

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT 2013

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### WICKHAM

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<br>(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 Wickham is 2,123. 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

The standard would require 0.42 ha for the village. There are two privately run allotment sites: Beechlea (0.95 ha) in Southwick Road, and Park Place (0.38 ha) run by Wickham Allotment Association. However, because there are no publicly owned or publicly accessible allotment sites in Wickham, there is a **complete shortfall** in this category.

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

### Quantity

There are three equipped children's play areas in the village (see below). Against a minimum standard of 1.06 ha, the total area shows a **shortfall** of 0.54 ha.

|   | <b>Location</b>       | <b>Site area</b> |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 | The Circle            | 0.32 ha          |
| 2 | Community Centre      | 0.13 ha          |
| 3 | The Recreation Ground | 0.07 ha          |
|   | <b>Total</b>          | <b>0.52 ha</b>   |

### Access & Distribution

Distribution is good. There are very few dwellings which are not within 480 m of an equipped play facility.

### Quality

The quality of the three play areas is good having benefitted for several years from input from the parish council's grounds staff and the City Council's Open Space Funding System.

## 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

There is publicly accessible informal green space at the Council-owned 'The Circle' and at the parish council-owned Water Meadows / Millennium Green. Bridge Street Village Green is a small area of informal open space with seating owned partly by the parish council and Hampshire County Council.

Existing provision (below) shows a **surplus** of 1.39 ha over the minimum required standard of 1.7 ha.

| Location     |                             | Site area      |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1            | The Circle                  | 0.34 ha        |
| 2            | Water Meadows               | 2.1 ha         |
| 3            | Bridge Street Village Green | 0.65 ha        |
| <b>Total</b> |                             | <b>3.09 ha</b> |

#### Access & Distribution

No part of Wickham is more than 400m from an area of informal green space. Distribution is satisfactory.

#### Quality

Quality is satisfactory.

### 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.

#### Quantity

The standard requires a minimum of 2.12 ha serving Wickham. There is only one publicly accessible site, at Lysander Meadow (grassland), which is managed as a nature conservation area. There is therefore **no shortage**.

| Location        | Site area      |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Lysander Meadow | 3.99 ha        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>3.99 ha</b> |

#### Access & Distribution

As there is only the one site on the southern edge of the town, only half of the town comes within a 700m catchment. Distribution is therefore poor.

#### Quality

The quality of Lysander Meadow is very good.

### 5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds

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

#### Quantity

According to the standard, there should be 1.59 ha of sports grounds serving Wickham. The Recreation Ground (below) provides an area for both tennis and football, but there is still a small **deficit** of 0.19 ha

| Location              | Site area     |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| The Recreation Ground | 1.4 ha        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>1.4 ha</b> |

#### Access & Distribution

The Recreation Ground is on the southern edge of the town and using the 650m catchment only serves the southern half of the town, leaving a significant portion of the town with no easy access to sports pitches.

#### Quality

Quality of sports pitches is very good.

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

#### Quantity

The remainder of the standard requires 1.59 ha of parks / recreation ground for the village.

Subtracting the football pitch, tennis courts and play area from the Recreation Ground figure gives an area which can be counted separately as park/ recreation ground (below). There is therefore **sufficient** land at the Recreation Ground to meet the standard.

| Location              | Site area      |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| The Recreation Ground | 2.28 ha        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>2.28 ha</b> |

#### Access & Distribution

Despite no shortfall in quantity, distribution is a problem with the single Recreation Ground on Fareham Road located on the south edge of the town. Consequently, half of the town is beyond the recommended 650m catchment area.

#### Quality

The Recreation Ground is maintained by the parish council and is of a good quality.

## WICKHAM: SUMMARY

Shortfalls in allotments, play space and sports pitches.

| Type of open space                                 | Standard (2011 pop.)                                    | Existing provision                                      | Surplus / shortfall  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1. Allotments                                      | 0.42 ha   | 0   | - 0.42 ha  |
| 2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space | 1.06 ha   | 0.52 ha   | - 0.54 ha  |
| 3. Informal Green Space                            | 1.70 ha   | 3.09 ha   | + 1.39 ha  |
| 4. Natural Green Space                             | 2.12 ha   | 3.99 ha   | + 1.87 ha  |
| 5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds              | 1.59 ha (sports)<br>1.59 ha (parks)<br>[Total: 3.18 ha] | 1.40 ha (sports)<br>2.28 ha (parks)<br>[Total: 3.68 ha] | - 0.19 ha (sports) +<br>0.69 ha (parks)<br>[Total: + 0.5 ha] |

