

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT 2013

SWANMORE

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 ¹	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
Total	4 ha	

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 Swanmore is 2,337. 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.

¹ 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 0.47 ha for the village. However, there is no allotment site in the village and therefore a **total shortfall** in this category.

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

Quantity

There are three equipped children's play area sites in the village (see below). The revised standard suggests a minimum of 1.17 ha, which shows that there continues to be a **shortfall** of 0.69 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Recreation Ground	0.16 ha
2	New Road	0.25 ha
3	Medlicott Way	0.07 ha
Total		0.48 ha

Access & Distribution

The three play areas are spread across the central and southern part of Swanmore, leaving a gap in provision in the north-west of the village.

Quality

The quality of play areas 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

There are several small fragments of informal green space laid out as part of the central area of housing development. To these can be added some space around the Hall on New Road, the green space leading from Medlicott Way, and the public open space beside the school on Church Road. These areas total 1.03 ha, resulting in a **shortfall** of 0.84 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Medlicott Way	0.48 ha
2	Church Road	0.22 ha
3	Myers Close open space	0.08 ha
4	Springvale / Hall open space	0.25 ha
Total		1.03 ha

Access & Distribution

The areas of informal green space identified above are spread evenly about the village, but there are gaps in the far north-west and the far south-east (Orchardlea).

Quality

Quality is good.

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 at least 2.34 ha. There are two main sites in the village at Lower Chase Road and New Road (below). There is thus **no shortfall** in this category at present.

Location		Site area
1	Lower Chase Road	3.99 ha
2	New Road	1.37 ha
Total		5.36 ha

Access & Distribution

These two natural areas are however to the west of the centre of the village leaving areas to the south east beyond the 700m catchment.

Quality

Both sites are managed by the parish council and are of very good quality.

5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds

Sports grounds

Quantity

According to the standard, there should be 1.75 ha of sports grounds serving Swanmore. There are two publicly accessible sports ground in the village which total 3.21ha. There is thus **no deficit** in this category at present.

1	Broad Lane Recreation Ground	1.71 ha
2	New Road Sports Ground	1.50 ha
Total		3.21 ha

Access & Distribution

The sports pitches cover the central and south west areas of the village. However, those areas south of the Droxford Road in the south-east and Moorlands Road and Donigers Close off the Swanmore Road in the north-west are all beyond the 650m catchment.

Quality

Satisfactory.

Parks and Recreation Grounds

Quantity

The remainder of the standard requires 1.75 ha of parks / recreation grounds. The recreation grounds in Swanmore are primarily sports grounds and have been categorised as such so can not be counted in this assessment as recreation grounds or parks. Consequently, there is a **shortfall** of parks and recreation grounds. When aggregated with sports grounds, there continues to be a **shortfall** in this category of 0.29 ha.

SWANMORE: SUMMARY

Shortfalls in all categories except Natural Green Space and sports pitches.

Type of open space	Standard (2011 pop.)	Existing provision	Surplus / shortfall
1. Allotments	0.47 ha	0	- 0.47 ha
2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space	1.17 ha	0.48 ha	- 0.69 ha
3. Informal Green Space	1.87 ha	1.03 ha	- 0.84 ha
4. Natural Green Space	2.34 ha	5.36 ha	+ 3.02 ha
5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds	1.75 ha (sports) 1.75 ha (parks) [Total: 3.5 ha]	3.21 ha (sports) 0 (parks) [Total: 3.21 ha]	+ 1.46 ha (sports) - 1.75 ha (parks) [Total: - 0.29 ha]

