APPENDIX C

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OPEN SPACE STUDY

NOVEMBER 2025

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@kkp.co.uk **www.kkp.co.uk**

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE STUDY

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Glossary

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

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE STUDY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

North West Leicestershire District Council commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an Open Space Study. This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study. It provides details regarding what provision exists in the area, its condition/quality, provision gaps and future needs.

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

In order for planning policies relating to open space to be 'sound', local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of the need for open space, sport, and recreation facilities. We follow the methodology to undertake such assessments by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; Assessing Needs and Opportunities[1]' published in September 2002.

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

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

[1] Assessing Needs and Opportunities

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

Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions

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

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 such as the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). 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.

1.1 Report structure

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

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

1.2 National context

National Planning Policy Framework, (DLUHC)

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

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

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

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

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

National Planning Practice Guidance (DLUHC and MHCLG)

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

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

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

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

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

Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England

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

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

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

Green Infrastructure Framework (2023), Natural England

Launched by Natural England, the Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) provides a structure to analyse where greenspace in urban environments is needed most. It aims to support equitable access to greenspace across the country, with an overarching target for everyone being able to reach good quality greenspace in their local area.

The GIF comprises of principles, standards, mapping tools, planning and design guides. The principles are set out for consideration to reflect the importance of providing multi-functional and well-designed provision.

Principle
Why 1 – Nature rich beautiful places
Why 2 – Active and healthy places
Why 3 – Thriving and prospering communities
Why 4 – Understanding and managing water environment
Why 5 – Resilient and climate positive places
What 1 - Multifunctional
What 2 - Varied
What 3 - Connected
What 4 - Accessible
What 5 - Character
How 1 – Partnership and vision
How 2 - Evidence
How 3 – Plan strategically
How 4 - Design
How 5 – Managed, valued, monitored and evaluated

Summary of the national context

Policies set out within the NPPF state that local and neighbourhood plans should both reflect needs and priorities within a local community and be based on robust and current assessments of open space, sport and recreational facilities. Encouraging better levels of physical literacy[2] 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.

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

1.3 Local context

Local Plan

The vision set out within the current Local Plan (2011-2031) states that the district will continue to be a place where people choose to live and settle, within communities that get their strength and attraction from vibrant, accessible places centred around award-winning housing developments.

The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, to cover the 2024-2042 period. This will update existing policies and address changes in national planning policy and local circumstances. The preparation and review of all policies must be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This document, in terms of open space provision, forms part of the Council's Local Plan evidence base.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 – 2028

In relation to the benefits of the open spaces, the Council has a Health and Wellbeing Strategy which aims to "measurably improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in North West Leicestershire". This aim will be achieved through core principles and an action plan.

The importance of open spaces to health and wellbeing is shown through the strategy action plan, as it mentions the development of a comprehensive open space needs assessment and strategy that provides detailed insights into the quality and value of open spaces, play facilities, and green infrastructure across the district.

PART 2: METHODOLOGY

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

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

2.1 Analysis area

The study area comprises the whole district of North West Leicestershire. However, the focus is on the six settlement areas with greater population density. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas (consisting of electoral wards which align with other work streams) have been utilised.

Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations

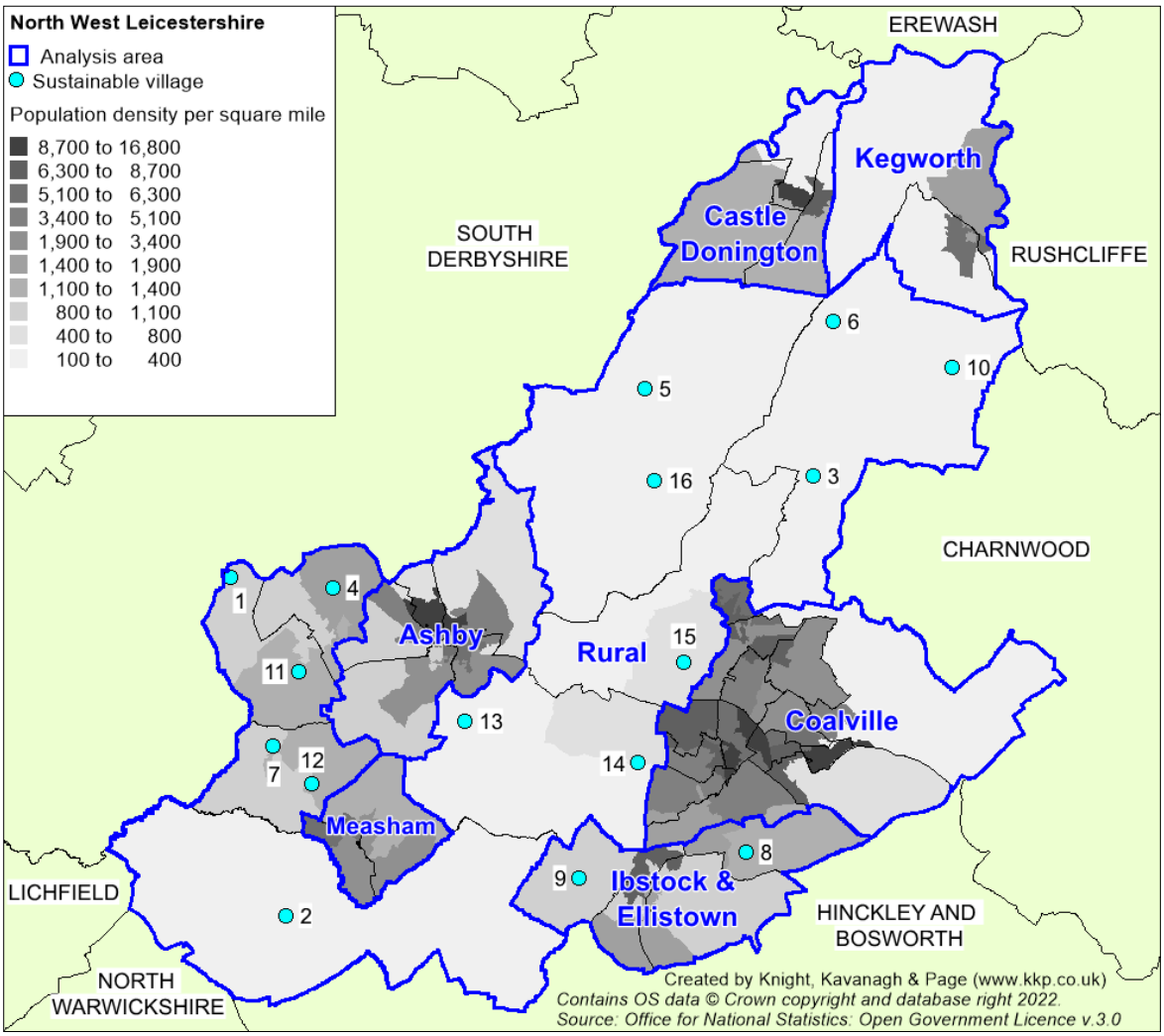
Analysis area	Population[3]
Ashby de la Zouch	15,356
Castle Donington	7,328
Coalville	39,564
Ibstock & Ellistown	11,009
Kegworth	5,085
Measham	5,443
Rural	23,887
North West Leicestershire	**107,672**

Figure 2.1 shows the district broken down by ward into these analysis areas in tandem with population density. The sustainable villages are also shown on the map for context.

Sustainable Villages (Map ID)
Albert Village (1), Appleby Magna (2), Belton (3), Blackfordby (4), Breedon on the Hill (5), Diseworth (6), Donisthorpe (7), Ellistown (8), Heather (9), Long Whatton (10), Moria (11), Oakthorpe (12), Packington (13), Ravenstone (14), Swannington (15) and Worthington (16)

[3] Mid-Year Estimates (2022), Office for National Statistics

Figure 2.1: Map of North West Leicestershire including analysis areas



2.2 Auditing local provision

Open space sites (including provision for children and young people) are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. Only sites publicly accessible are included in the quality and value audit (i.e., private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). The focus for the audit is on sites within the six settlement areas with greater population density. Sites outside these six areas are not identified as part of the audit.

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

Site size threshold

In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace.

It is recognised that it would be impractical to capture every piece of land that could be classed as open space. They are often too small to provide any meaningful leisure and recreational opportunities to warrant a full site assessment. However, spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife.

Table 2.2: Site size thresholds for each open space typology

Typology	Site size threshold
Allotments	None
Amenity greenspace	0.2ha
Cemeteries	None
Parks and gardens	None
Provision for children and young people	None
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	0.2ha

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

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

Database development

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

Data held on open spaces database (summary)
◂ KKP reference number (used for mapping) ◂ Site name ◂ Ownership (if known) ◂ Management (if known) ◂ Typology ◂ Size (hectares) ◂ Site audit data

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

2.3 Open space standards

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

Quality	Ability to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities. Aimed at identifying high quality provision for benchmarking and low quality provision for targeting as part of improvements. The Quality Standard is based on the audit assessment scores.
Quantity	Are there enough spaces in the right places? Aimed at helping to establish areas of surplus and deficiency and, where appropriate, to understand 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

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

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

Analysis of quality

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

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

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

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

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

Analysis of value

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

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

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

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

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology

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

2.6 Accessibility catchments

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

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

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

Table 2.3: Accessibility catchment times/distances

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

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

PART 3: SITE AUDIT

3.1 Audit overview

Within North West Leicestershire there are a total of 199 sites equating to 321 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural greenspace (164 hectares), accounting for 51%.

Note the figures do not include the National Forest which covers a significant proportion of North West Leicestershire. At 200 square miles in size, it is acknowledged as a major contribution in terms of access to provision.

Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)[4]
Allotments	15	20
Amenity greenspace	60	58
Cemeteries/churchyards	18	22
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	10	164
Park and gardens	9	49
Provision for children & young people	87	8
TOTAL	**199**	**321**

3.2 Quality

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

Table 3.2.1: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Sites below typology threshold	Sites above typology threshold
Amenity greenspace	29	31
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	2	3
Park and gardens	4	4
Provision for children & young people	27	59
Total	**62**	**97**

Majority of the open space sites across all typologies rate above the quality threshold. This is reflected in 61% of the sites assessed scoring above their set threshold for quality.

[4] Rounded to the nearest whole number

3.3 Value

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

Table 3.3.1: Value scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Sites below typology threshold	Sites above typology threshold
Amenity greenspace	11	49
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	0	5
Park and gardens	0	8
Provision for children & young people	4	82
Total	**15**	**144**

Nearly all sites (91%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

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

There are a handful of sites that score especially high for quality and value. Their quality and value scores are shown below in Table 3.4.2.

Table 3.4.2: High quality and value sites

KKP Ref	Site Name	Typology	Quality Score	Value Score
137	Scotlands Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	85.2%	33.0%
147	Snibston Colliery Park	Parks and gardens	82.3%	40.9%
65	Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside	Natural greenspaces	81.5%	43.6%
36	Coalville Park	Parks and Gardens	77.0%	50.0%
107	Millfield Recreation Ground	Amenity greenspace	74.4%	33.0%
70	Hood Park	Amenity greenspace	71.8%	45.0%
34	Coalville Adventure Park	Parks and Gardens	70.8%	37.3%
16	Bath Grounds	Parks and Gardens	70.8%	50.0%

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 nine sites classified as parks and gardens, the equivalent to 49 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. The names of the parks and their analysis area are listed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.1: Current parks and gardens provision

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	2	8.21	0.53
Castle Donington	-	-	-
Coalville	4	40.38	1.02
Ibstock & Ellistown	-	-	-
Kegworth	-	-	-
Measham	3	0.75	0.14
Total	**9**	**49.34**	**0.46**

For parks and gardens, there is a current provision level of 0.46 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to this provision is Snibston Colliery Park (27.82 ha), located in the Coalville Analysis Area. The next largest sites are Coalville Adventure Park (7.21 ha), also in Coalville Analysis Area, and Bath Grounds (4.99 ha) in the Ashby Analysis Area.

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 such parks include Snibston Colliery Park and Coalville Adventure Park. Other sites within the typology of parks and gardens are smaller in size and are classed as local parks. For example, Ashby Community Garden in the Measham 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, North West Leicestershire is below this. However, the Coalville Analysis Area is above with 1.02 hectares, whereas the remaining areas all fall below the standard.

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.

4.3 Accessibility

An accessibility catchment of a 9-minute walk time has been set across North West Leicestershire. Figure 4.1 shows parks and gardens mapped with the accessibility catchment. This should be treated as an approximation as it does not take into account topography or walking routes. Each site has been allocated its own ID number (shown in Figure 4.1).

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

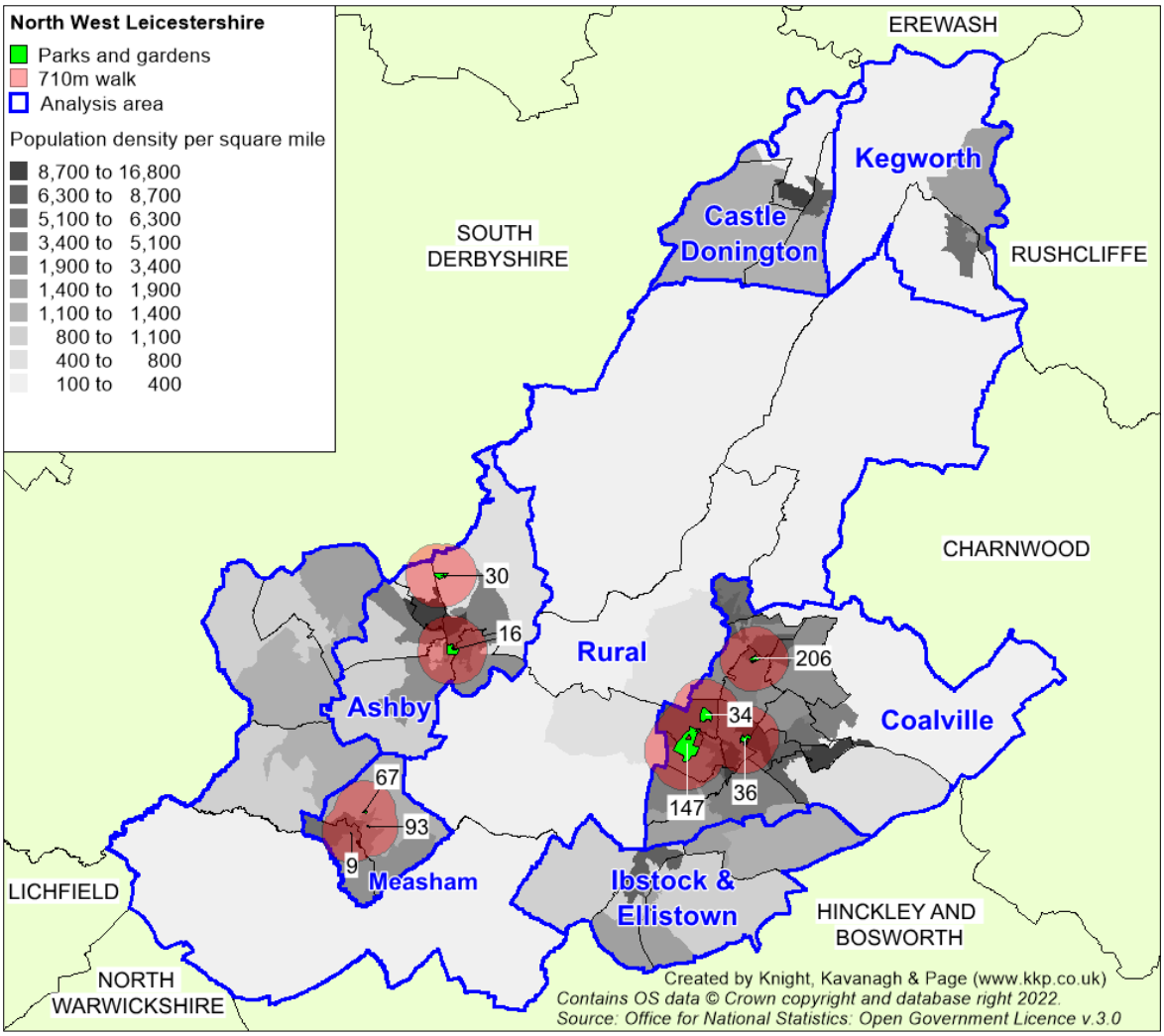


Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
9	Ashby Community Garden	Measham	0.05	47.1%	37.3%
16	Bath Grounds	Ashby	4.99	70.8%	50.0%
30	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park	Ashby	3.22	42.3%	41.8%
34	Coalville Adventure Park	Coalville	7.22	70.8%	37.3%
36	Coalville Park	Coalville	3.14	77.0%	50.0%

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
67	High Street Park, Measham	Measham	0.52		
93	Measham Garden of Remembrance	Measham	0.18	35.8%	50.9%
147	Snibston Colliery Park	Coalville	27.82	82.3%	40.9%
206	Whitwick Park	Coalville	2.19	45.4%	39.1%

High Street Park in Measham was not assigned a quality or value score. At the time of visit, the site was observed to be in a neglected condition, characterised by overgrown grass and a significant presence of dead trees.

In general, there is reasonable coverage of parks based on a 9-minute walk time in areas with greater population density. However, gaps are noticeable in some areas. This is noticeable to areas of greater population density such as Ashby, Castle Donington, Coalville, Ibstock & Ellistown and Kegworth. Many of these gaps are served by other forms of open space provision such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace. Such sites may not meet the criteria of parks provision but are likely to offer similar opportunities and access to recreational activities often associated with parks. Exploring the potential to formalise features associated with parks provision at some of these sites could be considered to increase a sites secondary function as a park.

Table 4.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Highgate (ID 68) Hood Park (ID 70) School Lane (ID 134) Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197) Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17) Goddards Drive (ID 49) Merchantman Mews (ID 102) Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112) Spital Park (ID 150) Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5) Gracedieu Wood (ID 52) Greenhill Open Space (ID 57) Greenhill Rec Ground (ID 59) Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (ID 65) Kirkhill Close (ID 83) Melrose Recreation Ground (ID 98) Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107) Olive Grove (ID 119) Sharpley Avenue Recreation Ground (ID 140)	Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Ibstock & Ellistown	Church View Recreation Ground (ID 26) Coronet Drive (ID 38) Frances Way (ID 45) Leicester Road Park (ID 84) Mill Hill Wood Way (ID 105) New Row (ID 115)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Usbourne Way (ID 190) Water Meadow Park (ID 193)	Amenity Amenity
Kegworth	Sideley Recreation Ground (ID 143) Whatton Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity
Measham	No gap	-

4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied to segregate high from low quality parkland. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). 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%
Ashby	42%	57%	71%	1	1
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	-
Coalville	45%	77%	82%	1	3
Ibstock & Ellistown	-	-	-	-	-
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	36%	41%	47%	2	0
Total	**36%**	**59%**	**82%**	**4**	**4**

The highest scoring sites for quality are Snibston Colliery Park (82%) and Coalville Park (77%). The former site is highlighted as being an excellent country park for walkers and cyclists, with quality trails, a variety of colliery buildings on site, and is well maintained and used by the local community. The site contains signage, seating, bins, and wide entrances, further adding to its benefits. Coalville Park rates highly as the site is also very well maintained, has clear signage, and is a park that appears used regularly by locals to exercise and relax. Additionally, it has an area set aside for wildlife pollinators and has a marked jogging route, which further adds to the quality of the site.

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

Currently there are three park sites identified as having a Green Flag Award. These are Snibston Colliery Park and Coalville Park, in Coalville, and Bath Grounds in Ashby.

Measham Garden of Remembrance (36%), located in Measham, ranks the lowest out of all sites for quality, however, there are no major quality issues. It is small in size and offers a place for locals to pay their respects and tributes. The site serves its purpose of being a memorial garden as it includes a memorial pillar. As it is a small memorial garden, it does not feature some ancillary provisions such as toilets, as it would be deemed inappropriate.

Cliftonthorpe Activity Park, in Ashby, rates below the quality threshold. Observed as more of a local park situated at the end of houses. It features a small play area but lacks other ancillary facilities as it lacks signage, seating, and litter bins.

4.5 Value

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

Table 4.5: Value ratings for assessed parks and gardens

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Ashby	42%	46%	50%	0	2
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	-
Coalville	37%	43%	50%	0	4
Ibstock & Ellistown	-	-	-	-	-
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	37%	44%	51%	0	2
Total	**37%**	**43%**	**51%**	**0**	**8**

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

- Measham Garden of Remembrance (51%)
- Coalville Park (50%)
- Bath Grounds (50%)

All of these sites have high amenity and social value due to reasons ranging from recreational and exercise opportunities to cultural and heritage benefits. The sites also score highly for visual and landscape benefits, which can be attributed to a wide variety of factors, such as cleanliness and maintenance that is above adequate.

Coalville Park (Coalville) and Bath Grounds (Ashby) offer enhanced amenities and health benefits, featuring a range of play equipment.

Measham Garden of Remembrance is a site that has high educational value as well as cultural and heritage significance due to being a war memorial for fallen soldiers. It contains 54 trees to mark each fallen soldier.

All park and garden sites provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer. One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their function as a 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 AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

5.1 Introduction

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

The typology of natural and semi-natural greenspace has a relatively low-quality threshold compared to other open space typologies. This is to reflect the characteristics of this kind of provision. For instance, many natural and semi-natural sites are intentionally without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater flora and fauna activity.

5.2 Current provision

In total, there are 10 natural and semi-natural greenspace sites, equating to over 164 hectares.

Table 5.1: Current natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	-	-	-
Castle Donington	-	-	-
Coalville	9	46.81	1.18
Ibstock & Ellistown	1	117.65	10.67
Kegworth	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-
Total	**10**	**164.46**	**1.53**

These totals do not include all provisions in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to 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. There are however four sites less than 0.2 hectares in Coalville which are included due to being initially identified with the data.

The two largest sites are Sence Valley Forest Park (118 hectares), in Ibstock and Ellistown, and Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (23 hectares) in Coalville. The two make up 86% of the natural/semi-natural provision. Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Within the district, there is an overall provision of 1.53 hectares per 1,000 head of population, which is below the FIT guidelines.

It is important to recognise the role of the National Forest locally in terms of access to natural greenspace. At 200 square miles in size, it covers a large proportion of North West Leicestershire.

It is also important to acknowledge that other open spaces, such as parks and amenity greenspace often provide opportunities associated with natural greenspace. Furthermore, some sites can bridge the definition of typologies, such as natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. For example, a grassed area left unmaintained can start to have characteristics associated with natural greenspace.

5.3 Accessibility

An accessibility standard of a 9-minute walk time has been set across North West Leicestershire for natural and semi-natural greenspace. This is based on FIT catchments. Figure 5.1 shows natural greenspace mapped against the accessibility catchments.

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

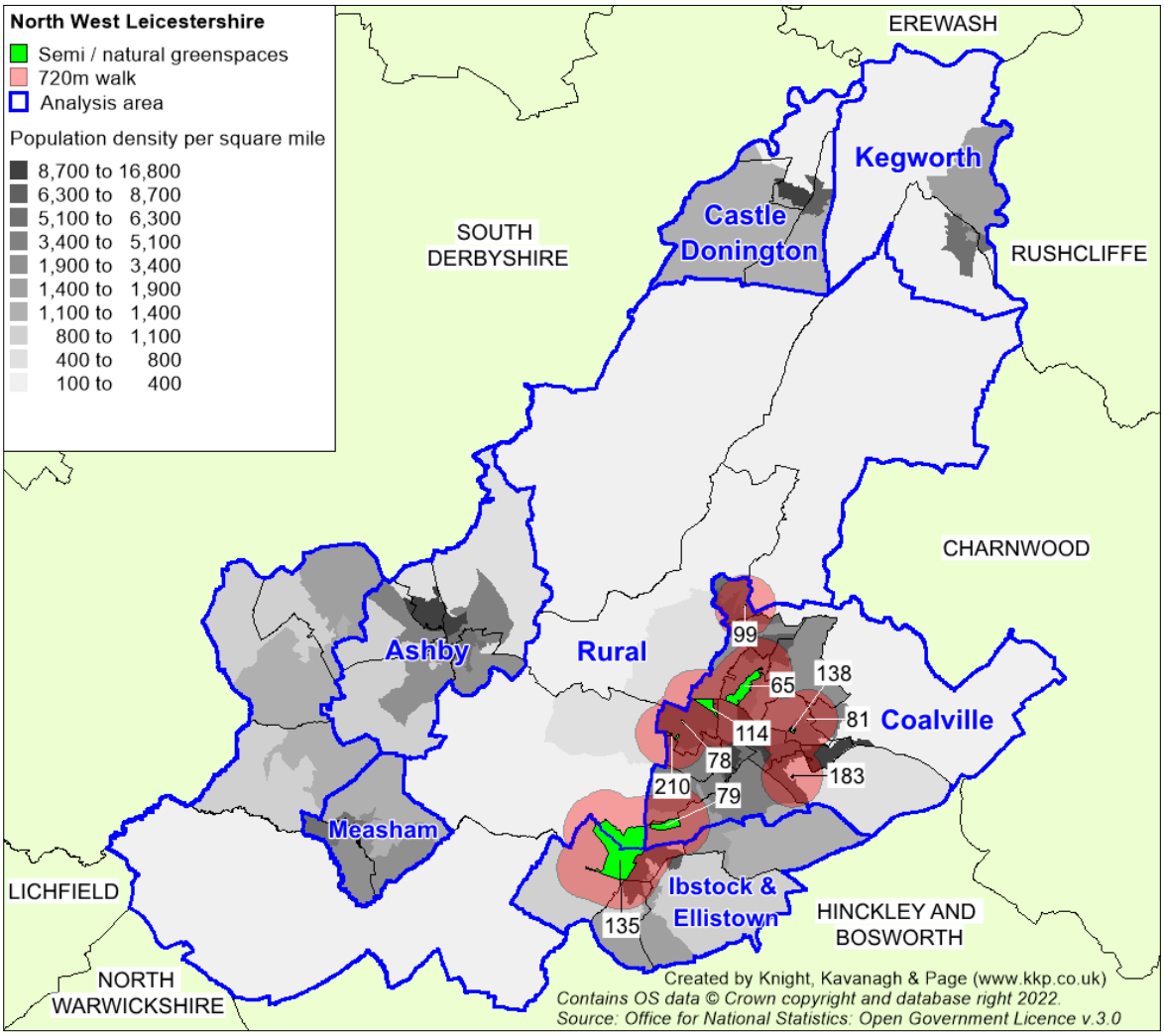


Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
65	Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside	Coalville	23.29	81.5%	43.6%
78	Kendrick Close	Coalville	0.16		
79	Kelham Nature Bridge Reserve[5]	Coalville	12.42		
81	Kingfisher Close	Coalville	0.02		
99	Melrose Road	Coalville	0.16		
135	Sence Valley Forest Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	117.65	67.5%	48.2%
114	Nature Alive	Coalville	8.64	43.9%	29.1%
138	Sharpley Avenue	Coalville	0.88	48.4%	43.6%
183	The Oval	Coalville	0.19		
210	Woodlands Reach NSN	Coalville	1.05	24.0%	30.0%

Most areas with greater population density are served by the 9-minute walk time. However, noticeable gaps are observed across all analysis areas with a greater population density.

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

Table 5.3: Other open spaces serving gaps in natural catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Bath Grounds (ID 16)	Parks
	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30)	Parks
	Highgate (ID 68)	Amenity
	Hood Park (ID 70)	Amenity
	Memorial Field (ID 101)	Amenity
	Prior Park Road Field (ID 125)	Amenity
	School Lane (ID 134)	Amenity
	Stuart Way (ID 175)	Amenity
	Ulleswater Crescent (ID 189)	Amenity
	Western Park (ID 195)	Amenity
	Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197)	Amenity
	Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Amenity
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17)	Amenity
	Goddards Drive (ID 49)	Amenity
	Merchantman Mews (ID 102)	Amenity
	Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112)	Amenity
	Spital Park (ID 150)	Amenity
	Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5)	Amenity
	Kirkhill Close (ID 83)	Amenity
	Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107)	Amenity

[5] No quality/value score as site could not be accessed at time of visit

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
	Olive Grove (ID 119) Scotlands Recreation Ground (ID 137) Stadium Open Space (ID 167)	Amenity Amenity Amenity
Ibstock & Ellistown	Church View Recreation Ground (ID 26) Leicester Road Park (ID 84) New Row (ID 115) Water Meadow Park (ID 193)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Kegworth	Sideley Recreation Ground (ID 143) Whatton Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity
Measham	Ashby Canal Trail (ID 7) Ashby Community Garden (ID 9) Greenfield Road (ID 54) High Street Park, Measham (ID 67) Measham Garden of Remembrance (ID 93) Measham Recreation Ground (ID 94) Potters Way (ID 123) Wigeon Drive (ID 205)	Amenity Parks Amenity Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity

5.4 Quality

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

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<45%	>45%
Ashby	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	-
Coalville	24%	49%	82%	2	2
Ibstock & Ellistown	67%	67%	67%	0	1
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**24%**	**53%**	**82%**	**2**	**3**

Quality of assessed sites is mixed with three sites rating above the quality threshold and two rating below. The lower scoring sites are:

- Woodlands Reach NSN (24%)
- Nature Alive (44%)

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as signage and benches. Woodlands Reach NSN lack a minimum entrance width of 1.5 metres, posing challenges for some users.

Although Nature Alive (44%) rates just below the quality threshold, it is noted as having a variety of high quality characteristics such as an accessible entrance, accessibility within and through the site, personal security (as it is overlooked) and quality paths that are pleasant to walk on.

In some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally managed without ancillary facilities to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation.

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

- Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (82%) (Coalville)
- Sence Valley Forest Park (67%) (Ibstock & Ellistown)
- Sharpley Avenue (48%) (Coalville)

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

5.5 Value

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

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

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Ashby	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	-
Coalville	29%	37%	44%	0	4
Ibstock & Ellistown	48%	48%	48%	0	1
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**29%**	**39%**	**48%**	**0**	**5**

All 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, these sites provide benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and those visiting from further afield. This is a result of the exercise opportunities they provide, for example, through walking 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:

- Sence Valley Forest Park (48%)
- Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (44%)
- Sharpley Avenue (44%)

These sites offer high amenity and social value due to good recreation and exercise opportunities.

Sharpley Avenue has additional amenity and social value due to featuring play areas and skate ramps, further adding to its benefits. The site also has high quality paths, making it a good site to walk. All three sites are well located and of high quality, providing attractive landscapes and enhancing structural and landscape benefits.

PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Current provision

There are 60 amenity greenspace sites, equating to over 58 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: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	10	11.58	0.75
Castle Donington	6	14.35	1.96
Coalville	29	20.01	0.51
Ibstock & Ellistown	8	3.75	0.34
Kegworth	2	1.16	0.23
Measham	5	7.20	1.32
Total	**60**	**58.05**	**0.54**

This typology has a broad range of purposes and, as such, varies significantly in size. For example, Barr Crescent, located in Coalville, at 0.013 hectares acts as a visual/communal amenity for local residents. In contrast, Spital Park, in Castle Donington, at 7.56 hectares, is a greenspace offering a range of recreational opportunities.

Fields in Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall, the district is below this. However, the analysis areas of Ashby, Castle Donington and Measham are above the suggested figure.

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

6.3 Accessibility

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

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

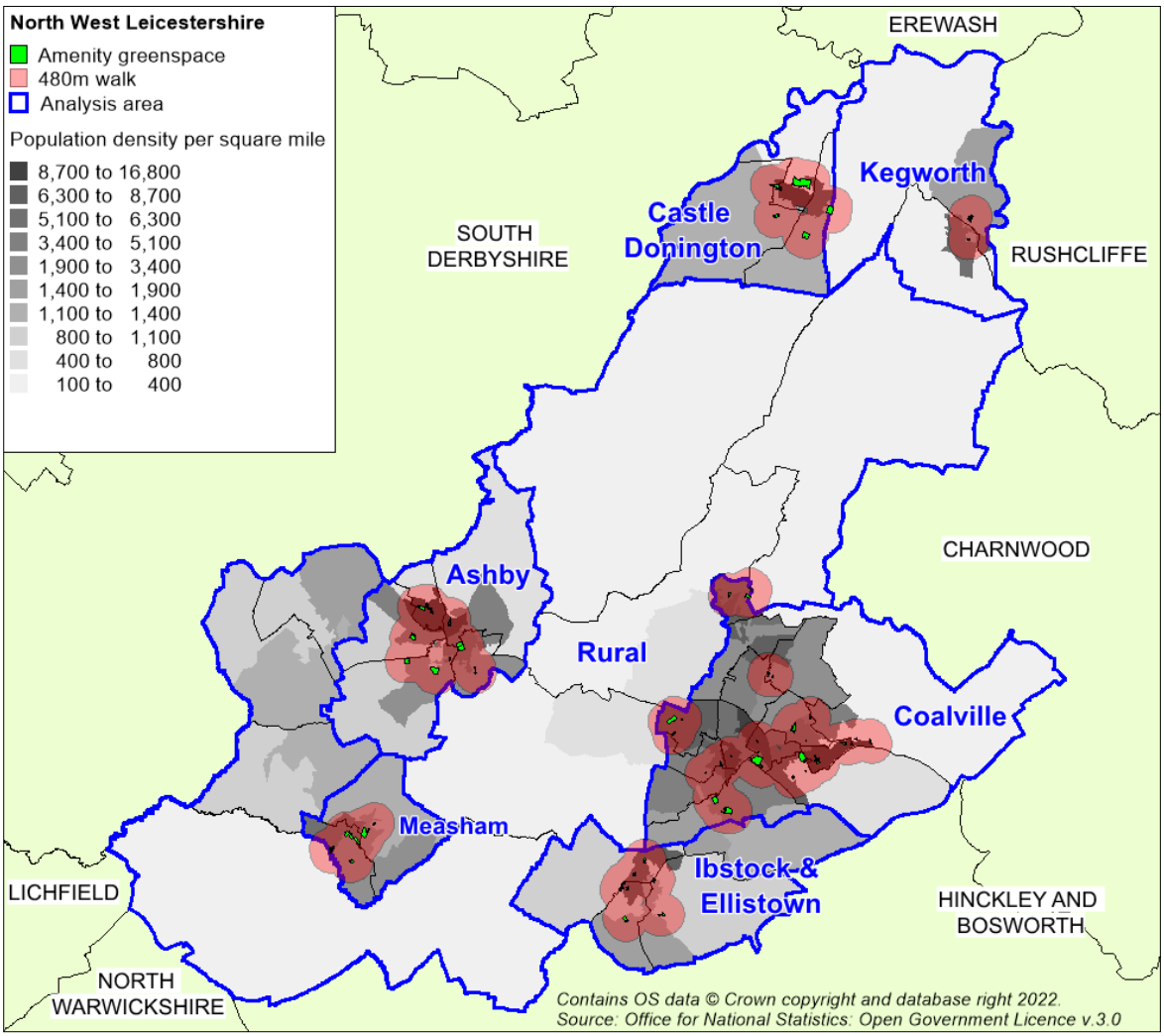


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Adam Morris Way	Coalville	0.06	36.9%	18.0%
5	Ashburton Road Recreation Ground	Coalville	1.60	51.4%	25.0%
7	Ashby Canal Trail	Measham	2.99	45.7%	33.0%
15	Barr Crescent	Coalville	0.01	41.0%	12.0%
17	Bentley Road	Castle Donington	0.40	40.5%	38.0%
26	Church View Recreation Ground	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.81	45.4%	26.0%
29	Clark Close	Coalville	0.15	31.9%	15.0%
32	Clover Place	Coalville	0.44	41.5%	28.0%
38	Coronet Drive	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.23	47.1%	33.0%
39	Cropston Drive	Coalville	0.30	51.6%	38.0%

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
43	Ferrers Road	Coalville	0.12	33.4%	18.0%
45	Frances Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.47	50.4%	43.0%
49	Goddards Drive	Castle Donington	0.70	46.0%	28.0%
54	Greenfield Road	Measham	0.18	29.8%	33.0%
57	Greenhill Open Space	Coalville	0.97	49.1%	23.0%
59	Greenhill Rec Ground	Coalville	2.60	58.2%	33.0%
68	Highgate	Ashby	0.99	53.1%	28.0%
70	Hood Park	Ashby	0.61	71.8%	45.0%
80	Kenmore Crescent	Coalville	0.09	31.9%	18.0%
82	Kingfisher Close (b)	Coalville	0.06	32.9%	17.0%
83	Kirkhill Close	Coalville	0.47	37.4%	28.0%
84	Leicester Road Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.46	63.9%	38.0%
88	London Road/Broom Leys Road	Coalville	0.04	55.8%	23.0%
94	Measham Recreation Ground	Measham	2.56	58.2%	33.0%
98	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	0.90	43.5%	33.0%
101	Memorial Field	Ashby	1.29	23.8%	32.0%
102	Merchantman Mews	Castle Donington	1.33	46.0%	26.0%
105	Mill Hill Wood Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.96	56.2%	55.0%
107	Millfield Recreation Ground	Coalville	2.69	74.4%	33.0%
112	Moira Dale Recreation Ground	Castle Donington	2.32	41.8%	44.0%
115	New Row	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.40	25.3%	38.0%
119	Olive Grove	Coalville	0.30	43.8%	39.0%
122	Oxford Street	Coalville	0.07	35.9%	18.0%
123	Potters Way	Measham	0.46	47.0%	21.0%
125	Prior Park Road Field	Ashby	1.62	22.8%	38.0%
127	Ravenstone / Ashby Road	Coalville	0.04	47.7%	18.0%
128	Ravenstone Road Recreation Ground	Coalville	1.82	54.6%	33.0%
131	Romans Crescent	Coalville	0.14	39.0%	28.0%
134	School Lane	Ashby	1.22	53.0%	23.0%
137	Scotlands Recreation Ground	Coalville	4.45	85.2%	23.0%
140	Sharpley Avenue Recreation Ground	Coalville	1.46	51.1%	33.0%
143	Sideley Recreation Ground	Kegworth	0.99	68.3%	43.0%
150	Spital Park	Castle Donington	7.56	58.9%	40.0%
153	Springfield Estate	Coalville	0.23	34.9%	22.0%
155	St Faiths Drive	Coalville	0.04	27.8%	15.0%

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
167	Stadium open space	Coalville	0.47	47.4%	28.0%
169	Staples Drive	Coalville	0.07	28.8%	15.0%
173	Stonehill	Castle Donington	2.04	58.5%	28.0%
175	Stuart Way	Ashby	0.18	27.8%	28.0%
182	The Oval	Coalville	0.18	46.0%	23.0%
189	Ulleswater Crescent	Ashby	0.30	39.0%	38.0%
190	Usbourne Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.32	51.8%	43.0%
193	Water Meadow Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.09	28.8%	23.0%
195	Western Park	Ashby	2.72	54.3%	33.0%
197	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby	1.37	51.8%	33.0%
200	Whatton Road	Kegworth	0.17	28.8%	28.0%
205	Wigeon Drive	Measham	1.02	42.0%	21.0%
207	Willesley Recreation Ground	Ashby	1.29	34.6%	43.0%
208	Windsor Close	Coalville	0.01	25.3%	17.0%
209	Woodlands Reach AGS	Coalville	0.22	44.5%	33.0%

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision. However, some areas of higher population density (e.g. Ashby and Coalville) have gaps in amenity greenspace provision (based on a 480m catchment). It is recognised that these gaps are predominantly covered and served by other forms of open space provision.

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30)	Parks
Castle Donington	No significant gap	-
Coalville	Coalville Adventure Park (ID 34) Coalville Park (ID 36) Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (ID 65) Snibston Colliery Park (ID 147) Melrose Road (ID 99) Woodlands Reach (ID 210)	Parks Parks Natural Parks Natural Natural
Ibstock & Ellistown	No significant gap	-
Kegworth	No significant gap	-
Measham	No significant gap	-

6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance), the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspaces. A threshold of 45% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology). 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	<45%	>45%
Ashby	23%	43%	72%	5	5
Castle Donington	40%	49%	59%	2	4
Coalville	25%	44%	85%	17	12
Ibstock & Ellistown	25%	46%	64%	2	6
Kegworth	29%	49%	68%	1	1
Measham	30%	45%	58%	2	3
Total	**23%**	**45%**	**85%**	**29**	**31**

Just over half of assessed amenity greenspaces (52%) rate above the quality threshold. The highest scoring sites for quality are:

- Scotlands Recreation Ground (85%) (Coalville)
- Millfield Recreation Ground (74%) (Coalville)
- Hood Park (72%) (Ashby)
- Sideley Recreation Ground (68%) (Kegworth)

All four sites are noted for having good entrances, accessibility, and user safety. Each location includes ancillary amenities such as benches and litter bins. With the exception of Scotlands Recreation Ground, the sites also offer picnic tables. Additionally, Hood Park, Millfield Recreation Ground, and Scotlands Recreation Ground have dedicated parking facilities, enhancing ease of access for visitors.

Hood Park (72%) benefits from an on-site toilet that is accessible to disabled users. The site also features a path network, a children's play area, a skate park, astro turf pitches, and a football field.

Sideley Recreation Ground (68%) is recognised for its high level of maintenance and is well-regarded by local residents. Despite its relatively modest size, it offers a diverse range of facilities, including a designated, fenced area for dogs.

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.

Over half (48%) of assessed amenity greenspaces rate below the quality threshold. The lowest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality are:

- Prior Park Road Field (23%) (Ashby)
- Memorial Field (24%) (Ashby)
- Windsor Close (25%) (Coalville)

All three sites are noted as lacking key features such as information boards and signage, benches, picnic tables, and litter bins. Furthermore, accessibility at Prior Park Road Field and Memorial Field is limiting. Windsor Close, while easily accessible due to its location alongside a road, offers limited public and community value as a green space.

Despite receiving a low overall score, Memorial Field holds significant quality and value owing to its status as a memorial site, which lends it considerable cultural and heritage importance.

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 values. 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%
Ashby	23%	34%	45%	0	10
Castle Donington	26%	34%	44%	0	6
Coalville	12%	25%	39%	11	18
Ibstock & Ellistown	23%	37%	55%	0	8
Kegworth	28%	36%	43%	0	2
Measham	21%	28%	33%	0	5
Total	**12%**	**30%**	**55%**	**11**	**49**

The majority of assessed sites (82%) rate above the value threshold. The highest scoring sites are Mill Hill Wood Way (55%) in Ibstock & Ellistown, Hood Park (45%) in Ashby and Moira Dale Recreation Ground (44%) located in Castle Donington. These sites are recognised for providing accessible, high-quality recreational and exercise opportunities for a broad range of users.

All three sites are perceived as well-used, delivering significant amenity and health benefits. Their ecological value is also enhanced through the presence of mature trees and diverse wildlife habitats.

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 activities 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 and MUGAs.

7.2 Current provision

A total of 87 play locations is identified as provision for children and young people. This combines to create a total of over eight hectares. No site size threshold has been applied, and as such, all provision is identified and included within the audit.

Table 7.1: Distribution of provision for children and young people

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	10	0.92	0.06
Castle Donington	11	0.57	0.08
Coalville	36	4.72	0.12
Ibstock & Ellistown	15	0.88	0.08
Kegworth	8	0.31	0.06
Measham	7	0.73	0.13
Total	**87**	**8.13**	**0.08**

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

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

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

7.3 Accessibility

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

Figure 7.1: Play provision with different applied catchments mapped

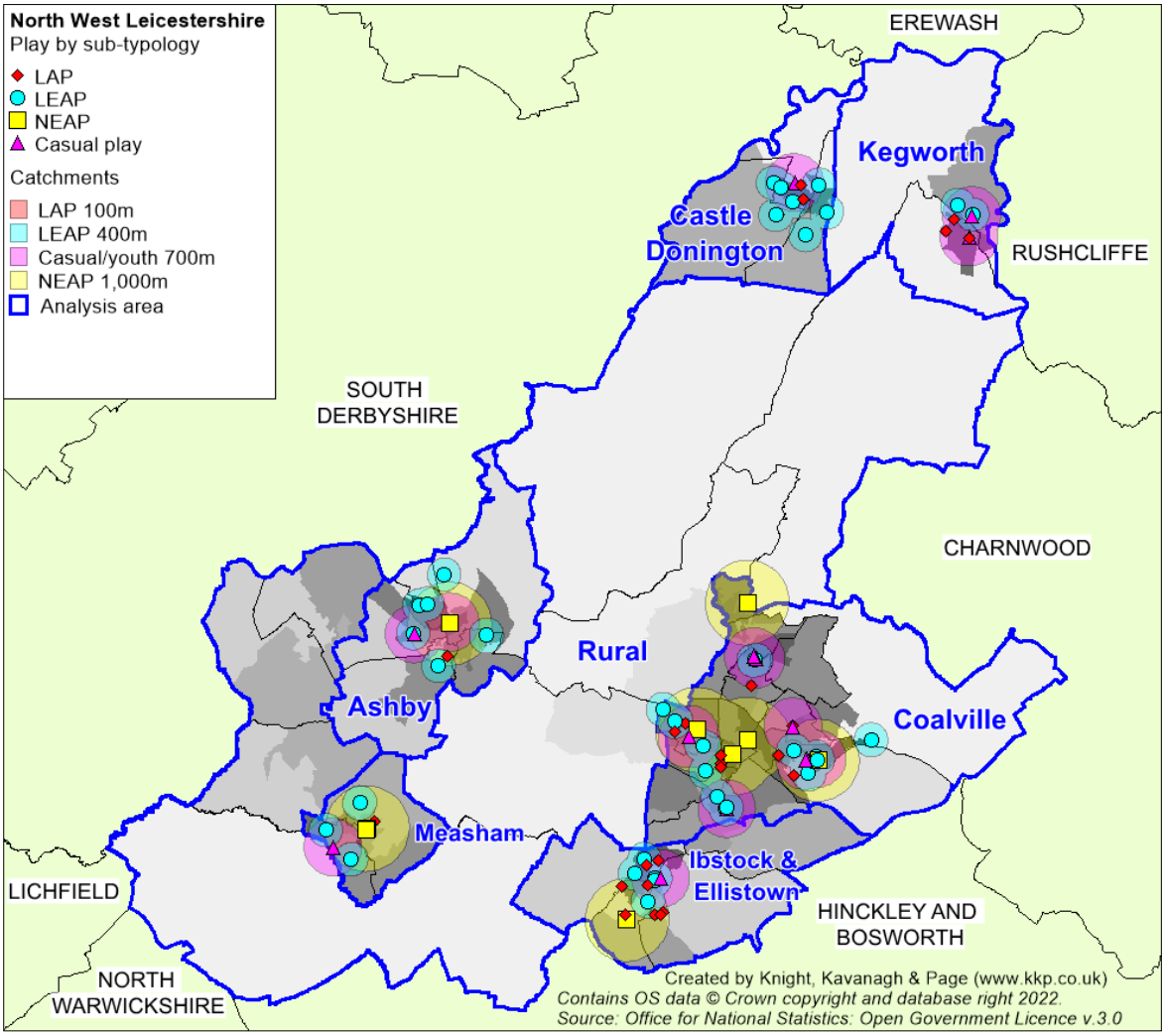


Table 7.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
30.1	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park play area	Ashby	0.04	50.5%	20.0%
63	Hastings Playground	Ashby	0.22	67.7%	40.0%
68.1	Highgate play area	Ashby	0.06	52.6%	38.2%
70.1	Hood Park play area	Ashby	0.24	75.6%	45.5%
70.2	Ashby de la Zouch skatepark	Ashby	0.11	63.2%	60.0%
134.1	School Lane play area	Ashby	0.07	51.2%	21.8%
176	Stuart Way play area	Ashby	0.04	63.6%	47.3%

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
195.1	Western Park play area	Ashby	0.06	63.2%	30.9%
197.1	Westfields Recreation Ground play area	Ashby	0.05	46.7%	47.3%
197.2	Westfields Recreation Ground basketball	Ashby	0.02	46.7%	47.3%
17.1	Queensway play area	Castle Donington	0.02	59.8%	47.3%
42	Ferrers Close play area	Castle Donington	0.05	65.6%	47.3%
48	Glover Road play area	Castle Donington	0.10	65.6%	36.4%
49.1	Goddards Drive play area	Castle Donington	0.04	58.8%	29.1%
49.2	Goddards Drive kickabout area	Castle Donington	0.06	58.8%	29.1%
53	Grange Drive play area	Castle Donington	0.05	60.8%	47.3%
102.1	Merchantman Mews play area	Castle Donington	0.05	74.2%	40.0%
111	Moira Dale play area	Castle Donington	0.07	65.3%	21.8%
150.1	Spital Park play area	Castle Donington	0.02	83.5%	29.1%
150.2	Spital Park skatepark	Castle Donington	0.05	74.6%	47.3%
173.1	Stonehill play area	Castle Donington	0.05	72.2%	29.1%
1.1	Adam Morris Way play area	Coalville	0.12	50.9%	47.3%
4	Ascot Drive play area	Coalville	0.11	65.6%	12.7%
5.1	Ashburton Road Recreation Ground play area	Coalville	0.08	55.0%	27.3%
21	Burgess Road play area	Coalville	0.08	61.9%	16.4%
28	Claremont Drive play area	Coalville	0.10	32.0%	12.7%
36.1	Coalville Park play area	Coalville	0.41	93.1%	63.6%
39.1	Cropston Drive play area	Coalville	0.02	49.1%	21.8%
57.1	Greenhill play area	Coalville	0.03	49.8%	47.3%
57.2	Greenhill basketball	Coalville	0.04	46.4%	43.6%
57.3	Greenhill youth shelters	Coalville	0.01	49.8%	47.3%
59.1	Greenhill Rec Ground basketball	Coalville	0.04	40.9%	47.3%
59.2	Greenhill Rec Ground BMX	Coalville	0.20	40.9%	47.3%
59.3	Bardon skatepark	Coalville	0.01	39.9%	38.2%
65.1	Hermitage Lakeside play area	Coalville	0.03	46.0%	12.7%
78.1	Kendrick Close play area	Coalville	0.08	69.8%	21.8%
90	Manning Avenue play area	Coalville	0.15	51.2%	38.2%
99.1	Melrose Road play area	Coalville	0.27	64.3%	56.4%
107.1	Millfield Recreation Ground play area	Coalville	0.08	50.9%	38.2%
107.2	Millfield Recreation Ground MUGA	Coalville	0.03	50.9%	38.2%

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
107.3	Millfield Recreation Ground fitness equipment	Coalville	0.01	50.9%	38.2%
119.1	Olive Grove play area	Coalville	0.09	56.7%	38.2%
128.1	Ravenstone Road Recreation Ground play area	Coalville	0.35	37.1%	29.1%
140.1	Sharpley Avenue play area	Coalville	0.03	46.4%	29.1%
140.2	Sharpley Avenue skate park	Coalville	0.03	36.1%	38.2%
147.1	Snibston Colliery Park play area	Coalville	0.40	86.6%	72.7%
147.2	Snibston Colliery Park Bike Trail/Pump Track/Skill	Coalville	0.96	81.4%	45.5%
156	St Faiths Drive play area	Coalville	0.06		
167.1	Stadium Close play area	Coalville	0.04	56.7%	30.9%
167.2	Stadium open space play area 2	Coalville	0.03	65.6%	30.9%
170	Staples Drive play area	Coalville	0.43	62.2%	30.9%
177	Sunningdale Road play area	Coalville	0.13	71.1%	21.8%
182.1	The Oval play area	Coalville	0.02	58.1%	21.8%
206.1	Whitwick Park play area	Coalville	0.16	63.9%	47.3%
206.2	Whitwick Park skate ramps	Coalville	0.02	42.3%	38.2%
206.3	Whitwick Park outdoor gym	Coalville	0.02	50.9%	47.3%
209.1	Woodlands Reach play area	Coalville	0.06	64.3%	56.4%
25	Chandlers Croft play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.15	61.9%	38.2%
26.1	Church View Recreation Ground play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.18	45.7%	38.2%
45.1	Frances Way play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.06	55.7%	58.2%
84.1	Leicester Road Park play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.04	59.1%	25.5%
84.2	Leicester Road Park skatepark	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.03	59.1%	25.5%
84.3	Leicester Road Park MUGA	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.04	59.1%	25.5%
97	Melbourne Road play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.07	32.0%	47.3%
105.1	Mill Hill Wood Way play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.03	54.0%	40.0%
115.1	New Row play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.01	33.0%	34.5%
124	Pepper Drive play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.03	64.9%	56.4%
178	Swifts Close play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.03	36.4%	38.2%
185	Thomas Street play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.10	42.3%	38.2%
190.1	Usbourne Way play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.08	59.8%	47.3%
192	Victoria Road play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.02	45.4%	38.2%
193.1	Water Meadow Park play area	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.01	40.9%	32.7%
72	Hoyte Drive play area	Kegworth	0.09	50.5%	56.4%

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
113	Munnmore Close play area	Kegworth	0.02	41.9%	47.3%
143.1	Sideley Recreation Ground play area	Kegworth	0.04	70.8%	38.2%
143.2	Sideley Recreation Ground skatepark	Kegworth	0.02	70.8%	38.2%
143.3	Sideley Recreation Ground basketball	Kegworth	0.03	70.8%	38.2%
200.1	Whatton Road play area	Kegworth	0.03	58.4%	29.1%
200.2	Whatton Road basketball	Kegworth	0.03	58.4%	29.1%
203	Whiteholmes Grove play area	Kegworth	0.05	42.6%	47.3%
41	Dysons Close play area	Measham	0.05	47.4%	47.3%
54.1	Greenfield Road play area	Measham	0.02	37.8%	47.3%
94.1	Measham Recreation Ground play area	Measham	0.34	57.7%	49.1%
94.2	Measham Recreation Ground skatepark	Measham	0.14	57.7%	49.1%
117	New Street play area	Measham	0.11	67.0%	56.4%
123.1	Potters Way play area	Measham	0.05	54.6%	40.0%
205.1	Wigeon Drive MUGA	Measham	0.03	42.3%	40.0%

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

Only one site, St Faiths Drive play area, does not receive a quality/value score. At the time of visits the equipment had been removed and whether it is to be replaced or repurposed is under review.

There is overall a good spread of play provision. Areas with a greater population density are generally within a walking distance catchment for play provision. Consequently, no significant gaps in catchment mapping are highlighted.

7.4 Quality

In order to determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guide), the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play provision for children and young people. A threshold of 50% is applied to divide 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.

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

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

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Ashby	47%	59%	76%	2	8
Castle Donington	59%	68%	84%	0	11
Coalville	32%	56%	93%	13	22
Ibstock & Ellistown	32%	47%	62%	7	8
Kegworth	42%	53%	71%	2	6
Measham	38%	51%	67%	3	4
Total	**32%**	**56%**	**93%**	**27**	**59**

Over two thirds (69%) of assessed play sites rate above the quality threshold. Some of the highest scoring sites are:

- Coalville Park play area (93%) (Coalville)
- Snibston Colliery Park play area (87%) (Coalville)
- Spital Park play area (84%) (Castle Donington)

These sites are observed as being safe and secure with sufficient litter bins (contributing to the site's cleanliness), seating and good quality play equipment. Out of the three sites, Spital Park is the only site without signage. The sites generally offer a variety of equipment in good condition/quality. All three score highly for maintenance and drainage, with the additional benefit of car parking and sufficient disabled access. The wider Coalville Park is noted as having a Green Flag Award.

Noticeably, there are some sites which contain provision catering for older age ranges such as skateparks, MUGAs and/or pump tracks. For example, Leicester Road Park (Ibstock & Ellistown) contains a play area, skatepark, and a MUGA.

Other high scoring sites include Hood Park play area (76%) in Ashby, Merchantman Mews play area (74%), and Stonehill play area (72%) both in Castle Donington. All three sites have good entrances, safe crossings, high personal security, benches and litter bins, further adding to their quality. They all also have disabled parking, increasing their accessibility. Additionally, the sites are observed as containing good quality equipment and perceived as popular, well-used sites. Hood Park also contains a skatepark.

There are 27 (31%) sites rating below the threshold. Sites rating lower for quality are often due to maintenance/appearance observations and/or the range and quality of equipment on site. Some of the lower scoring sites are:

- Claremont Drive play area (32%)
- Melbourne Road play area (32%)
- New Row play area (33%)

The sites are all noted as lacking signage and seating. Claremont Drive play area (Coalville) has no play equipment or noticeable ancillary facilities. Melbourne Road play area (Ibstock & Ellistown) is identified as having tired looking equipment. New Row play area (Ibstock & Ellistown) has limited play offer as it only contains a couple of pieces of equipment.

7.5 Value

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

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

Analysis area	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Ashby	20%	39%	60%	0	10
Castle Donington	22%	37%	47%	0	11
Coalville	13%	37%	73%	4	31
Ibstock & Ellistown	25%	41%	58%	0	15
Kegworth	29%	44%	56%	0	8
Measham	40%	47%	56%	0	7
Total	**13%**	**39%**	**73%**	**4**	**82**

The majority of play sites (95%) in North West Leicestershire are rated as being above the threshold for value. This demonstrates the role play provision provides in allowing children to play, but also the contribution sites make in terms of giving children and young people safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others, and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments.

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

- Snibston Colliery Park play area (73%) (Coalville)
- Coalville Park play area (64%) (Coalville)
- Asby de la Zouch skatepark (60%) (Ashby)

The sites are observed as being well maintained with a good to reasonable variety of equipment, as well as having sufficient access. The sites are also assumed to be well used, given their range and quality of equipment and maintenance. Coalville Park play area has two dedicated units for inclusive play, which improves its value score.

Diverse equipment to cater for a range of ages and abilities is important and can significantly impact on value. Provision such as skate park facilities and MUGAs are often highly valued forms of play.

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 15 sites classified as allotments, equating to almost 20 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: Distribution of allotment sites

Analysis area	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Ashby	1	1.72	0.11
Castle Donington	1	4.52	0.61
Coalville	5	6.05	0.15
Ibstock & Ellistown	2	2.93	0.27
Kegworth	5	4.34	0.85
Measham	1	0.24	0.04
Total	**15**	**19.83**	**0.18**

The largest site is Turf Allotments (4.52 hectares) in Castle Donington. This is followed by Allotments off Central Road (2.37 hectares) in Coalville

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

North West Leicestershire, based on its current population (107,672) is below the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision is 26.92 hectares. The existing provision of 19.83 hectares, therefore, does not meet this guideline. However, the analysis areas of Castle Donington, Ibstock & Ellistown and Kegworth have a current provision above the NSALG standard.

8.3 Accessibility

Figure 8.1 shows allotments mapped across North West Leicestershire

Figure 8.1: Allotments mapped

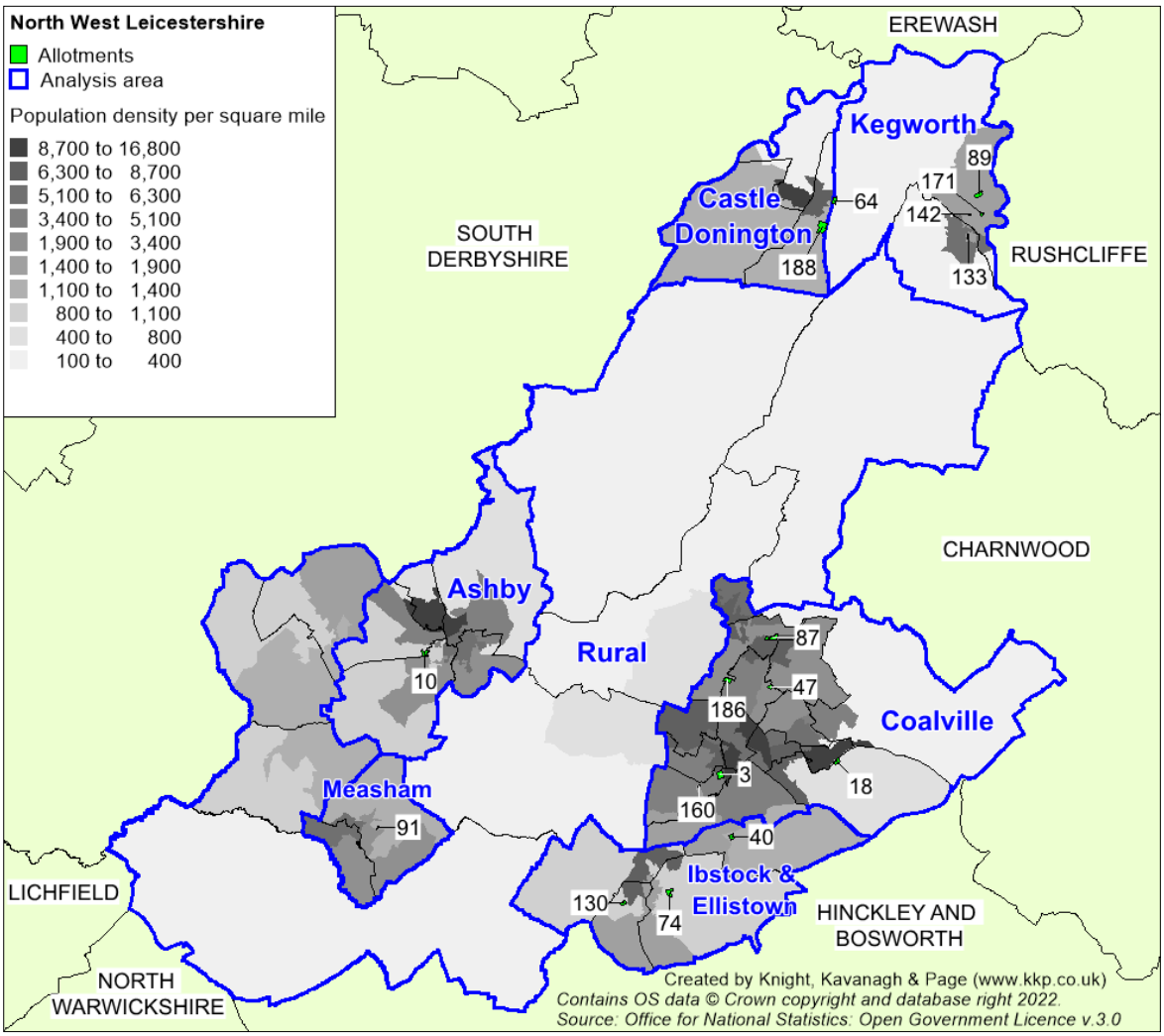


Table 8.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
3	Allotments off Central Road	Coalville	2.37
10	Ashby de la Zouch Allotments	Ashby	1.72
18	Bradgate Drive Allotments	Coalville	1.09
47	George St Allotments	Coalville	0.75
64	Hemington Hill Allotments	Kegworth	1.35
74	Ibstock Allotments	Ibstock & Ellistown	2.06
89	Long Lane Allotments	Kegworth	2.09
91	Measham Allotments	Measham	0.25
130	Riley Drive Allotments	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.88
133	School Alley Allotments	Kegworth	0.31
142	Side Ley Allotments	Kegworth	0.14

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
160	St Marys Avenue Allotments	Coalville	0.22
171	Station Road Allotments	Kegworth	0.45
186	Thornborough Road Allotments	Coalville	1.63
188	Turf Allotments	Castle Donington	4.52

Demand

Parish and Town Councils were asked for any known plot and waiting list numbers. For those that responded, the table demonstrates that supply is generally good. However, instances of waiting lists are noted at some sites.

Table 8.3: Waiting lists (2025)

Parish/Town Council	Analysis Area	Plot Numbers	Waiting list number
Measham Parish Council	Measham	17	14
Heather Parish Council	Coalville	14	0
Swannington Parish Council	Coalville	40	0
Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath	Coalville	6	5
Oakthorpe Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council	Coalville	12	6
Ibstock Parish Council	Ibstock & Ellistown	90	0
Castle Donington Parish Council	Castle Donington	200	14
Total		**370**	**39**

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

PART 9: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

9.1 Introduction

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

9.2 Current provision

There are 18 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 21 hectares of provision. No site size threshold has been applied, and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries

Analysis area	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Ashby	1	3.12
Castle Donington	2	1.78
Coalville	8	10.63
Ibstock & Ellistown	2	2.03
Kegworth	3	1.96
Measham	2	1.97
Total	**18**	**21.53**

The largest contributor to burial provision is Coalville (Hugglescote) Cemetery equating to 3.2 hectares. This is followed by Ashby Cemetery (Ashby) at 3.1 hectares,

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

Figure 9.1: Cemetery sites mapped

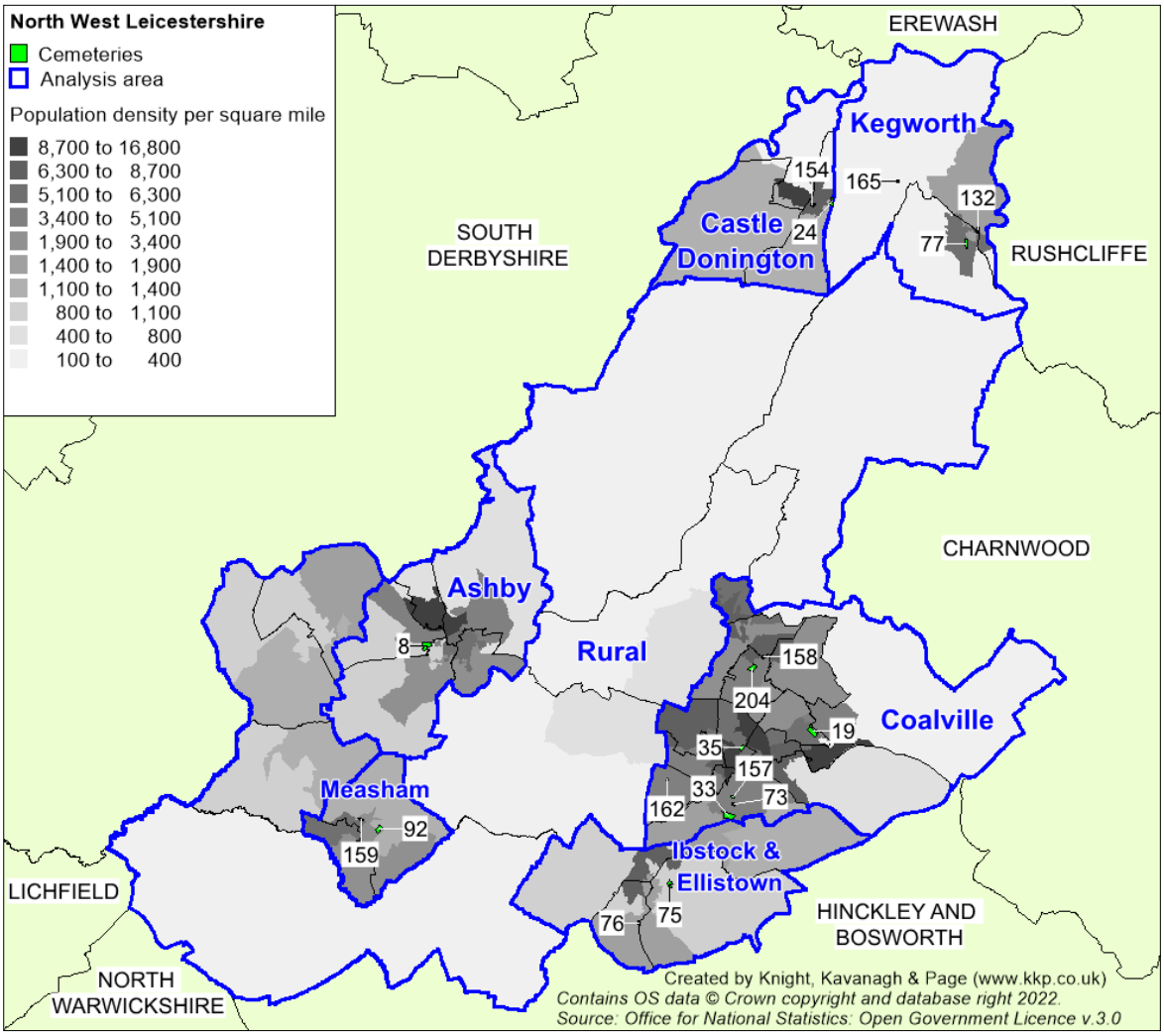


Table 9.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
8	Ashby Cemetery	Ashby	3.13
19	Broomleys Cemetery	Coalville	2.92
24	Castle Donington Cemetery	Castle Donington	1.37
33	Coalville (Hugglescote) Cemetery	Coalville	3.220
35	Coalville London Road Cemetery	Coalville	0.96
73	Hugglescote Cemetery	Coalville	0.36
75	Ibstock Cemetery	Ibstock & Ellistown	1.74
76	Ibstock St Denys	Ibstock & Ellistown	0.29
77	Kegworth Cemetery	Kegworth	1.01
92	Measham Cemetery	Measham	1.46
132	Saint Andrew's Parish Church, Kegworth	Kegworth	0.59

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Size (ha)
154	St Edward's Church	Castle Donington	0.42
157	St John Baptist Parish Church, Hugglescote	Coalville	0.24
158	St John the Baptist, Whitwick	Coalville	0.41
159	St Laurence Measham	Measham	0.51
162	St Marys, Snibston	Coalville	0.18
165	St Nicholas, Lockington	Kegworth	0.37
204	Whitwick Cemetery	Coalville	2.34

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

For cemeteries no quality/value assessments have taken place. The role of cemeteries is unique in comparison to other types of open space; one which is difficult to assess in terms of quality and value.

PART 10: PROVISION STANDARDS

The provision standards are used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space. These 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.

Table 10.1.2: Sites helping to serve gaps in park catchments

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Highgate (ID 68) Hood Park (ID 70) School Lane (ID 134) Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197) Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17) Goddards Drive (ID 49) Merchantman Mews (ID 102) Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112) Spital Park (ID 150) Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5) Gracedieu Wood (ID 52) Greenhill Open Space (ID 57) Greenhill Rec Ground (ID 59) Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (ID 65) Kirkhill Close (ID 83) Melrose Recreation Ground (ID 98) Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107) Olive Grove (ID 119) Sharpley Avenue Recreation Ground (ID 140)	Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Natural Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Ibstock & Ellistown	Church View Recreation Ground (ID 26) Coronet Drive (ID 38) Frances Way (ID 45) Leicester Road Park (ID 84) Mill Hill Wood Way (ID 105) New Row (ID 115) Usbourne Way (ID 190) Water Meadow Park (ID 193)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Kegworth	Sideley Recreation Ground (ID 143) Whatton Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity
Measham	No significant gap	-

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Bath grounds (ID 16) Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30) Highgate (ID 68) Hood Park (ID 70) Memorial Field (ID 101) Prior Park Road Field (ID 125) School Lane (ID 134) Stuart Way (ID 175) Ulleswater Crescent (ID 189) Western Park (ID 195) Westfields Recreation Ground (ID 197) Willesley Recreation Ground (ID 207)	Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Castle Donington	Bentley Road (ID 17) Goddards Drive (ID 49) Merchantman Mews (ID 102) Moira Dale Recreation Ground (ID 112) Spital Park (ID 150) Stonehill (ID 173)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Coalville	Ashburton Road Recreation ground (ID 5) Kirkhill Close (ID 83) Millfield Recreation Ground (ID 107) Olive Grove (ID 119) Scotlands Recreation Ground (ID 137) Stadium Open Space (ID 167)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Ibstock & Ellistown	Church View Recreation Ground (ID 26) Leicester Road Park (ID 84) New Row (ID 115) Water Meadow Park (ID 193)	Amenity Amenity Amenity Amenity
Kegworth	Sideley Recreation Ground (ID 143) Whatton Road (ID 200)	Amenity Amenity
Measham	Ashby Canal Trail (ID 7) Ashby Community Garden (ID 9) Greenfield Road (ID 54) High Street Park, Measham (ID 67) Measham Garden of Remembrance (ID 93) Measham Recreation Ground (ID 94) Potters Way (ID 123) Wigeon Drive (ID 205)	Amenity Parks Amenity Parks Parks Amenity Amenity Amenity

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

Analysis area	Other open spaces in gap	Open space type
Ashby	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park (ID 30)	Parks & Gardens
Castle Donington	No significant gap	-
Coalville	Coalville Adventure Park (ID 34) Coalville Park (ID 36) Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside (ID 65) Snibston Colliery Park (ID 147) Melrose Road (ID 99) Woodlands Reach (ID 210)	Parks Parks Natural Parks Natural Natural
Ibstock & Ellistown	No significant gap	-
Kegworth	No significant gap	-
Measham	No significant gap	-

10.3: Quantity

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

Setting quantity standards

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

It is useful to compare 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 Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households, an equivalent of 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 10.3.1 sets out the figures for existing quantity standards, 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	0.48	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.53	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.54	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.08	0.25
Allotment	0.18	0.25

The North West Leicestershire Local Plan (2021) cites the NSALG and FIT standards. However, the FIT standards referred to are the old National Playing Fields Association standards. These have since been superseded by the 2024 FIT standards.

It is therefore recommended that the FIT standards approach is retained.

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

Typology	Recommended Quantity Standard
Parks & gardens	0.80
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	1.80
Amenity greenspace	0.60
Provision for children & young people	0.25
Allotments	0.25

The recommended standards can be used to help inform the contributions from new developments to the provision of open space across the area.

The current provision levels are used to highlight potential shortfalls across different areas. Table 10.3.3 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.

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

Typology	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-Natural		Amenity greenspace		Allotments		Play provision	
Current total provision level	**0.46**		**1.53**		**0.54**		**0.18**		**0.08**	
Analysis area	**Current provision**	**+ / -**	**Current provision**	**+ / -**	**Current provision**	**+ / -**	**Current provision**	**+ / -**	**Current provision**	**+ / -**
Ashby	0.53	+0.07	-	-	0.75	+0.21	0.11	-0.07	0.06	-0.02
Castle Donington	-	-	-	-	1.96	+1.42	0.61	+0.43	0.08	Level
Coalville	1.02	+0.46	1.18	+0.35	0.51	-0.03	0.15	-0.03	0.12	+0.04
Ibstock & Ellistown	-	-	10.67	+9.14	0.34	-0.20	0.27	+0.09	0.08	Level
Kegworth	-	-	-	-	0.23	-0.31	0.85	+0.67	0.06	-0.02
Measham	0.14	-0.32	-	-	1.32	+0.78	0.04	-0.04	0.13	+0.05

Most analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. The exception is Castle Donington which is not highlighted as having a shortfall in a provision type. However, it does not have any park or natural greenspace provision.

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 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.

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.

Table 10.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
5	Ashburton Road Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
7	Ashby Canal Trail	Measham	Amenity	Natural
9	Ashby Community Garden	Measham	Parks	Natural
16	Bath Grounds	Ashby	Parks	Natural
17	Bentley Road	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
26	Church View Recreation Ground	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
30	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park	Ashby	Parks	natural, amenity
34	Coalville Adventure Park	Coalville	Parks	Amenity
36	Coalville Park	Coalville	Parks	Amenity
38	Coronet Drive	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
45	Frances Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks
49	Goddards Drive	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
54	Greenfield Road	Measham	Amenity	Natural
57	Greenhill Open Space	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
59	Greenhill Rec Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
65	Hermitage Ecopark and Lakeside	Coalville	Natural	parks, amenity
67	High Street Park, Measham	Measham	Parks	Natural
68	Highgate	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
70	Hood Park	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
83	Kirkhill Close	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
84	Leicester Road Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
93	Measham Garden of Remembrance	Measham	Parks	Natural
94	Measham Recreation Ground	Measham	Amenity	Natural
98	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
99	Melrose Road	Coalville	Natural	Amenity
101	Memorial Field	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
102	Merchantman Mews	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
105	Mill Hill Wood Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks
107	Millfield Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
112	Moira Dale Recreation Ground	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
115	New Row	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
119	Olive Grove	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
123	Potters Way	Measham	Amenity	Natural
125	Prior Park Road Field	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
134	School Lane	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
137	Scotlands Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Natural
140	Sharpley Avenue Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
143	Sideley Recreation Ground	Kegworth	Amenity	Parks, Natural
147	Snibston Colliery Park	Coalville	Amenity	Amenity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
150	Spital Park	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
167	Stadium open space	Coalville	Amenity	Natural
173	Stonehill	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
175	Stuart Way	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
189	Ulleswater Crescent	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
190	Usbourne Way	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks
193	Water Meadow Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
195	Western Park	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
197	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
200	Whatton Road	Kegworth	Amenity	Parks, Natural
205	Wigeon Drive	Measham	Amenity	Natural
207	Willesley Recreation Ground	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
210	Woodlands Reach NSN	Coalville	Natural	Amenity

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

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

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.

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

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Typology	Helps to serve provision gap in:
9	Ashby Community Garden	Measham	Parks	Natural
17	Bentley Road	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
30	Cliftonthorpe Activity Park	Ashby	Parks	Natural, amenity
54	Greenfield Road	Measham	Amenity	Natural
67	High Street Park, Measham	Measham	Parks	Natural
83	Kirkhill Close	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
93	Measham Garden of Remembrance	Measham	Parks	Natural
98	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Amenity	Parks
99	Melrose Road	Coalville	Natural	Amenity
101	Memorial Field	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
112	Moira Dale Recreation Ground	Castle Donington	Amenity	Parks, Natural
115	New Row	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
119	Olive Grove	Coalville	Amenity	Parks, Natural
125	Prior Park Road Field	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
175	Stuart Way	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
189	Ulleswater Crescent	Ashby	Amenity	Natural
193	Water Meadow Park	Ibstock & Ellistown	Amenity	Parks, Natural
200	Whatton Road	Kegworth	Amenity	Parks, Natural
205	Wigeon Drive	Measham	Amenity	Natural
207	Willesley Recreation Ground	Ashby	Amenity	Parks, Natural
210	Woodlands Reach NSN	Coalville	Natural	Amenity

Inevitably, over time changes in provision occur through creation of new provision, loss of existing provision and/or alterations to sites through planned works/enhancements. Consequently, identifying sites for offsite contributions should reflect any such changes which may supersede this report.

For example, a site may be highlighted as being of a low quality within the study and could therefore benefit from enhancement. If, however, works to improve the site have already taken place, an alternative site might be better placed for enhancement.

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

For instance, the Measham Analysis area has a potential sufficiency in amenity greenspace but a potential shortfall in parks. Consequently, the function of some amenity greenspace could look to be strengthened to act as parks 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 another consideration to review when undertaking any form of update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and standards. It is therefore important to undertake regular reviews of the data and/or actions informed by it.

Recommendation 5

- Recommended standards to inform future growth requirements

The draft Local Plan proposes an annual housing requirement of 686 dwellings per year between 2024 and 2042.

The housing requirement will be met through a combination of existing housing commitments (sites under construction or sites with planning permission) and new Local Plan housing allocations. The number of new dwellings expected to be built from 1 April 2024 (a combination of commitments and allocations) are set out in Table 10.4.4.

The indicative population figures in Table 10.4.4 are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.4 persons[6] per dwelling. Note the figures can be updated as required over the Local Plan period to reflect changes in population projections and dwelling numbers.

[6] ONS, Families and households in the UK (2024)

On this basis, using the recommended quantity standards[7], the open space requirements for each growth commitment are calculated.

Table 10.4.3: Recommended quantity standards

Typology	Recommended 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	0.25
Allotment	0.25

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

Table 10.4.4: Open space requirements (hectares) by future housing growth commitments plus proposed local plan allocations[8]

Settlement area	Committed number of dwellings	Parks	Natural	Amenity	Play	Allotments
Coalville Urban Area	5,486	10.53	23.70	7.90	3.29	3.29
Ashby de la Zouch	1,922	3.69	8.30	2.77	1.15	1.15
Castle Donington	1,299	2.49	5.61	1.87	0.78	0.78
Ibstock	496	0.95	2.14	0.71	0.30	0.30
Kegworth	421	0.81	1.82	0.61	0.25	0.25
Measham	876	1.68	3.78	1.26	0.53	0.53
Ravenstone	135	0.26	0.58	0.19	0.08	0.08
Isley Woodhouse (up to 2042)	1,950	3.74	8.42	2.81	1.17	1.17
Isley Woodhouse (total)	4,250	8.16	18.36	6.12	2.55	2.55

For the Isley Woodhouse development, two sets of figures are presented to reflect the different stages and dwelling numbers covered as part of the Local Plan period.

[8] As of 1st April 2024

Future need will also be generated by smaller scale developments. Therefore, future requirements should not just focus on quantity requirements of new residential developments. In some instances, a new residential development may not warrant on-site provision but instead could contribute towards developing and/or enhancing the amenities of an existing site in proximity.

The following steps sets out the process that should be considered when determining contributions in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility of open space provision. The provision standards (Table 10.4.3) should be used to help determine the requirements for open space provision as part of a 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. Identify which sites could benefit from an off-site contribution

Step 1. Calculate population generated by housing development

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

Housing figures are provided in terms of the number of dwellings allocated per development. The indicative population figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.4[9] persons per dwelling. If available, occupancy rates for different dwelling sizes could be used.

Step 2. Calculate open space requirement generated by housing development

To then determine the open space requirement for each form of open space the associated population is multiplied by the recommended quantity standards for each relevant typology. The following calculation should be used:

New/additional population from development x quantity standard / 1000 = hectares required
(To convert to square metres required = hectares required x 10,000)

For example, a hypothetical development of 50 dwellings would require the following amount of amenity greenspace:

New/additional population from development (50 x 2.4 = 120) x amenity greenspace quantity standard (0.60) / 1000 = 0.072 hectares
(=720 sqm)

[9] ONS, Families and households in the UK (2024)

Step 3. Determine if provision should be on-site or off-site

Whether provision should be made on-site or via an off-site contribution is dependent on the size and scale of the development. In the case of larger-scale residential developments, it is expected that provision will be provided on-site. Larger residential developments will have a critical mass of population and should provide all typologies of open space on-site in order to serve the additional population as a result of the development. In contrast, smaller developments may not meet minimum area thresholds required to deliver usable and sustainable open space on-site.

Best practice guidance from organisations like FIT, recommends that provision below certain sizes should not be provided as on-site provision as this can result in fragmented, low-value spaces that are difficult to maintain over time. To avoid this, minimum area thresholds should look to applied to determine when on-site provision is appropriate. Where these thresholds are not met, off-site contributions should be directed to enhance existing provision within the relevant accessibility catchment.

This approach ensures that open space is delivered at a strategic scale while also supporting the creation of high-quality, accessible, and sustainable environments.

The following suggested minimum area sizes for when new provision is to be provided on-site are cited within best practice.

Table 10.4.5: Suggested minimum site areas

Typology	Source	Minimum area (hectares)
Open space	Companion guide to PPG17	0.2
Equipped Children's Play Space	FIT	0.01 (LAP) 0.04 (LEAP) 0.10 (NEAP/Casual)
Allotments	NSALG	0.25

Provision requirements for any development which does not trigger the on-site contribution should generally be sought as off-site contributions. However, if the development is not within reach of an existing site than on-site provision may be warranted regardless of the small size of the development.

It is also important that developments consider the needs of all ages to help deliver mixed, healthy and sustainable communities. Therefore accessible / inclusive child friendly spaces should be considered within schemes.

Step 4. Calculate the financial off-site contribution

If an off-site contribution is required in lieu of on-site provision, a financial contribution should be calculated.

A development needs to make appropriate provision of services, facilities and infrastructure to meet its own needs. New forms of equipment/provision will add to the existing management and maintenance pressures of sites.

Consequently, there should be a requirement on developers to demonstrate that where new provision is to be provided it will be managed and maintained accordingly. Developers may therefore be required to submit a sum of money to pay for the costs of the site's future maintenance.

Step 5. Identify which sites could benefit from an off-site contribution

The new population arising from a development will result in increased demand to existing forms of provision; subsequently off-site contributions may 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 low quality and value are identified in the Open Space Assessment. Consequently, these sites may benefit most from some form of enhancement. It is also important to engage with parish and town councils to ensure an up to date understanding of local needs and quality concerns.

There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low 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 closer by. However, in some instances, a site (regardless of quality/value) may be the only form of provision serving that area.

Also consider those sites identified as helping to serve 'gaps' in provision. Such sites play an important role in ensuring access to open space provision. Consequently, such sites may be better suited for off-site contributions if there are agreed ways to improve them. This will help to ensure efficient use of contributions and maximise enhancements.