

**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.

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- **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.

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- **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.

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### 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.**



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- 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.**
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. 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

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### **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.**

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### 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**

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<sup>2</sup> “Trees or Turf,” Woodland Trust, 2011

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- 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.

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- 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

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- 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.

4.8. 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.

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### 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**



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- **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.**

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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>	

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### 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**

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
AMENITY GREENSPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor seating</li> <li>• Lack of signage</li> <li>• Some lacked biodiversity.</li> </ul>
PUBLIC PARKS AND GARDENS	<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>
CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS AND FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	<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>
NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretation could be improved</li> <li>• Access difficult in places</li> <li>• More seating needed.</li> </ul>
CEMETERIES	<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>
ALLOTMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unwelcoming entrances</li> <li>• Some poor fencing.</li> </ul>
OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unwelcoming entrances</li> <li>• Lack of landscaping</li> <li>• Poor seating.</li> </ul>
CIVIC SPACES	<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%
173	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%
133	East of Lakeside IBM	AGS	5.1	3.4	4.7	3.4	1.7	2.9	4.1	2.4	0.5	63%
134	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%
142	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	Hertford 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%

#### 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

- 7.3. 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.

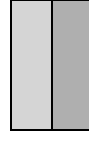
## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 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 <b>0.6 ha/1,000 population</b>	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
<b>Fields in Trust 0.2 ha/1,000 population</b>	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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## 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

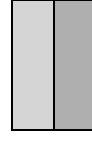
7.17. The Fields in Trust guideline for Parks and Gardens is **0.8 ha/1,000 population**.

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

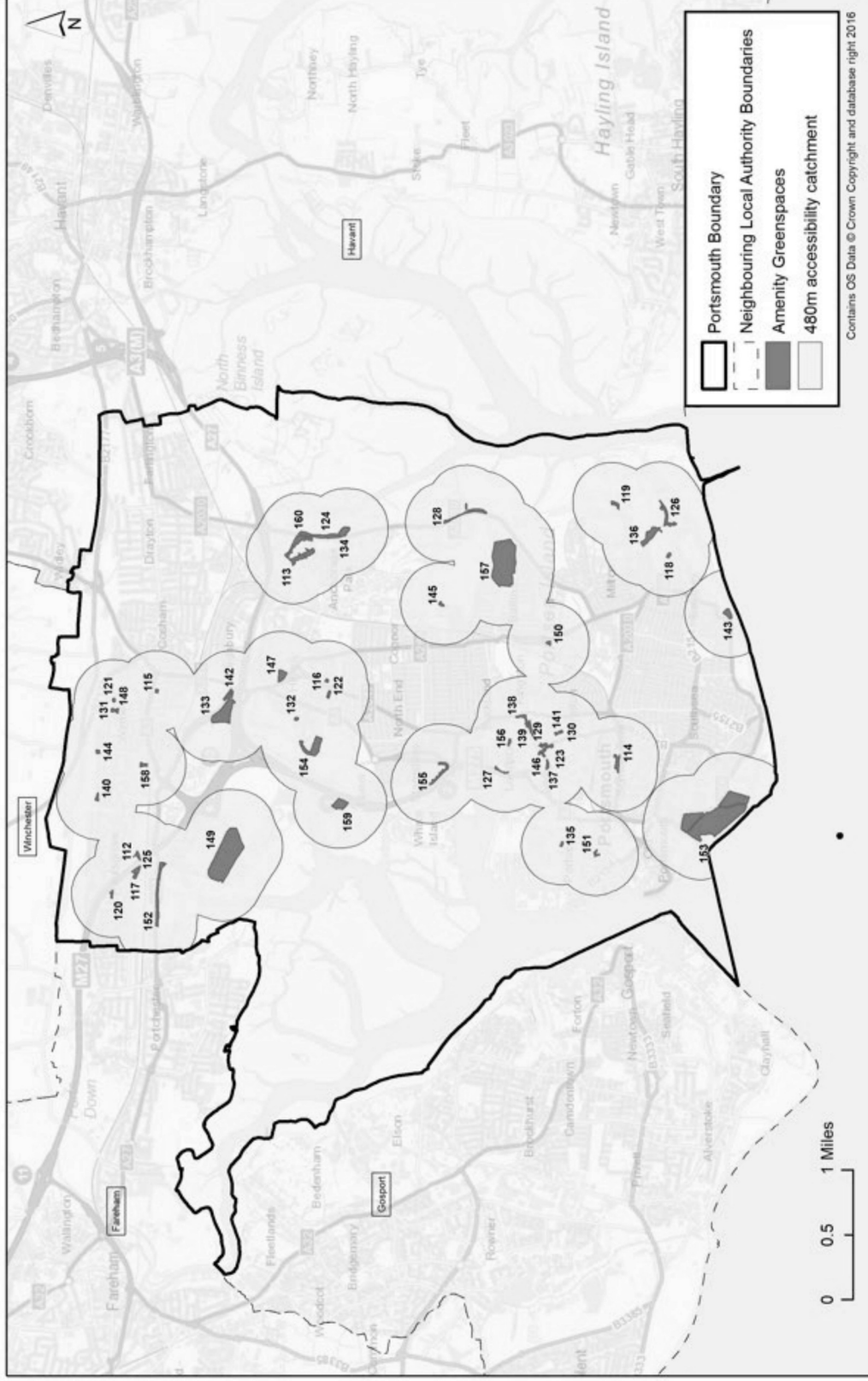
- 7.24. The Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Amenity Greenspace is **480 m** (approximately a 6 minute walk).
- 7.25. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.1.
- 7.26. There is a shortage of provision in this category.
- 7.27. There are few facilities in the north 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

## 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**

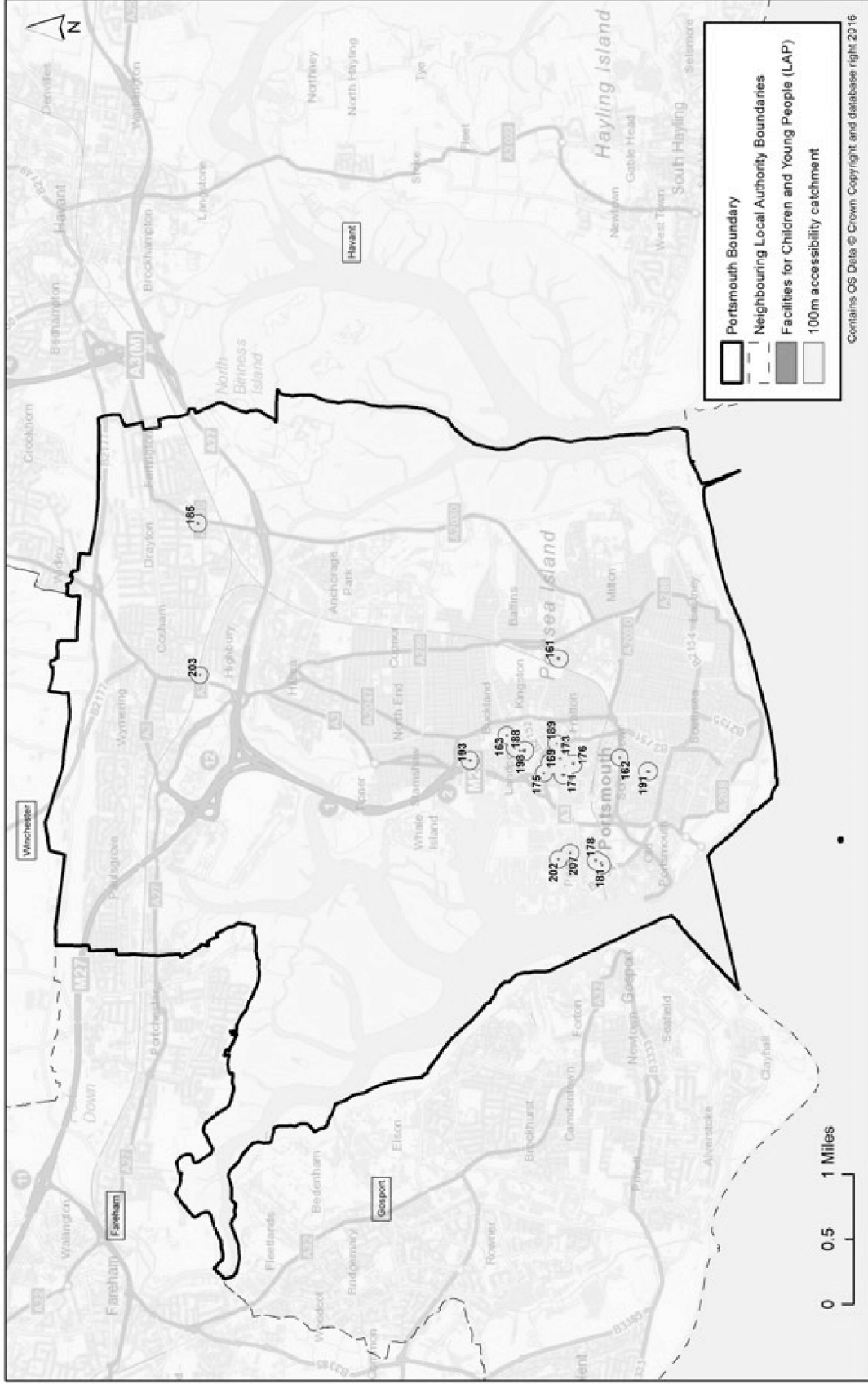
**Table 7.11: Recommended application of quantity benchmark guidelines – Equipped/Designated Play Space**

<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

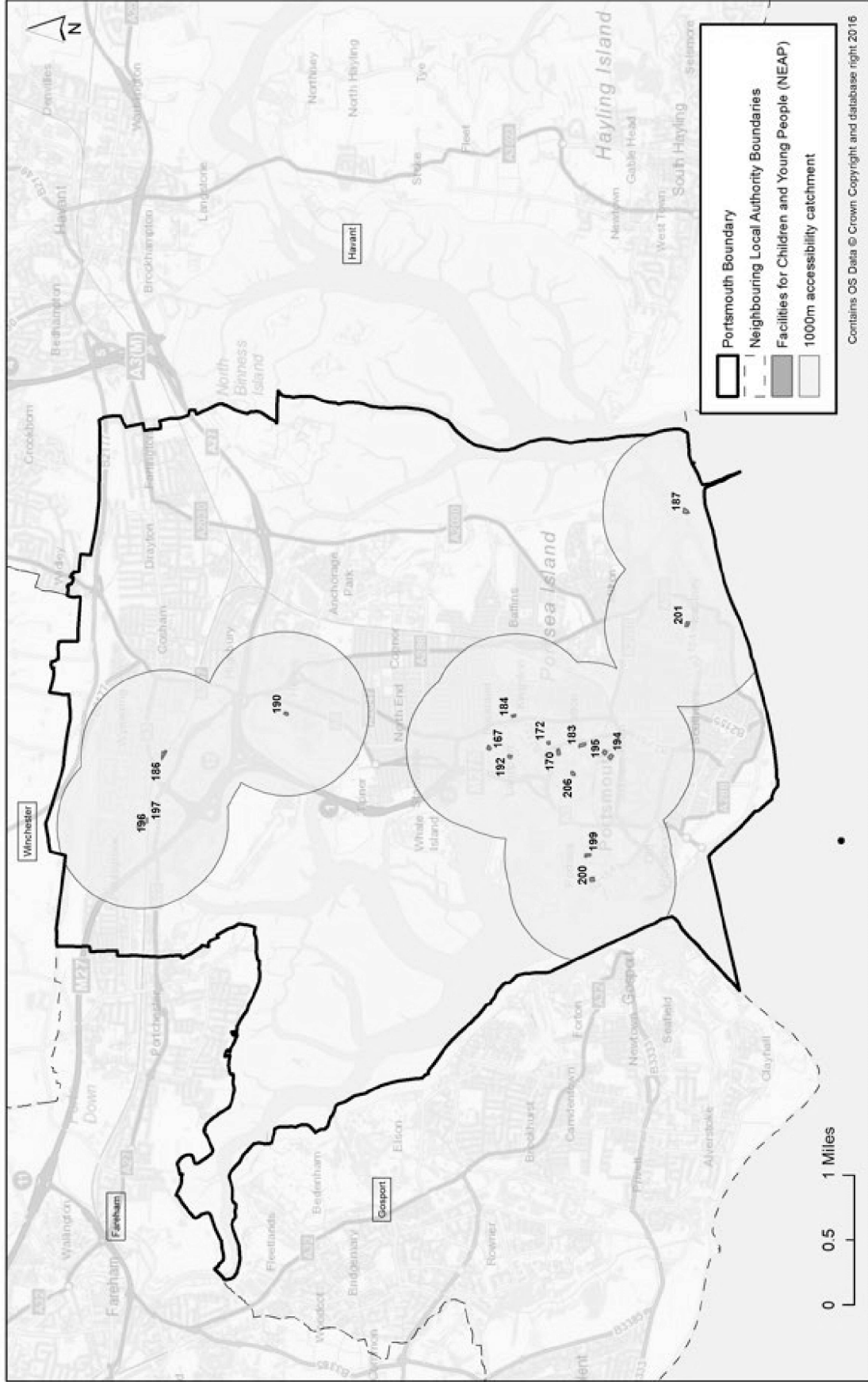


Facilities for Children and Young People (LAP) accessibility catchment in Portsmouth





# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

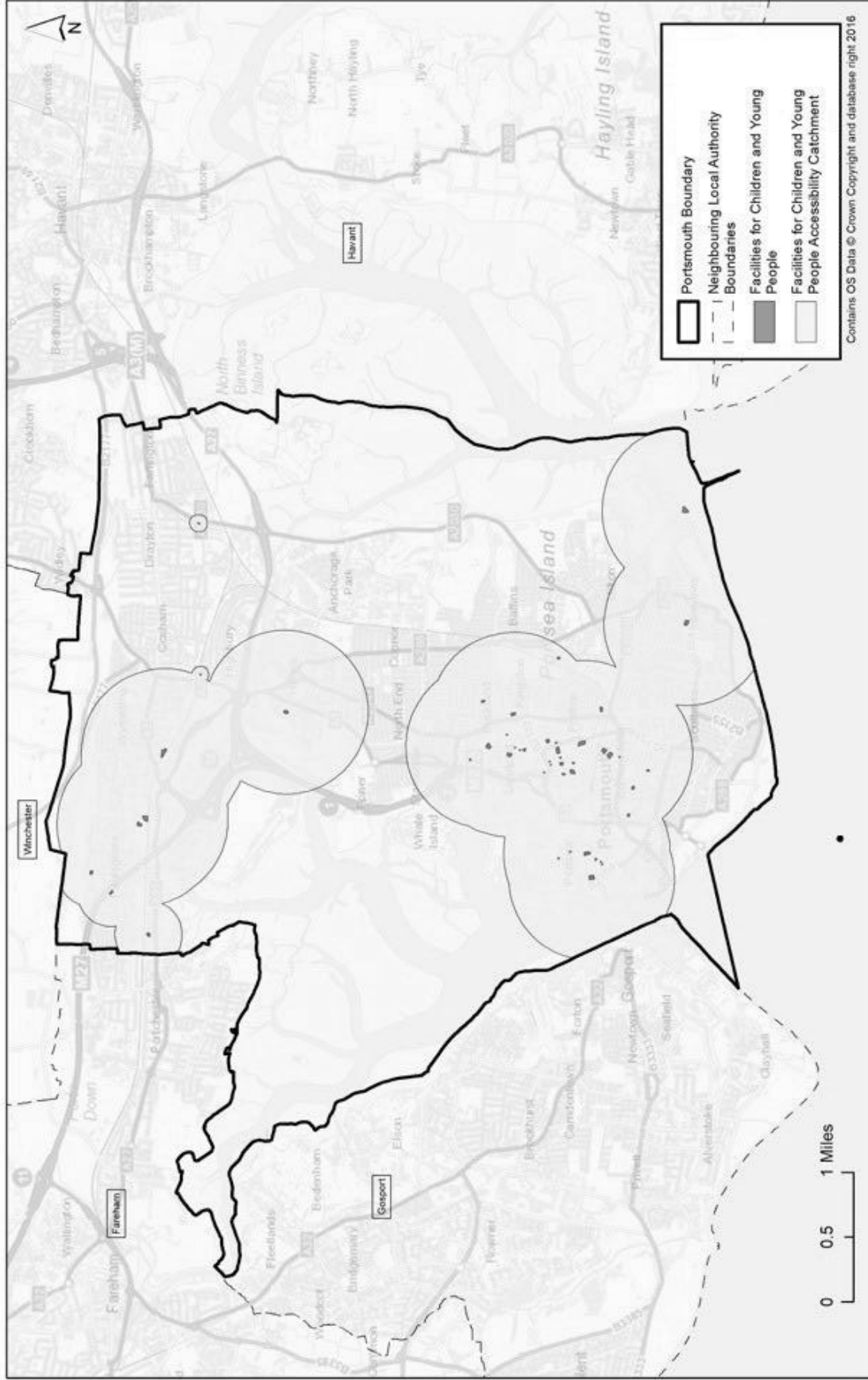


Facilities for Children and Young People (NEAP) accessibility catchment in Portsmouth



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# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT



Facilities for Children and Young People accessibility catchment in Portsmouth



## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### ALLOTMENTS

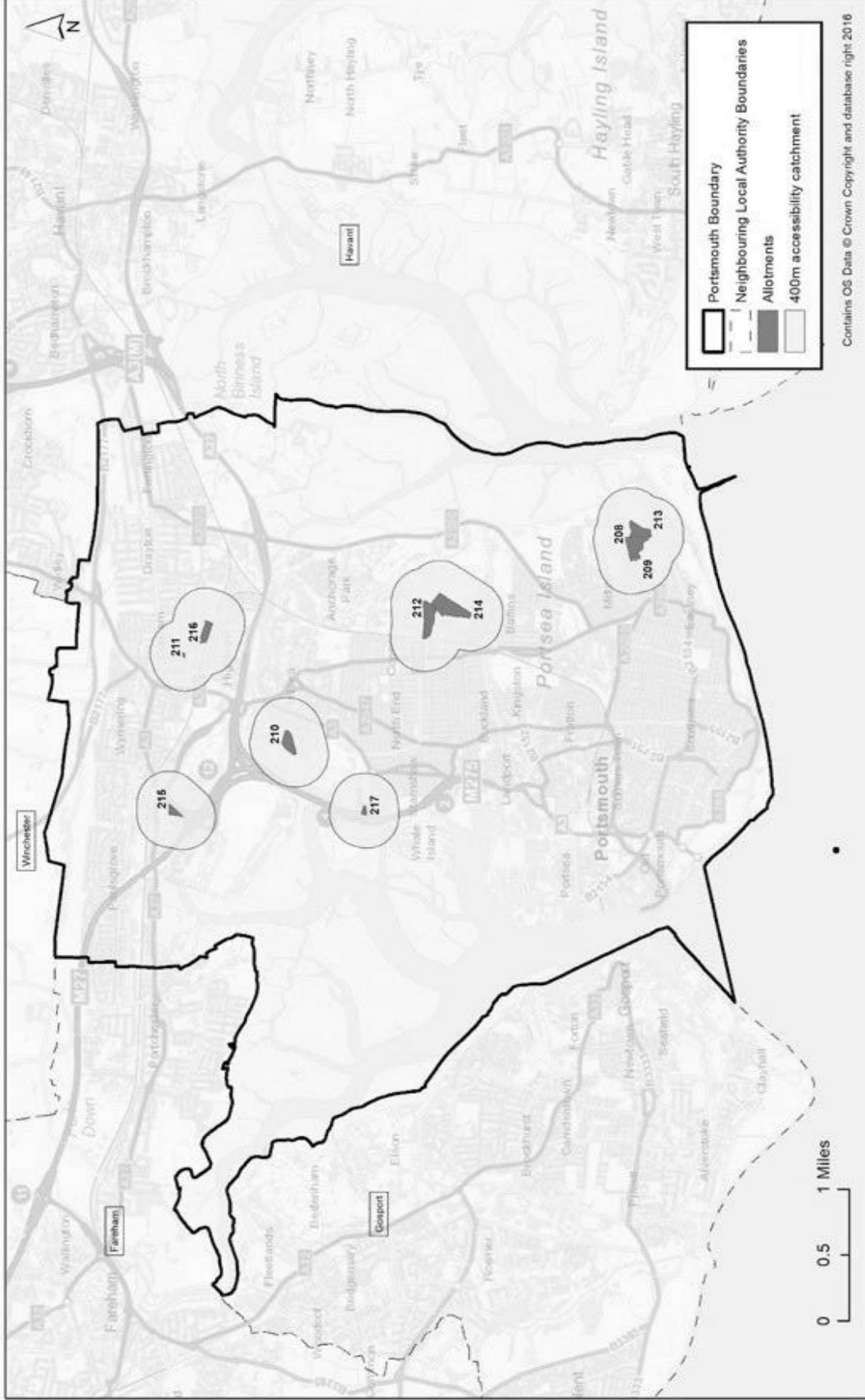
- 7.34. There is no Fields in Trust standard for accessibility in relation to Allotments. However, Greater London Authority (GLA) guidelines for Allotments of local significance (all in Portsmouth are only of local significance in terms of size) indicate a standard of **400 m** (approximately a 5 minute 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

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.3: Accessibility of Allotments using GLA standards



Allotments accessibility catchment in Portsmouth



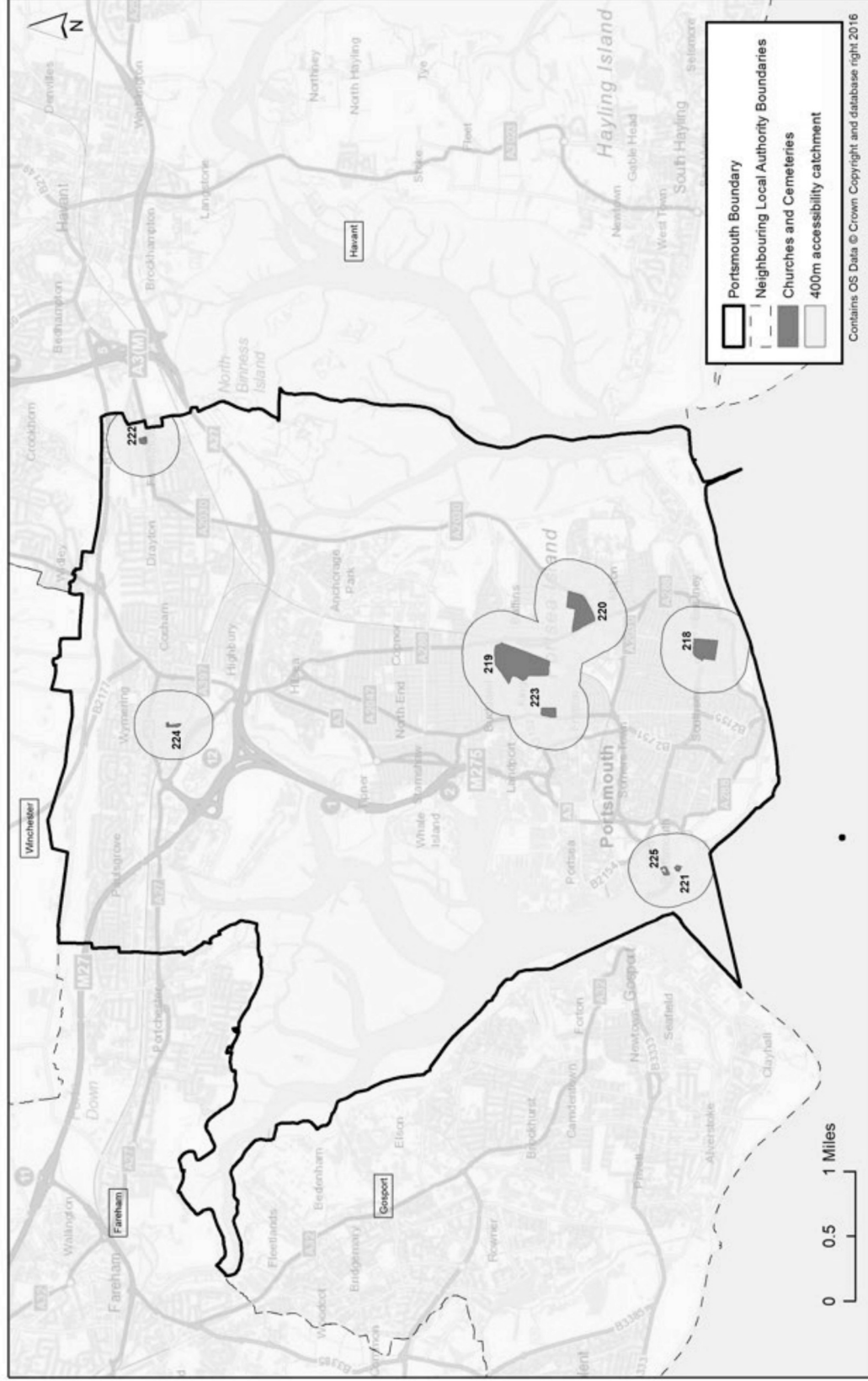
## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 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



Churches and cemeteries accessibility catchment in Portsmouth



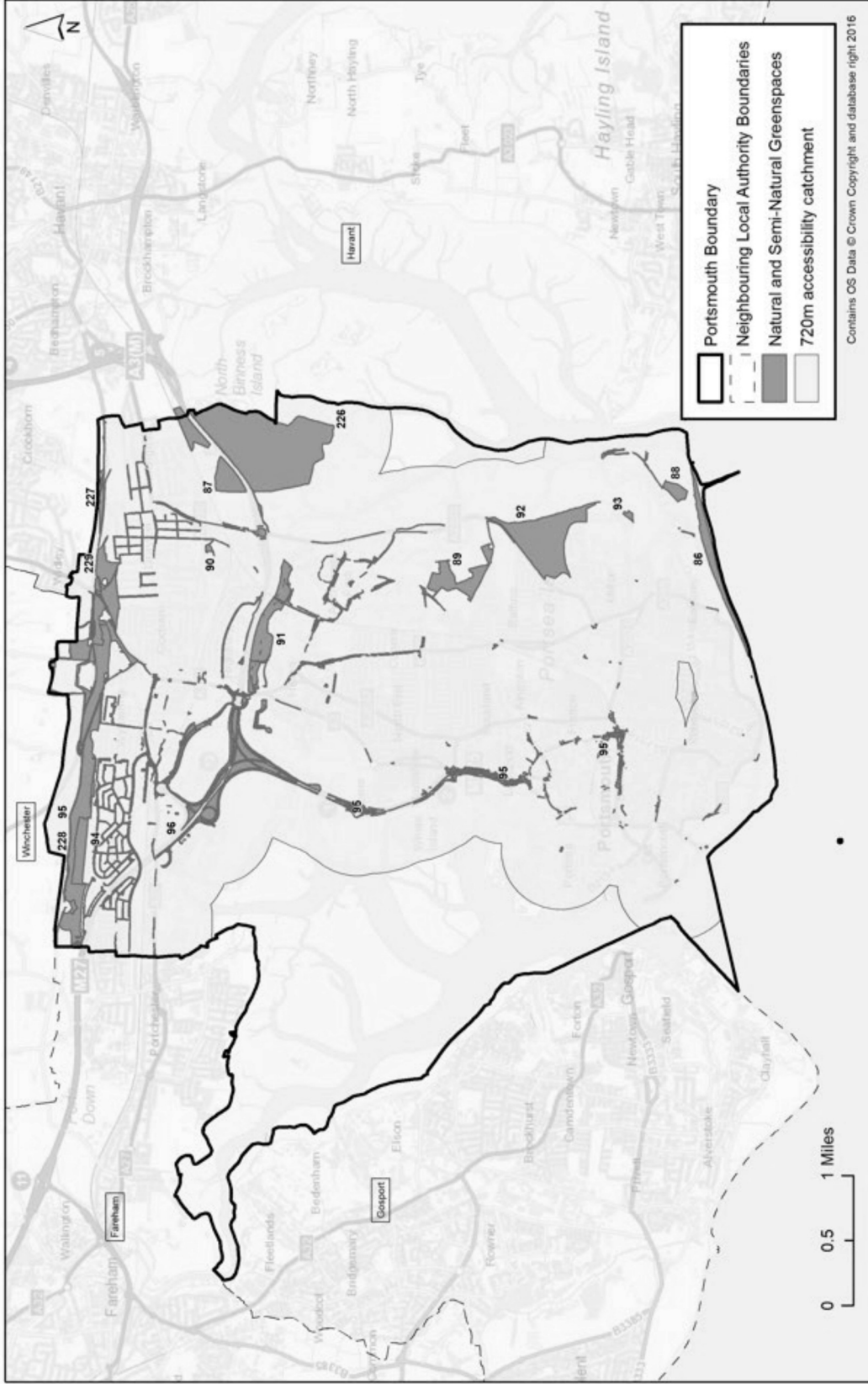
## PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

### 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.

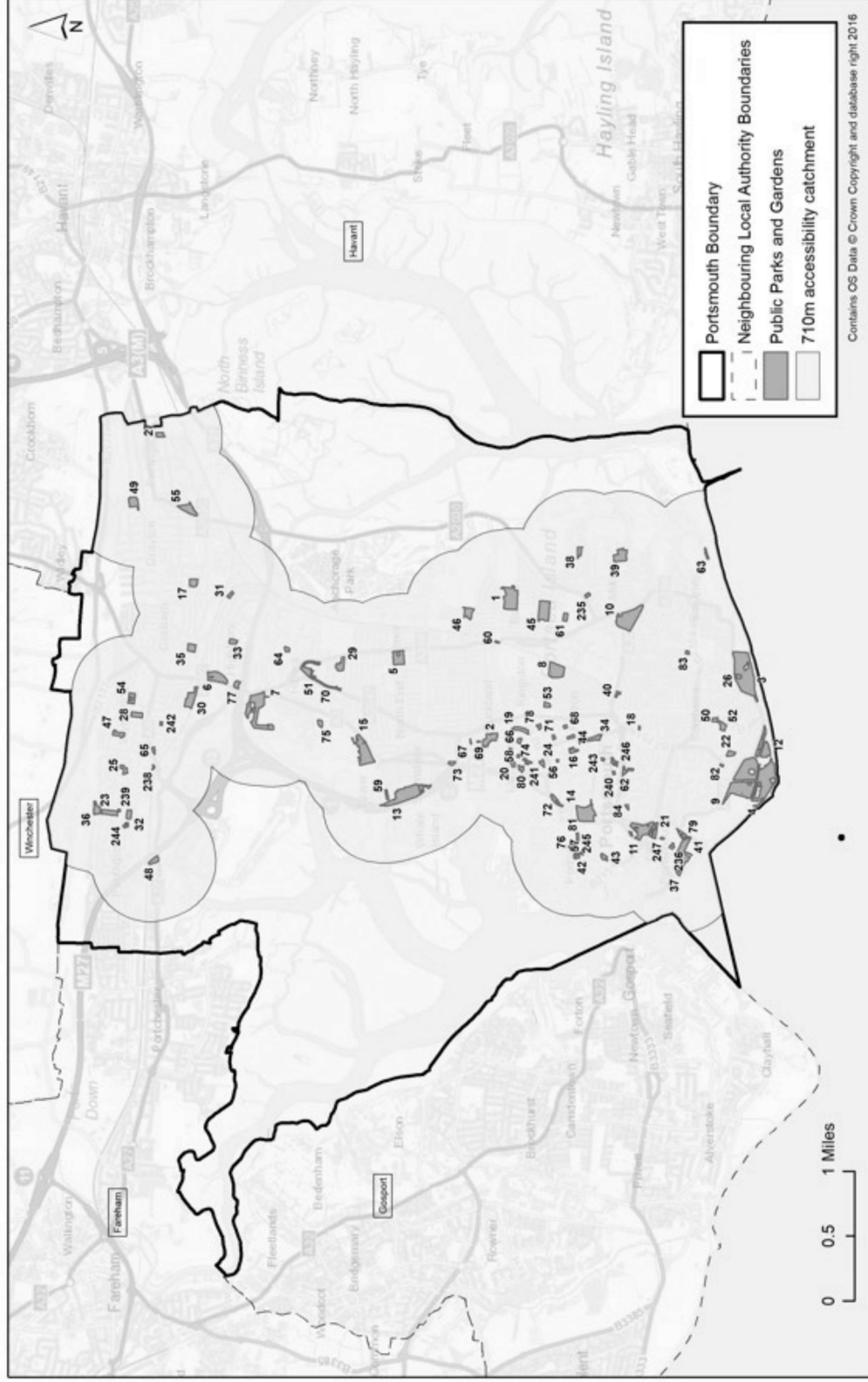
7.46. A map indicating accessibility is shown as figure 7.6.

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



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Public Parks and Gardens accessibility catchment in Portsmouth



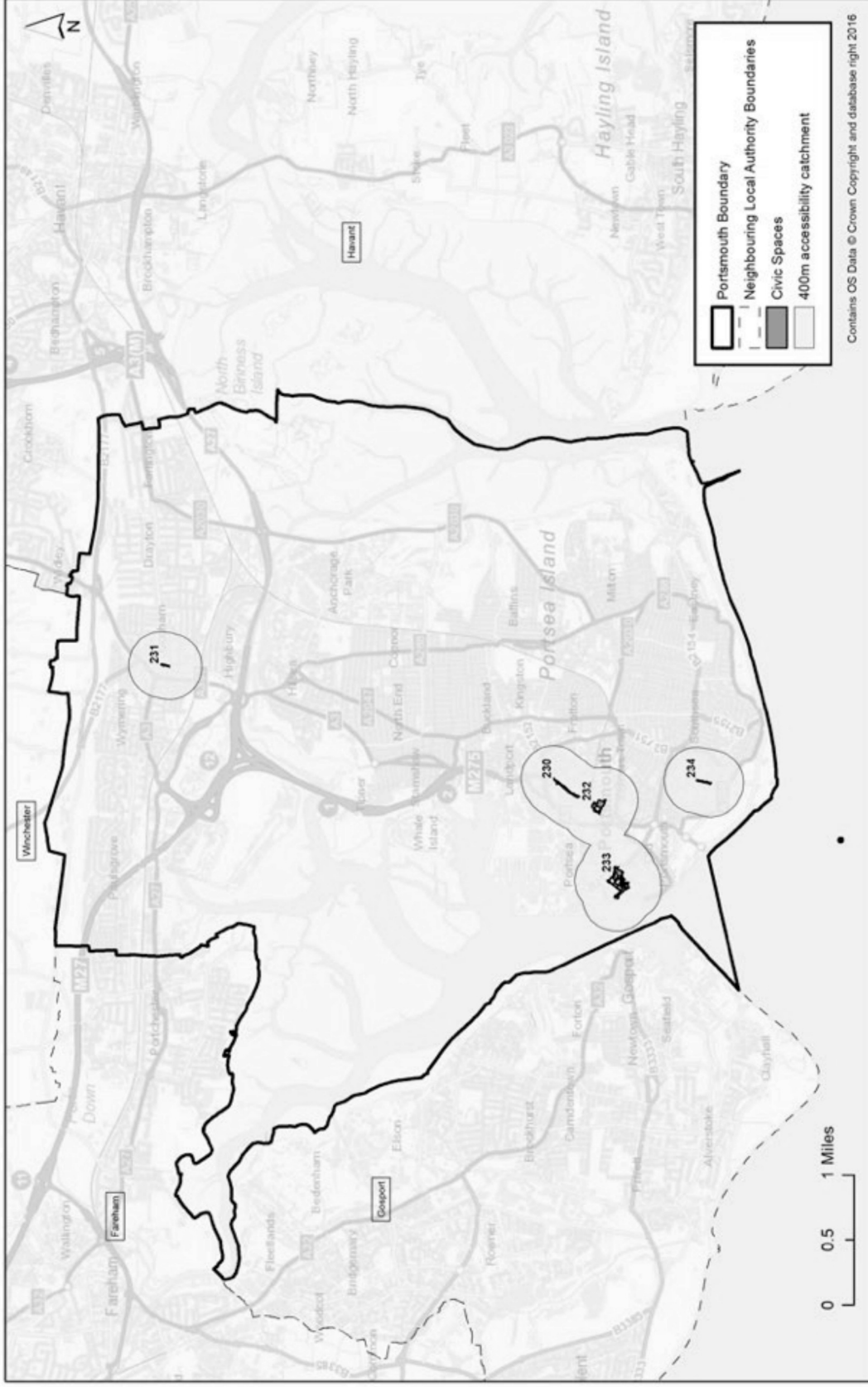
## **PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT**

### **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.

# PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.7: Accessibility of Civic Spaces



Civic Space accessibility catchment in Portsmouth



## 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.

### 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.

### 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



