

# **Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study for Winchester City Council**

## **Part 2: Area Profiles**

**April 2008**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report is **Part 2** of an Open Space, Sports and Recreation study for Winchester City Council. The study has four parts:

- Part 1: Main Report
- Part 2: Area Profiles
- Part 3: Playing Pitch Strategy
- Part 4: Built Facilities Study

### 1.1 Area profiles

These area profiles form part of a larger study of open space in the Winchester District, using guidance provided under 'PPG 17', and should be read in context with the main report (part 1).

The profiles give detail at a local level in relation to the provision of open space and recreational facilities by Sub Area.

Eight Sub Areas have been identified across the District (see map 1), these make use of a number of factors including:

- sub areas identified in the Winchester Open Space Strategy;
- existing administrative boundaries (by Parish);
- existing settlement areas;
- and any 'barriers to access' to facilities, such as major roads.

Each catchment area has been analysed using the Winchester standards for open space, outlined in part 1 of the report. The profiles include the following information:

- Relevant census data/ information from local plan for the area. This is important when considering the current and future needs of the population for open space provision;
- Location and types of open space;
- Quality of open space;
- Access to open space;
- Quantity of open space;

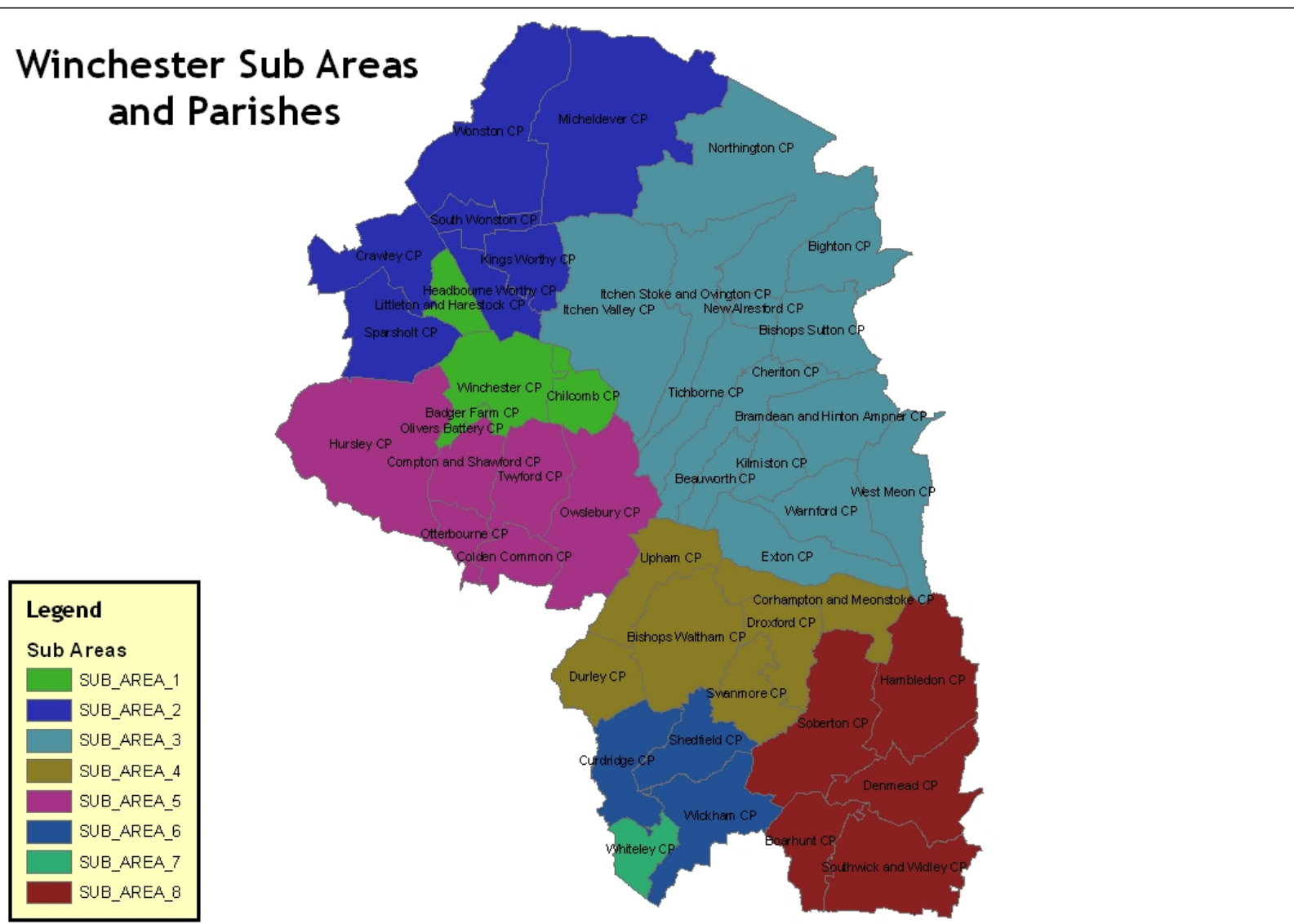
- Any feedback from public consultation specific to the area;
- Strategic priorities for open space.

Within the sub area profiles, there are also quantity statistics and separate access maps for specific parishes within the sub area, as follows:

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Sub Area 1: | Winchester      |
| Sub Area 2: | Kings Worthy    |
| Sub Area 3: | New Alresford   |
| Sub Area 4: | Bishops Waltham |
| Sub Area 5: | N/A             |
| Sub Area 6: | Wickham         |
| Sub Area 7: | Whiteley        |
| Sub Area 8: | Denmead         |

Map 1 Sub Areas in Winchester District

## Winchester Sub Areas and Parishes



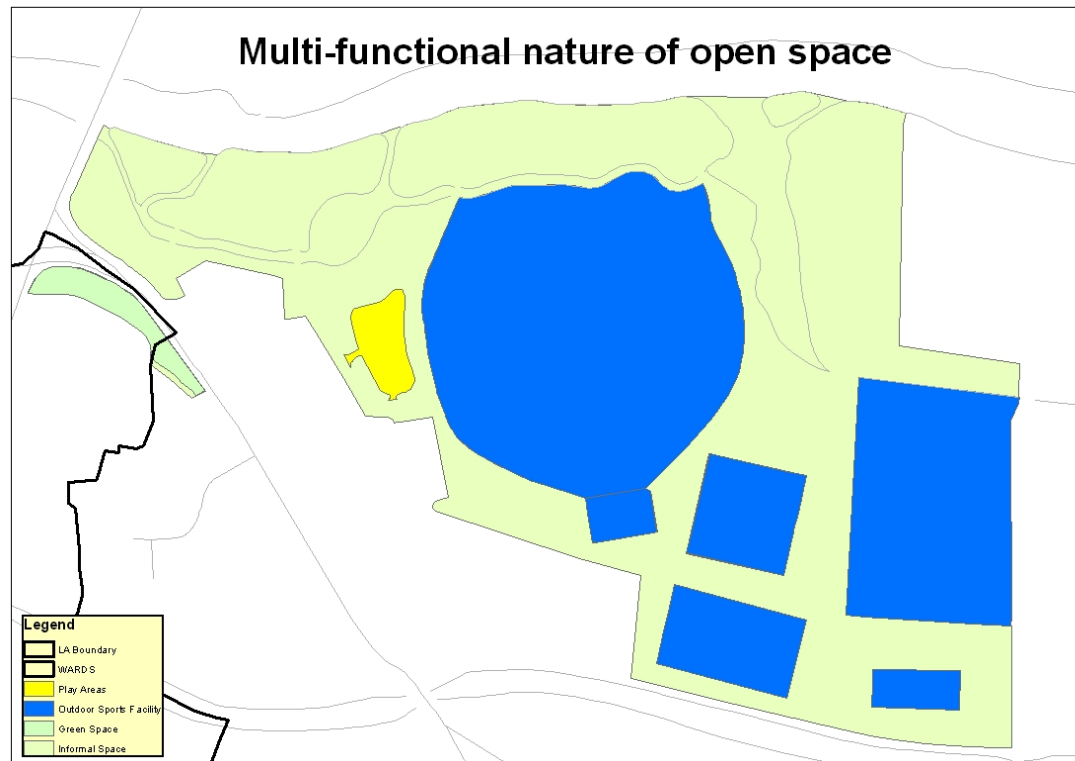
## 2.0 KEY ISSUES FROM MAIN STUDY

### 2.1 Typology

#### 2.1.1 Introduction

PPG17 requires open spaces and recreation facilities to be given a 'typology', these are outlined in part 1 of the report. The study has considered sites as 'multi-functional', for example where an open space has areas for sport, play and informal recreation (e.g. a parish recreation ground), these areas are mapped separately, as demonstrated in map 2 below:

**Map 2      Multi-functional nature of site**



### 2.1.2 Typology

Part 1 of the report identifies the range of typologies for open space and sport and recreation facilities of which, standards have been developed as follows:

- Parks, Sports & Recreation grounds. Standards have been set for this typology. Includes Parish playing fields, sports fields and parks. Further analysis of provision for outdoor sport is made in the Playing Pitch Strategy. Within the audit, some of these areas were found to have limited public access, for example, private facilities and schools. These are identified separately in the study as Outdoor Sports Facilities (limited access).
- Children & Young People's space. Standards have been set for this typology. Includes equipped areas of play, and any informal play space (e.g. kickabout areas) associated with the play space, as identified in the Winchester Open Space Strategy.
- Informal open space. Standards have been set for this typology.
- Natural greenspace. Standards have been set for this typology. The assessment in the area profiles only includes accessible natural greenspace.
- Allotments. Standards have been set for this typology.
- Churchyard and Cemeteries. No standards set, although sites have been mapped and quantity provision has been calculated.
- Routeways / corridors. No standards have been set, although their importance in creating links and access has been analysed (see part 1 of report).
- Sports Halls and Swimming Pools. These are identified on the Sub Area maps, although analysis has been dealt with on a District wide basis (see part 1 and part 4 of the report)
- Synthetic Turf Pitches (STP's). These are identified on the Sub Area maps, although analysis has been dealt with on a District wide basis (see part 1 and part 4 of the report).

- Community buildings and Halls. These are identified on the Sub Area maps, although analysis has been dealt with on a District wide basis (see part 1 and part 4 of the report)

## **2.2 Quality of open space**

### **2.2.1 Scoring criteria**

The quality audit criteria has been built upon guidance provided in the '*PPG 17 companion guide*', and criteria used as part of *Green Flag*, '*Raising the standard*'. Sites were given a generic assessment against the following criteria (each made up of several sub-criteria):

- Access;
- Management and maintenance;
- Conservation & Heritage;
- Design;
- Safety;
- Community Involvement;
- Marketing;
- Sustainability;
- Value

### **2.2.2 Scoring**

For all of the categories, scores were given from 0-5 as follows:

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 0 | not applicable |
| 1 | Very Poor      |
| 2 | Poor           |
| 3 | Moderate       |
| 4 | Good           |
| 5 | Very Good      |

### 2.2.3 Potential to improve scores

Each category was also given a 'potential to improve score' using the same scoring system. The resulting figures give a total score and a total potential to improve score, which in turn identifies a 'gap' between existing quality and potential quality.

These scores are also represented as percentages. The percentage figures represent the difference between the quality of existing provision and the maximum potential of that site – giving a % gap score which represents the potential that site has to improve. The following scores indicate the potential to improve:

| Percentage | Potential to improve                                                                                     |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 – 29%    | Very little potential. Low priority for investment.                                                      |
| 30 - 50%   | Sites with some potential for improvement. Sites above 30% should be focused on for investment.          |
| 51 – 100%  | Sites with significant potential for improvement. Could include sites where there are some 'quick wins'. |

### 2.2.4 Using the database

The database that has been developed as part of the quality audit allows information to be interpreted in many ways, and it is specifically designed to be a 'working tool', which can be used for specific enquiries related to the provision and quality of open space as and when required.

These enquiries may be in the form of planning enquiries, for example to determine where developer contributions from a new development would be best directed in the area; or, they may help inform open space management decisions and priorities, for example determining where funding should be targeted or areas of open space which are in most need of improving.

It is not the intention of this report to envisage every scenario or potential enquiry, therefore, the analysis of the quality data will focus on quality against the key criteria of access, welcoming, management, maintenance etc. The particular focus will be on sites where there are gaps in provision, i.e. where there are gaps between its existing quality score and its maximum potential. This will therefore draw out sites where there is the most potential for improvement.



It is important to have an understanding of all the data from the audits in making the analysis, as a site which is very poor may have very little potential for improvement (e.g. it is a back land site), and therefore will have few gaps in quality even though it is a very poor site. These situations are few and far between, but highlights the importance of using the whole database to make decisions on a specific site.

All the sites listed in section 3.2 were included in the quality audit, detailed scores of the assessments are held on the main database and should be referred to as required.

Appendix 2 of each sub area profile shows a summary description of each site, the percentage gaps in quality scores for each category, and a summary of recommended improvements.

## 2.3 Access to open space

### 2.3.1 Overall access to open space

Section 1 of the report outlines access standards to different types of open space within the District, a summary of the main standards covered in the area profiles is shown in Table 1:

**Table 1 Access standards for open space**

| <b>Typology</b>                                   | <b>Access Standard (metres)</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Parks, Sport & Recreation grounds                 | 650 m                           |
| Informal green space                              | 400 m                           |
| Accessible natural greenspace                     | 700 m                           |
| Children & Young People's Space:                  |                                 |
| - <i>Toddler &amp; Junior (TOP's &amp; JOP's)</i> | 480 m                           |
| - <i>Youth provision (YOP's)</i>                  | 650 m                           |
| Allotments                                        | 480 m                           |

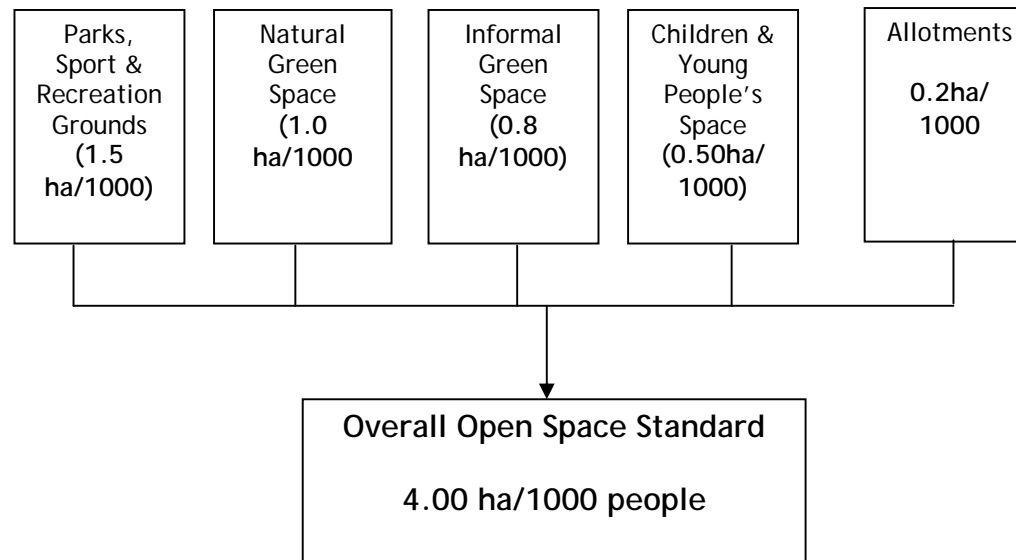
For each Sub Area, the following is shown in relation to access to open space:

- a map showing access to the different types of open space against the access standards outlined above (appendix 4),
- observations related to access to each typology.

## 2.4 Quantity of open space

### 2.4.1 Quantity standards for open space

Section 1 of the report outlines the quantity standards for open space within the District, a summary of those minimum standards is shown below:



Quantity standards have not been set for Churchyards & Cemeteries, or Parks and Recreation grounds with limited access, although the existing quantities of these typologies is shown

## 2.4.2 Quantities of different types of open space

These standards have been applied at a local level to determine the provision of different types of open space across the adopted minimum standard, this is summarised in each profile, showing:

- the existing quantity of open space (existing provision);
- the required quantity of open space for the population of the area (required provision);
- the surplus or deficiency of open space;
- Supply against the standard.

This is expressed as actual quantities of provision in hectares, and as provision per 1000 of the population, as hectares, an example is shown below:

| Typology                                   | Existing (ha) | Required (ha) | Difference (ha) | Existing/1000 | Required/1000 | Difference/1000 | Supply  | Number |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|--------|
| Churchyard & Cemetery                      | 10.95         | 0.00          | 10.95           | 1.04          | 0.00          | 0.00            | N/A     | 6      |
| Outdoor Sports facilities (limited access) | 8.86          | 0.00          | 8.86            | 0.84          | 0.00          | 0.00            | N/A     | 4      |
| Informal Green Space                       | 7.46          | 8.42          | -0.96           | 0.71          | 0.80          | -0.09           | DEFICIT | 11     |
| Natural Greenspace                         | 457.61        | 10.53         | 447.08          | 43.46         | 1.00          | 42.46           | SURPLUS | 4      |
| Parks, Sport & Recreation Grounds          | 10.65         | 15.80         | -5.15           | 1.01          | 1.50          | -0.49           | DEFICIT | 6      |
| Children's Play (inc kickabout)            | 4.30          | 5.27          | -0.97           | 0.41          | 0.50          | -0.09           | DEFICIT | 11     |

For each sub area, a map showing the provision and quantity of open space is shown in appendix 3. Maps are also available showing quantity by Parish (available on request to WCC).