

# DENMEAD OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT 2014

*Prepared by Winchester City Council for the Denmead Neighbourhood Plan*

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 Rural Community Profile gives the population of Denmead Parish as 6,736. For the purposes of this paper, however, an adjusted figure of **6,716** is used to allow for households that lie outside the designated Neighbourhood Plan area. This assessment applies the Local Plan standards to this figure and compares them with the existing provision in and around the village. This shows whether there is a notional surplus or shortfall in each category. In addition to this quantitative measure, map-based and on-site surveys have also assessed the accessibility, distribution and quality of open spaces in the village.

<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 1.34 ha for the village. There is a private allotment society with a large waiting list (the Barn Green Allotment Society), but **no publicly owned or publicly accessible allotment sites**.

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

### Quantity

There are six equipped children's play areas (see below). However, the standard suggests there should be 3.36 ha, showing a **shortfall** in play space of 2.24 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Ashling Park	0.50 ha
2	Hatchmore Road	0.06 ha
3	Creech View	0.04 ha
4	The Barn (Little Corner)	0.11 ha
5	Mill Close	0.01 ha
6	Creech Woods Adventure Playground	0.40 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.12 ha</b>

### Access & Distribution

Distribution is fairly good within the more central parts of Denmead and the housing areas north of Forest Road with very few dwellings more than 480m from an equipped playground. However, there is a significant gap in provision in the north-western part of the settlement around Anthill Common.

### Quality

The quality of play areas is good, many 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, park, recreation or sports ground, nature area or allotment.

### Quantity

Several areas of informal recreational space have been laid out as part of the more recent housing areas north of Forest Road. The standard suggests there should be 5.37 ha - a **shortfall** of 2.53 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Bridge Green	0.41 ha
2	Little Corner	0.22 ha
3	Wayfarers Green	0.54 ha
4	The Liberty	0.32 ha
5	Creech View	0.08 ha
6	Harvest Field	0.81 ha*
7	Hatchmore Road	0.17 ha
8	The Old School	0.29 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.84 ha</b>

#### Access & Distribution

The areas of informal green space are confined to the southern half of Denmead, resulting in gaps in provision in the northern and north-western parts of the village.

#### 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

There are two main sites: Goodman's Fields, 4 small fields including a copse and a stream, to the south east; and Harvest Field wetlands. Creech Woods (south of the village), owned by Forest Enterprise, is wet underfoot in winter, but easily accessible to walkers and horse riders and offers a large amount of natural green space. It is not, however, under the direct control/ownership of either Parish or District Councils. There is therefore a **shortage** of 1.51 ha over the required standard (6.7ha).

Location		Site area
1	Goodman's Fields	4.77 ha
2	Harvest Field	0.42 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>5.19 ha</b>

#### Access & Distribution

Goodman's Fields supports the eastern side of the village. Parishioners outside the recommended 700m catchment (i.e. from the west of the village) need to use their cars, cycle or walk.

#### Quality

The quality of Denmead's Natural Green Space is very good, being made up of meadow, wetland and woodland.

## 5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds

### ***Sports grounds***

#### Quantity

The standard requires 5.04 ha of sports grounds. Ashling Park Recreation Ground provides 3.25 ha for tennis, football and bowls and Kidmore Field 0.81 ha for archery and informal kick-about, although this site is unusable in winter due to the high water table. There is therefore a **shortfall** of 0.98 ha, which rises to 1.81 ha in winter.

Location		Site area
1	Ashling Park	3.25 ha
2	Kidmore Field	0.83 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>4.06 ha</b>

#### Access & Distribution

Ashling Park Recreation ground is centrally placed but, using the 650m catchment, it only serves the central part of Denmead. This leaves a significant portion of the village, to the east and the north-west around Anthill Common, with no easy access to sports pitches.

#### Quality

The quality of sports pitches in Ashling Park is very good.

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

#### Quantity

The remainder of the standard requires 5.04 ha of parks and recreation grounds for the village.

Subtracting the sports and play facilities from the Ashling Park Recreation Ground gives a figure of 1.82 ha which can be counted separately as recreation ground. There is therefore a **shortfall** of 3.22 ha.

Location		Site area
Ashling Park Recreation Ground		1.82 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.82 ha</b>

#### Access & Distribution

Ashling Park Recreation Ground is centrally placed but, using the 650m catchment, it only serves the central part of Denmead. This leaves significant areas to the east and the north-west of the village around Anthill Common with no easy access to sports pitches.

#### Quality

Ashling Park is maintained by the parish council and is of a good quality.

## SUMMARY

Shortfalls in all categories.

Type of open space	Standard	Existing provision	Surplus / shortfall
1. Allotments	1.26 ha	0	– 1.26 ha
2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space	3.36 ha	1.12 ha	– 2.24 ha
3. Informal Green Space	5.37 ha	2.84 ha	– 2.53ha
4. Natural Green Space <sup>++</sup>	6.7 ha	5.19 ha*	– 1.51ha*
5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds	5.04 ha (sports) 5.04 ha (parks) [Total 10.08 ha]	4.06 ha (sports) 1.82 ha (parks) [Total: 5.88 ha]	– 0.98 ha (sports) – 3.22 ha (parks) [Total: – 4.2 ha]

<sup>++</sup> Excluding Creech Woods

\* Decreases to 3.25 ha in winter

\* Increases to 3.45 ha in winter

