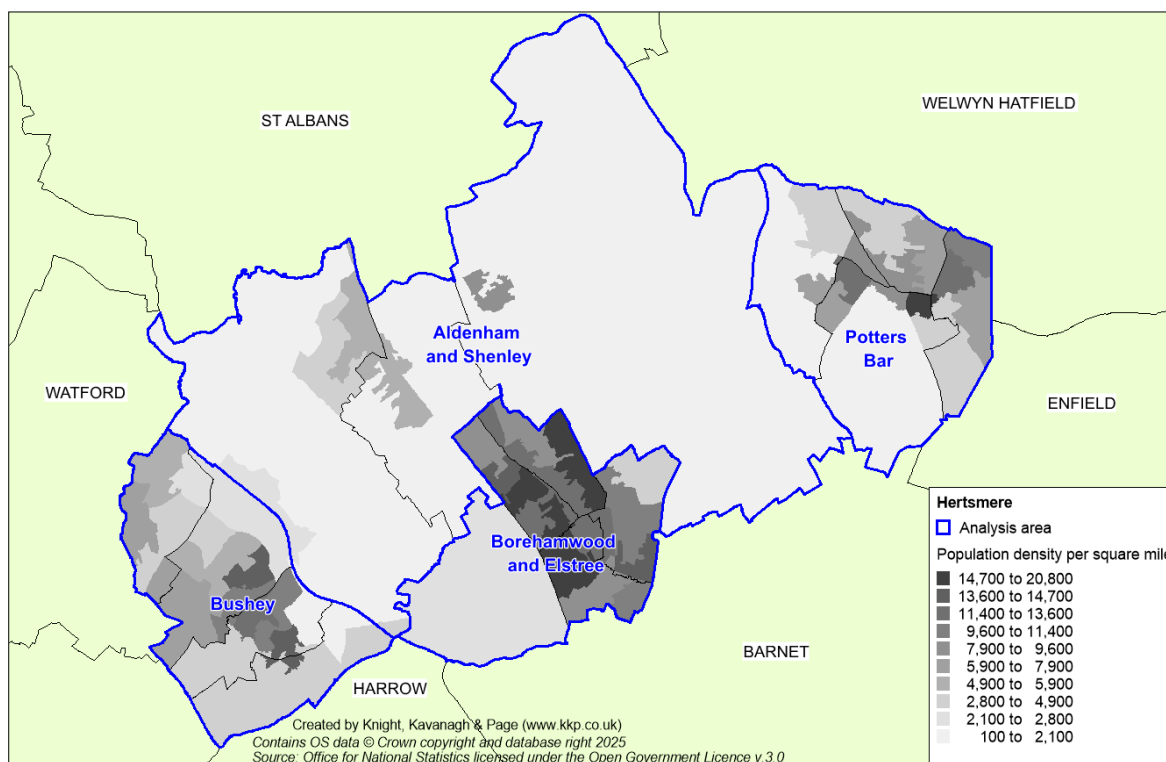
- ❖ 2.1 - Analysis areas
- ❖ 2.2 - Auditing local provision
- ❖ 2.3 - Open space provision standards
- ❖ 2.4 - Quality
- ❖ 2.5 - Accessibility catchments

2.1: Analysis area

The study area comprises the whole of Hertsmere Borough. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas and ward areas have been utilised.

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

Figure 2.1: Map of Hertsmere Borough including analysis areas



HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 2.1: Analysis area populations²

Analysis area	Population
Aldenham and Shenley	14,904
Borehamwood and Elstree	41,522
Bushey	29,330
Potters Bar	22,555
Total	108,311

2.2: Auditing local provision

Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate quality. Site quality ratings have been provided by KKP predominantly through desk-based assessments using online research and imagery. Only publicly accessible sites are included in the quality audit (i.e., private sites or land which people cannot access are excluded).

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

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

Site size threshold

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

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

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

² Mid-Year Estimates 2022, Office for National Statistics

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Database development

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the Project Open Space Database. All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded within the Database. The Database details for each site are as follows:

Data held on open spaces database (summary)

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

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

2.3: Open space standards

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

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

2.4: Quality and value

All open space sites have been assessed and scored. A sites score is intended to provide an indication to its overall quality and condition. These have been applied to sites via a colour rating (green representing good quality sites e.g., clean and well-maintained and red represents poor quality sites).

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

The different colour ratings work as a method to reflect the variability in quality at a local level for different types of provision. It allows the Council more flexibility in directing funds towards sites for enhancements, which is useful if funds are geographically constrained with respect to individual developments.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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

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

Analysis of quality

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

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

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

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

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

Analysis of value

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

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

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

Weighting of scores

Using all the criteria to allocate a score is not relevant for certain types of open space. Consequently, criteria are weighted differently for some types of open space to reflect the importance of that criterion for that open space type. In some instances, criteria may be omitted so it is not taken into account when calculating a quality/value score (i.e. if a specific feature is not relevant to a particular type of open space).

It is important that different criteria and weightings are set for different typologies as each typology serves a different purpose. For example, seating has greater emphasis for parks than say allotments or natural and semi natural sites. Consequently, the weighting given to such criteria is amended to reflect such circumstances.

In summary, the greater the relevance/importance of a criterion to a type of open space the higher the weighting value.

Assessed sites have an actual total score, this can be compared to the potential maximum score it could, in theory, receive based on the open space type. This is shown as a percentage figure. A simplified example is if the maximum a site could achieve is 100 for quality (i.e., the total points that could potentially be awarded), and its actual assessed mark is 50, it will have a quality score of 50%.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

2.5 Quality and value thresholds

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

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

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

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

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of value thresholds. A high value site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and/or mental health benefits. Value is a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, if a site is deemed to provide one of the value criteria benefits it will pass the high/low threshold used (i.e., it will have a value percentage over 20%). The role of most open space means it carries a level of use/benefit to everyone. The threshold of 20% is therefore intended to highlight sites perceived to have minimal use or benefits.

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

Open space typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Allotments	45%	20%
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%
Cemeteries / churchyards	50%	20%
Natural / semi-natural greenspace	45%	20%
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Provision for children and young people	60%	20%

2.5: Accessibility catchments

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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

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

Table 2.3: Accessibility catchment times/distances

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

No standard is set for the typologies of allotments and cemeteries. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 3: SUMMARY OF SITE AUDIT

This section provides a summary of the generic trends and findings from the site visit ratings. Site specific and typology issues are covered in the relevant sections later in this report.

3.1: Audit overview

Within the audit, there is a total of 266 sites equating to 384 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is parks and gardens (112 hectares) accounting for 32%.

Table 3.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares) ³
Allotments	14	24
Amenity greenspace	133	95
Cemeteries / churchyards	11	27
Natural / semi-natural greenspace	30	119
Parks and gardens	10	112
Provision for children and young people	68	7
TOTAL	266	384

3.2: Quality

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

Table 3.2: Quality ratings for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Below threshold	Above threshold
Allotments	4	9
Amenity greenspace	89	44
Cemeteries / churchyards	4	7
Natural / semi-natural greenspace	10	18
Parks and gardens	0	10
Provision for children and young people	18	50
Total	125	138

There is a mixed quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in just over half of assessed sites (52%) rating above quality thresholds. A total of 48% of assessed sites rate below their threshold.

³ Rounded to the nearest whole number

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

3.3: Value

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

Table 3.3: Value ratings for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Below threshold	Above threshold
Allotments	0	13
Amenity greenspace	51	82
Cemeteries / churchyards	0	11
Natural / semi-natural greenspace	5	23
Parks and gardens	0	10
Provision for children and young people	0	68
Total	56	207

Over three quarters of sites (79%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

4.1: Introduction

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

4.2: Current provision

There are 10 sites classified as parks and gardens across Hertsmere, the equivalent to 112 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all known sites have been included within the typology.

It is important to note that within the category of parks and gardens there are two distinct types of sites. Some are significant in size and act as destinations offering greater recreational facilities and uses which people will often be willing to travel further to access. Examples of this type include Aldenham Country Park and Shenley Park. Other sites within the typology are smaller in size and more formal in character with less recreational uses. Examples of this Bushey Rose Garden and Mary Forsdyke Garden.

Table 4.1: Current parks and gardens provision by analysis area

Analysis area	Number	Hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Aldenham and Shenley	2	9.91	0.66
Borehamwood and Elstree	3	78.72	2.89
Bushey	3	9.49	0.32
Potters Bar	2	14.19	0.63
Hertsmere Borough	10	112.31	1.04

For parks and gardens, Table 4.1 identifies that Hertsmere Borough has a current provision level of 1.04 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and biggest contributor to provision is Aldenham Country Park (69 ha) located in the Borehamwood and Elstree Analysis Area. The next largest site is King George Recreation Ground (8 ha) in the Bushey Analysis Area.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall, Hertsmere Borough is above this. Only the Borehamwood and Elstree Analysis Area is above this figure.

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

4.3: Accessibility

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

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

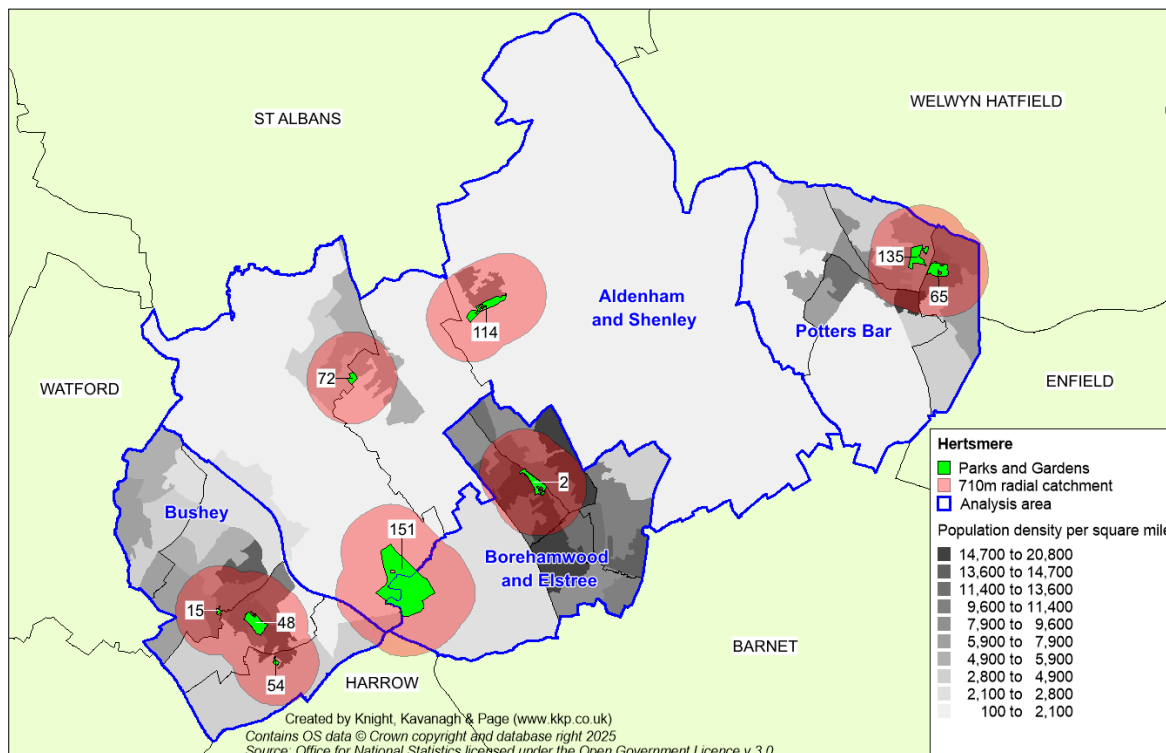


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
2	Aberford Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	6.25	79.9%	63.6%
15	Bushey Rose Garden	Bushey	0.62	84.1%	54.5%
48	King George Recreation Ground	Bushey	8.15	83.9%	68.2%
54	Mary Forsdyke Garden	Bushey	0.72	73.6%	59.1%
58	Meadow Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	3.73	79.5%	54.5%
65	Oakmere Park (including War Memorial)	Potters Bar	6.78	75.5%	68.2%
72	Phillimore recreation ground	Aldenham and Shenley	1.87	70.3%	59.1%
114	Shenley Park	Aldenham and Shenley	8.04	68.4%	72.7%
135	Parkfield, Potters Bar	Potters Bar	7.41	65.9%	54.5%
151	Aldenham Country Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	68.75	80.0%	72.7%

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

In general, most areas of greater population density are covered by a 9-minute walk catchment for parks. However, gaps are noticeable in all four analysis areas. The majority of the gaps are noticeable in Borehamwood and Elstree, and Bushey.

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

Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Aldenham and Shenley	Lauteral Green (Tykeside Gardens) (ID 50) Wellhouse Dell (ID 131) 14 Watford Road (ID 200) Meadow E. of The Warren (ID 248)	Amenity Natural Amenity Natural
Borehamwood and Elstree	Aycliffe Park (ID 7) Brook Meadow (ID 13) Farriers Way open space (ID 30) Grantham Green (ID 39) Haggerston Park (ID 41) Kelly Court (Studio Way estate) (ID 46) Kenilworth Park (ID 47) Lemsford Court (ID 52) Maxwell Hillside Park (North) (ID 55) Maxwell Hillside Park (South) (ID 56) Milton Drive (24-50) (ID 60) Organ Hall open space (ID 67) Potters Wood (ID 76) Ripon Park (ID 81) Shakespeare Drive (ID 87) Tempsford Park (ID 96) Thirskcliffe Nature Park (ID 99) Walshford Green (ID 101) Wordsworth Gardens (ID 109) Composers Park (ID 130) Composers Park (ID 133) Woodcock Hill village green (ID 143) Knowl Park (ID 244)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity
Bushey	Boundary Green (ID 12) Millbrook Road (Forest Walk) (ID 59) The Moatfield Recreation Ground (ID 62) Fishers Field Nature Reserve (ID 123) Fishers Park (ID 124) Hartspring Meadow (ID 128) Bushey Manor Field (ID 145)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Natural Natural

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Bushey Grove (ID 154) Little Bushey Lane (ID 155) Golf Close (ID 234) Grove House (ID 236) The Old Rectory/Montague House (ID 272) Merry Hill Road (ID 281) Bushey Open Space (ID 282)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural
Potters Bar	Cranborne Crescent (ID 25) Elm Court Community Centre (ID 27) Furze field (ID 34) Rushfield (ID 83) Wash Lane Common (ID 142) Kimptons Mead Nature Area (ID 157) Shiltoe Ave/Kimptons Mead (ID 261)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Natural

4.4: Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied to distinguish between high and low quality parkland. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Aldenham and Shenley	68%	69%	70%	0	2
Borehamwood and Elstree	79%	80%	80%	0	3
Bushey	74%	81%	84%	0	3
Potters Bar	66%	71%	75%	0	2
Hertsmere	66%	76%	84%	0	10

All 10 identified parks and gardens are rated as good quality. The five highest scoring sites are:

- ✦ Bushey Rose Garden (84%)
- ✦ King George Recreation Ground (84%)
- ✦ Aldenham Country Park (80%)
- ✦ Aberford Park (80%), and
- ✦ Meadow Park (80%).

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

These sites are all attractive and well-maintained with numerous facilities and features including benches, bins, accessible pathways, signage, and good boundary fencing. All but Bushey Rose Garden have the additional benefits of car parking (including disabled car parking) and play provision whilst all the above five sites feature toilet facilities.

Bushey Rose Garden, the highest scoring park in Hertsmere, is a Grade II registered park and garden of Special Historic Interest and features a fountain, pergola, a rose bed, toilets, good pathways, numerous benches and signage.

King George Recreation Ground (84%) has the added benefit of sporting facilities including a bowling green, tennis courts, MUGA, outdoor fitness equipment and table tennis tables. The site also features a new tropical island-themed splash park, sculptures, meadow and a café and is stewarded by a Friends Group, further adding to the quality of the site.

Similarly, Meadow Park and football ground also features a range of facilities and new features in the last few years such as an outdoor gym and a new pump track that was installed in 2025. The park features two play parks, a Sutu sports wall, tennis courts, MUGA, basketball court and kick around area. The park hosts local events throughout the year including Movies in the Park, Families Day, Halloween Funday and the Annual Fireworks display. Planned improvements include a new café, additional trees, more seating and litter bins as well as CCTV improving cleanliness and safety across the park.

Aldenham Country Park is observed as an attractive park with numerous trees, planting, benches and bins. The park features a good network of paths enabling pram and wheelchair access through the site. There is also a play area, car park and cafe on site further adding to the quality of the site.

Aberford Park (80%) is another site considered as good quality due to a range of facilities and features for a wide range of users. The park features a disc golf course, a Greek restaurant, play areas, skate park and electronic DJ booth. It also contains a community centre, community bowling green, toilets, seasonal pond and a cycleway, attracting many users. Unsurprisingly, this appears to be a well-used park.

Oakmere Park (76%) (including War Memorial) scores high for quality and benefits from good entrances, user security, parking, signage, toilets and numerous benches. The existing junior play area was upgraded in 2019 to deliver a high-quality, engaging and age-appropriate play environment that promotes active recreation and physical development. The scheme provides a modern range of equipment, carefully designed to be an inclusive and stimulating play experience while remaining sensitive to and reflective of the park's historical character. Key features include a variety of climbing elements, a double zip wire and a large slide, all intended to encourage imaginative and active play.

Mary Forsdyke Garden and Warren Lake (scoring 74%) is an attractive greenspace scoring well for pathways and entrances. The site benefits from signage, benches, litter bins, a lake and planting.

Parkfield, Potters Bar (66%) is identified as spacious and attractive. It contains a range of features including a Japanese Garden, pond and wildflower meadow, a tree sculpture, World War Two air raid shelter, cycleway, seating and good network of pathways.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

The park is crossed by two main paths, one of which is the Diamond Jubilee Cycleway, part of the borough's greenway network. Furthermore, the site has a Friends Group further adding to its benefits.

Hertsmere has eight Green Flag Award sites, seven of which are identified as parks. The criteria used in the Green Flag Award is intended to be high. As such, not all park sites would be expected to score above the threshold set for such a prestigious award. It is more likely for the flagship 'destination' sites to score highly. The seven Green Flag Award sites are as follows:

- King George Recreation Ground
- Aberford Park
- Oakmere Park
- Parkfield
- Bushey Rose Garden
- Mary Forsdyke Garden and Warren Lake
- Meadow Park

The remaining Green Flag Award site is Fishers Field LNR and Fishers Park. This is identified under the typology of natural/semi-natural greenspace.

4.5: Value

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

Table 4.5: Value ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Aldenham and Shenley	59%	66%	73%	0	2
Borehamwood and Elstree	55%	64%	73%	0	3
Bushey	55%	61%	68%	0	3
Potters Bar	55%	61%	68%	0	2
Hertsmere Borough	55%	63%	73%	0	10

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

- Shenley Park (73%)
- Aldenham Country Park (73%)
- Oakmere Park (including War Memorial) (68%)
- King George Recreation Ground (68%)

All these parks have high amenity and social value due to containing good social, recreational and exercise opportunities. They are also some of the highest scoring parks for quality, reflecting their role and importance to a range of users.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

They all offer structural landscape benefits as they are observed as visually attractive. Shenley Park and King George Recreation Ground also score highly for economic benefits due to featuring a café.

Shenley Park scores the highest for value due to featuring a range of facilities and features. It contains an orchard, meadow, pond, a unique apple orchard with nearly 150 varieties of apples, a wildflower meadow and woodland providing high ecological benefits. The site offers high cultural and historic value due to featuring a Victorian walled garden with a terraced amphitheatre, a country style tea room and a spacious former old chapel which functions as an all-purpose hall for the community. It also offers high amenity and social benefits due to its tennis courts and play area.

Oakmere Park has added cultural value due to featuring a war memorial on the corner of the site. The park, along with others in the Borough such as King George Recreation Ground, also benefits from the presence of an associated Friends Group, which further enhances community and social value.

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

PART 5: NATURAL / SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1: Introduction

The natural / semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g., down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g., marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. quarries) and commons. For the purpose of this study, the focus is on sites providing wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

Many natural / semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse or inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater flora and fauna activity.

5.2: Current provision

There are 30 natural / semi-natural greenspace sites, equating to over 119 hectares.

Table 5.1: Current natural / semi-natural greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Number	Hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Aldenham and Shenley	9	11.84	0.79
Borehamwood and Elstree	6	40.04	0.96
Bushey	11	56.68	1.93
Potters Bar	4	10.59	0.47
Hertsmere Borough	30	119.16	1.10

Sites less than 0.2 hectares are not included. Such sites are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas in relation to community viability, quality of life, and health and wellbeing. Furthermore, they may provide 'stepping stones' for flora and fauna enabling freedom of movement for wildlife.

Bushey Analysis Area has the most natural / semi-natural provision with a total of almost 57 hectares. This makes up 48% of natural / semi-natural provision in the borough.

The two largest sites are Parkfields (20 hectares) and Bushey Manor Field (12 hectares) which make up 37% of the natural / semi-natural provision total.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Within Hertsmere Borough there is an overall provision of 1.10 hectares per 1,000 head of population which falls below the FIT guidelines. This is also the case for three of the four analysis areas.

It is important to recognise that other open spaces such as parks and amenity greenspace often provide opportunities associated with natural / semi-natural greenspace. For example, Aldenham Country Park offers greater biodiversity and habitats due to the presence of ponds and woodland.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

It is also important to highlight that some sites can bridge the definition of typologies such as natural / semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural / semi-natural greenspace.

5.3: Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 9-minute walk time has been set across Hertsmere Borough for natural / semi-natural greenspace. This is based on FIT catchments. Figure 5.1 shows natural / semi-natural greenspace mapped against the analysis areas with the accessibility catchment.

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

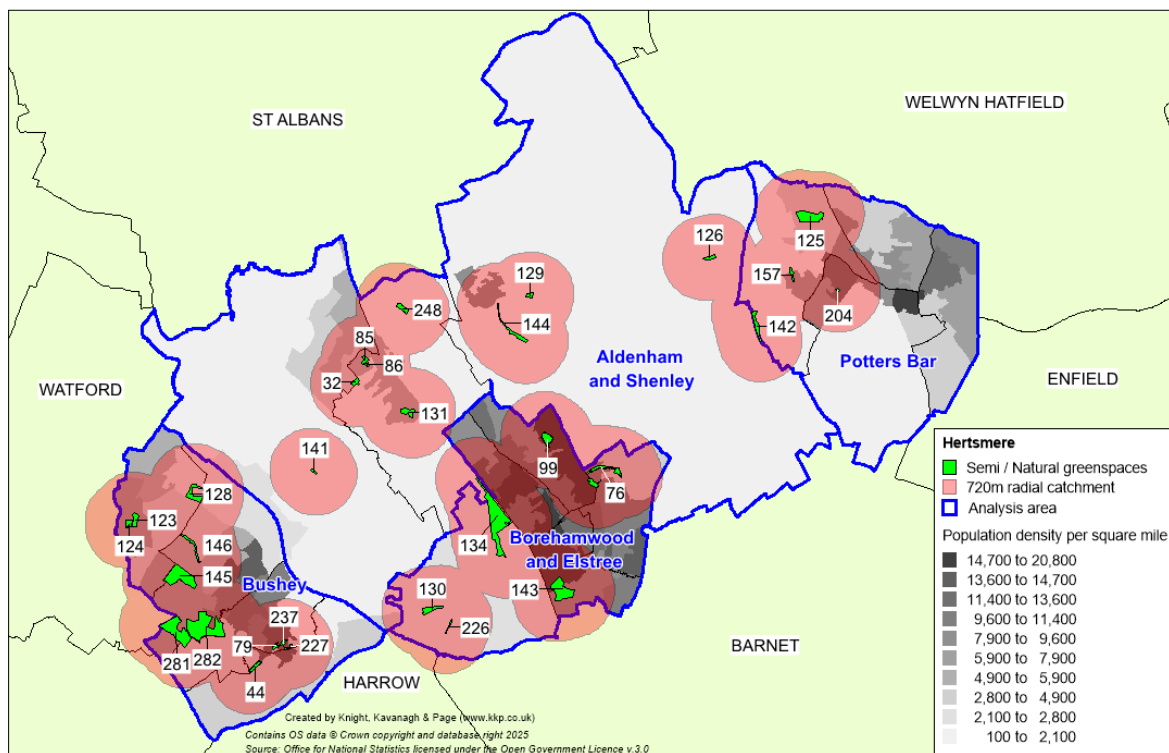


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
32	Fir Spring wood	Aldenham and Shenley	1.16	28.6%	26.4%
44	Hillmead Nature Park	Bushey	1.30	43.8%	30.9%
76	Potters Wood	Borehamwood and Elstree	4.82	46.4%	31.8%
79	Richfield Road	Bushey	0.54	36.2%	15.5%
85	Scrubbitts Wood (North)	Aldenham and Shenley	1.01	44.6%	30.0%
86	Scrubbitts Wood (South)	Aldenham and Shenley	0.39	55.8%	35.5%
99	Thirskcliffe Nature Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	2.96	58.4%	30.0%

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
123	Fishers Field Nature Reserve	Bushey	1.85	72.4%	50.0%
124	Fishers Park	Bushey	1.22	63.5%	45.5%
125	Furze field Wood and Meadow	Potters Bar	6.90	59.8%	30.9%
126	Brookside Wood and Meadow	Aldenham and Shenley	1.02	54.1%	30.9%
128	Hartspring Meadow	Bushey	3.85	54.1%	30.0%
129	Hillcrest Road	Aldenham and Shenley	0.90	46.6%	25.5%
130	Composers Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	2.55	52.9%	30.9%
131	Wellhouse Dell	Aldenham and Shenley	2.46	34.3%	20.9%
134	Parkfields	Borehamwood and Elstree	20.20	56.4%	40.0%
141	Letchmore Heath pond	Aldenham and Shenley	0.35	65.8%	54.5%
142	Wash Lane Common	Potters Bar	2.67	62.4%	26.4%
143	Woodcock Hill village green	Borehamwood and Elstree	9.07	51.9%	35.5%
144	Woodhall Lane Spinney	Aldenham and Shenley	2.94	55.2%	45.5%
145	Bushey Manor Field	Bushey	12.06	45.8%	25.5%
146	Finch Lane	Bushey	2.08	48.6%	26.4%
157	Kimptons Mead Nature Area	Potters Bar	0.81	50.2%	26.4%
204	Aberdale Gardens	Potters Bar	0.21	38.2%	30.0%
226	Elstree Hill South	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.45	38.5%	11.8%
227	Elstree Road/Sparrows House	Bushey	0.38	37.5%	12.7%
237	Heath House	Bushey	0.70	32.5%	7.3%
248	Meadow E. of The Warren	Aldenham and Shenley	1.61	18.5%	10.9%
281	Merry Hill Road Bushey	Bushey	12.54		
282	Bushey Open Space, High Street	Bushey	20.16		

Most areas with greater population density are served by the 9-minute walk time catchment for natural/semi-natural greenspace. However, a few gaps are noticeable, especially within Borehamwood and Elstree, as well as Bushey.

Gaps are generally served by other forms of open space provision. Such sites may offer similar opportunities and access to activities associated with natural / semi-natural greenspace. The potential to increase a site's secondary function as natural / semi-natural greenspace should be explored.

Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Aldenham and Shenley	Lateral Green (Tykeside Gardens) (ID 50) Ribston Close (ID 78) Shenley Park (ID 114) 14 Watford Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity Parks Amenity

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	North Avenue (ID 251)	Amenity
Borehamwood and Elstree	Brook Meadow (ID 13) Haggerston Park (ID 41) Hunter Close (ID 45) Kenilworth Park (ID 47) Maxwell Hillside Park (North) (ID 55) Maxwell Hillside Park (South) (ID 56) Meadow Park (ID 58) Ripon Park (ID 81) Tempsford Park (ID 96) Fair Close & 4-110 Claybury (ID 230)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity
Bushey	Bushey Rose Garden (ID 15) King George Recreation Ground (ID 48) The Moatfield Recreation Ground (ID 62) Bushey Grove (ID 154) 57-103 Farm Way (ID 203) Fair Close & 4-110 Claybury (ID 230) Little Grove, Great Grove, Collins Cour (ID 246) Lower Tub (ID 247)	Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Potters Bar	Church Road/Osborne Road (ID 19) Oakmere Park (including War Memorial) (ID 65) Willow Way (ID 105) Parkfield, Potters Bar (ID 135) Darkes Lane/Church Road (ID 225) Oakfield Close (ID 253)	Amenity Parks Amenity Parks Amenity Amenity

5.4: Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 45% is applied to distinguish between high and low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

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

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Aldenham and Shenley	18%	45%	66%	4	5
Borehamwood and Elstree	38%	51%	58%	1	5
Bushey	32%	48%	72%	4	5
Potters Bar	38%	53%	62%	1	3
Hertsmere	18%	48%	72%	10	18

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

28 sites are allocated a quality rating. Due to late inclusion, Bushey Open Space, High Street and Merry Hill Road Bushey have not been assessed. Most assessed sites (64%) rate as above the quality threshold indicating a reasonably good standard of quality. Over a third (36%) of assessed natural / semi natural greenspace sites in Hertsmere Borough score below the quality threshold.

Some good quality natural / semi-natural sites in Hertsmere Borough are:

- ✦ Fishers Field Nature Reserve (72%)
- ✦ Letchmore Heath pond (66%)
- ✦ Fishers Park (64%)
- ✦ Wash Lane Common (62%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as paths, fencing, signage and bins. The former three sites have the additional benefit of seating. The sites are also observed as having good access for all with well-maintained pathways and levels of personal security.

Fishers Field Nature Reserve, a Local Nature Reserve (72%) comprises a pond, various trees (including horse chestnut, hawthorn and poplars), and interpretation boards. The site benefits from good entrances and paths, well used by walkers and dog walkers connecting to Fishers Park (adjacent to the local nature reserve and features a play area). Fishers Field Nature Reserve is supported by an active volunteer organisation known as the Friends of Fishers Field. The group works in partnership with the local authority to assist in the conservation, maintenance, and enhancement of the reserve, while also promoting community engagement and environmental stewardship. The group is actively involved in the management of the nature reserve with recent projects including the creation of a new wildlife pond to support biodiversity and habitat conservation.

A total of 10 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites are below the quality threshold. This is primarily due to a lack of ancillary features. Accessibility at some sites is also a factor. Heath House (33%), Meadow E. of The Warren (19%) and Richfield Road (36%) each have accessibility doubts and consequently score lower for usage and value.

Although Fir Spring Wood scores below the quality threshold (29%), it is nevertheless identified overall as a good quality site. The woodland is used as a pedestrian cut-through. Additional benches could further enhance its amenity value. However, the site lacks signage and bins and it scores poorly in relation to internal paths and accessibility.

5.5: Value

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

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

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Aldenham and Shenley	11%	31%	55%	1	8
Borehamwood and Elstree	12%	30%	40%	1	5
Bushey	7%	27%	50%	3	6
Potters Bar	26%	28%	31%	0	4
Hertsmere	7%	29%	50%	5	23

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

As well as ecological value, sites provide benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and those visiting from further afield. This is a result of the exercise opportunities they provide, for example, through walking and biking trails. Furthermore, they break up the urban form creating peaceful space to relax and reflect. The high levels of natural features also support with improving air quality, particularly in built up areas.

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

- ✦ Letchmore Heath pond (55%)
- ✦ Fishers Field Nature Reserve (50%)
- ✦ Fishers Park (46%)
- ✦ Woodhall Lane Spinney (46%)

These sites offer high amenity and social value due to good recreation and exercise opportunities. Fishers Park has additional amenity and social value due to featuring a play area. All three sites are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes and enhancing structural and landscape benefits. In addition, each provide high ecological value due to high biodiversity providing habitats for a flora and fauna.

Letchmore Heath pond features interpretation boards, numerous benches and a pond adding to its amenity benefits. Similarly, Fishers Field Nature Reserve also contains interpretation boards and provides a haven for wildlife. Furthermore, it is a Green Flag Award site and has a friend's group, enhancing community and social values.

There are five natural and semi-natural sites scoring low for value and some of the lowest scoring sites are:

- ✦ Heath House (7%)
- ✦ Meadow E. of The Warren (11%)

These sites score low for access within the site and have no seating or signage, limiting social and amenity value. Paths score low and usage is consequently perceived as low. There are questions regarding both sites' accessibility and usage, limiting their value. Despite scoring low for value, Heath House does benefit from ramps/guardrails, litter bins and lighting.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Other low scoring semi natural sites include Richfield Road, Elstree Hill South and Elstree Road/Sparrows House. These three sites have good entrances, reasonable access and user security with the latter two sites containing bins and lighting. However, all three sites lack signage and are small grass strips/verges limiting their value.

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1: Introduction

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

6.2: Current provision

There are 133 amenity greenspace sites in Hertsmere equating to over 95 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

Table 6.1: Current amenity greenspace by analysis area

Analysis area	Number	Hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Aldenham and Shenley	27	13.96	0.94
Borehamwood and Elstree	70	52.63	1.27
Bushey	24	17.32	0.59
Potters Bar	12	11.10	0.49
Hertsmere Borough	133	95.01	0.88

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, Clarendon Park at 0.26 hectares acts as an important visual / communal amenity. In contrast, Furze field at over six hectares is a greenspace with a range of recreational and sport opportunities.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1, overall, shows that Hertsmere Borough is above this. This is also the case for two of the analysis areas (Aldenham and Shenley and Borehamwood and Elstree). Note that Bushey, at 0.59 hectares per 1,000 population, falls just short of the guideline quantity standard.

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

6.3: Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 6-minute walk time (480m) has been set across Hertsmere Borough for amenity greenspace. This is based on FIT catchments. Figure 6.1 shows amenity greenspace mapped against the analysis areas with the accessibility catchment. Due to the number of sites, the map does not show ID numbers.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

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

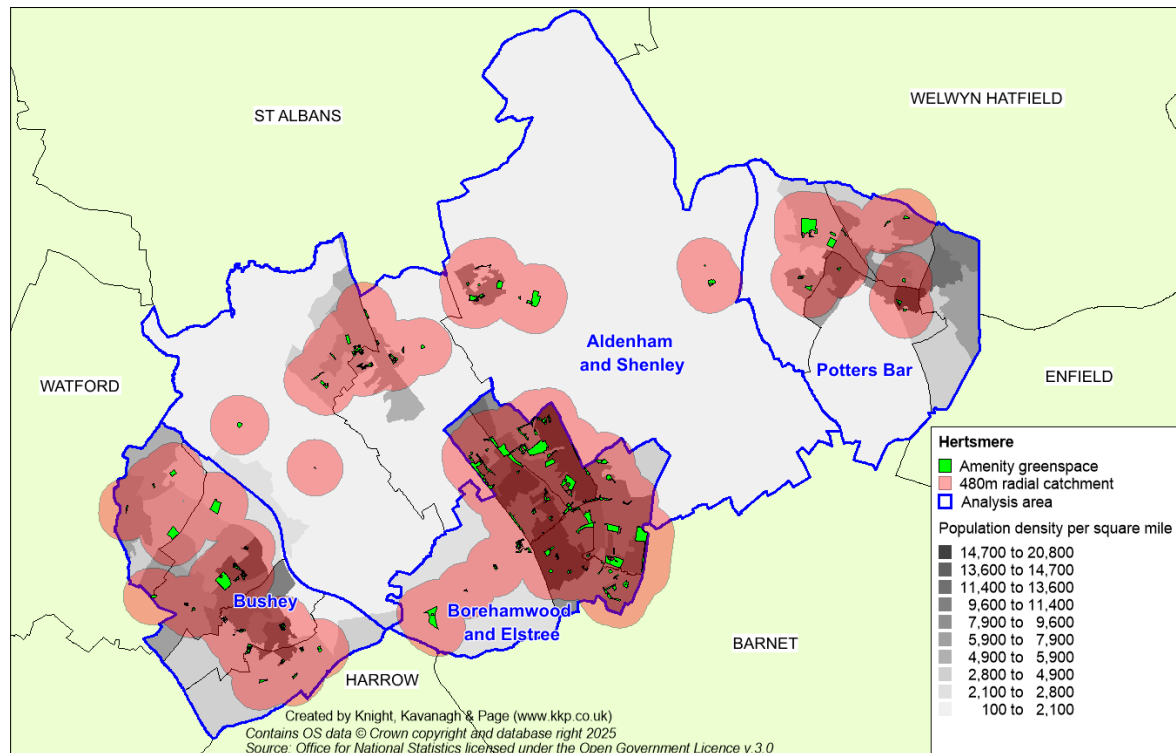


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
3	Abingdon Place	Potters Bar	0.20	41.0%	29.0%
5	Andrew Close	Aldenham and Shenley	1.25	40.5%	34.0%
7	Aycliffe Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	5.48	56.7%	48.0%
8	Ayot Path/Stapleton Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.25	49.1%	29.0%
11	Berkeley Close	Potters Bar	0.17	30.9%	28.0%
12	Boundary Green	Bushey	0.35	61.0%	28.0%
13	Brook Meadow	Borehamwood and Elstree	2.35	55.8%	38.0%
17	Canons Close	Aldenham and Shenley	0.20	37.3%	28.0%
19	Church Road/Osborne Road	Potters Bar	0.35	52.4%	24.0%
20	Clarendon Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.26	56.7%	34.0%
21	Cleveland Crescent	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.11	51.3%	22.0%
22	Cockle Way	Aldenham and Shenley	0.10	31.9%	23.0%
25	Cranborne Crescent	Potters Bar	0.35	53.6%	27.0%
26	Potterswood Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.04	74.4%	38.0%
27	Elm Court Community Centre	Potters Bar	1.80	61.4%	29.0%
29	Elstree Hill North war memorial	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.13	53.0%	24.0%

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
30	Farriers Way open space	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.67	53.6%	34.0%
34	Furze field	Potters Bar	6.47	75.5%	45.0%
36	Gateshead Road/Beech Drive	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.13	45.0%	22.0%
38	Grace Avenue	Aldenham and Shenley	0.87	54.3%	33.0%
39	Grantham Green	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.30	48.1%	32.0%
41	Haggerston Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.06	72.5%	33.0%
45	Hunter Close	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.38	44.5%	27.0%
46	Kelly Court (Studio Way estate)	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.70	63.1%	39.0%
47	Kenilworth Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	2.21	62.4%	39.0%
50	Lauteral Green (Tykeside Gardens)	Aldenham and Shenley	0.41	61.9%	38.0%
51	Leeming Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.47	46.7%	34.0%
52	Lemsford Court	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.20	54.6%	28.0%
53	London Road war memorial/pond	Aldenham and Shenley	0.06	58.0%	38.0%
55	Maxwell Hillside Park (North)	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.79	68.1%	39.0%
56	Maxwell Hillside Park (South)	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.68	65.8%	29.0%
57	Harris Lane	Aldenham and Shenley	3.22	44.5%	27.0%
59	Millbrook Road (Forest Walk)	Bushey	0.60	56.0%	35.0%
60	Milton Drive (24-50)	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.24	48.6%	29.0%
62	The Moatfield Recreation Ground	Bushey	4.73	90.1%	50.0%
67	Organ Hall open space	Borehamwood and Elstree	3.00	65.4%	39.0%
70	Phillimore Place Square	Aldenham and Shenley	0.28	53.6%	29.0%
77	Prowse Avenue (22 and 24)	Bushey	0.44	35.4%	28.0%
78	Ribston Close	Aldenham and Shenley	0.13	42.8%	22.0%
81	Ripon Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	3.73	63.2%	49.0%
83	Rushfield	Potters Bar	0.45	55.7%	23.0%
84	Scottswood Close	Bushey	0.18	47.6%	23.0%
87	Shakespeare Drive	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.02	70.5%	39.0%
88	Shenley Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.45	53.6%	35.0%
89	Shenley Road war memorial	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.35	53.3%	33.0%
90	Sparrows Herne war memorial	Bushey	0.04	54.0%	23.0%
91	St Albans Road war memorial	Aldenham and Shenley	0.04	55.3%	29.0%
95	Station Road, Watling Street	Aldenham and Shenley	0.22	64.2%	39.0%

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
96	Tempsford Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	4.00	50.9%	28.0%
97	Glebeland	Aldenham and Shenley	0.86	44.2%	20.0%
100	Tomkins Close/Bairstow Close	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.30	49.1%	29.0%
101	Walshford Green	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.53	52.3%	38.0%
103	Wetherby Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.11	44.0%	21.0%
104	Williams Way	Aldenham and Shenley	0.26	47.4%	23.0%
105	Willow Way	Potters Bar	0.38	47.7%	39.0%
109	Wordsworth Gardens	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.27	49.7%	29.0%
112	Windmill Lane Recreation Ground	Bushey	0.47	53.6%	43.0%
133	Composers Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	3.68	45.9%	34.0%
136	The Champions	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.19	51.1%	28.0%
137	Crown Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.19	50.6%	29.0%
140	The Green, Letchmore Heath	Aldenham and Shenley	0.05	58.9%	33.0%
150	Ashwood Road	Potters Bar	0.17	43.5%	28.0%
153	Town Centre Garden	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.04	55.3%	28.0%
154	Bushey Grove	Bushey	2.39	44.5%	24.0%
155	Little Bushey Lane	Bushey	2.95	30.9%	29.0%
161	The Crescent, Aldenham	Aldenham and Shenley	0.54	58.9%	39.0%
200	14 Watford Road	Aldenham and Shenley	0.74	24.3%	6.0%
201	2-48 Howton Place	Bushey	0.21	40.5%	23.0%
202	42 Watford Road	Aldenham and Shenley	0.26	14.7%	11.0%
203	57-103 Farm Way	Bushey	0.21	35.9%	17.0%
205	Allum Lane	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.22	45.0%	29.0%
206	Aycliffe Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.26	51.4%	29.0%
207	Baker Court	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.27	39.6%	23.0%
208	Barley Close	Bushey	0.62	33.4%	18.0%
209	Barnet Bypass	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.84	32.9%	16.0%
212	Barnet Lane	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.64	30.5%	13.0%
216	Boreham Holt a	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.51	44.0%	24.0%
217	Boreham Holt b	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.21	41.0%	23.0%
218	Boreham Holt c	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.29	41.5%	23.0%
219	Cedar Close	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.25	36.9%	18.0%
220	Civic buildings, Elstree Way	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.30	37.9%	30.0%
221	Cowley Hill	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.37	45.5%	29.0%
222	Craig Mount	Aldenham and Shenley	0.76	37.9%	23.0%
223	Cranes Way	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.22	44.0%	23.0%

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
224	Crown Road/Gateshead Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.39	26.8%	22.0%
225	Darkes Lane/Church Road	Potters Bar	0.22	38.5%	23.0%
228	Elstree Tower	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.22	39.5%	12.0%
229	Elstree/Studio Way	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.51	49.6%	19.0%
230	Fair Close & 4-110 Claybury	Bushey	0.35	46.2%	13.0%
231	Featherstone/Norfolk Gardens	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.21	28.8%	7.0%
232	Furzehill Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.29	35.6%	9.0%
234	Golf Close	Bushey	0.23	46.0%	9.0%
235	Greenwood Close	Bushey	0.33	46.2%	14.0%
236	Grove House	Bushey	0.20	46.2%	8.0%
238	High Firs, High Pines & Darnhills	Aldenham and Shenley	1.30	39.8%	13.0%
239	Hollywood Court	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.30	45.5%	9.0%
240	Hunter Close	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.32	43.5%	7.0%
241	Imperial Place	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.40	44.5%	28.0%
242	Kennedy/Knights Court	Bushey	0.26	37.3%	7.0%
244	Knowl Park	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.28	37.3%	7.0%
245	Linnet Close/Merry Hill Road	Bushey	0.34	33.2%	8.0%
246	Little Grove, Great Grove, Collins Cour	Bushey	0.58	36.4%	23.0%
247	Lower Tub	Bushey	0.59	39.1%	8.0%
249	Meadowcroft	Bushey	0.33	37.3%	8.0%
250	Moat Close	Bushey	0.29	40.8%	8.0%
251	North Avenue	Aldenham and Shenley	0.32	32.7%	7.0%
252	Oak Farm	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.22	48.9%	7.0%
253	Oakfield Close	Potters Bar	0.27	32.9%	14.0%
254	Peterb'gh/Southwark/Worcester/York House	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.22	40.8%	9.0%
255	Phillimore Court	Aldenham and Shenley	0.30	40.8%	9.0%
257	Red Road (South)	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.67	26.3%	6.0%
258	Scrubbits Square	Aldenham and Shenley	0.26	40.8%	7.0%
259	Shenley Road roundabout	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.22	28.8%	11.0%
260	Sherland Court	Aldenham and Shenley	0.23	35.4%	7.0%
261	Shilitoe Ave/Kimptons Mead	Potters Bar	0.28	40.8%	7.0%
262	South-Theobald St/Organ Hall Rd	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.40	44.9%	14.0%
264	Stanborough Ave/Thirsk Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.31	40.5%	14.0%
265	Stapleton Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.35	36.9%	8.0%

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
266	Stevenage Crescent/Organ Hall Rd	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.34	37.3%	9.0%
267	Stilton Path	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.32	40.8%	9.0%
268	Swallow Close/Merry Hill Road	Bushey	0.40	45.9%	14.0%
269	The Champions	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.83	27.8%	7.0%
270	The Chapel	Aldenham and Shenley	0.45	41.1%	9.0%
271	The Lawns	Aldenham and Shenley	0.24	41.1%	9.0%
272	The Old Rectory/Montague House	Bushey	0.24	40.8%	8.0%
273	Thelusson Court	Aldenham and Shenley	0.33	36.9%	7.0%
274	Torworth Road/Aycliffe Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.37	28.8%	18.0%
275	Watford Way	Aldenham and Shenley	0.29	34.2%	6.0%
276	Welbeck Close/Stratfield Rd	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.28	36.9%	8.0%
277	Wentbridge and Northgate Path	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.64	42.5%	18.0%
278	Willow Green	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.23	53.0%	8.0%
279	Elstree Way / Todd Close	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.15	51.6%	23.0%
280	Stratfield Road	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.48	40.8%	9.0%

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision across Hertsmere. Some minor gaps in catchment mapping are noted including to the east of Potters Bar and north of Borehamwood and Elstree Analysis Area. However, it is recognised that these gaps are potentially covered and served by other forms of open space provision. Exploring the potential to strengthen features associated with amenity greenspace at some of these sites could be considered to increase a sites secondary function as an amenity.

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Aldenham and Shenley	Wellhouse Dell (ID 131) Meadow E. of The Warren (ID 248)	Natural Natural
Borehamwood and Elstree	No Significant Gap	-
Bushey	Fishers Field Nature Reserve (ID 123) Fishers Park (ID 124) Hartspring Meadow (ID 128) Bushey Manor Field (ID 145)	Natural Natural Natural Natural
Potters Bar	Oakmere Park (including War Memorial) (ID 65) Parkfield, Potters Bar (ID 135) Wash Lane Common (ID 142) Aberdale Gardens (ID 204)	Parks Parks Natural Natural

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

6.4: Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 50% is applied to distinguish high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for assessed amenity greenspaces

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Aldenham and Shenley	15%	43%	64%	19	8
Borehamwood and Elstree	26%	47%	74%	44	26
Bushey	31%	45%	90%	19	5
Potters Bar	31%	48%	76%	7	5
Hertsmere	15%	46%	90%	89	44

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

- ▶ The Moatfield Recreation Ground (90%)
- ▶ Furze field (76%)
- ▶ Potterswood Park (74%)

These sites score well for overall appearance and cleanliness including features such as entrances, access and user security. The sites also all benefit from supporting ancillary facilities such as car parking, bins and signage. All three sites contain play provision which rates above the quality threshold. Furze field has the additional benefits of picnic tables, lighting, a basketball area and skate park. The Moatfield Recreation Ground is also equipped with benches and is recognised as a large, well maintained site featuring fitness equipment, football pitches and interpretation panels, further contributing to its quality.

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

Other high scoring amenity greenspaces include Maxwell Hillside Park (North) sites which are noted as good quality greenspaces containing a path with lighting, good entrances, good access within and through the sites, user security, numerous benches and some litter bins.

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

The majority of assessed amenity greenspaces sites (67%) are below the quality threshold. This is predominantly due to being small pockets of greenspace lacking ancillary features, many of which are small areas/verges around residential areas. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- ✦ 42 Watford Road (15%)
- ✦ 14 Watford Road (24%)
- ✦ Red Road South (26%)

The sites have no signage or seating and score lower for usage, paths and access. All three sites score low for main entrances and contain no paths. There are questions over whether each site is accessible, lowering their quality and value. Red Road South is a pocket of land adjacent to the railway and other than a small path that cuts through to Red Road Park, the site appears inaccessible and therefore scores low for usage. The Champions (28%) scores below the quality threshold and is noted as a shrubbed area to the north of a housing estate. The site features good entrances however scores lower for user security. It has no signage, seating or bins. All three sites also rate low for value.

A handful of amenity greenspaces are observed as small, grassed areas outside residential areas and flats. Grove House, High Firs, High Pines & Darnhills, Hollywood Court, Hunter Close and Crown Road/Gateshead Road. Whilst lacking ancillary features, they serve more as visual amenities and access for residents. They could benefit from planting such as rose beds and small trees to enhance visual appearance.

Another lower scoring amenity greenspace site for quality is Boreham Holt a (44%). The site features a path, small bushes and trees in front of a residential area. It is attractive and serves as a visual amenity and access for residents. There are no issues identified, however it scores below the threshold due to a lack of signage, benches or bins. The site could benefit from seating.

6.5: Value

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

Table 6.5: Value ratings for assessed amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Aldenham and Shenley	6%	21%	39%	11	16
Borehamwood and Elstree	6%	24%	49%	25	45
Bushey	7%	20%	50%	13	11
Potters Bar	7%	26%	45%	2	10
Hertsmere	6%	23%	50%	51	82

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Over half (62%) of assessed amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for value. The highest scoring sites for value are The Moatfield Recreation Ground (50%) and Ripon Park (49%) These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational and exercise opportunities they offer for a wide range of users. Both sites feature a good network of pathways and are perceived as well used sites, providing high amenity and health benefits. Both sites also feature a play provision including fitness equipment and children's play equipment further adding to their value. Ripon Park has enhanced ecological value due to featuring a wildflower meadow. The Moatfield Recreation Ground has enhanced cultural/heritage value as this medieval site has been identified as an Area of Archaeological Significance. It also benefits from the presence of a friends group, which further enhances its value and contribution to the site.

Similar to quality, sites rating below the value threshold is often due to a lack of supporting features and perceived lower levels of use.

The three sites to rate the lowest for value are 14 Watford Road, Red Road (South) and Watford Way (each scoring 6%). All three sites also rate below the quality threshold. They are observed as poorly accessible sites, with no seating or signage, limiting their value. Red Road (South) is observed as potentially inaccessible land adjacent to a railway. There is a cut through path that leads to Red Road Park, however the rest of the site appears inaccessible.

Watford Way is identified as a grass verge with few ancillary features. There are no paths however, the site serves more as a visual amenity and scores well for maintenance and cleanliness.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing.

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

PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.1: Introduction

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

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

7.2: Current provision

A total of 68 play locations is identified in Hertsmere as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over six hectares. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Current provision for children and young people by analysis area

Analysis area	Number	Hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Aldenham and Shenley	15	1.71	0.11
Borehamwood and Elstree	36	3.27	0.08
Bushey	9	1.16	0.04
Potters Bar	8	0.72	0.03
Hertsmere	68	6.86	0.06

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard for play and 0.30 hectares per 1,000 population for casual play. Table 7.1 shows that overall, Hertsmere Borough is significantly below this.

Play areas can be classified using FIT guidance to identify their effective target audience.

FIT category	Explanation	FIT catchment
LAP	A Local Area of Play. Usually small, landscaped areas designed for young children. Equipment is normally age group specific to reduce unintended users.	100m
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.	400m
NEAP	A Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play. Cater for all age groups. Such sites may contain MUGA, skate parks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and are often included within large park sites.	1000m
Casual/Youth	Provision often catering for older ages such as MUGAs, skate parks, basketball areas, fitness equipment	700m

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

On this basis, table 7.2 shows that most play sites across Hertsmere are categorised as NEAP. Across all analysis areas it is the most common type of play provision.

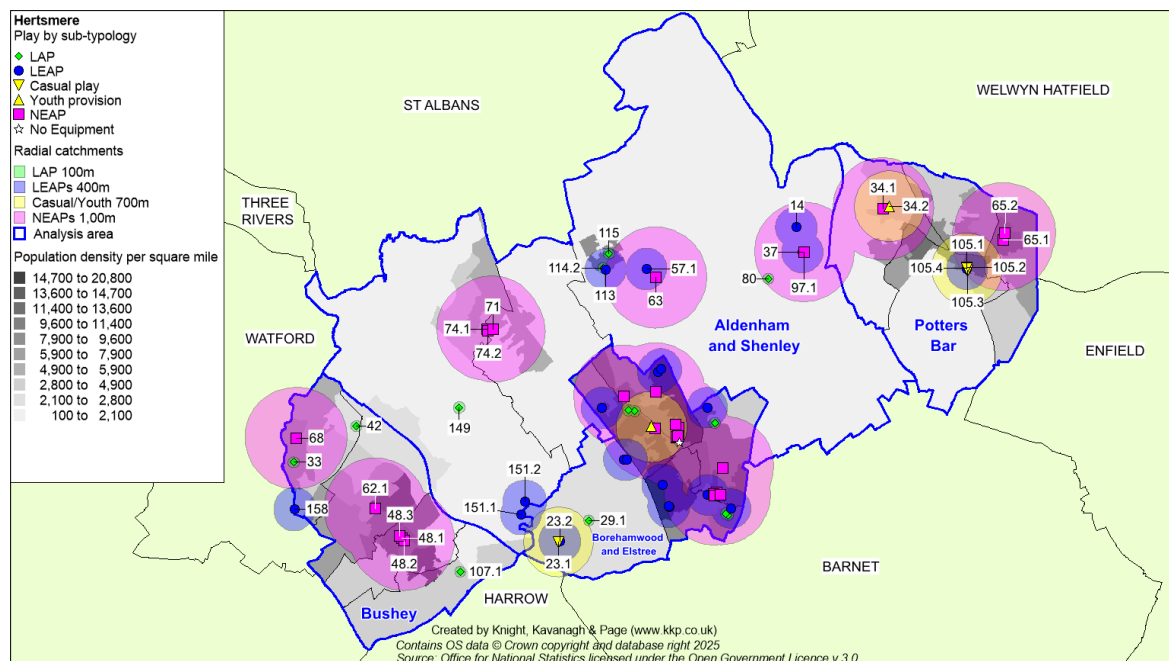
Table 7.2: Distribution of sub-categories for children and young people

Analysis area	LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Casual/Youth	Total
Aldenham and Shenley	4	6	5	-	15
Borehamwood and Elstree	7	12	15	2	36
Bushey	3	1	5	-	9
Potters Bar	-	1	3	4	8
Hertsmere	14	20	28	6	68

7.3: Accessibility

Using the FIT standards, accessibility catchments of 100m, 400m, 1000m and 700m have been set across Hertsmere Borough for different types of play provision. Figure 7.1 shows play provision mapped against the analysis areas with the accessibility catchment.

Figure 7.1a: Play provision with different applied catchments mapped



HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Figure 7.1b: Play provision with different applied catchments mapped

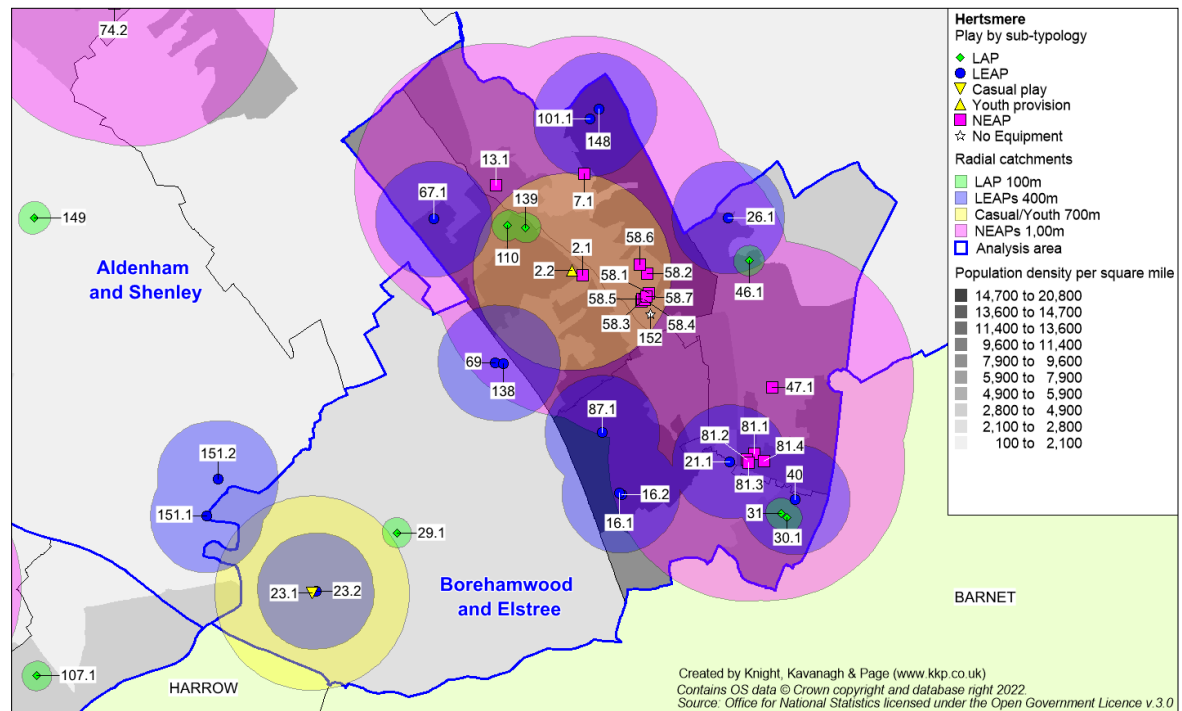


Table 7.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
2.1	Aberford Park play areas	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.2781	76.3%	45.5%
2.2	Aberford Park skate park	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0771	78.0%	41.8%
7.1	Aycliffe Park exercise	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0000	46.4%	38.2%
13.1	Brook Meadow play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.1246	60.1%	38.2%
14	Brookside Play Area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0808	59.5%	38.2%
16.1	Byron Avenue MUGA	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0469	64.9%	41.8%
16.2	Byron Avenue play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0781		
21.1	Paxton Court play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0561	42.3%	41.8%
23.1	Composers Park basketball	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0080	72.9%	38.2%
23.2	Composers Park play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.1584		

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
26.1	Potterswood Park play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0212	72.2%	47.3%
29.1	Elstree Hill North play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0067	38.5%	38.2%
30.1	Farriers Way play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0174	66.0%	41.8%
31	Fell Path play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0365	77.0%	41.8%
33	Fishers Park play area	Bushey	0.0366	83.8%	41.8%
34.1	Furze field play area	Potters Bar	0.2454	78.0%	45.5%
34.2	Furze field skatepark	Potters Bar	0.0593	44.3%	41.8%
37	Glebelands play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0907	65.6%	41.8%
40	Hackney Close MUGA	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0600	29.9%	38.2%
42	Hartwood Close play area	Bushey	0.0371	52.9%	29.1%
46.1	Kelly Court play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0306	76.3%	38.2%
47.1	Kenilworth Park play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.4556	75.6%	41.8%
48.1	King George Recreation Ground play area	Bushey	0.2827	83.2%	45.5%
48.2	King George Recreation Ground MUGA	Bushey	0.0924		
48.3	King George Recreation Ground splash pool	Bushey	0.1368	86.6%	60.0%
57.1	Harris Lane play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0596	67.0%	38.2%
58.1	Meadow Park play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.4543	76.3%	45.5%
58.2	Meadow Park play area 2	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.2232	79.0%	45.5%
58.3	Meadow Park basketball court	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0497	77.3%	41.8%
58.4	Meadow Park MUGA	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0531	62.9%	41.8%
58.5	Meadow Park kickabout area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0258	72.2%	50.9%
58.6	Meadow Park pump track	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.1104	61.9%	50.9%
58.7	Meadow Park Splash Area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0540		
62.1	Moatfield play area (inc shelter)	Bushey	0.1345	82.8%	45.5%

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
63	Newcome Road (Anderson Road) play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.1345	76.6%	38.2%
65.1	Oakmere Park play area	Potters Bar	0.2037	59.8%	45.5%
65.2	Oakmere Park play area 2	Potters Bar	0.1661	70.4%	45.5%
67.1	Organ Hall play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0837	77.0%	38.2%
68	Park Avenue play area	Bushey	0.1989	69.4%	38.2%
69	Parkfields play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0650	64.9%	38.2%
71	Phillimore play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.6931	85.9%	41.8%
74.1	Phillimore Recreation Ground MUGA	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0374		
74.2	Phillimore Recreation Ground outdoor gym	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0078		
80	Ridge play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0171	73.5%	38.2%
81.1	Ripon Park play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.2848	69.4%	45.5%
81.2	Ripon Park outdoor gym	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0102		
81.3	Ripon Park basketball post	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0116		
81.4	Ripon Park football goals	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0481		
87.1	Shakespeare Drive play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0755	79.4%	41.8%
97.1	Glebeland basketball court	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0111	47.4%	38.2%
101.1	Walshford Green football goals	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0671	43.3%	41.8%
105.1	Willow Way play area	Potters Bar	0.0353	77.7%	41.8%
105.2	Willow Way football goal	Potters Bar	0.0056		
105.3	Willow Way basketball post	Potters Bar	0.0028		
105.4	Willow Way fitness equipment	Potters Bar	0.0035		
107.1	Windmill Lane Recreation Ground play area	Bushey	0.0142	46.0%	29.1%
110	Eaton Way Play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0309	57.7%	41.8%
113	Shenley Park play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0805	64.3%	38.2%
114.2	Shenley Park play area 2	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0156	48.5%	45.5%
115	Greenwood Gardens play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0185	54.6%	38.2%

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
138	Parkfields MUGA	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0805	40.2%	38.2%
139	Winthorpe Gardens play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0287	79.4%	41.8%
148	Stanborough Avenue play areas	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0295	57.7%	41.8%
149	Back Lane play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0798	46.4%	34.5%
151.1	Aldenham Country Park play area	Aldenham and Shenley	0.0332	66.0%	45.5%
151.2	Aldenham Country Park Adventure Playground	Aldenham and Shenley	0.3502	59.4%	54.5%
152	Baker Court play area	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.0264	47.4%	38.2%
158	Three Valleys Way play area	Bushey	0.2298	60.5%	41.8%

Overall, there is a reasonably good spread of play provision. However, there are minor gaps in catchments across all three analysis areas. The table below details the analysis areas with gaps in catchments. The following sites may help to serve some of the gaps in catchments if the amount and range of play equipment can be expanded.

Table 7.4: Sites with potential to help serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Aldenham and Shenley	Harris Lane play area (ID 57.1) Shenley Park play area 2 (ID 114.2) Greenwood Gardens play area (ID 115)
Borehamwood and Elstree	Byron Avenue play area (ID 16.2)
Bushey	Hartwood Close play area (ID 42) Three Valleys Way play area (ID 158)
Potters Bar	Willow Way play area (ID 105.1)

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

7.4: Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guide), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people. A threshold of 60% is applied to distinguish high from low quality. Further explanation of the quality scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 7.5: Quality ratings for assessed provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Aldenham and Shenley	46%	63%	86%	5	10
Borehamwood and Elstree	38%	65%	79%	10	26
Bushey	46%	72%	91%	2	7
Potters Bar	44%	66%	78%	2	6
Hertsmere	38%	66%	91%	19	49

Nearly three quarters of play sites (72%) rate as good quality. Some of these sites are:

- ◀ King George Recreation Ground splash pool (91%)
- ◀ King George Recreation Ground play area (87%)
- ◀ Phillimore play area (86%)
- ◀ Fishers Park play area (84%)

These sites have signage, seating and boundary fencing. All four sites have the additional benefits of car parking, good user security and are well used. King George Recreation Ground splash pool is a new site and is a tropical island-themed splash park. The site includes three bays with features such as a "Labyrinth" water journey, jets, mist fountains, spinning cannons, and tipping buckets. The original paddling pool was replaced by a splash pad in 2017 and was refurbished and reopened in May 2025. As part of the improvement works the splash park's pump house has been replaced, with the flooring and equipment completely refurbished.

Likewise, other play areas across the Borough have been improved. At Byron Avenue, the existing play area and multi-sports court have been removed and replaced with a larger play area constructed from Robinia wood alongside a unique street football enclosure. Furthermore, the Council upgraded the existing junior play area at Oakmere Park (November 2019) to create a range of appropriate equipment to encourage active play. New features include climbing elements, a double zip wire and a large slide.

King George Recreation Ground features a range of play provision. As well as the splash park, there is a play area and MUGA on site, both good quality. The play area has good boundary fencing, controls to prevent illegal use, user security, benches and car parking. Surface and equipment quality are also identified as good quality.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Phillimore play area also benefits from a range of equipment with a MUGA and outdoor gym on site. It features good boundary fencing, several benches, bins and signage. It is also perceived to have good user security and to be well used. The site contains a car park but scores lower for quality.

Fishers Park play area scores high for quality. It is observed as containing room for additional equipment.

Moatfield play area (inc shelter) is another good quality site that features a range of equipment. It features a carousel swing, trampoline and new railings around the toddler play equipment. The rope swing can be used by multiple people and all ages.

Note that several sites score just below the quality threshold. Below are two examples.

- ◀ Brookside Play Area (59.5%)
- ◀ Oakmere Park play area (59.8%)

Brookside Play Area is noted as requiring work. Benches and bins are present at the site; however, it scores low for the amount of equipment and maintenance. Entrances, overall site quality, surface and equipment quality all score low. The site benefits from signage and is perceived as reasonably used. Oakmere Park play area benefits from good entrances, user security, benches, bins and signage, however it scores lower for general site appearance and the amount of seating.

There are 18 sites scoring below the quality threshold. Sites rating lower for quality is often due to maintenance / appearance observations and / or the range and quality of equipment on site.

For example, Elstree Hill North play area has limited equipment. The site scores lower for entrances, user security, site appearance and equipment quality. The site features benches however lacks bins and signage.

Paxton Court play area features no bins, seating or signage. However, the site benefits from good boundary fencing, user security and a wide entrance enabling pram and wheelchair access.

7.5: Value

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 7.6: Value ratings for provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Aldenham and Shenley	35%	42%	55%	0	15
Borehamwood and Elstree	38%	42%	51%	0	36
Bushey	29%	43%	69%	0	9
Potters Bar	42%	44%	45%	0	8
Hertsmere	29%	42%	69%	0	68

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

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

- ✦ King George Recreation Ground splash pool (69%)
- ✦ Aldenham Country Park play area (55%)
- ✦ Aldenham Country Park Adventure Playground (55%)
- ✦ Meadow Park pump track (51%)
- ✦ Meadow Park kickabout area (51%)

The sites are observed as being well maintained with a good variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used given their range and quality of equipment. Consequently, the range of benefits they provide means they rate highly for social, amenity, and physical activity value.

Aldenham Country Park play areas provide additional enhanced structural and landscape benefits through the inclusion of natural play equipment within a country park setting. The Aldenham Country Park Adventure Playground also delivers additional economic value, as there is a paid admission cost associated with use of the site. The Adventure Playground further contributes to social inclusion as part of its SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provision. Its wide range of sensory play features, including sound, light, touch, and colour-based activities, supports accessible and inclusive play opportunities.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and enhances value. Inclusive provision as well as facilities catering for older ages (e.g., skate park and MUGAs) are often highly valued play forms. For example, Meadow Park Play Area caters for a wide age range of children as it contains a play area, MUGA, pump track, splash area and kickabout area. Similarly, Ripon Park play area features a range of play provision including a play area, basketball post, half MUGA, outdoor gym equipment, a climbing wall and rota web climber.

PART 8: ALLOTMENTS

8.1: Introduction

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

8.2: Current provision

There are 14 sites classified as allotments in Hertsmere Borough equating to over 23 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 8.1: Current allotment provision by analysis area

Analysis area	Number	Hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Aldenham and Shenley	5	5.39	0.36
Borehamwood and Elstree	2	2.61	0.06
Bushey	4	5.82	0.20
Potters Bar	3	4.48	0.20
Hertsmere	14	23.69	0.22

The largest site in Hertsmere Borough is Paddock Road Allotments (5.03 allotments).

The National Allotment Society (NAS) suggests a 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).

Based on its current population (108,311), Hertsmere Borough is below the NAS standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision is 27.08 hectares. The existing provision of 23.69 hectares is therefore below this guideline.

Hertsmere Borough Council manage five sites. All of which are highlighted as being at capacity. This includes the following sites and their respective waiting list figure:

- ◀ Aberdale Gardens – 3
- ◀ Kimptons Mead – 3
- ◀ Finch Lane – 31
- ◀ Merry Hill – 29
- ◀ Windmill Lane – 12

Requests for allotments are handled via the council's allotment inbox and recorded in an excel spreadsheet in date and site preference order. When a plot becomes vacant the next person at the top of the list is contacted by the site representative.

8.3: Accessibility

Allotments across Hertsmere Borough are shown in figure 8.1.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped against analysis areas

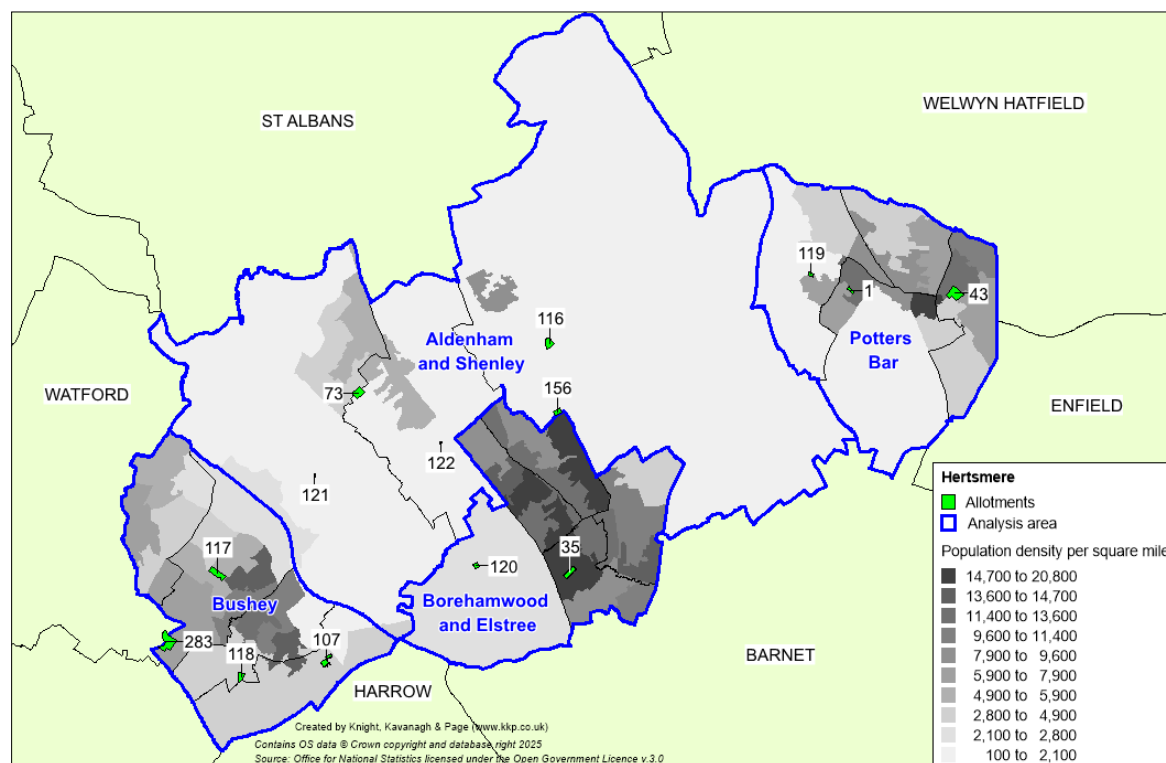


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality Rating	Value rating
1	Aberdale Gardens allotments	Potters Bar	0.55	34.0%	26.7%
35	Furzehill Road allotments	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.99	68.9%	27.6%
43	High View Gardens allotments	Potters Bar	3.79	46.6%	27.6%
73	Phillimore recreation ground allotments	Aldenham and Shenley	2.27	80.6%	33.3%
107	Windmill allotment gardens	Bushey	1.73	59.2%	27.6%
116	Green Street, Shenley	Aldenham and Shenley	1.88	51.5%	28.6%
117	Finch Lane Allotments	Bushey	2.82	52.4%	27.6%
118	Merryhill, Bushey	Bushey	1.27	51.5%	22.9%
119	Kimptons Mead, Potters Bar	Potters Bar	0.50	45.6%	26.7%
120	Allum Lane, Elstree	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.61	35.0%	21.9%
121	Letchmore Heath	Aldenham and Shenley	0.10	39.8%	26.7%
122	Cobden Hill	Aldenham and Shenley	0.10	21.4%	21.9%
156	Stapleton Road Allotments	Aldenham and Shenley	1.05	59.2%	38.1%
283	Paddock Road Allotments*	Bushey	5.03		

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a limited distribution across the area.

* Does not receive a quality or value score due to late inclusion,

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

8.4: 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 allotments. A threshold of 45% is applied to distinguish high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 8.3: Quality ratings for assessed allotments

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Aldenham and Shenley	21%	50%	81%	2	3
Borehamwood and Elstree	35%	52%	69%	1	1
Bushey	51%	54%	59%	0	3
Potters Bar	34%	42%	47%	1	2
Hertsmere	21%	50%	81%	4	9

13 allotment sites are allocated a quality rating. Due to late inclusion, Paddock Road Allotments does not receive a quality or value score. A higher proportion (67%) of allotment sites score above the quality threshold.

The highest scoring allotment site for quality, Phillimore recreation ground allotments (81%), is noted as a large site that is well used and well maintained. The site benefits from good entrances, access and user security. There is also car parking, signage and fresh water supply, further adding to the quality of the site. It is located adjacent to the recreation ground where there are toilets available.

Stapleton Road Allotments (59%) is another high scoring site for quality and features signage, a wide entrance and on-site car parking. This new site replaced the old one from across the road and has the additional benefits of bee hives, disabled-friendly plots and a community hub containing fully accessible toilets.

Four allotment sites score below the quality threshold due to few ancillary features. Cobden Hill (21%) scores low for entrances, access, user security and overall maintenance. Despite Aberdale Gardens allotments (34%) scoring below the quality threshold, the Stapleton Road Allotments is in a great location and has plenty of potential, but it does need some work. There appears to be space that could be developed into either additional parking or more allotment plots. With some regular maintenance and further investment, the site could become a great community facility.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

8.5: Value

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

Table 8.4: Value ratings for allotments

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Aldenham and Shenley	22%	30%	38%	0	5
Borehamwood and Elstree	22%	25%	28%	0	2
Bushey	23%	26%	28%	0	3
Potters Bar	27%	27%	28%	0	3
Hertsmere	22%	27%	38%	0	13

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

Stapleton Road Allotments is the highest scoring site for value (38%). It is a large, relatively new site. It appears well used and maintained providing high amenity benefits. The site has a car park and toilets within a hub adding to its benefits. In addition, the site features disability friendly plots and accessible toilets offering social inclusion. The presence of bee hives provides enhanced ecological value.

Phillimore recreation ground allotments (33%) also scores above the threshold for value. It is observed as a large and well-used site with 76 plots. The site has good wide entrances access to water providing high amenity and inclusivity benefits. Furthermore, the site has signage, car parking and good user security adding to its value.

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

PART 9: CEMETERIES / CHURCHYARDS

9.1: Introduction

Cemeteries / 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 11 sites classified as cemeteries / churchyards, equating to nearly 27 hectares of provision in Hertsmere Borough. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Current cemeteries / churchyards by analysis area

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)
Aldenham and Shenley	5	3.93
Borehamwood and Elstree	3	3.87
Bushey	2	18.07
Potters Bar	1	1.43
Hertsmere Borough	11	27.30

The largest contributor to burial provision is Bushey Jewish Cemetery at over 16 hectares.

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

9.3: Accessibility

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Figure 9.1: Cemetery / churchyard sites mapped against analysis areas

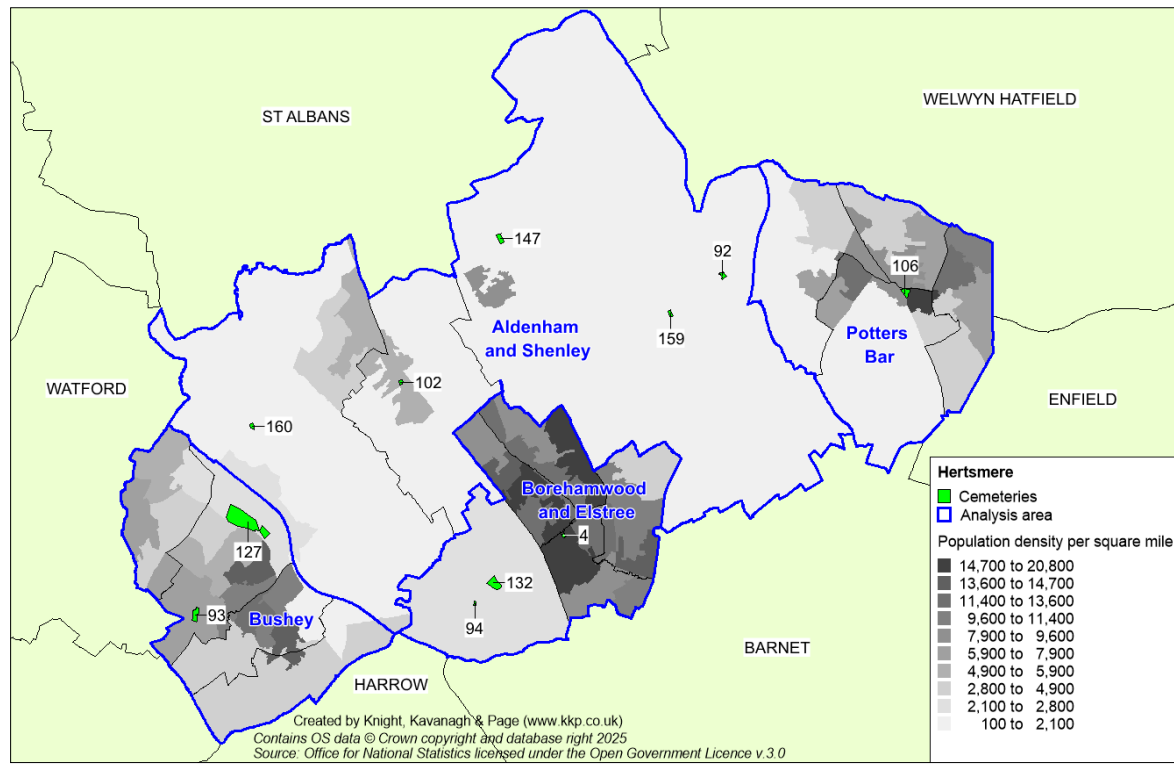


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)	Quality rating	Value rating
4	All Saints Graveyard	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.39	47.7%	33.0%
92	St Giles' Church	Aldenham and Shenley	0.81	63.5%	27.0%
93	St James' Church	Bushey	1.92	53.8%	32.0%
94	St Nicholas' Church	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.24	31.3%	28.0%
102	Watling Street	Aldenham and Shenley	0.54	50.6%	28.0%
106	Willow Way/Mutton Lane	Potters Bar	1.43	32.0%	27.0%
127	Bushey Jewish Cemetery	Bushey	16.16	57.3%	35.0%
132	Allum Lane Cemetery	Borehamwood and Elstree	3.24	54.1%	34.0%
147	Shenleybury Cemetery	Aldenham and Shenley	1.35	48.9%	39.0%
159	St Margaret's, Ridge	Aldenham and Shenley	0.63	60.9%	39.0%
160	St John the Baptist, Aldenham	Aldenham and Shenley	0.61	64.0%	39.0%

Mapping demonstrates the distribution of provision across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

9.4: 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 cemeteries. A threshold of 50% is applied to distinguish high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites; it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal.

Table 9.3: Quality ratings for assessed cemeteries

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Aldenham and Shenley	49%	58%	64%	1	4
Borehamwood and Elstree	31%	43%	49%	2	1
Bushey	53%	54%	54%	0	2
Potters Bar	32%	32%	32%	1	0
Hertsmere	31%	50%	64%	4	7

All 11 identified sites are allocated a quality rating. Over half (64%) of assessed sites rate above the threshold, with a summary of some of these sites provided below.

St John the Baptist, Aldenham (64%) is rated as good quality due to wide, accessible entrances and paths enabling pram and wheelchair access, numerous trees, hedges and landscaping. The site has the additional benefits of a car park, bins and signage, further adding to its quality.

Another large, good quality site is St Giles' Church which also scores 64% for quality. The site features a range of facilities including accessible entrances and pathways, signage, mature trees, good boundary fencing, benches and bins. The site feature good boundary fencing and user security.

Bushey Jewish Cemetery (57%) is a very large site featuring prayer halls, wide accessible paths and car parking (including disabled car parking).

Allum Lane Cemetery (54%) is observed as a large, well-maintained site with car parking, good signage and wide paths throughout. The site has the additional benefits of benches, a memorial garden and lawn cemetery which is neat and well maintained. There are some common graves within the cemetery too.

There are four sites scoring below the quality threshold. Both St Nicholas Church (31%) and Willow Way/Mutton Lane (32%) are identified as requiring work. St Nicholas Church is observed to be overgrown and lacks signage, seating, and litter bins. The site would benefit from the installation of benches and litter bins to improve visitor comfort and cleanliness. It also scores poorly for general maintenance and path condition, indicating a need for improved upkeep and accessibility.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Despite scoring below the quality threshold All Saints Graveyard (48%) is noted as appearing well maintained. The site also scores just below the quality threshold and would benefit from signage. The site benefits from the presence of benches and litter bins, as well as good entrances and boundary fencing.

Shenleybury Cemetery (49%) only just rates below the quality threshold. No significant quality observations are noted. However, paths are scored slightly lower than other elements.

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. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2.

Table 9.4: Value ratings for assessed cemeteries

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Aldenham and Shenley	27%	34%	39%	0	5
Borehamwood and Elstree	28%	32%	34%	0	3
Bushey	32%	34%	35%	0	2
Potters Bar	27%	27%	27%	0	1
Hertsmere	27%	33%	39%	0	11

All cemeteries score above the value threshold. Bushey Jewish Cemetery scores the highest for value due to featuring wide entrances, wide paths enabling pram and wheelchair access contributing to social inclusion. Additionally, the presence of trees on the site enhances its ecological value. Moreover, the signage and seating not only add to the amenity benefits but also create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors.

Despite St Nicholas' Church (28%) scoring above the value threshold, it is noted for containing old headstones, being overgrown, and requiring work. These factors reduce its visual appeal and landscape benefits.

9.6: Future burial demand

Hertsmere Council's Burial Needs Assessment (2020) provides a detailed insight into future burial demands within the Borough. It calculates that there will be a minimum increase of 20% in deaths in Hertsmere over the next twenty years. Consequently, this will lead to higher levels of demand for coffin and ashes burial.

Allum Lane Cemetery is currently the only HBC site which manages burials (bodies and ashes). The report states that it will run out of space for adult burials at the site, and an additional 3.86 acres (1.56 hectares) is required to meet projected demand for the next fifty years. The report concludes that the extension of the existing Allum Lane Cemetery into the field to its immediate north is the best solution for additional burial space provision moving forwards.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

PART 10: PROVISION STANDARDS

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

10.1: Quality and value

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

Quality and value matrix

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

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

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

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

10.2: Accessibility

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

Table 10.2.1: Accessibility catchments

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

No catchments are suggested for allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, it is better to determine need for provision based on locally known demand.

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

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

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

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 10.2.2: Sites helping to serve gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Aldenham and Shenley	Lateral Green (Tykeside Gardens) (ID 50) Wellhouse Dell (ID 131) 14 Watford Road (ID 200) Meadow E. of The Warren (ID 248)	Amenity Natural Amenity Natural
Borehamwood and Elstree	Aycliffe Park (ID 7) Brook Meadow (ID 13) Farriers Way open space (ID 30) Grantham Green (ID 39) Haggerston Park (ID 41) Kelly Court (Studio Way estate) (ID 46) Kenilworth Park (ID 47) Lemsford Court (ID 52) Maxwell Hillside Park (North) (ID 55) Maxwell Hillside Park (South) (ID 56) Meadow Park (ID 58) Milton Drive (24-50) (ID 60) Organ Hall open space (ID 67) Potters Wood (ID 76) Ripon Park (ID 81) Shakespeare Drive (ID 87) Tempsford Park (ID 96) Thirskcliffe Nature Park (ID 99) Walshford Green (ID 101) Wordsworth Gardens (ID 109) Composers Park (ID 130) Composers Park (ID 133) Woodcock Hill village green (ID 143) Knowl Park (ID 244)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Parks Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Natural Amenity
Bushey	Boundary Green (ID 12) Millbrook Road (Forest Walk) (ID 59) The Moatfield Recreation Ground (ID 62) Fishers Field Nature Reserve (ID 123) Fishers Park (ID 124) Hartspring Meadow (ID 128) Bushey Manor Field (ID 145) Bushey Grove (ID 154) Little Bushey Lane (ID 155) Golf Close (ID 234) Grove House (ID 236) The Old Rectory/Montegue House (ID 272) Merry Hill Road (ID 281) Bushey Open Space (ID 282)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural Natural Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Natural Natural
Potters Bar	Cranborne Crescent (ID 25) Elm Court Community Centre (ID 27) Furzefield (ID 34)	Amenity Amenity Amenity

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Rushfield (ID 83)	Amenity
	Wash Lane Common (ID 142)	Natural
	Kimptons Mead Nature Area (ID 157)	Natural
	Shilitoe Ave/Kimptons Mead (ID 261)	Natural

Table 10.2.3: Sites helping to serve gaps in natural greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Aldenham and Shenley	Lauteral Green (Tykeside Gardens) (ID 50) Ribston Close (ID 78) Shenley Park (ID 114) 14 Watford Road (ID 200) North Avenue (ID 251)	Amenity Amenity Parks Amenity Amenity
Borehamwood and Elstree	Brook Meadow (ID 13) Haggerston Park (ID 41) Hunter Close (ID 45) Kenilworth Park (ID 47) Maxwell Hillside Park (North) (ID 55) Maxwell Hillside Park (South) (ID 56) Meadow Park (ID 58) Ripon Park (ID 81) Tempsford Park (ID 96) Fair Close & 4-110 Claybury (ID 230)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity
Bushey	Bushey Rose Garden (ID 15) King George Recreation Ground (ID 48) The Moatfield Recreation Ground (ID 62) Bushey Grove (ID 154) 57-103 Farm Way (ID 203) Fair Close & 4-110 Claybury (ID 230) Little Grove, Great Grove, Collins Cour (ID 246) Lower Tub (ID 247)	Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Potters Bar	Church Road/Osborne Road (ID 19) Oakmere Park (including War Memorial) (ID 65) Willow Way (ID 105) Parkfield, Potters Bar (ID 135) Darkes Lane/Church Road (ID 225) Oakfield Close (ID 253)	Amenity Parks Amenity Parks Amenity Amenity

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 10.2.4: Sites helping to serve gaps in amenity greenspace catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Aldenham and Shenley	Wellhouse Dell (ID 131) Meadow E. of The Warren (ID 248)	Natural Natural
Borehamwood and Elstree	No Significant Gap	-
Bushey	Fishers Field Nature Reserve (ID 123) Fishers Park (ID 124) Hartspring Meadow (ID 128) Bushey Manor Field (ID 145)	Natural Natural Natural Natural
Potters Bar	Oakmere Park (including War Memorial) (ID 65) Parkfield, Potters Bar (ID 135) Wash Lane Common (ID 142) Aberdale Gardens (ID 204)	Parks Parks Natural Natural

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

Table 10.2.5: Sites helping to serve gaps in play provision catchments

Analysis area	Existing site with potential to help
Aldenham and Shenley	Harris Lane play area (ID 57.1) Shenley Park play area 2 (ID 114.2) Greenwood Gardens play area (ID 115)
Borehamwood and Elstree	Byron Avenue play area (ID 16.2)
Bushey	Hartwood Close play area (ID 42) Three Valleys Way play area (ID 158)
Potters Bar	Willow Way play area (ID 105.1)

10.3: Quantity

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

Setting quantity standards

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

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

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

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

Table 10.3.1 sets out the figures for current provision levels identified and national benchmarks.

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

Typology	Current provision	National benchmarks
Parks & gardens	1.04	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.10	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.88	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.06	0.55*
Allotment	0.22	0.25

For parks and amenity the current provision levels are greater than suggested guidance. However, for natural, play and allotments it is noticeably lower. For play, this is not unusual as the Fields in Trust benchmark incorporates a wider definition of space, including surrounding land, which results in an overall higher figure.

Existing provision levels are used to highlight existing shortfalls across different areas. Table 10.3.2 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall for each type of open space

* Combined 0.25 ha per 1,000 population for play and 0.30 ha per 1,000 population for casual play

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 10.3.2: Provision levels against current provision levels analysis area (hectares per 1,000 population)

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-Natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Play provision	
	1.04		1.10		0.88		0.22		0.06	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Aldenham and Shenley	0.66	-0.38	0.79	-0.31	0.94	+0.06	0.36	+0.14	0.11	+0.05
Borehamwood and Elstree	2.89	+1.85	0.96	+0.14	1.27	+0.39	0.06	-0.16	0.08	+0.02
Bushey	0.32	-0.72	1.93	+0.83	0.59	-0.29	0.20	+0.02	0.04	-0.02
Potters Bar	0.63	-0.41	0.47	-0.63	0.49	-0.39	0.20	+0.02	0.03	-0.03

All analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. The Potters Bar Analysis Area is noted as having shortfalls in all open space typologies except for allotments.

10.4: Identifying priorities and recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

Recommendation 1

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

Part 10.2 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision. Enhancement in certain sites addresses identified catchment gaps for more than one open space typology. The table below prioritises sites into high or medium, based on enhancement impact. Opportunities where possible should be to prioritise those ranked high.

Table 10.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:	Priority
7	Aycliffe Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
12	Boundary Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
13	Brook Meadow	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
15	Bushey Rose Garden	Parks and Gardens	Natural	Medium
16.2	Byron Avenue play area	Childrens play areas	Play	Medium

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:	Priority
19	Church Road/Osborne Road	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
25	Cranborne Crescent	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
27	Elm Court Community Centre	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
30	Farriers Way open space	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
34	Furze field	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
39	Grantham Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
41	Haggerston Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
42	Hartwood Close play area	Children's play areas	Play	Medium
45	Hunter Close	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
46	Kelly Court (Studio Way estate)	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
47	Kenilworth Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
48	King George Recreation Ground	Parks and Gardens	Natural	Medium
50	Lauteral Green (Tykeside Gardens)	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
52	Lemsford Court	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
55	Maxwell Hillside Park (North)	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
56	Maxwell Hillside Park (South)	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
57.1	Harris Lane play area	Children's play areas	Play	Medium
58	Meadow Park	Parks and Gardens	Parks, Natural	high
59	Millbrook Road (Forest Walk)	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
60	Milton Drive (24-50)	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
62	The Moatfield Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
65	Oakmere Park (including War Memorial)	Parks and Gardens	Natural, Amenity	High
67	Organ Hall open space	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
76	Potters Wood	Natural greenspaces	Parks	Medium
78	Ribston Close	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
81	Ripon Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
83	Rushfield	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
87	Shakespeare Drive	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
96	Tempsford Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
99	Thirskcliffe Nature Park	Natural greenspaces	Parks	Medium
101	Walshford Green	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
105	Willow Way	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
105.1	Willow Way play area	Children's play areas	Play	Medium
109	Wordsworth Gardens	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
114	Shenley Park	Parks and Gardens	Natural	Medium

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:	Priority
114.2	Shenley Park play area 2	Children's play areas	Play	Medium
115	Greenwood Gardens play area	Children's play areas	Play	Medium
123	Fishers Field Nature Reserve	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
124	Fishers Park	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
128	Hartspring Meadow	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
130	Composers Park	Natural greenspaces	Parks	Medium
131	Wellhouse Dell	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
133	Composers Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
135	Parkfield, Potters Bar	Parks and Gardens	Natural, Amenity	High
142	Wash Lane Common	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
143	Woodcock Hill village green	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
145	Bushey Manor Field	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
154	Bushey Grove	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
155	Little Bushey Lane	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
157	Kimptons Mead Nature Area	Natural greenspaces	Parks	Medium
158	Three Valleys Way play area	Children's play areas	Play	Medium
200	14 Watford Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
203	57-103 Farm Way	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
204	Aberdale Gardens	Natural greenspaces	Amenity	Medium
225	Darkes Lane/Church Road	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
230	Fair Close & 4-110 Claybury	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
234	Golf Close	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
236	Grove House	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
244	Knowl Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
246	Little Grove, Great Grove, Collins Cour	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
247	Lower Tub	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
248	Meadow E. of The Warren	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
251	North Avenue	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
253	Oakfield Close	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
261	Shilitoe Ave/Kimptons Mead	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
281	Merry Hill Road Bushey	Natural greenspaces	Parks	Medium
282	Bushey Open Space, High Street	Natural greenspaces	Parks	Medium

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

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

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

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

Recommendation 2

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

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

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

The table below also indicates the enhancement priority to improve the quality of these sites. Sites where enhancement can address gaps in more than one typology are identified as high priority.

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

Site ID	Site name	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:	Priority
200	14 Watford Road	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
203	57-103 Farm Way	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
230	Fair Close & 4-110 Claybury	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
234	Golf Close	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
236	Grove House	Amenity greenspace	Parks, Natural	High
244	Knowl Park	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium
247	Lower Tub	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
248	Meadow E. of The Warren	Natural greenspaces	Parks, Amenity	High
251	North Avenue	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
253	Oakfield Close	Amenity greenspace	Natural	Medium
261	Shiltoe Ave/Kimptons Mead	Amenity greenspace	Parks	Medium

Recommendation 3

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

This study identifies 55 sites currently below their quality and/or value thresholds. For an area with a quantity sufficiency in one type of open space, and where opportunities allow, a change of primary typology could be considered for some sites of that same type.

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

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

Recommendation 4

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

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

Recommendation 5

- Provision standards to inform future growth requirements

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

There are two options in deciding what quantity standards to use for determining future requirements. One approach is to base standards on current provision levels while an alternative approach is to use figures provided by organisations like Fields In Trust.

Table 10.4.3 sets out the figures for current provision levels identified and national benchmarks.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 10.4.3: Comparison of quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)

Typology	Current provision	National benchmarks
Parks & gardens	1.04	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.10	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.88	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.06	0.55 ⁶
Allotment	0.22	0.25

In the previous Open Space Study (2019) the FIT standards were regarded by the Council as still representing an informed view towards provision levels. Consequently, they were proposed for use as the quantity standards. If these are still considered appropriate for use, they can help to inform future open space requirements as part of planned growth.

Appendix One provides a potential guide as to how to apply the findings as part of applications.

Future growth

The current housing growth requirement in Hertsmere across the Local Plan period to 2041 is for 16,600 new dwellings. This equates to a population growth of 39,840.

Most of the strategic growth is distributed across the four key growth areas in Hertsmere (Borehamwood, Potters Bar, Bushey and Radlett) and the new settlement of Bowman's Cross. Bowmans Cross requirement is based on an assumed housing delivery of 7,000 dwellings, consistent with the emerging Local Plan. However, this is still subject to change and is not confirmed.

The strategic developments are:

- ◀ **Borehamwood** – housing target of approximate 8,000 new dwellings
- ◀ **Potters Bar** - housing target approximate 4,000 new dwellings.
- ◀ **Bushey** - housing target approximate 3,000 new dwellings.
- ◀ **Radlett** - housing target approximate 2,900 new dwellings.
- ◀ **Bowmans Cross** - housing development approximate 7,000 new dwellings.

On this basis, using the national benchmarks as recommended quantity standards, the following open space requirements per typology⁷ are calculated overleaf.

⁶ Combined 0.25 ha per 1,000 population for play and 0.30 ha per 1,000 population for casual play

⁷ Current provision (ha per 1,000 population) x population increase / 1000 = estimated requirement

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Borehamwood

The allocation is to deliver 8,000 dwellings. It is assumed this will provide an indicative population of 19,200 people. On this basis, the table below sets out the open space requirements.

Table 11.4.4: Borehamwood Open Space Requirements (hectares)

Parks and gardens	Natural & semi-natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotment	Play
15.36	34.56	11.52	4.80	10.56

Potters Bar

The allocation is to deliver 4,000 dwellings. It is assumed this will provide an indicative population of 9,600 people. On this basis, the table below sets out the open space requirements.

Table 11.4.5: Potters Bar Open Space Requirements (hectares)

Parks and gardens	Natural & semi-natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotment	Play
7.68	17.28	5.76	2.40	5.28

Bushey

The allocation is to deliver 3,000 dwellings. It is assumed this will provide an indicative population of 7,200 people. On this basis, the table below sets out the open space requirements.

Table 11.4.6: Bushey Open Space Requirements (hectares)

Parks and gardens	Natural & semi-natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotment	Play
5.76	12.96	4.32	1.80	3.96

Radlett

The allocation is to deliver 2,900 dwellings. It is assumed this will provide an indicative population of 6,900 people. On this basis, the table below sets out the open space requirements.

Table 11.4.7: Radlett Open Space Requirements (hectares)

Parks and gardens	Natural & semi-natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotment	Play
5.57	12.53	4.18	1.74	3.83

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Bowmans Cross

The allocation is to deliver 7,000 dwellings. It is assumed this will provide an indicative population of 16,800 people. On this basis, the table below sets out the open space requirements.

Table 11.4.8: Bowmans Cross Open Space Requirements (hectares)

Parks and gardens	Natural & semi-natural greenspace	Amenity greenspace	Allotment	Play
13.44	30.24	10.08	4.20	9.24

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX ONE: APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

The following steps can be used to assess the open space requirements for new development:

- Step 1. Calculate population generated by housing development
- Step 2. Calculate open space requirement generated by housing development
- Step 3. Determine if provision should be on-site or off-site
- Step 4. Calculate the financial off-site contribution
- Step 5. Calculate the contribution for maintenance sums
- Step 6. Identify which sites could benefit from an off-site contribution

Step 1	Calculate population generated by housing development
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To determine the requirements for open space provision, the starting point is to calculate the level of demand (additional population) generated by that development.

$$\text{Number of dwellings} \times \text{household occupancy rate (2.4)}^8 = \text{new population}$$

The figure can be adjusted in instances where the new population is known or a different occupancy rate is available.

Step 2	Calculate open space requirement generated by housing development
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To determine the open space requirement for each form of open space the associated population is multiplied by the quantity standard for each relevant typology.

The following calculation should be used:

$$\text{Quantity guideline standard} \times \text{associated population} / 1000 = \text{open space requirement}$$

This will give the requirements (in hectares) resulting from the development. This can be converted to square metres. The quantity standards used are based on national benchmarks such as those cited by Fields In Trust (in line with the previous study).

Table A1.1: Recommended quantity standards

Typology	Quantity standard (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.55
Allotments	0.25

⁸ ONS, Families and households in the UK (2024)

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Step 3	Determine if provision should be on-site or off-site?
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Whether provision should be made on-site or via an off-site contribution is dependent on the size of the development. In the case of larger-scale residential developments, it is more likely that provision will be provided on-site. Larger residential developments will have a critical mass of population and should provide all types of open space on-site in order to serve the additional population as a result of the development.

Best practice guidance from organisations like FIT and Design Council, suggest that provision below certain sizes should not be provided as on-site provision and instead provided as off-site contributions. This is to avoid the creation of numerous small sites often of less recreational value (and quality over time).

New provision should be provided on-site if the scale of the development is above the 'triggers' set out in Table A1.2. For play space this is sub-categorised by the recognised types of play facilities (Local Area of Play – LAP; Local Equipped Area of Play – LEAP; Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play – NEAP).

Table A1.2: Minimum site size thresholds

Classification	Minimum size of site
Allotments	0.4 ha (0.025 per plot)
Amenity greenspace	0.4 ha
Natural and semi natural	0.4 ha
Parks and gardens	2 ha
Play (LAP)	0.01
Play (LEAP)	0.04
Play (NEAP)	0.10

Only in exceptional circumstances may off-site provision for instances that qualify for on-site provision be considered as an appropriate means of providing open space as an alternative. Any proposal for alternative off-site provision must be clearly justified.

Consideration as to the positioning of any new forms of open space and play provision as part of a development must consider any existing forms of provision. For example, if the border of a development is adjacent to an existing form of open space, then consideration must be given to 'extending' that open space provision. This may also assist with bridging existing and new communities together sensitively through new open space provision as well as offering practical logistical solutions. It may also be relevant for existing features such as trees and hedges to be protected and retained where possible.

The open space requirement as part of a development, regardless of size, should not prevent the incorporation of grass verges, hedges, trees, planted areas and other smaller landscaping features within a development which help to provide visually attractive housing developments. These types of open space are incidental and should not count towards open space provision.

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Step 4	Calculate the financial off-site contribution
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If an off-site contribution is required in lieu of on-site provision, a financial contribution towards each provision type should be calculated.

The council should look to review costs regularly to ensure they are reflective of real term costs. Linking costs to inflation or consumer indexes is advisable.

Step 5	Calculate the contribution for maintenance sums
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A development needs to make appropriate provision of services, facilities and infrastructure to meet its own needs. New forms of provision will add to the existing management and maintenance pressures of the local authority.

Consequently, there needs to be a requirement on developers to demonstrate that where new provision is to be provided it will be managed and maintained accordingly through adequate mechanisms to secure long term stewardship of the asset (e.g. via a trust or adoption by the Local Authority). Developers are therefore required to submit a sum of money in order to pay for the costs of the site's future maintenance.

Sums to cover the maintenance costs of a site (once transferred to the Council) typically cover a period of 20 years.

Commuted sums for maintenance are often based on costs per square metre.

Step 6	Identify sites which could benefit from an off-site contribution
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The new population arising from the development will result in increased demand to existing forms of provision; subsequently off-site contributions need to be used to enhance the quality of and/or access to existing provision within an acceptable distance to the development.

Sites identified as being below the quality and value thresholds are highlighted in the Open Space Study. Consequently, these sites may benefit most from some form of enhancement.

There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of lower quality and/or value sites within proximity to a new housing development. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on facilities further away which offer more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance a site that is not appropriate or cost effective to do so close by.

In such cases, consider those sites identified as helping to serve 'gaps' in provision (as identified in the Open Space Study). Such sites play an important role in ensuring access to open space provision. Similarly, if any key sites of significance are within the access to the development, then these sites may be better suited for off-site contributions. This will help to ensure efficient use of contributions and maximise enhancements. For example, if a prominent park is located close to the development, then an off-site contribution to enhance that site is still warranted as the park site is likely to have a strong attraction and level of use for new residents for a variety of reasons.