

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT 2013

### NEW ALRESFORD

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 Alresford is 5,591. 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.

<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 1.12 ha for the town. There is a single allotment site at Spring Gardens of 0.59 ha, giving a **shortfall** of 0.53 ha.

### Access & Distribution

The Spring Gardens site is in the far south west corner of the town, Using the access standard of 480m, the site is accessible only to a small area of the town.

### Quality

Good. The site is well maintained and well used.

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

### Quantity

There are three equipped play areas (see below). The standard suggests provision of at least 2.8 ha, so there continues to be a **shortfall** of 1.9 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Arlebury Park (junior and youth)	0.3 ha
2	Stratton Bates Recreation Ground	0.3 ha
3	Sun Hill Recreation Ground	0.3 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.9 ha</b>

### Access & Distribution

The three equipped play areas are spread across the town resulting in good coverage, although there are gaps:

- in the area of Spring Gardens and Spring Way in the south west of the town; and
- in the area of Nursery Road, Haig Road and East Street in the north east area of the town.

### 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

Several areas of informal/amenity recreational space have been laid out as part of recent housing areas east of Jacklyn's Lane. To these can be added the areas either side of The Avenue (see below). The standard suggests there should be 4.47 ha, leaving a **shortfall** of 2.21 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Appledown Close	0.22 ha
2	Orchard Close	0.22 ha
3	Lindley Gardens	0.12 ha
4	Beneden Green	0.51 ha
5	The Avenue	1.19 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.26 ha</b>

### Access & Distribution

The areas of informal green space are, apart from the Avenue, confined to the south-east part of New Alresford to the east of Jacklyn's Lane, resulting in gaps in provision in the south and west of the town.

### 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.

Alresford has no area of publicly accessible natural green space within or adjacent to the settlement. There is therefore a **complete shortfall** against the standard (5.59 ha).

## 5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds

### ***Sports grounds***

#### Quantity

According to the standard, there should be 4.19 ha of sports grounds serving Alresford. There are two main sites: Arlebury Park and Stratton Bates Recreation Ground.

With the completion of the rugby pitches at Arlebury Park there will be over 4 ha at this site and a total of over 5 ha (see below), thus **exceeding** the required standard.

Location		Site area
1	Arlebury Park	4.18 ha
2	Stratton Bates Recreation Ground	1.21 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>5.39 ha</b>

#### Access & Distribution

The main site is on the north edge of the town, but, coupled with the facilities at Stratton Bates, coverage across the town is good with very few areas of the town more than 650m away from a sports facility. Areas outside the catchment include the far south east corner of the town: Sun Hill Crescent, Appledown Close and Orchard Close.

#### Quality

Satisfactory.

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

#### Quantity

The remainder of the standard requires 4.19 ha of park / recreation ground for the town. There are two sites: the lower slopes at Arlebury Park (excluding the sports pitches and play areas) and Sun Hill Recreation Ground. Stratton Bates is included under sports but does also function as a park and recreation ground. There is therefore a **shortfall** in this category.

Location		Site area
1	Arlebury Park Recreation Ground	1.13 ha
2	Sun Hill Recreation Ground	0.96 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.09 ha</b>

#### Access & Distribution

The two sites provide good coverage across the town but there are gaps: particularly to the west of the town, i.e. Spring Gardens and all the dwellings off New Farm Road are beyond the 650m catchment.

#### Quality

Parks and recreation grounds are maintained by the town council and are of good quality.

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## NEW ALRESFORD: SUMMARY

Shortfalls in all categories except sports grounds.

Type of open space	Standard (2011 pop.)	Existing provision	Surplus / shortfall
1. Allotments	1.12 ha	0.59 ha	- 0.53 ha
2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space	2.8 ha	0.9 ha	- 1.9 ha
3. Informal Green Space	4.47 ha	2.26 ha	- 2.21 ha
4. Natural Green Space	5.59 ha	0	- 5.59 ha
5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds	4.19 ha (sports) 4.19 ha (parks) [Total: 8.38 ha]	5.39 ha (sports) 2.09 ha (parks) [Total: 7.48 ha]	+ 1.2 ha (sports) - 2.1 ha (parks) [Total: - 0.9 ha]

