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# SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

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## CABINET

TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 2.30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH

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## Membership

Councillor Steve Pitt (Chair)  
Councillor Suzy Horton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Dave Ashmore  
Councillor Kimberly Barrett  
Councillor Ian Holder  
Councillor Lee Hunt

Councillor Hugh Mason  
Councillor Darren Sanders  
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE  
Councillor Matthew Winnington

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(NB This supplementary agenda should be retained for future reference with the main agenda and minutes of this meeting).

## SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

### 5 **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy** (Pages 3 - 150)

#### Purpose

To seek Cabinet approval to formally adopt the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Cabinet formally adopt the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

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## Appendix 5.1

### *National Policy Context*

#### **National Planning Policy Framework**

This framework<sup>1</sup>, from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, sets out the government's planning policies and expected application. Chapter 8 'Promoting healthy and safe communities' requires that planning policies:

- Promote social interaction
- Enable places to be safe and accessible
- Support healthy lifestyles
- Provide social, recreational and cultural facilities that enhance communities
- Enable access to high quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities

The framework clearly states that existing open space may not be built on, unless:

- An assessment shows that the open space is surplus to requirements
- The loss from the development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision where the benefits outweigh the loss of the current / former use

The Local Plan for Portsmouth adopts national planning policy to prevent the loss of open space.

The countryside charity, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), recommends as part of the levelling up agenda that parks and open spaces in urban areas be given the same protections as national parks. CPRE are asking the government to introduce compulsory standards for access to nature to be introduced into planning law and planning policy and for an access indicator for green access to be added onto the index for multiple deprivation.<sup>2</sup>

The National Model Design Code (NMDC) was formally published in 2021 alongside updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (focussing on design). The NMDC expands on the National Design Guide which provides ten characteristics of good design, reflecting the government's priorities. A pilot was set up for fourteen authorities to test the NMDC and apply to their area; in Portsmouth, the pilot focussed on design coding for estate renewal.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2022/feb/02/englands-poor-urban-areas-have-fewest-protected-green-spaces-analysis-finds>

## Environment Act 2021

From 2023, biodiversity net gain requires every housing and infrastructural development to increase natural space by 10% under the Environment Act 2021.<sup>3</sup> The timetable for implementation was updated in September 2023, for changes to be effective from January 2024.<sup>4</sup>

This is supported by Natural England, who emphasise the importance of protecting existing areas, creating more national nature reserves and balancing the needs of both nature recovery and, following the pandemic, the demand of the population to access green spaces for mental and physical wellbeing, together with balancing the need for dog control.<sup>5</sup>

The government's 25 year Environment Plan (under the Environment Act 2021) includes the creation of the Nature Recovery Network (NRN)<sup>6</sup>. The NRN management group includes the following government bodies:

- Natural England
- DEFRA
- Environment Agency

Sector bodies on the management group include: wildlife trusts, The Woodland Trust, Local Government Organisation, RSPB, the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Parks England.

The Environment Act 2021 will include the establishment of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). These are a mandatory system of spatial strategies which will allow a co-ordinated focus towards nature development. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 50 LNRS based around a county pattern.

The objectives of the network of strategies include:

- Restoration of 75% of protected sites to a condition that allows nature to thrive
- Creation or restoration of 500,000 hectares of wildlife rich habitats outside of protected sites
- Provision of better connected habitats to recover threatened animal and plant species

These objectives will be achieved by using mapping and data via the LNRS to target action and investment in nature. Policy and mandatory requirements will be integrated with the following funding streams which will incentivise environmental management:

- Countryside Stewardship scheme
- Nature for Climate Fund
- Green Recovery Challenge Fund

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

<sup>4</sup> [Biodiversity Net Gain moves step closer with timetable set out - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biodiversity-net-gain-moves-step-closer-with-timetable-set-out)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/25/natural-england-chair-tyony-juniper-backs-biodiversity-net-gain-plan-boost-wild-areas?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/25/natural-england-chair-tyony-juniper-backs-biodiversity-net-gain-plan-boost-wild-areas?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

<sup>6</sup> [Nature Recovery Network - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nature-recovery-network)

## **Public Health England - Improving Access to Public Space**

The above policy<sup>7</sup> focusses on the relationship between green space and health and wellbeing outcomes. It argues that the natural capital of greenspace can:

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Manage health and social care costs
- Reduce health inequalities
- Improve social cohesion
- Contribute towards mitigating climate change

Current issues of physical inactivity and social isolation contribute directly to several health conditions including dementia, obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and mental ill-health. The consequences of these conditions in financial terms to the NHS and local authorities' social care budgets are considerable.

## **Local Government Association - Parks Fit for the Future**

The Local Government Association (LGA) with the National Lottery Heritage Fund undertook research demonstrating the financial impact of Covid 19 on Council Parks Services<sup>8</sup>. The LGA argued that parks were a lifeline for local communities particularly as they had stayed open during the national lockdowns. However, the increased usage, loss of volunteers during the pandemic and closure of facilities influenced the condition of the parks even before the financial impact of Covid-19 on budgets was considered. The findings from the study included the following conclusions:

- Loss of income for parks due to closure of income generating facilities and lost volunteer hours
- Maintenance and work schedule backlog due to lockdown
- Pressure on budget from additional operational costs (PPE, signage and other Covid related regimes) and onward impact on capital projects
- Negative impact on the reputation of parks following the various lockdown restrictions affecting parks facilities and volunteers
- The importance of parks to the nation's future in covid recovery and climate change

## **Communities and Local Government Select Committee**

Responsibility for parks policy falls under the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), formerly Department for Communities and Local Government. The Communities and Local Government Select Committee carried out a report on public parks in 2017. This report, whilst not supportive of Parks becoming a statutory requirement, did note the importance of Parks in their contribution to wider local authority objectives. The report confirmed that there are an estimated 27,000 parks and green spaces across the UK and parks usage is higher amongst those living in urban areas, such as Portsmouth. The report also noted the rights of children to play and engage in recreational activity enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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<sup>7</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904439/Improving\\_access\\_to\\_greenspace\\_2020\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/financial-impact-covid-19-parks-2020-21-case-study-key-findings>

## **Heritage Fund State of Public Parks**

This document argues that there is a widening gap between increased usage of parks and reduction in resources to manage them.<sup>9</sup> The report argues that new ways of funding need to be found to enable the future of parks and this may involve the following:

- Promoting active partnerships
- Supporting community groups' involvement
- Developing new models of management and funding

Without new ways of funding parks, the impact to the service risks a decline in quality, skills and morale to parks friends' groups, volunteers and staff. Conversely this also risks increasing fees / charges, complaints and closure of facilities.

External methods of funding might include ticketed events and fairs and sponsorship from businesses.

## **Nesta: Rethinking Parks**

Rethinking Parks project ran from July 2012 to October 2020. Funded by Nesta, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund, the project considered different ways to fund the UK's parks for long term sustainability and use. Several briefing papers were produced, including:

- Rethinking income and income funding models
- Rethinking community involvement and participation
- Covid, inequality and greenspace

The first two themes were explored in consideration of the reduction in Council parks' budgets and the requirement to support parks from alternative sources. The third theme explored how disadvantaged groups gained a larger health benefit and have reduced socio-economic related inequalities in health, when living within access of green space.

## **Regional Policy Context**

### **Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH) Green Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2034**

This strategy recognises that the delivery of green infrastructure has a direct relationship to sustainable economic growth and development of the region. By developing quality of life, green infrastructure promotes the area and attracts investment. By attracting high value industries, it impacts land values, supporting local businesses, increasing disposable income and therefore further economic growth. The strategy aims to deliver upon four objectives:

- Sustainable economic growth
- Protecting the natural environment
- Benefitting local communities
- Good quality homes and workspaces

The strategy also considers potential funding streams for developing green infrastructure.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/publications/state-uk-public-parks-2016>

## **Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy 2017**

The purpose of this strategy is to implement mitigations to counteract additional housebuilding in the Solent region. Many thousands of coastal birds winter on the Solent before returning to their summer habitats. New housebuilding will generate more visits and recreational pressure to the area through increased population which could disturb these birds.

The strategy is key to the protection of the area which includes 10% of the population of Brent Geese.

The Solent Special Protection Areas in the strategy include Chichester and Langstone Harbour, Portsmouth Harbour and Solent and Southampton Water.

A key disturbance to these birds identified by the strategy is dogs off-lead which causes 47% of flights to escape disturbance. Part of the strategy includes:

- the promotion of numerous greenspaces in an area to balance visits away from coastal areas
- initiatives for responsible dog walking
- improved signage / interpretation boards for wildlife

## **Wilder 2030: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Strategy**

The vision for this strategy incorporates three key elements:

- Harnessing nature to address climate crisis
- Restoration of biodiversity and wildlife
- Promoting a healthy environment for local people

These three objectives are delivered through two programmes, Team Wilder and Wilder Land & Sea. Team Wilder includes the empowerment of community groups to 'go wild' in their local area and includes an education and learning programme, together with volunteering and awards.

Wilder Land and Sea includes rewilding projects and an exhortation to work with public bodies to improve the green and blue spaces for people and wildlife.

## **Hampshire Gardens Trust (HGT)**

HGT have been undertaking surveys of urban parks in the county of Hampshire since 1996. A key objective for the research group is to maintain and enhance the register of historic parks and gardens. A survey of 18 of Portsmouth's parks and gardens was undertaken in 2021/22.<sup>10</sup> Some of the conclusions of the research were that many of the parks in the city were significant due to their connection to the military history of Portsea Island. Other parks were important due to their connection to the nineteenth century enthusiasm for creating public parks. The parks were also noted as crucial spaces within densely residential areas for both human and wildlife flourishing.

The summary report also notes the extra dimension that the seafront gives to several the city's parks and acknowledges the work that the Council are doing to develop sustainable horticulture and improved green spaces for wildlife. Significantly, the researchers did not pick up any notable problems and were impressed by the level of care and maintenance at all 18 sites visited.

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<sup>10</sup> [Publications & E-Publications | Hampshire Garden Trust Research \(hgt.org.uk\)](https://www.hgt.org.uk/publications)

## **Langstone Harbour Management Plan**

Langstone Harbour, located between Portsmouth Harbour and Chichester Harbour, is a Statutory Harbour Authority (known as Langstone Harbour Board) and is protected by several internationally recognised environmental designations. The Board crosses several local authorities and includes seats for members of Portsmouth City Council, Havant Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

Key objectives include maintaining the Harbour to national safety standards and protecting the Harbour's unique ecological environment.

The environmental remit for the Harbour (which is included in the Portsmouth Local Plan), includes the following principles:

- To conserve and seek to enhance the nature conservation value of the Harbour and its surroundings;
- To conserve and improve the landscape of the Harbour and of the surrounding area visible from the water, including the built environment;
- To encourage land use and management practices around the Harbour that will maintain and enhance its value to nature conservation and the quality of the landscape.

The above remit includes interpreting the environmental features of the Harbour for educational purposes.

## **Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020**

The Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy<sup>11</sup> comprises a report from the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Steering Group. The Steering Group comprises several organisations, both statutory and non-statutory bodies, including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Hampshire County Council and Coastal Partners. The strategy concerns protected wetlands situated in Hampshire, Isle of Wight and West Sussex.

The overall objective of the strategy is to safeguard adequate feeding and roosting resources and make sure that the integrity of the site network is maintained for the benefit of the Solent's coastal bird population. This includes the conservation of current sites and creation of new sites for the benefit of the feeding and roosting population.

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<sup>11</sup> [solent-waders-brent-goose-strategy-2020.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#)



## Appendix 5.2

### *Local (Portsmouth) Policy Context*

#### **Portsmouth Local Plan**

The Draft Portsmouth Local Plan 2038<sup>1</sup> is a framework to deliver the development needs of the city for the 15 year period from 2023- 2038. Progress on the Draft Local Plan can be found in the Local Development Scheme.<sup>2</sup>

The plan has a direct relationship to Parks and Open Spaces because it applies to all new developments, stating what type of development can occur and where. The plan provides a framework for investment in the city and must be consistent with current planning legislation including the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy Guidance.

The Plan is an extensive document. There are three sections of particular relevance to this strategy:

- Open Space and Outdoor Recreation
- Community and Leisure Facilities
- Green infrastructure

The policy under **Open Space and Outdoor Recreation** provides that:

- All proposals should create, protect or enhance open space
- Enhancements should maximise quality and multi-functionality
- Any proposals which would result in net loss of open space will be refused unless:
  - The loss from development would be replaced by equivalent or improved provision in another location; or
  - Development would provide alternative sports and recreational provision

**Community and Leisure Facilities** policy provides that any applications for change of use or loss of premises or land in relation to a community facility, will only be granted where:

- There is no longer a need for the facility, or there is overriding demand for another community use
- Replacement facilities can be provided on-site, or within an accessible location
- The community use can be delivered from other facilities, without leading to or increasing any shortfall in provision

The **Green Infrastructure** policy provides that proposals must include green infrastructure as an integral part of design. Planning permission will only be granted where:

- Development avoids net loss in green infrastructure; unavoidable harm must be mitigated or compensated
- Development on or adjacent to green infrastructure protects or contributes to the enhancement of the infrastructure

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<sup>1</sup> [Portsmouth Local Plan 2038](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Local Development Scheme](#)

Where areas present opportunities for additional greening, these are identified as Urban Greening Factor zones (UGF). Planning permission within these areas may be granted where the proposal demonstrates an increase in green infrastructure.

The policy also provides for the protection of trees.

The Draft Portsmouth Local Plan 2038 highlights several Strategic Development Sites including City Centre Regeneration (S1), Tipner (S2) and St James (S3). Strategic Development Sites are key locations where growth requirements can be made sustainable and therefore contribute towards an improved environment and public health outcomes. It also highlights Portsdown Hill (S9) and the Seafront (S8) as important contributors to the city's network of green and blue spaces.

## **City Vision 2040**

The vision for the city for 2040 incorporates six over-arching objectives<sup>3</sup>. Three of these objectives are of particular relevance to this strategy:

- *A healthy and happy city - supporting each person's needs for good physical and mental health*
- *A green city - excellent green spaces to live healthy and active lives... we protect our land for the future*
- *A city with easy travel - encourage walking and cycling*

The other three objectives are also relevant indirectly:

- A city rich in culture and creativity - this can be applied to design and use of Parks space
- A city with a thriving economy - the PFSH Green Infrastructure Strategy (above) identifies that strong green infrastructure promotes investment
- A city of lifelong learning - this can be applied through Parks education opportunities

## **Greening Strategy 2020**

The Greening Strategy is funded by the Public Health Transformation Fund.

This strategy has four over-arching objectives:

### **Greening the public realm**

The aim of this objective is to increase canopy coverage. Planting schemes will focus on areas of impact for air quality and spaces where further trees can be added (on streets, parks, open spaces and housing land). Hedge and shrub planting will also be increased. Capital funding has been made available to bolster existing planting and plant management budgets. Greening the public realm will also include development of wild areas across the city. Where relevant project schemes will include provision for greening.

### **Greening private space**

The aim of this objective is for the expertise of the local authority to be leveraged to assist the greening of private space. Specialist knowledge can assist with advising on the correct planting and care, such as through the Waterfront Garden Centre.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://imagineportsmouth.co.uk/>

Private space and gardens can benefit the community as a whole, by making areas more resilient to the impact of climate change together with the benefits of biodiversity. There has been a fashion for private space to be paved and artificial removing opportunity for natural development. The Council is able to work with organisations with larger private spaces, such as schools and hospitals, to impact greenery development.

### Grassroots engagement

The aim of this objective is to develop communications activity to ensure that the importance of greening is understood across the city as a whole. This will enable two way communication between the residents and the Council on greening interventions.

### Policy review

This aim comprises the relevant strands of the Draft Portsmouth Local Plan, considered above.

The Greening Strategy was reviewed by Cabinet in October 2021.<sup>4</sup> It confirmed progress to date as follows:

Action	Location (list not exhaustive)
Rewilding undertaken	Long Curtain banks; Pembroke Gardens; Pier Road; Duisberg Way; Bransbury Park; Kingston Recreation Ground; Stamshaw Park; Alexandra Park; Langstone Gardens; Portsdown Hill
Urban Meadows sown	College Park; Milton Park; Tamworth Park; Bransbury Park; Bransbury Gardens; Clarendon Gardens; Pembroke Triangle; Southsea Rock Garden; Southsea Castle; Ladies Mile; Canoe Lake
Management of ecologically important habitats	Fort Cumberland West; Milton Common; Hulsea Lines; Farlington Triangle

The review confirmed that funding continues to be pursued. A successful bid to Forgotten Places through Trees for Cities resulted in an award of £35,950 with which to fund the 2021/2022 planting season.

The review complemented the work already undertaken via the site management plans (considered in this strategy) and noted the significant work undertaken by the Countryside Officers.

Forward planning for the Greening Strategy includes development of a greening guide for community groups and the creation of green walking trails and nature corridors.

<sup>4</sup> <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s32455/Greening%20Strategy.pdf>

## Greening Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Portsmouth is working to develop its current greening strategy towards a fully integrated greening infrastructure delivery plan.

The plan is based on evidence from the UN, WHO and Natural England. The plan will involve a cross-cutting working group, comprised of Parks, Planning, Strategy (Climate), Transport, Housing and Public Health officers in collaboration with external stakeholders. The working group will be a sub-group of the Climate Programme Board. The intention is to develop a high level vision for a greener Portsmouth. This will include greening interventions (focussed on areas which have been evidence mapped based on high deprivation, low green infrastructure, poor air quality and risk of surface flooding) which will take in both physical changes to the environment and community engagement activity. The plan was adopted by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Greening in July 2023.<sup>5</sup>

Intended outcomes are four-fold:

- Improve health;
- Reduce inequalities in access to green space;
- Increase biodiversity;
- Tackle climate change (including flood mitigation and air quality improvements)

by prioritising actions against eight greening objectives.

## Southsea Seafront Strategy 2010- 2026 and Seafront Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document 2021

This strategy seeks to explore how the Council can attract quality facilities to the seafront and operate commercially, whilst maintaining the *quality of the environment*.<sup>6</sup> Whilst the strategy is for the most part concerned with visitor attractions and events, these will have an impact on the physical environment. The visual amenity of the seafront space is highlighted in the strategy together with the obligation to protect Southsea Common and Eastney Beach as a Site Important for Nature Conservation (SINC).

The strategy highlights the opportunity to increase awareness of environmental issues and biological diversity in the area. This includes areas such as Southsea Rose Garden, the Rock Garden and The Dell. Tree planting is also key along the seafront to provide shelter from the sea wind and protection from the sun.

The strategy also provides a focus on the importance of active travel and the opportunity presented to link Eastney Ferry to Gosport Ferry as part of the sustrans network.

The following locations are given particular attention in the strategy:

### Southsea Common

Further tree planting to take place. Intensive use areas to be marked with signage.

### Canoe Lake

Further signage to be undertaken, to signpost the gardens for visitors.

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<sup>5</sup> [Agenda for Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Greening the City on Thursday, 6th July, 2023, 4.00 pm Portsmouth City Council](#)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Seafront-Strategy.pdf>

### **Eastney Beach**

Creation of sustainable interpretation centre to highlight unique ecological area.

The strategy also notes the opportunity to use the area for a variety of events, provided these do not damage the environment.

The Seafront Masterplan 2021<sup>7</sup> picks up many of the themes from the strategy. It also includes updated information on three areas in particular:

### **Sea Defences**

The masterplan refers to the project by Coastal Partners to deliver replacement sea defences and how these present an opportunity to enhance the seafront.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

It is highlighted how the seafront open space is a significant contributor towards health and wellbeing objectives through the broad range of active leisure activities that are offered.

### **Climate Change**

Seafront development should include the strengthening of the city's green infrastructure which contributes towards climate change mitigation.

## **Portsmouth Community Safety Plan 2021-2022**

This plan comprises a multi-agency approach for services across the city to identify community safety priorities. These priorities should be borne in mind when planning for the city's outdoor space and they tie in with the City Vision 2040 for a happy and healthy city where residents can feel safe.

Whilst Portsmouth is a safe city, there are identified risk factors that result in crime and anti-social behaviour. Consideration by all services of community safety issues enables early intervention.

### **Cemeteries Strategy**

This strategy considers how to manage existing cemeteries space to meet current demand and plan for future requirements. It notes that in addition to their primary function, cemeteries provide wider benefit for *physical and mental health* with regard to green space, space for reflection, walking and wildlife appreciation.

The strategy considers a number of issues for future consideration, including:

- Increasing capacity for burial space
- Designating areas for particular communities
- Improving and enhancing cemeteries as areas of public value for green space
- Options for long term sustainability

Improvements to cemetery green space will include tree and biodiversity management. The strategy notes that there is also opportunity for community engagement, such as after dark walks and tomb trails together with the possibility of Friends groups for each or all the cemeteries.

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<sup>7</sup> [Seafront Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document: March 2021 \(portsmouth.gov.uk\)](https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/seafront-masterplan-supplementary-planning-document-march-2021)

## Physical Activity Strategy

This public health strategy is provided by Energise Me<sup>8</sup>, a cross-authority strategy encompassing all local authorities within the Hampshire and Isle of Wight region.

The strategy has five strands which include the following:

- Positive early experiences for children and young people including opportunities for physical activity and community provision
- Opportunities that meet the needs of the community, that are accessible
- Local spaces that feel safe and attractive to the community
- Support to be active - promotion of opportunities
- Working together for improved health and wellbeing

## Southsea Coastal Scheme Defences

New coastal defences are being constructed to mitigate potential flood risk for the next 100 years. Concurrently, the opportunity is being taken to consider the area more broadly. The construction period is due to run from 2020-2028. Phase 1 (Long Curtain Moat) included the creation of concrete tidal pools, which mimic natural rock pools to encourage colonisation by marine species. The pools hold water to increase the diversity of habitat whether high or low tide. This scheme is therefore considered in connection with this strategy by way of encouraging biodiversity and creating additional habitat for flora and fauna. It also forms part of the strategy for seafront development.

## Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2019-2036

This strategy recognises that economic growth is contingent upon many factors including safeguarding the environment.<sup>9</sup> It acknowledges that natural assets within an intensely urbanised space form part of the city's unique brand. As the Authority undertakes to do all it can to promote and protect healthy environments, this makes the city a good place to live and encourages investment, growth and opportunity for contributions towards improved green infrastructure.

## Heritage Strategy

The Heritage Strategy for Portsmouth has a key overlap with the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.<sup>10</sup> It identifies the open spaces in Portsmouth that meet historical interest criteria. It includes the following locations which are Grade II listed:

- Southsea Common
- Kingston Cemetery
- Victoria Park

These environments have a key part to play in physical and mental wellbeing. They contribute to Portsmouth's unique identity providing a contrast to the urban environment whilst at the same time providing sense of belonging, place and community through their historical relevance.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.energiseme.org/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Economic-Development-Regeneration-Strategy-Accessible.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s31720/Heritage%20Strategy%20-%20Appendix%20A.pdf>

The strategy also identifies a number of historic fortifications which are part of the city's greenspace offer, such as:

- Halsea Lines
- Fort Cumberland

These spaces are identified as potential heritage projects with opportunities to care for and improve the assets.

### **Portsmouth Transport Strategy 2021-2038**

This strategy overlaps with the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy as its overarching objective is to reduce car use and increase physical activity participation in walking and cycling.<sup>11</sup> The provision of quality infrastructure will enable short distances to be covered by sustainable travel. The strategy includes a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to identify a number of walking and cycling routes to connect up different parts of the city. The development of this infrastructure will be supported by reallocation of road space and provision of cycle hangars for public use.

The LCWIP is supported by Sustrans, in particular the requirement for a walking and cycling infrastructure which includes persons in wheelchairs, mobility scooters and buggy users.<sup>12</sup>

Also associated with the Transport Strategy is the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). This sets out an action plan to promote recreational and functional journeys. It looks to encourage more walking and cycling in the city and to include promoting open areas of green space with the opportunity they provide for links between urban areas and green spaces, to reduce reliance on motor vehicles, thereby reducing congestion, carbon and associated air quality issues.

### **Air Quality Strategy, 2017-2027**

This strategy notes the importance of a clean environment to our communities and our health.<sup>13</sup> It aims to achieve all statutory local air quality standards across the city by 2027. It has several strategic objectives, including to 'create a focus on sustainable travel, including the promotion of a modal shift in transport from car to active travel'. The delivery of this objective is dependent upon protecting green infrastructure and incentivising sustainable and active travel options.

### **Public Health Superzone**

A Superzone pilot was approved by Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2019<sup>14</sup> as part of a Childhood Obesity review. This followed initiatives in London where several superzones were planned across London Boroughs. Following a delay due to Covid, a Superzone pilot in Portsmouth commenced in September 2021 at Arundel Court Primary Academy (ACPA).

The Superzone is a place-based approach working within 400 metres of a central location. The zone includes several of the city's green spaces, namely Nutfield Place, Arundel Park and Landport Park. The ACPA Superzone comprises four themes: healthy food, active places, clean air and community safety.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Local-Transport-Plan-2021.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/policy-consultation-submissions/2020/all/our-response-to-the-portsmouth-transport-strategy/>

<sup>13</sup> [env-air-quality-strategy.pdf \(portsmouth.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> [HWB 25 Sep 19 superzone.pdf \(portsmouth.gov.uk\)](#)

Active Places includes the provision of a daily mile (walk, run or jog) for all children together with active travel incentives.

Community and Safety includes improvements to the green space utilising greening funding to improve design, sightlines and provision of dog bins.

### **Portsmouth Playing Pitch Strategy 2018-2034**

The Playing Pitch Strategy<sup>15</sup> follows three principles:

Protect: make sure that there are sufficient facilities of quality in the correct place. The benefits of multi pitch sites are recognised and should be protected through the planning and development process.

Enhance: The strategy considers where quality affects the sustainability of playing pitch assets, where quality can be improved and where the Council can work with stakeholders in partnership together to secure funding through development.

Provide: investment to be directed at sites that provide the highest increase in participation and demonstrate long term sustainability.

### **Climate Change Strategy 2022**

The Council's Climate Change Strategy<sup>16</sup> recognises that there is an urgent need to address the environmental challenges in Portsmouth.

The strategy complements the protection of our parks and open spaces in particular by the following objectives:

- Protect our green infrastructure and biodiversity resilience, including rewilding and wildflower meadow planting
- Improve the quality of our natural spaces, including parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands and allotments.
- Promote green infrastructure e.g. through education.

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<sup>15</sup><https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s18367/Final%20Draft%20Portsmouth%20City%20Council%20Stage%20D%20-PPS%20-%20V7%20-%2008.03.18.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> [Portsmouth City Council Climate Change Strategy](#)



## Operational Plans

### Baffins Pond Management Plan

This document sets out the current arrangements for Baffins Pond to protect the area for wildlife and also as a public open space. The site is protected from development and particularly as the site provides habitat for Brent Geese.

The Plan has seven aims:

- To manage Baffins Pond as a quality, safe and accessible park;
- To maintain and enhance the nature, value and biodiversity of the park;
- To manage the park sustainably;
- To promote community involvement in the park;
- To promote the park as a resource for exercise and healthy living;
- To reduce anti-social behaviour;
- To promote the park as an educational resource.

There is a management action plan for each aim.

Current projects for Baffins Pond include:

- Introduction of the Council's sustainable bedding scheme involving the replacement of the current shrub beds with sustainable planting of herbaceous perennials and grasses so that year round interest is provided.
- Introduction of wildlife interpretation boards.
- Continued development of the wildflower meadow and tree area.
- The undertaking of a wildlife survey of the pond.

In addition to these Council projects, the Friends group known as the **Baffins Pond Association** has its own programme of complementary projects, including year round activities and volunteering including work undertaken by 'Men's Shed'.

### Southsea Rock Gardens Management Plan

This document sets out the current arrangements to protect the Southsea Rock Gardens both as a horticultural feature and public open space. The site is protected from development and the gardens are notable for their diverse planting scheme including alpine plants.

The Plan for this site has the same seven overarching aims as the Baffins Pond plan.

Current projects for Southsea Rock Gardens include:

- Completion of renovation of mixed beds, to enhance diversity and reveal the rocks which have been in places partially hidden by previous planting choices. Future planting will also be reassessed in conjunction with the Southsea Defences strategy.
- Encourage the Friends group, including assisting with advertising / promoting their activities.
- Repair lighting to discourage anti-social behaviour and enable gardens for winter usage. This will be subject to a successful capital bid for Council funds.

## Appendix 5.3 - Operational Plans

- Installation of CCTV to discourage anti-social behaviour (subject to the success of a capital bid as above).
- Re-establishment of the bog garden.

One advantage of the Friends group at this site includes the ability to attract external funding. As a community organisation, there is potential to attract sources of funding that will not be possible for the Council as a local authority.

## Milton Park Management Plan

This document sets out the current arrangements to protect Milton Park both as a public open space and focus for the local community. The site is protected from development and is notable for its community facilities including local library, community centre, café and provision for outdoor activity / sports.

The Plan for this site has the same overarching aims as the above two sites except it does not specifically include the promotion of the park as an educational resource.

Current projects concern accessibility of the Park:

- Improve path quality and quality of hard surfaces
- Improve entrances including installation of appropriate signage.

There is a Friends group for this park, who have their own dedicated area for maintenance. The park is also notable for a number of mature trees and management of the park includes support to Portsmouth & Southsea Volunteer Tree Wardens. There has been considerable planting of new trees in this park.

## Farlington Triangle Management Plan

This document sets out the current arrangements to protect this area of coastal grazing marshes. It is recognised as a rare habitat and is therefore under protection by special conservation measures. There are three strands to the management plan:

- Management of the grazing marshes to prevent encroachment by rank vegetation and subsequent damage to important fauna and flora species;
- Protecting the biodiversity of the site, reporting in regularly to Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. Protecting species at the site include water vole. Managing grassland at the site for winter grazing wading birds and wildfowl, at a height to provide shelter for invertebrates and nesting sites.
- Managing the site as a quality destination for informal education and recreation. This includes interpretation of the site for visitors and promotional material. In addition, developing community / voluntary interest and support in the site and broadening the use of the site as an educational resource moving forward.

## Milton Common Management Plan

This site is comprised of reclaimed intertidal land and provides a broad species diversity of almost 200 species recorded within the site. It includes nationally scarce and county scarce species. The site has been awarded a Higher Level Stewardship grant from Natural England for its management. The management plan has three over-arching objectives:

- Improve the visitor experience, including: educating the public with regard to the hazards of litter and dog fouling; maintaining amenity grassland for family/friend groups; maintain safe infrastructure; appropriate interpretation, signage and safety measures; developing volunteer/ community interest and support in the site and promoting the site as an educational resource.
- Improve the quality of habitat, including: protecting the diversity of the site by monitoring species, (reporting to Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre), restoration and management of the grassland for target species.
- Divert recreational pressure away from the coastal path by developing the inland footpaths and cyclepaths, to minimise disturbance to species such as wildfowl.

The plan notes the previous use of the site as a municipal refuse site in the late 1960s. This generates particular requirements with regard to the above objectives.

## Hilsea Lines Management Plan

This site originally comprised military defences which, having fallen into disrepair, now offer a diverse habitat for wildlife, including the only woodland on Portsea Island. The area is protected as both a scheduled monument, Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and under a number of other designations.

The management plan comprises the following objectives:

- To manage the site as a quality destination for quiet informal recreation, including: a high standard of visitor facilities and infrastructure, encouraging volunteers and community involvement, providing for the site to be a safe environment and providing signage and interpretation.
- To maintain and enhance the diversity of the site, including: undertaking a coppice-glade regime to create a varied woodland to benefit a variety of plants and animals, manage reed beds to provide nesting cover, control invasive weeds, monitor and report species with Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.
- To promote awareness and interest in the natural world, including: holding events, promoting Hilsea Lines as an outdoor classroom, developing the skills of volunteers and Friends of Hilsea Lines, use of interpretation boards for wildlife and historical information.
- To protect, enhance and promote the ancient monument, including: restoration of casements for use (large scale restoration dependent on capital funding).

## Fort Cumberland Management Plan

This site comprises both a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) due to the biodiversity on site and Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) due to historic fortifications in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The management plan comprises the following objectives:

- To maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the site including: monitoring species and habitat development, updating Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, control of invasive weeds, managing grassland, gorse and scrub to maximise species diversity including nesting birds and invertebrates.
- To manage the site as a high quality destination for quiet recreation and education, including: a high standard of visitor facilities and infrastructure, providing for the site to be a safe environment, providing signage and interpretation, developing volunteer and community involvement, practical conservation groups, annual consultation and encouraging the use of the site as an educational resource.

## Portsmouth Hill Management Plans

The management of Portsmouth Hill is documented in two separate plans, one concerned with the area that is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and one covering the non-SSSI open space.

The SSSI plan comprises the following objectives:

- To improve, maintain and increase (to 60%) the species rich calcareous grassland dominated habitats;
- To retain existing habitats (unless dominated by invasive non-native species);
- To safeguard notable species, including a review of site biodiversity, particularly as relates to invertebrates.

The non-SSSI plan comprises the following objectives:

- To maintain, improve and increase the species-rich grassland area;
- To maintain and increase biodiversity on the areas not managed as species rich grassland, such as ongoing scrub control, control of invasive species and diversifying tree stock.

Within both plans:

- To provide for public access, awareness and educational use of the site including work with groups such as Forest Schools. This includes working with [Friends of Portsmouth Hill](#) and conservation volunteers.
- To incorporate environmental considerations such as sustainable management, including the potential to join up wildlife supporting land management across Portsmouth.

## Victoria Park, 'The People's Park' project

The National Lottery Heritage Fund invited Portsmouth City Council to develop a vision for the future of Victoria Park in autumn 2019. The park is a flagship example of a late nineteenth century design and is key to the history of the city.

Funding has enabled a new project for the park. Round 1 of funding enabled extensive consultation, survey work and design plans to go ahead, concluding in Round 2 funding submission in August 2021.

Notification of the success of the Round 2 bid was received in December 2021. Receipt of the delivery phase funding will allow ground works and capital works to take place in 2022-2023 and a full activity programme will follow, which will include:

- Volunteer recruitment programme
- Community garden
- Park community clean days
- Pop up community events
- Fairs and festivals
- Wildlife workshops

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Appendix 5.4 - Sites Quality Audit Results

I. Parks and gardens: principal parks	A welcoming Place				Healthy Safe and Secure			Well Maintained and Clean					Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Total	Percentage
	Signage	Physical Access	Inclusiveness	Design and Specification	Health and Wellbeing	Safety and Security	Control of Dogs	Litter and Waste Management	Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture	Buildings (except toilets)	Public Toilets	Infrastructure				
Victoria Park	5	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	10	x	9	7	8	107	82%
Baffins Pond	6	9	9	8	6	8	8	8	8	9	10	8	8	10	115	82%
Ravelin Park	8	8	8	9	8	7	10	9	9	10	x	9	5	4	104	80%
Castle Field, Ramparts and Bandstand	6	9	8	9	3	6	8	9	9	10	9	9	10	7	112	80%
Milton Park	3	8	9	8	7	7	10	8	7	8	8	7	8	9	107	76%
Rock Gardens and South Parade Gardens	5	7	10	9	8	5	8	9	9	x	x	7	x	7	84	76%
Cosham Park	5	7	8	8	7	6	8	8	8	9	x	8	x	9	91	76%
Hilsea Lido	7	9	8	8	7	6	8	8	8	7	7	8	7	8	106	76%
Canoe Lake	7	8	8	8	5	8	7	8	9	7	8	8	7	8	106	76%
College Park	5	8	8	9	7	7	7	8	8	7	9	7	x	8	98	75%
Stamshaw Park	3	8	9	8	7	7	8	8	8	x	x	8	x	8	82	75%
Ladies Mile and Avenue de Caen	5	8	7	9	7	8	6	8	9	x	x	8	x	6	81	74%
Buckland Park	4	8	9	8	7	8	7	8	7	x	x	7	x	8	81	74%
Kingston Recreation Ground	5	8	9	8	7	6	9	8	8	x	9	7	3	8	95	73%
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>77%</b>

Appendix 5.4 - Sites Quality Audit Results

I. Parks and gardens: local parks	A welcoming Place				Healthy Safe and Secure			Well Maintained and Clean					Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Total	Percentage
	Signage	Physical Access	Inclusiveness	Design and Specification	Health and Wellbeing	Safety and Security	Control of Dogs	Litter and Waste Management	Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture	Buildings (except toilets)	Public Toilets	Infrastructure				
Lumps Fort & Japanese Garden	8	8	8	9	10	7	6	9	10	8	x	8	7	6	104	80%
City Museum and Records Office	7	8	9	9	6	7	6	8	9	10	8	8	8	7	110	79%
Watersedge Park	4	8	8	9	5	7	10	10	9	x	x	8	x	8	86	78%
Bransbury Park	4	8	9	8	8	8	7	9	8	9	x	7	x	8	93	78%
Long Curtain / Kings Bastion	7	8	7	8	x	6	10	9	8	x	x	8	8	6	85	77%
Hempsted Green	x	8	9	8	6	7	8	9	8	x	x	8	x	6	77	77%
Orchard Park	7	7	7	8	6	7	10	9	8	x	x	8	x	7	84	76%
Union Road Park	6	9	9	8	x	8	5	9	7	x	x	9	x	6	76	76%
Pembroke Gardens	x	9	9	7	6	7	8	9	7	x	x	7	x	6	75	75%
Credenhill Road	8	7	7	7	x	7	8	9	8	x	x	7	x	7	75	75%
St George's Square	6	8	7	7	6	7	7	9	7	x	x	10	x	8	82	75%
Arundel Street Gardens	4	8	9	8	6	8	8	9	7	x	x	9	x	6	82	75%
Hawthorn Crescent	7	9	7	8	4	7	10	8	7	x	x	9	x	6	82	75%
Upper Church Path	8	7	6	7	x	7	8	8	7	x	x	10	x	6	74	74%
Holbrook Road	4	8	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	x	x	8	x	8	81	74%
Tunstall Road	7	8	8	7	5	7	8	9	7	x	x	7	x	8	81	74%
Wimbledon Park	6	7	8	8	6	7	10	9	7	x	x	5	x	7	80	73%
Cumberland Gardens	6	8	9	9	6	9	2	8	8	10	x	7	x	5	87	73%
Milebush Road	6	9	9	8	3	7	7	9	7	x	x	8	x	6	79	72%
Buckingham Green	5	9	7	7	5	8	7	9	7	x	x	8	x	6	78	71%
Waverley Gardens	3	8	8	7	10	9	8	8	7	x	x	6	x	4	78	71%
Waterworks Field	4	7	8	8	5	8	8	8	7	x	x	8	x	7	78	71%
Britannia Gardens	5	7	8	8	x	7	7	8	8	x	x	7	x	5	70	70%
Fairfield Square	5	8	7	6	x	8	8	9	8	x	x	6	x	5	70	70%
Queen Street Play Area	0	8	8	7	x	9	8	9	7	x	x	8	x	6	70	70%
Alexandra Park	3	9	8	8	7	7	10	9	7	7	0	7	x	7	89	68%
Highbury Grove	6	6	6	7	5	7	10	7	6	x	x	7	x	7	74	67%
Gurnard Road	5	7	7	8	5	6	8	9	6	x	x	8	5	6	80	67%
Drayton Park	3	7	8	7	7	6	7	8	7	x	5	8	x	7	80	67%
Collington Crescent	4	7	5	8	6	5	8	8	7	x	x	8	x	7	73	66%
Knowsley Road	5	8	6	7	3	7	10	9	5	x	x	6	x	7	73	66%
St John's Road	7	6	7	7	5	7	4	8	7	x	x	7	6	7	78	65%
Teignmouth Road	0	8	6	8	6	8	6	8	8	x	x	7	6	7	78	65%
Cornwallis Crescent	6	8	7	7	5	8	7	9	6	x	x	7	2	6	78	65%
East Lodge Park	0	6	6	8	5	8	6	10	9	x	x	6	x	7	71	65%
Charles Dickens Gardens	0	8	7	7	6	8	8	9	6	x	x	8	x	3	70	64%
Woodland Park	0	8	8	8	5	7	6	9	6	x	x	8	x	3	68	62%
Clarendon Gardens	0	8	8	7	6	8	8	9	5	x	x	5	x	4	68	62%
Wesley Gardens	4	5	5	6	6	8	6	8	7	x	x	5	x	7	67	61%
Leominster Road	x	7	5	5	6	6	6	7	5	x	x	9	5	5	66	60%
Zetland Field	0	7	5	7	5	8	6	7	6	x	x	6	6	7	70	58%
Milton Town Green	6	5	5	7	6	5	4	7	6	x	x	5	8	6	70	58%
Tamworth Field	4	7	5	7	5	6	8	7	6	x	x	6	4	5	70	58%
Braemar Avenue	0	6	3	7	6	7	5	7	8	x	x	4	x	5	58	53%
Jubilee Park	0	7	7	6	x	7	2	6	7	x	x	5	3	6	56	51%
Gatcombe House	0	6	5	7	6	5	6	7	5	x	x	3	2	4	56	47%
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>70%</b>



Appendix 5.4 - Sites Quality Audit Results

I. Parks and gardens: pocket parks	A welcoming Place				Healthy Safe and Secure			Well Maintained and Clean					Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Total	Percentage
	Signage	Physical Access	Inclusiveness	Design and Specification	Health and Wellbeing	Safety and Security	Control of Dogs	Litter and Waste Management	Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture	Buildings (except toilets)	Public Toilets	Infrastructure				
Edgbaston House / Tipton House	6	8	9	8	8	8	5	9	8	x	x	9	x	7	85	77%
The Circle	x	8	9	8	8	9	x	9	8	x	x	7	x	3	69	77%
Esplanade Gardens	x	7	4	7	x	7	10	9	8	x	x	10	x	3	65	72%
Lords Street (North)	8	8	7	7	6	8	8	7	7	x	x	7	x	5	78	71%
Pembroke Triangles	6	8	6	7	6	7	10	9	7	x	x	8	6	5	85	71%
Childe Square	6	8	8	8	x	8	4	8	7	x	x	8	x	5	70	70%
Aylward Gardens	x	9	8	7	6	8	8	8	5	x	x	7	x	3	69	69%
April Square	x	7	8	5	x	8	7	5	7	x	x	10	x	4	61	68%
King Albert Court	x	7	7	5	x	8	7	8	7	x	x	7	x	5	61	68%
White Cloud Place	2	6	7	8	6	7	8	7	7	x	x	9	x	4	71	65%
Queen Street	x	8	4	7	x	8	7	4	7	x	x	10	x	3	58	64%
Blackwood House	0	8	8	7	x	8	7	8	7	x	x	8	x	3	64	64%
Mills Road	x	8	8	6	x	8	7	4	7	x	x	6	x	3	57	63%
Normandy Road	0	9	5	7	4	8	6	8	7	x	x	8	x	7	69	63%
Lomond Close	2	8	8	6	x	8	4	8	6	x	x	7	x	4	61	61%
North Street (Portsea)	x	7	8	5	x	6	8	5	4	x	x	7	x	3	53	59%
Copnor Bridge Open Space	x	7	7	7	6	6	2	6	6	x	x	7	x	3	57	57%
Northern Road	x	7	5	5	x	5	8	6	6	x	x	6	x	3	51	57%
Hertford Street	0	8	7	5	6	8	6	7	5	x	x	6	x	4	62	56%
Nelson Road South	x	8	7	5	x	8	2	7	6	x	x	4	6	3	56	56%
Nutfield Place	6	8	7	5	x	7	7	4	6	x	x	3	x	3	56	56%
Providence Place	0	7	7	5	5	6	9	5	7	x	x	5	x	4	60	55%
Kilbride Path	x	6	6	5	x	8	2	5	10	x	x	5	x	2	49	54%
Marketway Gardens	x	7	7	5	x	5	2	4	6	8	x	3	7	4	58	53%
Highgrove Open Space	4	5	6	6	8	5	6	4	6	x	x	2	5	6	63	53%
London Road Linear Park (Gatcombe)	x	7	3	6	x	6	7	4	5	x	x	6	x	3	47	52%
Studley Memorial Garden	0	5	3	7	8	7	2	9	7	x	x	4	x	3	55	50%
Farmside Gardens	0	7	7	5	x	5	2	7	7	x	x	5	x	3	48	48%
Halstead Road	0	7	6	5	x	6	6	3	6	x	x	2	x	3	44	44%
York Place	x	9	8	5	x	7	2	4	6	x	x	5	x	3	49	41%
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>#DIV/0!</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60%</b>

Appendix 5.4 - Sites Quality Audit Results

II. Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces and IX. Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas	A welcoming Place				Healthy Safe and Secure			Well Maintained and Clean					Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Total	Percentage
	Signage	Physical Access	Inclusiveness	Design and Specification	Health and Wellbeing	Safety and Security	Control of Dogs	Litter and Waste Management	Grounds Maintenance	Buildings (except toilets)	Public Toilets	Infrastructure				
Hilsea Lines	9	8	7	9	10	6	8	8	9		x	8	9	10	101	84%
Portsdown Hill (non SSSI)	8	8	6	9	9	7	9	8	10		0	7	10	8	99	76%
Milton Common	7	8	8	9	9	7	7	7	8		x	7	8	6	91	76%
Fort Purbrook Frontage	7	7	5	8	8	5	8	4	10		x	6	10	8	86	72%
Portsdown Hill SSSI	9	7	x	9	7	6	6	3	10		x	6	7	8	78	71%
Paulsgrove Chalkpit	0	8	7	9	10	7	7	4	8		x	8	7	10	85	71%
Eastney Beach	7	8	4	8	6	6	7	6	x		9	6	8	0	75	63%
Farlington Marshes	9	7	6	6	8	5	4	4	8		0	5	8	6	76	58%
Great Salterns	4	7	6	8	8	7	5	6	7		0	6	7	5	76	58%
Milton Locks (West of Thatched House)	6	5	5	5	6	7	6	5	6		x	8	6	3	68	57%
Farlington Triangle	0	7	0	9	8	5	2	5	8		x	2	8	8	62	52%
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>8.4</b>		<b>2.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>67%</b>

Appendix 5.4 - Sites Quality Audit Results

V. Amenity Green Space	A welcoming Place				Healthy Safe and Secure			Well Maintained and Clean					Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Total	Percentage
	Signage	Physical Access	Inclusiveness	Design and Specification	Health and Wellbeing	Safety and Security	Control of Dogs	Litter and Waste Management	Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture	Buildings (except toilets)	Public Toilets	Infrastructure				
Southsea Common	6	8	8	8	6	7	9	9	7	9	x	8	8	9	102	78%
Marine Court	x	7	8	8	3	7	10	9	9	x	9	9	x	6	85	77%
Southampton Road	8	9	7	8	3	8	8	9	8	x	x	9	6	5	88	73%
Baffins Playing Field	8	9	6	8	6	7	9	8	7	x	x	8	5	6	87	73%
IBM site opposite KGV	8	7	8	7	8	7	3	8	7	x	x	8	8	6	85	71%
Dersingham Close	x	8	7	3	x	8	6	9	10	x	x	9	x	3	63	70%
Anchorage Linear Park	x	8	6	9	6	6	7	8	7	x	x	6	6	4	73	66%
Broom Square	6	8	5	6	5	8	7	5	8	x	x	10	x	5	73	66%
Lake Road / Fratton Road / Kilmiston Close	x	8	8	6	x	8	x	5	8	x	x	7	x	3	53	66%
Great Salterns Quay	6	6	6	6	x	7	8	9	6	x	x	6	x	6	66	66%
Port Solent Open Space	x	8	5	8	x	6	6	7	8	x	x	7	6	5	66	66%
Bransbury Gardens	x	9	8	6	x	8	8	5	7	x	x	5	x	3	59	66%
Holbeach Close	x	8	7	4	x	8	6	9	5	x	x	9	x	3	59	66%
Peterborough Road	x	8	7	4	x	8	8	8	5	x	x	8	x	3	59	66%
Arthur Pope House Verge	x	7	6	7	x	7	2	8	8	x	x	7	x	7	59	66%
Doyle Close	x	8	3	6	x	8	6	10	7	x	x	6	x	3	57	63%
Harley Walk	x	7	7	5	x	8	9	5	8	x	x	5	x	3	57	63%
Stanley Road / Simpson Road	x	7	8	7	6	7	8	4	7	x	x	6	x	3	63	63%
Kendalls Wharf	7	7	7	7	x	5	6	5	6	x	x	7	6	6	69	63%
Sea Mill Gardens	x	9	7	5	x	8	6	5	7	x	x	6	x	3	56	62%
Peronne Road	x	8	5	6	x	8	8	5	7	x	x	5	x	4	56	62%
Holbrook Road / Carlisle Road	x	7	6	6	x	6	6	8	7	x	x	x	x	3	49	61%
Falmouth Road	x	8	8	6	x	7	7	7	7	x	x	5	3	3	61	61%
Spinnaker Public Open Space	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	x	x	7	5	7	73	61%
Moneyfield Avenue	x	8	8	6	x	8		5	8	x	x	7	x	2	54	60%
Lords Street (South)	5	7	7	5	x	7	8	5	8	x	x	5	x	3	60	60%
Lake Road / Turner Road	x	8	5	6	x	8	6	7	5	x	x	x	x	3	48	60%
Kingsley Road Open Space	x	8	4	6	x	7	8	4	5	x	x	6	6	5	59	59%
Sultan Road	3	6	7	7	x	8	3	8	7	x	x	7	x	3	59	59%
North Street (Landport)	x	8	9	6	x	6	6	4	7	x	x	4	x	3	53	59%
Tewkesbury Close	x	8	7	6	x	8	2	4	6	x	x	9	x	3	53	59%
Tudor Sailing Club	x	6	7	7	x	5	2	5	6	x	x	8	6	6	58	58%
King William Street	x	8	7	4	x	7	6	4	6	x	x	7	x	3	52	58%
Prison Corner	x	8	5	6	x	7	2	5	6	x	x	10	x	3	52	58%
Drummond Road	x	8	9	6	x	7	2	6	7	x	x	4	x	3	52	58%
Eastern Road Central	x	7	7	7	x	5	2	4	6	x	x	7	6	6	57	57%
Balderton Close	5	9	8	4	x	8	2	5	7	x	x	6	x	3	57	57%
Allaway Ave	x	7	6	6	x	6	2	7	6	x	x	8	x	3	51	57%
Hale Street North	x	8	7	6	x	8	7	4	7	x	x	1	x	3	51	57%
Bodmin Road	x	8	6	5	x	8	2	4	9	x	x	6	x	3	51	57%
Grafton Street	x	7	7	6	x	7	7	4	7	x	x	3	x	3	51	57%
Lake Road	x	7	7	7	x	7	2	4	7	x	x	7	x	3	51	57%
Bude Close	5	7	7	6	x	8	2	3	7	x	x	7	x	3	55	55%
Leominster Road Triangle	x	7	7	6	x	8	2	3	6	x	x	7	x	3	49	54%
Howard Road	x	7	3	6	x	8	7	4	5	x	x	6	x	3	49	54%
Ashurst Road	x	7	7	5	x	7	2	4	7	x	x	4	x	3	46	51%
Rudmore Roundabout	x	7	7	6	x	6	2	3	3	x	x	7	x	3	44	49%
Lynx House	x	7	6	4	x	4	6	4	5	x	x	4	3	3	46	46%
Fort Cumberland Road	5	7	4	6	1	5	7	5	3	x	x	5	5	2	55	46%
Ferry Road	x	5	4	5	x	5	3	4	5	x	x	4	x	3	38	42%
Meadowsweet Way	x	5	3	5	x	5	5	3	4	x	x	3	3	3	39	39%
Tipner Lane	3	5	3	5	x	3	3	4	3	x	x	2	0	x	31	31%
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>60%</b>

Appendix 5.4 - Sites Quality Audit Results

VI. Outdoor Sports Facilities	A welcoming Place				Healthy Safe and Secure			Well Maintained and Clean					Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Total	Percentage
	Signage	Physical Access	Inclusiveness	Design and Specification	Health and Wellbeing	Safety and Security	Control of Dogs	Litter and Waste Management	Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture	Buildings (except toilets)	Public Toilets	Infrastructure				
St Helens Playing Field	9	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	9	x	8	x	9	96	80%
Rugby Camp	7	8	7	7	8	7	7	7	8	8	x	7	x	9	90	75%
Drayton Park	5	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	7	9	5	8	x	9	96	74%
Alexandra Park Playing Field	5	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	7	x	x	7	x	8	80	73%
Bransbury Park	0	8	8	7	8	8	8	8	8	5	x	7	x	8	83	69%
Anchorage Park (Sports field and play area)	0	8	7	7	7	7	9	9	7	x	x	5	x	8	74	67%
Langstone Harbour Sports Field	7	8	6	7	6	5	7	7	7	7	x	5	x	7	79	66%
Great Salterns Sports Field	6	6	5	7	6	4	6	6	7	8	x	7	7	7	82	63%
Farlington Sports Field	0	7	6	8	7	5	8	6	7	7	x	7	x	7	75	63%
Sevenoaks Playing Field	0	8	5	5	5	8	6	8	8	5	x	10	x	7	75	63%
King George V Playing Field	0	8	5	7	8	6	7	6	6	4	x	7	x	9	73	61%
Allaway Avenue Playing Field	0	7	6	7	8	5	7	7	7	5	x	6	3	9	77	59%
Great Salterns Archery Range	3	7	6	5	6	4	x	10	8	6	5	3	6	8	77	59%
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>67%</b>

Appendix 5.4 - Sites Quality Audit Results

VI. Allotments and community gardens	A welcoming Place				Healthy Safe and Secure		Well Maintained and Clean						Biodiversity	Community Involvement	Total	Percentage
	Signage	Physical Access	Inclusiveness	Design and Specification	Safety and Security	Control of Dogs	Litter and Waste Management	Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture	Huts and sheds	Buildings (except huts and toilets)	Public Toilets	Infrastructure				
Longmeadow	5	9	8	8	7	6	7	7	9	8	6	8	8	8	104	74%
Salisbury Rd	5	9	8	8	7	6	5	8	9	9	4	8	8	9	103	74%
North Harbour	4	9	8	8	6	6	5	9	9	9	6	9	8	6	102	73%
Moneyfields	7	8	8	8	6	6	5	6	8	9	4	8	x	9	92	71%
Milton	8	8	6	6	5	6	6	6	7	7	3	7	7	8	90	64%
Horsea Lane	6	7	8	8	7	6	4	7	x	9	3	8	0	8	81	62%
Durrants	5	8	6	6	7	6	6	7	x	7	0	7	8	7	80	62%
Knowsley Rd	5	7	5	x	9	6	5	7	x	x	0	9	x	6	59	59%
Stamshaw & Tipner	5	8	5	x	9	6	7	7	x	x	0	7	0	5	59	54%
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>66%</b>

Appendix 5.4 - Sites Quality Audit Results

VIII. Cemeteries and Churchyards	A welcoming Place				Healthy Safe and Secure			Well Maintained and Clean					Conservation and Heritage	Community Involvement	Total	Percentage
	Signage	Physical Access	Inclusiveness	Design and Specification	Health and Wellbeing	Safety and Security	Control of Dogs	Litter and Waste Management	Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture	Buildings (except toilets)	Public Toilets	Infrastructure				
St Thomas' Cathedral	9	8	8	9	6	8	8	6	9	10	x	9	10	8	108	83%
Royal Garrison Church	8	7	7	8	x	8	x	6	8	10	x	9	10	5	86	78%
St Mary's Church	6	9	8	8	6	7	8	9	6	10	x	8	10	4	99	76%
Milton Cemetery	8	9	8	8	6	7	8	9	8	10	5	7	8	4	105	75%
Kingston Cemetery	8	8	8	8	6	7	8	9	9	9	0	8	8	4	100	71%
St Peter's Church	8	6	5	7	6	6	4	7	6	10	x	6	8	5	84	65%
Highland Cemetery	8	6	6	7	8	6	8	7	5	9	0	7	7	5	89	64%
St Andrew's Church	6	6	3	7	10	4	6	7	5	9	x	6	5	5	79	61%
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>72%</b>

## Quality Audit Criteria

The Quality Audit takes criteria from the Green Flag Award Guidelines<sup>1</sup>. The 2016 edition of the guidelines recognises the importance of green and open spaces:

*'in relation to healthy living, especially the far-reaching impacts of stress, mental health and obesity. For children, experts recognise the importance of natural play and freedom to play imaginatively, as well as the physiological development benefits of outdoor activity.*

*National governments are investigating the knock-on economic benefits of wellbeing, health and exercise, as well as the impact of volunteers working in this sector - the way that public services are delivered in times of austerity and the positive impacts on the volunteers themselves, especially amongst older, otherwise isolated individuals or younger people making a start in a world of work rather than worklessness'.*

The criteria recognises well-managed green spaces and can be applied to any green space that is freely accessible to the public. The Green Flag criteria includes the following and will be applied to the spaces as applicable.

Section	Criteria	Illustrative examples
A Welcoming Place	Signage	Appropriate entrance signage
		Signage with contact information, out of hours reporting, opening times
		Signage in good condition
	Entrances and access	Well presented entrances
		Safe access - road crossings, cycle access
		Adjacent secure car/cycle parking
	Social inclusivity	Accessibility to the disabled
		Any buildings publicly accessible
		Use of colour/scent/texture for partially sighted visitors
	Design	Varied visual interest
		High quality material for hard landscaping
		Appropriate trees, plants and shrubs
		Consistency of furniture (seating, litter bins)
		Enlivening features - decorative railings, lighting
		Working areas screened from view

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.greenflagaward.org/media/1019/green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf>

Appendix 5.5 - Quality Audit Criteria

Section	Criteria	Illustrative examples
Healthy, safe and secure	Health & wellbeing provision	Organised sports facilities
		Identified fitness or jogging route, if appropriate
		Sports development activities
	Safe equipment and facilities	First aid provision and safety measures around water
		Sense of personal safety and visibility through the space
		Informal supervision and surveillance from nearby properties
		Adequate lighting and lighting in car parks
	Security	CCTV if appropriate
		Visited by community wardens or police
		Activity and busyness - pedestrians, gardeners etc
	Control of dogs	Adequate dog bins
		Adequate signage on control of dogs
		Evidence of compliance with dog byelaws
Well maintained and clean	Litter and waste management	Adequate litter bins for the space
		Appropriate capacity of litter bins
		Free of litter, gum residue
		Free of vandalism, graffiti, fly posting
	Grounds and horticulture maintenance	Condition of flower beds and horticultural features
		Condition of grass swards
		Condition of grassed edged areas
		Condition of shrubs
		Condition of trees
		Condition of wooded areas
	Building (except toilets)	External and internal condition
		Extent of graffiti / vandalism to exterior
		Adequacy of security when closed.
	Public toilets	Adequacy of provision, including disabled toilet
		Condition of toilets
	Infrastructure maintenance	Condition of paths
		Condition of fences, railings, gates, walls



Appendix 5.5 - Quality Audit Criteria

Section	Criteria	Illustrative examples
		Condition of signs and noticeboards
		Condition of planters/raised beds
		Condition of steps, ramps and seats
Environment, conservation, and heritage		Appropriate management of areas of woodland and wildlife habitats
		Areas of water in good condition
		Presence of wildlife where appropriate
		Historic structures - buildings, statues, railings, walls - conserved
		Suitable interpretation for heritage features
Community involvement		Active Friends Group
		Facilities and features for under 8s
		Facilities and features for 8-12s
		Facilities and features for teenagers
		Facilities and features for young adults
		Facilities and features for families
		Facilities and features for older people

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## Quantity and Accessibility in Parks and Open Spaces

National quantitative standards for open space follow the Fields in Trust guidance as set out in their document *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, Beyond the Six Acre Standard: England*.<sup>1</sup> This provides a **quantity guideline** for several typologies, provided as hectares per 1000 population, together with an **accessibility guideline**, being the walking distance to a type of open space, expressed in walking distance, in metres, from dwellings.

The 2021 census data has been used for the purposes of the calculations below.

### Amenity Greenspace: Quantity and Accessibility

The Fields in Trust guidelines state that 0.6 hectares of amenity greenspace should be provided per 1000 population. Applying this to Portsmouth leaves a deficit of amenity greenspace of 43.67 hectares.

Fields in Trust Standard	Portsmouth population 2021	Requirement for Amenity Greenspace	Current supply	Deficit
0.6 ha / 1000	208,100	124.86	81.19	43.67

The shortfall is likely to increase based on population projections and given the density of the city's population. Due to the city's geography, it is unlikely that amenity greenspace quantity will be significantly increased. Changes to usage may only be affected by qualitative improvements.

The Fields in Trust guidelines for **accessibility** are 480 metres of walking distance to amenity greenspace (6 minute walk). The catchment area for amenity greenspace in the 2018 assessment shows shortfall in Cosham, the city centre north of Fratton and the central south. Where shortfall exists, any new development must provide amenity greenspace and consideration should be given to the transport network to provide for pedestrian and bicycle routes to connect urban areas to open spaces by defining routes and providing signage.

The 2018 assessment included suggestions for the following qualitative improvements:

1	Where appropriate, include welcoming and informative signage, including heritage and history information
2	Undertake planting to enhance biodiversity and provide variety to landscape
3	Provision of additional amenity greenspace as and when land is available in Cosham, city centre north of Fratton and central south.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf>

## Public Parks and Gardens: Quantity and Accessibility

The Fields in Trust guidelines state that 0.8 hectares of public parks and gardens should be provided per 1000 population. Applying this to Portsmouth leaves a deficit of 28.84 hectares.

Fields in Trust Standard	Portsmouth population 2021	Requirement for Parks and Gardens	Current supply	Deficit
0.8 ha/1000	208,100	166.48	137.64	28.84

The shortfall is likely to increase based on population projections and given the density of the city's population. Due to the city's geography, it is unlikely that the quantity of public parks and gardens will be significantly increased. Changes to usage may only be affected by qualitative improvements.

The Fields in Trust guidelines for **accessibility** are 710 metres of walking distance to public parks and gardens (10 minute walk). The catchment area for public parks and gardens in the 2018 assessment shows the majority of the city's population falls within the catchment area. The area that falls outside catchment is on the eastern boundary of the city, however this area is well served by natural and semi natural green space.

Due to the city's geography it is unlikely that further land will be found for new public parks and gardens. It is possible to improve quality where it is not possible to improve quantity, where funding is available to do so. For example, National Lottery Heritage Funding currently being used to make improvements to Victoria Park and the confirmation in late 2021 that Levelling Up Funding has been awarded for the development of Hilsea Linear Park.

The 2018 assessment also included the following suggestions for qualitative improvements

1	Extension of all weather footpaths for walking and cycling at key public parks.
2	Improve signage for entrance welcome at key public parks
3	Increase tree planting in key public parks

## Natural and Semi Natural greenspace: Quantity and Accessibility

The Fields in Trust guidelines state that 1.8 hectares of natural and semi-natural greenspace should be provided per 1000 population. Applying this to Portsmouth leaves a deficit of 29.64.

Fields in Trust standard	Portsmouth population 2021	Requirement for Natural & Semi-Natural green space	Current supply	Deficit
1.8/1000	208,100	374.58	344.94	29.64

As a densely populated city and limited by its geography, it is unlikely that the shortfall can be addressed in terms of quantity. One way to address this is to increase wildflower planting in other types of space, to increase biodiversity.

The Fields in Trust guidelines for **accessibility** are 720 metres of walking distance to natural and semi-natural spaces (10 minute walk). The catchment area for natural and semi-natural space in the 2018 assessment shows that accessibility is good as a very high proportion of the city lives within this distance of woodland, common, seafront or other natural space.

## Appendix 5.6 - Quantity and Accessibility

Whilst there is little scope to address the deficit, improvements can be made by softening areas of other types of open space by increasing tree planting and wildflower meadow planting to provide shade and reduce surface water run off.

The 2018 assessment also included the following suggestions for quality improvements

1	Improve entrances at natural and semi natural spaces - improved signage and visibility of entrances
2	Improve interpretation offer for natural history and local heritage connections
3	Improve Rights of Way and footpath signage for access

## Play areas and provision for children and young people: Quantity and Accessibility

The Fields in Trust guidelines state that 0.25 hectares of equipped designated areas are required for children and young people, per 1000 people. Applying this to Portsmouth leaves a deficit of 47.88.

Fields in Trust standard	Portsmouth population 2021	Requirement for Children and Young People	Current supply	Deficit
0.25/1000	208,100	52.03	4.15	47.88

Scope to address the deficit can be addressed by way of provision for new development. Developer contributions can also be used to create new or improved facilities in current open spaces.

The Fields in Trust guidelines for **accessibility** for children and young people depends on the type of equipped provision:

Local Areas for Play (LAPs) for very young children	100 metres
Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) for children who can play independently	400 metres
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) for older children	1000 metres

The catchment area in the 2018 assessment for all types of provision for children and young people shows that accessibility is located mostly in the south-west of the city with some further provision mostly off-island to the north-west. It is important therefore that developer contributions are used for new facilities in existing spaces where possible. It should also be considered that children and young people may use other types of open space for recreation, such as amenity green space and public parks.

The 2018 assessment includes the following suggestions for provision for children and young people:

1	More adventurous equipment for older children and young people
2	Improved landscaping to increase the attraction of the play area
3	Use of 'positive' signage
4	Use of equipment to improve access for disabled or less abled bodied children at larger sites
5	Introduction of new play facilities in other open spaces such as amenity green spaces and public parks.

### Allotments: Quantity and Accessibility

Fields in Trust does not incorporate guidelines for allotments. The standard is instead taken from the 1969 Thorpe Report (Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Allotments). This provides a standard of 0.2 hectares of designated allotment land per 1000 population. Applying this to Portsmouth leaves a deficit of 13.76.

Thorpe Report standard	Portsmouth population 2021	Requirement for allotments	Current supply	Deficit
0.2/1000	208,100	41.62	27.86	13.76

There are no accessibility standards for allotments. The 2018 assessment suggests an accessibility standard of 400 metres (5 minute walk) based on Greater London Authority guidelines. This indicates accessibility across the city, with exception to the south-west and north-east corner. Whilst the deficit must be considered, alternative provision such as community gardening is perhaps an alternative to allotments as this provides for the burden of cultivation to be shared. Community gardening can also be shared more broadly as an outdoor recreation and leisure activity and increase social cohesion. The Victoria Park project includes plans for community gardening activity.

The 2018 assessment also includes the following suggestions for improving allotments provision

1	Improve entrances and include informative and welcoming signage
2	Provision of community growing or allotments in south-west and north-east of city.

### Cemeteries and church grounds: Quantity and Accessibility

There are no quantitative standards for cemeteries, as any standard would need to differentiate between the primary purpose of cemeteries and their secondary purpose as an outdoor space for informal leisure, wildlife habitat and place for quiet contemplation. Cemeteries and church grounds provide 41.09 hectares of open space provision to the city.

There are no accessibility standards for cemeteries. The 2018 assessment suggests an accessibility standard of 400 metres, based on Greater London Authority guidelines for cemeteries of local significance.

The 2018 assessment illustrates the catchment area for cemeteries and church grounds. Whilst there is a fixed supply of this typology, some improvements could be made

1	Use of interpretative signage to illustrate the heritage value and biodiversity value of these sites
2	Increase wildflower planting to enhance biodiversity and enjoyment for visitors

## Outdoor sports grounds: Quantity and Accessibility

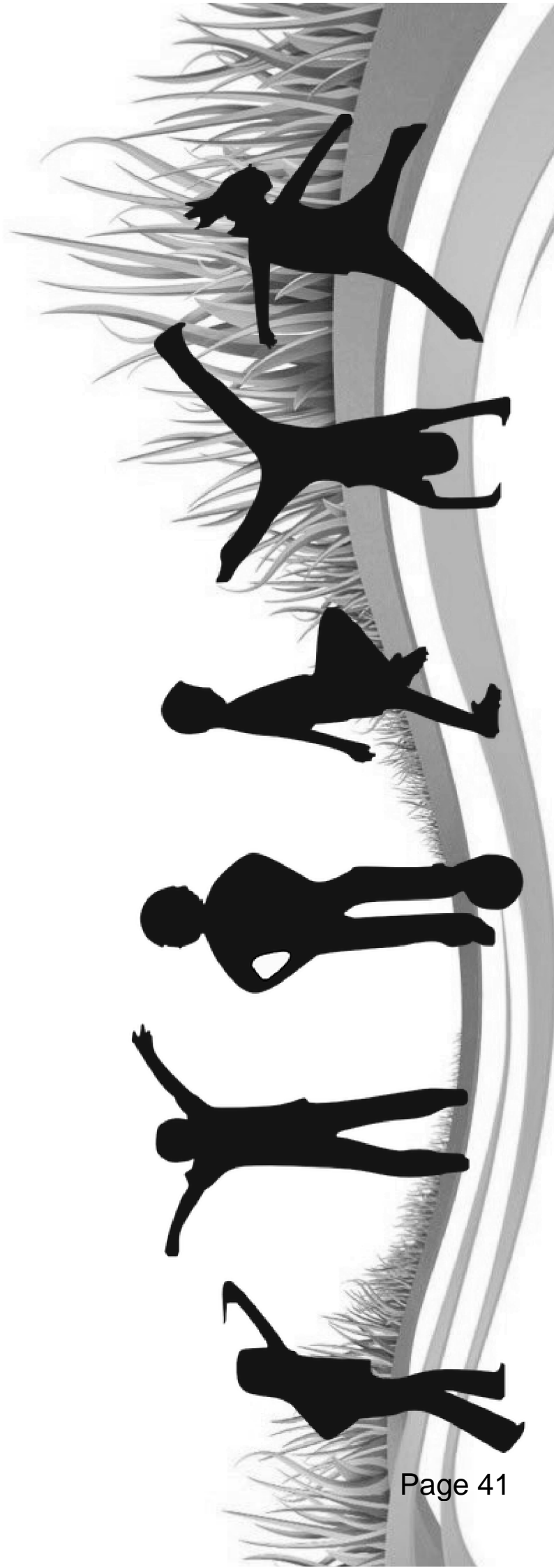
There are no quantitative or accessibility standards for outdoor sports grounds, due to their primary use for formal sports activity. Outdoor sports grounds provide 141.79 hectares of open space provision to the city.

The 2018 assessment makes the following suggestions for this typology:

1	Improved entrances to encourage informal use of outdoor sports grounds, in consideration of the deficits of other open space typologies in the city
2	Tree and wildflower planting on the perimeter of outdoor sports grounds
3	Installation of appropriate seating to encourage informal use.

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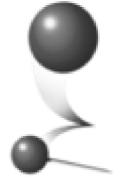




**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL:**

**OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT  
FINAL REPORT  
NOVEMBER 2018**

Appendix 5.7



# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

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# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of the Open Space Needs and Opportunities Assessment is to conduct a critical assessment of open space provision. This provides an evidence base which will allow decisions to be made in relation to the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space throughout the Local Plan period, and to meet the needs and demands of growing populations.
2. The Assessment follows the methodology of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and its predecessor, Planning Policy Guideline No. 17 (PPG17).
3. Quality audits were conducted in accordance with “Green Flag” criteria, the only nationally-recognised quality standards for open space. A number of conclusions were reached in relation to the quality of open space in each of the defined categories (e.g. Amenity Greenspace, Facilities for Children and Young People, Public Parks and Gardens, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, etc.), and are shown in Table 6.1. In general, open spaces were scored as either “good” or “average” in terms of design and condition.
4. Quantity standards considered included those defined in Portsmouth City Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2012 to 2022, and more recent national standards set by the representative body “Fields in Trust” (FIT) in October 2015. It is recommended that FIT standards are adopted given their wide acceptance within the industry, depth of research, and aspirational standards as defined in terms of hectares of actual and desired provision per thousand population at the beginning and end of the Local Plan period. These indicate a shortfall in those open space categories to which FIT standards apply. This is unsurprising given the density of population of the City and rising demand as the population increases. The only standard applicable to allotments is that indicated in the Thorpe Report. This also indicates a deficit. No standards exist for Cemeteries and Churchyards. Results are shown on Tables 7.2-7.6.
5. Accessibility standards have been defined in some categories by FIT. These are expressed in terms of ideal walking times from nearby dwellings (400m. is approximately a five minute walk). The Greater London Authority (GLA) has defined standards for two categories not covered by FIT (Allotments and Cemeteries and Churchyards) using an identical methodology. These are shown in map form in figures 7.1-7.7.
6. Section 8 details 47 key findings and recommendations by open space type. Main conclusions driving these recommendations are as follows:
  - **Facilities for Children and Young People.** Imaginative use of more adventurous equipment for older children and young people should be made, including the use of software applications which encourage “play by stealth.” Better landscaping is required to increase attractiveness, biodiversity, and provide shade. More welcoming and informative signage at entrances should be fitted. All-weather footpaths should be provided from open space entrances to play areas. The provision of more seating and litter bins is required. Finally, equipment providing better access for disabled or less able-bodied children should be introduced at larger play sites. Provision in terms of quantity is well below levels advocated for equipped areas by Fields in Trust. Provision is significantly clustered in the south-west. Wider distribution is necessary in other areas.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

- **Amenity Greenspace.** Most sites lack welcoming and informative interpretation, which would increase “sense of place” and increase usage. Few have areas of informal landscape to enhance biodiversity. Whilst quantity standards are below desirable levels, qualitative improvements in these areas will have an impact on usage. In terms of accessibility, there are shortages in the north around Cosham, and in the central and central south of the City, including Fratton. Special consideration should be given to meeting demand if and when land becomes available in these locations. In addition, it will be important to ensure that sufficient Amenity Greenspace is included in new development in accordance with FIT guidelines. It is suggested that they be linked wherever possible to other open space in the City and with local communities by a series of interconnected Greenways which could follow open spaces such as linear verges and areas adjacent to strategic routes (e.g. the M275). New open space in growth areas should be designed in such a way as to improve access around and through the site.
- **Public Parks and Gardens.** The use of more informal planting, including tree planting, would be an improvement which would make Public Parks more attractive and would enhance biodiversity. Better footpath connections are required at some sites to provide all-weather access for pedestrians and cyclists. Better signage is needed to provide a welcome and encourage greater usage. It is suggested that further efforts are made to achieve the Green Flag standard at Halsea Lines, Canoe Lake, Victoria Park, Southsea Rose Gardens and Bransbury Park. New provision should be made where areas of new growth are sufficiently large that provision is justified for increasing populations. Public Parks and Gardens are also a useful potential element in the creation of a Greenway network. There is a shortfall to the east of the City, and no suitable facilities of this type in Anchorage Park.
- **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.** A number lack signage. A better footpath network is also required at a number of sites to improve all-weather access for pedestrians and cyclists. More seating is necessary. In terms of distribution, there is a shortfall in the south, compared to the north, of the City. It is important that informal planting is increased in the form of trees and meadow in other open space types. In addition, Semi-Natural Greenspace has the potential to be an essential component of a Greenway network in the City. There are also opportunities to connect to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace at Portsdown in order to open routeways up to the wider countryside.
- **Allotments.** Some sites need to be more welcoming, with attractive entrances and informative signage. Some perimeter fences are in relatively poor condition. Local growing initiatives would engage communities and local schools. There is a shortage of provision in particular south of Portsea Island, and in North End.
- **Cemeteries and Churchyards** include Highland, Kingston and Milton cemeteries and a number of large churchyards (including St Thomas' Cathedral). Improved use could be made of interpretative signage. As with other types of open space, greater use could be made of environmental areas to enhance biodiversity.
- **Outdoor Sports Facilities.** These are generally **outside the scope of an open space assessment, but are included purely** for use for informal outdoor recreation. More seating is necessary at these sites. Signage was generally poor. There are opportunities to plant trees and areas for wildlife, particularly around perimeters.

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

- **Civic Spaces.** Provision is clustered around the south west of the City at present. Consideration should therefore be given to the inclusion of pedestrianized Civic Space in new growth areas in other parts of the City.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1. There are a number of key issues for Portsmouth City Council which are of relevance to this Assessment:

- Portsmouth is a major city on the south coast. Its economy is dominated by its maritime location, and there is a large working population in the ferry port and the naval dockyard. Tourism to attractions such as The Mary Rose, HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the Spinnaker Tower generate an additional 7,000 jobs and 7.6 million visitors. Seaside tourism in Southsea is estimated to generate £58 million p.a. to the local economy and supports 2,900 jobs.
- The culture of Portsmouth is dominated by its heritage and history. It has been home to the Royal Navy since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. This is relevant to the open spaces which characterise the city, and which have a strong role in interpreting this history for residents and visitors.
- Portsmouth's rich heritage is also supplemented by its rich natural environment. It has three Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. This also defines the City, despite the fact that it is the most densely populated city in the UK apart from London. This reinforces the need for protection of open space for the health and well-being of residents, and control of pollution and flooding.
- Future challenges include the need to accommodate a growing population and threats from flood defences and tourism whilst conserving open space. These impacts could also threaten important habitats and species.
- There are health inequalities across the City, with a seven-year life expectancy difference between the richest and poorest wards. This can be addressed by a network of high quality and accessible open spaces offering a range of outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Climate change is likely to impact negatively on the City. Sea level rises will increase the risk of flooding, and there will be increasing health risks associated with higher summer temperatures. Open spaces have a considerable climate change impact. This can be positive in reducing flash flooding, lowering peak urban summer temperatures and providing shade; or sometimes negative (e.g. Civic Spaces can contribute to flash flooding through the use of impermeable surfaces).

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

### **RATIONALE FOR CARRYING OUT AN OPEN SPACES ASSESSMENT**

- 1.2. The rationale for this Open Spaces Assessment is underpinned by the preparation of a new Portsmouth City Council Local Plan to guide development and land use. This Review will provide the evidence base which could conserve or enhance open space within the City.
- 1.3. The Assessment uses strategic guidance on the quantity, accessibility and quality of open space recently provided by Fields in Trust.
- 1.4. The Review draws on information, and updates the conclusions of, national, regional and City Council policy and strategy documents including:
  - **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**
  - **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)**
  - **Nature Nearby Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, Natural England, 2010**
  - **Green Space Strategies – A Good Practice Guide, CABE Space 2003**
  - **Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire 2010**
  - **Emerging Local Plan documents including the Core Strategy**
  - **Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment 2012**
  - **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2012-2022.**



## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

1.5. This assessment has undertaken a qualitative, quantitative and accessibility assessment of the existing and future needs and demands for:

- **Amenity Greenspace**
- **Provision for Children and Young People**
- **Public Parks and Gardens**
- **Allotments and Community Gardens**
- **Cemeteries**
- **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces**
- **Civic Spaces.**

16. This typology and the methodology adopted are in accordance with the NPPF and PPG17. Some very small spaces (less than 0.2 ha and of limited amenity value) were excluded.

17. A number of key issues have been included which reflect the values expressed in the CABE Good Practice Guide.<sup>1</sup> They also reflect the Issues and Objectives document, which includes the following statement: "To support the health and wellbeing of residents by providing access to health care, protecting/enhancing open spaces, providing sports and leisure opportunities, tackling air pollution and providing for biodiversity. "

1.8. Resourcing is considered in relation to guiding the allocation of developer contributions for open space provision and improvement, and in prioritising spending from the Community Infrastructure Levy

1.9. A comprehensive geo-database will be created to include open space sites by category throughout the City

1.10. Some conclusions are drawn in relation to the need for actions in service as well as in planning terms. A number of actions have been formulated, and included in an Action Plan for consideration in the short, medium, and long term.

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<sup>1</sup> "Green Space Strategies – A Good Practice Guide," CABE Space, 2003

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

### **2. KEY OUTCOMES**

- 2.1. The purpose of the study is to inform, provide evidence for, and make recommendations in relation to:
  - **Planning policies on:**
    - a) Quantitative and accessibility provision standards for open space
    - b) Protection of existing open space sites
    - c) Allocation of sites for new and/or improved open space facilities, if necessary.
  - **The infrastructure required to support development set out in an updated Infrastructure Delivery Schedule;**
  - **Development management decisions, including assisting in negotiations for financial contributions and/or direct provision on site;**
  - **The allocation of existing money collected through financial contributions from developers towards the provision of open space;**
  - **A strategy including objectives and recommendations on future provision, funding and management of open space facilities in the City.**
  - **Provide a critical assessment of open space provision.**

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. The methodology employed included a number of elements:

- Review of national, regional and local strategy and policy documents relevant to the exercise
- Division of open spaces into typology consisting of a number of different and discrete amenity “types”
- Creation of a qualitative template to include key elements of design and maintenance
- Qualitative on-site assessment of open spaces distributed throughout Portsmouth in accordance with the NPPF and the principles contained in the PPG17 Companion Guide
- Analysis of results to qualitatively assess the value of open spaces
- Use of quantitative standards in accordance principles contained in the PPG17 Companion Guide (i.e. by applying a local standard based on new Fields in Trust standards to different types of open spaces grouped in accordance with the PPG17 typology in terms of ha per 1,000 population).
- Use of accessibility standards as defined by the Fields in Trust Guidance Document
- Carrying out a gap analysis to identify any shortfalls in the previous open space study and identify actions necessary to address those shortfalls
- Drafting conclusions relating to the current state of open spaces in Portsmouth
- Drafting recommendations relating to the significance of open space in Portsmouth
- Creating an Action Plan to address current and future needs and demands, and identifying SMART actions for short, medium and long-term consideration.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 4. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

#### OPEN SPACE EVIDENCE BASE

- 4.1. The evidence for the value of open space has been mounting for a number of decades. The physical and emotional health benefits have been suspected for some time. Hard evidence is now becoming more widely known. However, other benefits are also becoming apparent. Some of these benefits can be summarised as follows:
- ✓ **Physical health**
  - ✓ **Emotional health including the relief of depression, and the engendering of a “sense of place” and identity in the local community in which people live**
  - ✓ **Reduction in pollution, including airborne particulates**
  - ✓ **Reduction in peak urban summer temperatures**
  - ✓ **Reduction in flash flooding episodes**
  - ✓ **Creation of sustainable transport links which lead to a reduction in motorised transport**
  - ✓ **Provision of shade, and the damaging effects of harmful exposure to solar radiation**
  - ✓ **Greater biodiversity.**
- 4.2. North Warwickshire Borough Council has identified useful evidence from the Woodland Trust in the form of the document *Trees or Turf?* This examines best value in managing urban green space. It makes the case for the value of trees in the environment, which are as follows:
- **Trees and urban greenspace improve the environment and encourages healthy lifestyles, improving public health**
  - **Mitigation of the urban heat island effect—trees provide shade from direct solar radiation and reduce ambient air temperature through evaporative cooling**

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

- Shelter from trees can reduce energy costs— research suggests a per tree saving in carbon emissions as a result of reduced building energy use of around 10-11kg per year
  - Well - designed tree planting can improve air quality, removing particulates, nitrogen dioxide and ozone
  - Complex mixed woodland planting can considerably enhance biodiversity, and encourage the development of a wide range of attendant flora and fauna
  - Meadow grassland encourages the growth of many species which are absent in a monoculture such as amenity lawn
  - Researchers found asthma rates among children aged four and five fell by a quarter for every additional 343 trees per square kilometre
  - Surface water flooding—preliminary results from Manchester University indicate that tree canopies can reduce surface water runoff by as much as 80% compared to asphalt
  - Urban tree cover provides economic advantages—a report to the Mersey Forest showed that for every £1 invested in the Forest’s programme, £10.20 was generated in increased Gross Value Added (GVA), social cost savings and other benefits
  - Biodiversity – urban trees and green space support a wide range of wildlife
  - In some cases woodland might be used to generate timber or woodfuel for local use.
- 4.3. In addition, the report compared the costs of maintenance for nine management regimes in urban and suburban areas. Four were for woodland types, and five for mowing treatments. The results of the study revealed that:
- Naturally colonising woodland and pioneer style woodland can be considerably cheaper to maintain than all types of grassland
  - Maintenance costs of managing woodland in managed green spaces are more expensive during the establishment phase than informal woodland but are still less than the maintenance of amenity grassland
  - Complex mixed woodland planting is the most expensive of the woodland types to establish but costs are still less than the cost of maintaining amenity grassland. However, the long term cost of managing complex woodland does rise above that of amenity grassland.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

- 4.4. The many community benefits of green space are explored by the **Fields in Trust Case Study of Centenary Park in Rugby**.<sup>3</sup> This is a very detailed examination of the contribution which an open space can make to the community. Fran Poole of Public Health Warwickshire is quoted in the report:
- “People need safe green spaces to get more physically active and spend their leisure time there. It’s good for mental well-being.”*
- 4.5. Lessons from the Case Study focus very much on “Process Learning,” i.e. partnership working between the council, local community and user groups as well as funders, and is perceived to have a number of benefits:
- **The involvement of the Community Partnership, particularly in carrying out the consultation, brought a range of networks and other organisations into the process (such as the local primary school in particular).**
  - **The Community Partnership also maintained a visible presence in the community during consultation and development as well as since, allowing an interchange between council and local residents to allay concerns and most importantly, to listen to what residents actually wanted.**
  - **This has been very important subsequently in terms of the current levels of satisfaction with the park and the use of its facilities.**
  - **The partnership approach and work with the local community has helped to improve relationships between the council and the local community and has also helped to ensure that the facility they have ended up with is something that is both wanted and needed.**
  - **The work that has been put in to date is given significant protection through the engagement with Fields in Trust, ensuring that the benefits felt are long term and protected.**
- 4.6. Recognition has been given to the problem of severe underfunding of parks by the **Commons Select Committee Inquiry into Public Parks** in March 2017. The inquiry report is significant. The following roles were identified which confirm the importance of parks and green spaces:
- **They assist in improving child development, including better dexterity and coordination, and the opportunity to build social connections and relationships**
  - **Good access improves physical and mental health and wellbeing**
  - **Active travel is improved by creating safe green corridors that encourage people to walk or cycle to work**
  - **Community cohesion and identity is enhanced**

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<sup>3</sup> “Centenary Park Case Study,” Fields in Trust, 2017

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

- Parks and green spaces, particularly in urban areas, are vital for providing access to nature and opportunities for people to enjoy wildlife
  - They play an important role in retaining investment and jobs, encouraging inward investment and providing for attractive environments
  - They have a role in mitigating climate change by reducing the “heat island” effect, reducing flash flooding, and improving air quality.
- 4.7. A range of bodies, including Government agencies, have promoted the possible physical and mental health benefits of access to green space. A recent note from the Government summarises the evidence for these benefits. Different types of study were used to examine the link between green space and health. These were:
- **Cross-sectional observation studies** – these use national or regional study data to explore correlations between public health and the amount, or proximity to, nearby green space
  - **Cohort studies** – these select groups from the wider population, which are followed over time to identify changes to physical and mental health as a result of their access to green spaces
  - **Experimental studies** – these have looked at the direct effects of green space on indicators of health and wellbeing.

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Research has focussed on three main areas: physical activity, mental health and the development of specific treatments:

- **Physical activity.** Physical activity taken 30 minutes a day can directly reduce the risk of strokes, cardiovascular disease, obesity and some cancers and type 2 diabetes. Physical inactivity is the fourth largest cause of disease and mortality in the UK, contributing to 37,000 premature deaths in England every year. The amount of green space does seem to link with levels of physical activity. Also, closer proximity to green space appears to indicate that people are more likely to use it, and more frequently. In the UK a correlation has been observed between those living closest to greener areas and reduced levels of mortality, obesity, and obesity-related illnesses
- **Mental health and wellbeing.** Control trials have found that people exercising outdoors report higher feelings of wellbeing, and lower feelings of stress or anxiety, than those doing the same activity indoors
- **Development of specific treatments.** The Faculty of Public Health suggests that interaction with nature might be effective in treating some forms of mental illnesses. Emerging evidence indicates that engaging with nature benefits those living with ADHD, depression and dementia by improving cognitive functioning and reducing anxiety.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### PPS GUIDANCE

- 4.9. At the national level, before the replacement of all Planning Policy Statements (PPS's) by the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012, there were a number which dealt with planning issues in detail. These Planning Policy Statements are detailed for reference in Annex A.
- PPG17
- 4.10. The Government issued planning policy guidelines for local authorities in the form of PPG 17 and Companion Guide to PPG17: Assessing Needs and Opportunities. They were first published on 13 September 2001. Although withdrawn on 7 March 2014, the guidelines were not replicated in succeeding enactments and guidelines, and are therefore still relevant as an evidence base. The PPG17 guidelines contained a number of recommendations which are directly relevant to this study.
- 4.11. One policy relates to areas of open space or recreational facilities of high quality or particular importance as a local amenity. These should be recognized by local authorities and given protection through appropriate policies and plans.
- 4.12. In terms of action which local authorities should be taking, they were advised through the PPG17 guidelines to:
- **Avoid any erosion of recreational function and maintain and enhance the character of open spaces**
  - **Ensure that open spaces do not suffer from encroachment (from traffic flows, etc.)**
  - **Protect and enhance rights of way**
  - **Consider the impacts of development on biodiversity and nature conservation.**
- 4.13. In general, local authorities should:
- **Promote accessibility to open space and the countryside**
  - **Carefully consider safety and security in open spaces**
  - **Improve their quality**
  - **Meet regeneration needs through the provision of open space**
  - **Consider using surplus land for open space purposes**



## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

- **Consider the needs of visitors and tourists through open space provision.**

4.14. PPG17 gives specific guidance in terms of defining how the quality of parks and open spaces can be audited. This guidance has been used to assess the quality of open spaces throughout the City of Portsmouth.

### **LOCALISM ACT AND THE NPPF**

4.15. The Localism Act is being developed through detailed Regulations and the National Planning Policy Framework. This supersedes previous guidance as previously outlined, and introduced detailed modifications to existing Acts including the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Planning Act 2008. The Government laid stress on the role of the National Planning Policy Framework in the following areas:

- **Clarified that the local plan was the keystone of the planning regime**
- **Was crystal clear that sustainable development embraces social and environmental as well as economic objectives and does so in a balanced way**
- **Referred explicitly to the five principles of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy**
- **Is clear that councils should look for net improvements on all dimensions of sustainability**
- **Made explicit that the presumption in favour of sustainable development works through, not against, local plans**
- **Made it clear that relevant policies - such as those protecting the Green Belt, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Parks and other areas - cannot be overridden**
- **Recognised the intrinsic value and beauty of the countryside (whether specifically designated or not)**
- **Made explicit what was always implicit: that councils' policies must encourage brownfield sites to be brought back into use**
- **Underlined the importance of town centres, while recognising that businesses in rural communities should be free to expand**
- **Embraced a localist approach to creating a buffer of housing supply over and above five years, and in the use of windfall sites**
- **Allowed councils to protect back gardens from development**
- **Ensured that playing fields continue to benefit from that same protection that they do currently.**

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

4.16. There are a number of issues relating to the implementation of both the Localism Act and the NPPF. These are highlighted in table 4.1 below. This does indicate that there are some opportunities associated with the Localism Act, and in particular with the NPPF. However, there are also some gaps which presume against a fully co-ordinated planning approach. These need to be at least acknowledged when planning future open space requirements in the City.

Table 4.1: Gaps and Opportunities Relating to the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework

LOCALISM ACT	OPPORTUNITIES	UNDERSTANDING GAPS	SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local definition of GI</li> <li>Deciding climate change methods at local level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No clarity on range of measures to be delegated</li> <li>How community plans will operate in practice</li> <li>Lack of strategic-level planning and management without Regional Strategies</li> <li>Lack of expertise of local communities to lead on neighbourhood-level plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines required to clarify how localism will work in practice</li> <li>Capacity building for neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	
<b>NPPF</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presumption in favour of sustainable development</li> <li>Climate change mitigation measures could improve well-being</li> <li>Use of GI as panacea to development</li> <li>GI can be managed using specific designations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific recognition for Local Wildlife Sites</li> <li>GI in brownfield sites could be developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presumption against development in LWS's</li> <li>Clarity over use of planning designation to protect GI in brownfield sites</li> </ul>	

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### FIELDS IN TRUST REVIEW OF STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR PLAY, SPORT AND RECREATION

- 4.17. Local authorities have traditionally used the National Playing Field Association's "6 Acre Standard." Recommendations on Outdoor Playing Space were first formulated in 1925, soon after the Association's formation. This helped ensure that every man, woman and child in Great Britain should have the opportunity of participating in outdoor recreational activity within a reasonable distance of home during leisure hours. The National Playing Field Association urged all local authorities to adopt a minimum standard of provision of 5 acres (20,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of public open space for every 1,000 people, of which at least 4 acres (16,000 m<sup>2</sup>) should be set aside for team games, tennis, bowls and children's playgrounds.
- 4.18. Since then, the National Playing Field Association has kept the recreational space standard under regular review. It now stands as the Six Acre Standard, recommending 6 acres (24,000 m<sup>2</sup>) per 1,000 head of population as a minimum necessity for space. The National Playing Field Association has since been superseded by Fields in Trust. FIT has conducted research which has indicated that 81% of local planning authorities' express quantity standards for open space as "hectares per 1,000 population." This has enabled comparison across England and Wales, and is the most widely used metric for open space standards.
- 4.19. The median level of provision for Designated Play Space was 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population. This corresponds to the Fields In Trust benchmark standard. The median accessibility standard was 100m. for Local Areas of Play (LAP's), 400m. for Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP's), and 1,000m. for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play" (NEAP's). Accessibility standards have often been expressed in terms of walking time rather than distance.
- 4.20. Fields In Trust has discovered that the median level of playing pitch provision was 1.21 hectares per 1,000 population (comparable with the Fields In Trust recommended benchmark standard). The median accessibility standard from respondents to the Fields In Trust survey was 1,200m. from dwellings, matching the Fields In Trust benchmark. This guidance relates to England, Scotland and Wales.
- 4.21. Respondents to the Fields In Trust survey provided data relating to an overall standard for parks and amenity green space. The median level of provision sought was 1.0 hectares per 1,000 population.
- 4.22. In relation to the meeting of local standards for open space being met in planning decision-making, 64% indicated a score of between 7 and 10 (where 1 indicated "seldom" and 10 indicated "Always").
- 4.23. Of relevance to future planning of open space requirements in Portsmouth are the new benchmark guidelines contained in Fields in Trust's "Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard." These are shown in figures 4.2 and 4.3 below.
- 4.24. These national standards are used later in section 7, and have been used in conjunction with local standards in order to calculate quantitative standards.
- 4.25. It is recommended that the best approach is to utilise national standards if there is loss of existing provision. These have been carefully formulated following extensive research, and are easily defensible.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY 2012-2022

- 4.26. Quantitative standards were included in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2012-2022. These are also shown in Table 4.2.
- 4.27. In relation to **children’s play space**, a standard of 0.88 ha/1,000 population was defined. The rationale for this approach was that the old Six Acre Standard (superseded by the Field in Trust guidelines of November 2015) made a recommendation of 0.8 ha/1,000 population, of which 0.25 ha should be equipped play spaces. In order to meet this standard, the proportion relating to informal play space (0.8 ha/1,000) was accepted in the Strategy as being less clear-cut. Accordingly, all Amenity Green Space, and parts of Public Parks and Gardens, were included in the quantity designated as informal play space.
- 4.28. The standard relating to **public parks and gardens** was 0.58 ha/1,000 population to reflect current provision.
- 4.29. **Amenity greenspace** was assigned a standard of 1.05 ha/1,000 population, again to reflect current provision.
- 4.30. **Natural and semi-natural urban greenspace** and **accessible countryside in urban fringe areas** relate to the typology of “natural and semi-natural greenspace” used in this report, and were assigned standards of 0.91 ha/1,000 and 1.10 ha/1,000 respectively, again to reflect current provision. The figure given in Table 4.2 is a combined figure for both categories.
- 4.31. Table 4.3 indicates a set of quality guidelines outlined by Fields in Trust relating to formal open spaces. These standards mirror those used in the qualitative assessment used for formal open spaces in Portsmouth, and are a useful guide for future provision.

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Table 4.2: Recommended Benchmark Guidelines – Formal Open Space

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	QUANTITY GUIDELINE (HECTARES PER 1,000 POPULATION)	WALKING GUIDELINE (WALKING DISTANCE: METRES FROM DWELLINGS)
<b>EQUIPPED/DESIGNATED PLAY AREAS</b>		
OPEN SPACES STRATEGY GUIDELINE	0.88 (combined equipped and informal) <sup>4</sup>	900m
FIT GUIDELINE	0.25 (equipped)	LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPs – 1,000m
<b>AMENITY GREENSPACE</b>		
OPEN SPACES STRATEGY GUIDELINE	1.05	None
FIT GUIDELINE	0.60	480m
<b>PARKS AND GARDENS</b>		
OPEN SPACES STRATEGY GUIDELINE	0.58	300m (Pocket Park) 600m (Local Park) 900m (Principal Park)
FIT GUIDELINE	0.80	710m
<b>NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE</b>		
OPEN SPACES STRATEGY GUIDELINE	2.01	None
FIT GUIDELINE	1.8	720m

<sup>4</sup> Includes Amenity greenspace and parts of parks and gardens

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Table 4.3: FIT Quality Guidelines for Formal Open Space

- ✓ **Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards.**
- ✓ **Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.**
- ✓ **Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community.**
- ✓ **Appropriately landscaped.**
- ✓ **Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance.**
- ✓ **Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary.**
- ✓ **Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment.**
- ✓ **Provision of footpaths.**
- ✓ **Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.**
- ✓ **Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for playing pitches, taking into account the level of play, topography, necessary safety margins and optimal orientation**
- ✓ **Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for play areas using the Children’s Play Council’s Quality Assessment Tool.**

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### OPEN SPACE CATEGORIES

4.32. Open space categories used in this study are as follows:

- I. **Public Parks and Gardens** - including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens. Usually include a wide range of activities, and may include other typologies (e.g. Provision for Children and Young People and Natural and Semi Natural Greenspaces). Very often includes formal elements of provision such as ornamental lawn, herbaceous border or rose garden
- II. **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace** - including woodland, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, open access land wetlands and derelict open land. Maintenance is usually informal, but may include elements of intervention such as coppicing for the long term health and natural balance of woodland, flail cutting of meadow to increase biodiversity, and clearance of water habitats
- III. **Amenity Greenspace** (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) - including informal recreation spaces (private or open to the public), roadside verges, greenspaces in and around housing and other premises e.g. hospitals, schools and colleges, industrial and business premises and village greens. May include other typologies, most frequently Provision for Children and Young People
- IV. **Provision for Children and Young People** - including play areas, areas for wheeled play, including skateboarding, outdoor kick about areas, and other less formal areas (e.g. 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters). May include different aspects of play such as natural or "green" play, or "play" to incorporate information technology elements to stimulate greater usage
- V. **Allotments and community gardens** - a statutory allotment is defined as having an area not exceeding 1,000sq meters. Allotments are generally for the growing of food crops. Community Gardens are generally more informal, and may include "garden" landscapes for outdoor relaxation
- VI. **Outdoor Sports Facilities** – areas predominantly set aside for sports pitches and other forms of outdoor facilities. May include some informal areas
- VII. **Cemeteries and churchyards** – quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Can take the form of formal cemeteries or graveyards around churches
- VIII. **Civic Spaces** – outdoor spaces which are accessible for informal recreation, but which are usually hard surfaced.

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

### **5. CONSTRAINTS**

5.1. There were a number of constraints to this study. These were as follows:

- **This part of the assessment was confined to open spaces. Sport and recreation facilities are covered in the recreation report**
- **Sites of less than 0.2 ha and of little amenity value were generally excluded in line with PPG17 methodology guidelines.**
- **Quantitative national guidelines have not been produced for allotments. However, the Thorpe Report of 1999 recommended a standard of 0.2 ha per thousand population, which has been chosen as the most definitive guideline**
- **There are no quantitative guidelines relating to the amenity use of Cemeteries and Churchyards and Civic Spaces, therefore assessments have been limited to qualitative criteria for this category. This is also the case for Outdoor Sports Facilities, which have been assessed as part of the Sports Assessment. Qualitative standards have been applied because these spaces are used for informal outdoor recreation, and not just for the playing of outdoor sports.**



## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 6. GREENSPACE QUALITY AUDITS

6.1. Open spaces were divided using the typology shown in Annex B, which is based on PPG17. This was clarified in the brief provided by the client. The PPG17 Companion Guide stated that: "Quality standards can obviously vary according to the primary and secondary purposes of different forms of provision and their level within any adopted hierarchy of provision. They are not absolute measures, but reasonable aspirations and benchmarks against which to measure the quality of any existing open space or sports facility in order to determine the need for enhancement." Accordingly, a number of measures were used based on this guidance, and including:

- **Cleanliness and maintenance** • **Welcome**
- **Security and safety** • **Climate change adaptation**
- **Ancillary facilities (toilets, footpaths, etc.)** • **General site access, including less able bodied**
- **Transport access** • **Information and signage**
- **Wider benefits (social inclusion, health, economic, etc.)** • **Overall potential for improvement**
- **Specific issues affecting potential for development**

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6.2. A number of factors for each of the above were scored up to a maximum of five points, and an average rating was calculated for each of the above categories. Total points were compared to a maximum possible score. This was expressed as a percentage to produce a rating for each open space. These defined qualitative provision as:

- **Very poor** • **Poor**
- **Average** • **Good**
- **Very good**

6.3. A number of key quality issues were identified during the course of the audit. These are shown by open space type in Table 6.1.

6.4. All audited sites were categorized using the typology, and are shown in Annex C.

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Table 6.1: Quality Issues in Portsmouth

OPEN SPACE TYPE	ISSUE
<b>AMENITY GREENSPACE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor seating</li> <li>• Lack of signage</li> <li>• Some lacked biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage could be more informative and less prohibitive</li> <li>• Softening and tree planting would improve biodiversity and appeal</li> <li>• Walking and cycling access could be improved at some sites.</li> </ul>
<b>CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS AND FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of welcome in form of signage</li> <li>• No landscaping</li> <li>• Poor footpath access in some cases.</li> </ul>
<b>NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretation could be improved</li> <li>• Access difficult in places</li> <li>• More seating needed.</li> </ul>
<b>CEMETERIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater use could be made of interpretative signage</li> <li>• Biodiversity could be improved by relaxing maintenance procedures.</li> </ul>
<b>ALLOTMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unwelcoming entrances</li> <li>• Some poor fencing.</li> </ul>
<b>OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unwelcoming entrances</li> <li>• Lack of landscaping</li> <li>• Poor seating.</li> </ul>
<b>CIVIC SPACES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-designed and maintained, but lacking in landscape features</li> <li>• Hard surfaces likely to increase surface water runoff.</li> </ul>

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

6.5. The results of the qualitative audit are sub-divided by type, with a brief analysis of each.

### FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

6.6. Results of the quality audit for Facilities for Children and Young People are shown as Table 6.2.

Table 6.2: Quality audit for Facilities for Children and Young People

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ Maintenance	Welcome	Security / Safety	Landscape	Climate change & adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage (weighted)
161	Andrew Close	CYP	5.4	2.7	6.8	N/A	1.8	3.6	4.1	2.7	0.5	68%
162	Arthur Pope House Play Area	CYP	5	4.7	4.9	2.7	1.2	3.2	4.1	2.7	0.9	65%
163	Barrington House Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	5	N/A	N/A	2.5	4.1	2.7	0.5	62%
164	Binsted Road Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	4.4	2.7	N/A	2.7	3.2	2.7	0.6	59%
165	Blenworth House Play Area	CYP	4.9	5.4	4.7	N/A	N/A	3.2	4.5	2.7	1.8	71%
166	Boxgrove House Play Area	CYP	4.6	4.1	4.1	N/A	N/A	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.6	59%
167	Buckland Venture Playground	CYP	5.1	5.4	5.1	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	1.8	70%
168	Butterfly Drive Play Area	CYP	5	4.1	4.4	2.7	N/A	3.3	4.1	2.7	0.9	64%
169	Catsfield House Play Area	CYP	4.9	5.4	4.7	N/A	N/A	3.2	3.6	2.7	0.9	66%
170	Central Street	CYP	4.9	5.4	5.1	N/A	N/A	2.9	4.5	2.7	1.8	71%
171	Chalton House Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	4.7	N/A	N/A	2.9	3.6	2.7	0.9	62%
172	Clanfield House Play Area	CYP	4.9	2.7	4.3	2.7	1.4	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.5	57%
174	Claremont Road Play Area	CYP	5	3.6	4.9	2.7	1.5	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.9	61%
175	Cornwallis Flats Play Area	CYP	5.2	3.4	5.1	2.9	1.4	3.2	3.6	2.7	0.9	63%
176	Darwin House Play Area	CYP	5.1	3.4	4.5	2.3	1.4	2.3	3.6	2.7	0.5	57%
177	Denmead House Play Area	CYP	5.2	2.7	4.7	N/A	N/A	2.5	3.6	2.7	0.6	58%
178	Duckworth House Play Area	CYP	5	4.1	4.1	N/A	N/A	0.9	3.6	2.7	0.5	55%
179	Dunsmore Close Play Area	CYP	4.7	4.1	4.4	N/A	N/A	2.7	3.6	2.7	1.9	60%
180	Falmouth Road	CYP	4.7	4.1	4.7	2.9	1.4	2.5	3.6	2.7	0.5	60%
182	Horatia House	CYP	5	4.1	4.6	2.5	1.4	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.6	62%
184	Little George Street	CYP	5	5.4	4.7	2.7	1.4	2.9	4.1	2.7	1.5	68%
185	Marshfield House Play Area	CYP	4.7	4.1	4.3	2.7	1.4	2.9	4.1	2.7	0.9	62%
186	Medina Road Play Area	CYP	5	4.1	3.5	2	0.9	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.9	56%
187	Meiville Road Play Area	CYP	5	2.7	4.4	N/A	1.4	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.5	57%
188	Micawber House Play Area	CYP	4.6	4.1	4.4	N/A	1.4	3.3	4.5	2.7	0.9	64%
189	Midhurst House Play Area	CYP	4.7	4.1	4.1	2.4	1.2	2	3.6	2.7	0.5	56%
190	Midway Road	CYP	5.1	4.1	4.7	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.5	62%
191	Milvertone House Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	5.1	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	64%
192	Nelson Road North Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	4.4	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	62%
194	Omega Street Ball Court	CYP	4.3	4.1	4.1	N/A	N/A	1.8	4.1	2.7	0.9	58%
195	Omega Street Play Area	CYP	5	4.1	4.3	2.7	1.2	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	62%
200	Powell Square	CYP	4.7	4.1	4.7	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	62%
201	Prince Albert Road Play Area	CYP	4.7	5.4	5.4	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.5	2.7	1.8	71%

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ Maintenance	Welcome	Security / Safety	Landscape	Climate change & adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage (weighted)
202	Privett House Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	4.4	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.5	61%
204	Solent View Play Area	CYP	4.7	3.4	4.4	2.7	1.4	2.7	3.6	3	0.9	60%
205	Tupman House Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	3.6	N/A	N/A	0.9	2.7	2.7	0	49%
206	Upper Church Path Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	5.1	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	64%
207	Ward House Play Area	CYP	4.9	4.1	4.4	2.7	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	62%

**Scores (weighted)**

Very poor = 0-20%

Poor = 21-40%

Average = 41-60%

Good = 61-80%

Very Good = 81-100%

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

- 6.7. Facilities for Children and Young People consist of equipped play areas. These sometimes have adjoining areas for ball games or other forms of informal activity. They are designed for toddlers, older children, and sometimes youths. In some cases there are items of “outdoor gym” equipment. Some sites incorporate covered “youth shelters” for informal gatherings.
- 6.8. Some local authorities have augmented conventional play equipment with “iplay” provision. It combines interactive electronics with these more conventional items of equipment in order to increase their attractiveness to children, and to break cycles of sedentary behaviour by introducing a greater element of “fun” to outdoor playgrounds.
- 6.9. Issues relating to quality include:
- Over 60% of sites were in the “good” category, i.e. were well designed and maintained. The rest were “average”
  - Some sites lacked a sense of welcome, with signage which was either lacking or prohibitive in nature
  - There was a lack of landscaping in the form of tree, shrub or other planting
  - Some sites lacked sufficient seating or litter bins
  - Some had limited access in the form of all-weather footpaths
  - There is greater scope for the use of “iplay” equipment to increase the attractiveness and value of play areas
  - Equipment offering more adventurous play opportunities for older children could be more widely used
  - Specially adapted play equipment for disabled children should be introduced at larger play sites.

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

## AMENITY GREENSPACE

6.10. Results of the quality audit for Amenity Greenspace are shown as Table 6.3

**Table 6.3: Quality audit for Amenity Greenspace**

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ maintenance	Welcome	Security & Safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information & signage	Percentage (weighted)
113	Anchorage Linear Park	AGS	3.5	4.1	4.5	2.9	1.6	2.7	4.1	2.7	N/A	61%
119	Broom Square	AGS	3.8	3.4	3.8	2.5	1.2	1.4	2.3	2.7	0	47%
123	Drummond Road	AGS	4.3	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.4	1.4	3.2	2.7	0.5	54%
124	Eastern Road Central	AGS	4.6	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.4	2.7	4.1	2.7	N/A	62%
126	Ferry Road	AGS	5.4	4.1	4.1	2.9	1.4	N/A	4.1	2.7	N/A	65%
128	Great Salterns Quay	AGS	4.9	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.4	2.7	4.1	2.7	N/A	62%
129	Hale Street North	AGS	5	4.1	4.3	2.5	1.4	3.6	4.5	2.7	0.8	64%
130	East of Lakeside IBM	AGS	5.1	3.4	4.7	3.4	1.7	2.9	4.1	2.4	0.5	63%
131	Kendalls Wharf	AGS	4.1	3.4	4.1	3.2	1.6	1.8	3.2	2.7	0.5	55%
136	Kingsley Road	AGS	4.3	4.1	4.1	2.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.4	0	49%
138	Lake Road/Fratton Road	AGS	4.9	5.4	4.1	2.9	1.5	4.1	4.1	2.7	N/A	67%
139	Lake Road/Turner Road	AGS	4.9	5.4	4.1	2.9	1.5	4.1	4.1	2.7	N/A	67%
141	Lynx House	AGS	4.9	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.4	4.1	4.1	2.7	N/A	62%
143	Marine Court	AGS	4.9	2	4.1	2.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.4	0	44%
147	Peronne Road	AGS	4.6	N/A	N/A	2.7	1.1	4.1	4.1	2.7	N/A	61%
149	Port Solent	AGS	5.1	3.2	4.4	3.2	1.7	3.2	3.2	2.7	0.5	58%
155	Stanley Road/Simpson Road	AGS	3.8	N/A	4.1	2.5	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	57%
157	Tangier Field	AGS	3.8	3.4	4.1	2.7	1.5	2	3.2	2.7	0.5	53%
159	Tipner Lane	AGS	4.1	4.1	2.7	2.3	1.2	0	2.3	1.5	0.5	38%
160	Tudor Sailing Club	AGS	5.4	5.4	4.1	3.2	1.7	1.8	3.2	2.7	0.5	58%

### Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0-20%

Poor = 21-40%

Average = 41-60%

Good = 61-80%

Very Good = 81-100%

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

6.11. Issues relating to quality include:

- There are 20 sites which are generally smaller and have fewer facilities than Public Parks and Gardens. Of these, 45% were “average,” one was “poor,” but the rest were rated as “good”
- Lawn areas on some sites had not been recently cut
- A number lacked seating or litter bins
- Many lacked significant tree or other informal planting, which would assist in enhancing their biodiversity value and interest
- Few had attractive and informative signage, even where there was an obvious presence of interesting heritage or history.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

6.11. This consists of parish or town cemetery sites, or prominent churchyard burial sites. All are suitable for outdoor recreational purposes, and usually have fine heritage and local interest value. Results of the quality audit for the seven sites in this category are shown as Table 6.4.

**Table 6.4: Quality audit for Cemeteries and Churchyards**

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness & maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change and adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information and signage	Percentage (weighted)
218	Highland Cemetery	C	4.9	4.1	4.4	2.7	1.6	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.5	62%
219	Kingston Cemetery	C	5.1	5.1	4.9	3.2	1.7	2.7	4.5	2.7	1.8	70%
220	Milton Cemetery	C	4.5	3.4	3.2	2	1	1.1	3.2	2.3	1.1	48%
221	Royal Garrison Church	C	5.1	5.1	5	2.7	1.4	2.3	4.5	2.7	1.8	68%
222	St. Andrew's Church	C	4.6	3.6	4.4	3.2	1.6	2	2.3	2.7	0.6	56%
223	St. Mary's Church	C	5.2	4.1	4.6	3.4	1.5	3.2	4.5	3	0.9	68%
224	St Peter's Church	C	5.1	4.1	4.1	2.9	1.5	2.5	3.6	2.7	1.4	62%
225	St. Thomas' Cathedral	C	4.9	5	4.4	3.2	1.6	2.9	4.1	2.7	0.9	66%

#### Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0-20%

Poor = 21-40%

Average = 41-60%

Good = 61-80%

Very Good = 81-100%

6.12. Issues relating to quality include:

- There are eight sites in this category. They are in “good” condition, with only two listed as “average”
- The Royal Garrison Church has a “heritage” sign. The other sites would generally benefit from more interpretation relating to their interesting heritage and history
- In some places maintenance could be relaxed to encourage greater biodiversity.



# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

## PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

6.13. These spaces are usually multi-purpose in function, generally larger than Amenity Greenspace, and contain a number of facilities (may include Facilities for Children and Young People, outdoor sports, horticultural features, etc.). Results of the quality audit for the sites in this category are shown as Table 6.5.

**Table 6.5: Quality audit for Public Parks and Gardens**

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ Maintenance	Welcome	Security & safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information & signage	Percentage (weighted)
1	Baffins Pond	PPG	5	3	5.1	3.2	1.6	2.7	4.5	2.7	0.5	63%
2	Buckland Park	PPG	4.1	3.6	5.1	2.7	1.2	3.2	4.5	2.7	0.9	62%
3	Canoe Lake	PPG	4.7	3.2	3.8	2.3	1.2	2.9	4.1	2.7	0.6	57%
4	Castle Field	PPG	5.1	5.1	5.1	3	1.4	3.2	5.4	3.6	1.8	75%
5	College Park	PPG	5.2	3.6	4.6	2.7	1.2	3.4	4.5	3.3	0.5	64%
6	Cosham Park	PPG	4.3	2.7	4.5	2.7	1.5	2.7	3.2	2.4	0.5	54%
7	Hilsea Lido	PPG	5	3.4	4.5	2.9	1.4	3.6	3.6	3	0.5	62%
8	Kingston Recreation Ground	PPG	5	3	5.1	3.2	1.2	3.6	4.1	3.2	0.5	64%
9	Ladies Mile & Avenue de Caen	PPG	5	4.1	4.9	3.2	1.5	2.7	4.7	3.6	0.5	67%
10	Milton Park	PPG	4.7	3.6	4.5	3.2	1.5	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.9	61%
11	Ravelin Park	PPG	5.9	3.7	5.4	3.4	1.6	3.4	4.5	3.6	0.6	71%
12	Rock Gardens & South Parade Gardens	PPG	5.4	2.4	4.7	3.6	1.5	3.3	4.1	3.6	1.8	68%
13	Stamshaw Park	PPG	4.5	4.1	4.7	2.9	1.2	2.9	3.6	2.7	0.5	60%
14	Victoria Park	PPG	4.7	4.4	4.7	3.2	1.5	2.9	5	2.7	1.1	67%
15	Alexandra Park	PPG	4.5	3.2	5.4	2.9	1.2	3.2	5	2.7	0.8	64%
16	Arundel Street Gardens	PPG	4.1	4.1	4.1	2.9	1.4	N/A	4.1	2.7	N/A	61%
17	Braemar Avenue	PPG	4.5	2.7	4.6	2.5	1.24	2.25	2.7	2.1	0.45	51%
18	Britannia Gardens	PPG	5	4.1	4.6	2.9	1.2	2.7	4.1	N/A	0.9	63%
19	Buckingham Green	PPG	5.2	4.1	4.6	3.2	1.4	0.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	60%
21	City Museum & Records Office	PPG	4.9	4.4	5.1	3.2	1.4	3.2	4.5	2.7	0.9	67%
22	Clarendon Gardens	PPG	5.1	4.1	4.1	2.5	1.2	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.9	60%
23	Collington Crescent	PPG	3.8	2.3	3	2	1.1	1.8	2.3	2.4	0.5	43%
24	Cornwallis Crescent	PPG	5	3.6	4.9	3.2	1.4	3.4	4.5	2.7	0.9	66%
25	Credenhill Road	PPG	4.1	3.6	5.4	2.3	1.1	2.9	5	3.6	1.1	65%
26	Cumberland Gardens	PPG	5.1	4.5	4.4	2.9	1.4	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	64%
27	East Lodge Park	PPG	4.5	3.2	4.6	2.7	1.4	2.3	3.6	2.4	0.5	56%
28	Fairfield Square	PPG	4.1	2.7	2.4	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.8	0.5	40%
29	Gatcombe House	PPG	4.9	2.7	3.7	2.9	1.4	2.3	2.3	1.8	0.5	50%
30	Gurnard Road	PPG	5	5.1	5.1	3.4	1.7	3.4	5.4	3.6	1.4	76%
31	Hawthorn Crescent	PPG	5	4.1	3.8	2	1.2	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	59%
32	Hempstead Road	PPG	5	4.7	5.2	3.6	1.7	3.6	5.4	3.6	1.1	75%
34	Holbrook Road	PPG	4.7	4.1	4.6	2.7	1.4	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	62%
35	Knowsley Road	PPG	5	4.7	5.1	2.9	1.6	2.7	3.6	1.5	1.1	63%
36	Leominster Road	PPG	4.3	2.7	2.7	2.5	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.8	0.5	42%
37	Long Curtain /King's Bastion	PPG	5.1	3.6	4.1	3.6	1.4	3.4	2.7	2.7	0.5	60%

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ Maintenance	Welcome	Security & safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information & signage	Percentage (weighted)
38	Millebush Road	PPG	5	3.6	4.6	2.7	1.4	2.7	3.6	2.4	0.5	59%
39	Milton Town Green	PPG	5.1	4.1	4.1	2.9	1.4	2.7	3.2	2.7	0	58%
40	Orchard Road	PPG	5	5	4.9	3.2	1.2	2.5	4.5	3	1.4	68%
41	Pembroke Gardens	PPG	5.1	4.1	4.7	3.6	1.4	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.9	64%
42	Queen's Street Play Area	PPG	5	4.1	4.3	2.5	1	2.5	4.1	2.7	0.9	60%
43	St George's Square	PPG	4.7	3.4	5.1	2.9	1.5	2.7	4.5	3	0.6	63%
45	Tamworth Field	PPG	4.7	3	4.6	3.4	1.7	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.5	60%
46	Teignmouth Road	PPG	4.5	3.4	4.3	2.7	1.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	0.5	52%
47	Tunstall Road	PPG	4.3	3.2	3.5	1.6	0.9	2.5	3.2	2.1	1.1	50%
48	Watersedge Park	PPG	5	4.1	4.3	2.5	1.4	2.7	3.2	2.7	0.5	59%
51	Wesley Gardens	PPG	5.2	4.7	5.4	3.4	1.6	3.2	4.5	2.7	0.6	70%
52	Wimbledon Park	PPG	4.5	3.4	4.9	2.9	1.4	2.7	3.6	2.4	0.6	59%
53	Woodland Park	PPG	4.6	2.7	5.1	2.7	1.1	2.9	5	3.6	0.5	63%
54	Wymering Centre Sevenoaks Road	PPG	5	4.7	4.6	2.7	1.4	2.9	4.1	2.7	0.9	64%
55	Zetland Field	PPG	4.1	3.6	4.6	2.9	1.2	2.7	3.6	2.4	0.5	57%
57	Ayleward Gardens	PPG	4.9	2.7	4.1	2.3	1.1	2.3	3.6	2.7	0.6	54%
58	Blackwood House	PPG	4.3	4.1	4.1	2.5	1.4	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	60%
59	Childe Square	PPG	4.1	1.8	3.5	2.3	1.1	2.7	3.2	2.3	0.5	48%
62	Edgbaston / Tipton House	PPG	5.2	4.1	5.1	2.7	1.1	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	64%
64	Farmside Gardens	PPG	4.9	2.7	3.2	1.8	1.1	2.3	3.2	2.7	0.9	51%
65	Halstead Road	PPG	4.1	3.4	4.6	2.7	1.5	2.3	3.2	2.7	0.6	56%
66	Herford Place	PPG	5	3.4	4.3	2.3	1.2	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	59%
69	Lomond Close	PPG	4.7	4.1	4.4	N/A	N/A	2.7	4.1	2.7	0.9	62%
71	Lord's Street North	PPG	5	5.4	5.1	2.7	N/A	1.8	4.5	2.7	1.8	68%
73	Mills Road	PPG	3.5	2.7	3.7	2	1.2	2.3	3.2	2.3	0	46%
75	Normandy Road	PPG	5.2	2.4	3.7	2.3	1.2	1.1	1.8	2.7	0	45%
77	Northern Road	PPG	4.6	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.4	1.6	3.6	2.7	0.6	56%
78	Nutfield Place	PPG	4.9	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.4	1.4	3.4	2.7	N/A	58%
79	Pembroke Triangle	PPG	5.1	4.1	5.1	3.2	1.5	2.9	5.4	3.6	N/A	72%
80	Providence Place	PPG	4.3	4.1	4.1	2.9	1.5	1.8	4.1	2.7	0.5	58%
81	Queen Street	PPG	5.2	3.4	4.7	2.7	1.4	2.7	N/A	3.6	0	62%
84	Wiltshire Street	PPG	4.7	4.1	4.1	N/A	N/A	2.7	3.6	2.7	0.6	59%
69	Avocet House	PPG	5.1	5	4.7	3.2	1.4	2.9	4.5	2.7	0.5	67%
153	Southsea Common	PPG	5.1	3.8	5.1	2.7	1.5	3.4	4.5	3.6	0.9	68%
283	Rednal House	PPG	4.7	2.7	4.4	N/A	N/A	2.7	3.2	2.7	0.5	55%
286	Wilmcote Gardens	PPG	5.1	4.1	4.5	N/A	N/A	3.2	3.6	2.7	0.5	62%

**Scores (weighted)**

Very poor = 0-20%

Poor = 21-40%

Average = 41-60%

Good = 61-80%

Very Good = 81-100%

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

- 6.14. Issues relating to quality include:
- There are 70 such sites in Portsmouth
  - Half were audited as “good” in terms of quality, and a similar number as “average”
  - Some of the sites could be improved by the introduction of informal planting, including the use of greater numbers of trees
  - Walking and cycling access is sometimes poor
  - Signage was prohibitive or absent at many sites.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

6.15. There are a number of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace sites in the City of Portsmouth area. They may consist of woodland, common land, or other informal landscapes. Results of the quality audit for the sites in this category are shown as Table 6.6.

Table 6.6: Quality audit for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ Maintenance	Welcome	Security & safety	Landscape	Climate change & adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information & signage	Percentage (weighted)
86	Eastney Beach	NSN	5	N/A	4.7	N/A	N/A	3.8	4.5	3.6	0.5	70%
88	Fort Cumberland	NSN	4.3	4.5	3.4	3.2	1.7	2	2.7	2.4	1.1	56%
89	Great Salterns	NSN	4.3	1.8	3.7	2.7	1.2	2.3	1.4	2.4	0.5	45%
91	Hilsea Lines	NSN	4.6	4.4	3.7	2.9	1.6	2.7	3.6	2.7	1.4	61%
92	Milton Common	NSN	4.3	3	3	2.7	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.7	0.9	48%
93	Milton Locks nature reserve	NSN	5.1	5.1	4.5	3.6	1.6	2.3	2.7	2.7	1.8	65%
94	Paulsgrove chalk pit	NSN	4.9	2	4.1	2.9	1.7	2.7	2.7	2.4	0	52%
226	Farlington Marshes	NSN	5.1	5.4	4.7	3.6	1.8	2.7	4.1	2.7	1.8	71%
227	Fort Purbrook frontage	NSN	5.1	4.1	4.3	3.2	1.8	2.7	3.2	2.4	0.9	62%
228	Portsmouth Hill SSSI	NSN	5.1	3.6	4.1	3.4	1.8	2.3	3.2	2.4	0.5	59%
229	Portsmouth Hill non SSSI	NSN	5.1	3.6	4.1	3.4	1.8	2.3	3.2	2.4	0.5	59%

#### Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0-20%

Poor = 21-40%

Average = 41-60%

Good = 61-80%

Very Good = 81-100%

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

6.16. Quality issues include:

- There are 11 such sites in Portsmouth
- Six were rated as “average,” and five as “good”
- Some lacked signage, which was a pity given their interesting ecological. Heritage or historical value
- Access for bicycles and walkers was poor in some cases
- More seating was necessary at some sites.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### ALLOTMENTS

6.17. There are a number of allotment sites in Portsmouth City Council. Results of the quality audit for the sites in this category are shown as Table 6.7.

Table 6.7: Quality audit for Allotments

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ maintenance	Welcome	Security and safety	Landscape	Climate change and adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information & signage	Percentage (weighted)
208	Eastney Lake allotments	A	5.1	3.6	4.7	3.3	1.8	1.6	5	3.6	0.8	66%
210	Horsea Lane allotments	A	5.4	4.1	5.4	3.6	1.8	1.8	5	3.6	0.8	70%
211	Knowsley Lane allotments	A	4.1	3.1	3.8	2.7	1.8	1.4	3.1	2.7	0.8	52%
212	Long Meadow allotments	A	5.1	4.1	5.4	3.6	1.8	1.8	5	3.6	0.8	69%
214	Moneyfields allotments	A	5.1	4.1	5.4	3.6	1.8	1.8	5	3.6	0.8	69%
215	Northarbour allotments	A	5.1	5.4	6.2	3.6	1.8	3	6.3	4.5	1.8	84%
216	Salisbury Road allotments	A	4.9	4.1	5.4	3.6	1.8	0.9	5	3.6	0.8	67%
217	Stamshaw & Tipner allotments	A	4.1	3.6	4.5	3.3	1.8	0.7	4.1	2.7	0.8	57%

#### Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0-20%

Poor = 21-40%

Average = 41-60%

Good = 61-80%

Very Good = 81-100%

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

6.18. The quality issues relating to allotments are as follows:

- There are eight sites in Portsmouth
- They are generally in “good” condition, and well-designed. One site is “very good”
- Signage is disappointing, and is more prohibitive than welcoming
- Some perimeter fences are relatively poor.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### CIVIC SPACES

6.19. These spaces are usually hard surfaced (i.e. are “grey” rather than “green” spaces), and are public spaces where people congregate, sometimes in association with another function (e.g. are adjacent to a war memorial, outside a library, etc.). Results of the quality audit for the four sites in this category are shown as Table 6.8.

Table 6.8: Quality audit for Civic Spaces

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ Maintenance	Welcome	Security & safety	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information & signage	Percentage (weighted)
230	Commercial Road precinct	CS	4.6	N/A	4.5	1.8	1.4	3.2	4.1	2.7	N/A	62%
232	Guildhall Square	CS	5.1	4.1	5.4	3	1.5	3.4	4.7	3.6	N/A	72%
233	Gunwharf Quays	CS	5.1	4.1	5	2.7	0.9	4.3	5.4	3.6	N/A	73%
234	Palmerston Road precinct	CS	4.9	4.1	4.1	2.4	0.9	3.2	4.1	2.7	N/A	62%

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#### Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0-20%

Poor = 21-40%

Average = 41-60%

Good = 61-80%

Very Good = 81-100%

6.20 There are few quality issues:

- There are four sites in Portsmouth.
- They are all in “good” condition, and are well-designed and maintained.

### OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES



## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

6.21. This usually consists of outdoor sports pitches. These are generally outside the remit of this Open Space Assessment. However, although it is inappropriate to apply qualitative or accessibility standards, some sites have been audited for quality. This is because these sites have a more general informal outdoor recreation function. Results of the quality audit for the ten sites in this category are shown as Table 6.9.

**Table 6.9: Quality audit for Outdoor Sports Facilities**

No	Name	Type	Cleanliness/ Maintenance	Welcome	Safety & security	Landscape	Climate change adaptation	Ancillary facilities	Site access general	Site access transport	Information & signage	Percentage (weighted)
97	Alexandra Playing Fields	OSF	4.1	2.4	3.7	2	0.8	2.9	2.7	2.7	0.5	48%
98	Allaway Ave Playing Field	OSF	4.3	2.4	4.3	2	1.2	2.3	3.6	2.4	0.5	51%
99	Anchorage Road Sport & Play	OSF	3.8	2.3	5.1	3.2	1.5	3.2	4.1	2.7	0	58%
100	Bransbury Park	OSF	4.5	3.6	5	3.2	1.5	2.7	3.2	2.7	0.9	61%
101	Drayton Park	OSF	5	3.4	5.1	2.9	1.4	2.7	4.1	2.4	0.5	61%
105	Great Salterns Playing Field	OSF	4.3	1.8	3.7	2.7	1.2	2.3	1.4	2.4	0.5	45%
106	King George V Playing Field	OSF	4.1	2.7	4.1	2.5	1.2	2	2.7	2.7	0.5	50%
109	Sevenoaks Playing Field	OSF	4.7	3.4	4.6	2.5	1.1	2.5	3.2	2.1	0.6	55%
110	Southsea Mini Links	OSF	5.2	4.7	4.7	2.9	1.5	3	3.6	2.7	1.4	66%
111	St Helen's Playing Field	OSF	5.1	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.4	2.5	3.6	2.7	0.9	60%

### Scores (weighted)

Very poor = 0-20%

Poor = 21-40%

Average = 41-60%

Good = 61-80%

Very Good = 81-100%

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

6.22. There are few quality issues as follows:

- There are ten such sites in Portsmouth
- The majority were “average” in terms of quality. Three were “good”
- A number had few benches or bins
- Signage was poor or absent
- Landscaping was limited, and would benefit from softening where this does not impede pitches or outfields.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 7. SERVICE ISSUES RELATING TO QUANTITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- 7.1. Analysis of the audit findings has identified a number of issues relating to the quantity of open spaces in Portsmouth. These, combined with a simple analysis of the distribution of different green space “types” and of relevant national standards (in particular Fields in Trust Guidelines for Formal Open Space) also leads to some conclusions relating to the quantity and accessibility of provision.
- 7.2. The methodology used in this study has been as follows, to:
- **Identify from the study the total area (ha) of open space in each category**
  - **Utilise Fields in Trust standards (in ha per 1,000 people) contained in the latest Guidance Notes for each open space type as defined using the PPG17 typology**
  - **Use population statistics to create local standards in ha/1,000 population (median average across the plan area). These are population figures provided by the Office for National Statistics for the year 2016 and projected for the year 2035**

#### USE OF EXTERNAL GUIDANCE TO SET QUANTITATIVE PROVISION STANDARDS AND COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PROVISION IN EACH ANALYSIS AREA

National quantitative standards have now been updated by advice provided by Fields in Trust in their document: “Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play Beyond the Six Acre Standard - England.” The setting of these standards accords with guidance provided in relation to “Greenspaces or Sport and Recreation Facilities (October 2015)” which states: “The easiest way to express a quantity standard is a combination of a unit of a ‘useful area’ of provision and a population, such as X sqm/person (mainly for indoor provision) or Y ha/1,000 people (mainly for open spaces and outdoor sports provision).”

Table 7.1: Quantitative Open Space Standards By Open Space Type

GROUP	NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE	PARKS AND GARDENS	AMENITY GREENSPACE	EQUIPPED PLAY
NATIONAL STANDARD	1.8ha/1,000	0.8ha/1,000	0.6 ha/1,000	0.25 ha/1,000
SOURCE	Fields in Trust Guidelines	Fields in Trust Guidelines	Fields in Trust Guidelines	Fields in Trust Guidelines

- 7.4. It has been recommended that use of the National FIT Standard is applied to all types shown in figure 7.1 as the most definitive and nationally accepted set of standards for informal open space.

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

7.5. Fields in Trust standards are contrasted with local standards set in the Open Spaces Strategy 2012-2032 in tables 7.2-7.6.

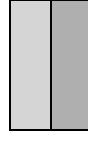
## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### AMENITY GREENSPACE

- 7.6. The Fields in Trust guideline is **0.6 ha/1,000 population**.
- 7.7. A quantitative analysis of “Amenity Greenspace” for current and future population levels is shown as Table 7.2.
- 7.8. The local standard set in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy of 2012-2022 was **1.05 ha/1,000 population**. This would increase the requirement in this category to 215 ha, and thus increase the level of shortfall in this category against 2011 population levels. The shortfall increases to 141 ha by 2034. Given the shortage of supply, use of the local standard would be unrealistic in terms of achievement. It is therefore recommended that the FIT guideline is adopted.

Table 7.2: Quantitative Analysis of Amenity Greenspace

STANDARD	HA	POPULATION 2011	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2034	REQUIREMENT BY 2034	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2034
Fields in Trust 0.6 ha/1,000 population	49.12	205,400	0.24	123.24	74.12	235,700	141.42	92.30
Open Spaces Strategy 1.05 ha/1,000 population	49.12	205,400	0.24	215.67	166.55	235,700	247.49	198.37



## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.9. The Fields in Trust recommended standard for equipped/designated play areas is **0.25 ha/1,000 population**. The same standard was used by the Open Spaces Strategy for equipped play areas. Whilst the Strategy adopted an overall guideline of 0.88 ha/1,000 population, this is not recommended as it also encompassed Amenity Greenspace and parts of Public Parks and Gardens. Few of these areas in Amenity Greenspace constitute areas for informal play without modification, and therefore it is not recommended that the standard includes informal play. It is, however, recommended that the standard of 0.25 ha/1,000 for equipped play is retained.

7.10. A quantitative analysis of provision for “Children and Young People” is shown as Table 7.3.

7.11. The current requirement is 51 ha for the population of Portsmouth at 2011 population levels. This requirement increases to 59 ha in 2034.

Table 7.3: Quantitative Analysis of Provision for Children and Young People

STANDARD	HA	POPULATION 2011	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2034	REQUIREMENT BY 2034	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2034
Fields in Trust 0.25 ha/1,000 population	3.15	205,400	0.02	51.35	48.2	235,700	58.93	55.78
Open Spaces Strategy <sup>5</sup> 0.88 ha/1,000 population	3.15	205,400	0.02	180.75	177.60	235,700	207.42	204.27

	Deficit
	Oversupply

<sup>5</sup> This standard is for equipped play space only.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### ALLOTMENTS

7.12. There is no Fields in Trust guideline for allotments. However, the Thorpe Report arising from the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Allotments, 1999, made 44 major recommendations. One was a recommendation that the standard level of provision should be **0.2 ha per 1,000 population**. The Open Spaces Strategy recommended a standard of **0.14 ha/1,000**. This latter standard was set to accord with the current level of provision. However, this is less defensible than using the only national guideline set by the Thorpe Report. It is therefore recommended that a standard of 0.2 ha/1,000 population is adopted.

7.13. A quantitative analysis of provision for “Allotments” is shown as Table 7.4.

Table 7.4: Quantitative Analysis of Allotments

STANDARD	HA	POPULATION 2011	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2034	REQUIREMENT BY 2034	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2034
Fields in Trust 0.2 ha/1,000 population	23.78	205,400	0.12	41.08	17.3	235,700	47.14	23.36
Open Spaces Strategy 0.14 ha/1,000 population	23.78	205,400	0.12	28.77	4.98	235,700	32.99	9.22



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Oversupply

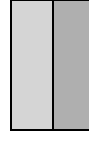
## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE AND ACCESSIBLE COUNTRYSIDE IN URBAN FRINGE AREAS

- 7.14. The 2015 Fields in Trust guideline for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace has been set at **1.8 ha/1,000 population**.
- 7.15. A quantitative analysis of provision for “Public Parks and Gardens” is shown as Table 7.5.
- 7.16. The standard contained in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy includes two categories which could both be classified as falling within this category. They are Natural and Semi-Natural Urban Greenspace and Accessible Countryside in Urban Fringe Areas. This local standard was set at **2.01 ha/1,000 population**. This would produce a larger requirement than that set using the latest Fields in Trust guideline of 370 ha. This would create a larger shortfall of 78 ha at 2011 population levels. It is therefore recommended that the Fields in Trust guideline is used as it is unrealistic to achieve the higher standard given current shortages in supply and the high population density in the City.

Table 7.5: Quantitative Analysis of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

STANDARD	HA	POPULATION 2011	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2034	REQUIREMENT BY 2034	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2034
Fields in Trust 1.8 ha/1,000 population	334.57	205,400	1.73	369.72	35.15	235,700	424.26	89.69
Open Spaces Strategy 2.1 ha/1,000 population	334.57	205,400	1.73	412.85	78.28	235,700	494.97	160.40





## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

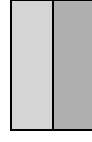
7.17. The Fields in Trust guideline for Parks and Gardens is **0.8 ha/1,000 population**.

7.18. A quantitative analysis of provision for “Public Parks and Gardens” is shown as Table 7.6.

7.19. The standard defined in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2012-2022 is **0.58 ha/1,000 population**. The use of this local standard would indicate a level of **oversupply** of 14 ha using 2011 population figures. This is not aspirational, and is a really important form of open space provision for the growing population of Portsmouth. It is therefore recommended that the new FIT standard is adopted.

Table 7.6: Quantitative Analysis of Public Parks and Gardens

STANDARD	HA	POPULATION 2011	CURRENT PROVISION HA/1000	REQUIREMENT CURRENT	CURRENT DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY	POPULATION 2034	REQUIREMENT BY 2034	DEFICIT/ OVERSUPPLY 2034
Fields in Trust 0.8 ha/1,000 population	133.44	205,400	0.65	164.32	30.88	235,700	188.56	55.12
Open Spaces Strategy 0.58 ha/1,000 population	133.44	205,400	0.65	119.13	14.41	235,700	136.71	3.31



Deficit  
Oversupply

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

7.20. There are no defined guidelines in terms of quantitative standards for Cemeteries and Churchyards. Any standard would also need to differentiate between the primary purpose of a cemetery or churchyard (i.e. for burial), and its purpose for informal recreation. It would also be hindered by the different types of cemetery and churchyard currently encountered, including:

- **Churchyards which are still accepting burials**
- **Cemeteries which are still open for burial**
- **Churchyards which are redundant**
- **Cemeteries which are full**
- **Woodland burial.**

7.21. For the foregoing reasons it is not recommended that a local standard is set.

### USE OF EXTERNAL GUIDANCE TO SET ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

7.22. The PPG17 Companion Guide states that: "Distance thresholds are a very useful planning tool, especially when used in association with a Geographical Information System (GIS). For example, it is possible to identify the percentage of households within a distance threshold of any particular provision or to compare possible locations for new provision to determine which will be the most effective."

7.23. Fields in Trust recommended benchmark guidelines have also been used in relation to Parks and Gardens, Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace, and Amenity Greenspace (Table 7.7). Fields in Trust standards are also available for equipped play areas and other related provision. See Table 7.8. Equipped/designated play areas are designated as:

- **Local Areas for Play (LAPs) aimed at very young children;**
- **Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently; and**
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children.**

7.24. It should be noted that there are no nationally accepted accessibility standards for Allotments, Cemeteries, informal Outdoor Play Spaces, and Civic Spaces.

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Table 7.7: Accessibility Standards for Informal Open Space Based on Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidelines (Oct 2015)

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	WALKING GUIDELINE (walking distance: metres from dwellings)	QUALITY GUIDELINE
PARKS AND GARDENS	710 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Flag standard</li> <li>• Appropriately landscaped</li> <li>• Positive management</li> <li>• Provision of footpaths</li> <li>• Designed to be free of the fear of harm or crime</li> </ul>
NATURAL/SEMI NATURAL GREENSPACES	720 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriately landscaped</li> <li>• Positive management</li> <li>• Provision of footpaths</li> <li>• Designed to be free of the fear of harm or crime</li> </ul>
AMENITY GREENSPACE	480 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriately landscaped</li> <li>• Positive management</li> <li>• Provision of footpaths</li> <li>• Designed to be free of the fear of harm or crime</li> </ul>

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Table 7.8: Accessibility Standards for Play Provision Based on Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidelines (Oct 2015)

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	WALKING GUIDELINE (walking distance: metres from dwellings)	QUALITY GUIDELINE
<p><b>EQUIPPED/DESIGNATED PLAY AREAS</b></p> <p><b>OTHER OUTDOOR PROVISION (MUGAS AND SKATEBOARD PARKS)</b></p>	<p>LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPs – 1,000m</p> <p>700m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards.</li> <li>• Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.</li> <li>• Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community.</li> <li>• Appropriately landscaped.</li> <li>• Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance.</li> <li>• Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary.</li> <li>• Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment.</li> <li>• Provision of footpaths.</li> <li>• Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.</li> </ul>

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### AMENITY GREENSPACE

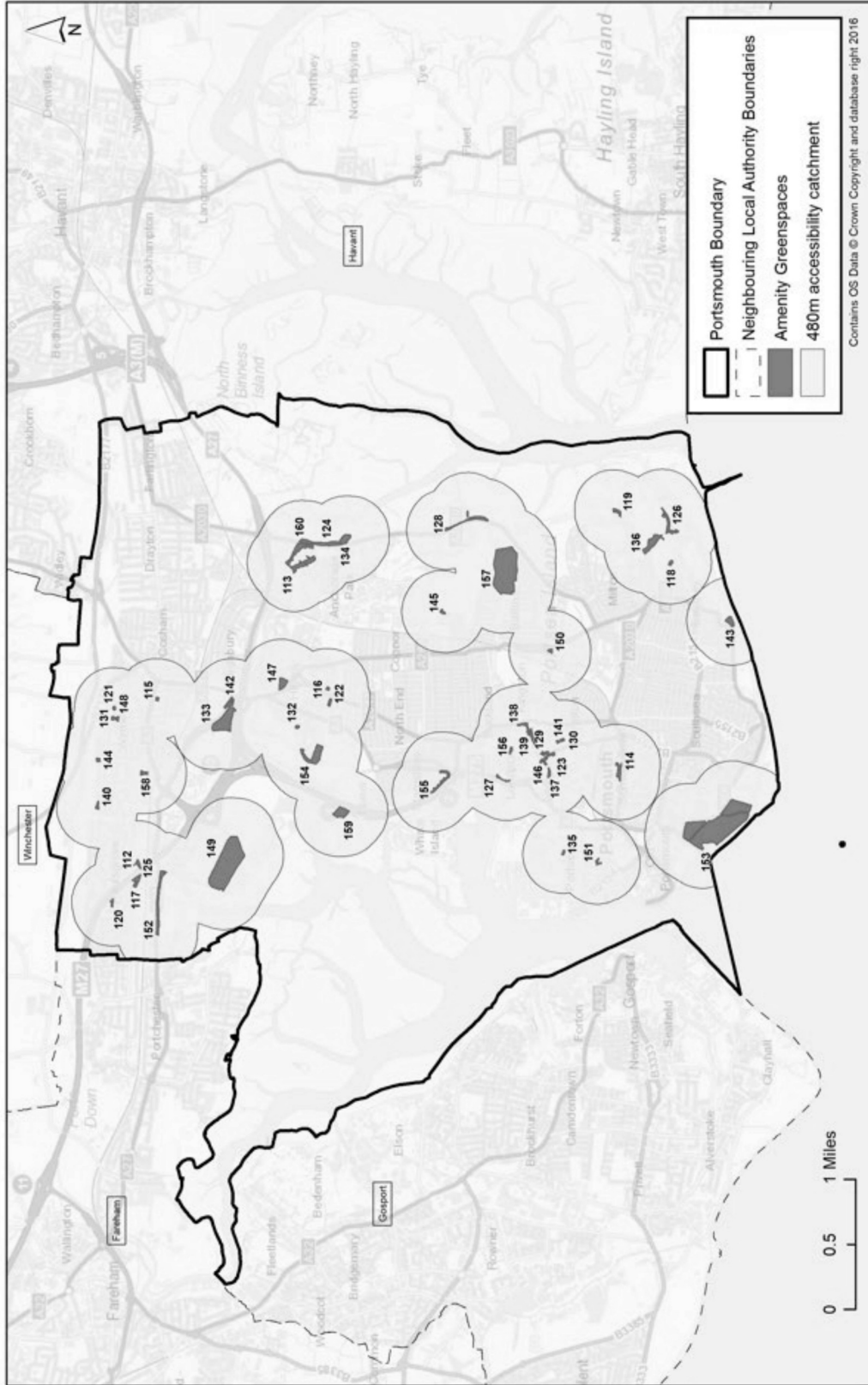
- 7.24. The Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Amenity Greenspace is **480 m** (approximately a 6 minute walk).
- 7.25. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.1.
- 7.26. There is a shortage of provision in this category.
- 7.27. There are few facilities in the north area around Cosham, in the central area of the City north of Fratton, and in the central south of the City.
- 7.28. In an urban area as densely populated as the City, it may be exceedingly difficult to meet shortfalls of provision in areas experiencing a deficiency. However, it is recommended that in any areas of new development, suitable Amenity Greenspace is provided to ensure that the needs of new populations are met. Some of the sites in this category do have more than a single function, but are not sufficiently multi-functional to be classified as Public Parks and Gardens (e.g. Southsea, Tipner and Milton). Others are quite linear in shape, so could be considered as suitable for conversion to green routeway as described in paragraph 7.29.

### GREEN ROUTEWAYS

7.29. it is suggested that, wherever possible, existing settlements are linked with green routeways to allow people in areas of deficiency to access open space on foot or by bicycle. Where this is not possible, consideration should be given to creating pedestrian and bicycle routes which connect open space through urban and suburban areas which are of interest in terms of the abundant heritage and history of the City. This can be achieved by defining routes, improving access, introducing written and virtual routeways, and positioning waymarking and interpretative signage. This signage could be augmented by the use of quick response (QR) codes which can be scanned with any SMART phone and connected to web pages with downloadable maps and additional information. There are over 50 ha of potential green corridor land within the City, and an additional 30 ha around the M275 approaching Portsea Island. The latter area is deficient in Amenity Greenspace, so would be particularly suitable to utilise as green routeway. This approach has been used very successfully using small conjoined areas of green space and verges adjacent to main roads and footpaths in Southampton as part of a green corridor network which offsets their shortage of Amenity Greenspace, and connects the City to the wider countryside, including the New Forest.

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.1: Accessibility of Amenity Greenspace using Fields in Trust walking standards



Amenity Greenspaces catchment in Portsmouth



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## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

7.30. The Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Amenity Greenspace is as follows:

- **Local Areas for Play (LAPs) aimed at very young children: 100m;**
- **Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently: 400m; and**
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children: 1,000m.**

7.31. Maps indicating accessibility are shown as figure 7.2. These include LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs as well as all provision combined.

7.32. Provision tends to be clustered significantly around the south-west of the city. This is true of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs, although there are NEAPs with significant catchments to the west of Cosham and Highbury. Provision for Children and Young People is generally in short supply in the City, increasing the necessity for provision as part of new development. Where it is not possible to provide additional facilities, attention needs to be given to using developer contributions to create new facilities in existing open spaces, and to improving the quality of play in equipped playgrounds, particularly in areas of deficiency.

7.33. There are standards which have been established by Fields in Trust for new provision. These are shown as table 7.11. It is suggested that these standards be adhered to in relation to the provision of play facilities to meet the needs of growing populations in areas of new development.

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

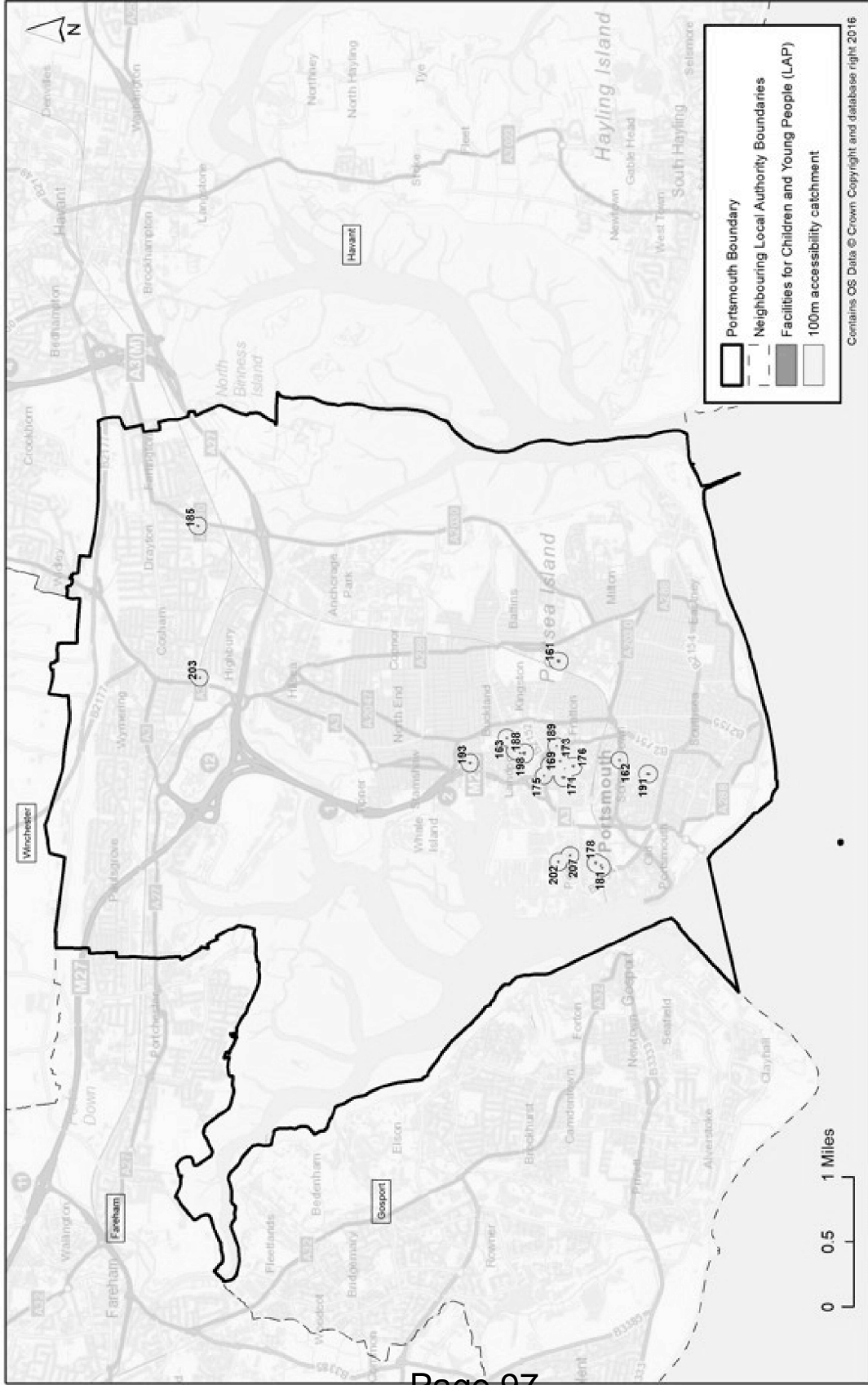
**Table 7.11: Recommended application of quantity benchmark guidelines – Equipped/Designated Play Space**

<b>SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>LOCAL AREA FOR PLAY (LAP)</b>	<b>LOCALLY EQUIPPED AREA FOR PLAY (LEAP)</b>	<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD EQUIPPED AREA FOR PLAY (NEAP)</b>
<b>5-10 DWELLINGS</b>	✓		
<b>10-200 DWELLINGS</b>	✓	✓	
<b>201-500 DWELLINGS</b>	✓	✓	<b>Contribution</b>
<b>500+ DWELLINGS</b>	✓	✓	✓



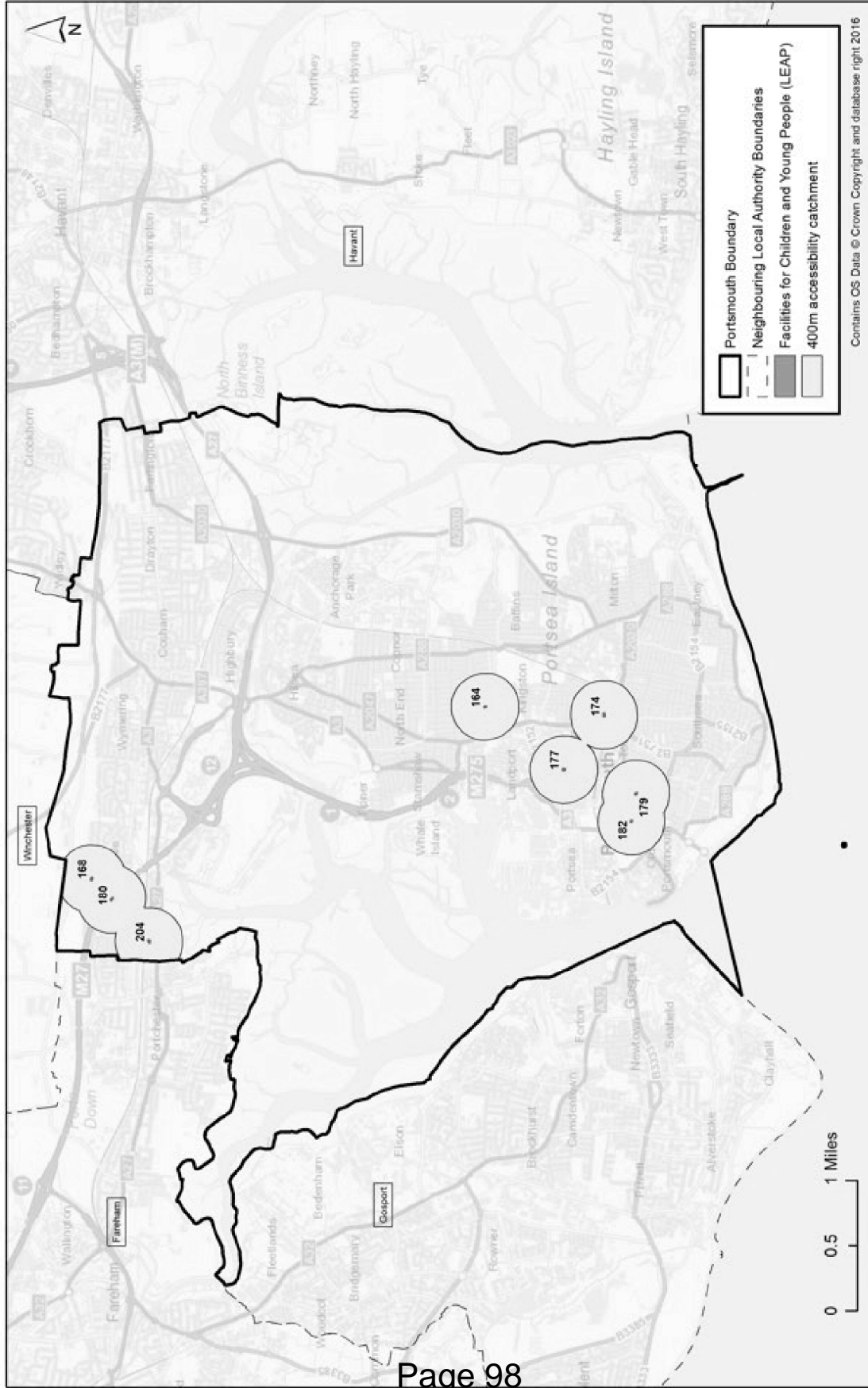
# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.2: Accessibility of Facilities for Children and Young People using Fields in Trust walking standards - LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs, and all three types in combination

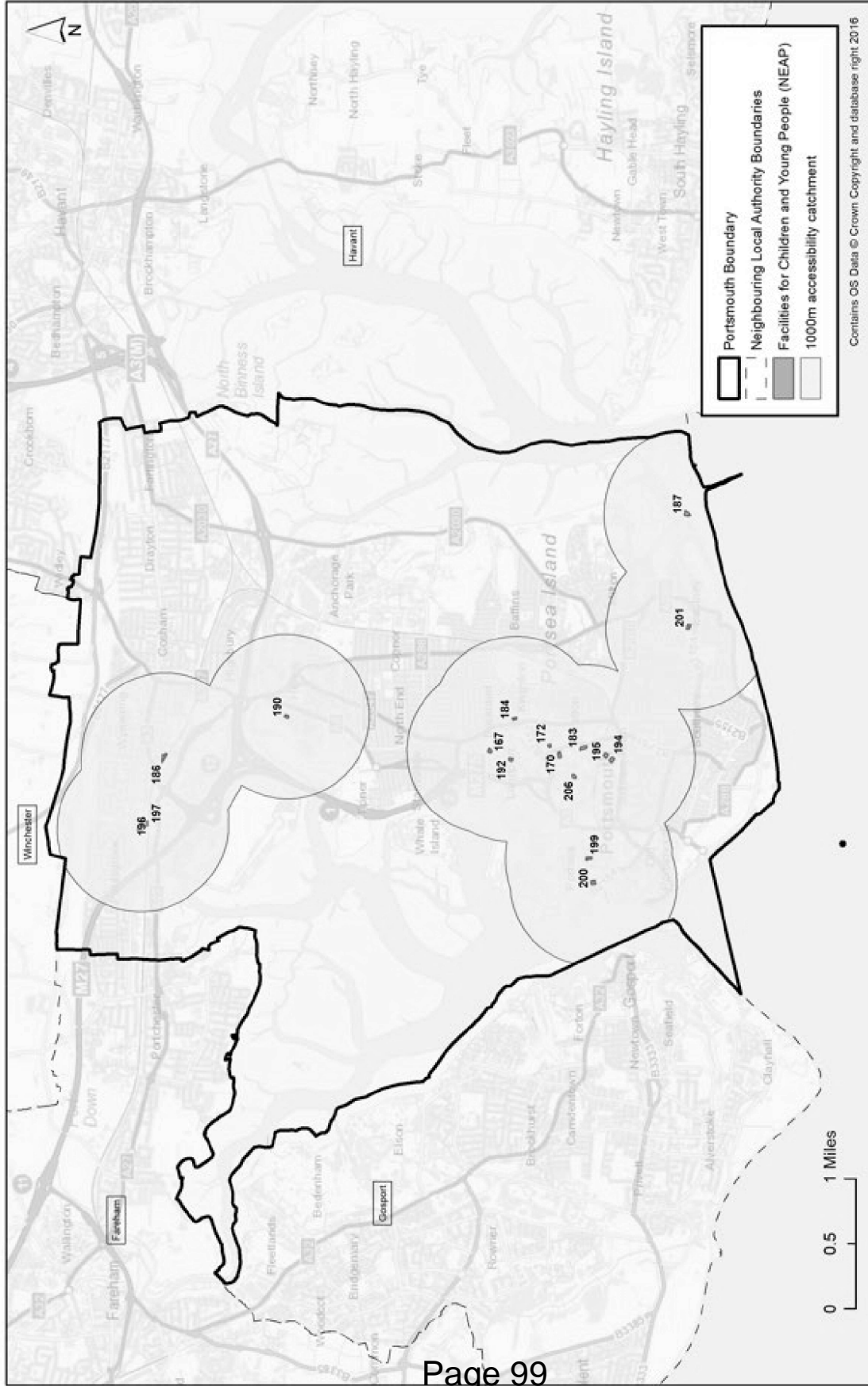


Facilities for Children and Young People (LAP) accessibility catchment in Portsmouth





**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

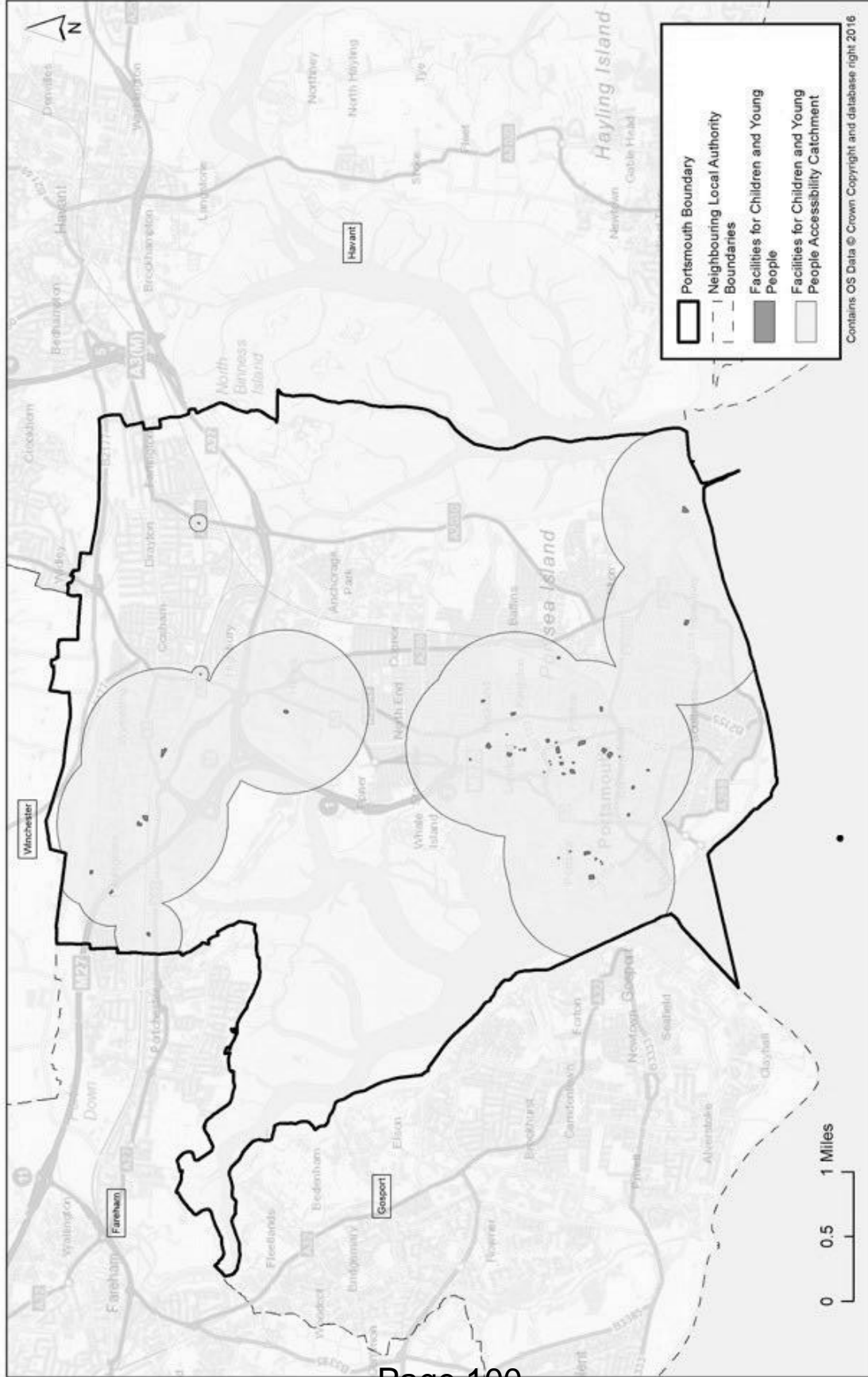


**Facilities for Children and Young People (NEAP) accessibility catchment in Portsmouth**



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**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**



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**Facilities for Children and Young People accessibility catchment in Portsmouth**



## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

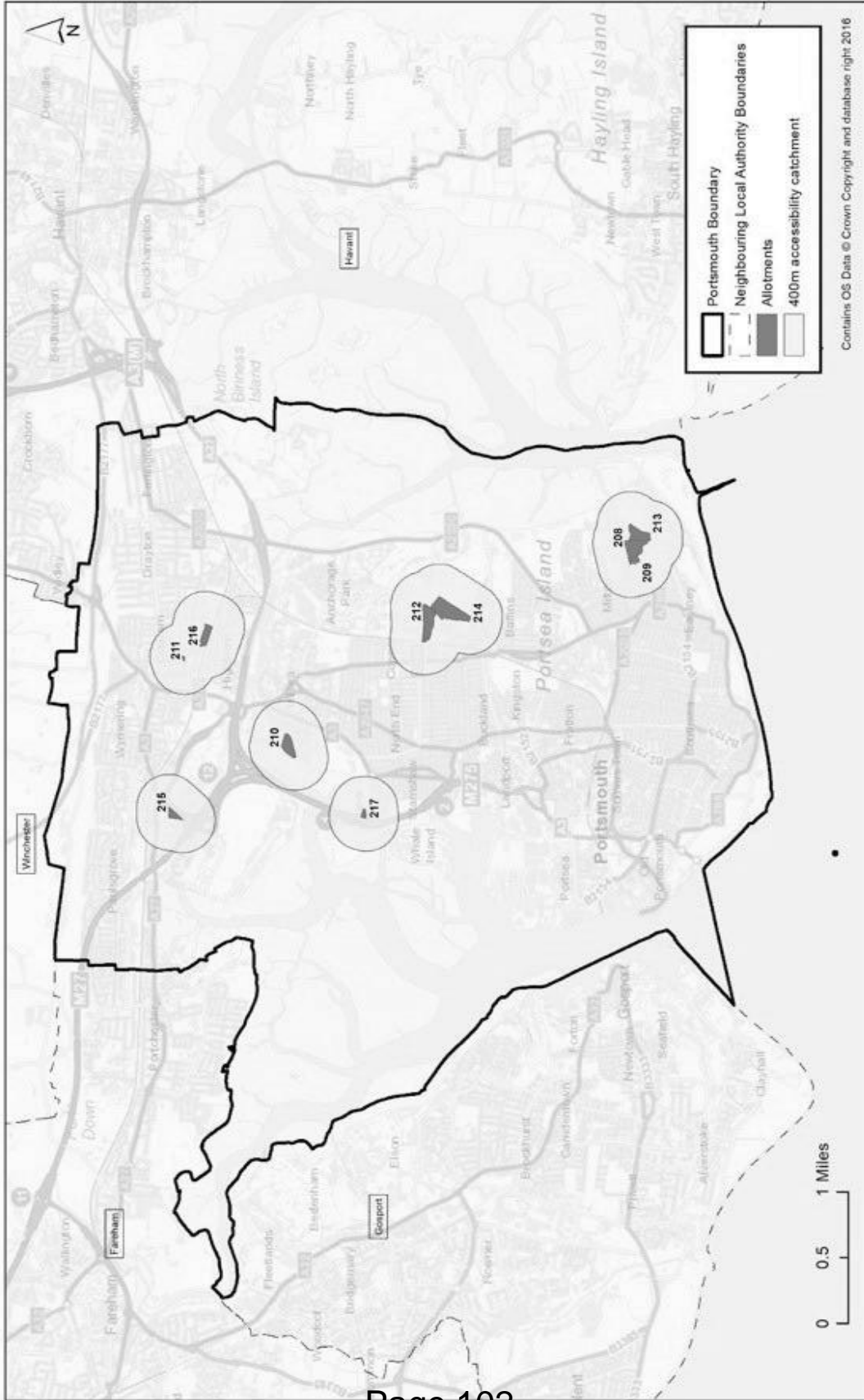
### ALLOTMENTS

- 7.34. There is no Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Allotments. However, Greater London Authority (GLA) guidelines for Allotments of local significance (all in Portsmouth are only of local significance in terms of size) indicate a standard of **400 m** (approximately a 5 minute walk)
- 7.35. GLA standards for accessibility for Allotments and Cemeteries are shown as Table 7.3.
- 7.36. There are some areas of shortfall to the south of Portsea Island, and in North End. Public interest in traditional vegetable and fruit growing on allotment sites has waned in recent years. However, greater publicity about the benefits of allotment growing would reduce the number of vacant plots and increase demand for existing facilities. In addition, there has been a surge of interest in community growing schemes, where local communities share the task of cultivation on the same site. Where land becomes available in Portsea and North End, consideration should be given to encouraging local participation by creating some small areas for community growing, or as part of land which may become available as part of any new development.
- 7.37. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.11.

Table 7.11: GLA accessibility guidelines for Allotments and Cemeteries

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (OVER 400 HA)	METROPOLITAN SIGNIFICANCE (60-400 HA)	DISTRICT SIGNIFICANCE (20-60 HA)	LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE
ALLOTMENTS	8km	3.2km	1.2km	400m
CEMETERIES	8km	3.2km	1.2km	400m

**Figure 7.3: Accessibility of Allotments using GLA standards**



**Allotments accessibility catchment in Portsmouth**



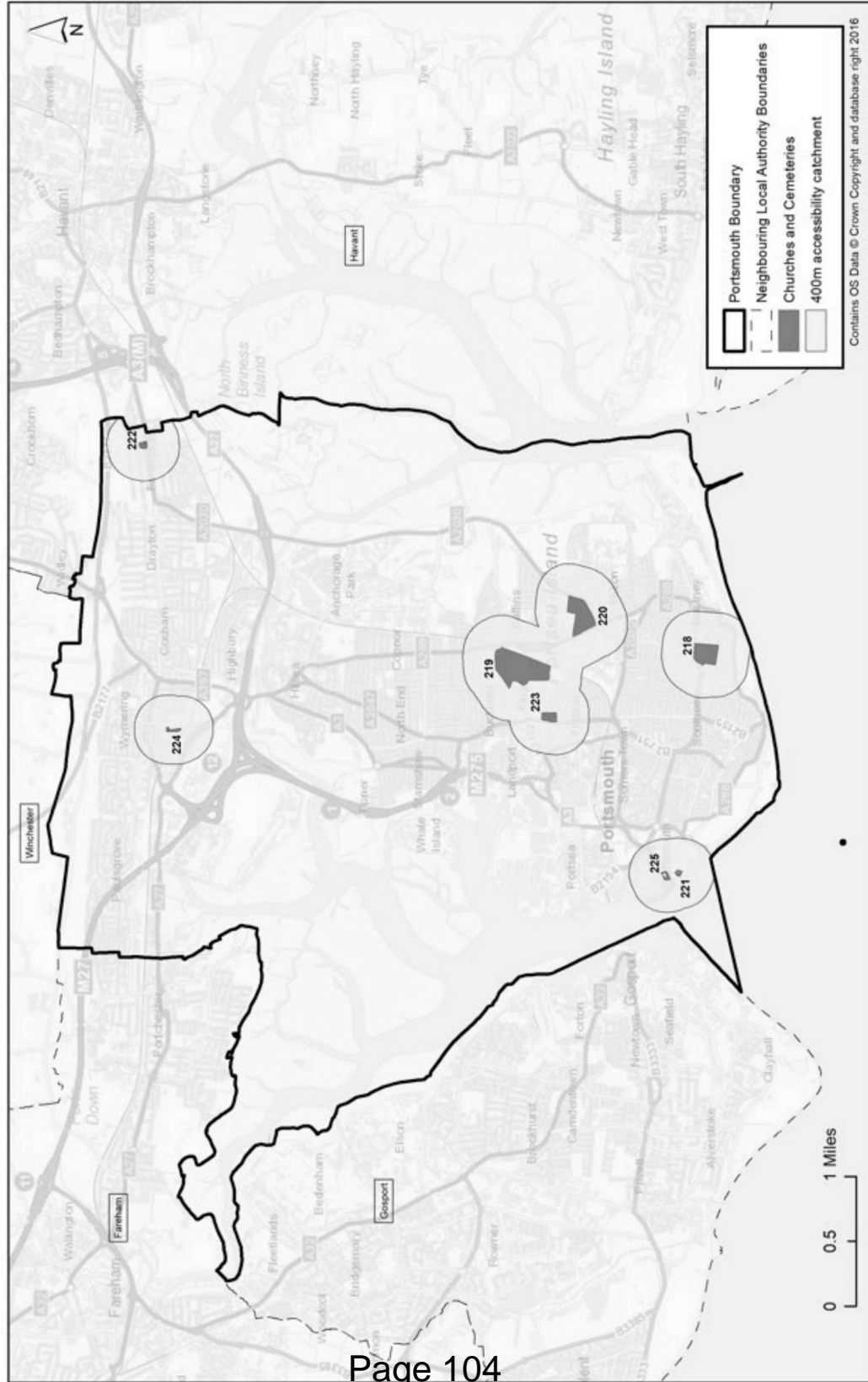
## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

- 7.38. There is no Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Cemeteries and Churchyards for outdoor recreation. However, Greater London Authority guidelines for Cemeteries and Churchyards of local significance indicate a standard of **400 m** (approximately a 5 minute walk) for those of local significance, and 1.2 km for those of district significance – see Table 7.13. All sites within Portsmouth are classified as of local significance.
- 7.39. It would be difficult to meet deficiencies of supply in this category. Churchyards are usually managed by the Church. However, greater co-operation with the dioceses of the main churches could ensure that quality issues are addressed to make such provision of more interest as an informal outdoor recreational facility to meet deficiencies of supply in other open space categories.
- 7.40. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.4.

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

**Figure 7.4: Accessibility of Cemeteries and Churchyards using GLA standards**



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**Churches and cemeteries accessibility catchment in Portsmouth**





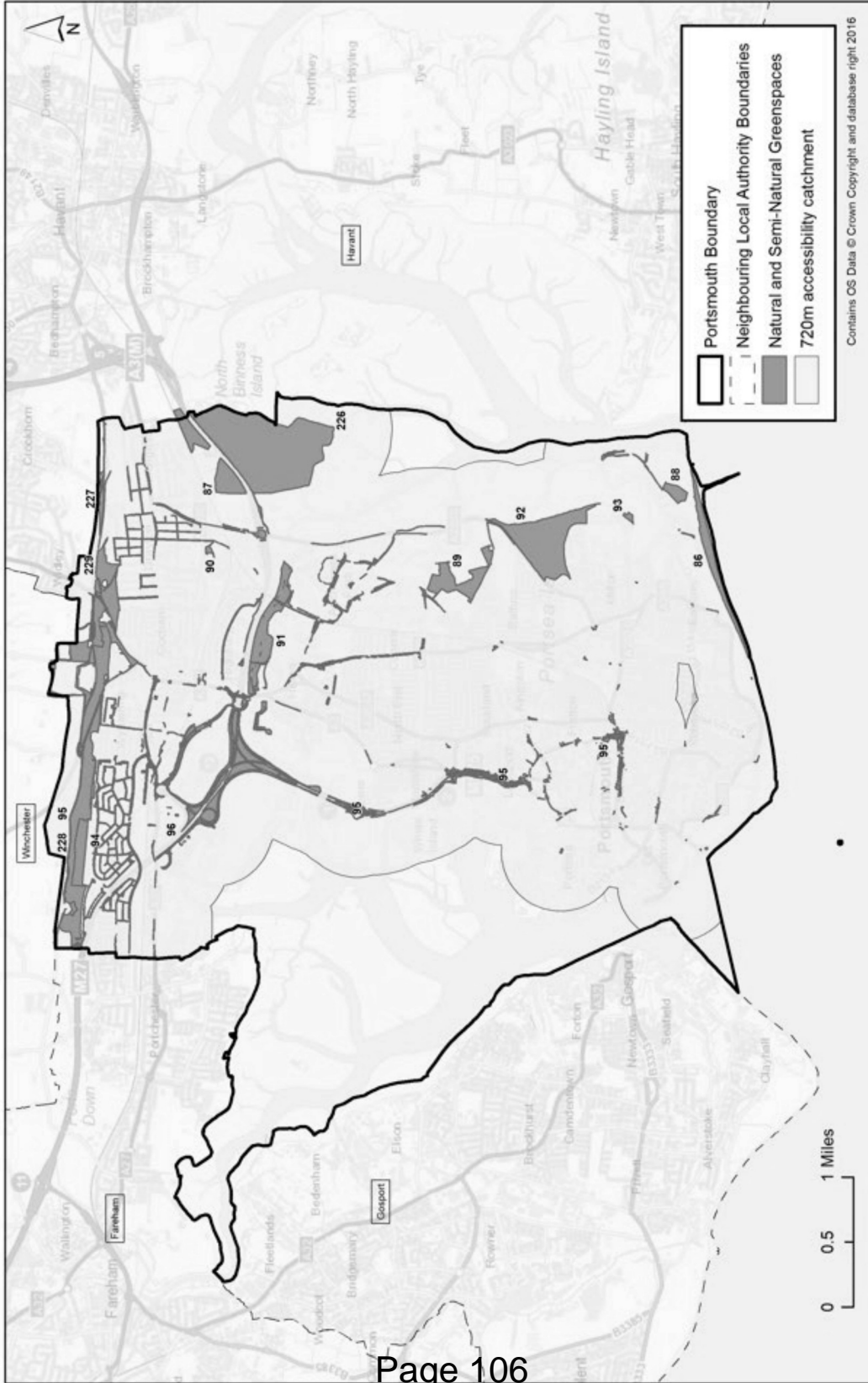
## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACES

- 7.41. The new Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces is for a catchment of **720 m** (approximately a 10 minute walk).
- 7.42. The spread of open spaces in this category is good, with most people living in the City and surrounding area living within a ten minute walk of a woodland, common, seashore area or similar open space. Whilst accessibility is good, there is also a higher concentration in the north, which decreases towards the south. Analysis must also be seen in conjunction with the overall quantity of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, which is currently at 90% of the FIT guideline. Whilst it is difficult to envisage how the overall shortfall could be met, there is considerable scope for fulfilling some of the functions of this category in other types of open space. There is an opportunity to soften the landscape of outlying areas of Outdoor Sports Facilities, Public Parks and Gardens, and Amenity Greenspace without compromising their primary functions. This could be achieved by increasing tree planting, particularly of native trees, and creating more informal areas of meadow and managed grassland. This would increase the range of habitats across the City, enhance biodiversity, provide shade, and reduce the short-term impacts of flooding caused by surface water run-off.
- 7.43. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.5.

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

**Figure 7.5: Accessibility of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces using FIT standards**



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**Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces accessibility catchment in Portsmouth**

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

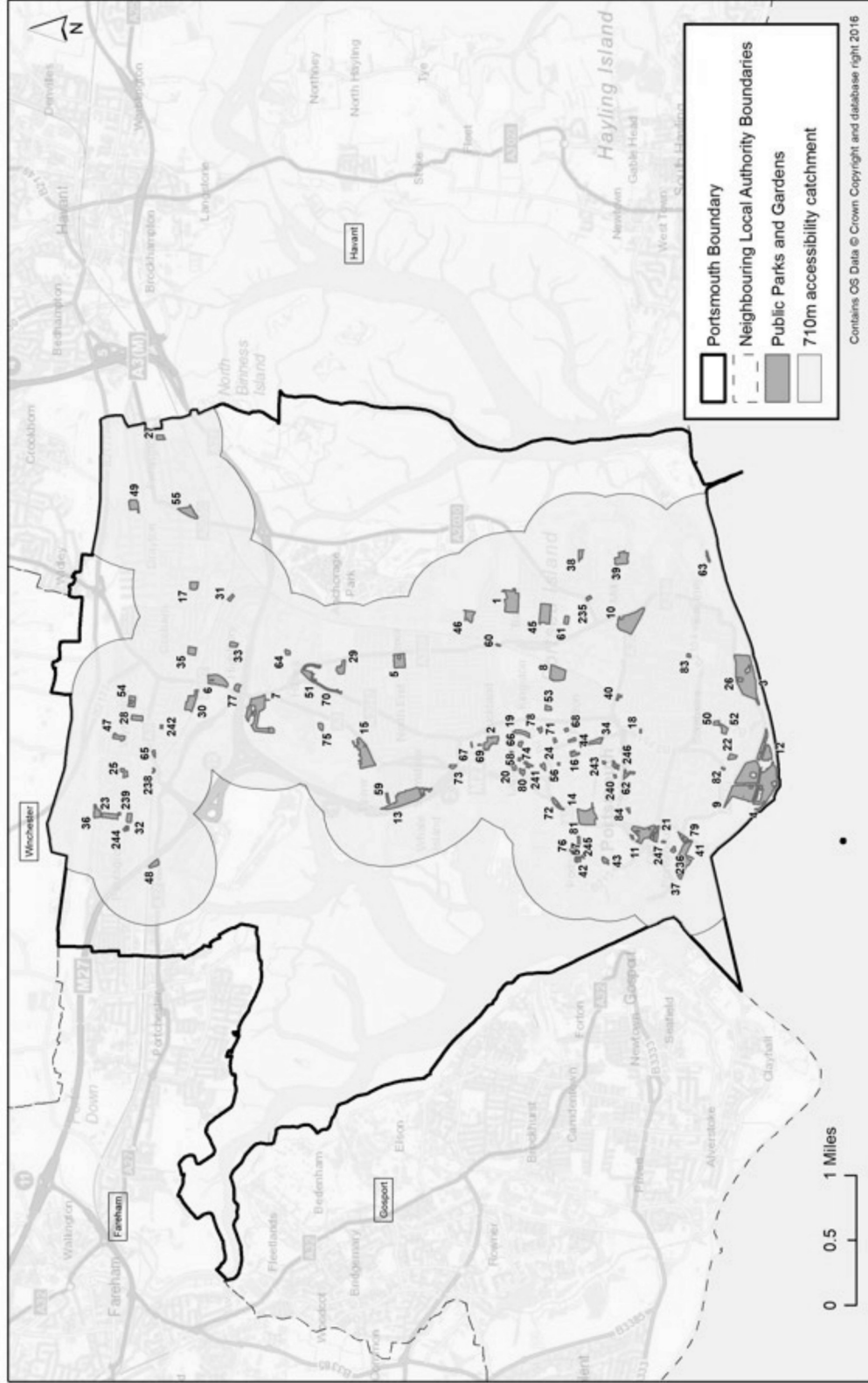
### PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

- 7.44. The new Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Public Parks and Gardens is for a catchment of **710 m** (approximately a 10 minute walk).
- 7.45. Most people live within this catchment range. There is an area around Anchorage Park where there is no provision.
- 7.46. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.6.
- 7.47. Whilst most people are within, or on the edge of catchment areas for parks, there is a level of under-provision across the whole of the City. Whilst it will be difficult to find land for the creation of new Public Parks and Gardens, shortfalls can be offset by improving the quality of these spaces to attract more visitors from a wider catchment. An objective is set in the open Spaces Strategy 2012-2022 of winning nationally-recognised Green Flag Awards at eight Public Parks and Gardens. Three such awards were achieved for Baffin Pond, Milton Park and Southsea Rock Gardens in 2017. It is recommended that resources (including developer contributions if necessary) are utilised in order to reach the target of obtaining Green Flag Awards in five other sites (by the year 2018 in the Strategy), namely:

- Hilsea Lines
- Canoe Lake
- Victoria Park
- Southsea Rose Gardens
- Bransbury Park.

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

Figure 7.6: Accessibility of Public Parks and Gardens using FIT standards



**Public Parks and Gardens accessibility catchment in Portsmouth**

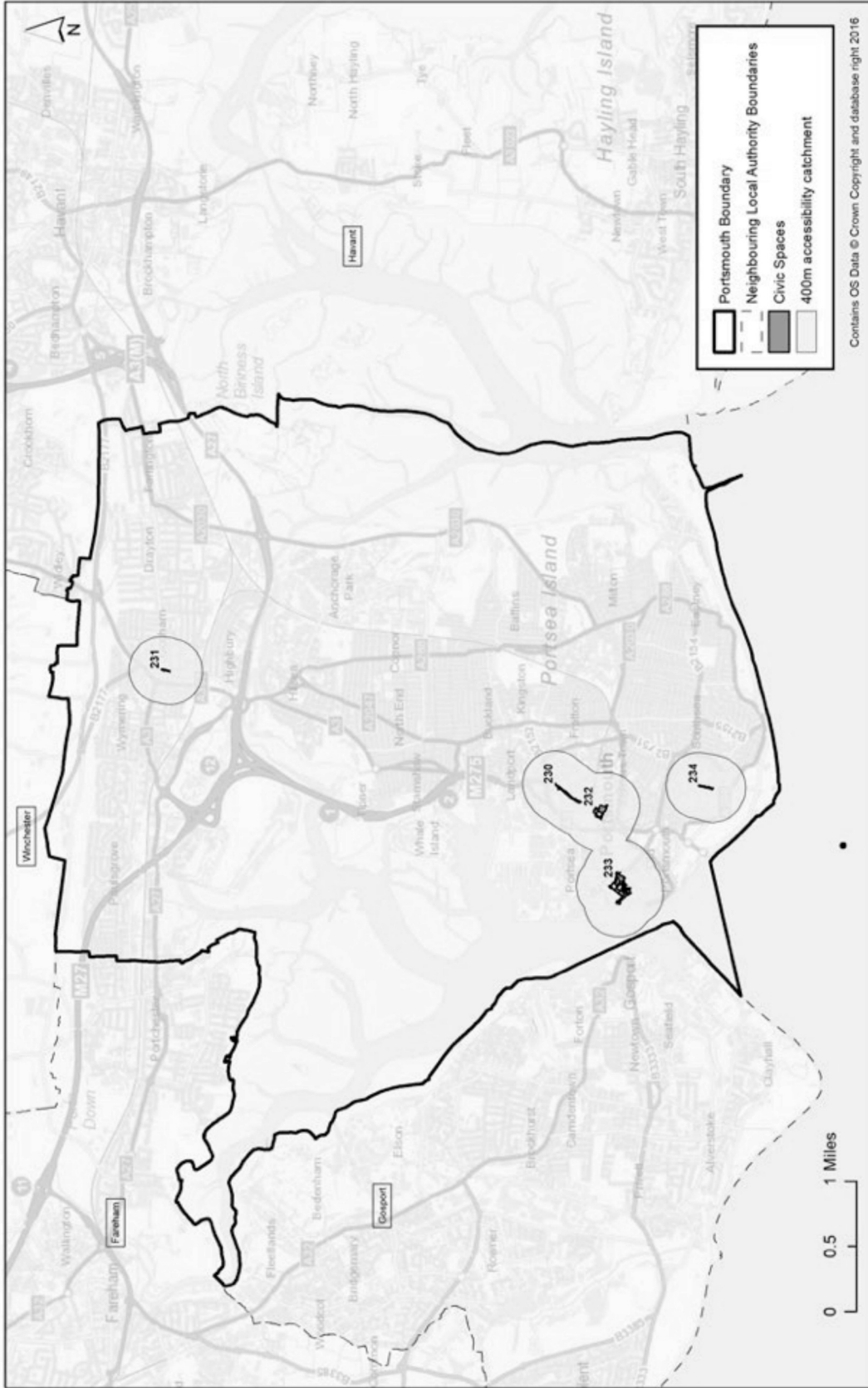


## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

### **CIVIC SPACES**

- 7.48. There is no definitive quantity standard for Civic Spaces.
- 7.49. A map indicating location and accessibility is shown as figure 7.7. Five sites are shown, but one of these is below the de minimus level in terms of size, and as defined in PPG 17, i.e. it is below 0.2 hectares.
- 7.50. For illustrative purposes only, and in the absence of an acceptable national standard, a 400m catchment is shown, i.e. 5 minutes' walking time from the surrounding area.

Figure 7.7: Accessibility of Civic Spaces



Civic Space accessibility catchment in Portsmouth



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## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 8. KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1. A number of key findings were have strong potential implications for future strategy in relation to both the provision of the planning and green space service as it relates to green space and countryside provision in Portsmouth.
- 8.2. These findings have been identified using the following sources:
  - **Quality audit**
  - **Client observations**
  - **Local and national planning, countryside and green space guidelines.**
- 8.3. These findings have led to the creation of a number of best practice advice notes which can be used to meet shortfalls in provision in future, but are not central to the findings of the Open Space Needs and Opportunities Assessment. They are therefore contained in the separate best practice document which forms an annex to this report.
- 8.4. Recommendations are made based on the findings contained in sections 6 and 7 of this assessment.

### RECOMMENDATIONS BY TYPOLOGY

#### PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUMMARY

- 8.5. **Provision for Children and Young People** equates to 38 sites around the City. In terms of quality, the play value of these facilities could be enhanced by the imaginative use of more adventurous equipment for older children and young people (e.g. zip wires). In addition, "iplay," linking equipment to software applications which encourage "play by stealth" would increase usage and recreational value. Better landscaping would make play areas more attractive to children, increase biodiversity, and provide shade. Signage is generally limited to prohibitive notices. More welcoming and informative signage at entrances should be fitted. Access should be considered, and in particular all-weather footpaths from open space entrances to play areas. The provision of seating and litter bins should be considered. Finally, equipment providing better access for disabled or less able-bodied children should be introduced at larger play sites.
- 8.6. Provision in terms of quantity is well below levels advocated for equipped areas by Fields in Trust. Whilst the Open Spaces Strategy 2012-2022 indicates that informal play provision is also available in Amenity Greenspaces and parts of some Public Parks and Gardens, bespoke informal provision is also required across the City.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

8.7. In terms of location within the City, provision is significantly clustered in the south-west. This is true of LAPs and LEAPs. Provision of NEAPs shows wider distribution, with a cluster around Paulsgrove and Wymering. Portsea Island, Hilsea, North End and Eastney lack provision of LAPs and LEAPs.

### RECOMMENDATIONS – PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Recommendation 1:** More imaginative play equipment for older children and young adults should be provided in larger play areas, e.g. zip wires and similar exciting items.
- Recommendation 2:** Provision of adapted equipment for less able-bodied children and young adults should be installed at strategic locations in the City (e.g. Melville Road Play Area, Central Street, and Medina Road).
- Recommendation 3:** “Iplay” equipment should be installed at one of the larger play areas in the City to assess its value in stimulating energetic play and increasing usage.
- Recommendation 4:** Given the lack of equipped and informal play space, consideration should be given to acquiring open space for the construction of new play areas. Where this is not possible, it is recommended that existing open space, particularly in larger Amenity Greenspaces and Public Parks and Gardens, to create new play facilities to meet shortfalls in provision.
- Recommendation 5:** The Fields in Trust guidelines for inclusion of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs in new growth areas should be adopted as an aspirational standard to meet the needs of growing populations.
- Recommendation 6:** Additional provision should be considered in particular in North End, Copnor, Hilsea, Drayton and the eastern side of Portsea Island.
- Recommendation 7:** It is recommended that playground entrances are improved by the addition of informative and welcoming signage.
- Recommendation 8:** Consideration should be given to a programme of landscaping of play areas to make them more attractive to use, increase biodiversity, and provide shade.
- Recommendation 9:** Plans to improve the quality of playgrounds should include the provision of additional seating, particularly that adapted for the less able-bodied, and litter bins, where required.
- Recommendation 10:** The provision of kickabout, picnic, and other informal areas in the vicinity of equipped playgrounds should be considered in order to increase play value for children and young people.
- Recommendation 11:** It is recommended that the Fields in Trust standard of 0.25 ha/1,000 population should be adopted for equipped play areas.



**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

**Recommendation 12: It is further recommended that Fields in Trust walking guidelines are adopted for designated play areas as follows: LAPs – 100m; LEAPs – 400m; NEAPs – 1,000m.**

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### AMENITY GREENSPACE SUMMARY

- 8.8. In terms of **Amenity Greenspace**, there are 20 sites which fall into this typology. The majority were rated as “good” at the time of the audit. Most sites lack welcoming and informative interpretation. This can do much to create a “sense of place,” make open spaces more welcoming and increase usage, and interpret interesting local heritage, history or natural history. Few have areas of informal landscape such as meadow planting or clumps of trees which would enhance biodiversity.
- 8.9. Current levels of Amenity Greenspace are below the Fields in Trust guideline of 0.6 ha/1,000 population. This shortfall increases in relation to the projected population increase by 2034. Given the density of the population in the City, it is unsurprising that these standards are not achieved. It is also unlikely that quantities can be significantly increased in future. However, qualitative improvements will have an impact on usage, including improvements to the variety of landscapes and the welcome offered to visitors through the use of interpretative signage.
- 8.10. In terms of accessibility, there are shortages in the north around Cosham, and in the central and central south of the City, including Fratton. Special consideration should be given to meeting demand if and when land becomes available in these locations. In addition, it will be important to ensure that sufficient Amenity Greenspace is included in new development in accordance with the FIT guideline. To offset these shortfalls, it is suggested that they be linked wherever possible to other open space in the City and with local communities by a series of interconnected Greenways which could follow the lines of other underutilised open spaces such as linear verges and areas adjacent to strategic routes (e.g. the M275). Further, than new open space in growth areas should be designed in such a way as to improve access around and through the site.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS – AMENITY GREENSPACE

- Recommendation 13:** Existing Amenity Greenspace should be improved by the inclusion of welcoming and informative signage where appropriate, and should include information about the heritage and history of the local area where appropriate.
- Recommendation 14:** Amenity Greenspace should include informal landscapes including meadow and additional tree planting to enhance biodiversity and provide more variety in the landscape.
- Recommendation 15:** Additional provision should be considered if and when land becomes available in the north around Cosham, the centre of the City around Fratton, and in the central south.
- Recommendation 16:** New growth areas should contain sufficient quantities of Amenity Greenspace to meet the needs of new populations within those areas.
- Recommendation 17:** New Amenity Greenspace should be designed to link internal areas with surrounding communities and open spaces to improve accessibility.

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

**Recommendation 18:** All open spaces, including Amenity Greenspace, should be linked together wherever possible by a system of Greenways, utilising open space including linear verges and areas adjacent to strategic routeways. Where such open space is not available, trails should be created by creating sustainable links through areas of historic, architectural or heritage interest.

**Recommendation 19:** It is recommended that the Fields in Trust quantity guideline of 0.6ha/1,000 population should be adopted for Amenity Greenspace.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS SUMMARY

8.11. Public Parks and Gardens cover 70 sites in the City. They were equally graded as “average” or “good” at the time of audit. As with Amenities, Greenspace, the use of more informal planting, including tree planting, would be an improvement which would make Public Parks more attractive and would enhance biodiversity. Tree planting would also provide useful shade for people who regularly visit Public Parks and Gardens. Some sites need better footpath connections to provide all-weather access for pedestrians and cyclists. Better signage at many sites would improve the welcome offered, interpret important heritage and history, enhance “sense of place,” and increase usage. In addition, a target was set to improve standards at eight key Public Parks and Gardens by obtaining “Green Flag” awards by 2018.<sup>6</sup> Three have already been obtained, but it is suggested that further efforts are made to achieve the Green Flag standard at Halsea Lines, Canoe Lake, Victoria Park, Southsea Rose Gardens and Bransbury Park.

8.12. There is a quantitative shortage of Public Parks and Gardens in the City. This is unsurprising, and will be difficult to fully rectify given the density of habitation. However, new provision can be made where areas of new growth are sufficiently large that provision is justified for increasing populations. Public Parks and Gardens are also a useful potential element in the creation of a Greenway network similar to that found in Cities such as Southampton. Many of these spaces in Portsmouth are by nature linear, and lend themselves to being a central constituent of such a network.

8.13. Public Parks and Gardens have a unique multi-functional role to play at the centre of all significant communities. Using the 710m accessibility standard, the distribution of Public Parks and Gardens is relatively even across the City. However, there is a shortfall to the east, and no suitable facilities of this type in Anchorage Park.

### RECOMMENDATIONS – PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS

**Recommendation 20: Quality standards should be improved at key Public Parks and Gardens by pursuing Green Flag Awards for Halsea Lines, Canoe Lake, Victoria Park, Southsea Rose Gardens, and Bransbury Park.**

**Recommendation 21: Consideration should be given to the extension of all-weather footpaths for walking and cycling at key Public Parks in the City.**

**Recommendation 22: It is recommended that signage is improved to create more of a welcome at entrances to Public Parks and Gardens, and to interpret important local heritage and history.**

**Recommendation 23: Public Parks and Gardens should become the hub for a series of interconnected Greenways to join open spaces and communities together, increase walking and cycling, and create new habitats.**

**Recommendation 24: Where possible, additional land should be used to create more Public Park and Garden provision across the City.**

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<sup>6</sup> Objective in Open Spaces Strategy 2012-2032

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

**Recommendation 25:** Particular attention should be paid to creating Public Park and Garden provision in the east of the City area.

**Recommendation 26:** Parts of such open spaces should be used for informal landscapes, and in particular tree planting. This would help to offset the shortfall in areas of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, provide greater variety, and enhance biodiversity in the City.

**Recommendation 27:** New Public Park and Garden provision should be made in new growth areas to meet the needs of growing populations.

**Recommendation 28:** It is recommended that the Fields in Trust guideline for quantity of 0.8ha/1,000 population is adopted for Public Parks and Gardens.

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

## NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE SUMMARY

- 8.14. **Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace** comprises 11 sites in and around the City. Seven were rated “average,” and five “good” in terms of quality. A number lack signage. This means that there is a limited welcome for visitors, and the degree of information available, particularly in relation to natural history, is lost. A better footpath network would help at a number of sites to improve all-weather access for pedestrians and cyclists. More seating is necessary at these sites, especially as many offer opportunities for fairly long walks or rides.
- 8.15. The quantity of provision is relatively low in comparison to FIT standards, but only currently by 10% at present. This increases as the population rises by 2031. The City is very densely populated, so the shortage of open space of this type is unsurprising.
- 8.16. The accessibility catchment is relatively large for this typology. It is to be expected therefore that accessibility to the local population, given the fact that Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace is spread around the perimeter of the City, is relatively even. However, there is a shortfall in the south, compared to the north, of the City. In order to help to meet rising demand, and relative shortage of this type of open space, it is important that informal planting is increased in the form of trees and meadow in other open space types. In addition, Semi-Natural Greenspace has the potential to be an essential component of a Greenway network in the City. There are also opportunities to connect to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace at Portsdown in order to open routeways up to the wider countryside.

## RECOMMENDATIONS – NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

- Recommendation 29: Improvements should be made to entrances of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace sites in order to make them more welcoming and accessible. These should include informative signage and greater visibility.**
- Recommendation 30: Wherever possible, better interpretation should be used to increase knowledge in natural history and local heritage in order to increase the “sense of place” of residents of the City and other visitors.**
- Recommendation 31: Steps should be taken to improve accessibility to countryside, particularly in the north, by improving waymarking and access.**
- Recommendation 32: Rights of Way and other footpaths should be improved and signposted in order to increase access to the countryside for pedestrians and cyclists.**
- Recommendation 33: The network of green spaces in and around the City should be linked and extended in order to connect existing open space, link settlements, and provide improved wildlife habitats.**
- Recommendation 34: New proposed strategic allocations should include provision to create greenways to connect communities and existing open spaces.**

## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

**Recommendation 35:** Other types of open space, including Public Parks and Gardens, Amenity Greenspace and Outdoor Sports Facilities should include the provision of natural landscape types and tree planting to increase the number of habitats available in and around the City, and help to offset quantitative shortfalls in Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace provision.

**Recommendation 36:** It is recommended that the Fields in Trust quantitative standard of 1.8ha/1,000 population is adopted for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### ALLOTMENTS SUMMARY

- 8.17. **Allotments** are provided at eight sites in the City. They were generally in “good” condition, with one site considered to be “very good.” In terms of quality, some sites need to be more welcoming, with attractive entrances and informative signage. Some perimeter fences are in relatively poor condition.
- 8.18. There is no nationally-recognised standard for the quantity of provision of Allotments in the United Kingdom. The only standard which is sometimes used by local authorities is the recommendation in the Thorpe Report (1999) of 0.2 ha/1,000 people. This would indicate under-provision in Portsmouth. Some caution has to be exercised given anecdotal evidence that traditional allotment provision is currently in decline. Local growing initiatives where local communities share the load in terms of cultivation, and where provision is combined with elements of outdoor relaxation are becoming increasingly popular. They have the advantage of involving local communities more fully, and such school-based schemes are backed by the Royal Horticultural Society.
- 8.19. There is no accessibility standard for Allotment provision. A 400m catchment (5 minutes’ walk) has been applied to accessibility maps to show reasonable walking access. There is a shortage of provision in particular south of Portsea Island, and in North End.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS – ALLOTMENTS

- Recommendation 37: A programme should be adopted to improve entrances and introduce welcoming and informative signage.**
- Recommendation 38: Consideration should be given to the provision of additional Allotments south of Portsea Island and in North End.**
- Recommendation 39: Perimeter fences should be replaced to improve security on sites where they are in poor condition.**
- Recommendation 40: Better promotion of Allotments should be carried out in order to encourage increased usage, particularly where vacancy rates are low.**
- Recommendation 41: Community growing schemes should be encouraged at sites where vacancy rates are low.**
- Recommendation 42: It is recommended that the Thorpe Report standard of 0.2ha/1,000 population should be adopted as a guideline for quantitative provision.**



## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS SUMMARY

- 8.20. **Cemeteries and Churchyards** include Highland, Kingston and Milton cemeteries and a number of large churchyards (including St Thomas' Cathedral). Six were in "good" condition at the time of audit, and two were "average." Improved use could be made of interpretative signage of the type adopted at Garrison Church. "Sense of place" would certainly be enhanced, and all sites are likely to have heritage value in terms of the buildings, the monuments, or the locality. Highland Road Cemetery has some very useful information about the site's history and graves on the "Friends" website. As with other types of open space, greater use could be made of environmental areas to enhance biodiversity.
- 8.21. There are no definitive guidelines relating to the quantitative supply of cemeteries and burial grounds in the United Kingdom.
- 8.22. There is no standard for accessibility. A 400m (5 minute walk) catchment has been used on accessibility maps to indicate a reasonable walking time to such facilities.

### RECOMMENDATIONS – CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS

- Recommendation 43: Interpretative signage should be improved to create a "sense of place," and to encourage the greater use of Cemetery and Burial Ground sites as useful areas for outdoor recreation, particularly given the shortage of supply of open space in the city.**
- Recommendation 44: Greater use should be made of natural planting in suitable locations in Cemeteries and Churchyards to enhance biodiversity and to provide shade for visitors.**

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- 8.23. There are ten **Outdoor Sports Facilities** which offer significant potential for outdoor recreation in the City. Seven were classified as “average” in terms of quality. Only three were considered “good” at the time of audit. This qualitative assessment relates purely to their use for informal outdoor recreation, and not for sport. More seating is necessary at these sites, even if around the perimeter. Signage was generally poor, and visitors need to feel that sites are well-advertised and welcoming in order to obviate the impression that they may be “intruding” on sports users by using them for informal recreation. Landscaping was limited. Nevertheless there are opportunities to plant trees and areas for wildlife, particularly around perimeters.
- 8.24. There are no nationally-recognised standards for the quantity of provision or accessibility for informal recreational purposes. Recommendation are therefore confined to qualitative issues relating to informal usage.

### RECOMMENDATIONS – OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- Recommendation 45: Entrances should be made more welcoming to encourage greater informal usage of Outdoor Sports Facilities, particularly given the shortage of available open space in the City.**
- Recommendation 46: Given the shortage of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in and around the City, greater use should be made of wildlife areas and tree planting, even if on the perimeter of Outdoor Sports Facilities.**
- Recommendation 47: More seating should be provided to encourage greater informal recreational usage.**

## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### CIVIC SPACES SUMMARY

- 8.26. **Civic Spaces** are located at five sites around the City. However, one site has been excluded from consideration because it is below the size recommended by PPG17 (i.e. 0.2.ha). All were very well maintained, and were classified as “good” in terms of quality. There are no significant issues which need to be addressed.
- 8.27. There are no definitive guidelines relating to the quantitative supply of Civic Spaces.
- 8.28. A 400m (5 minute walk) catchment for the use of this type of open space for recreational purposes is shown on accessibility maps. Provision is clustered around the south west of the City at present. Consideration should therefore be given to the inclusion of pedestrianized Civic Space in new growth areas in other parts of the City.

### RECOMMENDATIONS – CIVIC SPACES

**Recommendation 48: Consideration to the inclusion of pedestrianized Civic Spaces should be considered in new growth areas in the City.**

# ANNEXES



**ANNEXES**  
**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**  
**ANNEX A: OPEN SPACE STANDARDS**

TYPOLOGY / DEFINITION	QUALITY STANDARD	NATIONAL QUANTITY STANDARD	SOURCE	NOTES
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming clean, well maintained area with hard/soft landscaping</li> <li>• A one stop community facility, accessible to all with a range of leisure, recreational and play opportunities</li> <li>• Safe to visit, pleasant to walk and sit in</li> <li>• Cut back trees and bushes for safety and clear sight-lines</li> <li>• Include paved and planted areas, paths, grassed areas, seating, clear pathways, appropriate lighting and signage to, and within, the site</li> <li>• Include ramps instead of steps and wide paths for wheelchair and pushchair users</li> <li>• May provide opportunities for public realm art</li> <li>• Should link to surrounding green space.</li> <li>• Clean and well maintained green space, with appropriate ancillary furniture pathways, and natural landscaping</li> <li>• Safe site with spacious outlook</li> <li>• Enhance the environment/ could become a community focus</li> <li>• Large spaces may afford opportunities for informal play.</li> <li>• Smaller landscaped areas in and around housing areas</li> </ul>	<p>0.8 ha/1,000 population</p> <p>710 m walking</p>	<p>Fields in Trust</p> <p>Fields in Trust</p>	<p>National standard proposed</p> <p>National standard proposed</p>

**ANNEXES**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

TYPOLOGY / DEFINITION	QUALITY STANDARD	NATIONAL QUANTITY STANDARD	SOURCE	NOTES
<p><b>Amenity greenspace</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal recreation</li> <li>• Provide connections for wildlife and people movement</li> <li>• Include, and often connect to, green lungs</li> <li>• Contribute to biodiversity</li> <li>• Planted using native species</li> <li>• Areas to be maintained clear of dog fouling and litter</li> <li>• Provision of seating and bins</li> <li>• May provide opportunities for public realm art</li> <li>• May include woodland.</li> </ul>	<p>0.6 ha/1,000 population 480 m walking</p>	<p>Fields in Trust Fields in Trust</p>	<p>National standard proposed National standard proposed</p>
<p><b>Play Areas for Children and Facilities for Young People and Teenagers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of provision for young people of both equipped and natural play areas</li> <li>• Spaces should be well sited, accessible, convenient, visible, safe and secure, with seating for adults, litter bins and cycle racks – also consider pushchair/wheelchair access</li> <li>• Well lit with informal surveillance when possible</li> <li>• Equipment should suit the needs of all ages and abilities and be well maintained</li> </ul>	<p>0.25 ha/ population LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPs – 1,000m 700m for Youth provision</p>	<p>Fields in Trust Fields in Trust</p>	<p>National standard proposed National standard proposed</p>

**ANNEXES**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

TYPOLOGY / DEFINITION	QUALITY STANDARD	NATIONAL QUANTITY STANDARD	SOURCE	NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zones to prevent conflict and spaces and seating for supervision</li> <li>• Should be clearly bounded, well maintained, free of dog fouling, have clear pathways, appropriate lighting and signage</li> <li>• The Council does not encourage the provision of unequipped Local Areas for Play.</li> <li>• Robust yet imaginative play environments ranging from youth shelters to skate parks and multi-use games areas</li> <li>• Kick about/games areas, skate parks, basket ball courts</li> <li>• If located within other areas of open space they should include buffer zones to prevent conflict</li> <li>• Should promote a sense of ownership and be accessible to all and have clear pathways, appropriate lighting and signage</li> <li>• They should be visible and safe, well maintained and free of dog fouling</li> </ul>			
<b>Formal Open Space – Cemeteries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage greater use of cemeteries for informal recreation e.g. allow movement inclusive of cemeteries for walking</li> </ul>	Quantity N/A		

**ANNEXES**  
**PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

TYPOLOGY / DEFINITION	QUALITY STANDARD	NATIONAL QUANTITY STANDARD	SOURCE	NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to biodiversity</li> <li>• Provision of seating and bins</li> <li>• Good level of natural surveillance and lighting for safety</li> <li>• Ensure wheelchair/pushchair access and accessible paths for inclusiveness</li> <li>• Tackle the problem of dog fouling.</li> <li>• Use of pavement obstructions e.g. Display boards outside shops</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Formal Open Space - Allotment Gardens</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure area of land commonly within, or on the edge of, a developed area which can be rented by local people for the growing of vegetables, flowers or fruit not-for-profit</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for those who wish to do so to grow their own produce, and support health, sustainability and social inclusion</li> <li>• Sites should be well drained and accessible with wide paved paths, car access and parking, toilets, recycling facilities and inorganic waste disposal facilities</li> <li>• Areas should be well lit and provide safe paths.</li> </ul>	0.2 ha /1000	Thorpe Report	Thorpe Report standard proposed





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Appendix 5.8 - Play Value Scores

Site Name	Playspace Type	Toddler	Junior	Senior	Total Score
Alexandra Park (PA/MUGA/GYM)	Neighbourhood Play Space	7	8	8	23
Allaway Avenue Play Area & MUGA	Local Play Space	7	8	7	22
Anchorage Park	Neighbourhood Play Space	8	8	7	23
Baffins Pond	Neighbourhood Play Space	8	8	7	23
Barrington Play Area	Doorstep Play Space	3	2	0	5
Bartons Green	Local Play Space	4	5	4	13
Binsteed Road	Local Play Space	3	3	0	6
Blackwood House	Doorstep Play Space	3	2	0	5
Blendworth House Play Area	Doorstep Play Space	3	4	4	11
Bournemouth House	Doorstep Play Space	2	0	0	2
Boxgrove House	Doorstep Play Space	1	0	0	1
Bransbury Park	Neighbourhood Play Space	5	8	6	19
Britannia Road	Local Play Space	4	4	0	8
Broom Square	Doorstep Play Space	1	3	3	7
Buckingham Green	Local Play Space	4	5	3	12
Buckland Park	Neighbourhood Play Space	5	7	4	16
Butterfly Drive	Local Play Space	4	4	2	10
Canoe Lake (PA/GYM)	Neighbourhood Play Space	8	8	7	23
Catisfield House Play Area	Doorstep Play Space	2	1	0	3
Central Street Play Area	Local Play Space	3	6	4	13
Chalk Pit	Doorstep Play Space	1	3	3	7
Chalton Crescent	Local Play Space	3	5	3	11
Chalton House Play Area	Doorstep Play Space	4	3	0	7
Childe Square	Local Play Space	4	4	0	8
Church Road	Local Play Space	3	4	0	7
City Museum	Local Play Space	4	4	2	10
Clanfield House Play Area	Doorstep Play Space	3	3	0	6
Claremont Road	Local Play Space	4	3	0	7
College Park	Neighbourhood Play Space	7	8	7	22
Collington Crescent	Doorstep Play Space	1	5	5	11
Cornwallis Crescent	Local Play Space	7	5	4	16
Cornwallis Flats	Doorstep Play Space	2	2	0	4
Cosham Park Play Area	Local Play Space	5	6	3	14
Credenhill Road	Local Play Space	4	4	0	8
Crookhorn Play Area	Local Play Space	5	7	6	18
Denmead House	Doorstep Play Space	4	5	3	12
Drayton Park (PA/MUGA/BMX)	Neighbourhood Play Space	7	8	7	22
Duckworth House	Doorstep Play Space	3	3	0	6
Dunsmore Close Play Area	Local Play Space	6	7	5	18
East Lodge Park	Local Play Space	5	6	3	14
Falmouth Road	Local Play Space	4	5	3	12
Fulmer Walk	Local Play Space	4	3	3	10
Gurnard Road	Neighbourhood Play Space	6	8	7	21
Hawthorn Crescent	Local Play Space	5	7	5	17
Hertford Street	Doorstep Play Space	1	3	3	7
Highbury Park	Local Play Space	5	5	3	13
Hillside and Wymering Centre	Local Play Space	1	4	4	9
Hilsea Lido Play Area	Local Play Space	6	6	1	13
Hobby Close	Neighbourhood Play Space	8	8	8	24
Holbrook Road	Local Play Space	4	5	3	12
John Wesley Gardens	Local Play Space	4	5	4	13
Kingsclere Avenue	Local Play Space	5	7	5	17
Kingston Park	Neighbourhood Play Space	8	8	8	24
Knowsley Road	Neighbourhood Play Space	1	5	5	11
Linnet Close	Local Play Space	4	7	5	16
Little George Street	Local Play Space	5	5	4	14
Lomond Close	Doorstep Play Space	4	3	0	7
Lords Street	Doorstep Play Space	1	3	3	7
Marshfield Play Area	Doorstep Play Space	5	2	0	7
Medina Road	Local Play Space	5	5	5	15
Melville Road Play Area	Local Play Space	5	5	2	12
Micawber House East	Doorstep Play Space	2	2	0	4
Micawber House North	Doorstep Play Space	4	4	0	8
Micawber House West	Doorstep Play Space	3	3	0	6
Midhurst House	Doorstep Play Space	2	2	0	4
Midway Road	Local Play Space	1	5	5	11
Milebush Road	Local Play Space	4	5	3	12

Site Name	Playspace Type	Toddler	Junior	Senior	Total Score
Milton Common	Local Play Space	2	3	2	7
Milton Park	Local Play Space	7	8	6	21
Milverton House	Doorstep Play Space	4	4	0	8
Nelson Road North	Local Play Space	5	5	3	13
Nessus Street	Local Play Space	4	4	0	8
Orchard Road	Local Play Space	5	7	3	15
Peggotty House	Doorstep Play Space	3	3	0	6
Powell Square	Local Play Space	1	5	5	11
Prince Albert Road	Local Play Space	5	6	3	14
Privett House	Doorstep Play Space	4	5	3	12
Prospect Lane	Local Play Space	4	5	3	12
Providence Place	Doorstep Play Space	0	3	3	6
Queen Street	Local Play Space	6	7	1	14
Raglan Street Play Area	Local Play Space	4	4	0	8
Rednal Play Area	Doorstep Play Space	4	5	0	9
Solent View	Local Play Space	4	4	0	8
Southampton House East	Doorstep Play Space	2	0	0	2
Southampton House West	Doorstep Play Space	3	3	0	6
Southsea Common	Local Play Space	7	7	3	17
Southsea Volleyball	Doorstep Play Space	0	3	4	7
Spinnaker Drive	Local Play Space	4	5	2	11
St Albans Open Space	Neighbourhood Play Space	7	8	7	22
St Christophers Open Space	Local Play Space	3	6	4	13
St Clare's Open Space	Neighbourhood Play Space	4	8	8	20
St Georges Green	Local Play Space	4	4	3	11
St James Green	Local Play Space	5	6	4	15
St Johns Road	Local Play Space	6	6	4	16
Stamshaw Park Play Area	Neighbourhood Play Space	7	8	7	22
Stockheath Common	Local Play Space	4	5	4	13
Tamworth Park	Local Play Space	5	6	6	17
Teignmouth Road	Local Play Space	5	6	5	16
Tipton House	Local Play Space	6	7	4	17
Tunstall Road	Local Play Space	7	8	5	20
Tupman House	Doorstep Play Space	4	4	0	8
Union Road	Local Play Space	5	5	2	12
Upper Church Path	Local Play Space	7	7	5	19
Victoria Park	Local Play Space	3	6	6	15
Ward House	Doorstep Play Space	3	4	0	7
Watersedge Park	Local Play Space	5	5	4	14
Waterworks Field	Local Play Space	5	6	4	15
Wilmcote New Play Area	Neighbourhood Play Space	7	8	6	21
Wimbledon Park	Local Play Space	5	6	4	15
Winchester House	Doorstep Play Space	3	3	0	6
Zetland Field	Local Play Space	5	6	4	15

## Parks Survey Results

A Parks and Open Spaces residents survey was held between 8 October and 24 November 2021. 1330 responses were received to the survey. The survey comprised 7 questions and the results are shown below.

### Question 1

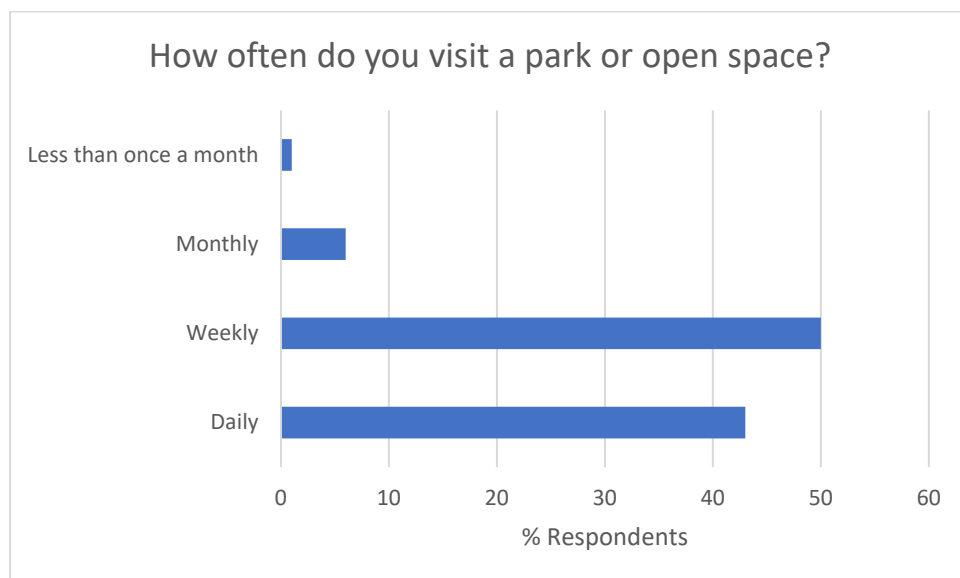
*In the last year, have you visited parks and open spaces more than you did before the pandemic?*

- 971 respondents answered Yes
- 359 respondents answered No

**73% of respondents had therefore visited parks and open spaces more** since the pandemic.

Of those who answered Yes:

*How often do you visit a park or open space?*

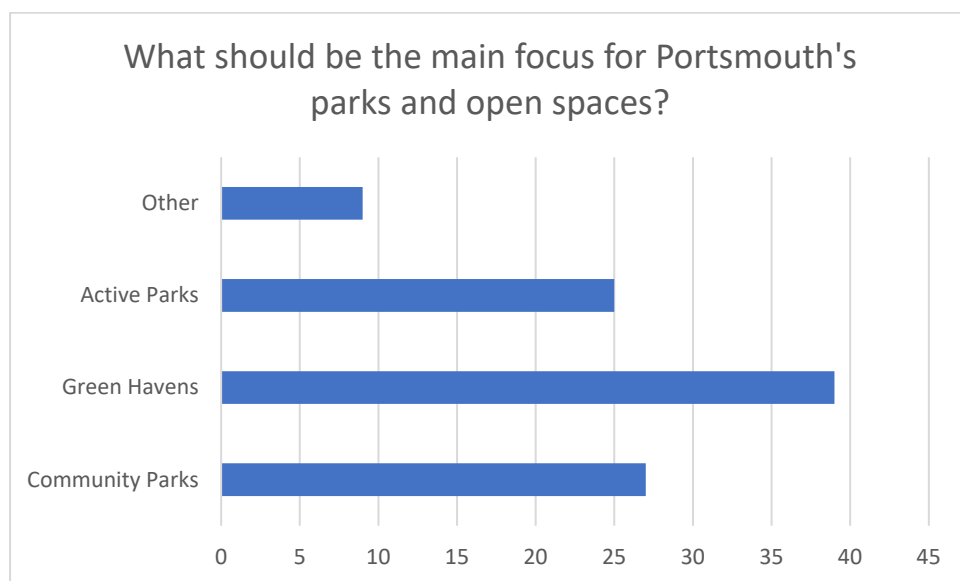


Visit	Percentage
Daily	43%
Weekly	50%
Monthly	6%
Less than once a month	1%

**93% of respondents visited parks and open spaces either daily or weekly** since the pandemic.

Question 2

*What do you think should be the main vision/ focus for Portsmouth's parks and open spaces for the next 10-15 years?*



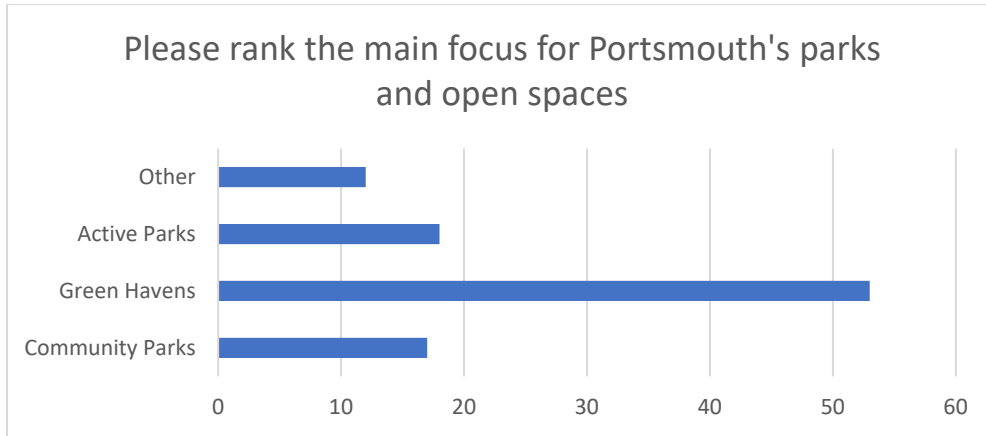
Selection	Percentage
Community Parks that offer events for all ages, interests and backgrounds	27%
<b>Green Havens - priority to protect biodiversity and wildlife, quiet space and quality planting</b>	<b>39%</b>
Active Parks - good sports facilities and improved children's play	25%
Other	9%

Examples of 'other' responses include:

- Facilities to walk dogs, dog friendly areas, enclosed dog agility areas.
- Further provision for wheeled sports activities
- There was also interest for community planting and gardening together with disabilities wheelchair access for all parks.

Question 2: Ranking

*Please rank what you think should be the focus for Portsmouth's parks and open spaces.*

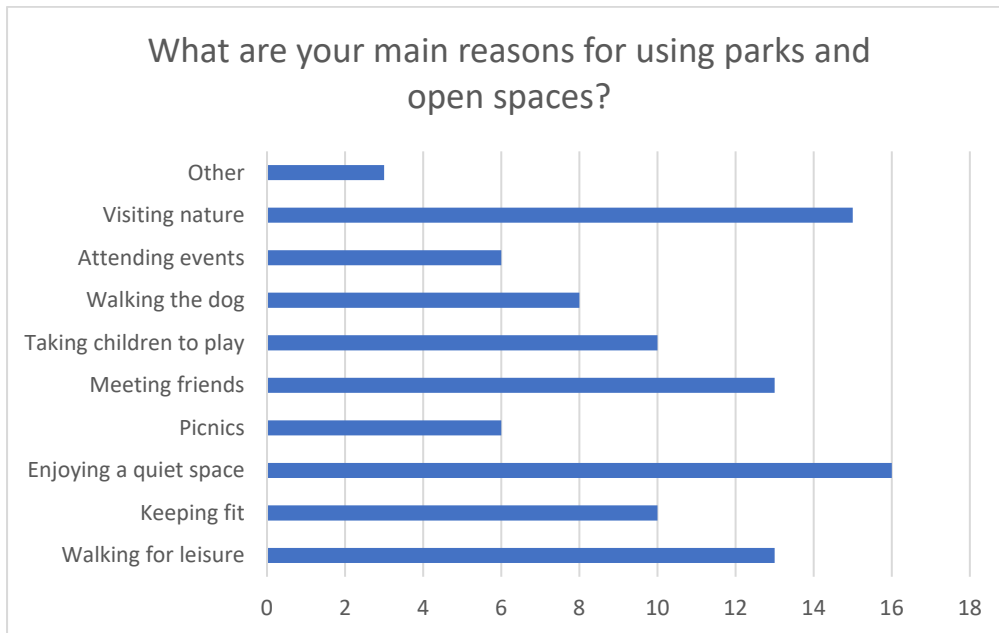


Ranking	Percentage
Community Parks that offer events for all ages, interests and backgrounds	17%
<b>Green havens - priority to protect biodiversity &amp; wildlife, quiet space, quality planting</b>	<b>53%</b>
Active parks - good sports facilities, improved play areas	18%
Other	12%

Respondents ranked Green Havens as the primary focus for Portsmouth's parks, followed by Community Parks and Active Parks as second priority.

Question 3

*What are your reasons for using our parks and open spaces? Select up to 5 reasons.*



Appendix 5.9

Reason	Percentage
Walking for leisure	13%
Keeping fit	10%
<b>Enjoying a quiet space</b>	<b>16%</b>
Picnics	6%
Meeting friends	13%
Taking children to play	10%
Walking the dog	8%
Attending events	6%
<b>Visiting nature</b>	<b>15%</b>
Other	3%

Enjoying a quiet space and visiting nature were the top two reasons chosen, which aligns with our parks as green havens.

In terms of 'other' reasons, these included:

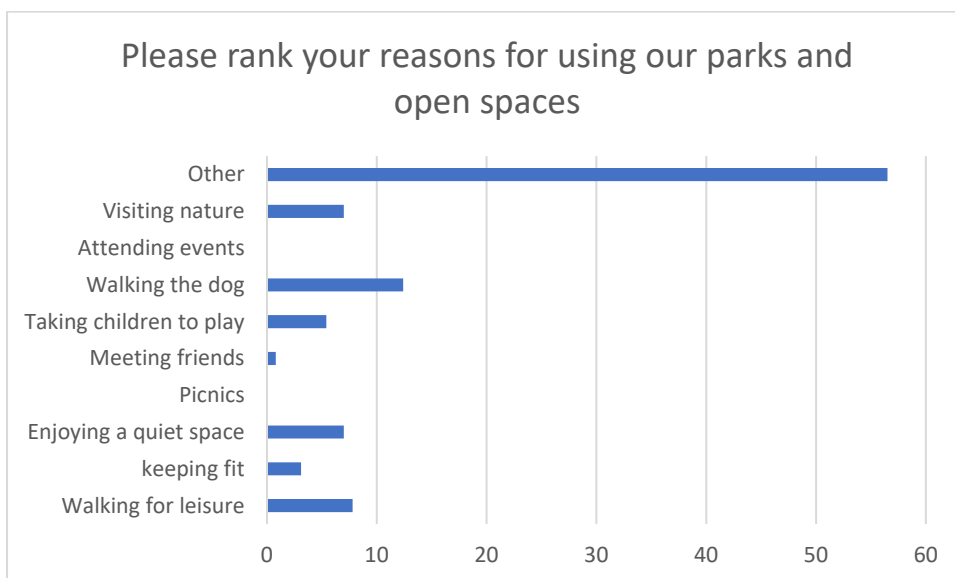
- bird watching,
- photography and observing wildlife,
- rollerskating and other wheeled sports
- mental health and mindfulness.

One respondent wrote:

*'Mental health as well as physical - more seating needed especially near entrances as older people cannot do the walking'*

Question 3: Ranking

Please rank your reasons (1 to 5) for using our parks and open spaces. Up to 5 priorities.



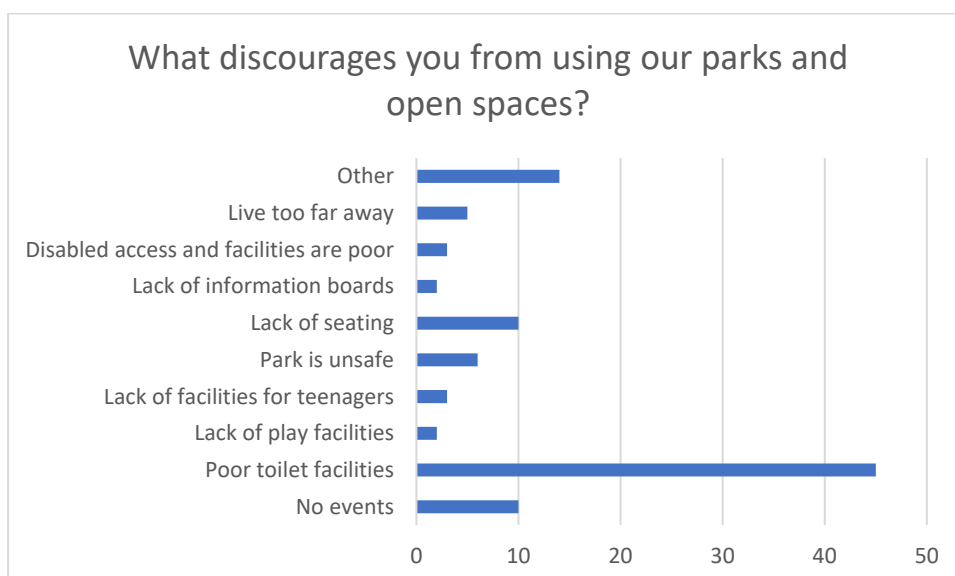


Ranking	Percentage
<b>Walking for leisure</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
Keeping fit	3.1%
Enjoying a quiet space	7%
Picnics	Nil
Meeting friends	0.8%
Taking children to play	5.4%
<b>Walking the dog</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
Attending events	Nil
Visiting nature	7%
<b>Other</b>	<b>56.5%</b>

Respondents used this question to express their other reasons for using parks and open spaces, as indicated above, being bird-watching, photography and wildlife observation, wheeled sports and for positive mental health.

Question 4

*What discourages you from using our parks and open spaces? Select up to 5 reasons.*



Reason	Percentage
No events on	10%
<b>Poor toilet facilities</b>	<b>45%</b>
Lack of play facilities	2%
Lack of facilities for teenagers	3%
Park is unsafe	6%
Lack of seating	10%
Lack of information boards	2%
Disabled access and facilities are poor	3%
Live too far away	5%
<b>Other</b>	<b>14%</b>

Poor toilet facilities are a clear lead indicator. Some of the city's parks previously had toilets but these were removed as part of previous budget cuts.

The following were accounted for in 'other' reasons:

*'When it is busy it can be difficult to navigate on rollerskates amongst walkers where cycle paths aren't available'*

*'Too many off lead dogs and too few (if any) quiet spaces where wildlife can flourish.... especially since the huge upsurge in dog ownership during Covid. This is exacerbated by professional dog walkers turning up in considerable numbers with vans containing many dogs.... surely we can afford to make just of few of these spaces genuine wildlife havens, dog free or at the very least "Strictly dogs on lead" . '*

*'Should think about how to shield parks and open spaces from wind more, especially in the winter. Should also think about air pollution from shipping which can be blown into open spaces or the play parks near the seafront. Using hedges or bamboo / tall grass screening would help''*

Question 4: Ranking

Please rank (1 to 5) the reasons why you are discouraged from using our parks and open spaces.

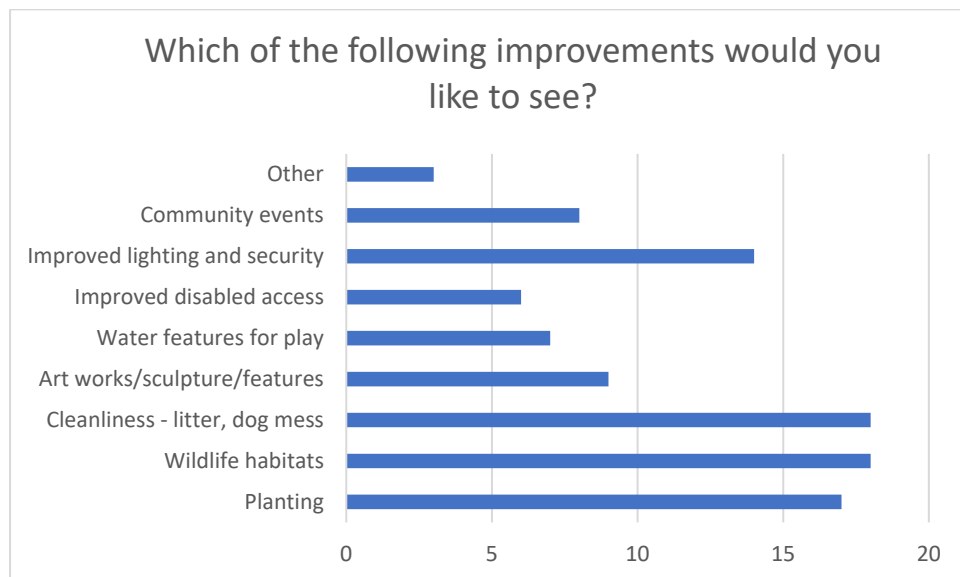


Priority ranking	Percentage
No events on	5%
<b>Poor toilet facilities</b>	<b>28%</b>
Lack of play facilities	7%
Lack of facilities for teenagers	3%
Park is unsafe	17%
Lack of seating	5%
Lack of information boards	0.5%
Disabled access and facilities are poor	3%
I live too far away	3.5%
<b>Other</b>	<b>28%</b>

Respondents ranked poor toilet facilities and other reasons as set out above, which indicate that our parks have many competing users. The other reasons also include consideration of whether planting can be used to screen from the wind.

Question 5

Which of the following improvements would you like to see? Select up to 5.



Improvement listing	Percentage
<b>Planting</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Wildlife habitats</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Cleanliness - litter / dog mess</b>	<b>18%</b>
Art works / sculpture / water features	9%
Water features for play	7%
Improved disabled access	6%
Improved lighting and security	14%
Community events	8%
Other	3%

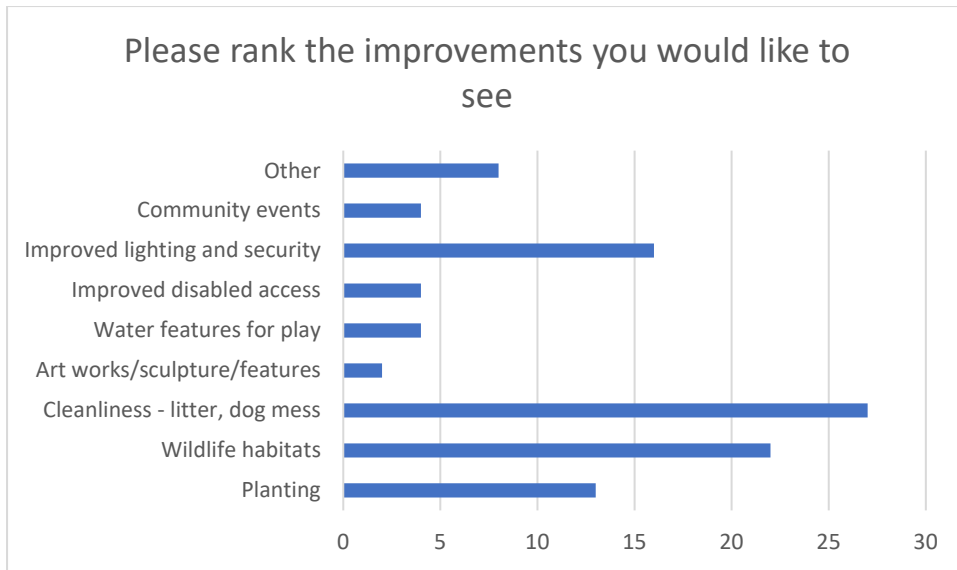
Respondents would most like to see new planting, wildlife habitats and improved cleanliness.

Examples of other improvements include:

- Employment of park wardens
- More trees, including trees for children to climb
- Refreshment / coffee vans
- Opportunities for community kitchen gardening
- Well-lit and level paths
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Signage /orientation in parks showing location of other city parks

Question 5: Ranking

Please rank which improvements you would like to see prioritised (up to 5).

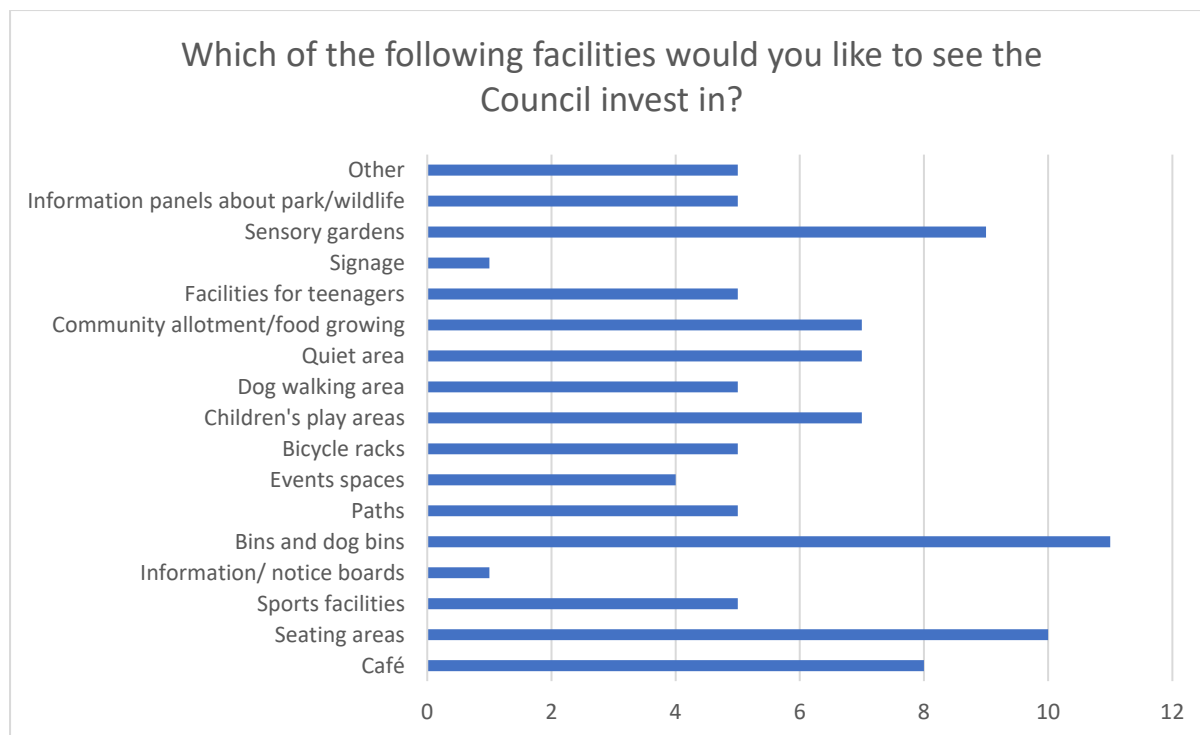


Priority ranking	Percentage
Planting	13%
<b>Wildlife habitats</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Cleanliness - litter / dog mess</b>	<b>27%</b>
Art works / sculpture / water features	2%
Water features for play	4%
Improved disabled access	4%
Improved lighting and security	16%
Community events	4%
Other	8%

Respondents ranked cleanliness as the first priority, followed by wildlife habitats.

Question 6

Which of the following facilities would you most like to see the Council invest in? Select up to 5



Facility	Percentage
<b>Café</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Seating areas</b>	<b>10%</b>
Sports facilities	5%
Information/notice boards	1%
<b>Bins &amp; dog bins</b>	<b>11%</b>
Paths	5%
Events spaces	4%
Bicycle racks	5%
Children's play areas	7%
Dog walking area	5%
Quiet area	7%
Community allotment/ food growing	7%
Facilities for teenagers	5%
Signage	1%
<b>Sensory gardens</b>	<b>9%</b>
Information panels about park/wildlife	5%
Other	5%

Respondents would most like to see further bin / dog bin provision, more seating provision and sensory gardens / planting.

Examples of other improvements include the following responses:

*'There needs to be more funding for skateparks in Portsmouth'*

*'Community wardens to address anti-social behaviour'*

*'Cafes, seating areas and dog bins would be great'*

*'Information boards with exercise ideas that don't require special facilities - sideways walking, lunges, squats, inverted rows and pull ups on equipment'*

*'Dog play area with dog activities'*

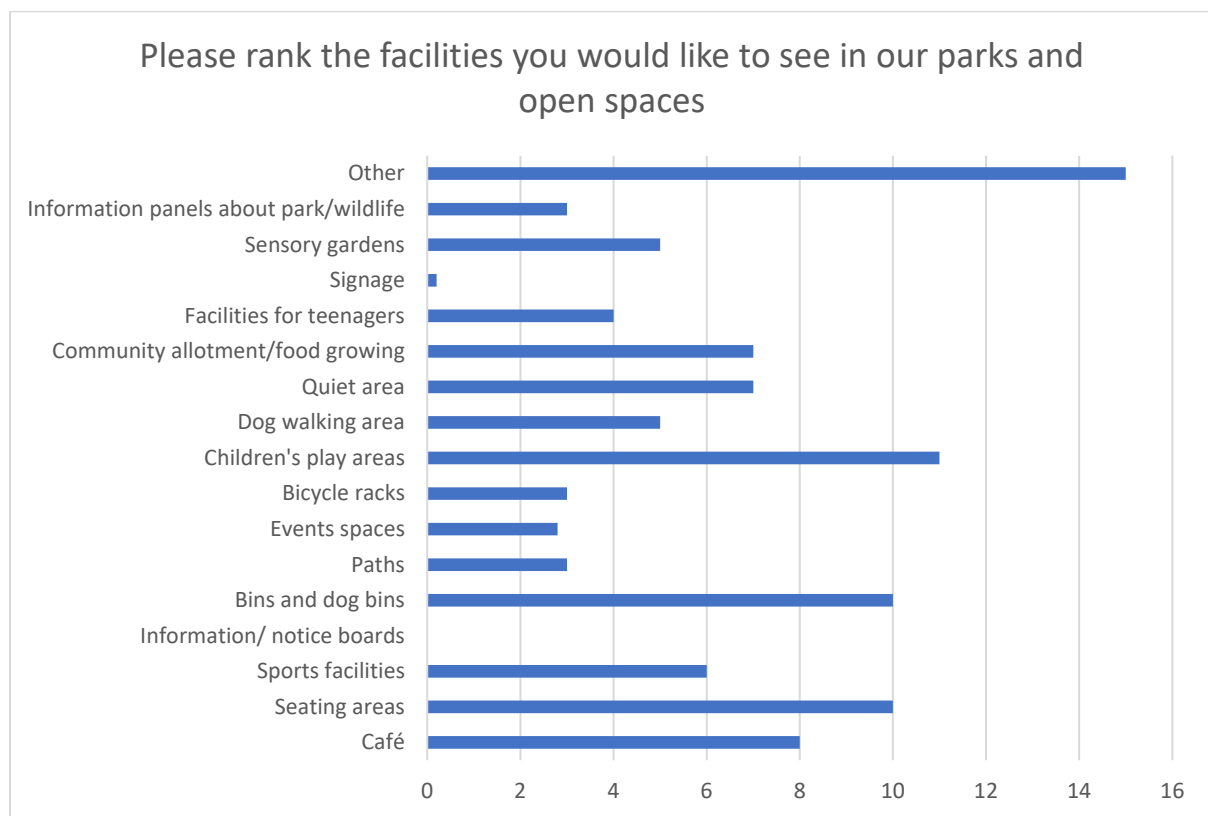
*'More education and awareness is needed for how to look after our natural world and protect our vital green spaces.'*

*'Shelters for when it rains'*

*'Lighting for safety after dark'*

**Question 6: Ranking**

Please rank (up to 5) the facilities you would like to see in our parks and open spaces.

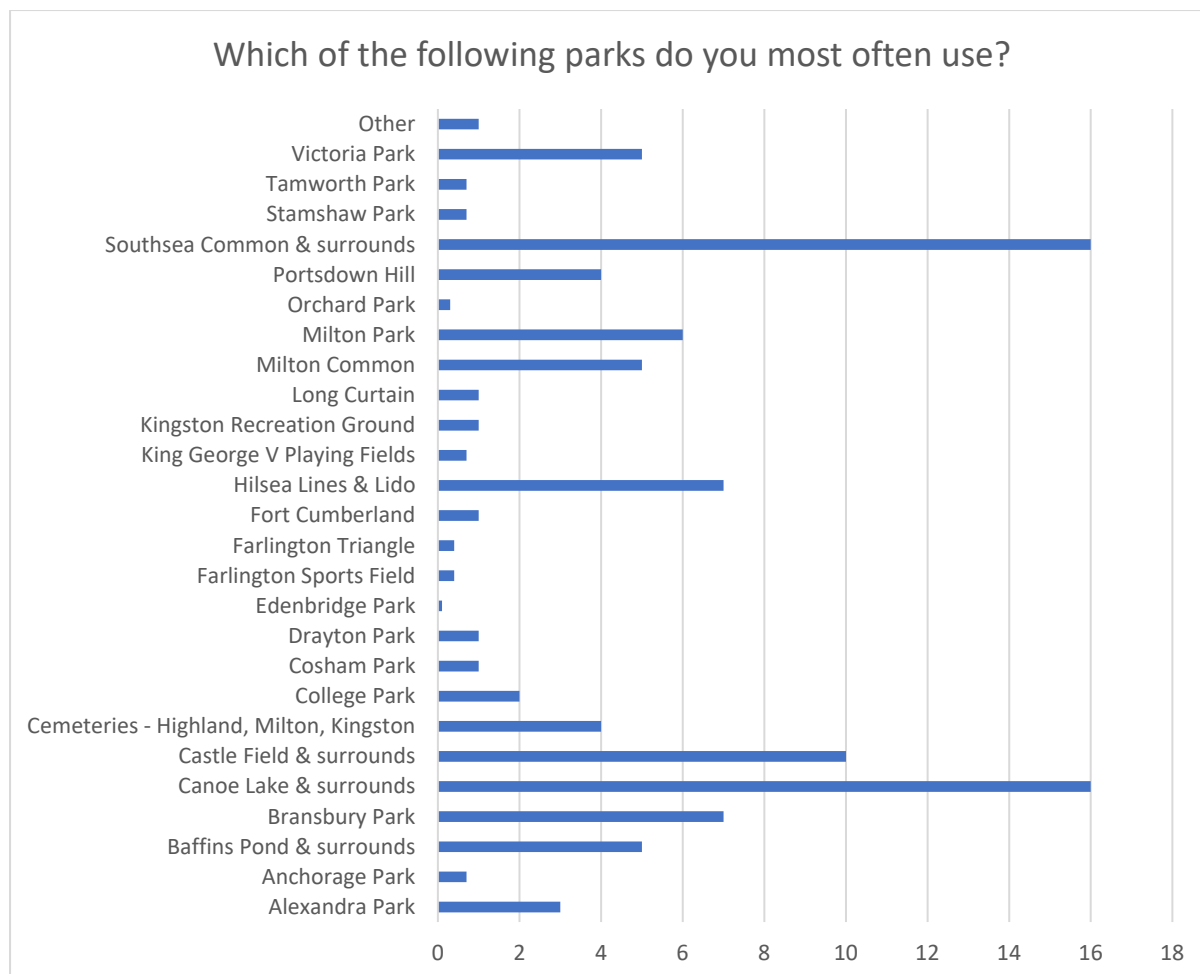


Priority ranking	Percentage
Café	8%
<b>Seating areas</b>	<b>10%</b>
Sports facilities	6%
Noticeboards	nil
<b>Bins &amp; dog bins</b>	<b>10%</b>
Paths	3%
Events spaces	2.8%
Bicycle racks	3%
<b>Children's play areas</b>	<b>11%</b>
Dog walking areas	5%
Quiet zones	7%
Community growing area	7%
Facilities for teenagers	4%
Signage	0.2%
Sensory gardens	5%
Information panels about the park/wildlife	3%
<b>Other</b>	<b>15%</b>

Respondents used this question to express the other facilities they would like to see, as outlined above.

Question 7

Which of the following parks do you most often use? Select up to 5.



Park	Percentage
Alexandra Park	3%
Anchorage Park	0.7%
Baffins Pond & surrounds	5%
Bransbury Park	7%
<b>Canoe Lake &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Castle Field &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>10%</b>
Cemeteries - Highland, Milton, Kingston	4%
College Park	2%
Cosham Park	1%
Drayton Park	1%
Edenbridge Park	0.1%
Farlington Sports Field	0.4%
Farlington Triangle	0.4%
Fort Cumberland	1%
Hilsea Lines & Lido	7%
King George V Playing Fields	0.7%
Kingston Recreation Ground	1%
Long Curtain	1%



## Appendix 5.9

Park	Percentage
Milton Common	5%
Milton Park	6%
Orchard Park	0.3%
Portsdown Hill	4%
<b>Southsea Common &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>16%</b>
Stamshaw Park	0.7%
Tamworth Park	0.7%
Victoria Park	5%
Other	1%

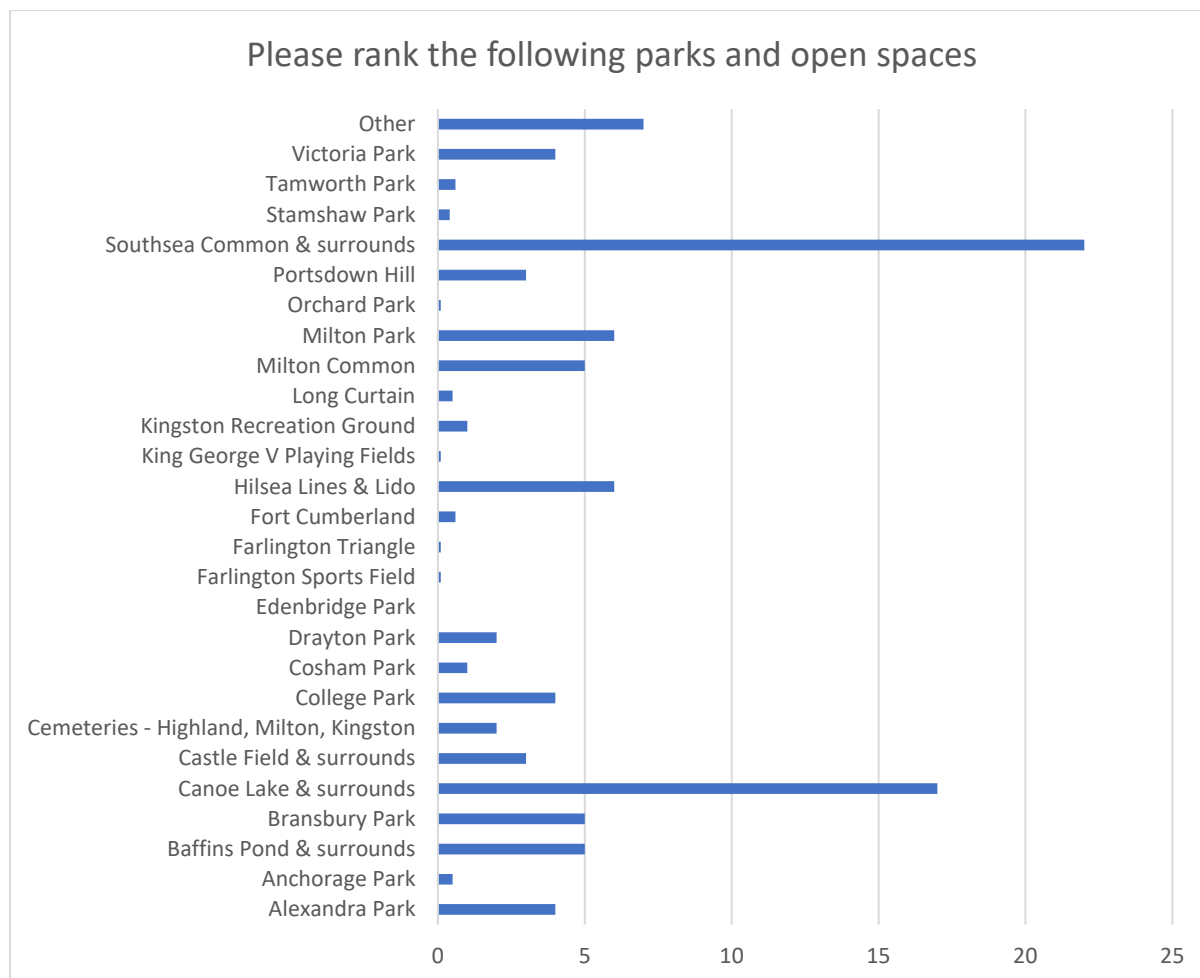
The most used parks were Canoe Lake and surrounds and Southsea Common and surrounds.

'Other' parks included:

- Great Salterns Open Space
- St James' Park
- Gatcome Park
- Knowsley Park
- Gurnard Park
- Beach at Southsea and Eastney

Question 7: Ranking

Please rank (up to 5) the following parks and open spaces.



Ranking	Percentage
Alexandra Park	4%
Anchorage Park	0.5%
Baffins Pond & surrounds	5%
Bransbury Park	5%
<b>Canoe Lake &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>17%</b>
Castle Field & surrounds	3%
Cemeteries - Highland, Milton, Kingston	2%
College Park	4%
Cosham Park	1%
Drayton Park	2%
Edenbridge Park	nil
Farlington Sports Field	0.1%
Farlington Triangle	0.1%
Fort Cumberland	0.6%
Hilsea Lines & Lido	6%
King George V Playing Fields	0.1%
Kingston Recreation Ground	1%
Long Curtain	0.5%

Ranking	Percentage
Milton Common	5%
Milton Park	6%
Orchard Park	0.1%
Portsmouth Hill	3%
<b>Southsea Common &amp; surrounds</b>	<b>22%</b>
Stamshaw Park	0.4%
Tamworth Park	0.6%
Victoria Park	4%
Other	7%

Respondents' choices consistently show the following parks and open spaces as the highest ranked:

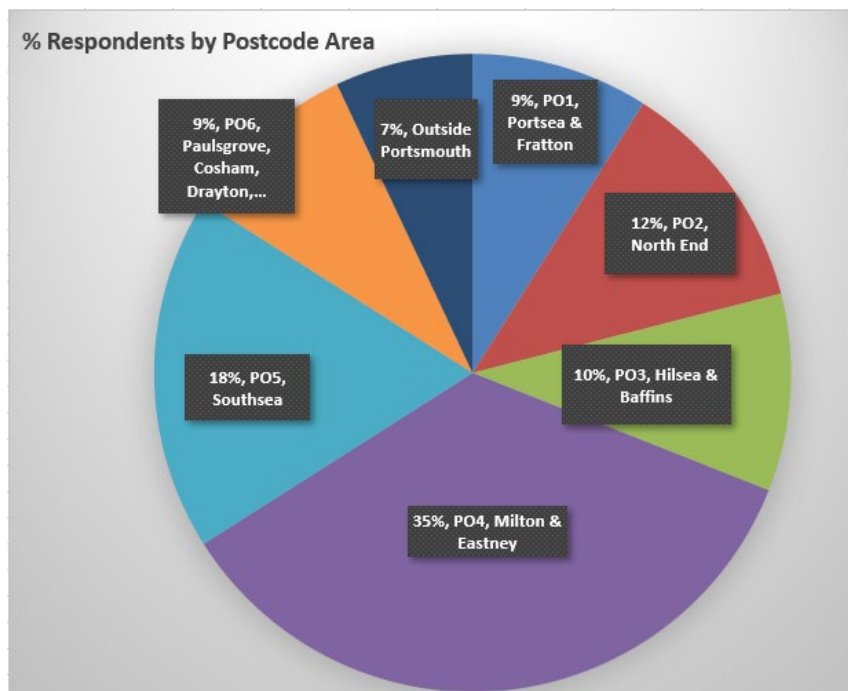
- Canoe Lake and surrounds
- Southsea Common and surrounds

### Survey Demographic Data

Whilst the consultation has generated the above material, it is recognised that demographic breakdown may need to be considered alongside.

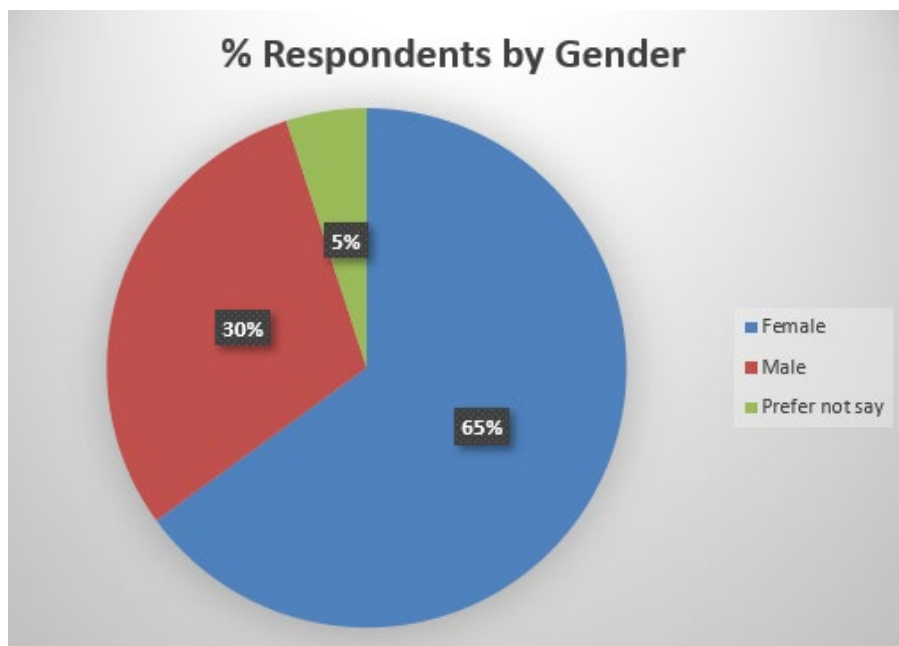
#### Responses by geographical area

Take up of the survey was more concentrated from some areas of the city than others. The majority of responses were received from PO4 postcode, Milton and Eastney residents. Breakdown by postcode area is shown below.



### Responses by gender

There was a marked distinction, with the majority of survey responses being submitted by females.



This is significant, as it is important to create gender inclusive public spaces. The charity Make Space For Girls argues that where open spaces are designed through a default male lens, this affects the long term physical and mental health of girls.<sup>1</sup>

### Responses by age group

Responses were reasonably spread across all age groups, aside from fewer responses received from the 16-24 age group. It may be that respondents in this age group selected 'prefer not to say' or did not want to complete this section of the survey.

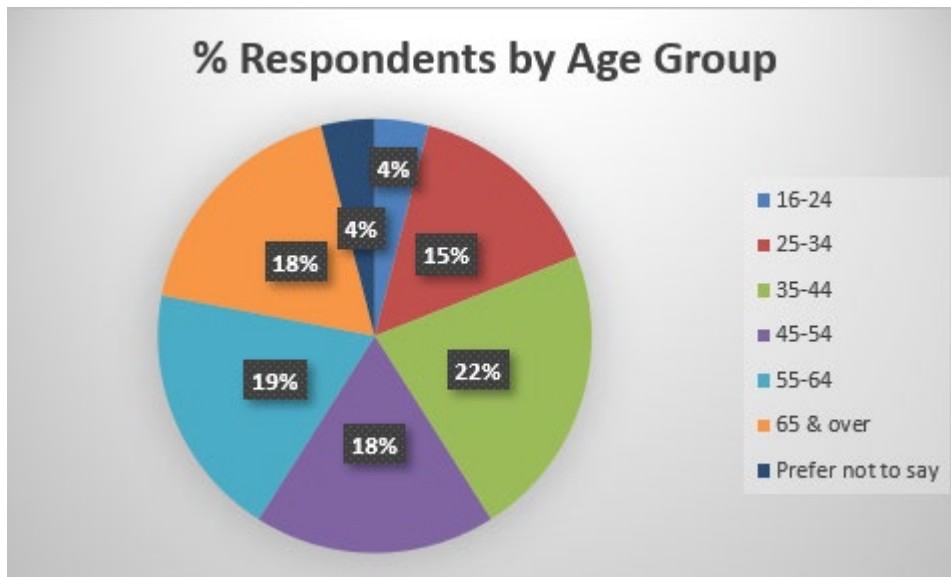
The age groups 16-24 and 65 and over are important to consider as the 2022 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies population growth in these age groups over the next 25 years.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://inews.co.uk/news/parks-designed-women-girls-safety-campaign-make-space-for-girls-1204606>

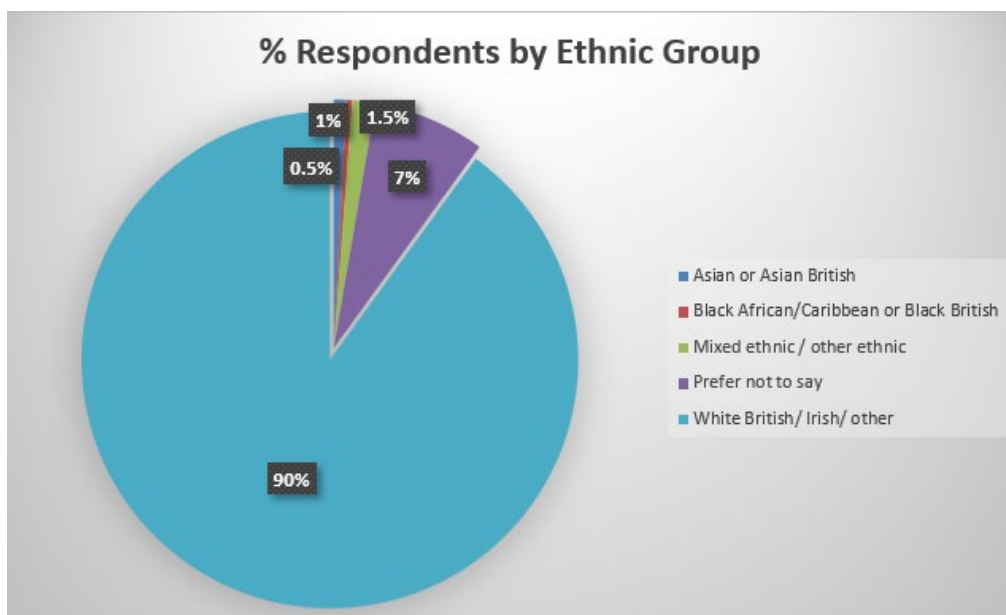
<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandz1>



Responses by Ethnic Group

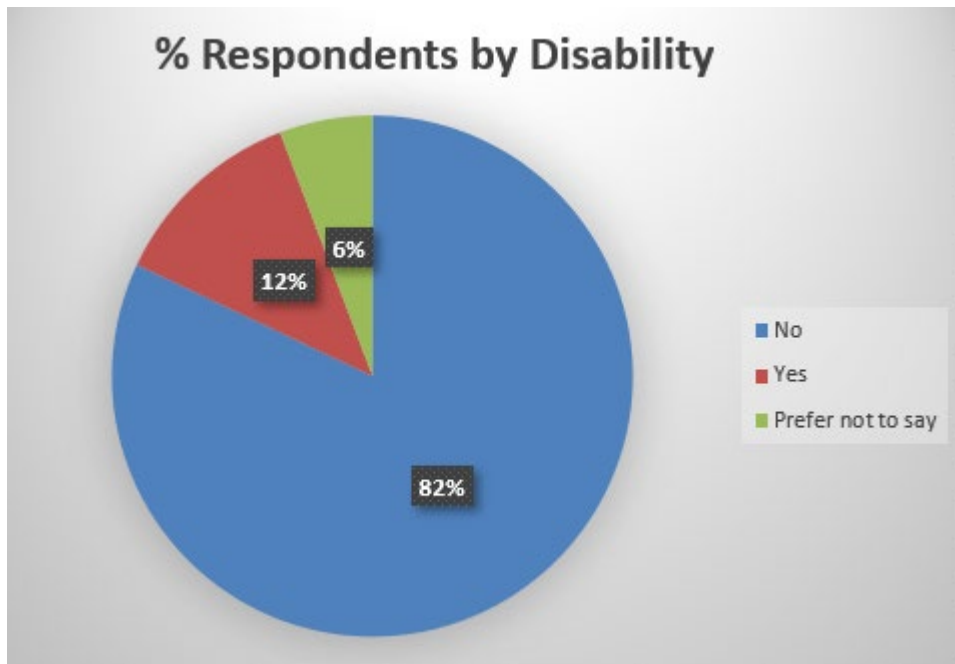
The majority of responses (90%) were submitted by white/British/other ethnic group. However, 16% of the city's population comprises ethnicity other than White British /White Irish. When considering the south of the city, this figure is 22%.<sup>3</sup>



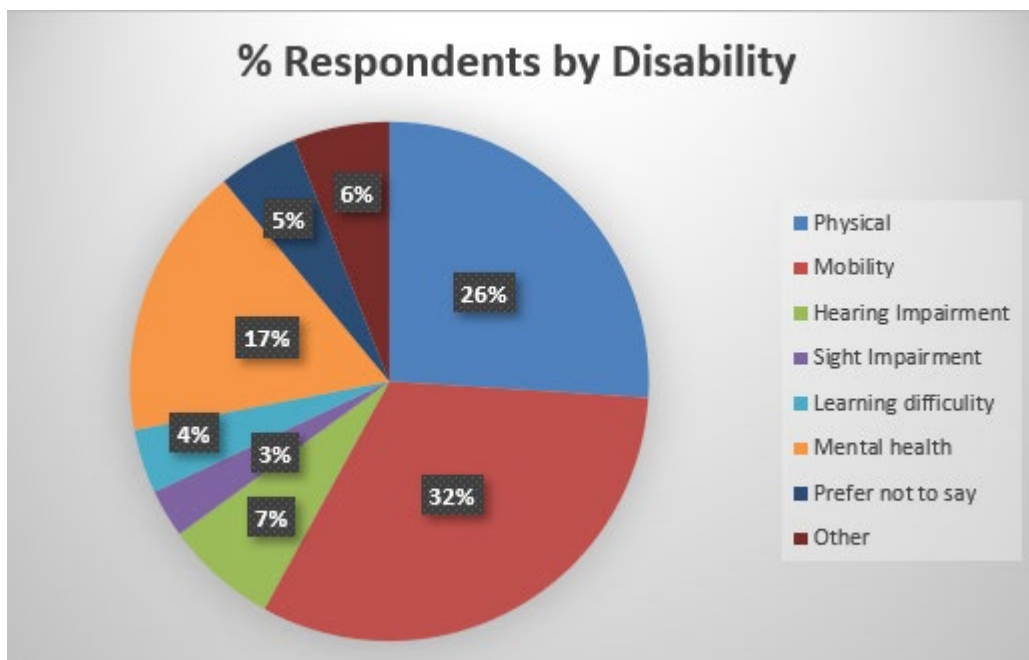
Responses by disability under the Equality Act 2010

The majority of the respondents (82%) did not consider that they had a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/health-and-care/health/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/#dem>



Of the respondents who responded that they did have a disability (12%), the type of disability broke down as follows:



Physical disability and mobility disability make up 58% of overall responses. Future parks redesign will incorporate consideration of access and mobility requirements, such as wide pathways, level surfaces and appropriate parks infrastructure, where this can be incorporated.

'Other' disabilities (6%) included: limited ability to grip, neuro disability, asthmatic/breathing disability, chronic fatigue and autism.