

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT 2013

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### WALTHAM CHASE

The open space standard for Winchester District, set out in Policy CP7 of Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy, derives from the City Council's 2008 *Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study*. It stands at **4 ha per thousand people**, compared with the 2006 Local Plan standard of 2.8 ha. The revised standard is broken down into 5 categories -

Type of open space	Quantity per 1000 population	Access
1. Allotments	0.2 ha	480m
2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space <sup>1</sup>	0.5 ha	480m / 650m
3. Informal Green Space	0.8 ha	400m
4. Natural Green Space	1.0 ha	700m
5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds	1.5 ha (0.75 ha for outdoor sport)	650m
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 ha</b>	

The latest population statistics for the market towns are set out in a 2011 background paper to the LDF, *Market Towns and Rural Area Development Strategy*. For the purposes of this assessment, the population of Waltham Chase is 2,616. Applying the new standards to this figure, and comparing them with measured existing provision, indicates whether there is a notional surplus or shortfall in the quantity of open space for each category. Map-based and on-site surveys were used to determine the accessibility, distribution and quality of open spaces in the settlement.

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<sup>1</sup> This definition differs from the 2006 Local Plan standard which required '*equipped playgrounds, other opportunities for outdoor play and casual play space*'. Accordingly, this assessment has measured only equipped playgrounds, BMX and skatepark parks and Multi Use Games Areas, but not '*other opportunities for outdoor play and casual play space*' as this land is now included under category 3 (Informal Green Space) or category 5 (Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds). The lower total area figure reflects this change.

## 1. Allotments

### Quantity

The standard would require 0.52 ha of allotments for the village. However there is no allotment site in the village, and the nearest site is at Shirrell Heath 1.5 km away. There is therefore a **complete deficit** in this category.

## 2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space

### Quantity

There is only one equipped children's play area at the main Recreation Ground (0.15 ha). However, the revised standard suggests a minimum of 1.31 ha, resulting in a **shortfall** of 1.16 ha for the population of the village.

### Access & Distribution

The single play area is in the centre of the village, making it easily accessible on foot from most parts of the settlement. However, northern parts of the village around Provene Gardens, Meadow Gardens, and Evelyn Close are beyond the recommended 480m distance.

### Quality

The quality of the play area at the Recreation Ground is good.

## 3. Informal Green Space

Informal Green Space is defined in the 2008 Open Space Study as publicly accessible and useable open space which is not allocated for any other use, and is neither laid out nor managed for a specific function such as a play area, a park, a recreation or sports ground, a nature area or allotment.

### Quantity

The standard requires 2.09 ha of informal green space in the village. Several small areas of useable amenity space are distributed throughout the village in association with housing (below), but there is still a **shortfall** of 1.46 ha in this category.

	<b>Location</b>	<b>Site area</b>
1	Provene Gardens	0.2 ha
2	Evelyn Close	0.06 ha
3	Chase Farm Road	0.01 ha
4	Brooklyn Close	0.27 ha
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.63 ha</b>

### Access & Distribution

The areas of informal green space are spread evenly through the village so that no resident is more than 400m from the spaces.

#### Quality

The areas of informal green space are well maintained and make a substantial contribution to the visual amenity of the locality.

### **4. Natural Green Space**

Natural Green Space is defined in the 2008 Open Space Study as publicly accessible woodland, wetland, grassland / heathland or meadow, i.e. spaces which have natural characteristics and wildlife value, but which are also available for public use and enjoyment.

The standard requires there to be at least 2.62 ha. However there are no publicly accessible natural green spaces in or adjacent to the village.

### **5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds**

#### ***Parks and Recreation Grounds***

#### Quantity

The standard looks for 1.96 ha. There are two main sites (below) totalling 2.6 ha. There is thus no shortfall in this category.

<b>Location</b>		<b>Site area</b>
1	Recreation Ground	1.1 ha
2	The Triangle	1.5 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.6 ha</b>

#### Access & Distribution

Satisfactory; the two sites give good coverage across the village.

#### Quality

Satisfactory.

#### ***Sports grounds***

The standard would look for 1.96 ha, but there are no sports grounds in or adjacent to the village. Neither of the recreation grounds (above) provides pavilions or changing facilities.

## WALTHAM CHASE: SUMMARY

Type of open space	Standard (2011 pop.)	Existing provision	Surplus / shortfall
1. Allotments	0.52 ha	0	- 0.52 ha
2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space	1.31 ha	0.15 ha	- 1.16 ha
3. Informal Green Space	2.09 ha	0.63 ha	- 1.46 ha
4. Natural Green Space	2.62 ha	0.13 ha	- 2.49 ha
5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds	1.96 ha (sports) 1.96 ha (parks) [Total: 3.92 ha]	0 (sports) 2.6 ha (parks) [Total: 2.6 ha]	- 1.96 ha (sports) + 0.64 ha (parks) [Total: - 1.32 ha]

